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Once the ‘Crown Jewel’ of Visakhapatnam... Now Caught in a Whirlpool of Questions!

What is really happening inside Visakhapatnam Port an institution with a glorious 93-year history?

A gateway to India’s economy... now facing questions over its administrative system

A Major Port under the Central Government... or a ‘private empire’ of a few officials?

Are the voices of lower-level employees being suppressed under pressure from the top?

How transparent are commercial decisions?..

How much room is there for individual influence?

From berth allocation to cargo handling... what is the actual system behind the decisions?

If the files are opened, will they reveal transparency?.. Or another story?

PEN POWER’ GROUND REPORT — EPISODE 1

Investigation Team, Pen Power Visakhapatnam, September 30: Once a small seaport... over the decades, it evolved into a vital gateway for the nation’s trade. It became inseparably linked with the growth of Visakhapatnam and a direct or indirect source of livelihood for thousands of families. That is Visakhapatnam Port. The journey of this port, which began in 1933, has crossed nine decades. Ships arrived... cargo was unloaded... industries grew... employment expanded... and the economic landscape of Visakhapatnam itself underwent a transformation. From iron ore to coal... crude oil to petroleum products... fertilizers to other bulk cargo... Visakhapatnam Port

has established its own place among the major gateways connecting maritime trade with India’s industrial economy. That is why, for Visakhapatnam, the Port is not merely a place where ships arrive and depart. It is employment. It is trade. It is industry. It is an integral part of the city’s economic lifeline. But...

Serious questions are now being raised about administration, commercial decision-making and the employee system within an institution carrying such a long legacy. The answers to those questions should not merely come from individuals. They should be visible in the records. ho Does the Port Really Belong To?

One thing must first be made clear.

Visakhapatnam Port is not a private institution belonging to any individual or official. It is a Major Port Authority functioning within the framework of the Central Government. Then why are allegations emerging that, within such an institution, individuals are becoming more powerful than the system itself? Are official decisions being taken strictly according to prescribed procedures? Or has unusual importance been attached to the discretion of certain officials? Is the rule written in the file the final word? Or is the person handling the file becoming the final authority?

This is the first question in Pen Power’s investigation.

Is the Rule Book Running the System... Or Are Individuals Calling the Shots? Every decision in a government institution must follow a defined process. Who initiated the proposal? Who examined it? Who recom-

mended it? Who approved it? Under which rule was it approved? Where is the record supporting that decision? Only when these questions can be answered clearly can public confidence in the administration be sustained. Commercial decisions at Visakhapatnam Port must therefore be examined against the same standard. Are all companies treated under the same procedure in similar circumstances? Are there unnecessary delays in processing certain files? If so, are the reasons for those delays recorded? Do the records clearly indicate on whose recommendation a particular decision was taken? These are not allegations. These are questions that a transparent administrative system should be able to answer.

Where Is the Voice of Lower-Level Employees?

A port does not mean only the Chairperson’s office. Nor does it mean only the air-conditioned chambers of senior officials. From employees working in the field to staff handling files in offices, the entire system moves forward through the collective efforts of thousands of people. But can a lower-level employee question a decision taken by a superior? Can an employee formally record an objection if he or she believes that a particular decision is contrary to established rules? Or is there a fear that raising questions could result in transfers, harassment or other difficulties? How much truth is there in the allegations of “bossism” and pressure reportedly being voiced by some employees? Here too, words alone cannot establish the truth. Complaints, vigilance records, administrative

orders, transfer documents and departmental records must provide the answers.

Commercial Department... Is This Where the Real Story Begins?

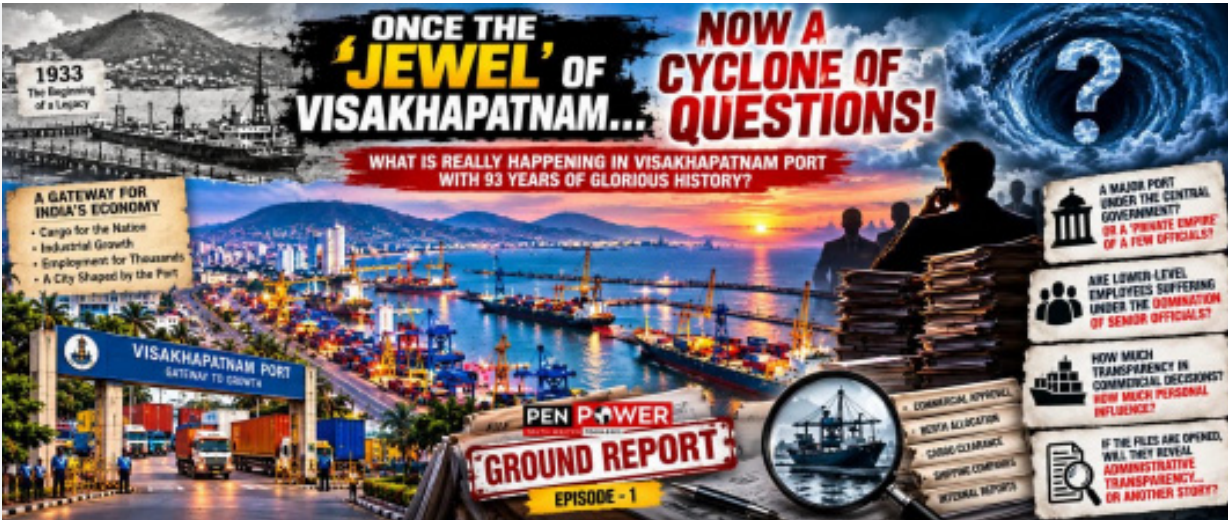
Imagine a large cargo vessel approaching Visakhapatnam waters. Even before the vessel enters the Port, an administrative process begins. Vessel details... cargo particulars... berth availability... handling arrangements... shipping agent matters... commercial considerations... Decisions are made at multiple levels. So, in this chain of decisions, who plays what role?

That is where the real story begins.

Where does a file originate? How many desks does it pass through? Who records observations? Who makes recommendations? Who ultimately takes the decision? What authority does an official formally possess? And how much influence does that official exercise in practice?

Is there a gap between the two?

Berth Allocation... Who Makes the Decision? A berth is one of the most commercially critical assets within a port. Every hour a vessel remains waiting has an economic value attached to it. Therefore, transparency in berth allocation becomes extremely important. Which vessel was allotted a berth, and when? How many vessels were waiting ahead of it? What criteria were used to determine priority? If any vessel was given priority, was the reason recorded officially? Examining these details vessel by vessel, along with dates and timings, could provide answers to several important questions. Do the Rules



Change When the Company Changes? This is another crucial question. Similar cargo... similar circumstances... but different companies. Are decisions taken uniformly? Or does one company’s file move faster while another company’s file remains pending? If such differences exist, what is the reason? A technical issue? Incomplete documentation? Non-availability of a berth? Or some other reason? The file notings should be able to answer this question.

Why the Allegation of a ‘Private Empire’?

Describing a Major Port under the Central Government as the “private empire of a few officials” is an extremely serious allegation. That is precisely why it should not simply be repeated as a slogan. It must be tested against facts and records. Is an official functioning strictly within the authority legally vested in that position? Or is someone exercising influence over decisions beyond the prescribed scope of authority? Is it really true that certain files cannot move forward without the involvement of a particular individual? If so, what documentary evidence supports such a claim? Or are

these merely allegations arising out of dissatisfaction? Both possibilities must be placed before the records and examined objectively.

What Does Vigilance Say?

When questions of this nature are being raised, Vigilance becomes another crucial aspect of the investigation. Have complaints relating to commercial matters been received in the past? Have written complaints been filed against any officials? Were preliminary inquiries conducted? What was the outcome of complaints that were closed? How many remain pending? And if there were no complaints at all, then what is the source of the allegations now being raised? These are matters that need to be examined.

Pen Power Is Not Passing Judgment in Advance

This is perhaps the most important point in this entire report. The objective of **Pen Power** is not to declare any official guilty in advance. At the same time, when questions arise concerning administration, commercial decisions, alleged pressure on employees or possible individual influence within a public institution, ignoring those questions would not serve the purpose of responsible journalism either.

When an allegation emerges, we will question it. We will seek answers. We will examine the records. We will obtain the versions of all concerned sides. And then we will place the facts before our readers.

That is the purpose of this Ground Report.

93 Years of Reputation... It Belongs to No Individual! The reputation of Visakhapatnam Port is greater than any single official. It is greater than any single department. It is greater than any single shipping company. Because this is a public institution linked directly to the country’s trade and economic interests. If the allegations are unfounded, they should be conclusively countered with records and facts. If any allegation is established through evidence, accountability and appropriate action should follow. But silence cannot be the answer.

Questions Pen Power Is Asking :

Is the system stronger in Visakhapatnam Port... or are individuals becoming stronger than the system? Is the Rule Book governing decisions... or is the word of a few becoming the rule? Are all stakeholders receiving equal treatment in

commercial decisions? Is there a documented basis for every berth allocation decision? Can lower-level employees express their views freely? What happened to complaints, if any, submitted to Vigilance? If the commercial files are opened, will they demonstrate transparency... or reveal another story that has remained outside public view until now? We do not want answers based on assumptions. We want answers from the records.

And That Is Why ‘PEN POWER’ GROUND REPORT Has Begun!

Coming Up in Episode 2... Who Really Calls the Shots in Commercial Operations? From the arrival of a vessel to berth allocation...

From cargo handling to commercial decisions...

Whose desk does the file reach? Who makes the recommendation? Who takes the final decision? And what do the records reveal?

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If you have any documents, evidence, information or objections relating to this series of reports, contact us directly at: 9059465965 , mail id : editorpenpower@gmail.com

The Happiness of the Poor is True Development: CM Pattas Distributed to 60,000 People

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, September 30:

“I am seeing smiles on the faces of so many people today. I will certainly remember this day throughout my life,” Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said. Addressing the Poor People’s Pattas Festival, the Chief Minister said the coalition government had fulfilled the promises it made during the elections. He said the coalition government was formed along with his allies Pawan Kalyan and Narendra Modi. He stated that the government was moving ahead at jet speed in development and welfare. He said he would never forget distributing pattas to thousands of people in Visakhapatnam, Mangalagiri and today in Vijayawada. He said pattas had been

distributed to 60,000 people. While the registration value of the properties was Rs. 19,000 crore, their market value was Rs. 52,000 crore, he revealed.

That is why we named it ‘Pattabhishekam for the Poor’

The Chief Minister said an average of 130 square yards had been allotted and that property worth an average of Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore had been handed over. That was why the programme was named ‘Pattabhishekam for the Poor’, he said. He stated that a 50- to 60-year-old dream had been fulfilled. Until yesterday, people had the property but were not in a position to make use of it, whereas now their children would have a better future, he said. He stated

that the happiness of the poor was true development. “We have distributed pattas to people across NTR district. You should thank your MLAs and officials who worked for this. During the elections, we promised to provide good governance. We promised to resolve your problems,” he said.

Do Not Sell It; Protect It

The Chief Minister said the state had been brought out of five years of destructive governance. He said NTR had initiated the policy of providing food, shelter and clothing to the poor and that they were implementing the same approach and bringing happiness to the hearts of the poor. He said the government had decided to distribute unobjectionable lands to the poor and implemented the decision.

“This is an inheritance right. Do not sell it; protect it,” he advised. He said the poor should establish permanent homes and live happily. He said technology had been used to make services easier and that many such problems in different parts of the state had been resolved.

We Handed Over Your Properties with the Government Seal

Chandrababu said the previous government between 2019 and 2024 had encouraged land disputes. He criticised the YSRCP, alleging that photographs of its leaders had been put on people’s properties. “In the coalition government, there is no photograph of mine and no photograph of my friend Pawan Kalyan. We have handed over your

properties to you only with the government’s official seal,” he said.

He alleged that an attempt had been made to seize properties through the Land Titling Act. He said the people had taught a lesson to those who sought to control them like puppets. He said his government had repealed the Land Titling Act and provided security and assurance for the properties of the poor. He said free registration had been provided without charging even a rupee.

Development Works Being Taken Up at a Fast Pace

The Chief Minister said development works in the state had been accelerated. He said roads were being constructed and irrigation projects were being com-



pleted. He said water had been supplied to North Andhra through the Polavaram Left Canal and that Rayalaseema was being developed as a horticulture hub. He said that although the YSRCP had opposed Pattiseema, his gov-

ernment had completed it and demonstrated its feasibility. He said 490 TMC of water had been diverted from the Godavari to the Prakasam Barrage. He said there had been no adequate rainfall this year, but irrigation and drinking water had

been supplied to the Krishna Delta through Pattiseema. He said 1,400 TMC of Godavari water was flowing into the sea and that bringing 100 TMC of this water to the region would make it fertile and prosperous.

Rayalaseema to be Declared Horticulture Hub; Rs.1 Lakh Crore for Development: Minister Savitha



Kadapa, September 30: Minister Savitha said

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was working tirelessly for the development of Rayalaseema as a son of the region. TDP leaders organised a massive rally in Pulivendula in support of the proposal to develop Rayalaseema as a horticulture hub. Minister Savitha participated in the rally. Speaking on the occasion, she said the Chief Minister would announce Rayalaseema as a horticulture

hub on October 2, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. She said Rs.1 lakh crore would be spent on developing the horticulture hub and Rs.26,000 crore would be allocated for irrigation projects.

The minister said water would be provided to every acre and that warehousing and cold-storage facilities would also be constructed. She criticised Y.S. Jagan for failing to provide irrigation water even to Pulivendula.

She said drinking water was being supplied to Pulivendula at a cost of Rs.480 crore. She said people had elected the TDP with a huge majority in the recent Pulivendula ZPTC by-election. She appealed to the people to elect the TDP in the upcoming municipal elections in Pulivendula. Minister Savitha made it clear that Chief Minister Chandrababu was committed to the development of Pulivendula.

We Will Support AP Athletes to Win Olympic Medals: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Amaravati, September 30:

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra said the state government was making extensive efforts for the welfare of sportspersons. AP Excise Constable Chandrakala recently won a silver medal in the 75-kg powerlifting event at the Commonwealth competition held in Canada. Minister Kollu Ravindra felicitated Chandrakala on Wednesday and spoke on the occasion. The minister said the government was extending support to ath-

letes with the aim of enabling sportspersons from Andhra Pradesh to win medals at the Olympic Games. He called upon the youth to make the best use of the support provided by the government and excel in sports. He said the government was also supporting accomplished sportspersons by providing reservations in government jobs. He reiterated that athletes were being encouraged with the goal of securing Olympic medals for Andhra Pradesh.

YSRCP Leaders Are Playing With the Lives of Sportspersons: Minister

Minister Kollu Ravindra alleged that during the tenure of YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, those who secured jobs through the Mega DSC were being ridiculed. He expressed anger, alleging that Jagan and other YSRCP leaders were playing with the lives of sportspersons. He also alleged that sportspersons and teachers had been attacked by what he described as a “ganja batch.” Minister



Kollu Ravindra urged people to remain vigilant regarding what he described as the alleged misrule of the previous Jagan government.

EDITORIAL

Legal Protection for Minors’ Digital Safety

Social media has become an inseparable part of our daily lives. These platforms offer numerous benefits, including access to information, expression of views and connecting with the world. However, instances of these very platforms becoming dangerous for children are also increasing. In a digital world accessible to everyone regardless of age, the safety of children is becoming a matter of concern. Problems such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, online fraud, misuse of personal information and digital addiction are affecting their physical and mental development. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court’s direction to the Centre to consider making parental consent mandatory for children below 18 years of age to open accounts on social media platforms assumes significance. The problem is not that minors use social media. The real issue is their entry into an environment without adequate safeguards, regardless of their age-appropriate awareness, discretion and maturity. Algorithms designed to attract children are keeping them glued to screens for hours.

The system of showing another video immediately after one video and another post after one post is consuming their time. This is resulting in reduced concentration on studies, disruption of sleep and decreased physical activity. The problems do not end there. Cybercrimes such as establishing contact through fake accounts, luring children into traps, collecting their personal photographs and details, and subsequently threatening them are a serious cause for concern. Children’s personal information is being used for commercial purposes without their knowledge. Inappropriate visuals, violent content and misinformation are also reaching them. Once personal information enters a digital platform, there is no guarantee that it can be completely erased. Children may not always have the maturity to understand the harm caused by its misuse. Under the Indian Contract Act, persons below 18 years of age cannot independently enter into legally valid contracts. However, while opening accounts on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and X, users are required to agree to the terms of service. Although these platforms claim to verify age based on the date of birth, questions remain about how effectively the authenticity of such information is verified. Clarity is needed on issues such as treating minors, who lack the legal capacity to enter into contracts, as having agreed to the terms of digital platforms, and determining liability relating to the enforcement of such agreements.

It is not possible to provide comprehensive digital protection to children without addressing this contradiction. Legal frameworks such as the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the IT Rules, 2021 are already in place. There are also provisions requiring verified parental consent for processing children’s personal data. Nevertheless, a more specific and effective enforcement mechanism is required with regard to minors opening social media accounts, age verification, confirmation of parental consent and action against organisations violating the rules. In this context, the Centre should focus on bringing appropriate amendments to the IT Rules, 2021. A statutory basis should be provided for age verification before opening an account, verification of consent from parents or guardians, protection of children’s personal data and regulation of inappropriate content. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that the very process of collecting children’s personal details does not become a threat to their privacy.

However, making parental consent mandatory alone cannot solve all the problems. Possibilities such as errors in age verification, opening accounts with false details and children using other people’s accounts without their parents’ knowledge must also be taken into consideration. Policies should also be formulated to ensure that children are not completely deprived of digital resources useful for education, creativity and gathering information, but are given access to them in an age-appropriate manner. At a time when technology is changing rapidly, laws should not lag behind. Governments should also not view the issue raised by the Supreme Court merely as another legal debate, but should turn it into an opportunity for reforms necessary to protect children’s rights.

Why India Cannot Keep 'Overestimating' Its Value To Washington

A few days before Donald Trump met Xi Jinping in Washington, I argued in these pages that the summit would reveal how much Washington values India after negotiating with its main rival. I outlined three possible results: Trump could get a big concession from China, the two sides could reach a limited deal that keeps the rivalry going, or the talks could fail. The summit led to the second outcome, though it was less substantial than the White House ceremony suggested. For India, the most important development was about Taiwan. Now, Washington treats its support for a partner as something it can trade with Beijing. This shift means India should reconsider how it values itself to the United States.

Managed Competition
Both sides agreed to extend their trade truce by just two months, which was less than most people expected. They also decided to create a working group on agricultural trade, with talks planned before the end of the year. Scott Kennedy from the Center for Strategic and International Studies called the results on trade, rare earths, refined oil, investment, and artificial intelligence limited and uncertain. Chinese analysts told reporters the relationship remains as tense as before. A two-month extension means both sides must check in often. Each government can watch the other’s actions and put pressure again if needed. Regular meetings between the two leaders help keep things stable. This was their second meeting this year, after Trump went to Beijing in May. Trump will visit China again for the APEC summit in November, and Xi will come to Miami for the G20 summit in December. Experts call this setup managed competition. The two countries compete strongly but keep talking so problems do not get out of hand. Frequent meetings let both sides solve issues before they become crises. Both leaders benefit from this approach.

Xi can show his people that China is dealing with the United States as an equal while still growing its economy, technology, and military. Trump can show American farmers and businesses that his direct talks with Xi are getting results. For India, the key question is what each side had to give up to reach this point.

Taiwan As A Bargaining Chip
The clearest example is Taiwan. After the May summit in Beijing, Washington paused a record USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan. Trump called arms sales to Taiwan a “very good negotiating chip” with China. After last week’s meeting, analysts in Washington expect the delay to continue, since the two leaders will meet twice more this year. The White House fact sheet did not mention Taiwan. China’s official account of the talks recorded that Xi asked Washington to oppose Taiwanese independence. On Sunday, the American ambassador to China, David Perdue, said Trump described the Taiwan sale to Xi as just one of many regular American arms sales and even asked whether China itself would like to buy American weapons. A Chinese scholar close to the government explained it simply before the summit. He said the results had been good for China because of the pause on American military exports. The deal was not balanced. China got a real strategic benefit, while the United States only got promises about farm purchases that may not happen. This imbalance has a clear reason. In October 2025, China responded to American tariffs by limiting exports of rare earths, which are important for American industry and defence. Washington eased its stance within weeks. China had leverage and used it to influence the relationship. Now, lawmakers from both parties in the US, along with the government in Taipei, are urging the administration to ap-



prove the Taiwan arms deal. Whether they succeed will show how much Congress can still influence Trump’s China policy.

What US Thinks Of Its 'Friends'
In my own research for a Takshashila study on American decision-making, I interviewed 42 current and former officials, congressional staff, and policy experts in the US earlier this year. The study found that Washington now values its partnerships less and is less willing to pay a political price to keep them. I call this change repricing. The pause on Taiwan is the clearest sign of repricing since the study ended. When support for one partner becomes a bargaining chip with China, the value of every partner is up for negotiation. India has already experienced this directly. In August 2025, Washington raised tariffs on Indian goods to 50% while working out a deal with Beijing. China responded with rare earth controls, and Washington changed its approach. India lacked a similar tool and had to accept the penalty for six months. Many in New Delhi have believed that India’s importance to Washington increases as

US-China rivalry grows. The events of 2025 challenged that belief. On September 18, President Trump signed a law, passed by large majorities in both houses of Congress, that allows tariffs of up to 100% on the largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, including India. China falls under the same law, yet a week later Xi arrived in Washington with rare earths as his counter-leverage. Last week’s summit confirmed the lesson. The comparison with Taiwan has limits. India is a sovereign power with its own influence, and the real issue is Washington’s approach. New Delhi uses a similar approach with Beijing. Since the border disengagement deal in October 2024, India has steadily reopened its channels with China. Prime Minister Modi attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin in August 2025, and direct flights between the two countries started again on 26 October 2025 after five years. India maintains a working relationship with China while still seeing it as a rival. India should judge Washington by the same standards it uses for itself. The main lesson is about the kind of value India creates. Some of

India’s value to Washington came from the tension between the US and China. For example, India became attractive for supply chains moving out of China, but this advantage fades when Washington and Beijing lower tariffs. Other strengths keep their value no matter what happens between the US and China. India’s naval presence in the Indian Ocean, reliable large-scale manufacturing, and a defence industry that can support regional partners fall into this group. The more India builds these strengths, the less it depends on the ups and downs between Washington and Beijing.

What To Watch
The next test is coming up soon. Indian readers should follow whether the Taiwan arms deal moves forward after Trump’s November trip to China. If the deal remains on hold after the Miami meeting in December, it means repricing has become US policy. If Washington approves the deal, the pause was just a tactic for this round of talks. Either way, New Delhi will see how Washington balances a partner’s security against making a deal with Beijing, and India should plan its own partnerships based on that lesson.

Why Does Trump Want To Sell Arms To A US 'Adversary'? Inside His Strange Bargain

The Trump administration’s handling of Taiwan arms sales points to a broader shift in the way Washington is managing its China policy. A roughly USD 14 billion package for Taiwan, primarily air-defence systems, missiles and counter-drone capabilities, has reportedly been kept in abeyance, with Trump describing it as a “very good negotiating chip” with Beijing. The message is unmistakable: Taiwan’s security assistance is no longer being treated simply as an element of US deterrence policy, but also as an instrument in the wider US-China bargain. That approach may offer Washington tactical leverage. But it also creates strategic uncertainty for Taiwan and, more importantly, for US allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific.

Taiwan As An Instrument
Congress advanced the roughly USD 14 billion package earlier in 2026, but Trump has yet to give final approval. Following his May summit with Xi Jinping in Beijing, he said the package was being held “in abeyance” and that its fate “depends on China.” He also acknowledged that Taiwan arms sales had been discussed with Xi in considerable detail. This is significant because it moves beyond the traditional logic of US arms transfers to Taiwan. The Six Assurances, alongside the Taiwan Relations Act, have long provided the framework within which Washington has maintained Taiwan’s defensive capacity while avoiding an explicit commitment to Taiwanese independence. Consulting Beijing over the

timing or substance of arms deliveries risks giving China a degree of influence over a policy that Washington has historically sought to keep within its own strategic calculus. The administration has offered more than one explanation for the delay, including the desire to retain leverage with Beijing and pressure on US munitions stocks because of military operations involving Iran. These explanations need not be mutually exclusive. But from the perspective of allies, the important issue is not merely why a particular package is delayed. It is whether future security commitments can similarly become contingent on unrelated negotiations with Beijing. A previous package of roughly \$11 billion was approved in late 2025, underscoring that the administration has not abandoned arms transfers to Taiwan. The question, therefore, is less about an immediate rupture in policy than about the emerging pattern of conditionality. **The China Arms-Sale Episode**
The reported remarks by US Ambassador to China David Perdue add another layer of uncertainty. Last week, following Xi’s state visit to Washington, Perdue said on Fox News that Trump had at one point asked Xi whether China would like to buy US weapons, arguing that Washington sells arms to countries around the world. The White House and State Department quickly rejected the suggestion that there was an actual offer or plan to sell weap-

ons to China, pointing to US law prohibiting such sales. Trump himself disputed Perdue’s characterisation, suggesting that the ambassador may have been referring to Taiwan and saying that China would probably prefer superior American equipment, while adding that such a sale had not been discussed. The episode is therefore best understood as a contested account rather than evidence of an actual US plan to arm China. Yet the fact that the remark required such rapid clarification is itself revealing. Strategic signalling is not simply about what governments intend; it is also about what allies and adversaries believe Washington is prepared to contemplate. **The Alliance Problem**
For US allies, Taiwan is not an isolated issue. Japan, Australia, the Philippines and South Korea all have an interest in the credibility of American deterrence in the western Pacific. A conflict over Taiwan would have consequences for regional sea lanes, military deployments, supply chains and the broader balance of power. This makes the handling of Taiwan arms sales a test of alliance confidence. If Washington can temporarily suspend a major Taiwanese arms package to gain leverage with Beijing, allies will inevitably consider what this means for their own security relationships with the United States. The concern is not necessarily that Washington will abandon Taiwan. Rather, it is that security commitments could become increasingly

transactional, with their implementation conditioned by the demands of a larger US-China bargain. That perception could encourage greater hedging. Japan and Australia may accelerate indigenous defence capabilities; Southeast Asian partners may diversify security relationships; and governments across the region may become more cautious about aligning themselves too closely with Washington during periods of intensified US-China competition. The practical consequences are also important. Taiwan already faces long delivery timelines for many American systems. Additional delays thus have effects beyond the immediate political signal. They complicate defence planning and force modernisation and the sequencing of military capabilities. The wider US problem of competing munitions demands, from Europe and the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific, only reinforces these pressures. **Beijing’s Opportunity**
For China, the episode offers both a diplomatic and informational advantage. Beijing has consistently opposed American arms sales to Taiwan, which it regards as part of its territory, and has sought to constrain or delay such transfers. If Chinese objections can contribute to postponing US weapons deliveries, Beijing gains something more consequential than a single policy concession: evidence that diplomatic engagement with Washington can influence

the operational tempo of American support for Taiwan. Chinese state media has already used Trump’s comments to question the reliability of American backing for Taipei. Such narratives serve Beijing’s broader objective of persuading Taiwan that dependence on the United States carries risks, and that accommodation with China may ultimately be unavoidable. The strategic question, therefore, is whether Beijing is being given a de facto role in determining the timing of US military assistance to Taiwan. That would represent a significant shift in the regional balance of signalling. **The Larger Dilemma**
The central tension is between transactional diplomacy and strategic consistency. Trump’s approach places a premium on using every available instrument-trade, agriculture, aircraft purchases, military sales and diplomatic engagement - to shape Chinese behaviour. From that perspective, delaying Taiwan arms sales can be presented as pragmatic statecraft rather than abandonment. But deterrence depends not only on capabilities; it depends on expectations. Allies and adversaries must have some confidence that commitments will survive changes in the diplomatic weather. If weapons deliveries to Taiwan become another variable in summit negotiations with Xi, the United States risks creating uncertainty precisely where deterrence requires clarity.

Collector Calls for Crop Cultivation in Every Acre

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, Sept. 30: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to ensure that no agricultural land is left fallow and that farmers cultivate suitable crops during the Kharif-2026 season.

At a review meeting held at the local ITDA confer-

ence hall on Wednesday, the Collector reviewed rainfall, crop conditions, crop losses and irrigation facilities. He sought details on irrigation provided through B h u p a t h i p a l e m , Musurumilli, Vattigadda, Surampalem and Maddigadda reservoirs and instructed officials to

maximise the utilisation of available water resources.

He also reviewed horticultural crops, minor irrigation facilities, drinking water arrangements, the PM Surya Ghar scheme and fodder cultivation. Officials were directed to provide subsidised pulse seeds to farmers and take necessary

MGNREGS works wherever required. Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, Chintur ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokwal, Sub-Collector Narendra Padal and officials from agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, irrigation and other departments attended the meeting.

Voter List Revision to be Completed Transparently

- Electoral Roll Observer S. Nagalakshmi Reviews Special Intensive Revision



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, Sept. 30: State Electoral Roll Observer S. Nagalakshmi directed officials to complete the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Polavaram district in a transparent and accurate manner, strictly following Election Commission guidelines.

A review meeting was held on Wednesday at the ITDA conference hall in Rampachodavaram with District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar, SPK. Chakravarthy, Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, Chintur ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokwal, OSD Javali and RDO K. Swathi, along with EROs, AEROs and BLOs.

The meeting reviewed voter data, claims and objections received through Forms 6, 7 and 8, PVTG voter



enrolment and the Electoral-Population Ratio. Officials were instructed to ensure that every eligible citizen is enrolled and to verify details of deceased voters and those who have permanently shifted before making changes to the rolls as per rules.

The Observer stated that 399 polling stations with 2,83,996 voters are

located in the Rampachodavaram Assembly Constituency. She directed officials to ensure proper basic facilities and a peaceful environment at every polling station, particularly in remote tribal areas.

Later, Nagalakshmi inspected polling stations 203, 205, 207, 208 and 209 at the Government Junior Col-

lege in Rampachodavaram and reviewed voter lists, records, voter strength and basic facilities. Officials were instructed to strictly implement Election Commission guidelines at all polling stations.

ERO, AERO and BLO officials, along with revenue, panchayat and education department personnel, participated in the programme.

Thane Tension: Family, Supporters Protest Outside Kapurbawdi Police Station Over Shiv Sena (UBT) Leader Pradip Purnekar's Murder

Thane: A tense atmosphere prevails in Thane following the fatal shooting of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) faction division chief Pradip Purnekar on Tuesday night. Enraged by the killing, Purnekar's family members, alongside hundreds of party workers and supporters, staged a protest outside the confirming that a suspect named Pappa Shinde has been arrested. According to police information, Shinde was previously an acquaintance of Purnekar. While the two had drifted apart following the Thane Municipal Corporation elections, Investigators state that Shinde was present at the office during the attack and accompanied Purnekar to the hospital, and is believed by au-



thorities to be part of the conspiracy behind the murder. Police records reveal that the arrested accused has a criminal history, with 8 to 9 cases registered against him since 2004, and an externment (tadipar) order

issued against him in 2014. Authorities have mobilised 9 to 10 specialised teams to track down the remaining suspects. Out of five identified accused individuals, four have been identified, with Pappa Shinde currently

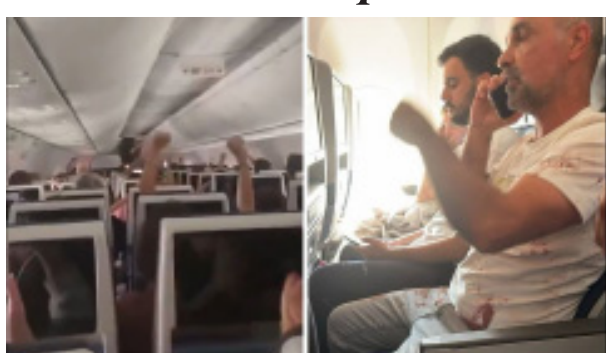
in custody. Joint Commissioner Chavan assured that a thorough and proper investigation will be conducted into all potential motives, encompassing political, personal, financial, or other angles.

'You Saved Our Lives': Passengers Praise Stabbed Pilot Of Flydubai Flight FZ 1073 After Mid-Air Cockpit Attack

Tel Aviv : A video recorded aboard a flydubai flight has surfaced showing passengers protecting and praising the injured pilot following a violent confrontation in the cockpit that triggered a brief hijack scare earlier in the day. Flight FZ 1073 was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv when it issued a distress alert and altered its route after one pilot was reportedly stabbed by the other. Footage from inside the aircraft shows blood on the injured pilot's face and in parts of the cabin, while passengers appear to have surrounded him for protection. In the

one-minute video, a passenger can be heard telling the injured pilot, "You saved the plane." Another traveller, who appears to have suffered an injury to his head, says in Hebrew, "They attacked us on this plane. They tried to murder the pilot. We overpowered him."

A passenger is also heard assuring others, "We are standing here. No one passes the pilot's door," while another points towards the alleged attacker and identifies him as the "one who stabbed" the other pilot. Among the approximately 180 people on



board were several off-duty pilots. They reportedly intervened during the incident and later helped bring the aircraft down safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Flydubai subsequently confirmed that the Dubai-Tel Aviv service had "expe-

rienced an incident while en route", adding that everyone on board was safe and accounted for. The airline and authorities have not yet disclosed detailed information about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

'Stay Away From Drugs' Seminar In Bhopal; Felicitates 27 Cops For Significant Contribution Towards 'Drug Free' Society

Bhopal: Stay Away From Drugs Seminar: In a major initiative against drug abuse, Free Press organised a 'Stay Away From Drugs' seminar and felicitation ceremony in Bhopal, bringing together policymakers, police officials, experts and social leaders to raise awareness about substance abuse. The event focused on the growing need for a drug-free society, community participation and stronger efforts to curb drug-related activities in Madhya Pradesh. The event was held at the Ahilya Auditorium of the State-Level Animal Husbandry Training Institute, Aradhana Nagar. Several prominent personalities attended the programme, including Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar as the chief guest. Cabinet Minister for Co-operatives, Sports and Youth Welfare Vishvas Sarang, Vidya Bharati Madhya Bharat Provincial Secretary (Organisation) Nikhilesh Maheshwari,



ADG Narcotics (STF, SAF and SISF) D Sreenivasa Varma and renowned cancer specialist Dr Dinesh Pendharkar were present as special guests. A total of 27 policemen were felicitated during the event for their contribution towards controlling drug-related activities and supporting the campaign against substance abuse in Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking at the seminar, Nikhilesh Maheshwari shared a disturbing account of drug abuse from Haryana

and explained the serious impact addiction can have on individuals, families and society. He emphasised the need for collective efforts to address substance abuse and protect young people. Minister Vishvas Sarang said the government is committed to eliminating drugs from the country and called for active participation from citizens and the media in this mission. He compared the fight against drugs with the government's efforts to eradicate Naxalism. Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar de-

scribed drug addiction as a threat to Indian culture and society. He said, "Drug addiction is a foreign attack on our Indian culture," and urged people, especially the youth, to stay away from substance abuse. The seminar concluded with a message of collective responsibility, encouraging citizens, law enforcement agencies and social organisations to work together to create a drug-free Madhya Pradesh and strengthen awareness against drug abuse.

Delhi HC Issues Notice To Ola, Uber, Rapido On PIL Seeking Stronger Safety Measures For Women

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court issued notices to app-based ride platforms Ola, Uber and Rapido, as well as the Union Government, Delhi Government and Delhi Police, on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking stronger and uniform safety measures for women using cabs, bike-taxis and other ride-hailing services in the national capital. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia directed the parties to file their replies. "We want to make the private operators of the taxi apps accountable. That is the reason we are issuing notices," the court said. The matter will next be heard on December 16, Bar & Bench and Live Law report. The PIL, filed by Aditya Sehgal, seeks a comprehensive review of existing safety mechanisms and mandatory safety protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for app-based transport aggregators.

Sehgal's counsel told the court that app-based companies operate more than two lakh cabs in the Delhi-NCR region, but drivers are not checked at night. "There is no checking of these drivers after 8 o'clock, or 9 o'clock, whether they are operating for the airport or for any strategic location, whether they are drunk or not," the counsel said. The petition raises concerns over driver verification and criminal antecedent checks, identification of drivers and vehicles, route deviations, emergency response, griev-



ance redressal, preservation of electronic evidence and coordination between ride-hailing platforms and law-enforcement authorities. A key demand in the petition is that the driver and vehicle undertaking a ride must match the details displayed on the app. It seeks to have any unauthorised substitution of a driver or vehicle recorded as a safety-related incident. Passengers should also be allowed to cancel such rides without financial penalty, according to the petition. The plea refers to media reports concerning women passengers and allegations involving route deviations, inappropriate conduct, threats, harassment, driver misconduct and post-ride contact. It states that representations were earlier sent to Uber India Systems Private Limited, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited, which operates Rapido, and the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, over concerns about existing safety mechanisms. According to the petition, the

responses did not substantively address the specific concerns raised.

The PIL seeks the establishment of 24x7 command and control centres to receive, monitor and respond to emergency and SOS alerts. It also seeks the sharing of booking details, the driver's identity, vehicle registration number and real-time location with emergency responders and police, subject to privacy safeguards. The petitioner has also sought automated alerts for material route deviations, along with surveillance and monitoring mechanisms at vulnerable, isolated and high-risk locations. The suggested measures include suitable surveillance or patrol vehicles and technological monitoring systems capable of detecting suspicious movement, prolonged stoppages and significant route deviations. Taken together, these demands put the focus not merely on responding after an incident but on building safeguards into every stage of an app-based journey,

from driver verification to emergency response.

The petition seeks periodic and verifiable gender-sensitivity training for drivers, covering appropriate conduct with women passengers, prevention of sexual harassment, personal boundaries, emergency situations and the consequences of misconduct. It contends that such training should not become a mere online or "tick-box" compliance exercise. The PIL also calls for a time-bound grievance-redressal system for complaints involving driver misconduct, harassment, assault, route deviation, unauthorised changes of drivers or vehicles and failures of emergency-response mechanisms. It seeks appropriate escalation of such complaints to police wherever warranted. Another measure sought by the petitioner is the creation of a pool of verified women drivers. Women travelling alone should be allowed to request such drivers or be given preference in their allotment, subject to availability, the plea says.

Curative Plea Seeks Recall Of Supreme Court's Split Verdict On CEC Appointment Law

New Delhi: A curative petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking recall of its September 23 split verdict on the validity of the law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs). The petition, filed by Jaya Thakur, raises what it describes as a "reasonable apprehension of bias and propriety" over reports that the son of Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, one of the two judges who delivered the split verdict, is standing counsel for the Election Commission of India (ECI) before the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The plea has brought the question of ju-

dicial propriety to the centre of an already significant constitutional dispute.

Filed through advocate Varun Thakur, the plea states that the petitioner learnt about Justice Sharma's son Siddharth Sharma's association with the ECI only after the split verdict was pronounced. Jaya Thakur said she subsequently verified the claims reported in the media through the Madhya Pradesh High Court website and found that Siddharth Sharma had been empanelled with the ECI since July 10, 2024. "In the respectful submission of the petitioner, there is a direct conflict of interest in the



professional duty of Siddharth Sharma on behalf of the Election Commission of India and adjudication of his challenging the appointment of Election Commissioners by Justice Satish Chandra Sharma... Because justice should not only be done, but manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done," the peti-

tion said. The petition contends that a judge cannot decide a case involving a party represented by a family member, even if that representation is before a different forum. It argues that propriety required Justice Sharma to disclose his son's association with the ECI before proceedings began.

Cabinet Approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III Scheme

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme. This historic initiative will strengthen India's Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS) to enable evacuation of up to 135 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy across States/ Union Territories. The scheme also provides for deployment of 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at the Renewable Energy (RE) developer/generator end or any other location of importance for grid flexibility to address intermittency, congestion,

peak-hour curtailment and meet non-solar hour demand. The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation with in the States/UTs of India. The scheme is targeted to be set up by FY 2032-33 with total project outlay of Rs.1,86,405 crore, comprising Rs.1,36,378 crore for the development of Intra-State Transmission Systems (InSTS) under GEC-III, Rs.50,000 crore for 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The Scheme involves a total Central Financial Support of Rs.54,082 crore. The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will help in offsetting the Intra-State transmission

charges and thus keep the power costs down. Thus, the Government support will ultimately benefit the end users – the citizens of India. All Greenfield projects under the InSTS component will be implemented through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode, while brownfield upgradation and network strengthening works will be executed under Cost Plus Basis (CPB). The State Transmission Utilities will be the overall implementing agency, and Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) will participate under TBCB on a Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) model. The scheme will help in achiev-

ing the target of 900 GW installed Non-Fossil capacity by 2035. The scheme will also contribute to long term energy security of the country and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reducing carbon footprint. It will generate large direct & indirect employment in the power sector, manufacturing, and construction industries. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) manufacturing and deployment will additionally generate employment in the domestic energy storage industry. The scheme will also generate long-term skilled employment in operation, maintenance, and grid management across participating States.

CAQM Reviews Air Pollution Control Preparedness

New Delhi: The Sub-Committee on Safeguarding & Enforcement of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) convened its 26th meeting on 29.09.2026 under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairperson, CAQM. The meeting comprehensively reviewed the status of preparedness, enforcement and compliance measures being undertaken by the concerned NCR State Governments/ GNCTD and implementing agencies for targeted abatement of air pollution across the National Capital Region (NCR). During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on sector-specific measures and implementation of various statutory directions issued by the Commission. The Sub-committee took stock of the preparedness of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for implementation of Direction No. 99 dated 15.05.2026 and the respective action plans for prevention and control of paddy stubble

burning during 2026, with the objective of complete elimination of such incidents. The review also covered measures for crop diversification, promotion of Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), utilisation of crop residue and strengthening of awareness and IEC activities among farmers.

The Sub-Committee undertook a comprehensive review of measures for abatement of vehicular pollution, including actions envisaged under Direction No. 88 dated 23.04.2025, as amended on 17.10.2025, relating to restrictions on entry of BS-IV and below transport and commercial goods vehicles into Delhi. The implementation of Direction No. 93 dated 03.06.2025 concerning migration of buses entering Delhi, including buses operating under All India Tourist Permit and other service regimes, towards cleaner modes was also reviewed. The meeting further examined the preparedness of NCR State Governments/ GNCTD for installation of Automatic Number Plate

Recognition (ANPR) systems at Fuel/ CNG stations, in accordance with Direction No. 101 dated 15.05.2026, for enforcement of restrictions on fuelling of vehicles without valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) in NCR with effect from 01.10.2026. The Sub-Committee also reviewed enforcement of Direction No. 94 dated 03.06.2025, as amended on 23.12.2025, for fast-tracking cleaner mobility in services provided by motor vehicle aggregators, delivery service providers and e-Commerce entities, including compliance verification through surprise checks.

The status of enforcement against older End-of-Life (EoL) vehicles, in compliance with the Supreme Court of India's order dated 17.12.2025 was also deliberated upon, with emphasis on intensifying action for impounding and scrapping of such vehicles. Further, the sub-committee reviewed progress towards complete phasing out of diesel auto-rickshaws from NCR Dis-

tricts by 31.12.2026 in accordance with Direction No. 70 dated 30.11.2022. Measures for identification and decongestion of traffic congestion hotspots/ intersections in Delhi and NCR towns were also reviewed, including deployment of Integrated Traffic Management Systems (ITMS) with ANPR-based automated challanning. The Sub-Committee also reviewed the status of implementation of Direction No. 103 dated 19.08.2026 regarding prevention and control of air pollution from stone crushing units in NCR. Implementation of Direction No. 98 dated 20.02.2026 relating to stringent emission standards for industries across Delhi-NCR was also reviewed. With winter season approaching, the meeting accorded focused attention on procurement of additional Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and their deployment before commencement of the winter season, particularly for removal of dust from identified dust hotspots.

India Mining Week Brings 19 Countries Together

New Delhi: India Mining Week 2026, India's largest conference-cum-exhibition for the mining and minerals sector, hosted 'India Mining: Global Connect', an international outreach interaction that brought together representatives of diplomatic missions from 19 countries to discuss opportunities for greater international participation and collaboration in India's mining and minerals sector. The interaction was organised as part of the build-up to India Mining Week 2026, scheduled from 15-17 November 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, by the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines, Government of India, in association with the mining industry. The interaction was hosted by Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines and Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal. Senior representatives from the participating diplomatic missions, along with stakeholders from the mining and minerals ecosystem, discussed opportunities for country-level engagement at India Mining Week 2026. Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines, called for active cooperation and participation from the global mining community in India Mining Week 2026. He invited partner countries to facilitate the participation of leading mining companies, major investors and prominent delegates, emphasising that such engagement would be

mutually beneficial and further strengthen opportunities for collaboration in the mining and minerals sector. He also expressed his keen interest in ensuring wide international participation, including the participation of Ministers responsible for mining from partner countries, as well as leading investors and industry representatives. He extended a warm invitation to all the dignitaries and stakeholders to join the inaugural event of India Mining Week 2026 on 15 November at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. Addressing the gathering at the India Mining: Global Connect, Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, invoked the timeless Indian ethos of "Vas udhaiva Kutumb akam", highlighting the spirit of partnership and collaboration that can shape the future of the global mining sector. As India advances as the world's fourth-largest economy, the mining and minerals sector has a significant role to play in supporting the country's growth and global ambitions. With India Mining Week 2026 coming up in November, she invited the global mining community to come together, exchange ideas, share expertise and explore opportunities for collaboration. Ms Brar emphasised that India looks forward to the ideas, experience and support of partners from across the world in shaping a more innovative, sustainable and glo-

bally connected mining sector. Representatives from Malawi, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Algeria, United States of America, Chile, Bhutan, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Russia, Iraq, Morocco, Venezuela, Spain, Poland, Mongolia, Zambia, France, Ghana and US Chamber of Commerce participated in the interaction. The discussions covered potential participation through country delegations, government and institutional representation, business delegations, speakers, technical experts, mining and mineral companies, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, investors, research institutions and industry associations. The interaction also provided an opportunity to share the scope and programme of India Mining Week 2026 and discuss areas of mutual interest across critical minerals, mineral exploration, mining technology, heavy mining equipment, innovation, investment, trade and resource development. Participating missions were invited to facilitate the participation of relevant companies, government agencies, institutions and industry bodies from their respective countries. With India expanding its focus on critical minerals, resource security, infrastructure development and domestic manufacturing, international cooperation is becoming increasingly relevant across the mining

value chain. India Mining Week 2026 will provide a platform for countries and companies to present their capabilities, explore business opportunities and engage with Indian policymakers, mining companies, investors and technology providers.

The three-day India Mining Week 2026 will bring together 25,000+ industry professionals and decision-makers, 500+ exhibitors and technology providers, 200+ speakers and industry experts, 100+ conference sessions and technical presentations, 1,000+ government and PSU delegates and 300+ mining and mineral companies, with participation expected from more than 50 countries. The event will feature a high-level conference, international exhibition, technical sessions, leadership dialogues, B2B meetings, technology demonstrations and product launches, with discussions spanning coal, metals, critical minerals, exploration, mining technology, automation, mine safety, sustainability, mineral processing and resource efficiency. The 'India Mining: Global Connect' interaction is part of the international outreach programme leading up to India Mining Week 2026, with further engagement planned with international governments, mining companies, technology providers, investors and industry organisations in the run-up to the November summit.

Cabinet Approves Rs.1,790 Cr Intelligent Traffic System for Delhi

New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved implementation of the ITMS Project by Delhi Police at an estimated cost of Rs.1,789.52 crore, inclusive of taxes. The project will cover 42 identified traffic corridors and will be implemented in three phases over 24 months, followed by five years of operation and maintenance. As part of the wider efforts of the Central Government and the Government of NCT of Delhi to improve traffic management, transport infrastructure and urban mobility in the National Capital, a major technology-led initiative will now be taken up through the Intel-

ligent Traffic Management System (ITMS). The project will enable Delhi's existing road network to be managed more intelligently through real-time traffic data, adaptive traffic signals, automated enforcement and integrated command-and-control systems. Delhi has around 71 lakh active registered vehicles. Vehicular growth has substantially outpaced expansion of road infrastructure, while traffic regulation continues to depend significantly on fixed signal timings and manual intervention. The ITMS seeks to make better use of the available road capacity by enabling traffic management to respond dynamically to actual conditions on the road.

Benefits:

Smarter traffic signals and smoother movement: Adaptive Traffic Control Systems will dynamically adjust signal timings according to prevailing traffic conditions and coordinate signals along identified corridors, helping reduce avoidable stoppages and delays. Priority for ambulances and emergency vehicles: The system will facilitate green corridors and priority movement for emergency vehicles, enabling faster passage through congested stretches. Faster response to congestion and accidents: Real-time detection of congestion, slow-moving traffic and road incidents will enable quicker diversions and operational response by Delhi Police. Timely information for commuters: Variable

Message Sign boards and digital platforms will provide information on congestion, diversions, parking availability and traffic conditions. Information may also be shared with navigation service providers, helping commuters make better travel choices. More consistent and technology-based enforcement: The system will strengthen automated detection of violations such as red-light and stop-line violations, speeding, wrong-way driving, non-use of helmets and seat belts, illegal parking and use of mobile phones while driving. AI-based analytics will also assist in identifying stolen, hot-listed and blacklisted vehicles, repeat violators and vehicles connected with hit-and-run incidents.

Chouhan Approves Rs.5,548 Cr MSP Procurement for Pulses, Oilseeds

New Delhi: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved procurement worth Rs.5,547.99 crore at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for the Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27 in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The decision is aimed at protecting farmers from a decline in market prices and ensuring remunerative returns for their produce, particularly for pulse and oilseed growers.

Chouhan said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi, the welfare of farmers, increasing their incomes and strengthening self-reliance in agriculture remain key priorities of the government. He said the government is working to ensure that farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce and that procurement mechanisms are made more transparent and accessible. Under the approved procurement plan, farmers in the three states will benefit from large-scale procurement of key pulses and oilseeds at MSP.

In Uttar Pradesh, the largest share of the approved procurement, worth Rs.3,992.57 crore, has been sanctioned. This includes

procurement of 4,66,000 metric tonnes of tur valued at Rs.3,937.70 crore and 6,250 metric tonnes of moong valued at Rs.54.87 crore at MSP.

For pulse and oilseed farmers in Karnataka, procurement worth Rs.1,107 crore has been approved under PSS. This includes 1,15,500 metric tonnes of soybean valued at Rs.659.27 crore, 38,250 metric tonnes of moong valued at Rs.335.83 crore and 13,413 metric tonnes of sunflower valued at Rs.111.90 crore.

In Telangana, procurement worth Rs.448.42 crore has been approved. This comprises 62,000 metric

tonnes of soybean valued at Rs.353.90 crore and 10,766 metric tonnes of moong valued at Rs.94.52 crore, to be procured at MSP under the Price Support Scheme. Shri Chouhan said the decision will provide greater economic security to farmers while encouraging domestic production of pulses and oilseeds and contributing to India's efforts towards self-reliance in pulses and edible oils. He assured that procurement arrangements at all designated centres will remain transparent and that farmers will receive payment for their produce directly into their bank accounts in a timely manner.

DFFPD Steps Up Preparations for Special Campaign 6

New Delhi: The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFFPD), along with its subordinate/attached offices and PSUs, has started preparations for the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 6 (SCDPM 6). This year, special focus is being given to the collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste, along with cleanliness, disposal of pending matters and better use of office space. The preparatory phase is being undertaken from 15 September to 30 September 2026. During this period, DFFPD and its attached/subordinate offices and PSUs, including Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), are reviewing physical and electronic files, identifying e-waste, scrap and unserviceable items, and taking necessary steps for their proper disposal. The initiative aims to promote responsible waste



management practices. **Key Targets** As part of the preparatory phase, the following targets have been identified up to 28 September 2026: 947 sites identified for intensive cleanliness drives at offices, depots and warehouses. 22,635 sq. ft. of space identified for freeing up through disposal of clutter and obsolete materials. 3,660 physical files identified for review and weeding out as per record retention rules. 3,534 e-files

identified for closure to strengthen digital record management. 439 e-waste items identified for collection, segregation and disposal. The Department is holding regular review meetings with nodal officers and senior officials to monitor the progress of the campaign. The activities include cleanliness drives, disposal of pending matters, freeing up of space, record management and proper disposal of e-waste. The Department of

Food and Public Distribution is closely monitoring the preparatory activities for effective implementation of Special Campaign 6 from 2 October to 31 October 2026. Through Special Campaign 6, DFFPD and its attached/subordinate offices and PSUs aim to promote cleaner and better-organised workplaces, reduce pendency, strengthen record management, optimise available space and ensure responsible management of e-waste.

ECL sets the stage for action-driven Special Campaign 6

New Delhi: Setting a high benchmark for operational efficiency and environmental stewardship, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), a premier subsidiary of Coal India Limited having coal mining operations in West Bengal and Jharkhand, has successfully wrapped up the preparatory phase of the nationwide Special Campaign 6. With a resolute focus on institutionalizing Swachhata (cleanliness), minimising administrative pendency and modernising governance, ECL has finalised comprehensive targets across all its

mining areas, workshops and headquarters.

Laying the Groundwork for Cleanliness and Space Reclamation

As part of the preparatory phase blueprint, ECL identified 30 key operational sites spanning its expansive command areas for intensive cleanliness and rejuvenation drives. A major highlight of the campaign blueprint is the targeted clearance of 208,052 sq. ft. of area. By systematically removing clutter from industrial zones, office complexes and residential townships, the coal

major aims to transform workspaces into safe, green and highly productive environments.

Driving Wealth from Waste: Scrap Management

Aligning with the national mission of resource optimisation and sustainable management, ECL has lined up a robust target to dispose of 850 Metric Tons of scrap material during the campaign cycle. Building on successful past asset monetisation drives—such as major scrap disposals across the Rajmahal Area, Khottadih OCP (Panda

veswar Area) and SP Mines—this initiative reinforces ECL's commitment to eco-friendly practices while unlocking substantial commercial value from unserviceable assets.

Streamlining Governance Through Digital and Physical File Review

ECL's preparatory strategy places equal emphasis on administrative efficiency and swift workflow redressal: Physical File Management: The company has targeted the review of 1,200 physical files, earmarking 1,000 obsolete files.

UN Warns Of 'Narrowing Window' To Restore World's Forests Amid Rising Climate Threats



Washington: The world faces a “narrowing window” to restore forests that are vital for food security and resilience against the climate emergency, a United Nations report has warned, urging governments to make forest restoration a national priority. More than 489 million hectares of forests have been cleared since 1990, while an even larger area has been degraded,

according to the report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The State of the World’s Forests report acknowledged progress in forest protection and tree planting worldwide but said action had failed to keep pace with commitments.

Over the past two decades, national, regional and global initiatives have pledged to restore more than 1 billion hectares of

land. However, barely a fifth of that area is currently being restored. “Progress is uneven, and it is insufficient to meet growing global needs,” the report said. Forests cover 4.14 billion hectares, about one-third of the Earth’s land surface. They store 714 gigatonnes of carbon and support up to 80% of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity. They also help regulate rainfall and

reduce hunger, with nearly one-third of the global population depending on forests for their livelihoods. However, threats to forests are intensifying. Around 127 million hectares of forest are affected by fires each year, while insects, diseases and extreme weather events cause further damage. These pressures are adding to the impact of agricultural expansion, the climate crisis, pollution and the extraction of fossil fuels and other resources. The report said the growing gap between demand and sustainable supply posed a threat to ecological integrity as well as the long-term viability of forest-based economies. This widening gap between demand and sustainable supply highlights a structural imbalance that threatens both ecological integrity and the long-term viability of forest-based economies,” the report stated. It

said restoring forests and other degraded ecosystems could benefit people, food security and economies. Restoration of 1 billion hectares is estimated to generate \$1.8 trillion in benefits each year. FAO Director General Qu Dongyu said the report showed that forest and landscape restoration was not only an environmental priority but also a strategic investment in resilient agrifood systems and rural development.

“The window for action is narrowing, and delayed or poorly designed restoration will increase long-term costs, exacerbate inequalities and risk locking landscapes into unsustainable trajectories. Given the continued loss and degradation of forest ecosystems, as well as growing global demand for land-based products and services, there is an urgent need to scale up effective restoration,” he said.

US Secretary Of State Marco Rubio Says Foreign State May Be Linked To Incident Near UK Airbase

Washington: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a “foreign actor” was involved in an incident near a British airbase where five men were arrested on suspicion of explosives and terrorism offences. The men, all British nationals in their early 20s from London, were arrested early on Sunday near RAF Fairford in western England, a base used by US forces to strike Iran. British police declared a major incident at the base and the Government held a national emergency meeting. However, police released the five on bail on Monday and said their investigation was continuing. They were also examining whether individuals acting on behalf of a foreign state were involved. A source familiar with the situation said three large white vans in which the men appeared to have travelled did not contain viable explosives. Secretary Rubio tells Fox News tonight that the RAF Fairford incident involves “a foreign actor” and that it’s a very serious situation.

The source said the police response on Sunday was not intelligence-led, suggesting the five men had not been under direct surveillance. However, security at the base had been increased, indicating that authorities had information suggesting it could be targeted. “What happened, what almost happened, what could have happened in the UK over the weekend is a very serious situation. It’s one that clearly involves the hands of a foreign actor. I won’t get into great detail about that yet,” Rubio told the Fox News network’s “Hannity” programme late on Monday. Rubio provided no evidence or specific details to support the claim. US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday that the incident “might be” connected to Iran, with which the United States has been at war since late February. He also said he would not have released the suspects on bail. “I wouldn’t have done that,” he said. Police detained the five men in the early hours of Sunday after a local



farmer alerted authorities about three white vans parked near RAF Fairford. The farmer, who asked not to be named, said she returned home at around 0100 local time and found the vans parked in the road. One had a fake telephone number on it, while a group of hooded and masked men were seen running away. Local residents said security around the base had been significantly increased in the days before the arrests. The farmer also told reporters that a neighbour driving past the base on Saturday night had been

ordered by US security personnel to stop and put their hands out of their car. By Tuesday morning, a large cordon remained around the base and roadblocks were still in place. Local media reported that residents of nearby homes that had been evacuated were returning. Western governments have warned in recent years about hostile actors from Iran, Russia and elsewhere organising destabilising activities or using proxies to carry out plots. Britain raised its national terrorism threat level to its second highest

in April following a series of antisemitic incidents in north London. The level means an attack is considered highly likely. The UK has also imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Iran, accusing them of hostile activities, including plotting attacks and providing financial services to groups seeking to destabilise Britain and other countries. Iran has denied involvement in attacks or plots in Britain and elsewhere. It also denied any involvement in the Fairford incident.

Pakistan's Cites Technical Issues To Refuse Airspace For Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Fuel Transit



Dhaka: Pakistan has described its refusal to allow airspace for the transportation of nuclear fuel meant for Bangladesh’s Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant as a technical issue. “Pakistan maintains an unwavering commitment to international diplomatic norms and processes all requests for diplomatic flight and overflight clearances within a standardised, predictable timeframe, strictly in accordance with our established regulatory guidelines and civil aviation protocols,” the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka said in a clarification on Tuesday.

“With regard to the reports being quoted, the matter appears to relate to technical and procedural arrangements concerning flight routing and airspace permissions, which can occasionally require coordination among the relevant aviation and other authorities and may result in adjustments to flight schedules,” it added. “Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Bangladesh, and it would therefore be appropriate to view the matter in its proper technical context and not attach undue significance to reports or narratives that

may seek to misplace it to undermine our bilateral relations,” the Pakistan High Commission said. Bangladesh’s Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant’s uranium transport has been disrupted after Pakistan denied airspace clearance. Nuclear fuel for Unit 2 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh was scheduled to arrive on September 24, but it has not arrived yet because of airspace blockage. “We heard that a cargo plane carrying uranium for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh was scheduled to arrive on Sep-

tember 24. However, the flight was not given permission to use Pakistani airspace, so the uranium did not arrive in Bangladesh as planned. As of now, the exact reason for Pakistan not granting the airspace clearance is still unknown”, Faqir Mahbub Anam, Bangladesh’s Minister for Science and Technology, told ANI over the phone. “A new date has been proposed, with Russia indicating the first week of October for the uranium to arrive in Bangladesh”, he added.

For the nuclear power plant, the Uranium fuel for Unit 2 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant was supposed to arrive on September 24. But it hasn’t arrived yet because the airspace is not clear. “We had completed all the preparations at the airport and were waiting, but the liaison officer from Rosatom told us that the airspace was not clear. So we couldn’t send it. It may need to be rescheduled”, Sheikh Mohammed Tauhidul Islam, Joint Secretary to the Bangladesh Science and Technology Ministry, told ANI over the phone.

With support from Russia’s Rosatom, this nuclear power plant is being built. To find out what the issue is, ANI sent an email to a Rosatom representative. But so far, there has been no response. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Bangladesh’s first nuclear power facility, is being constructed in Rooppur village, located along the banks of the Padma River in Pakshi Union, Ishwardi Upazila, Pabna District. With technical assistance from the Russian Federation’s State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) and under the oversight of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. The project involves the construction of two third-generation VVER-1200 reactor units, which will collectively generate 2,400 megawatts of baseload electricity. Bangladesh officially ushered in the nuclear age as the initial shipment of low-enriched uranium fuel for Unit 1 of the 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) arrived safely from Russia.

Bangladesh Missions Abroad Go Dark Faces Visa Service Disruptions As DIP Server Develops Technical Glitch



Dhaka: Bangladesh missions abroad are facing temporary disruptions in visa-related services after a technical problem affected the central system of the Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP), leaving its Machine Readable Visa (MRV) server unavailable. The disruption has affected Bangladesh missions overseas, with the processing of No Visa Required (NVR) applications, regular visa applications and visa issuance facing delays. According to a report by The Daily Star, the technical issue has temporarily affected visa services at Bangladesh missions abroad. The government has said efforts are underway to restore the system at the earliest.

A senior official told United News of Bangladesh (UNB) on Monday night, September 28, that the government was working to resolve the technical problem as soon as possible. The official said the MRV server linked to DIP’s central system was currently unavailable and that the same problem was affecting all Bangladesh missions abroad. According to UNB, DIP had informed the missions about the technical issue last week and was

working to restore the central system. The government has asked applicants to allow additional time for their applications to be processed and avoid making repeated enquiries about their application status while the technical problem persists. The disruption has also affected applicants who had already submitted their visa applications. One applicant from a European country told UNB that they had submitted an online visa application and were informed that an email would arrive within 24 hours. However, the applicant said no email had been received and repeated calls seeking an update went unanswered. The issue has therefore affected both the processing of fresh applications and subsequent communication with applicants. Individual Bangladesh missions have also issued notices informing applicants about the technical problem. The Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok, in a public notice, said visa seekers could face difficulties while submitting applications or accessing visa-related services because of the temporary issue with the visa server.

The embassy said its concerned technical team

was working to resolve the problem and requested applicants to bear with the temporary inconvenience. It also advised applicants, where possible, to avoid making urgent travel arrangements that depend on immediate visa processing. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin issued an urgent notice apologising for the inconvenience and asking applicants for patience and understanding. According to UNB, applicants will be informed through the websites and Facebook pages of the respective missions once the central system is restored and normal visa services resume. The authorities have not indicated a specific timeline for the restoration of the central system. For now, applicants have been advised to allow additional time for NVR and visa processing and avoid repeatedly contacting missions for status updates while the technical issue remains unresolved. The Department of Immigration and Passports is working to restore the system, after which the affected Bangladesh missions are expected to resume normal visa-related services.

India-US Ties: Trade Agreement Could Help Move Relationship Forward, Says EAM Jaishankar

Washington / New Delhi: A trade agreement between India and the US, if concluded, could contribute to “better” bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, while noting that expectations of rapid progress in negotiations had been “tested” by a much more complex ground reality. Jaishankar made the remarks while addressing prominent members of the Indian-American and diaspora community and policy experts at a special conversation hosted by the Asia Society on Monday, following the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the conversation, moderated by former American diplomat and Asia Society Policy Institute distinguished fellow Daniel Russel, Jaishankar was asked about India-US relations, particularly developments concerning trade and tariffs over the past year and what would be required to put bilateral ties on a “better track”. “Well, I think if I stand back and look at the relationship... I note that much of the world has had a more difficult relationship with the US. I mean that may not be a consolation, but that’s a reality,” Jaishankar said.

He identified trade negotiations as one of the issues affecting India-US ties and pointed to the “stakes” and “complexity” involved. “Bear in mind, India is a society of small producers, small agriculture producers, small factories. Apart from the per capita gap between India and the United States, the nature of production, nature of society is very different,” he said. “A trade negotiation re-

quired a certain amount of ... patience and detailing to see it through... The expectation that it could rapidly move forward, I think, was tested against a ground reality which was much more complex,” he added. Jaishankar said there was now “more or less an understanding on the trade agreement”. India and the US had announced in February the finalisation of the framework for the first phase of their bilateral trade agreement. However, changes in the US tariff regime have led to further negotiations. The US Supreme Court had struck down President Donald Trump’s reciprocal tariffs imposed under emergency powers, following which Washington adopted a different tariff framework. In July, the US imposed an additional 10% tariff on imports from India under Section 301 of the Trade Act after a probe into India’s measures concerning goods produced with “forced labour”. The two countries have since continued negotiations on the trade agreement amid changes in the US tariff regime. Alluding to comments by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Jaishankar said the issue now was what had changed on the American side and how the new Section 301 process would affect the agreement. “The 301 process is still in the works, it’s still unfolding. So the issue for us is at what point do you close out an agreement which is very, very far advanced,” Jaishankar said. “But the period that it took to reach it, that did create bumps last year for the relationship. So presumably, if that agreement is closed out,

that would be one point which would contribute to a better relationship,” he said. Jaishankar also said bilateral ties had, to some extent, been affected by developments within the US. “For many years mobility was seen as an economic gain. Now, today the economics of mobility and the politics of mobility are at odds with each other,” he said. He said foreign policy and diplomacy were no longer conducted only by states, leaders, ministers or diplomats. “In a social media era, there is a very big public opinion factor,” particularly how it plays out in democratic societies, he said.

Jaishankar seeks upward trajectory in ties

“So I think that’s a reality we have to take into account. So yes, we would certainly hope for and expect the relationship to move on an upward trajectory. But I have to be real about the issues that we confront, and to the extent we are able to move ahead on some of these issues, I think we’ll have a better relationship,” he said. Last week, Goyal had said the trade pact between India and the US was “done and dusted” and would be executed once the US gives India the right competitive advantage over its competitors in the American market. India’s competitors in the US market include ASEAN countries, China and Bangladesh. Goyal is scheduled to visit the US from September 29 to October 5 to attend a G20 meeting in Milwaukee and hold discussions with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on advancing negotiations for the bilateral trade agreement.

India's indigenous technology push gains momentum as HD Kumaraswamy unveils MHI Industry Accelerator Impact Report at Navigyaan 2026

- Under PM Modi's leadership, India must move from technology development to global manufacturing, says HD Kumaraswamy
- HD Kumaraswamy launches Impact Report of MHI Industry Accelerator, felicitates project members
- Rs.35.72 crore support enabled 10 technologies to progress from TRL-3 to TRL-9: HD Kumaraswamy
- From concept to prototype, product to global market: HD Kumaraswamy calls for stronger indigenous technology ecosystem



New Delhi, Sept., 30 (PIB): Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H. D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday unveiled and digitally launched the Impact Report of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) Industry Accelerator Project at Navigyaan 2026 in New Delhi, marking an important milestone in the development and advancement of indigenous technologies for India's mobil-

ity and manufacturing sectors. Addressing the gathering, H.D. Kumaraswamy said the event marked the conclusion of the MHI Industry Accelerator Project and highlighted the importance of building domestic technological and manufacturing capabilities. "The Government of India under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has placed strong emphasis on

building domestic technological and manufacturing capabilities," he said. The Minister said that the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat requires India to move beyond being a large market for advanced technologies and develop the capacity to manufacture and export them. "The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat calls for an India that is not only a large market for advanced technologies, but also a

country that develops, manufactures and exports those," Kumaraswamy said. Highlighting the scale of support extended under the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector - Phase II, he said the scheme has a total financial outlay of Rs.1,207 crore and aims to support common technology development and services infrastructure. Under the scheme, 33 projects have been approved. The MHI Industry Accelerator Programme, one of these initiatives, provided Rs.35.72 crore in Grant-in-Aid for 10 technologies, with the objective of supporting their progression from Technology Readiness Level 3 to Level 9. Kumaraswamy noted that the technologies supported under the programme cover several areas of future mobility, including electric powertrains, high-voltage motor control and energy storage. An important outcome, he said, has been the movement of technologies from early-stage prototypes



towards commercially viable products. Emphasising the importance of collaboration in technology development, the Minister said government, industry, research institutions, academia, startups and institutions such as ARAI each have an important role in strengthening the innovation ecosystem. "Government can provide the policy framework and targeted support. Industry brings

market understanding and manufacturing capability. Research and academic institutions contribute knowledge and technology. Startups bring new ideas and agility," he said. He further underlined the role of institutions such as ARAI in bridging the gap between technology development, validation and industry adoption. Kumaraswamy said that as India moves towards Viksit

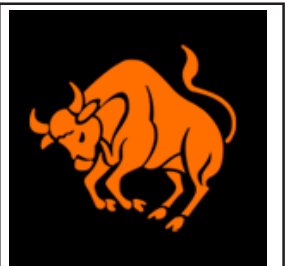
Bharat@2047, the focus must remain on developing capabilities within the country and taking Indian technologies to international markets. "It is this ecosystem that we need to strengthen further. As we move towards Viksit Bharat@2047, our focus should be clear: educate, innovate, manufacture and integrate technologies in India and take Indian technologies to global markets," he said. The Minister also stressed that self-reliance should extend beyond import substitution and focus on developing Indian intellectual property, resilient supply chains and skilled

human resources. "The objective of self-reliance is not simply to replace imports. It is to build Indian intellectual property, supply chains and skilled human resources," Kumaraswamy said. He called for continued efforts to identify emerging technology requirements, strengthen industry-academia collaboration and develop talent capable of meeting the technological needs of the future. Concluding his address, Kumaraswamy said India must create an ecosystem that enables innovations to move efficiently through every stage of development.

Today's Horoscope



Aries
Tooth ache or stomach upset may create some problems for you. Take a physician's advice to get relief immediately. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Spending time with children will be important. Those who stay away from their lover can miss them deeply today. Because of this, you can talk to your beloved on the phone for hours during the night. Tact will be required while handling colleagues. Someone from your past is likely to contact you and make it a memorable day. Today, you will experience that the love of your partner forgets you about the pains of life.
Remedy :- Keep water in a Copper vessel near bedside at night, and next morning, pour this water at the root of a nearest tree, for excellent health benefits.



Taurus
Your energy level will be high. There is a possibility of money loss today, hence you are required to remain alert while making transactions or signing any document. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems- Ignore them and don't let this bother your mind. Some difference may crop up with your darling-You will have difficulty trying to make your mate understand your position. Your partner will be hard to deal with. While spending free time with your spouse tonight, you will realize how important it is to give them more time. Work pressure had been hampering your married life since long. But today, all the grievances will be vanished.
Remedy :- For enhanced financial condition, plant a banana tree, tend to it and worship it.



Gemini
A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolonged illness. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions. Children need to concentrate on studies and plan for the future. You are likely to be dazzled by some natural beauty today. You will make beneficial career changes if you present yourself in a professional manner. You should try to understand the things in the right manner, otherwise you'll waste your free time just thinking about such scenarios continuously. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate.
Remedy :- Financial life will become better by using green vehicles.



Cancer
Misusing personal relations to fulfil your expectations would annoy your wife. You will possess a considerable amount of money today, and with it there will be peace of mind. You will also make important contacts through friends. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. You need to focus on your way of working to get good results at the workplace, otherwise your negative image can get created in the eyes of your boss. Today, you will be able to spend time with your lover and put forward your feelings in front of him/her. Today, your partner might take you in the realm of a different world of love and sensations.
Remedy :- Wear Green Coloured clothes



Leo
Your mind will be disturbed with recent events. Meditation and yoga will prove to be beneficial for spiritual as well as physical gains. At the beginning of the day, you may suffer from any financial loss, which can spoil the whole day. Try to be reasonable especially with people who love and care for you. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Great day to implement new projects and plans. You have spare time today for socializing and follow up with things that you love doing the most. Your partner might do something fabulous unintentionally, which will be really unforgettable.
Remedy :- For a good financial life, keep green stones in flower pots, keep plants in green bottles, and also have green tiles in bathroom.



Virgo
If possible try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel and this could put further weaken you. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. If possible, try to avoid as she might reveal it to someone else. Be careful your romantic partner may flatter you- don't leave me alone in this lonely world. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards. The natives of this zodiac sign would like to spend more time alone than meeting people today. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house. Your spouse will be full of energy and love today.
Remedy :- Include use of white clothes in your daily wear for good health.



Libra
Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your work will take a backseat- as you find comfort-pleasure and extreme ecstasy in the arms of your beloved. You will be in a strong position to put together a team and work toward a collective goal. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Romantic songs, aromatic candles, good food, and some drinks; the day is all about this with your spouse.
Remedy :- Distribute sweets and savouries made of ground yellow chana dal to needy people for amazing health benefits.



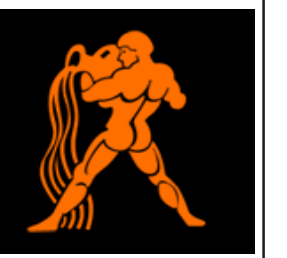
Scorpio
Astrological guidance by a friend will encourage you to improve your health. Try to control your spending- and buy only the essential items today. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Erratic behaviour of your darling might make your mood upset. This is an excellent time for developing professional contacts in other countries. Good day for some recreation and entertainment. Rude behavior of your spouse might take a toll on you today.
Remedy :- Offer seven almonds and seven grains of black grams in Shani temple and build a strong love life.



Sagittarius
Outings-parties and pleasure jaunts will keep you in good mood today. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Those who say that marriage is all about sex, they lie. Because today, you will know what true love is.
Remedy :- For enhanced career/work life/business, brush your teeth with herbal-based toothpaste such as neem and babool.



Capricorn
Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Daydreaming will bring your downfall- Do not count on others to do your work. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again.
Remedy :- Maintain harmony and balance in the family by switching on a white-light zero watt bulb in the Northwest direction.



Aquarius
Health will be perfect today. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Love will show positive vibes Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. Today, you can think of spending your free time carrying out religious work. During this time, do not get into unnecessary conflicts. Today, you will forget all the hardships of your life with the love of your spouse.
Remedy :- For enhancing positive experiences in the family, offer 28 drops of mustard oil near Peepal or banyan tree or in a pot filled with mud at home.



Pisces
Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives. They would also appreciate it. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Amidst your busy life, you will get enough time for yourself today and be able to do your favorite things. Marriage had never been so wonderful before than today.
Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Arrives in Milwaukee, U.S. to Attend G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting

New Delhi, Sept., 30 (PIB): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal arrived in Milwaukee, United States of America, to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting. He was received by, Consul General, Consulate General of India, Chicago, Dr. M. Anand Prakash, upon his arrival. Piyush Goyal interacted with CEOs and senior executives of prominent U.S. manufacturing and technology companies of the United States (U.S.) at a business roundtable hosted by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). NAM represents a substantial share of leading U.S. manufacturing companies, contributing significantly to the U.S. manufacturing GDP of around \$3 trillion. During the interaction, Shri Piyush Goyal highlighted that the India-U.S. economic relationship is moving beyond a traditional trade relationship and increasingly encompasses investment, manufacturing, technology, innovation, resilient supply chains and the creation of high-value capabilities in both countries. The CEOs and senior executives shared their views on the opportunities emerging in India and their companies' perspectives on expanding partnerships in the country. Shri Piyush Goyal stated that the Government of India is ready to facilitate companies in their operations, expansion and investments in India. Piyush Goyal also attended a reception hosted by the Business Roundtable (BRT) and NAM at the global headquarters of Rockwell Automation. He interacted with Trade Ministers from other G20 countries and senior business leaders of U.S. companies.

ICG Interdicts Transnational Syndicate with Rs 3,000 Cr Narcotics Seizure



New Delhi, Sept., 30 (PIB): Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Gujarat, neutralized a major maritime narcotic smuggling attempt worth over Rs 3,000 crores in the Arabian Sea, west of Lakshadweep, on September 25, 2026. The joint operation led to the seizure of approximately 526 kg of high-grade narcotic substances, including heroin and methamphetamine, and the apprehension of five Pakistani nationals who were operating the vessel. Acting on intelligence, ICG assets undertook precise sea-air surveillance and persistent tracking of the suspected vessel before launching a coordinated hot pursuit. The operation culminated in the interception and boarding of a suspicious Iranian dhow in the high seas. The intercepted dhow, apprehended crew and seized contraband were subsequently escorted under armed security to Mumbai for joint interrogation and further investigation, followed by comprehensive multi-agency legal proceedings.

Gold Prices Fall Below Rs.1.50 Lakh Mark In Delhi Amid Weak Demand, Strong Dollar



New Delhi: Gold prices on Tuesday slipped below Rs 1.50 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital for the first time in two months, falling by Rs 1,400 amid bearish local demand and a soaring US dollar. Falling for the second day, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity traded lower by Rs 1,400 at Rs 1,48,600 per 10 grams, inclusive of all taxes, according to local traders. The precious metal traded at Rs 1.50 lakh per 10 grams on Monday. Gold was last quoted around these levels on July 31, when it stood at Rs 1,48,300 per 10 grams. Silver, however, remained unchanged at Rs 2.32 lakh per kilogram, inclusive of all taxes. The white metal had fallen Rs 5,000 in the

previous session from Friday's closing level of Rs 2.37 lakh per kg. "Gold experienced a sharp correction in September, dipping below Rs 1.5 lakh per 10 grams due to significant global pressures," said Pinky Yadav, Commodity Fundamental Analyst at Choice Broking. In global markets, however, spot gold staged a modest recovery after tumbling 4 per cent in the previous session. The yellow metal rose USD 30.34, or nearly 1 per cent, to USD 4,145.26 per ounce. Silver also rebounded and traded flat at USD 60.69 per ounce after declining nearly 6 per cent in the preceding session. "Gold is recovering marginally to around USD 4,140 an ounce, while

silver is near USD 60.5, as it remains near a seven-week low as expectations of higher-for-longer US interest rates which kept bond yields elevated," said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at brokerage platform Lemonn. Meanwhile, crude oil continued to see-saw amid mixed news flow, said Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset Sharekhan. US President Donald Trump called the reports of sanction relief for Iran on nuclear issues a "hoax". Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the official US response to Tehran's proposal for reopening the Strait of Hormuz was likely to come later in the day.

Endurance Overseas Acquires Remaining 32% Stake In Stöferle Entities For Rs.162 Crore



Mumbai: Endurance Technologies Limited announced that its wholly-owned Italian subsidiary, Endurance Overseas SpA (EOSpA), has executed an Amendment Agreement to acquire the remaining 32 per cent equity stake in Stöferle Automotive GmbH and Stöferle GmbH, collectively known as the Stöferle entities. The acquisition was made for an upfront cash consideration of ₹18 million (approximately Rs. 162 crore). This amount is lower than the originally agreed purchase consideration of ₹20.13 million. Prior to this agreement, EOSpA held a 68 per cent equity stake in the Stöferle entities. With this acquisition, EOSpA

now holds a 100 per cent stake in each of the Stöferle entities. The company said that this accelerated acquisition enables EOSpA to achieve full ownership and streamline management, governance, and operational decision-making under a single structure. This is expected to enhance strategic and operational flexibility by eliminating minority shareholder considerations and facilitating faster execution of business initiatives. Stöferle Automotive GmbH, incorporated on 12 August 2011, specialises in manufacturing machined aluminium castings for automotive applications. Its turnover for the financial year ended 31 March 2026

was ₹76.4 million. Stöferle GmbH, incorporated on 20 November 1992, is involved in machining aluminium castings for automotive applications and producing CNC machines for captive use. Its turnover for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 was ₹16.9 million. Endurance Technologies stated that the transaction constitutes a related party transaction. The shareholders divesting their stake are either directors of the Stöferle entities or their relatives. The company confirmed the transaction was undertaken on an arm's length basis and is considered beneficial for EOSpA and Endurance Technologies.

Tata Steel Wins Rs.427 Crore Tax Relief, Exposure Drops To Rs.1,259 Crore

Mumbai: Tata Steel has received a favourable order in a long-running income-tax dispute linked to interest expenditure on loans used for the acquisition of Corus Group Plc, providing relief of approximately Rs 427 crore for FY2009. The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal allowed the company's claim for deduction of interest expenditure for FY2009, following an earlier favourable ruling for FY2008. Tata Steel said in an exchange filing. The development could reduce the company's aggregate tax exposure from approximately Rs 1,686 crore to Rs 1,259 crore once the Assessing Officer gives effect to the latest order through a separate consequential order. The broader dispute relates to loans borrowed and utilised by Tata Steel for its acquisition of Corus Group Plc. Income-tax authorities had disallowed interest deductions under Section 36(1)(iii) of the Income Tax Act for FY2008

through FY2015. The aggregate tax exposure from the issue was approximately Rs 1,901 crore, against which Tata Steel had filed appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. For FY2009, the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax had disallowed a deduction claim of Rs 813.65 crore towards interest expenditure in January 2014. Tata Steel challenged that order the following month. Tata Steel had already secured a favourable ruling for FY2008 in February 2026, when its interest deduction claim was allowed. The tax exposure for that year was approximately Rs 215 crore. That decision was expected to lower the overall exposure from Rs 1,901 crore to Rs 1,686 crore after implementation by the Assessing Officer. The latest ruling could have implications beyond FY2009. Tata Steel said the favourable FY2008



and FY2009 orders could have a "persuasive impact" on related pending litigation concerning the same issue for FY2010 through FY2015. Following implementation of the FY2009 order, the company will also make necessary adjustments to the contingent liability disclosed in the notes to its financial statements.

India Plans To Nearly Triple Steel Capacity To 600 Million Tonnes By 2047

New Delhi: India's new steel policy aims to increase steelmaking capacity to 600 million tonnes by 2047, providing a roadmap for the next two decades, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said. The draft policy, reviewed by Reuters, is expected to be released in the public domain soon. It also proposes measures to reduce emissions from the sector and strengthen access to key raw materials such as iron ore and coking coal to meet anticipated demand. The Union Ministry of Steel did not immediately respond to a Reuters email seeking comment. India was a net importer of finished steel between April and August, importing 3.5 million tonnes of the alloy, 29.5% more than a year earlier. China accounted for

31.8% of these imports, making it the largest exporter of finished steel to India during the period. India's steelmaking capacity stood at 220 million tonnes in fiscal 2026. Availability of raw materials and exports remain major challenges for the steel sector, particularly as countries increase trade barriers, Poundrik told reporters on the sidelines of an event. Indian steel prices are expected to rise further in the coming weeks as a post-monsoon revival in infrastructure and automotive demand tightens the market. Higher coking coal costs are also expected to increase production expenses for steel mills, executives and analysts told Reuters. The draft policy aims to



reduce the sector's average carbon emission intensity to around 1.54 tonnes of carbon dioxide per tonne of crude steel by 2047, from the current 2.54 tonnes. The target is aligned with India's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, accord-

ing to the draft document. The Steel Ministry expects iron ore demand to reach 772 million tonnes and plans to secure access to high-grade reserves by pursuing overseas assets and joint ventures, the document said. Coking coal demand is

expected to reach 214 million tonnes, according to the draft. The government plans to diversify its sources through "strategic global outreach" and acquire overseas assets to strengthen supplies, the document said.

India Services Sector Expands Strongly In July As 17 Of 19 Segments Record Growth: New Index Data

New Delhi: India's services sector witnessed strong growth in July 2026, with most segments tracked under the government's new Index of Services Production reporting expansion compared with the previous year. The trial index released on September 29 showed that 17 of the 19 services categories recorded positive growth in July, while 10 segments registered double-digit expansion. Administrative and support services emerged as the fastest-growing segment, expanding 20.9% compared with July 2025. Retail trade followed with an 18.5% increase, while real estate activities grew 14.4%. Several other service categories also recorded robust expansion. Accommodation and food services rose 12.6%, banking services increased 12.3% and wholesale trade grew 12.1%. Telecommunication services expanded 11%, while IT and computer-related services recorded 10.7% growth. Professional, scientific and technical services, including research and development activities, increased 10.4%. Information and broadcasting services also registered 10% growth. Transportation-re-

lated services showed steady improvement, although the pace varied across different segments. Road transport grew 9.9%, warehousing and transport support activities increased 9.8%, postal and courier services expanded 8.7%, water transport rose 7.7% and railway transport recorded 7.5% growth. Despite overall momentum in the sector, two categories recorded contraction during the month. The air transport index declined 8.4% year-on-year, while repair services fell 5%. The air transport index stood at 87.8 in July, lower than 95.9 recorded in the same month last year and 91.2 in June 2026. The index has declined from 117.3 in January, according to monthly trial-



series data. Repair services recorded an index value of 126.3 in July compared with 133 in July 2025. However, the segment improved from 120.1 in June. Among the better-performing categories, retail trade re-

corded a significant increase in its index, rising to 140 in July from 118.2 a year earlier. Administrative and support services climbed to 134.5 from 111.3, while real estate activity increased to 121.2

from 106. The data indicate that India's services economy continued to expand across multiple segments, supported by strong activity in consumer-facing, technology and business-related services.

J&K Govt Allows Eligible NPS Employees To Switch To Old Pension Scheme Under One-Time Option

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved a one-time opportunity for certain government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS) to move to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), according to a government order issued by the Finance Department. The decision covers employees who were appointed against posts or vacancies that had been advertised or notified before December 24, 2009, the date on which J&K introduced the Defined Contribution Pension Scheme through SRO-400. However, these employees joined government service on or after January 1, 2010, resulting in their coverage under the NPS. Employees eligible under the order will have three months from the date of issue to submit their request for shifting to the OPS. The application deadline has been fixed as December 28, 2026. The option will be considered final, and employees who fail to apply within the prescribed period will continue under the NPS. Applications will have to be submitted through the



Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO), who will forward them to the Head of Department or Appointing Authority before sending them to the concerned Administrative Department. The department will verify eligibility and issue the required order within one month. Once an employee is brought under the OPS, their NPS account will be closed from the first day of the month following the issuance of the coverage order. Such employees will then be required to contribute to the General Provident Fund (GPF). The order also specifies procedures for handling employee and

government contributions, along with adjustments related to the growth of the NPS corpus due to investment returns. The complete process, from exercising the option to closing the NPS account, must be completed within 120 days after the Administrative Department issues the coverage order. Manjeet Singh Patel, President of All India NPS Employees Federation, said the move addresses concerns of employees whose recruitment process began before the introduction of the NPS. "The employees of Jammu & Kashmir whose recruit-

ment was advertised or notified before December 24, 2009, have now been given a one-time option under Government Order No. 305-F of 2026 to switch from the New Pension Scheme (NPS) to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS)," he said. He added that employees appointed against vacancies advertised under earlier rules should not face disadvantages due to changes introduced later. "Appointments made against old advertisements should, as far as possible, be governed by the rules that existed at the time of advertisement."

Systematix Corporate Services Invests Rs.10 Crore In Subsidiary SWASPL Rights Issue

Mumbai: Systematix Corporate Services Ltd, announced an investment of Rs.10 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Systematix Wealth & Asset Services Private Limited (SWASPL). The investment was made by subscribing

to 1 crore equity shares of Rs.10 each at par through a rights issue. SWASPL, formerly known as Systematix Wealth & Asset Management Private Limited and Systematix Ventures Private Limited, primarily operates in Alternative Investment

Funds, Wealth Management, and distribution services for financial products. It is registered with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and as a Portfolio Manager with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. SWASPL re-

ported a turnover of Rs.193.06 lakh for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. In previous years, the company recorded Rs.0.02 lakh in FY 2023-24 and nil turnover in FY 2024-25. The subsidiary was incorporated on September 3, 2013. The transaction is clas-

sified as a related party transaction, conducted at arm's length. Systematix Corporate Services stated that the promoter and promoter groups have no interest in SWASPL beyond their existing shareholding and directorship.

Payal Rajput Rules Fashion As Dark Queen



Payal Rajput is setting the style charts on fire once again. The actress stunned in an all-black look, wearing a beaded corset-style blouse with sheer detailing and a flowing drape saree. She completed the look with a jewelled maang tikka, soft waves and glowing makeup. The elegant yet edgy styling has won hearts online and proves she knows how to own the camera. On the work front, Payal was last seen on Telugu screens in Mangalavaaram in 2023. She had no release last year. This year, she appeared in the Punjabi film The Great Punjab Robbery, which did not work at the box office. Even so, her fashion game keeps getting stronger with every appearance, and her fans are waiting to see her back in a big Telugu project soon.

That's Fanboy Anirudh For Rajini!

The initial songs from Jailer 2 received a dull response, but there was a lot of expectation for the latest song, One Name. Well, the song has finally been released, and Anirudh has delivered what many fans were waiting for a decent number. One Name may not be an out-and-out mass anthem like Hukum from Jailer, but it works well as a celebration of Superstar Rajinikanth. Anirudh's love and admiration for Rajinikanth can be clearly felt in the song, making it look like a proper fanboy tribute.

The song has also arrived at an important time for Jailer 2. The film has a huge theatrical target, and the makers need to create strong pre-release hype before the film hits the screens. With the initial songs getting only average response, One Name gives the team a much-needed boost. Anirudh is expected to play a key role in building the film's hype through his music and background score. His combination with Rajinikanth worked



extremely well in the first Jailer, and expectations are naturally high for the sequel. Now, all eyes are on Nora Fatehi's special song and the

theatrical trailer. If both manage to create strong buzz, Jailer 2 could enter the final promotional phase with much better momentum

Nabha Natesh Sets the Ocean on Fire

Nabha Natesh has turned up the temperature on social media with a fresh set of vacation pictures, and fans are calling it sizzling. The actress is holidaying at a stunning water villa, where she poses in the golden sunlight wearing a nude-brown twisted halter bikini top teamed with textured high-waist trousers. Her wavy auburn hair, closed eyes and dreamy sun-kissed pose make the frame look straight out of a travel magazine. In another shots, Nabha stands as a silhouette against the turquoise sea, wearing a wide-brim hat and leaning on the balcony railing, with the clear blue sky framed perfectly by the thatched roof. Effortless, bold and full of holiday vibes, Nabha's pictures have set the timeline on fire, and fans simply cannot stop hitting the like button right now.



Taapsee Pannu Rules Filmfare Cover In Style



Taapsee Pannu proves once again that cover shoots are her playground. Featuring on the latest Filmfare cover, the actress looked stunning in a sky-blue sequin mini dress with a golden potli, and her curls stole the show. The shoot also featured a printed teal co-ord set, a shimmering gold gown, a royal blue slit dress and a chic white bandeau set with a bubble hem. Every look was different, yet every look was a winner. Coming to work, 2026 has not been kind to Taapsee at the box office, as Advocate Raavi and Gandhari both underperformed. But she is not losing steam. She is currently shooting for Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?, where she plays ACP Komal Sharma, and fans are eagerly waiting for a strong comeback on the big screen.

NTR Appeared In Good Mood After A Long Time!

NTR has attended a Public event after a long time. He was the Chief Guest for Don't Trouble The Trouble Pre-release event. He just recovered from an injury and was out of sight for fans for a very long and they are expectedly delighted. What makes the event more special is that the actor looks comfortable and in good mood after a very long time.

Usually a live wire, NTR used to be serious and angry in the previous events he attended. He used to even yell at fans which was so unlike of NTR. War-2 Pre-release event was easily the worst in terms of that.

But then, the star looks jovial and composed in DTTT Event. Naturally, the fans are delighted. Speaking at the event, NTR announced that he almost recovered from the injury and will resume the shoot of Dragon very soon. Much to the relief of fans, he also announced that the movie will release as planned (June 11th, 2027).

