

Union Minister highlights Hindi's role in national unity and governance

At a Hindi Day celebration in Ahmedabad, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar emphasised the language's cultural significance and its growing role in advancing India's vision of self-reliance and inclusive development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/ AHMEDABAD

IN a grand event to mark Hindi Day in Ahmedabad, prominent leaders gathered to celebrate India's linguistic heritage and national identity. The programme was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Justice State Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Parliamentary Official Language Committee Deputy Chairman Mahtab, and educationist Professor Vijay Pandya.

Delivering the keynote address, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said, "Hindi is not just a language—it is the



embodiment of the emotions and culture of millions." He emphasised that as India's official language, Hindi plays a vital role in bridging the gap between governance and the people. Sharing his personal journey from Telangana, a non-Hindi-speaking state, he highlighted how Hindi has

become a functional and accessible language in government operations, thanks to the leadership of Home Minister Amit Shah.

Speakers at the event echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that language is not merely a tool of communication but the soul of

culture, tradition, and national consciousness. They noted that under the Prime Minister's leadership, India is rapidly advancing toward self-reliance, with its greatest strength lying in its local languages and mother tongues. The National Education Policy has prioritised education in Indian languages, laying the foundation for inclusive knowledge dissemination.

The event underscored the transformative potential of using Hindi and other Indian languages in science, medicine, and technology. Minister Sanjay Kumar stressed that publishing research in mother tongues would ensure critical knowledge reaches remote villages and marginalised

communities. He added that the use of Indian languages in research and education could democratise access and foster public ownership of knowledge. The Official Language Department's initiatives were also spotlighted, including the Hindi Shabd Sindhu Digital Dictionary, which now contains over seven lakh words, of which 25,000 are drawn from other Indian languages. This effort not only strengthens Hindi but also builds bridges across India's linguistic diversity. The event reiterated that Hindi Day was not just a ceremonial observance but a reaffirmation of India's commitment to linguistic dignity, cultural pride, and inclusive governance.

SURYAPET DISTRICT ROAD TURNS INTO FISHPOND

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NUTHANKAL (SURYAPET)

THE road connecting Nuthankal mandal center to the Thungathurthi constituency headquarters via Sangem has become a symbol of long-standing government neglect.

Locals point out that the tar road was first laid nearly 20 years ago during the tenure of former MLA Sankineni Venkateshwara Rao. Since then, no repairs or maintenance have been carried out by successive legislatures.

As a result, the once functional road is now filled with potholes and has turned into a nightmare for commuters.

The poor condition of the road highlighted when two fish-laden vehicles were passing through Chilpakuntla.

On reaching a particularly damaged



stretch, the vehicles were jolted by the deep potholes. The impact broke open one of the doors, spilling several fish into the muddy craters on the road. In an unusual scene, the drivers quickly grabbed nets and began collecting fish from the potholes, while onlookers watched in surprise and amusement.

This incident has highlighted the urgency of repairing the stretch. Locals

expressed frustration that despite repeated appeals, no funds have been sanctioned for road repairs in decades.

Residents argue that the road is not just vital for local transport but also for the movement of goods, especially agricultural produce and fisheries. "If nothing is done soon, these roads will remain ponds instead of paths," villagers said in anger.

Cyberabad Traffic Police catch 435 persons in weekend drunk driving crackdown

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HYDERABAD

THE Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 435 offenders. According to the police, the force is organising large-scale campaigns on weekends by deploying special teams to keep a check on drunk driving.

During the recent drive, 306 of the offenders were on two-wheelers, 30 on three-wheelers, 49 on four-wheelers, and 2 were driving heavy vehicles. Police said 383 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 35 mg/100

ml to 200 mg/100 ml, while 41 offenders had levels between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml. Another 11 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml. The largest number of offenders were aged between 21-30 (183), followed by the 31-40 age group (154), and 73 offenders aged between 41-50. All offenders will be produced before the Hon'ble Court.

In the previous week (September 8 to 13), a total of 910 drunk driving cases were disposed of in the courts. Of these, 908 persons were penalised with fines, while 2 individuals were sentenced to jail. One offender was jailed

for a day and another for two days, while two were assigned social service as part of their penalty.

The Cyberabad Police reiterated that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. They warned that if anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, they will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, for Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder. The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine. The police urged all citizens to drive responsibly and ensure road safety.

Kishan Reddy lays foundation for community hall in Maruti Nagar

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HYDERABAD

UNION Minister G. Kishan Reddy visited the Shaikpet division of Jubilee Hills constituency on Sunday, where he laid the foundation stone for a new community hall in Maruti Nagar. The initiative aims to improve civic infrastructure and provide a dedicated space for local gatherings and welfare activities in one of the city's underserved neighborhoods. During his visit, Kishan Reddy interacted with residents from nearby slum areas and instructed officials to urgently address the civic issues raised, including sanitation, housing, and access to basic amenities. He emphasized the need for

sustained slum development in Hyderabad, stating that the city's growth must be inclusive and equitable.

He said "Hyderabad continues to face serious developmental challenges, especially in its slum pockets. Unfortunately, the state government has not allocated the required funds for the city's progress." He expressed concern over the financial constraints affecting basic services, citing the inability to install street lights as a symptom of deeper fiscal neglect.

He urged the state government to recognize Hyderabad's pivotal role in driving Telangana's economy. "The state will thrive only if its capital thrives.

New Nepal PM Karki seeks calm Promises to meet protesters' push to end corruption

KATHMANDU: Nepal's new Prime Minister Sushila Karki has called for calm and urged her compatriots to "get together to rebuild the country" after violent protests against corruption killed at least 72 people and injured hundreds more.

In her first public remarks since becoming the Himalayan nation's interim prime minister on Friday, Sushila Karki said on Sunday that the country must listen to its young citizens.

"We have to work according to the thinking of the Gen Z generation," the 73-year-old former chief justice said, referring to



the demographic that led the anticorruption protests. "What this group is demanding is the end of corruption, good governance and economic equality," she noted. Karki added that she had not wished to lead

but her name was "brought from the streets".

Karki was made interim prime minister after several days of negotiations among protest leaders, President Ramchandra Paudel and army chief Ashok Raj Sigdel.

Paudel had earlier announced that Parliament had been dissolved and elections had been set for March 5. "We will not stay here more than six months in any situation. We will complete our responsibilities and pledge to hand over to the next Parliament and ministers," Karki said on Sunday.

MODI TARGETS CONG OVER 'INFILTRATION'

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Those who shelter infiltrators will have to pay the price; the nation will not forgive them."

He further alleged, "For its politics, Congress stands with every person and thought that is against India. We saw this even during Operation Sindoor. Today, when our Army carries out Operation Sindoor and uproots terror hideouts across Pakistan, Congress chooses to side with Pakistan's Army. Instead of standing with our forces, Congress furthers the agenda of those who shelter terrorists."

He added, "For Congress, vote-bank politics is the biggest priority; it does not even care about the nation's interest. Today, Congress has also become the biggest protector of infiltrators and wants them to permanently settle in India."

Modi, while addressing the gathering, also urged people to buy 'swadeshi' goods for their children's "bright future".

Hailing GST reforms, he said, "Now GST will undergo next-generation reforms.

I have come here today with this good news. Exactly nine days from today, on the first day of Navratri, GST rates will be significantly reduced. This will benefit every family in the country and make daily-use items cheaper."

The PM will leave for Kolkata from the Jorhat airport on Sunday evening.

Kishan blames it on BRS regime

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Despite the setback, Reddy emphasized, the Centre continued to support SCCL. "When Singareni needed coal, I personally facilitated the allocation of the Naini coal block in Odisha. We are in constant dialogue with the company, and I am hopeful that pending coal block auctions in Telangana will be resolved soon," he said.

The Minister highlighted the government's proactive approach to mine closure and post-mining land development. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly instructed that once mining operations are complete, the land should be repurposed to serve local communities," Reddy stated.

Kishan Reddy pointed to the environmental and safety hazards caused by decades of neglect in mine closure activities. "Since Independence, abandoned mines have led to underutilized land and increased accidents. We are reversing that trend," he said.

So far, 143 mining projects have been successfully closed, and the

government has laid out a three-year action plan to complete mine closure activities across all coal blocks. These efforts include land leveling, environmental safeguards, and community-oriented development such as promoting fisheries on reclaimed mining land.

Stressing that his Ministry's mandate goes beyond coal production, the Union Minister said: "We are committed to balanced development—meeting the country's energy needs while ensuring environmental health and the well-being of communities living near collieries." The Union Minister enunciated the Centre's dual focus on transparency in resource allocation and sustainable development, while pinpointing the consequences of policy missteps at the state level.

As Telangana looks to reinvigorate its coal sector, it appears that the role of Singareni Collieries and its alignment with national policy will be crucial in shaping the future of mining in the region.

GST 2.0 big win for citizens: FM

Continued from P1

"GST is now making its presence felt in every corner of daily life," Sitharaman said, highlighting how the impact of recent GST reforms can be seen "from the moment people wake up to when they go to bed" benefiting citizens in everything from their morning tea to their dinner.

Explaining some of the key initiatives, Sitharaman said 99 per cent of all the goods which were earlier taxed at 12 per cent under GST have now been reduced to 5 per cent. The latest set of GST reforms are set to come into force from September 22.

Noting that the GST Council has reduced the tax rates for over 350 items, she pointed out that the Centre has introduced only 5 and 28 per cent slabs instead of the earlier practice of levying taxes under different slabs.

"We have also simplified the procedure for the traders also. There is no 28 per cent GST tax on any product," she remarked.

Referring to the increase in tax base from traders, she said before the GST was introduced in 2017, there were only 66 lakh traders who used to file their taxes. But today, 1.5 crore businesses have come under the GST fold in the last 8 years.

She said, "Opposition party leader Rahul Gandhi had termed the GST a Gabbar Singh Tax, but after the GST was introduced, the number of businesses which were paying taxes has been increased to 1.5 crore in the last 8 years as they realised that they would be able to benefit from it".

"This number of 1.5 crore traders filing GST over the last 8 years, will further in-

crease in the future," she said, and added that because of that increase, the revenue to the Central and state governments has increased.

"In 2017, the tax collected was Rs 7.19 lakh crore and now the Gross GST collection has crossed Rs 22 lakh crore. On an average, Rs 1.8 lakh to 2 lakh crore revenue is collected by the Central and state governments. For example, the amount Rs 1.80 lakh crore gross revenue is divided into half in which the states get Rs 90,000 crore and Centre gets Rs 90,000 crore. Even from that Rs 90,000 crore revenue from the Centre's portion, around 41 per cent goes back to the states," she said. "From this, we can understand that public and the state government stand to benefit through the implementation of the GST," she added.

EARTHQUAKE JOLTS ASSAM

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Tremors were felt in Guwahati, where many residents rushed out of their homes in panic. "It felt like it would never stop," a Guwahati resident told HT.

"For a minute, I thought I was dead. I genuinely believed the roof would cave in," another resident said.

Former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal also took to X: "Major earthquake in Assam. My prayers for everyone's safety and well-being." Earthquakes are frequent in Assam, which lies in one of India's most seismically active regions. The NCS categorises the area as seismically 'very active'.

The region has witnessed some of the strongest earthquakes in recorded history, including the 1950 Assam-Tibet quake (magnitude 8.6) and the 1897 Shillong quake (magnitude 8.1).

Women-led development underpins Viksit Bharat: Om Birla

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla has underscored that women-led development, centered on the empowerment of women and the welfare of children, is the cornerstone of India's vision to become a developed nation by 2047. Inaugurating the National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women in Tirupati on Sunday, Birla emphasised that achieving inclusive growth requires the nation's daughters to be educated, self-reliant, and active participants in governance. The two-day event, with representatives from more than 20 states, is focused on the theme "Women-led development for Viksit Bharat".

Discussions at the conference will cover key areas like gender-responsive budgeting and equipping women to handle the challenges of emerging



LS Speaker Om Birla inaugurating the National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women in Tirupati on Sunday

technologies. Birla hailed the conference as a landmark in India's democratic journey, bringing together lawmakers and women leaders to share experiences and create strategies for equality.

He stressed that these platforms are essential to ensure that laws and policies reflect the needs of women at every stage of life. During his address, Birla praised the recently passed Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill 2023) as a historic step. He noted that the law, which reserves seats for women in the Lok Sabha

and state legislatures, ensures their rightful place in governance and will help nurture a new generation of leaders.

The Speaker called for greater representation of women from Panchayats to Parliament, stating that their presence in policy-making institutions is crucial to dismantle historical barriers. "As India enters the Amrit Kaal, Nari Shakti is emerging as an unstoppable force guiding the nation towards inclusivity," he said.

Birla also highlighted the ongoing, non-partisan work of the Committees on Em-

powerment of Women both at the national and state levels. He said their recommendations must ensure that even the most vulnerable women and children have access to education, health, and opportunities.

The Speaker concluded by linking women's empowerment to the Prime Minister's vision of a self-reliant India, adding that no sector is untouched by women's leadership today—from grassroots governance to science and entrepreneurship.

The inaugural session was attended by several dignitaries, including Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, Parliamentary Committee Chairperson D. Purandeswari, and Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Ch Ayyannapratrudu, AP Legislative Council Chairman Koyee Moshenu Raju, AP Assembly Deputy Speaker K Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju, state Ministers and legislators.

No complaints received against Rajgopal blabber, says PCC panel

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It may be recalled that in August, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud had indicated that Rajagopal Reddy's 'dissident remarks' would be referred to the disciplinary committee. His remarks came in the wake of continuous 'verbal attacks' against the party's state leadership.

The MLA has been publicly critical of the leadership and the government, expressing his dissatisfaction for getting a cabinet position despite promises to accommodate him.

As regards a notice issued to Siddipet DCC president Narsa Reddy, Ravi said that the committee has sought an explanation from him.

On the reported rift in Warangal, he said that a report was given to Mahesh Goud and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and they would take a final call.

IPO rush: Over 12 cos look to mop up ₹10k-cr in 3 wks

Continued from P1

Two more IPOs, Euro Pratik Sales and VMS TMT, are scheduled to open next week. The robust activity comes on the back of a solid 2024, when 91 public issues collectively mobilised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, supported by resilient retail participation, a booming economy, and strong private capital expenditure.

Market observers note that the renewed momentum this year is being fuelled by policy tailwinds, such as income tax relief, GST 2.0 reforms and the RBI's rate cuts. Many companies are also rushing to the market on the back of favourable liquidity and strong support from domestic institutional investors (DIIs), despite continued selling of Indian equities by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

According to Vaqar Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, "IPOs are

coming in sectors backed by strong tailwinds. These sectors include financial services, retail, renewables, manufacturing, and health-care". He further noted that listings during this period also allow companies to ride the festive sentiment around the Diwali rally, when secondary markets typically witness higher retail flows.

With domestic market flows continuing to remain robust and PE/VC funds seeking exit opportunities, there is renewed optimism in the IPO market. The outlook remains strong as many companies continue to line up for mainboard listings, supported by steady SIP inflows from retail investors and institutional backing from DIIs.

According to Shobhit Mathur, Co-founder of Ionic Wealth, "There is increased activity and buzz in the IPO markets after a hiatus.

Markets are looking beyond the fears of US tariffs and a global slowdown, driven by key policy measures, such as income tax relief, GST 2.0 reforms, and the RBI's monetary support via rate cuts". These factors, he added, have improved investor sentiment for the second half of the year. While several category-leading tech IPOs are in the pipeline, a key distinction from the previous cycle is the stronger emphasis on profitability and long-term value creation. Among the major upcoming IPOs are Jain Resource Recycling, aiming to raise Rs 2,000 crore, hospital chain Park Medi World with a Rs 1,260 crore issue, Saatvik Green Energy targeting Rs 1,150 crore, biofuel producer TruAlt Bioenergy is expected to garner Rs 1,000 crore through its issue, and brokerage Anand Rathi Share and Stock Brokers looking to raise Rs 750 crore.