NITI Aayog charts 2047 roadmap to expand India's Bioeconomy to USD 2.6 trillion

NEW DELHI, JULY 16: India can scale its bioeconomy to USD 691 billion by 2035 and USD 2.6 trillion by 2047 with decisive, mission-mode execution, according to a report by the NITI Aayog.

Bioeconomy is an economic model that uses renewable biological materials to produce food, energy, and industrial goods.

In a bid to realise India's USD 2.6 trillion BioEconomy vision by 2047, the country must move from fragmented initiatives to a coordinated national execution architecture, the Aayog in a report titled 'Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035' said.

"With decisive, mission-mode execution, India can scale its BioEconomy to USD 691 billion by 2035 and USD 2.6 trillion by 2047, creating over 30 million high-value jobs and positioning the country among the world's top three biotechnology powers," it said.

The Aayog stressed that mission-mode national BioMissions to scale priority sectors will be necessary to realise India's USD 2.6 trillion BioEconomy vision by 2047.

Moreover, empowered committees to drive cross-ministerial coordination; regulatory reforms to accelerate approvals while ensuring safety and trust; and a strengthened bioscience leadership and talent pipeline; and a Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund to support innovation, scale-up, infrastructure and biomanufacturing are also needed to scale the country's bioeconomy to USD 691 billion, the Aayog added.

The report also set out a strategic proposition for India to transition from traditional biological R&D to AI-enabled biotechnology and next-generation biomanufacturing, driven by deeper collaboration across ministries, departments, academia, industry and startups.

"Early action would allow India not merely to participate in this transformation, but to shape the global rules, markets and platforms of the biological age-an upheaval likely to rival, and perhaps surpass, the disruption unleashed by artificial intelligence," it noted.

The report noted that, globally, major powers are already moving at speed.

"The United States has adopted a whole-of-Government approach to biomanufacturing; the European Union is tying biotechnology to climate and industrial competitiveness; China is deploying five-year plans to industrialise at scale," it said. According to the report, the next frontier of biotechnology will be defined by deep convergence with AI, robotics, computational biology and biosensor networks.

Speaking at the event, NITI Aayog member Gobardhan Das said India's bioeconomy has entered a phase of rapid and substantive progress. One that many observers are calling a golden age of biology, comparable to the computing revolution of the 1970s.

India stands at a pivotal moment in the global biological century. In just a decade, the country's BioEconomy has expanded sixteen-fold from USD 10 billion in 2014 to USD 195.3 billion in 2025, now contributing 4.8 per cent to national GDP. (PTI)

PM Modi To Inaugurate, Lay Foundation Stone Of Projects Worth Rs 5,470 crore

CHANDIGARH, JUL 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of rail and road infrastructure projects worth Rs 5,470 crore during his Punjab visit on July 17, officials said on Thursday, adding that the scheduled event will take place in Jalandhar.

The projects are aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving passenger convenience and accelerating economic development in the region.

This will be PM Modi's second visit to Jalandhar after he visited the Dera Sachkhand Ballan in February this year.

PM Modi's visit assumes significance as the BJP is preparing to fight the 2027 Punjab Assembly polls on its own.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav visited the Jalandhar Cantonment railway station on Thursday to review security arrangements.

The district administration has declared a 'no flying zone' in Jalandhar in view of the visit.

During his Friday visit, PM Modi will inaugurate 75 redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme from the Jalandhar Cantonment railway station.

at a cost of about Rs 1,570 crore, these stations have been transformed into modern, passenger-friendly facilities. Redeveloped in the spirit of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi', the stations incorporate elements reflecting local culture, heritage and architecture.

Among them, the four redeveloped railway stations in Punjab are Jalandhar Cantonment, S A S Nagar (Mohali), Sri Muktsar Sahib and Sri Anandpur Sahib.

Besides, Modi will also inaugurate the Daulatpur Chowk-Kartoli new rail line, constructed at a cost of about Rs 830 crore as part of the Nangal Dam-Talwara-Mukerian New Rail Line Project.

This project will significantly strengthen rail connectivity between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, benefiting the districts of Hoshiarpur and Una, officials said.

The new rail line will provide connectivity to important religious destinations such as Shri Anandpur Sahib and Maa Chintpurni Temple, while enhancing access to remote areas by providing passengers with a faster, safer and more reliable mode of transportation, they said.

Modi will also flag off the Kartoli-Ambala train service, which will improve connectivity across Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

He will also flag off the Amritsar (Chheharta)-Varanasi train service, establishing a direct rail link between two of India's most revered spiritual and cultural centres.Geographic Reference

The PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of national highway projects worth over Rs 3,070 crore.

He will inaugurate the 30.9-km-long Package-6 of the four-lane greenfield Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway.

The section will facilitate easier and faster travel, particularly for heavy vehicles, while reducing fuel consumption and vehicle operating costs, officials said.

The PM will also lay the foundation stone for the development of the 25.2-km-long six-lane greenfield Southern Ludhiana Bypass.

The project will reduce travel distance and time between Ludhiana and Bathinda, while also improving connectivity to other major economic centres.

Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon, who reviewed the arrangements for the event on Wednesday, said that PM Modi's singular vision is to make India the world's leading nation, with Punjab playing a vital role in that journey.

The modernisation of old railway stations across the state reflects this vision by transforming them into world-class transport hubs, Dhillon said.

Before visiting Jalandhar, PM Modi will visit Chandigarh, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects worth over Rs 4,700 crore, spanning healthcare, education and road infrastructure.

He will inaugurate the Advanced Mother and Child Centre and the Advanced Neurosciences Centre at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, officials said.

Equipped with 300 beds and state-of-the-art medical facilities, the centre will strengthen maternal and child healthcare services and benefit thousands of families across the region, they said.

The PM will also lay the foundation stone of a 150-bed state-of-the-art Critical Care Block under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) at PGIMER, Chandigarh. (Agencies)

HDFC Mutual Fund buys 9.3 lakh shares of Jupiter Life Hospitals for Rs 139 cr

NEW DELHI, JULY 16: HDFC Mutual Fund has bought 9.37 lakh shares of multi-speciality hospital chain operator Jupiter Life Line Hospitals for Rs 139 crore through open market transactions, according to block deal on the BSE.

Following the transaction, shares of Jupiter Life Line Hospitals on Thursday rose 2.53 per cent to trade at Rs 1,537.60 apiece on the exchange.

HDFC Mutual Fund purchased 9.37 lakh equity shares in two tranches, representing a 1.43 per cent stake in Mumbai-based Jupiter Life Line Hospitals Ltd (JLHL), as per the data.

The transaction was executed on Wednesday at an average price of Rs 1,483.50 apiece, taking the combined deal value to Rs 139 crore.

Meanwhile, two public shareholders of JLHL -- Arvind Rao Kamini and Mitul Nitin Thakker -- sold an equal number of shares at the same price, according to BSE data.

In a separate bulk deal on the BSE, Nippon India Mutual Fund (MF) bought 5 lakh shares of logistics company TCI Express from HDFC MF for over Rs 28 crore through open market transactions.Geographic Reference

The shares were picked up at an average price of Rs 562 apiece, taking the size of the deal at Rs 28.10 crore.

After the latest transaction, shares of TCI Express jumped more than 8 per cent to trade at Rs 607.75 apiece on Thursday.

Cong To Raise Ram Temple Donation Issue In Parl; Vows To Defeat Constitution Amendment Bills

NEW DELHI, JULY 16: The Congress on Thursday said it will corner the Government on critical issues such as the alleged theft of donations from the Ram temple and "systemic corrosion" of education system during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The party also asserted that it will strongly oppose the constitutional amendment bills related to delimitation and dismissal of ministers and chief ministers during the session beginning July 20.

Senior Congress leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders deliberated on key issues to be taken up during the session. The meeting was held at the 10, Janpath residence of Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Among other Congress leaders who attended the key strategy meeting included AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, Congress' chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh, P Chidambaram, K Suresh, Naseer Hussain, Manickam Tagore, Kumari Selja, Tariq Anwar, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari among others.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "Chanda Chori -- Astha se Dhoka, Paper leaks and the systemic corrosion of education system, institutional capture, breaking of political parties, multiple scams and charges of corruption, back-breaking price rise, foreign policy failures and strategic blunders, the imposition of ethanol blending on 3.5 crore vehicle owners, unbridled deforestation, and the continued assault on the rights of SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities are among the critical issues on which the Congress Party will hold the Modi government accountable during the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament."

These pressing concerns affecting the lives and aspirations of the people were deliberated upon during the meeting, Kharge said.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Ramesh said, "We have learnt that the Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) is making efforts to bring back the Delimitation Bill. The government failed to secure a two-thirds majority on 17th April and suffered a significant setback. It now wants to reintroduce the Bill."Executive Branch

This was discussed along with the Constitution amendment bill which seeks the removal of ministers in custody for 30 days over serious offences, he said.

"The Congress Party has consistently maintained that it will strongly oppose the Delimitation Bill and will continue to do so. We will also make every effort to maintain the unity and solidarity of all Opposition parties. Similarly, we will firmly oppose the proposed Constitution Amendment Bill related to the removal of ministers," he said.

There was also some discussion on the 'One Nation, One Election' on which a JPC has been constituted, Ramesh said.

"We will also oppose the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill in its entirety. It is possible that the Bill may be introduced during this session. There is also a possibility that the FCRA Amendment Bill will be introduced. We will oppose it as well. We had opposed it earlier, following which the government withdrew the Bill. However, we are now hearing that it may be brought back," Ramesh said.

Another important issue discussed was the proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act, 2013, which forms the basis of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, he said.

"We are completely opposed to these proposed amendments, and if the Bill is introduced during this session, we will strongly oppose it. As far as the legislative agenda is concerned, I do not see any Bill before us that we can support," Ramesh said.

The Congress is strongly opposed to the two Constitution amendment bills, he said.

"We have demanded several times that women's reservation be implemented on the current strength of the Lok Sabha and if the government is willing to do that we will support it," the Congress leader said.

The Home Minister has "split parties" and is looking to manage two-thirds majority by "cunningness" which would be an insult to the Constitution, he said, adding that such a majority would be a "blot on democracy".

The BJP, however, will not be able to get a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, Ramesh asserted.South Asians & Diaspora

"Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun are in touch with all parties that had supported us on April 16 and 17 in defeating the government's delimitation bill," he said.

The opposition INDIA bloc will also hold its strategy meet on Monday ahead of the start of the session to evolve its joint strategy.

The Government will meet leaders of various parties on Sunday to discuss various issues to be taken up during the session.

The Government is likely to bring up crucial legislation, including the Constitution amendment bill on introducing delimitation and increase of Lok Sabha seats, besides one pertaining to the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers and Union ministers on being jailed.

The opposition is also gearing up to take on the Government on crucial issues, including the NEET paper leak case and the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, besides raising issues of rising oil prices and the Indo-US trade deal.

Signature Global net debt doubles to Rs 390 cr in Q1, pre-sales down 25 pc to Rs 1,970 cr

NEW DELHI, JULY 15: Realty firm Signature Global Ltd's net debt has almost doubled to Rs 390 crore during the first quarter of this fiscal compared with March-end as the company looks to expand business.

Its net debt stood at Rs 200 crore as on March 31, 2026.

"As of June 30, 2026, the company maintained cash and bank balances (including fixed deposits) of Rs 25.22 billion, reinforcing its strong balance sheet and providing sufficient financial flexibility to support future growth and operational requirements," Signature Global said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

The company on Tuesday reported a 25 per cent decline in its sales bookings to Rs 1,970 crore for the first quarter of this fiscal amid lower volumes.

Its sales bookings or pre-sales stood at Rs 2,640 crore in the year-ago period.

For the current fiscal year, Gurugram-based Signature Global has given a pre-sales guidance of Rs 10,000 crore.

The company sold properties worth Rs 8,250 crore in the 2025-26 fiscal and became the fifth-largest listed real estate firm in terms of sales bookings.

As per the latest operational update, Signature Global sold 226 units in the April-June quarter of 2026-27, a sharp drop from 778 units in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Signature Global sold 0.72 million sq ft area during April-June compared to 1.62 million sq ft in the year-ago period.

The average sales realisation, however, grew to Rs 17,093 per sq ft in the first quarter of this fiscal as the company is focusing more on branded luxury homes. In the entire FY26, the figure was at Rs 15,250 per sq ft.History

Signature Global collected Rs 670 crore from customers during the June quarter, a 28 per cent fall from the year-ago period. Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal, Chairman of Signature Global, said, "Strong pre-sales and robust collections during the June quarter reflect the continued trust in our brand, the strength of our execution, and sustained demand for our developments".

The successful launch of the first phase of 'Tonino Lamborghini Residences' on Southern Peripheral Road, which has received an overwhelming response from discerning homebuyers, clearly reflects a strong appetite for branded homes, he said. "Moving forward, we remain committed to creating lasting value for our customers and other stakeholders," Aggarwal said.

In April, Signature Global tied up with Italian lifestyle brand Tonino Lamborghini to develop a luxury housing project in Gurugram with an investment of nearly Rs 2,900 crore. It will develop 812 homes in the 12.4 acre project.

Aurum PropTech acquires Housing.com to expand biz

NEW DELHI, July 16: Realty firm Aurum PropTech Ltd on Thursday announced the acquisition of property classified platform Housing.com in an all-equity deal, as part of its strategy to expand business.

Housing.com is owned by Australia's REA Group.

In a regulatory filing, Mumbai-based Aurum PropTech said it has entered into a binding share acquisition agreement for 100 per cent stake in Housing.com in an all-equity transaction. Aurum PropTech will issue 1,97,93,309 equity shares (representing about 20.5 per cent of the enlarged share capital).

Following the transaction, REA India's total shareholding in Aurum PropTech will increase to 24.9 per cent. At the current share price, Aurum's market capitalisation is nearly Rs 1,900 crore on the BSE.History

Earlier, Aurum PropTech had bought housing brokerage platform PropTiger from REA Group.

The combination brings together Housing.com and Aurum -- the largest tech-enabled PropTech ecosystem -- into one integrated platform, spanning property discovery, transactions, financing, rentals and management across the real estate life cycle.