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THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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States Focus



ARMY CHIEF BEGINS 3-DAY RUSSIA VISIT FOR DEFENCE TIES

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth is undertaking a three-day visit to Russia starting Wednesday to bolster the longstanding defence partnership and military-to-military cooperation between the two countries, the defence ministry here said.

During the visit, he will hold discussions with Colonel General Andrei Nikolayevich Mordvichev, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Land Forces, on issues of mutual interest, including professional military cooperation and training, officials said.

The Army chief will also pay tribute to fallen soldiers at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow.

General Seth will visit the National Defence Control Centre in Moscow and interact with senior officials of the Russian Ministry of Defence, including Vasily Sergeyevich Osmakov, Deputy Minister of Defence, dealing with defence industry and procurement, officials said. (*PNS*)



DHAMI TURNS 51; PM MODI, AMIT SHAH EXTEND GREETINGS

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami turned 51 on Wednesday and shared the occasion's happiness with differently-abled children.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath among numerous leaders extended their birthday wishes to him.

On his birthday, Dhami visited the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities here and shared the occasion's happiness with the children studying there.

The children appeared excited and cheerful to have him in their midst. His wife, Geeta Dhami, was also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that time spent with children infuses life with new energy and inspiration. He remarked that the children's affection and the happiness on their faces constitute the most special and memorable birthday gift for him. (*PTI*)

Aspire to be among early leaders in emerging technologies, says PM

New Delhi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India should aspire to be among the early leaders in emerging technologies and asserted that the Government is committed to a predictable and responsive policy environment.

Charing a semiconductor roundtable with leading CEOs here, the prime minister also emphasised the importance of close collaboration between the Government and the semiconductor industry in shaping India's technology future.

He highlighted India's strong foundation of talent, technology adoption and infrastructure, and called for greater industry participation in skilling, innovation and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said.

Modi said India should aspire to be among the early leaders in emerging technologies and noted the significant progress made in the semiconductor sector.

He said the ecosystem is now moving from foundational efforts to a phase of greater scale and opportunity. The prime minister reiterated the Government's commitment to a predictable and responsive policy environment, while emphasising that policies must evolve in line with technological advancements and industry requirements, the statement said.

He invited industry leaders to share suggestions on policy and administrative measures, and assured them that their inputs would be given due consideration in further strengthening the sector. Modi encouraged industry leaders to actively participate in the next phase of India's semiconductor growth.

The CEOs appreciated the Government's sustained efforts to develop India's semiconductor capabilities, noting the progress made in manufacturing, design, infrastructure and talent development.

They expressed confidence in the opportunities emerging under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 and in the country's potential to build capabilities across the semiconductor value chain, including manufacturing, research and development (R&D), advanced technologies and supporting industries.

Referring to the target of training one crore people in AI, Modi said India's talent pool, combined with the experience and capabilities of global industry leaders, can create significant opportunities.

Appreciating the prime minister's leadership and support, the CEOs said the progress achieved in recent years has created a strong foundation for further industry participation.

They expressed their commitment to contributing to India's emergence as a globally-competitive semiconductor-and-technology hub.

The meeting was attended by CEOs, heads and representatives of various organisations, including SEMI, Micron, Infineon, Applied Materials, ASML, Merck, Tokyo Electron Limited, FujiFilm, AMD, Intel, Tata Electronics, Lam Research, Rapidus, NXP, Foxconn, Semi Conductor Devices, Advantest, Celesta Capital, CG Power and IBM Research.

India expresses concern over reported drone attack near Mecca



External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

New Delhi

India on Wednesday voiced deep concern over a reported drone attack near Mecca in Saudi Arabia, urging an early return to peace and stability across West Asia.

Saudi authorities said air-defence forces intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by Yemen's Houthi movement before it could enter restricted airspace near the holy city on Tuesday evening. The Houthis have rejected the allegation, maintaining that they have no intention of threatening Mecca or other Islamic holy sites.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the reported incident was especially concerning because of Mecca's importance to Muslims worldwide.

"India reiterates its condemnation of attacks on the sovereign territory of Saudi Arabia and of actions that endanger civilian lives and infrastructure," Jaiswal said, adding that New Delhi hoped for the "early restoration of peace and stability in the region."

The reported incident came amid renewed tensions between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis, who control significant areas of Yemen. Saudi-led coalition spokesperson Turki al-Maliki said the Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted the drone south of Mecca. He described the security of the two holy mosques and pilgrims as a "red line."

Saudi Arabia briefly placed several areas along its western coast, including Mecca, on security alert on Tuesday. The alert was lifted within minutes, according to reports.

A Houthi military source, speaking through Yemen's SABA news agency, denied that the group had targeted Mecca. The source said there was no threat from Yemen directed at the city or any other holy site.

The Saudi-Houthi conflict has its roots in the Yemen war that escalated in 2015, when a Saudi-led military coalition intervened after Houthi forces seized Sanaa and displaced the internationally recognised Government.

India has repeatedly raised concerns about attacks affecting civilian infrastructure and commercial shipping in the region. On Tuesday, New Delhi reiterated its opposition to such attacks and said strikes against Saudi economic assets could undermine regional stability and maritime navigation around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

The issue also featured in discussions between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit on September 13.

India had last week condemned reported Houthi attacks on Saudi Aramco energy facilities, which Saudi authorities said left 73 people injured. Previous Houthi attacks have also targeted Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline, a major infrastructure link capable of carrying oil across the kingdom.

Nearly 1,500 PM mementos up for e-auction

New Delhi



Nearly 1,500 souvenirs received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including a silver memento of Lord Ram, gold-plated Radha Krishna artwork, models of frontline warships INS Surat and INS Nilgiri and a few sports memorabilia, will be part of the eighth PM Mementos e-auction beginning September 17. Addressing a press conference at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) here, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the e-auction will run till October 31.

A set of mementos and gifts, presented to Modi in different parts of the country, will also be on display at the NGMA. These include models of the Navy's stealth frigate INS Nilgiri and missile destroyer INS Surat, which were commissioned in the presence of Modi on January 15 last year.

According to labels attached to the two models, they were presented to Modi by the Navy chief during their commissioning. Shekhawat said that 1,498 objects are part of the e-auction this year, which will go live on Thursday, coinciding with the prime minister's 76th birthday.

The eighth edition also features 50 "identified hero objects", including a silver memento of Lord Ram from Karnataka with a base price of ₹13.50 lakh, a silver replica of Kakatiya Kala Thoranam with a base price of ₹9 lakh, a framed tree of life Gond art painting with a base price of ₹7.5 lakh, Lord Jagannath Parivar on chariot with a base price of ₹6 lakh, and a gold-plated framed Radha Krishna artwork, with a base price of ₹5.40 lakh, according a note shared by the culture ministry.

The PM Mementos e-auction celebrates India's heritage, art, craftsmanship and cultural diversity, while enabling public participation and contributing towards a significant national cause through the Namami Gange Programme, the ministry said.

Shekhawat said more than 7,400 objects were auctioned during the first seven editions, fetching ₹52 crore.

In a written response to a query in Lok Sabha in August, Shekhawat had said that the Union Government received ₹1.89 crore through the 2025 edition of the e-auction, while the corresponding figure for the sixth edition in 2024 was ₹2.24 crore.

DRI seizes 231.8 kg methamphetamine from Assam Tripura

New Delhi/Guwahati/Agartala



In one of the largest methamphetamine hauls in the North-East this year, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) dismantled a multi-State smuggling syndicate on Tuesday, seizing 231.8 kg of suspected methamphetamine tablets from four trucks intercepted across Assam and Tripura.

Authorities arrested three men and took all four vehicles into custody under the NDPS Act. The intelligence-led operation, supported by the Assam Rifles, targeted a network moving large consignments of pinkish-orangish tablets, widely known in the region as yaba, hidden in the roofs of drivers' cabins. Officials put the illicit street value of the seizure in the range of several hundred crore rupees.

The first strike came at Ramnathpur in Hailakandi district, about 100 km from Silchar. Acting on specific inputs, DRI officers, assisted by the 38 Battalion of Assam Rifles, stopped a suspect truck. A search of the cabin roof yielded 275 packets weighing 55 kg. Officers found a second truck from the same syndicate nearby. Neither its driver nor the handyman was present. Officers recovered another 271 packets weighing 54.2 kg, also packed into the roof cavity. Together, the two recoveries accounted for 109.2 kg.

Police arrested one person on the spot and seized both trucks. At almost the same time, a goods carrier declared to be carrying cement was intercepted at Teliamura, about 45 km from Agartala, while travelling from Khowai. The 28 Battalion of Assam Rifles assisted the DRI team. Examination of the driver's cabin roof produced 295 plastic packets containing 72.6 kg of similarly coloured tablets. Officers arrested the driver and seized the vehicle.

Further intelligence generated during the raids led officers to a fourth truck near Panisagar in North Tripura. A search recovered 50 kg of suspected methamphetamine tablets, again concealed in the vehicle. Police arrested the driver and seized the truck. The coordinated action netted 231.8 kg of tablets in a single day and cut a major artery of the syndicate's transport chain. Investigators said the concealment method-specially prepared roof cavities in ordinary-looking commercial trucks- was designed to defeat routine checks along the Silchar-Agartala corridor.

The Tuesday haul follows a similar pattern recorded last month. In August, DRI teams operating near Silchar and in Mizoram seized 76 kg of methamphetamine tablets hidden in fabricated cavities in vehicles. Officials treat the two episodes as part of the same pressure campaign against synthetic-drug pipelines feeding off the Myanmar border and using Assam and Tripura as transit belts towards the rest of India and, in some cases, Bangladesh.

Methamphetamine tablets remain among the most profitable contraband moving through the North-East.

Their compact size, high street price and demand in urban markets make them attractive to organised groups that hire drivers, modify trucks and switch routes at short notice. DRI officers said the latest interceptions show the syndicate was moving multiple consignments in parallel rather than relying on a single vehicle. Cases have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The arrested drivers are expected to be produced in court, and remand will be sought to trace consignors, financiers and the origin of the tablets. Forensic confirmation of the seized material is under way. For enforcement agencies in the region, the operation is being read as proof that simultaneous watches at several points can still catch a network that splits loads to reduce risk. Four trucks, three arrests and nearly 232 kg of tablets in one coordinated sweep have, at least for now, taken a large commercial quantity off the road. Investigators are now trying to determine whether the syndicate has other vehicles already in motion.

Rohingyas start dismantling shelters in Jammu after eviction notices

Jammu



A large number of Rohingya muslims(illegal immigrants from Myanmar) have, for the first time, started uprooting their temporary shelters in different parts of Jammu after the landowners directed them to vacate their plots, occupied for around twenty long years.

The families were seen dismantling their shops and shanties in the Kiryani Talab area of Narwal and adjoining areas on Wednesday.

The first batch of Rohingya muslims claimed to have settled down in the Narwal Bala area of Jammu as early as 2006. A campaign was launched against them in February 2017 when king-size posters with slogans 'Rohingyas, Bangladeshis Quit Jammu ' surfaced in different parts of Jammu.

The J&K National Panthers Party installed the posters, urging Jammu citizens to unite to save the history, culture, and identity of Dogras. According to Rohingyas, who spoke to The Pioneer on Wednesday, their landowners have been served notices by the district authorities to evict them from their plots or face legal action for non-compliance.

Collecting their valuables, the Rohingyas told The Pioneer, "We have been told by the plot owners to immediately vacate their temporary structures and step out of the plots".

Dil Mohammad, one of the senior members of the Rohingya community, also appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene in the matter and allow them to stay put in Jammu till the situation normalises in their native country.

He also urged UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to intervene and prevent their ouster from Jammu. The district authorities in Jammu launched this massive crackdown almost a month after a high-level panel examining demographic changes visited a Rohingya cluster in the Narwal Bala area of Jammu.

The visit was conducted as part of an on-the-spot assessment of the settlements and issues related to demographic changes. According to the latest assessment, there are 6,737 Rohingyas and 46 Bangladeshis spread across 10 districts in Jammu.

In the Kashmir Valley, there are 919 Rohingyas and 458 Bangladeshis across six districts.

The high-level committee on Demographic changes was informed that 101 cases involving 179 men and 21 women were registered against Rohingyas in Jammu. In the Kashmir Valley, 16 cases involving 41 women and four men have been registered.

The district administration has initiated action at several locations across Jammu where settlements housing Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have been identified.

In December 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir police teams had launched a similar crackdown on over three dozen locations across five districts of Jammu province to expose the 'unholy' nexus between a large number of facilitators and Rohingyas (illegal immigrants from Myanmar).

Ten (10) FIRs were registered by the police, seven in Jammu district alone and one each in Doda, Kishtwar Rajouri, and Poonch districts.

Earlier, the UT administration launched a special verification drive in the first week of March 2021 in the sports stadium in Jammu. At the end of the drive, a total of 155 Rohingyas were found to be staying illegally in Jammu, and all of them were lodged in the holding centre, at Hiranagar. At present, more than 250 Rohingyas have been camping in the holding centre.

The majority of Rohingyas in Jammu earn their livelihood by doing daily wage jobs and some of them have become scrap dealers. Children support their families by collecting and selling recyclable material, and a few women work as daily wagers in the dry fruit industry, domestic help, daily wage labourers with the contractors of Jammu Municipal Corporation, and in local factories/sweepers in the hotels/guest houses etc.

CITU announces Parliament march for workers' demands

New Delhi



The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has announced a mass mobilisation of workers in Delhi on December 1, 2026, with workers set to march towards Parliament over a range of demands, including the repeal of the Labour Codes, higher minimum wages and the regularisation of contractual workers.

In a statement, CITU said workers across India are facing a "massive policy assault" by Governments at the Centre and in the states while struggling to secure sustainable livelihoods. It alleged that corporate profits are soaring at the same time as public resources and national assets are being transferred to corporate interests.

CITU said the historic February 12, 2026 General Strike, called by the Central Trade Unions with the support of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, brought the anger of the working class to the fore. According to the trade union, the strike was followed, particularly in northern and central India, by a series of spontaneous working-class upsurges, many of which continue.

The organisation said these struggles are a response to the non-revision of minimum wages for decades, violations of the eight-hour working day, denial of overtime wages, bonuses and statutory benefits, inhuman working conditions and the growing contractualisation of employment in both the private and Government sectors.

CITU also alleged that police and administrative authorities in several states, particularly Uttar Pradesh, have attempted to suppress workers' protests. It referred to the use of the National Security Act (NSA) against activists, saying the action was subsequently quashed by the Allahabad High Court, which also imposed fines on the Noida District Magistrate over what CITU described as misuse of office. The union further said several CITU leaders were placed under house arrest and workers were jailed for months.

Despite what it described as attempts at repression, CITU said workers' agitations in defence of their livelihoods have continued. The organisation alleged that the BJP-led Central Government has refused to address the concerns of workers and remains determined to implement the Labour Codes.

"Despite our sustained and determined resistance, the Government shows no sign of changing course," CITU said, adding that the voices of millions of workers have remained unheard.

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EDITORIAL

The Voter's Mandate Cannot Be Traded

Democracy does not end when the votes are counted. The real responsibility of an elected representative begins from that moment. Every vote represents the trust of a citizen, and every mandate carries an obligation to respect that trust. When an elected representative changes political allegiance after winning an election, the issue is therefore much larger than one individual or one political party. It concerns the sanctity of the voter's mandate itself. The Telangana High Court's September 18, 2026 decision disqualifying Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender under the anti-defection law has brought this fundamental question back into focus. Nagender was elected from Khairatabad on a BRS ticket in the December 2023 Assembly elections and later joined the Congress in March 2024. The High Court set aside the Speaker's decision that had allowed him to continue as an MLA. The central issue is simple: Can an elected representative change political allegiance without seeking a fresh mandate from the people who elected him? An election is not merely a contest between individuals. In India's parliamentary system, candidates contest under party symbols, campaign on party programmes and seek votes based on a political identity. Voters may have several reasons for choosing a candidate, but the party and its policies inevitably form part of that electoral choice. When that political identity changes immediately after the election, questions naturally arise about the validity of continuing with the same mandate. This is precisely why India has an anti-defection law. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution was introduced to address political defections and protect the stability and integrity of elected institutions. Yet, despite the law, defections have remained a recurring feature of Indian politics. The Nagender case therefore has significance beyond Khairatabad. It raises a broader democratic principle: an MLA's seat is not personal property. It is a public office obtained through an electoral mandate. A politician has every right to reconsider his political position. Political freedom cannot mean that an individual is permanently tied to one party. But there is an equally important principle on the other side: if the political foundation on which the representative sought the people's votes changes, the people should have the opportunity to express their opinion again. That is where resignation and a fresh election become important democratic mechanisms. If a representative believes that changing parties is justified, the strongest democratic course is to return to the electorate and seek a new mandate. If voters accept the new political alignment, the representative receives a fresh democratic endorsement. If they do not, that too is the people's decision. The importance of the High Court's judgment lies in reinforcing accountability within the electoral system. It sends the discussion away from individual political calculations and back toward the voter. For political parties, the episode also carries a wider lesson.







Adani To Develop India's Largest 'Skill And Employ' Program, Partners With Singapore's ITEES



Ahmedabad: In line with Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani's social philosophy of emphasis on service, the Adani Group has partnered with ITE Education Services (ITEES) of Singapore to build a skilled talent pipeline for serving the needs of industries, including those relating to green energy, manufacturing, Hi-tech, project excellence and industrial design.To build this talent pool of industry-ready workforce, the Adani family will donate over Rs 2,000 crore for establishing internationally benchmarked schools of excellence.Each of these finishing schools, called Adani Global Skills Academy, will select students from technical and vocational education backgrounds in India aligned to their industry and role aspiration, the conglomerate said in a release on Wednesday.Once these students have been certified in their chosen field of study, they will be employed within the Adani Group as well as the broader industry, depending on their role and field of training."This will ensure that trained professionals are first-day first-hour industry ready and benchmarked to global standards of excellence," the release said.Adani Group Chairman said in a post on X that they are launching the world's largest finishing school in Mundra. "Delighted to announce one of India's largest Skill & Employ initiatives! In partnership with Singapore's ITEES, the global leader in technical training, the Adani Group is launching the world's largest finishing school in Mundra. This state-of-the-art facility will blend AI-driven immersive learning with cutting-edge innovation centres, and annually train over 25,000 learners to help accelerate the Make in India movement," he said.Adani Group partners with ITE Education Services (ITEES) of Singapore to build a skilled talent pipeline. (X@gautam_adani)The Adani Group release said that in its initial phase, the program will prioritize establishing the world's largest finishing school for technical training in Mundra, Gujarat, aiming to skill over 25,000 learners annually for a wide range of industry and service roles.These learners would be fresh graduates and diploma holders with vocational and technical qualifications from ITIs or Polytechnics and would be selected for an intensive boot camp experience within the schools.The release cited Gautam Adani's social philosophy is "seva sadhna hai, seva prarthna hai aur seva hi prarthna hai".The Adani Global Skills Academy will be the largest of its kind in the world and provide an immersive learning experience, with innovation centres and AI-based simulators combined with mixed reality-based learning, within a fully residential facility for students and faculty, the release said.To ensure a high-quality learning experience, Adani is partnering with ITEES Singapore, a world leader in providing career-oriented technical and vocational training and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards.TEES Singapore will serve as a knowledge partner towards creating a continuous feeder for this technically qualified and industry-ready talent. The areas of collaboration will include creating a best-in-class learning experience that leverages world-class infrastructure, and immersive technical content and roping in leading faculty with deep expertise across new-age industries."This partnership is critical to our initiative as a Group to build high-level technical talent and is in line with our commitment towards the Make-in-India focus across our portfolio. With deep engagement across academic quality assurance, certification-led learning pathways, faculty and student exchange programs and leadership development, this partnership will embed the best of application-led learning to support industries across sectors, thus contributing to Viksit Bharat," said Robin Bhowmik, CEO of Adani Skills and Education."ITEES is pleased to collaborate with Adani to share ITE's expertise and knowledge in skills education and training. Through this meaningful partnership, ITEES aims to enhance skill development and create lasting impact by transforming education and lives," said Suresh Natarajan, CEO of ITEES, Singapore.Over the years, ITEES has received many accolades for its trailblazing transformation in technical education, including being the first education institution to win the Singapore Quality Award with special commendation in 2011.At his son Jeet's wedding, Gautam Adani announced Rs 10,000 crores to various social causes, including building infrastructure in healthcare, education and skill development. He also announced over Rs 6,000 crore to build two integrated health campuses, Adani Health Cities (AHCs), in Ahmedabad and Mumbai.Headquartered in Ahmedabad,

BHEL received ?6,200-crore order from DVC for Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project in West Bengal



Varun Kesavan Managing editor E Mail I'd – varunkesavanpressmedia@gmail.com"State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on Tuesday (February 11) said it has received a letter of intent (LoI) from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for the steam generator island package of the 2x660 MW Raghunathpur Thermal Power Station phase-II project in Purulia, West Bengal."The contract, valued at approximately ?6,200 crore (excluding taxes and duties), was awarded through international competitive bidding.""Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received Letter of Intent (LOI) from DVC for Steam Generator Island Pkg. of 2x660 MW Raghunathpur Thermal Power Station Phase-II project," according to a stock exchange filing."The scope of work includes the supply, erection, testing, and commissioning of steam generators and auxiliaries, electrostatic precipitators (ESP), flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems, ash handling systems, and related electrical and control instrumentation (C&I) works. Additionally, BHEL will undertake associated civil works."The execution timeline for the project is set at 48 months and 52 months for the respective units."BHEL's net profit increased 170% to ?124 crore, while its revenue grew 32% from last year to ?7,277 crore. While revenue beat expectations, the net profit missed analyst estimates of ?175 crore."BHEL's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), grew 40% to ?304 crore, while the EBITDA margin expanded 30 basis points to 4.2% from 3.9% last year. The margin expansion was kept in check by a steep jump in other expenses."Shares of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd ended at ?199.45, down by ?3.45, or 1.70%, on the BSE.

OYO to expend $10 million in US-based G6 Hospitality's digital assets



Varun Kesavan Managing editor E Mail I'd – varunkesavanpressmedia@gmail.com"Travel tech unicorn OYO on Tuesday announced its plans to invest $10 million to grow the digital assets of US-based G6 Hospitality, including its website and app."OYO recently acquired iconic American budget hotel chain Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands from Blackstone Real Estate for $525 million in an all-cash transaction, as it eyes expansion in the US."The company plans to accelerate G6 Hospitality's growth, targeting the addition of over 150 hotels in 2025 under the Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands."This expansion is expected to strengthen the brands' presence in key markets such as Texas, California, Georgia and Arizona.""The company plans to focus on growing the Motel 6 website and the My6 app. It aims to increase app installs by 4X before the summer season kicks in and will also use advanced digital targeting strategies, focusing on high-intent customers through direct partnerships with leading digital platforms like Google and Microsoft," OYO said in a statement."The investment will power targeted digital campaigns aimed at reaching customers actively searching for accommodations.""The investment underscores G6's commitment to supporting its franchise network by driving direct bookings and reducing dependency on third-party platforms," said Shashank Jain, Head of Online Revenue of G6 Hospitality."G6 Hospitality recently announced a strategic partnership with HotelKey, a hospitality technology provider, to enhance its technological capabilities across its network of properties in the US and Canada.G6 Hospitality recently formed a strategic partnership with HotelKey, a company that provides technology for the hospitality industry. This partnership aims to improve the technology used across its properties in the US and Canada.Oyo reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 166 crore in Q3 FY25, which is six times higher than the Rs 25 crore in the same period last year. Its revenue also grew to Rs 1,695 crore, reflecting a 31% year-on-year increase, showing a strong recovery from the flat growth seen in FY24.

CPI Inflation Eases To 4.31% In Jan 2025: Government Data



New Delhi: The All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of January 2025 over January last year is 4.31% (Provisional), as per the Government data.There is a decline of 91 basis points in headline inflation of January 2025 in comparison to December 2024. Data shows that it is the lowest year-on-year inflation after August 2024. Data also revealed that inflation in a dozen of the states is higher than the national inflation rates. Kerala (6.76), Odisha (6.05) and Chhattisgarh (5.85) top the chart.The three-day Invest Karnataka 2025 summit commenced in Bengaluru on Tuesday, drawing over 5,000 business representatives and diplomats from 16 countries. The event aims to showcase Karnataka's investment potential and reinforce its position as a global economic hub.Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, inaugurating the summit, emphasised Bengaluru's role in shaping India's future. "Karnataka, with its world-class infrastructure and conducive business environment, is a prime destination for investment. Entrepreneurs investing here will find nationwide support," he said.Highlighting Bengaluru's contributions to technology and research, he added, "Anyone with doubts about India's future should visit this city and witness its advancements in IT, startups, and revolutionary research." He noted that Bengaluru is poised to launch the first AI model from India, leveraging its vast talent pool.ingh also addressed the evolving business climate in India, stating, "Earlier, investors faced bureaucratic hurdles, but today, they are welcomed with open arms. With India emerging as the world's largest marketplace, critical policy decisions are aligning with its economic growth."Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reaffirmed Karnataka's commitment to being the most investor-friendly state in India. "With a stable policy environment and business-friendly governance, we ensure that every investment made here thrives," he said. Tracing Karnataka's rich economic history from ancient craftsmanship to modern technology, he highlighted its leadership in research and development. "With over 400 R&D centres specialising in AI, robotics, biotech, and space, Karnataka is India's intellectual hub. Our academic and industry collaborations are upskilling youth for future industries."Stock markets closed with losses for the fourth consecutive day on Monday with the benchmark Sensex declining by 548 points as fresh US tariff threats shook investor confidence and triggered selling in bluechip banking, metal and oil shares.The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 548.39 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at a week's low of 77,311.80. Intra-day, it tanked 753.3 points or 0.96 per cent to 77,106.89.The NSE Nifty declined 178.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 23,381.60 dragged by losses in Trent, Tata Steel and Power Grid.Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth has said work concerning developing a taxonomy for climate finance is going on and it should be ready in the next six months or so."Work is happening, and in fact, the steel ministry has completed their work. They have issued their taxonomy for the steel sector," he told PTI in an interview.However, he said, a much more comprehensive exercise covering all sectors of the economy is going on and a concept paper has already been shared with stakeholders concerned and their views have been obtained.Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said she is likely to introduce the new income tax bill, which will replace the six-decade-old I-T Act, in the Lok Sabha in the coming week. After introduction in the Upper House, the bill will be sent to a parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the bill on Friday.Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as the RBI's rate cut did not spring any major surprise for the markets and investors turned to profit-taking amid foreign fund outflows.Registering its third day of decline, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 197.97 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 77,860.19, in a volatile trade.

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'Aasmaan' teaser released

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD



The teaser of the upcoming Telugu film 'Aasmaan' was released on Wednesday. Produced by Kondaru Venkatesh and Srikanth Mannem under Klin Kaara Celluloids, the thriller marks a new chapter for the production house's maiden venture. Directed by Ram Nandhan and headlined by Meghamsh Srihari, the teaser introduces a world where rituals, mystery, fear and violence appear to exist on the same fault line, offering only fragments of a larger story while leaving its most crucial questions unanswered.

The film brings together a creative team led by writer-director Ram Nandhan, who makes his Telugu debut with Aasmaan. Having previously directed two Arabic films, while also working as an assistant to veteran filmmaker Kodi Ramakrishna, Ram Nandhan brings a cross-cultural filmmaking perspective to a story rooted in suspense and mystery. The film's technical crew includes music by Prashanth R Vihari, cinematography by Shoyabh, and art direction by Krishna Mohan Talluri. With its teaser choosing atmosphere over exposition, Aasmaan positions itself as a thriller that wants audiences to look beyond the obvious.

TG Minorities Study Circle organizes placement drive, 177 selected

I HYDERABAD



Under the guidance of Minister for Minorities Welfare & Public Enterprises, Mohammed Azharuddin, the Telangana Minorities Study Circle & Career Counseling Centre organized its first placement drive on Wednesday. The placement drive was conducted in association with Foxconn Interconnect Technology (FIT). A total of 267 candidates participated in the interview process, representing Intermediate, undergraduate, engineering, commerce, science, management, postgraduate and other professional qualifications.

Following the recruitment and selection process, 177 candidates were selected for employment opportunities. The first batch of 50 selected candidates is scheduled to undergo onboarding on September 21, 2026, while the remaining 127 selected candidates will be accommodated in subsequent onboarding batches as per the company's schedule and requirements. The placement drive was successfully conducted under the supervision of Study Circle Director Tariq Anwar and Additional Director Sara Shuttari.

Hare Krishna Foundation inaugurates 'Centralized Community Kitchen'

I KARIMNAGAR



The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India) inaugurated on Wednesday a state-of-the-art Centralized Community Kitchen at Karimnagar Market Yard to provide nutritious breakfasts to government school and college students under the Telangana School Breakfast Program. The facility was inaugurated by Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud, in the presence of Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji, President, HKMCF India, along with public representatives, government officials and other dignitaries.

The kitchen will prepare and distribute fresh, hot and hygienically prepared breakfasts to 49,025 students across 669 government schools and 11 junior colleges in 17 mandals. Spread across a 10,000 sq. ft. facility, the kitchen features automated systems for idli, dosa, puri, curry and sambar preparation, along with a food laboratory, RO water treatment plant, boiler, gas bank and effluent treatment plant.

Minister Prabhakar appreciated the initiative, stating that nutritious breakfasts can support children's health, education and government-school enrolment. Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji thanked the Telangana Government for its support and said the foundation hopes to make a meaningful contribution towards building a healthier, nourished and educated generation in line with the vision of "Telangana Rising."

VBN brings together over 400 entrepreneurs at Founder's Day

I HYDERABAD



Vysya Business Network (VBN) organized its Founder's Day & All Chapters Meet on Tuesday at HICC–Novotel, Hitech City, bringing together more than 400 entrepreneurs, business owners and self-employed professionals from across its chapters. Founded by Emmadi Siva Kumar, VBN has grown into a business networking platform with five chapters in Hyderabad and one chapter in Nizamabad. Each chapter comprises up to 70 unique business owners. The organization is now expanding its presence to Warangal and Siddipet.

Speaking on the occasion, Emmadi Siva Kumar, Founder, Vysya Business Network (VBN), said that VBN was created with the vision of bringing business owners together, creating meaningful connections and helping one another grow. The gathering brought together entrepreneurs, business owners and self-employed professionals who are job creators, employers and contributors to Telangana's economic growth.

Radhakrishna, Apex Chairman; Saichand, Apex Secretary; Veeresh Juluri; Mogadampalli Shankar, Apex Social Coordinator; and other VBN representatives and members participated in the event. The Founder's Day & All Chapters Meet concluded with members reaffirming their commitment to strengthening business networking, collaboration and mutual growth.

Bharat Mandapam statue symbolizes resurgent Bharat

I HYDERABAD



During the recently concluded BRICS summit in New Delhi, visuals of the tall Nataraja statue at the entrance of Bharat Mandapam drew public attention. Installed during the G20 Summit in September 2023, the statue is considered the world's tallest Nataraja statue made of Ashtadhatu, an eight-metal alloy, standing 27 feet high.

Among the great images of Indian civilisation, few possess the visual authority of the Nataraja. In immortalised Chola statue, Shiva dances within a circle of flame, one foot planted on ignorance and the other raised in liberating grace. His hair flies outward and his arms extend in several directions, yet his face remains serenely composed.

In Nataraja, motion and stillness, destruction and renewal, are held together in one form. This is not merely a god dancing; it is a philosophical vision of a universe that is continuously becoming, dissolving, and beginning again.

As physicist Brian Greene sees, "In the dance of Nataraja, we find the beauty of mathematical precision and the mystery of artistic expression converging. It is a celebration of both the rational and the intuitive aspects of human consciousness."

In Sanatan, Shiva represents universal consciousness. His cosmic dance reflects the continuous play between consciousness and manifestation, as Shiva projects and withdraws the universe. Manifestation unfolds into countless forms, energies, and experiences, while withdrawal dissolves them back into source consciousness, expressing the perpetual cycle of creation and dissolution.

Shiva is always accompanied by Shakti. The Ardhanarishvara form symbolises their inseparable union. Here, Shakti represents the dynamic aspect of consciousness that gives rise to diversity in forms and experiences. This divine feminine energy permeates existence, and the interplay of Shiva and Shakti is seen as the force behind reality's continual unfolding and transformation.

Sanatan philosophy also recognises Maya: the illusion of separation and duality within manifestation. Maya creates the appearance of individuality, veiling the underlying unity of consciousness and giving rise to the perception of separate entities, experiences, and limitations.

Spandan refers to the pulsation or vibration of consciousness—the underlying rhythm that gives rise to the continuous flux and transformation of reality. Nataraja statues are common in Sanatani households and public spaces. Three prominent examples—the ancient Nataraja at the New York State Museum, the statue at CERN, and the recent installation at Bharat Mandapam—tell distinct stories. The New York statue recalls how India's cultural heritage was plundered by the West. The CERN statue testifies to global recognition of the depth of Indian science and philosophy. The Bharat Mandapam statue symbolises a resurgent Bharat ready to take its rightful place among nations.



(S K Joshi, served as Chief Secretary of Telangana from February 2018 to December 2019)

India's Generation Alpha

If India fails to generate sufficient high-quality employment in manufacturing, services, green technologies and the digital economy, the demographic dividend could turn into a liability.

The working-age population share is expected to begin declining after the late 2040s, leaving a limited window to convert youth energy into sustained growth.Climate change and rapid urbanisation will further define their lives. Many Gen Alpha children are already aware of sustainability and inclusivity, values that shape their consumer preferences. As cities expand and extreme weather events intensify, this generation will demand cleaner air, resilient infrastructure and greener careers.

Reports such as the Council on Energy, Environment and Water's "Our Future India" emphasise the need to embed long-term foresight and youth voices into policymaking if India is to achieve a developed-nation status by 2047. Socially, Gen Alpha is navigating a unique tension. Parents often practise "high-control, high-enablement" parenting — providing devices while closely monitoring screen time. Digital spaces have become arenas for autonomy and identity formation in tightly scheduled lives.

Mental health, online safety and the digital divide between urban and rural, affluent and less privileged children will require sustained attention.For businesses, the implications are immediate. Brands must rethink engagement, shifting from direct child targeting toward household and parent-focused strategies as data protection rules tighten. For governments, the priority is clear: invest in foundational education, vocational skills aligned with emerging sectors such as semiconductors, renewable energy and AI, and create an environment where innovation and entrepreneurship can flourish.Generation Alpha will not merely inherit India's future — they will actively shape it.

Whether as consumers, workers, voters or activists, their digital fluency, early agency and rising expectations position them as potential architects of a Viksit Bharat. The choices made today in classrooms, policy corridors and boardrooms will determine whether this vast cohort becomes the engine of India's next economic leap or a generation constrained by unfulfilled promise.The clock is ticking. By the time the youngest of them reach adulthood in the 2040s, India will either have harnessed their potential or watched a historic opportunity slip away.

TPCC Vice-President offers prayers at Khairatabad Ganapathi

I HYDERABAD



Dr. Kota Neelima, TPCC Vice President and Congress Party In-charge for the Sanathnagar Assembly Constituency, visited the Sri Panchamukha Sankatahara Maha Ganapati at Khairatabad on Wednesday and offered special prayers. Members of the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Committee extended a warm welcome to her on the occasion. She prayed for the well-being, happiness, prosperity and good health of people across the state, seeking the blessings of Lord Ganesha.

Dr. Kota Neelima said that the Khairatabad Maha Ganapati enjoys widespread recognition across the country and attracts lakhs of devotees every year. She recalled that the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations at Khairatabad have been conducted with devotion and grandeur for the past 69 years. Dr. Kota Neelima appreciated the arrangements made by the festival committee to ensure that devotees visiting the Khairatabad Maha Ganapati do not face inconvenience.

Dr. Kota Neelima further stated that the government had provided various arrangements at and around the Ganesh pandal, including the installation of barricades to regulate the movement of devotees, CCTV cameras as part of security measures, and cranes and other necessary infrastructure to facilitate the smooth conduct of the immersion ceremony.

Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam Celebrated in WarangalGovernment Committed to Welfare and Development: Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairperson



Warangal, September 17: Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairperson Gadwala Vijayalakshmi said people's welfare is the core objective of the government's administration, as she addressed the official celebrations of Praja Palana Dinotsavam in Warangal on Wednesday.Vijayalakshmi, the chief guest at the event held at the Warangal IDOC grounds, hoisted the national flag and inspected the police guard of honour. Earlier, she paid floral tributes at the Amaraveerula Stupam (martyrs' memorial) at Khila Warangal.She recalled that September 17 holds special significance in Telangana's history as the day the Hyderabad State acceded to the Indian Union, and the state government has chosen to observe it as Praja Palana Dinotsavam (People's Governance Day). She said it is everyone's duty to remember the sacrifices of the warriors, freedom fighters, poets, artists and common people who struggled for Telangana's liberation.Vijayalakshmi paid homage to revolutionary leaders such as Komaram Bheem, Doddi Komuraiah, Ravi Narayana Reddy, Swami Ramananda Tirtha, Bhimireddy Narasimha Reddy and Chakali Ilamma, as well as literary icons like Suravaram Pratapa Reddy, Kaloji Narayana Rao, Magdoom Mohiuddin, Dasarathi Krishnamacharya, Suddala Hanumanthu and Shoyabullakhan.The government is prioritising social justice, equal opportunities, development and welfare in line with people's aspirations, she said, adding that it is implementing the six guarantees along with several other development and welfare programmes while maintaining fiscal discipline.Under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, financial assistance worth ₹162.03 crore has been disbursed so far to 1,58,201 farmers covering 2,70,050 acres in Warangal district, Vijayalakshmi said. Due to deficient rainfall, farmers are being encouraged to shift to alternative crops.While paddy is normally cultivated over 1,39,997 acres in the district, only 51,045 acres were brought under paddy transplantation this year due to low rainfall, she explained. Farmers are being advised to give priority to vegetables, fruit orchards, and drip and sprinkler irrigation.Through the Mahalakshmi scheme, the government is providing free bus travel to women, she said. Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, the government has borne a subsidy of ₹134.39 crore to provide up to 200 units of free electricity to 1,41,259 families in the district.Under the Indiramma Illu scheme, houses have been sanctioned to 9,534 poor families in the district, and work has begun for 7,046 beneficiaries, Vijayalakshmi said. Currently, 3,777 houses are under construction at various stages, while 3,269 houses have been completed and occupied. The government has released ₹208.56 crore in funds so far.In the two-bedroom housing scheme, the tender process for 3,845 houses has been completed, and construction of 2,237 houses has been finished at a cost of ₹148.63 crore, she added.Aiming to economically empower women, the government is implementing the Indiramma Mahila Shakti programme, she said. Interest-free loans exceeding ₹3.68 crore have been provided to 3,211 women's self-help groups (SHGs), while bank loans worth over ₹60.70 crore have been facilitated for 1,557 groups in 2026–27.To realise the vision of a Telangana free from land disputes, the government has introduced the Bhoo Bharati Act, she said. A digital re-survey is underway in Warangal district to ensure clarity of land rights, transparency and resolution of boundary disputes. Using GNSS rovers and DGPS equipment, re-survey of over 5,180 acres across 13 villages has been completed, she said.



Dr. P. Gopi Krishna, Managing Director, Anesthesia & Critical Care
Dr. Sowmya, Physiotherapist and Dr. Praveen, Critical Care



Ganesh festivities held with devotion at Meditech Hospital

I HYDERABAD

Ganesh Navratri celebrations were held with religious fervour at Meditech Hospital at Nagarjuna Hills in Panjagutta. As part of the festivities, an annadanam (free food distribution) programme was organised at the hospital on Wednesday. The hospital management said annadanam programmes have been conducted for the past three days as part of the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Meditech Hospital Managing Director Dr. P. Gopi Krishna said the hospital was first established at Jagadgirigutta four years ago and that a new branch was opened eight months ago at Nagarjuna Hills, Panjagutta. He said the Panjagutta facility has been functioning successfully and is aimed at making quality medical care accessible to people.

Dr. Gopi said the hospital provides round-the-clock, 24x7 services along with a range of medical facilities. "Best services with good corporate care at reasonable price" is the motto guiding the hospital's services, he said.

The hospital offers treatment across several departments, including orthopedics, neurosurgery, critical care, radiology, polytrauma, general surgery and laparoscopic surgery. According to Dr. Gopi, all types of surgeries are being undertaken at the hospital, with good services and a focus on maintaining low mortality.

He further stated that around 800 in-patients have been treated at the hospital so far. Medical services are available at both the Panjagutta and Jagadgirigutta branches, he said.

On the occasion, Dr. P. Rachana said special treatment facilities are being provided for women. She added that lady doctors are also available to attend to female patients.

The management said the Ganesh celebrations were being conducted not only with devotion but also with a spirit of service to the community.

The Hills are Alive with Amma's Music

These two memories sit side by side in my mind. One took place amid the green stillness of the Tirumala hills, where a spontaneous song and quiet blessing arrived without warning. The other unfolded in a concert hall, where the power of live performance had to contend with idle talk. Together they show how MS Amma's presence could turn ordinary occasions into something lasting. Whether her voice rose inside the temple before the deity or filled a packed auditorium, it carried the same quality of devotion that the Tirumala landscape itself seems to hold.On this birthday anniversary the recollection feels especially clear. The hills still rise in green silence.

The temple continues its steady rhythm of worship. And the memory of that brief song in the queue, of my children receiving a blessing, and of a concert nearly lost to distraction stays vivid. MS Amma and Sadasivan Sir left their mark not through grand statements but through simple, unplanned grace—moments that continue to stay with me long after the mist lifts from the Tirumala slopes and the final notes fade



CARE Hospitals launches 'Swasth Rath'

I HYDERABAD

CARE Hospitals on Wednesday launched its 'Swasth Rath', a community healthcare outreach initiative aimed at bringing basic health screenings closer to people and creating greater awareness about preventive healthcare. The Swasth Rath was flagged off at CARE Hospitals, Malakpet, by Mirza Riyaz Ul Hassan Effendi, MLC, in the presence of Murari, Inspector of Police, Chadarghat; Praveen Kumar Edla, Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Malakpet; Dr. Sridhar, MOD; and senior doctors from the hospital.

The Swasth Rath will travel across Hyderabad, reaching neighborhoods, community centers, public parks, senior citizen clubs and other community locations. It will offer basic health screenings and create awareness about preventive healthcare. Mirza Riyaz Ul Hassan Effendi, MLC, said that the closer healthcare services are to people, the greater the benefit to the community.

Murari, Inspector of Police, Chadarghat, appreciated that community health initiatives like Swasth Rath can make a meaningful difference by reaching people where they live and creating greater awareness about preventive healthcare. Praveen Kumar Edla, Hospital Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Malakpet stated that along with providing quality medical care, it is equally important to create greater awareness about preventive healthcare.

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