

**NATIONALSEMINAR& EXPO ON
FOOTWEAR HERITAGE FROM NOV 28**
Hyderabad, Nov.20: Pleach India Foundation and the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Hyderabad, announced that the National Exhibition and Seminar on Footwear Heritage will be held at the FDDI campus from November 28 to 30, 2025. The event will be inaugurated by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and will showcase India's footwear heritage, craft traditions, design evolution, and expert talks.



**HC QUASHES FIR AGAINST BANDI SANJAY IN
QUESTION PAPER LEAK CASE**
Hyderabad: In a major relief to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Telangana High Court on Thursday quashed the FIR filed against him in the 2023 Class 10 question paper leak case. The FIR, registered by Kamalapur Police, Hanamkonda District, had named Bandi Sanjay as a prime accused in the 10th Class Hindi question paper leak incident. The case invoked various sections of IPC, IT Act and TS Public examinations (prevention of malpractices) Act.

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Analog AI expresses interest in partnering with Telangana



**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** Visionary technologist and CEO of Analog AI Alex Kipman called on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy

at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Thursday. Known for leading the creation of two of the world's most influential mixed reality platforms Microsoft Kinect and

HoloLens, Kipman is globally recognised for redefining human-computer interaction. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy discussed potential collaboration opportunities integrating next generation 'Physical Intelligence' systems with Telangana's Future City, AI City and Musi Riverfront Development projects. Analog AI expressed interest in solving problems like traffic congestion, urban flooding and climate change prediction for Hyderabad city using their cutting edge tech platforms, on the request of the Chief Minister. Revanth Reddy extended an invitation to Kipman for attending the upcoming Telangana Rising Global Summit on December 8 and 9.

Revanth urges Centre to implement fine rice distribution nationally

**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has requested Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Prahlaad Joshi to consider implementing a nationwide distribution of fine rice, similar to the current initiative in Telangana. On Thursday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, attended a breakfast meeting with Union Minister Prahlaad



Joshi at a hotel in Hyderabad. During their discussion, Revanth Reddy highlighted the successful distribution of fine rice to beneficiaries through ration

shops in Telangana.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the goals of welfare programmes can only be achieved if the rice supplied matches the variety

that people consume. He suggested that a study be conducted if necessary to support this initiative and called for an appropriate decision to be made.

Speaker issues fresh notices to Danam, Srihari in BRS turncoat MLAs case

**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** In a significant development in the disqualification case involving BRS turncoat MLAs, Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has issued renewed notices to MLAs Kadiyam Srihari and Danam Nagender. The Speaker directed them to file affidavits responding to the BRS party's disqualification petitions. Danam Nagender has reportedly sought additional time to respond, prompting the Speaker to prepare another notice. Disqualification pleas are pending against 10 MLAs who won on BRS tickets but later joined the ruling Congress. Acting on the Supreme Court recent directive to conclude the inquiry within four weeks, the Speaker has intensified the process. Hearings of eight out of the 10 MLAs have already been completed. The BRS, however, has accused the Speaker of delaying the proceedings and filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court on November 17. Following the Apex Court direction, the scrutiny of the petitions has been expedited.

Prez offers prayers in Tiruchanoor temple



**From Our Staff Reporter
Tirupati, Nov., 20 :** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, offered prayers in Sri Padmavati Ammavari temple at Tiruchanoor on Thursday evening. Upon reaching the temple, the President of India was welcomed by the AP Ministers Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, Vangalapudi Anitha, TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal, AP Endowments Secretary Hari

Jawahar Lal, District Collector Dr Venkateswar, District SP Subbarayudu, JEO Veerabrahmam, CV&SO Muralikrishna. Later, the temple priests offered the traditional Swagatam to the first citizen of the Nation. The Honorable President offered prayers to the temple Dhvajasthambham and later had darshan of the presiding deity of Sri Padmavati Ammavaru.

Later, in the Ashirwada

Mandapam, she was offered Prasadam. On the occasion she was honored with a Sesa Vastram and the photo of the deity is presented.

Among others Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani, Anantapur DIG Semushi Ghosh, TTD Board Member Bhanuprakash Reddy, Temple Deputy EO Harindranath and others participated in this program.

FTCCI to host women's leadership summit 2025 at T-HUB

**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) will host the FTCCI Women's Leadership Summit 2025 on November 28 at Marvel, T-Hub, Hyderabad. The full-day event, scheduled from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, aims to champion the women's leadership and spotlight their growing influence across the sectors. The Summit will bring together entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, innovators and changemakers from Telangana and across India for a high-impact leadership experience. An eminent lineup of speakers will address the event, including Khushboo Hoda (Volvo India), Tanya Chaitanya (Reliance Industries), Dr. Vanitha Datla (Elico Healthcare Services), Radhika Yuvraj Iyengar (Women in Tech India), Archana Naidu (iKeva/Graybox Strategy), Nisary Mahesh (Her MoneyTalks), and Deepthi Akki (Basketball Federation of India). The programme will feature keynote sessions, panel discussions, leadership

conversations and networking opportunities. Dr. Tasneem Shariff, Chair of the FTCCI Ladies Wing Committee, said the Summit underscores FTCCI's commitment to empowering women and strengthening their leadership presence in business and public life. FTCCI President R. Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice President K. K. Maheshwari, and Vice President Srinivas Garimella have invited women professionals, entrepreneurs, students and corporate organisations to participate in the forum.

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Earth Summit should drive Agri Startups: Minister Tummala

**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday said that reforms and innovations are essential to boost rural India and the agricultural sector. Addressing a gathering at the "Earth Summit - Hyderabad edition", organised by NABARD and the Internet and Mobile Association of India at Hitec near Madhapur, the Minister said startups in agriculture are being encouraged under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership, and the FPOs are already setting up innovation-driven ventures. He stressed the need for climate-resilient innovations and coordination among cooperatives and marketing systems. He thanked NABARD on behalf of the state government for supporting the farmers and added that NABARD's services as the backbone of the farmers in rural India were commendable. NABARD Chairman Shaji KV, Deputy MD Goverdhan Singh Rawat and DMD Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood participated in the event.



Komatireddy seeks mega grain godown, citrus cold storage for Nalgonda

**From Our Staff Reporter
Nalgonda, Nov., 20 :** In a significant push to strengthen agricultural infrastructure in the district, State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday appealed to Union Food & Consumer Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi to sanction a state-of-the-art grain godown and a dedicated citrus cold storage facility for Nalgonda. The appeal was made during the inauguration of the FCI divisional office and buffer storage complex in Nalgonda, where Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior officials of the Food Corporation of India were also present. Speaking at the event, Komatireddy said Nalgonda-long known as a hub of farmers' movements and a major paddy-producing region-needs modern storage systems to safeguard crops from unpredictable weather.

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Singareni CMD included in national-level critical mineral development committee

**From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, Nov., 20 :** NITI Aayog has constituted a national-level committee on November 19 to identify, explore and facilitate the production of critical minerals located across various regions of the country.

Dr. D.K. Singh, Advisor (Minerals), IIT-ISM, has been appointed as the Chairman of this committee. The committee includes the Director of the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), the C&MD of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), as well as the Chairmen of NLC India, Coal India, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, along with six other members representing various industrial sectors.

Explaining the purpose of this committee NITI Aayog stated that, critical minerals hold immense importance in the 21st century. The committee has been tasked with identifying at least 10 types of critical minerals that may

be found in open-cast mine overburdens, underground mines, fly ash and bottom ash from thermal power



plants, as well as in coal seams. The committee will identify the presence of critical minerals in a minimum of 20 locations across the country, collect samples, conduct analysis, undertake exploration, and examine the feasibility of mineral production. It has been directed to submit a comprehensive study report within one year. NITI Aayog emphasised that, the committee should work proactively to further strengthen and accelerate the initiatives undertaken by the National Critical Mineral Mission.

It noted that, once the availability and distribution of critical minerals are established through sample analysis, industries may independently or jointly take up their production. The committee has been asked to study these aspects in detail and submit its report within 12 months. Singareni Collieries Company Limited is already making rapid progress in the field of critical minerals, Company C&MD has been appointed as a member of the national committee. SCCL's proactive approach toward exploration, research, future requirement assessment, and strategic planning in critical minerals has earned it this recognition. This appointment is expected to further enhance the company's prestige, particularly at a time when SCCL's role in accelerating India's critical mineral initiatives, developing domestic resources, and contributing to the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat is steadily growing.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for record 10th time



Patna Nov., 20 (UNI): Janata Dal (United) Chief Nitish Kumar took oath for the 10th time as the Chief Minister of Bihar this morning. Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to him. The swearing-in ceremony was held at historic Gandhi Maidan in Patna. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, J P Nadda, Chirag Paswan and several other top leaders of the NDA were present on the occasion.

A total of 27 Ministers, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, took oath as Ministers in the new Bihar government. BJP leaders, including Samrat

Choudhary, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dilip Jaiswal, Mangal Pandey, Nitin Nabin, and Ram Kripal Yadav, have taken oath as Ministers in Nitish Kumar's cabinet. While JD(U)'s Leshi Singh, Shrawan Kumar, Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Zama Khan and Ashok Chaudhary also took oath as Ministers. In the recently concluded Bihar assembly polls, NDA had achieved a landslide victory by clinching 202 seats in the 243-member House. In NDA, BJP registered victory on 89 assembly seats, JD(U) on 85 seats, LJP(R) on 19, Hindustani Awam Morcha on 5, and Rashtriya Lok Morcha on 4 assembly segments.

DMHO Distributes Sarees to ASHA Workers, Praises Key Role in Public Health

Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): The District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) distributed new uniform sarees to all ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers currently employed across the district. Each ASHA worker received two sarees provided by the State Government. The distribution was overseen by the District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. Uma Gowri. She confirmed that these sarees are an annual provision from the government aimed at the welfare of the ASHA workers. Speaking at the event, Dr. Uma Gowri extended her sincere appreciation to the activists. She acknowledged their essential contribution, noting that ASHA workers play a crucial role in delivering healthcare services in both rural and urban areas. The distribution program saw the participation



of District Program Officers, the District Project Manager (NHM), the District Public Health Nodal Officer, and various other departmental officials.

Central Government Team Inspects Anganwadi and Sakhi Centre in Medchal District



Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): A delegation from the Government of India conducted an official visit to Medchal-Malkajgiri District to review the implementation of welfare schemes. The central team included Daya Shankar, Director of the WD & CW Department (GoI), Janaki Vishwanathan, Under Secretary for the Department of Women Development & Child Welfare, along with members of the Parliamentary Committee and a Research Officer.

Review of Anganwadi Functioning
The visiting officials first inspected an Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in Upparapally Village, Shameerpet Mandal. The inspection focused on the implementation of the Early

Childhood Education (ECE) component of the Anganwadi program, interaction with beneficiaries, and the availability and use of outdoor play equipment. The team engaged in discussions with children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers to assess the quality of ICDS programs. They subsequently reviewed the food distribution system and beneficiary records.

Inspection of Sakhi One Stop Centre

Later, the delegation visited the Sakhi One Stop Centre (OSC) in Alwal. They interacted with the affected women seeking shelter and assistance there, reviewing the facilities, support systems, and the range of services being offered. The Central team expressed satisfaction with the services and support mechanisms in place at the Sakhi Centre.

Commendation for District Administration
Radhika Gupta, Additional Collector of Medchal District, and Sharada, District Welfare Officer for the WCD & SC Department, accompanied the team throughout the inspection. The Central Government delegation ultimately commended the District Administration and the departmental staff for the efficient implementation of Women and Child Welfare schemes.

Uppal MLA Launches Camp Offering Comprehensive Free Medical Services in Surya Nagar

Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): A free Mega Medical Health Camp was successfully organized by the Lions Club of Hyderabad, Meerpet, at the Modern High School in Surya Nagar Colony, Mallapur Division. The camp was conducted in collaboration with Apollo Hospital, Sion Cancer Clinic, and M.S. Reddy Lion Eye Hospital. The health camp was inaugurated by prominent guests, including local Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy, and Lions Club of Hyderabad District Governor Innareddy. The community received a wide array of complimentary medical services during the event. The event was successfully hosted by the Modern School management, represented by Sachidevi and Muthyam Reddy. The organizing team included Prabhakar Reddy, President of the Lions Club of Hyderabad, Meerpet, along with members Ramachander, Ramesh, Satyareddy, and Anji Reddy. Local residents such



as Kothi Yadagiri Goud, Padmareddy, Anjaiah, Ravinder Reddy, and Narsing Rao also participated.

Telangana Working Journalists Federation Expels Basavapunnaiah, Warns of Legal Action



Hyderabad, November 20 (National Express): Mamidi Somaiah, the founding president and State Convening Committee Convener of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF), asserted that Basavapunnaiah has no affiliation with the Federation. He announced that Basavapunnaiah was permanently removed from the organization due to involvement in anti-federation activities.

Unanimous Decision by State Body
Somaiah disclosed that a unanimous resolution to expel Basavapunnaiah permanently was approved during a State Executive Committee meeting held in Hyderabad on November 15. The meeting saw the attendance of 130 officials, including State Office Bearers, Executive Committee members, District Presidents and Secretaries, as well as State, National, and founding Council members from nearly 30 districts. Somaiah, speaking at a press conference at the NSS in Hyderabad alongside former State Vice Presidents and Convening Committee Co-Conveners Vallala Jagan and Bandi Vijay Kumar, and National Council Member M. Padmanabha Rao, detailed the reasons for the expulsion. He criticized Basavapunnaiah's alleged conspiracy to dismantle the organization and turn the TWJF into a "plant union" limited only to Navathelangana journalists. Somaiah appealed to all members to foil these attempts. He also stated that the call given by the expelled individuals, Basavapunnaiah and Pilli Ramchander, to submit petitions to District Collectors tomorrow is illegal.

CPI Vows to Defeat Communal Forces as Bus Yatra Reaches ECIL

Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): The CPI State Bus Yatra, mobilizing support for the party's Centenary event in Khammam on December 26th, received a massive welcome upon its arrival at the ECIL center in Medchal District. V.S. Bose, CPI State Secretariat Member, declared that Communists are the only effective alternative to counter the rise of communal forces in the country. He urged all fragmented Communist groups to unite and called on Maoists to abandon armed struggle for democratic movements. National Executive Member Pashya Padma highlighted the CPI's 100 years of sacrifice, asserting that the party's primary goal remains resolving people's



issues, not the pursuit of political power. Party leaders were welcomed by the CPI Uppal Constituency unit.

Dignity, Education, Protection Are Fundamental Rights - Child Rights Protection Commission Member Gogula Saritha Stresses Basic Entitlements

Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): The International Child Rights Week celebrations were inaugurated by the District Women and Child Welfare Department at the Prajavani premises. Gogula Saritha, Member of the State Child Rights Protection Commission, attended as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering of children, she asserted that living with dignity, accessing education, and obtaining protection are the fundamental entitlements of every minor. She urged for the creation of a safe environment where every young person possesses self-confidence, joy, and equality, and is included in all community initiatives.

Pledge to Safeguard Rights

Additional Collector Radhika Gupta spoke on the importance of nurturing every child to grow with confidence and happiness. She called upon society to foster an environment of equality and understanding and pledged to actively defend and safeguard the rights of children. Rajareddy, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), highlighted that every minor has a legal right to education, affirming that the committee is dedicated to working for the fulfillment of these entitlements.

Helpline and Health Advice

Sharada, the District Welfare Officer, appealed to the pub-



lic to report any violation of child rights by calling the 1098 toll-free number. She advised children to consume nutritious food to remain healthy, stressing that education is the key to achieving any goal. The event was attended by officials from the DMHO, District Education Department, DPRO Medchal-Malkajgiri, CWC members Archana, Naga Jayashree, and Rammohan, District Child Protection Officer Imtiyaz Raheem, staff from the District Child Protection Unit, and numerous children.

Vasavi Mithra Mandali Extends Aid, Distributes Meals on Amavasya



Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): The Vasavi Mithra Mandali, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, organized a free meal distribution (Anna Prasada Vitarana) program at ECIL X Road, marking the occasion of Amavasya (New Moon). Following the meal service, the Mandali extended financial support to four needy elderly women residing in Kushaiguda. Four recipients Male Varamma, Konduri Vijaya, Thodupunoori Umarani, and Padakanti Kamalamma were each presented with Rs.1,000, supplementing their monthly pension income. The charitable event was conducted under the leadership of the Mandali's key functionaries President Peddi Nagaraju



Gupta, General Secretary Rebelli Srinivas Gupta, Treasurer Ramuni Thirmalesh Gupta, Executive Secretary Gampa Krishna Gupta, Vice Presidents Nangunoori Ashok Gupta and Thati Srinivas Gupta, Secretaries Bachelli Naveen Gupta and Amara Krishna Gupta, Chanda Santosh Gupta Also present were Executive Committee Members Uppala Srinivasulu Gupta, Miryala Arun Kumar Gupta, Rayikanti Venu Gupta, Penpeshetti Ramesh Gupta, Ennishetty Ramesh Gupta, and numerous other members including Peddi Srinivas Gupta, Chandragiri Tharkeshwar Gupta, and Kurra Srinivas.

Foster Billabong High Wins U/16 Girls Inter-School Basketball Tournament

Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 30 (National Express): Foster Billabong High International School successfully hosted an inter-school U/16 Girls Basketball tournament at its campus in Kapra, Saket. The event was organized with the goal of fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, healthy competition, and providing a fun sporting experience for the young athletes. A total of 16 schools participated in the keenly contested competition. The host team, Foster Billabong High International School, ultimately clinched the victory, winning the championship match. The participating institutions included: FOSTER BILLABONG HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (Kapra), St. MARTINS HIGH SCHOOL (Malkajgiri), DPS (Mahendra Hills), NIRAJ INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (Kompally), PALLAVI MODEL SCHOOL (Boduppall), CAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (Kapra), DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (Safilguda), REQELFORD SCHOOL (Keesara), ST. ANDREWS (Suchitra), INDUS UNIVERSAL SCHOOL (Yapral), DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (Nachram), ST. ANDREWS (Keesara), ST. PETERS (Bowenpally), SRI



VIDYA VIHAR (Ghatkesar), NORTH FIELD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (Kompally), PRABHU SHREE SCHOOL (Odisha).

Maruthi Mithra Mandali Organizes Free Meal Distribution on Amavasya



Medchal-Malkajgiri, November 20 (National Express): The Maruthi Mithra Mandali successfully conducted its monthly Anna Prasada Vitarana (free meal distribution) program at the Pochamma Temple premises in Kushaiguda, as is customary on the day of Amavasya (New Moon). The event was organized under the leadership of the Mandali's President and Secretary, Guru Manchi Ashok

Chary and Varaganti Hanumanthu. Ramesh Reddy, a retired Physical Education Teacher (PET), attended the function as a special guest. He performed special prayers before formally inaugurating the meal distribution.

Speaking at the event, Ramesh emphasized the profound value of feeding the hungry, stating that 'Anna Daanam' (the donation of food) is superior to all other forms of donation. The program saw the participation of numerous Mandali members and locals, including Panjala Srinivas Goud, Kasula Suresh Goud, Gunti Anjaneyulu Yadav, Gurumanchi Venu Chary, Nalacharala Janardhan, Subba Rao, Sudarshan, and Madhya Ramulu.

4 Women Were Desperate To Get Married. So They Killed Nephew In Ritual

Jodhpur: In what appears to be a ritualistic murder, four women trampled their 16-day-old nephew to death with their feet in Rajasthan's Jodhpur because they believed that it would help them finally get married. A video which is going viral shows one of the women sitting with an infant in her lap and chanting something. Some other women, sitting around her, join the chant which, officials said, likely invoked Bheru, a folk deity. The father of the boy said the women who murdered him were his sisters in law. He said they had been wanting to get married for some time and trampled his



son to death because they thought it would help them get proposals. "I want the

murderers to get the harshest punishment. Such videos are being made so they

can escape the law," he said. Police said the matter is being investigated.

Suspended Ex-Minister RK Singh Quits BJP After Crackdown On Bihar Rebels

New Delhi/Patna: The BJP has turned its focus to its rebel leaders in Bihar a day after winning the state elections. Former Union Minister RK Singh, a senior politician from Bihar, is among three leaders who have been suspended for anti-party activities. The other two facing party action are Legislative Council member Ashok Agarwal and Katihar Mayor Usha Agarwal. Singh resigned from the primary membership of the party soon after being pulled up over his conduct.

Bihar BJP's state headquarters in-charge Arvind Sharma issued a notice to the leaders this morning, informing them of their suspension and asking them to explain within a week why they shouldn't be expelled from the party. "You are indulging in anti-party activities. This falls within the



scope of discipline. The party has taken this seriously. This has caused harm to the party. Therefore, as directed, you are being suspended from the party and asked to explain why you should not be expelled from the party. Therefore, please clarify your position within a week of receiving this letter," read the show-cause notice sent to Singh and the Agarwals. Sources suggest their suspension is a mere process and that they will eventually be expelled. A former MP from Arrah in Bihar, Singh had

been critical of the BJP and the government in Bihar since losing the 2024 elections. In the political wilderness, he had been questioning the NDA leadership in his state and the credibility of some allies' candidates. He had specifically targeted party colleague Samrat Choudhary, deputy chief minister and the BJP's key candidate in Bihar. Following Prashant Kishor's corruption allegations against Choudhary and BJP Bihar chief Dilip Jaiswal, he accused them of ruining the party's image and de-

manded their clarification. Singh had also called Choudhary and Jaiswal "murder accused" and urged people to shun tainted candidates.

He sought Choudhary to come clean on the doubts over his educational qualification and also named gangster-turned-politician Anant Singh of the JDU in his outburst. "It's better to drown in a handful of water than to vote for them," he had remarked. Choudhary and Singh both won from their respective seats. Singh, a retired IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, was the Home Secretary during Manmohan Singh's tenure. He joined the BJP in 2013 and became an MP from Arrah twice, in 2014 and 2019. In 2017, he was appointed the Minister of Power in the Modi 1.0 cabinet. He lost the seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Sharad Pawar Says Cash Transfer Scheme Swayed Bihar Voters, BJP Hits Back

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has alleged that the BJP-led NDA's victory in the recent Bihar Assembly election was influenced by a government-backed cash transfer scheme, under which Rs 10,000 was credited into the bank accounts of women voters shortly before polling. Such large-scale pre-election payouts risk undermining public faith in the democratic process, he warned. Speaking to reporters in Baramati, Pawar said that he received feedback from Bihar, indicating that the women, who voted in unusually large numbers, were significantly swayed by the Rs 10,000 deposit. "Women had taken the election into their own hands.



All of them received Rs 10,000 each in their accounts, and that seems to have had a direct impact on the result," he alleged.

Drawing a parallel to Maharashtra's Ladki Bahin scheme, under which Rs 1,500 was credited to women before the Model Code of Conduct, Pawar said that the trend of governments disbursing large sums just before polls was

worrying. "If those in power start entering elections after distributing money in such a manner, it will shake people's faith in elections. Rs 10,000 is not a small amount. Experts and the Election Commission must think about the impact," he said. Pawar added that such practices raise questions about transparency. "When Rs 10,000 is given across the state and

elections follow, people naturally feel the process is not clean," he said.

BJP Rejects Pawar's Charges

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed Pawar's allegations as an attempt to deflect from electoral defeat. "In an election, the one who wins is the real Sikandar," he said. "After defeat, one should accept the loss, admit their mistakes, and introspect, but our Opposition is not willing to do so." Fadnavis said that every party and government had the freedom to introduce welfare schemes, and it was the public that judged their merit. "The schemes we implemented were appreciated by people, and that is why they supported us," he said.

Indian-Origin CEO Stopped By FBI Despite O-1 Visa, Slams Rising US Xenophobia

New York: Mindvalley CEO Vishen Lakhiani has raised concerns about growing xenophobia in the United States after claiming he was stopped by the FBI at a US airport despite possessing a valid O-1 visa, typically granted to individuals with extraordinary ability. In a detailed Instagram post, the Malaysian-born entrepreneur of Indian descent said the incident made him "dread visiting" a country he has long admired. Lakhiani stressed that he has been contributing to the US economy for over two decades, noting that he has paid American taxes for 22 years and leads a company with 230 employees globally. He

criticised what he described as increasing fear-based political rhetoric targeting



immigrants, saying the US is becoming "closed and narrow-minded" due to leaders who "blame immigrants instead of offering real solutions."

Lakhiani expressed hope that the next election would bring change.

His comments have resonated widely online, sparking debate about immigration policies, airport screenings, and the broader political climate in the US. His video has already crossed one million views, boosted by his large Instagram following. Many supporters shared similar experiences, while others argued that

heightened security protocols affect travellers regardless of visa category. "Yes! That's exactly why I left, even though I also had a

talent visa. I couldn't live there anymore; it gave me anxiety," one user wrote. Another commented, "I love America, but I've decided not to visit for the next few years because racial profiling is real."

A third user expressed support for Lakhiani, saying, "I'm so sorry, Vishen. Your experience doesn't represent how all of us feel. I'm glad you're here. ICE and those agents who questioned you should reflect on their actions. Travel safe, my friend." The incident adds to ongoing discussions about how political narratives are shaping the experiences of foreign workers, entrepreneurs, and long-term contributors entering the United States.

Prashant Kishor and the Tale Of Two Predictions

New Delhi: The first prediction was about Bengal five years ago. "BJP will struggle to cross double digits and will get less than 100 seats in West Bengal. Will quit my work if they do." - Prashant Kishor (December 2020) And the BJP did not. Its final seat count was 77. Cut to 2025, he made another prediction in the run-up to Bihar polls.

"You can write this down. JDU, on its own strength, is going to get less than 25 seats. If this does not happen, I will quit politics. After the elections, the very existence of JDU will be in question." - Prashant Kishor (June 2025) This time, Prashant Kishor, whose own party was making a poll debut in Bihar, failed to live up to the hype. The Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) won 3 times the number of seats predicted by the former poll strategist. The JDU's final seat count was 85.

Considered an election wunderkind after the campaign designed by him propelled Narendra Modi for a record third term as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2012, he followed it up with an even bigger win for his candidate: winning the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, catapulting Narendra Modi from Gujarat to Delhi. Since then, his stock too has been on the rise, barring a few blips, the most notable being the Congress campaign he ran in 2017 for Uttar Pradesh polls. Everywhere he went, he repeated, and at times gave it in writing too, that the JDU will not cross the 25-seat mark and that this election would be



Nitish Kumar's last hoorah.

"All of Bihar knows that Nitish Kumar's mental and physical condition is not such that he can get anything done. A person who is sitting on a stage and forgetting the name of the Prime Minister sitting next to him; who, when the national anthem is playing, doesn't know whether it's the national anthem or a 'qawwali'... who hasn't addressed the media in a year. A person who is not in a state to look after himself... how will he look after Bihar? So, if you and I know this, don't PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah?" he told in one of his many interviews in June. Another reason he was so confident about his prediction, he said, was that a survey by his party has revealed that 62% of people in Bihar want change. But the poll results show that the electorate wanted more of the same and with an even greater intensity, it appears.

So, where does that leave Prashant Kishor, whose

own party was at the bottom of the pile in the polls? When asked to predict his own poll numbers, he liked to say "arsh pe ya farsh pe (either at the bottom or sky high). In another of his interviews, he also said he would consider even 125-130 seats as a loss (122 being the majority mark), as he could not be satisfied with a simple majority. He did go all-out.

Pressed to answer what happens if his party loses, he assured he is here to stay. He will, like Malcom Gladwell's 10,000 hour rule that practice is the essence of genius, he says will stay in Bihar for the next 10 years and will give it his all. He has his blueprint ready too. From building schools, to arresting migration, to building capacity, to ending corruption and to ushering in a new kind of politics, going by his public declarations and the detailed explanations on how he will do it. The only hitch is, he said he will quit politics if his prediction about JD(U) seats is wrong. Which is

the case now. Considering the savant he is, in all things political, how will he navigate this one?

Let's revisit the Bengal prediction. At that time too, he had made up his mind he was going to quit, arguing that it is not something he wanted to do "all my life". "I have done my bit. I-PAC (the organisation he ran) has far more capable people than me, I should take a break and try my hand at something else," he had said. As the 2021 Bengal results trickled in, the trends showed BJP leading in more than 120 seats, predictably, the taunts followed. However, as the numbers firmed up, he had the last laugh. He said he was going to quit anyway, but "am glad I am able to quit after the victory." "You (media) were very apprehensive about what I had said. You did not believe me when I said I will quit if the BJP crosses 100 seats. Today, despite what I said is coming true, I have decided to quit", he said then. He faces a similar predicament today.

Timeline of entire probe into white collar terrorists behind Delhi Blast

New Delhi: A snapshot of the entire investigation into the white collar terror module which was busted before they could do any major harm simultaneously has been collated from various sources. Following the arrests of terror accused doctors, one of them - Umar Mohammad, who was a doctor in Faridabad and on the run - panicked and left Faridabad in an i20 carrying explosives. He eventually came near the Red Fort, where the bomb went off, killing 13. Here is a timeline of the investigation as narrated by a senior officer who is a part of the probe. The officer requested anonymity.

October 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Police come to Faridabad Police with search warrants. Faridabad Commissioner of Police sends the Crime Branch with the visiting force. Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, a doctor, is arrested from Al-Falah University. The police take him to Jammu and Kashmir on a transit remand.

November 8

The Jammu and Kashmir Police return to Haryana and inform local police about intelligence they have on weapons and explosives, based on Muzammil's interrogation. The police recover an assault rifle, a pistol, three assault-rifle magazines, 83 rounds, two extra pistol magazines, and seven live cartridges from a Swift car on campus.

The car is seized

The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with 12 teams from the Faridabad



Crime Branch carry out search operations in the university and surrounding areas, including Dhauj and nearby regions.

November 9

The police recover 358 kg of ready-to-use explosives in 12 suitcases from a room of a building in Dhauj. They also recover timers, batteries, cutters, detonators, face masks, wigs, wires, and material used for

man identified as Imam Ishtiaq in Haryana's Fatehpur Taga. Searches in the Dhauj house leads to recovery of explosives that are only one step away from being used as a complete bomb. At 6:52 pm, a blast takes place near the Red Fort in Delhi's Chandni Chowk. Umar Mohammad, missing since Muzammil's arrest on October 30, is seen on CCTV in Nuh-

ing explosives. Police intercept the car, but find nothing. A forensic test is being done to check for traces of explosives.

November 13

Police seize the Ford EcoSpot. Wasib, a resident of Dhauj who parked the EcoSport at a certain location, and who kept in touch with the suicide bomber, is arrested. Wasib works as a computer operator at Al-Falah University. A silver Brezza SUV belonging to terror accused doctor Shaheen Shahid is found on the campus. National Security Guards (NSG) commandos reach the campus; forensics teams conduct tests and the police seize the Brezza. No suspicious items are found; investigation continues.

November 14

Terror accused Mustaqil, who was also in touch with the suicide bomber, is detained from Sunhera village in Rajasthan's Mewat. Investigators take him into custody. After doing MBBS in China, Mustail worked as an intern at Al-Falah University.



making improvised explosive devices (IEDs). A bomb squad collects all the material and hands it to the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

November 10

The police recover 2,553 kg of ammonium nitrate - which can also be used in making IEDs - packed in sacks from the house of a

Mewat region. The police find an i20 car sold by Royal Car Dealer's Sonu is involved in the case. Sonu is arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell.

November 12

Intelligence says a red Ford EcoSport may come from Faridabad's Khandawali village carry-

Friday, November 21, 2025

America's new move on Gaza

Palestine has already been recognized by 150 countries. In such circumstances, if Trump really wants to solve the problem, what he should do is immediately withdraw Israel from Gaza and the West Bank, its troops, other occupations, and thousands of illegal settlers. Then, whether Israel recognizes it or not, he should recognize Palestine. Then take the necessary steps in the United Nations. If this happens, the problem will be solved right then and there. That is what the Palestinian people and the world are demanding. The reconstruction and development of Gaza and the West Bank will take place gradually. Many countries are ready to help with that. Perhaps because it believes that the 75-year-old Israeli occupation of Gaza is not going 'satisfactorily' and that problems are arising, the United States seems to be trying to directly intervene. While the local Palestinian people are resisting the Israeli occupation fiercely, armedly, and on an unprecedented scale, the world is equally strongly condemning the genocide being carried out by Israel with the support of the United States. Even America's allies have joined in and started recognizing Palestine as an independent state. On the other hand, the United Nations, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and human rights organizations are clearly taking an anti-Israeli stance. As a result of all this, Israel has become almost a scapegoat. All these are reasons why the United States feels that the Israeli occupation is not 'satisfactory'.

It is because of such circumstances that US President Trump has been reported to be somewhat harsh towards Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in recent weeks. Trump, who was angry about the attack on Qatar, is citing Netanyahu's apology to the Qatari Prime Minister as an example of this. However, America will not lose its interests in the region due to Netanyahu's actions. Netanyahu is temporary. Their interests are long-term. Western countries created Israel for those interests. That is why they have been protecting Israel no matter how many other problems they face. That is also why they have been creating obstacles to the establishment of an independent Palestine. Therefore, when problems arise due to a tool called Israel, new tools must be created. That is what Trump seems to be doing. To that end, he prepared a proposal and sent it to some of the Security Council member states. The document has now come to light. According to it, an international military force will be formed to control and administer Gaza, and it will work according to the instructions of the 'Board of Peace' to be formed under the chairmanship of Trump. Before going into the details of what that force is and what the board is, a few things should be said. What the Palestinian people and the world want is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state consisting of Gaza and the West Bank. Along with that, Israel should become another country. The struggles there have been going on for 75 years for that. The only obstacle to that is Israel and the United States. Palestine has already been recognized by up to 150 countries. In such circumstances, if Trump really has the idea of solving the problem, what he should do is to make Israel immediately withdraw its troops, other occupations, and thousands of illegal settlers from Gaza and the West Bank. Then, whether Israel recognizes it or not, they will recognize Palestine. Then they will take the necessary steps in the United Nations. If this happens, the problem will be solved right then and there. That is what the Palestinian people and the world are demanding. The reconstruction and development of Gaza and the West Bank will take place gradually. Many countries are ready to help with that. But instead of following this straightforward path, the US president is taking a number of dishonest new steps. All of them have been broadly followed by previous presidents before Trump. When it comes to Trump, he is known to be a real estate tycoon, and he is known to be talking about a new plan. That is, to completely evacuate the Palestinians from Gaza and develop a resort there. After receiving severe criticism, he has wavered and changed his words and now proposed a new model for the same goals. According to it, while Israel withdraws in stages, Hamas will immediately cease to carry out weapons. It will not participate in politics or governance at all. Its weapons factories and tunnels will be completely destroyed. An interim government will be formed with international figures selected by the US, as well as Palestinians who have nothing to do with politics. A temporary military force will be formed with international forces. The Trump board will decide how any development will take place in Gaza. They will decide for themselves how long that arrangement will last. In all this, there is no mention of the West Bank, no word on its future. There will be no role for the Palestinian Authority there. Finally, the mention of a Palestinian state is very vague, without any time frame. On the other hand, there is no mention of a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces. On the other hand, Netanyahu has already announced in his parliament that they will not withdraw completely. Trump did not deny that. The gist of all this is clear, so there is no need to repeat it. Trump's first plan was also heavily criticized. The latest plan he came up with was the aforementioned Security Council resolution proposal. The strange thing is that there is nothing new in it either. Only the mask is new. Otherwise, if such a proposal can be made through the Security Council rather than something they did privately, it will be like pouring water into a bucket and turning it into a lake. Moreover, there is a tradition in the United Nations of handing over disputed territories to some country or countries for temporary administration. Therefore, if that provision is used conveniently, then there is nothing to criticize them for. Even before the establishment of Israel, England was entrusted with such responsibility over that area through the Council. Therefore, Trump is choosing this path. No one can say how long that mandate will last. What is more, the establishment of Palestine is unknown. In short, the control of the US-Israeli alliance will continue indefinitely. In the meantime, Hamas will be destroyed. The Arab countries will not raise their voices unless they are forced to do so because of their love for America. Let's take a look at the details of the US president's latest resolution.

Srikakulam Will Be Home to India's First Al Aqua Park

From Our Staff Reporter
Srikalalum: Srikalalum which is often looked down for being one of the most backward district of Andhra Pradesh, now gets the spotlight again not for any negative things this time but for a new massive investment into the district through Kings Infra Ventures where India's first AI-driven Maritime Aquaculture Technology Park is being set up. The MoU was signed between the AP Government and Kings Infra Ventures with an investment of ₹2,500 crore, Mega park will come up in 500 acres at Srikakulam, creating thousands of jobs and putting the district on the global aquaculture map.

The project will generate 1,500 direct jobs and nearly 10,000 indirect jobs, which is a huge boost for the youth in Uttaraandhra where fishing is the major economic activity of the people. Not just by jobs, the project would be aiming to become more economically

beneficial by ₹2,000 crore in annual direct exports and nearly ₹20,000 crore indirectly once the project gets started working. On top of that the park will also have a Aquaculture Skill & Innovation Centre, which will train and certify 5,000 local youth over five years. This is expected to transform the district into a talent hub for aquaculture professionals. This is the first of its kind park in India that is built on modern and tech-based aqua farming. The park will have modern fish and shrimp breeding units, indoor water-farming sheds, tank-based growing systems, big processing centres, a seafood products lab and even a smart control room run by AI to manage everything smoothly. All of this will run on Kings Infra's own BlueTechOS AI system, operated from Vizag. In this regard, the government has already instructed the Srikakulam District Collector to identify land quickly so that work can begin immediately.



This is quite a big move for Srikakulam that was often overlooked in the past, is finally getting its well-deserved moment that is the need of the local people too who have been relying on fishing over the years. In

April 2025, CBN launched a scheme called Matsyakara Seva (Fishermen's Welfare) Scheme in the Etcherla Constituency of Sikaklalum where he promised that just financial assistance shall be provided by the government

but even skill centres and an aquaculture park would be set up that would support these fishermen and industry and now, just within 6 months, the promise is fulfilled in the name of Klngs Infra aquaculture park.

Visakha Steel Plant Gains New Strength With NDA Support

From Our Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam: The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, which was built with the slogan "Visakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku" is now moving from crisis toward real progress. The NDA governments at the Centre and in Andhra Pradesh have given the plant strong support, stopping all privatization talk and focusing fully on strengthening it. In the last 17 months, the Centre and the state together extended almost ₹15,000 crore to support the plant. No other public sector company in the country has ever received such a level of financial assistance. The Centre has given ₹11,440 crore, while the Andhra Pradesh government contributed nearly ₹3,000 crore. This joint support helped the plant, which was once in huge losses, re-

cover steadily. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan regularly followed up with the Union government. Chandrababu met the Union Steel Minister many times and ensured that the plant received financial help instead of being pushed toward privatization.

In 2024, the Centre released ₹500 crore as equity and ₹1,140 crore as working capital advance. This helped restart the second blast furnace in October 2024 and pushed capacity utilization from 48 percent to 67 percent. Later, after more consultations, the Centre released another ₹9,800 crore. The earlier ₹1,140 crore loan was also converted into preference share capital. With these steps, the plant's capacity utilization touched 80 percent by Octo-



ber this year. The plant is now producing around 16,322 tonnes of hot metal each day. The livelihoods of nearly 28,000 employees, including 13,000 regular and 15,000 contract workers, are being protected. When coal shortages arose, the state government ensured uninterrupted supply from Gangavaram Port. The state

decided that steel for its projects will be purchased from VSP to boost its operations. Despite old bills, electricity and water supply were never stopped. The ₹2,400 crore pending electricity dues were converted into equity with the Eastern Power Distribution Company, giving long term relief. Chandrababu Naidu had also helped save

the plant 25 years ago during the Vajpayee era by securing nearly ₹2,800 crore. Today too, the NDA governments are standing by Visakha Steel. The ruling coalition says that false political propaganda is being spread by some groups, but the truth is that VSP is being strengthened and will continue to progress with the support it is now receiving.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and DRDO Sign MoU to Develop Smart Tech Solutions for National Security - MoU Paves Way for Joint Research in Logistics, Chip Design, and Advanced Encryption Technologies

New Delhi (PIB): A Memorandum of Understanding between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) was signed on November 17, 2025 in New Delhi in the presence of Dr. Samir V. Kamat (Chairman – DRDO, and Secretary of Defence R&D). GSV and DRDO joined hands to develop smart technological solutions for national security. Dr. Samir V. Kamat said on the occasion, "the collaboration is expected to facilitate the development of technological solutions for deployment aspects of indigenous defence systems."

The MoU shall be a medium for collaborative studies and R&D directed toward the areas of Logistics Management, Operational logistics at tactical, operational and strategic

level for analysis of concepts and validation of operational logistics plan, Chip Design & Hardware Security and Homomorphic / Block Chain based Encryption.

The key focus shall be to build capacities of researchers and scientists in the operational and military science domain, logistics management and technical research. Both organizations will be involved in conducting research, hold joint seminars/conferences, capacity building and round table workshops. Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice Chancellor, GSV) and Dr. Lal Chand Mangal, (DS & DG(TM)) were the signatories. The university already has strong collaboration with all the 3 defence forces viz. Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for Logistics and Supply chain research and edu-

cation. Therefore, the MOU with DRDO enables GSV to enhance its value proposition for the sector through cutting-edge research.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's first University in the Transportation and Logistics sector, was established as a Central University by the Act of Parliament in 2022. Working under the Ministry of Railways (Govt. of India), the University covers the entire transportation sector including Railways, Highways, Ports, Aviation, Maritime, Shipping, Inland Waterways, Urban Transport and complete Logistics and supply chain networks. The university is headed by Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology) as the University Chancellor.

Are You Watching Piracy? — Here's CP Sajjanar's Red Alert!

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad: Movie piracy site iBomma's admin, Immidi Ravi's arrest, has been a hot topic in the industry for the last couple of days. He was nabbed by the Hyderabad police two days ago and is currently under remand. Meanwhile, Hyderabad City Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, along with the film industry's bigwigs Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, Dil Raju, Suresh Babu, and a few others, held a press meet and shared shocking details about the pirate.

Sajjanar said that Ravi pirated around 21,000 films, including The Godfather from the 1970s to the recent film OG. He said that with this movie piracy, iBomma collected data of more than 50 lakh users and stored the data on the dark web for financial and cyber fraud. Sajjanar appealed to people to be aware of such cyber frauds and not to fall prey to this kind of website. Reportedly, Ravi earned around ₹20 crores through movie piracy, and police seized around ₹3 crores from him. It was also stated that he procured ID cards from different states. After the film industry members filed a complaint against him, Ravi obtained Caribbean citizenship, renouncing his Indian citizenship to avoid risk. The police further stated that Ravi oper-



ated from multiple countries, like the United States, Switzerland, and the Netherlands, using more than 21 domains. Hailing from Visakhapatnam, Ravi pursued his graduation in B.Sc. Computers. Holding a fake ID in the name of Vellala Prahlad Kumar, Ravi operated his piracy scam. He used to run 65 piracy sites and also promote betting apps through them. He used to steal the personal data of users who downloaded his APK app through download links. People generally assume that watching films on piracy sites will cause no harm, not knowing that their data is being used for financial frauds. After Ravi's arrest, it is high time that people who watch films on piracy websites be aware of such fraudulent activities and avoid accessing such sites online.

J P Nadda Inaugurates Amrit Pharmacy's 10th Anniversary, Announces Nationwide Expansion



New Delhi: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J P Nadda today inaugurated AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy's 10th Anniversary Celebrations at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event marked a significant milestone in affordable medicine access and recognized the public sector's continuing commitment to universal health coverage. Since their inception in 2015, AMRIT pharmacies have been instrumental in providing life-saving and essential medicines at discounts ranging from 50% to 90%, substantially bringing down treatment costs for patients, especially those from low-income backgrounds. Addressing the gathering, Shri Nadda congratulated HLL Lifecare Ltd. for its consistent and high-quality efforts in implementing AMRIT. He recalled that in 2014, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government resolved to make healthcare accessible, affordable, and equitable for all citizens. It was with this vision that Jan Aushadhi and AMRIT were con-

ceived—both designed to deliver medicines and medical supplies at affordable rates. Nadda highlighted that AMRIT has grown into a robust national network, with over 255 pharmacies currently operational, with a vision to expand this network to 500 outlets across the country. He also emphasized that, while every AIIMS in the country today has an AMRIT pharmacy, the next challenge is to ensure that every medical college and every district Hospital in India is equipped with AMRIT pharmacy, so that affordable medicines reach citizens at every level of the healthcare system.

Highlighting the achievements of AMRIT pharmacy, he stated that, offering 50 percent discounts on branded medicines is a significant achievement benefiting more than 6.85 crore patients and reiterated that medicines worth over ₹17,000 at MRP have been dispensed so far, resulting in cumulative savings of approximately ₹8,500 crore for patients.

He also underscored the importance of increasing public awareness about AMRIT pharmacies. He stated that more citizens

must be informed about the benefits and availability of AMRIT outlets so they can actively seek and utilize the affordable services offered.

Speaking at the occasion, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, highlighted that the AMRIT initiative was launched under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda, with the core objective of ensuring affordable, accessible and equitable access to quality medicines for every citizen. Appreciating the commitment of HLL Lifecare Limited and the AMRIT Pharmacy network, she also stated that the "HLL family and the AMRIT pharmacy network have assured that they will continue to expand the network, improve systems, and further strengthen operations with Josh, Junoon and Jazbaat—energy, enthusiasm and spirit."

Delivering the vote of thanks, Ms. Anitha Thampi expressed deep gratitude to Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda for his visionary leadership and steadfast

support to the AMRIT initiative. She also acknowledged the continuous guidance of senior officials of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Health Secretaries whose collaboration has been vital in driving AMRIT's growth over the last decade. She appreciated the tireless dedication of the HLL and AMRIT teams, whose commitment on the ground has ensured that affordable medicines to all the citizen. During the event, Shri JP Nadda also inaugurated 10 new AMRIT outlets across India, marking a significant step toward enhancing affordable access to essential medicines and medical supplies for patients nationwide. He also launched AMRIT ITes – Eco Green Version 2.0, an upgraded and environmentally sustainable digital platform that will streamline operations, enhance transparency, and improve efficiency across the AMRIT network. The event also featured the release of Customised My Stamp in association with India Post.

A Coffee Table Book capturing AMRIT's decade-long milestones, success stories, and impact on healthcare accessibility was released during the event. In addition, a Mobile Pharmacy Van for rural outreach in the NCR region was flagged off, enabling doorstep delivery of affordable medicines to underserved and remote communities. Furthermore, to strengthen citizen interface, a 24x7 National Contact Centre was inaugurated to offer real-time assistance on medicine availability, pricing, and the nearest AMRIT pharmacy locations.

Background
HLL Lifecare Limited, the implementing agency of AMRIT, is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Through its diverse portfolio spanning contraceptives, hospital products, medical devices, and services including diagnostic services under the brand Hindlabs, retail business under AMRIT, HLL Pharmacy, HLL Optical, infrastructure development, procurement services and consultancy, HLL serves as a comprehensive healthcare solutions provider. The organization operates 7 state-of-the-art factories, 5 subsidiaries and a corporate R&D centre, driving innovation in India's healthcare sector.

NCB used monthly District Level NCORD meetings mechanism to sensitize the district police

New Delhi: In a major step towards Modi Government's zero tolerance approach against drugs the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Rajasthan Police has busted a clandestine lab in a remote village in Sirohi district, Rajasthan. Hundreds of kgs of chemicals has been seized which was sufficient to manufacture about 100 kgs of Mephedrone, having an approximate street price of Rs. 40 crores. The mastermind and 4 others have been arrested. Mephedrone is being increasingly used as a psychotropic drug in the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, Government of India is taking ruthless action against drug cartels to make Drug Free Bharat. The Narcotics Control Bureau used the mechanism of monthly District Level NCORD meetings to sensitize the district police especially in Rajasthan. The state police were sensitized about the issue and report the presence of drums containing chemicals and lab equipment at an unusual place to local office of NCB, as such place could be a clandestine facility for manufacturing synthetic drugs like Mephedrone. Red flag indicators about presence of clandestine labs were also shared by NCB with district police across all over the country. These included windows covered or blacked out; excessive ventilation/ducting; signs of metal corrosion or chemical staining on walls/floors, buildings or sheds, formerly residential but used as labs; storage of chemicals or equipment at un-



usual places etc. In one such instance, Sirohi Police, Rajasthan, found drums and packets containing chemicals along with lab equipment in a remote farm house at Daantrai Village in District Sirohi, Rajasthan on 06.11.2025. Police immediately shared this information with NCB, Jodhpur whereupon the officers immediately reached the site and found tell-tale signs of a clandestine lab. Hundreds of kgs of chemicals were found which was sufficient to manufacture about 100 kgs of Mephedrone, which would have an approximate street price of Rs. 40 crores. The National Forensic Science University (NFSU), Gandhinagar team was called for inspection and they confirmed presence of precursors being used in the said lab equipment recovered from the site.

During investigation of the case, the main characters behind running the lab was identified and five of

them have been arrested from different parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat by NCB, Jodhpur with the assistance of Rajasthan Police. The mastermind Vala Ram R/o District Jalore, Rajasthan has been arrested and his interrogation has revealed that he is graduate and after failing in various exams including Civil Services Exam, he decided to get into the business of manufacturing of Mephedrone to make quick money. He took the farm house on lease in the name of his associate Bhura Ram R/o Dhantrai village of Baltora district. He used virtual SIMs to communicate with other members of the syndicate and surfed darknet to learn the manufacturing process. He sourced the chemicals and lab equipment's from Ankleshwar, Gujarat. He was also wanted in one of the CBN case of mephedrone trafficking. The vehicle used in trans-

portation of the chemicals and equipment has been seized. Investigation has also revealed they have manufactured 8 kg of mephedrone out of which 2 kg was seized by CBN from one of their associates on 28.10.2025. Further Investigation in the case is under progress. This is a significant example of collaboration between Rajasthan Police and NCB in the fight against drugs, where they jointly conducted searches and investigation leading to busting of the clandestine lab in a remote village in Sirohi district and the syndicate behind it in a short period of 5 days. The Narcotics Control Bureau requests the citizens to report any suspicious activity at a place where chemicals and lab equipment are in use in a clandestine manner to local police or NCB at MANAS helpline number 1933 as it could be used for manufacturing synthetic drugs.

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri visits Hanwha Ocean's shipbuilding facility in South Korea

Holds series of high-level engagements to strengthen India-Korea maritime cooperation

New Delhi: Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, visited today the sprawling shipbuilding facility of Hanwha Ocean in Geoje, South Korea. The visit marks a key highlight of the Minister's ongoing engagements in the Republic of Korea from 13-15 November 2025, aimed at deepening maritime cooperation and expanding opportunities in shipbuilding, fleet development and energy transportation. These engagements are part of India's broader efforts under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which seeks to substantially scale up India's commercial fleet capacity, enhance domestic shipbuilding infrastructure and improve global competitiveness across ship operations, maritime engineering and allied sectors.

During the visit to Hanwha Ocean, the Minister was briefed on the company's shipbuilding capabilities, advanced vessel construction processes and innovation in maritime technologies. He underscored that the strong performance of the Indian economy, among the fastest-growing globally, combined with the rapid expansion of India's energy sector, creates significant opportunities for collaboration. Shri Puri stated that India's energy PSUs spend approximately USD 5-8 billion annually on freight, and have an immediate requirement of nearly 59 vessels. This presents a huge opportunity for global



leaders such as Hanwha Ocean to partner with India in building these vessels domestically. The Minister noted that Korea has the technological expertise and experience in ship construction, while India offers strong demand, skilled manpower and supportive policies. Emphasising India's Make in India initiative, the Minister said this cooperation model can help build vessels not only to meet India's growing needs but also to serve global markets. He reiterated India's confidence that vessels built under such collaborative arrangements can recover costs within five years and position India as a major global maritime hub.

The Minister further highlighted the robust support measures introduced by the Government of India to accelerate domestic shipbuilding. These include 15-25 percent capital support for

vessels constructed in India, an additional 5 percent incentive for ship recycling activities, creation of a Marine Development Fund for equity financing, a 3 percent interest subvention scheme, and infrastructure support for new greenfield shipyards and maritime clusters. He noted that these initiatives create a favourable ecosystem for shipbuilders and investors, and align with India's long-term strategy to expand its commercial fleet and enhance maritime self-reliance. The visit to Hanwha Ocean's facility followed the Minister's meeting yesterday in Seoul with Mr. Kim Hee-Cheul, President and CEO of Hanwha Ocean. Shri Puri and Mr. Kim discussed opportunities for collaboration in vessel construction and maritime technologies, as well as potential investments that can contribute to India's ship-

building ambitions. The Minister noted that Hanwha Ocean's advanced capabilities, combined with India's policy support and growing demand, provide a strong foundation for mutually beneficial cooperation. As part of his engagements in Korea, the Minister also held extensive discussions with captains of the country's leading shipping companies, including Mr. An Byung Gil, CEO of Korea Ocean Business Corporation (KOBEC); Mr. Kim Sung Ick, CEO of SK Shipping; Mr. Seo Myung Deuk, CEO of H-Line Shipping; and Mr. Sung Je Yong, Vice President of Pan Ocean. During the interaction, Shri Puri emphasised that Korea's leadership in shipbuilding technologies, combined with India's manufacturing base and cost advantages, creates a strong platform for long-term strategic partnerships.

India's Clean Energy Transition Gets Major Boost as SECI and Andhra Pradesh Finalise 1200 MWh BESS and 50 MW Hybrid Project

New Delhi: Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a Navratna CPSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, today exchanged Government Orders (GOs) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of a 1200 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Nandyal and a 50 MW Hybrid Solar Project.

The exchange took place during the Energy Session of the Andhra Pradesh Partnership Summit 2025 held in Visakhapatnam, organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in association with CII.

Project Approval and Mandate

The Ministry of Power, through an order dated 23 January 2025, designated SECI as the implementing agency for the 1200 MWh BESS project under Market-Based Operations. The project was subsequently



approved by the Chairman, SECI Board Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi on 22 October 2025. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been closely monitoring the progress and development of both projects. Both the BESS and Hybrid Solar projects will be developed under the CAPEX Mode, with SECI undertaking complete investment responsi-

bilities. The Energy Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Gottipati Ravi Kumar formally handed over the Government Orders to SECI in the presence of the Chief Secretary Shri K. Vijayanand, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the Vice Chairman, NREDCAP M. Kamalakara Babu. SECI was represented by Shri Sivakumar Venkat

Vepakomma and Shri Rohit Choubey. The exchange of GOs marks a significant milestone in strengthening Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy infrastructure. SECI reaffirmed its commitment to partnering with States and Central Ministries to accelerate India's transition towards a greener, more resilient energy future.

Encouraging Progress : US Signals Trade Deal With India Likely Before Year-End

Washington: Washington has indicated that talks over the long-awaited trade agreement between India and the United States could deliver results by the end of this year. The India-US trade negotiations have witnessed "a lot of positive developments" in the recent round of talks after the Donald Trump administration scaled back from its earlier confrontational stance over India's Russian oil purchases, according to a report by news agency ANI. Quoting a senior US official, the report said that Washington was working on two parallel issues with New Delhi -- a reciprocal trade agreement and addressing concerns over India's purchases of Russian oil. "I think we've



had a lot of positive developments with them recently. We have two things going on with them. Of course, we have a reciprocal trade negotiation, but we also have a Russian oil issue, where we've seen market improvement on that end," the official said. The official noted that discussions may deliver results "before the end of the year", as the talks are

advancing at an "encouraging" pace. "I'd like to say we can relax and take a break, but there's still a lot to do, but there's a lot of positive progress going on already, and we may have more to come before the end of the year," he added. "I'd like to say we can relax and take a break, but there's still a lot to do," they said, noting that the pace of

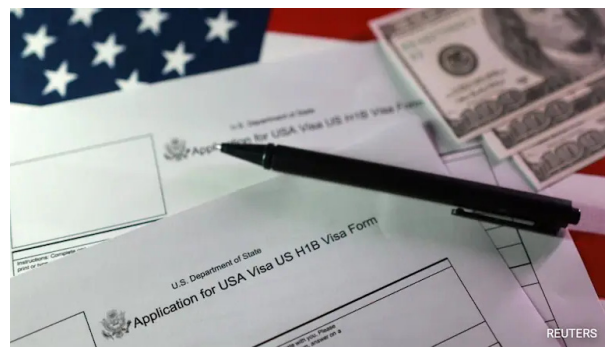
progress has been "encouraging". "I think we've had a lot of positive developments with them recently," the official said, as quoted by ANI. "We have two things going on with them. Of course, we have a reciprocal trade negotiation, but we also have a Russian oil issue, where we've seen market improvement on that end."

Two Parallel Trade Issues

The US administration is managing two parallel issues with India. The first involves reciprocal trade negotiations, which typically aim to balance tariffs and expand market access between both economies. The talks are aimed at addressing long-standing irritants between

New Delhi and Washington, including duties on American agricultural and industrial goods, India's call for restored trade preferences, and greater access for Indian services professionals in the US. The second concern, according to the official, is the "Russian oil issue". India's Russian oil imports have been a sore point in India-US trade talks. India has said it would halt Russian oil purchases, stating that the country's energy sourcing is guided by its national interests and the need to protect Indian consumers. Trade between the US and India reached approximately USD 190 billion in 2024, with both nations expressing ambitions to significantly increase bilateral commerce.

Bill To Complete End H-1B Visa Programme Soon": US Lawmaker



Republicans continue to target the H-1B visa even after US President Donald Trump defended the non-immigrant programme that allows employers in the United States to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene said she is set to introduce a bill to "completely eliminate" the H-1B visa programme and take away the pathway to citizenship that it offers, "forcing" immigrants to "return home" when their visa expires. The H-1B visa programme paves a pathway to American citizenship through the Green Card route. Companies can apply for permanent residency for their H-1B employees, who can apply for US citizenship five years after receiving their green cards. If passed, Greene's bill will bode ill for Indian professionals, who are the biggest beneficiaries of the H-1B visa program, ac-

counting for over 70 per cent of all approved applications in recent years, largely due to a large pool of skilled professionals in STEM fields and strong economic opportunities in the US.

What The Bill Says

"My dear fellow Americans, I'm introducing a bill to completely eliminate the H-1B visa programme, which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades," Greene, who is a congresswoman from Georgia, said in a video posted on X. She said that there will only be one exemption in her bill, which will allow for a 10,000 per year cap on visas issued to medical professionals like doctors and nurses who provide life-saving care to Americans.

Greene, however, noted that even this 10,000 per year cap will be "phased out" over 10 years to "al-

low us time to build our own pipeline of American doctors and physicians." In order to build the country's pipeline of American doctors and medical professionals, Greene said that her bill will prohibit Medicare-funded residency programmes from admitting non-citizen medical students into their programmes. She noted that last year alone, there were over 9000 doctors in the US who graduated from medical school but were left without a residency placement. Meanwhile, in 2023 alone, there were over 5000 foreign-born doctors who received residency spots, she said.

"This is entirely unfair, and it's America last. My bill will help mitigate the shortage of doctors and nurses in our country, the shortage that we face while at the same time serve as an off-ramp from our reliance on foreign workers by allowing us time to fill our residency programmes with American doctors," she said. The lawmaker added that her bill will also "take away the pathway to citizenship, forcing visa holders to return home when their visa expires." She further said that the intention of her bill is to restore the "original intent" of the H-1B visa, which was "for it to be temporary."

US Colleges See Fewer Foreign Applicants As India Fuels Decline



Washington: Fewer international students are applying to US colleges this year, an early indication that the White House push to curtail foreign enrolment since President Donald Trump took office in January may be having an impact. The number of international applicants through November 1 fell 9 per cent from a year earlier, according to a report released Thursday by the Common App, the most widely used college application platform in the country, with more than 1,100 university members.

The drop was fuelled by India, the largest source of international students to the US, which saw a 14 per cent decline. It was the first time applications from India fell since 2020. Applications from Africa and Asia dropped 18 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively. China, the second biggest source of foreign students in the US, saw a 1 per cent decline, stalling a surge in applications seen a year ago. Of the ten countries that historically provide the most international students to the US, total applications

fell in all but the bottom two: Vietnam and Uzbekistan. International applications had increased by this point in the cycle last year, but by March, they had fallen slightly overall. That capped off an application season whose final months were marked by a federal crackdown on student visa holders and pressure on universities to rely less on foreign students, who typically pay full tuition.

So far this year, the Trump administration has revoked thousands of visas, arrested students involved in pro-Palestinian activities, restricted visa interviews and imposed heightened application requirements. It has also targeted specific universities with large overseas student populations, launching federal investigations into their handling of international admissions, reports of antisemitism and compliance with visa regulations. With its pressure campaign continuing, the White House most recently reached a settlement with Cornell University to restore about \$250 million in federal funding.

BBC Apologises To Trump Over Speech Edit, Rejects Compensation Claim



London: Britain's BBC apologised to Donald Trump for editing a speech to make it look like he had advocated violence, seeking to ward off the U.S. president's threat of legal action, but the broadcaster rejected the basis for a defamation claim. In a statement, the BBC said its chair Samir Shah sent a personal letter to the White House making clear to Trump that he and the corporation were "sorry" for the edit, adding that the broadcaster has no plans to rebroadcast the Panorama documentary on any of its platforms. "While the BBC sincerely regrets the manner in which the video clip was edited, we

strongly disagree there is a basis for a defamation claim," the BBC said. The leaking of internal accusations of bias at the BBC, including in the way it edited a 2021 speech by Trump on the day his supporters overran the Capitol, has forced its top two leaders to quit and for Trump to threaten a \$1 billion lawsuit.

That puts the BBC at risk of having to use money paid by its viewers to compensate the U.S. president for an error of its own making, handing more ammunition to critics at a time when growing numbers are cancelling their annual licence fee payment.

Pakistan Minister Admits Islamabad Failed To Benefit From China's Economic Corridor

Lahore: A Pakistani minister has admitted that Islamabad failed to benefit from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) before political controversies under the previous Imran Khan government forced Chinese investors to flee. Speaking at a public event, Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal noted that the South Asian nation's economy missed many opportunities to take off and "dropped the catch of the game changer CPEC."

Iqbal held former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) responsible for damaging the reputation of Chinese investments, which, according to him, led investors to withdraw from the country despite Beijing's support in difficult times.

The \$60 billion CPEC project -- connecting Xinjiang in China with



Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan -- was a central piece in Chinese President Xi Jinping's pet Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It was envisioned to transform Pakistan's infrastructure and economy while furthering China's influence globally with Chinese-funded infrastructure projects.

Pakistan's economy missed many opportunities to take off, and "we also have dropped the catch of game changer CPEC," Iqbal said, speaking at the inaugural session of the

DataFest Conference. It was a rare sight to see a sitting senior cabinet minister admit that CPEC objectives could not be achieved.

CPEC's Progress In Pakistan

According to a report by Express Tribune, there has been little progress on CPEC since 2018. "Fourteen meetings of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC)—the highest decision-making body—have been held since both countries launched the strategic initiative.

US Catholic Bishops Condemn Team Trump Immigration Crackdown



Washington: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a rare condemnation of US President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown and advocated for "meaningful immigration reform." "We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools," the bishops said in a special message, the first of its kind in 12 years. The Department of Homeland

Security, which oversees immigration efforts, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The message echoes similar critiques made by Pope Leo, who has called for "deep reflection" about the way migrants are being treated in the US under Trump. The Trump administration has advanced an aggressive immigration agenda since taking office earlier this year. Trump has rescinded policy that limited immigration arrests near

sensitive locations, including churches, hospitals and schools, and deployed federal agents across the US to ramp up such arrests.

In their message, the bishops expressed concern about what they described as "a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling" and immigration enforcement. They said they were saddened by the debate and vilification of migrants, and opposed "the indiscriminate mass deportation of people." The bishops also raised concerns about conditions in detention centers, and what they called the arbitrary removal of legal status of some migrants. "We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good," the bishops said.

Noam Chomsky To Steve Bannon: Epstein's Influential Ties Even After Conviction

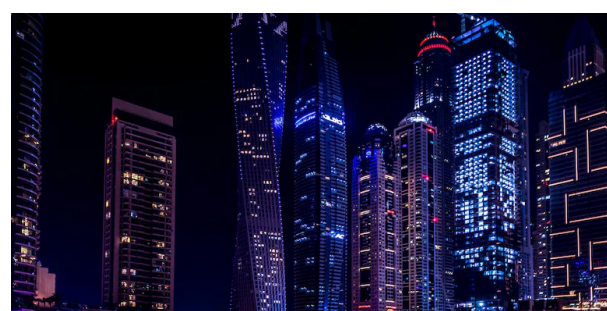
Washington: By the time Jeffery Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl, he had established an enormous network of wealthy and influential friends. Emails made public this week show the crime did little to diminish the desire of that network to stay connected to the billionaire financier. Thousands of documents released by the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday offer a new glimpse into what Epstein's relationships with business

executives, reporters, academics and political players looked like over a decade. They start with messages he sent and received around the time he finished serving his Florida sentence in 2009 and continue until the months before his arrest on federal sex trafficking charges in 2019. During that time, Epstein's network was eclectic, spanning the globe and political affiliations: from the liberal academic Noam Chomsky to Steve Bannon, the longtime ally of President Donald Trump. Some reached out to

support Epstein amid lawsuits and prosecutions, others sought in introductions or advice on everything from dating to oil prices. One consulted him on how to respond to accusations of sexual harassment. Epstein was charged with sex trafficking in 2019, and killed himself in jail a month later. Epstein's crimes, high-profile connections and jailhouse suicide have made the case a magnet for conspiracy theorists and online sleuths seeking proof of a cover-up.

Kerala Teen Dies After Falling From Dubai High-Rise : Was Taking Airplane Photos

Dubai: A 19-year-old Kerala teenager, who was visiting the United Arab Emirates, died after falling from the terrace of a building in Dubai's Deira. Mohammed Mishaal, a resident of Kerala's Kozhikode district, was visiting his cousins and had been in Dubai for about 15 days, according to a Gulf News report. Mishaal, who according to his family members was a photography enthusiast, had reportedly gone on top of a multi-story building to take photographs of flights when the accident occurred. "He was staying with his cousins here while



his parents remained in Kozhikode. He had been in Dubai for about 15 days," Haneefa K K, a family friend, told Gulf News. The airport was near the building where the incident occurred, and Mishaal was reportedly trying to capture a close-up shot of a plane when he lost

his balance and fell from the top of the building. "He was passionate about photography. As the airport is nearby, he was likely trying to capture a close-up shot when his leg got stuck between two pipes and he lost balance, falling to the ground," Haneefa said.



Moscow: Russian forces launched a massive drone and missile attack on Kyiv early on Friday, striking residential buildings and triggering explosions and fires in districts throughout the capital, officials said. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 11 people were injured. Four were being treated in hospital, including a pregnant woman and one person in a very serious condition. Officials said falling debris and fires damaged high-rise apartment buildings, a school, a medical facility and administrative buildings in areas scattered throughout the city of some 3 million. "The Russians are hitting residential buildings. There are a great many dam-

aged multi-storey apartment buildings, in practically every district," Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration, wrote on the Telegram messaging app. He said both drones and missiles had been deployed and emergency crews were dispatched to several neighbourhoods. Klitschko said Kyiv's heating system had also sustained damage, with service interrupted in one district. He warned of possible disruptions to power and water supplies. The mayor said three high-rise residential buildings were damaged in the Dniprovsykyi district east of the Dnipro River, with nine residents evacuated from a

building that was set ablaze. Two buildings were damaged in the nearby Desnyanskyi district and five more in the historic Podil district on the opposite bank.

Several buildings suffered fire damage. Pictures posted on social media showed different sites in flames and residents gathering in rubble-strewn streets outside apartment buildings. The governor of Kyiv region outside the capital said drone and missile attacks injured one person and triggered fires in several localities. Ukraine's air force reported that Russian drones and guided bombs were targeting several other regions.

PCL opens new Perchlorate plant near Chennai

Chennai: Pandian Chemicals Limited (PCL), a leading private manufacturer of Perchlorates based in Madurai, today inaugurated its third Perchlorate manufacturing facility at the SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Thervoy Kandigai, near Chennai, set up with Rs 48 crore investment. PCL, formerly known as a joint sector company in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), is India's largest producer of Potassium Chlor-

ate which is a key raw material for the safety match industry, also manufactures a range of Perchlorates, including Ammonium Perchlorate (APC)—a critical ingredient used in the production of solid fuel motors for defence missiles. To meet the growing domestic and international demand for APC, PCL has established this new facility with an investment of Rs 48 crores, a company statement said today. The plant has an installed capacity of 40 metric

tonnes per month, with the potential to double production capacity in the near future. The new facility was inaugurated by Dr. Anil Prasad Dash, Outstanding Scientist and Director, HEMRL, and Dr. M.V.L. Ramesh, Outstanding Scientist and General Manager, SFC, Jagdalpur. A company spokesperson said, "The commissioning of our new facility at Thervoy Kandigai marks an important milestone in PCL's growth journey."



Godrej Agrovet inks MoU with AP Govt for 70 cr investment to expand dairy processing

Visakhapatnam: Godrej Agrovet Limited (Godrej Agrovet), one of India's largest diversified agri-food businesses, has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Under this MoU, the company would be investing INR 70 Crore to expand the dairy processing and value-added product capacities in its dairy business and set up new Samadhan Centers — one-stop solution center for Oil Palm Farmers.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu; Sunil Kataria, MD & CEO, Godrej Agrovet and Rakesh Swami, Group President — Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group, here on Thursday.

Commenting on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said "I am confident that this partnership will not only help strengthen our agricultural ecosystem but also create sustainable livelihoods for the community at large while driving economic growth." Sunil



Kataria, said, "Today's MoU is a testimony of our intent to strengthen our agri-food processing capabilities while continuing to empower farmers. With a strong legacy of innovation in food processing, our mission remains to advance India's nutrition landscape and contribute to the growth of agri-economy."

Godrej Agrovet's wholly owned subsidiary Creamline Dairy Products Limited, which sells products under the brand name Godrej Jersey, will be expanding its dairy

processing and value-added products capacities in three phases. The company's oil palm business, the largest oil palm processor in India and working directly with the farmers for the entire lifecycle of the crop, will be establishing five new Samadhan Centers. Samadhan is a one stop solution centre that would provide a comprehensive package of knowledge, tools, services and solutions to oil palm farmers.

Rakesh said, "Andhra Pradesh has been a key

state for Godrej Industries Group, playing a pivotal role in our growth across sectors. The signing of this MoU reflects the State's speed of doing business and partnership oriented approach, notably through its streamlined approvals process and investor-friendly policies. We look forward to contributing to Andhra Pradesh's growth story and remain committed to expanding our groups footprint across consumer, real estate and finance business too."

Hero Future Energies inks MoU with AP Govt to develop renewable energy projects in AP

Visakhapatnam: Hero Future Energies (HFE), the renewable energy arm of the Hero Group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday with the Andhra Pradesh Government, to develop renewable energy generation projects with a total capacity of 4 GW across Ananthapuram, Kurnool, and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The projects represent a proposed investment of Rs 30,000 crore, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's position as one of India's leading renewable energy destinations. The MoU was signed by Srivatsan Iyer, Global CEO, Hero Future Energies, in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, K. Vijayanand, Chief Secretary, Dr M. Kamalakar Babu, Vice Chairman & MD, NREDCAP, and C.M. Saikanth Varma, CEO, AP Economic Development



Board and Mr Rahul Munjal, Founder & CMD, Hero Future Energies here on Thursday in the sidelines of the AP Govt - CII Partnership Summit. Under the agreement, HFE will establish the renewable energy generation projects in two phases, creating over 15,000 direct and indirect jobs in total. As part of the MoU, HFE will leverage its expertise in renewable energy technology, design, and implementation to set up the projects in a time-

bound manner. On the occasion, the CM assured HFE Chairman that NREDCAP and APEDB will facilitate necessary assistance to enable project development, including coordination with relevant departments of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the union Government of India for required approvals and support. In response, Mr. Rahul Munjal informed the Chief Minister that HFE will invest an additional INR 15000 crore in

renewable energy projects in the state, taking the total value of the current proposed investments to INR 30,000 crores. Mr Rahul Munjal, said " Andhra Pradesh's proactive policy environment and strong infrastructure make it a top priority investment destination."

Mr Srivatsan Iyer, Global CEO, Hero Future Energies, said " Through this MoU, we are adding 4 GW of green capacity and also setting in motion a model of sustainable industrial growth that generates long-term employment, attracts ancillary industries, and strengthens the AP's role in India's decarbonisation journey." The MoU will remain valid for a period of 12 months from the date of signing and aims to enable swift project commencement and investment facilitation in the renewable energy sector of Andhra Pradesh.

Mahindra and Canada's Manulife JV to invest Rs 7,200 cr in Life Insurance Company

Mumbai: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd has made a regulatory filing to the stock exchange that it will form a 50:50 joint venture to establish a life insurance company in India. According to the stock exchange filing, the total capital commitment for the venture will be Rs 7,200 crore, which would mean that each company will invest Rs 3,600 crore. The joint venture company is expected to begin with an investment of Rs 1,250 crore over the first five years, after which investment will be stepped up. The announcement builds on the success of Mahindra Manulife Investment Management, their mutual fund joint venture launched in 2020. Mahindra and Manulife will jointly apply for an insurance license and initiate operational planning, according to the announcement.

The announcement noted that the joint venture company's vision is to become the Number 1 life insurance company for rural and semi-urban India while serving urban customers through leadership in protection solutions. It aims to offer long-term savings and protection products tailored to India's diverse and growing population, aligning with the national goal of achieving "Insurance For All" by 2047.

"This is a logical extension of our goal to build a comprehensive financial services portfolio," Mahindra Group MD & CEO Dr Anish Shah said, adding that "Manulife is a natural partner for us given their global capabilities in insurance and their track record of success. With a focus on leveraging technology, this joint venture will build an



efficient, customer-centric insurer in India, creating meaningful value for our shareholders". The partnership seeks to build a customer-centric insurer driven by technology and innovation by combining Mahindra's extensive rural and semi-urban reach with Manulife's global expertise and quality agency capabilities. The model leverages Mahindra's strong brand and execution capabilities alongside Manulife's deep experience in insurance products, underwriting and reinsurance. Manulife President & CEO Phil Witherington called the agreement "an important milestone" in the company's Asia growth strategy. "This will strengthen our diverse portfolio and position us for tremendous growth in a mega economy of the future. We have a trusted partner in Mahindra, with whom we already have a successful asset management collaboration, and we see tremendous opportunity to build on our efforts by combining their deep distribution network with our insurance expertise," Witherington said.

Investments worth Rs 1,914 cr received under PLI for White Goods, 50pc are MSMEs

New Delhi: A total of 13 applications with a net committed investment of Rs 1,914 crore were received in the 4th Round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights).

Over 50 per cent of the new applicants are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), reflecting the growing confidence of small and medium enterprises in joining the Air Conditioner and LED components manufacturing value chain, Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement. The 4th Round of the PLI Scheme was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and the application window was open from 15th September 2025 to 10th November 2025.

These investments focus on manufacturing copper tubes, aluminium stock, compressors, motors, heat exchangers, control assemblies, and other high-value components. Giving a breakup of the investments made, the ministry data highlighted that among the 13 applicants, one is an existing beneficiary under the PLI Scheme for White Goods, committing an additional investment of Rs 15 crore. Nine

applicants, representing 75pc of the total, have applied for manufacturing Air Conditioner components with a cumulative investment of Rs 1,816 crore. The remaining four applicants have proposed investments worth Rs 98 crore



for LED component manufacturing, including LED chips, drivers, and heat sinks. The proposed investments cover six States across 13 districts and 23 locations, contributing to regional industrial growth and employment generation, it mentioned. So far, the PLI Scheme for White Goods has attracted Rs 10,335 crore of committed investment from 80 approved beneficiaries. The Scheme is expected to generate production worth Rs 1.72 lakh crore and create around 60,000 direct jobs across the country.

Market ends on muted note ahead of US CPI data, Bihar election outcome

New Delhi: The stock market ended on a muted note in the highly volatile session on Thursday ahead of the release of US CPI data and Bihar election outcome.

At close, the Sensex was up 12.16 points or 0.01% at 84,478.67, and the Nifty was up 3.35 points or 0.01% at 25,879.15. Broader indices underperformed the main indices with BSE Midcap and smallcap indices shedding 0.3% each.

Among the sectors, the indices ended on a mixed note. Nifty PSU Bank was down 0.68%, Media down by 0.55%, FMCG was down 0.51%, IT down by 0.48%, and Auto was down by 0.37%. Those ending with gains were Nifty Metal up by 0.44%, Realty up by

0.42%, and Pharma was up by 0.41%. Nifty Bank rose by 0.18%, while Nifty Financial Services rose 0.22%. Bank Nifty scaled a new all-time high, touching 58,609.2 in morning trade and rising 0.57% from the previous close, powered by solid buying in heavy-weight private lenders. Shares of IndusInd Bank led the rally with a 2.98% spike, followed by ICICI Bank, gaining 2%. Axis Bank stock also rose 0.73% to Rs 1,230.5, while State Bank of India edged up 0.55% to Rs 962.4.

Out of 4,367 stocks traded on the BSE, 1,846 advanced, while 2,380 declined. Some 141 stocks remained unchanged.

On BSE, around 131 stocks hit their 52-week

highs while as many as 128 stocks hit their 52-week lows in intraday trade.

Those on highs included Asian Paints, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Canara Bank, and Vedanta. Further those on the lows included Deepak Nitrite, Orient Cement, H.G. Infra Engineering, Cohance Lifesciences, and Chemplast Sanmar.

Those ending as the top gainers on Nifty50 were Asian Paints (3.77%), Hindalco Industries (2.47%), and InterGlobe Aviation (2%). On the other hand, as many as 29 stocks ended in the red. The top losers were Eternal down by 3.69%, Tata Motors CV down by 2.84%, and Mahindra and Mahindra down by 1.46%.

India needs to realign its trade strategy for strengthening export competitiveness

New Delhi: Sabyasachi Ray, Executive Director, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, today said productivity should be focused on technology, which, when harnessed with skills, can produce modern age jewellery, making India the global leader in Jewellery manufacturing.

Ray was addressing a dialogue 'Export-led Growth: Unlocking India's Trade Potential for Sustainable Growth' organised by Chintan Research Foundation here. Ray also emphasised on the need to strengthen India's labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, textile and apparel, which have strong employment potential and are critical to inclusive growth.

"While India has signed multiple FTAs with key part-

ners including the UAE, Australia and the EU, their benefits can only be realised through improved trade facilitation, logistics reforms and targeted support for exporters", added Ray. Interestingly, India's growth stands as the world's fastest-growing economy, and exports are instrumental for sustaining this trajectory. Total exports of the country reached a record of USD 824.9 billion in FY 2024-25, and it includes USD 387.5 billion in services imports, underscoring the country's growing trade influence. To accelerate the pace of current trade momentum, logistics modernisation and capital efficiency are key to lowering export costs and strengthening resilience. India's logistics costs need to be at par with those of competing economies, making the implementation of

the PM Gati Shakti Programme and the National Logistics Policy (NLP) essential. PM Gati Shakti is a master plan for holistic and integrated infrastructure development to improve multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency across the country. On the other hand, NLP is aligned with this plan, focusing on the improvement of 'soft infrastructure' of logistics through digitization, regulatory reforms and human resource development, aiming to reduce logistics costs. Highlighting innovative measures already taken by government, Deepak Bagla, Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog), said, "Export-led growth today is about exporting intelligence, not just goods. From services to semiconductors, India's future lies in combining inno-



vation with execution efficiency." "To improve export competitiveness, India must balance its ambition for export expansion with environmental and social responsibility. Integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards, developing green supply chains and encouraging MSME participation were seen as vital for sustaining

long-term competitiveness. With global markets moving rapidly towards carbon-neutral trade frameworks, India's exporters must be prepared to meet emerging sustainability-linked trade conditions," added Bagla. There's also a need for more focused investment in human capital and targeted skilling programs for export sectors.

‘Kaantha reviews have pleasantly surprised me’

Dulquer Salmaan starrer Kaantha with Bhagyashri Borse in leading lady role and Rana Daggubati, Samuthirakani have played prominent roles. The period drama is produced by Rana and Dulquer Salmaan with Selvamani Selvaraj directing it. Rana Daggubati interacted with media. He said, “We wanted to give tribute to the studio culture and golden era of films – 1950’s and 60’s, in our own way. Director Selvamani brought this script after conducting meticulous research. Hence, the Tamil audiences are praising it highly but Telugu people are taking time but the response is good.” Rana further explained that Dulquer’s first mirror scene had set the tone for the film. He stated that it is Dulquer Salmaan, who made the film such a classic with his performance. Bhagyashri Borse joined the press event and stated that she is glad to find such a great script and role as her first film.



She stated that while other films released early, she is happy that Kaantha became a new beginning for her career as a serious performer. Rana exclaimed that the reviews for the film have pleasantly surprised him and he is sure that film will be a memorable hit at the box office.

Rukmini Vasanth hikes remuneration after blockbuster success!

Rukmini Vasanth has become one of the hottest names in South Indian cinema, charming both youth and family audiences with her beauty and acting prowess. Her scintillating performance in a role with negative shades in the recently released “Kantara: Chapter 1” further skyrocketed her popularity. As always, Telugu producers were quick to approach her for upcoming projects. However, following the massive success of “Kantara: Chapter 1,” Rukmini has reportedly increased her remuneration significantly, placing her on par with top actresses like Rashmika Mandanna. This steep hike is said to be one of

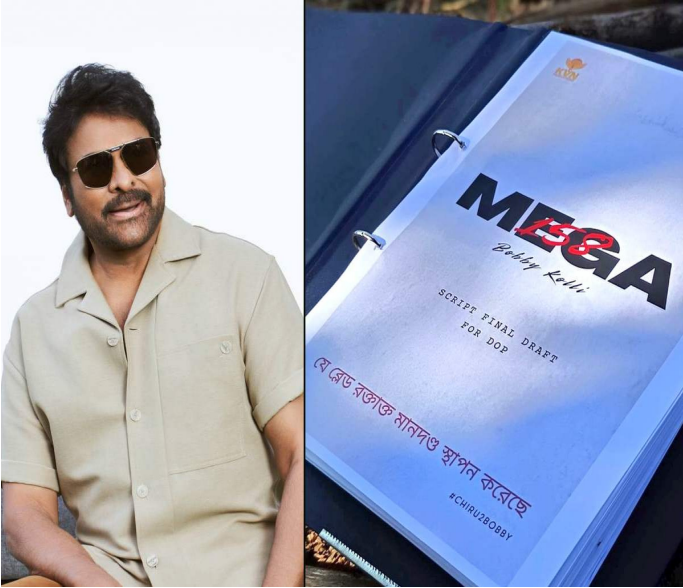
the reasons she hasn’t announced her next set of films yet, despite the newfound craze around her. Currently, Rukmini is working on Yash’s mega-budget pan-India film Toxic. Given the scale of the project, the makers have no issues accommodating her revised fee. She is also in discussions to play the female lead in a Mani Ratnam film, though nothing has been finalized. Her next possible Telugu film is NTR’s Dragon, directed by Prashanth Neel, but the team is yet to lock her officially. So, while Rukmini Vasanth is riding high on the success of “Kantara: Chapter 1,” she has yet to formally sign her next slate of films.



Bengali connection to Megastar – Bobby’s movie!

Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Bobby are teaming up for the second time. Their earlier collaboration, Waltair Veerayya, was a massive hit, and their new project, which currently known as #Mega158, was announced recently. The team is now gearing up to begin the regular shoot. Cinematographer Nimish Ravi, who recently worked on the Malayalam blockbuster “Lokah Chapter 1,” has joined the film as Director of Photography. He shared an image of the bound script of #Mega158 on Instagram, and interestingly, the script page features a line written in Bengali. The Bengali

text translates to “the sword has sworn in blood.” This single line has sparked excitement among fans, prompting them to recall Megastar’s earlier blockbusters set in Kolkata, such as Choodalani Undi. On the other hand, some are expressing fatigue over the repeated use of a Bengali backdrop in Chiranjeevi’s films, pointing out that Bholaa Shankar too was set in Kolkata. What Bobby is planning this time remains a mystery, but the hint certainly suggests a violent, action-driven setting. KVN Productions is bankrolling the film.



Thaman: Balayya is ready even for Akhanda 5

The collaboration between music composer Thaman and Nandamuri Balakrishna has become a special one. Thaman has been scoring music for Balakrishna’s films for the past few years, and their bond continues to grow stronger. Speaking at the Mumbai media event held after the launch of the song “The Thaandavam” from Akhanda 2, Thaman said he channels his admiration for Balakrishna through his music. “Apart from cinema, Balayya garu has been doing remarkable charity work through Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital. He leads life in a royal way and remains loyal to the people who love him. I am fortunate to be working with him continuously,” he said. Responding to questions about what new dimension Akhanda 2 could offer when Akhanda already showcased Balakrishna’s full range, Thaman added, “Balayya is ready to show variations for the next five parts as well. He will be ready to do Akhanda 5.” Balakrishna, too, stated that God has been guiding him, while director Boyapati Sreenu said a divine force has been with the team throughout the making of the film.



RITU VARMA’S DENIM DAZE STEALS EVERY GAZE



Ritu Varma, who won hearts with Pelli Choopulu in Telugu and did pretty well in Tamil too, seems to be having a slow phase right now. Her February release Mazaka comedy film didn’t really work out, and since then, she hasn’t announced anything new. It’s that rough patch most actresses go through after flops, waiting for a script that clicks and brings them back into the game. But flop or not, Ritu knows how to turn heads. Her new pictures in an all-black denim outfit are proof enough. She’s seen in a loose, shoulder-drop jacket, a simple black camisole, and messy hair, no heavy makeup, no drama, just easy style. The barefoot pose adds a kind of chill, real-world charm to it, like she’s comfortable in her own space. There’s something quietly confident about how she carries herself here. Ritu’s got that mix of simplicity and spark, maybe next year, we’ll see her back on screen, whether it’s OTT or theatres, doing what she does best.

Hit In Theatres; Blockbuster On OTT?



Director-turned-actor Pradeep Ranganathan has scored his third consecutive success with his recent film, Dude. Starring Mamitha Baiju as the female lead, Dude released during the Diwali season and emerged as a good hit at the box office. Now, after its premiere on Netflix, the film is receiving an even more raging response from the audience. Usually, films that do well theatrically tend to get mixed or negative responses on OTT, but Dude is surprisingly receiving more positive reactions after its digital release than during its theatrical run. Many users on social media are sharing video clips and standout scenes from the film and are praising the writing and Sai Abhyankar’s background score. Whether it’s the quirky introduction scene, the interval block, the hilarious wedding dance sequence, or the emotional moments, several scenes are trending across social media. Especially, music director Sai Abhyankar is now receiving more appreciation than he did during the theatrical release. Audiences are now highly excited for his upcoming projects, which include big-ticket films like Suriya’s Karuppu and the Allu Arjun–Atlee project. Dude was a decent theatrical hit, and going by its OTT reception, it might become an OTT blockbuster, which is a rare case. The film is currently streaming in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.