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"Commitment to conclude CEPA negotiations at earliest opportunity"

PM Modi, Carney discuss bilateral ties



Ottawa / New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney on Tuesday discussed strengthening bilateral ties, including trade, defence and security, artificial intelligence and people-to-people exchanges, reaffirming their commitment to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) at the earliest opportunity. The conversation came ahead of Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand's arrival in India on Tuesday. According to a press release issued by the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, the two leaders welcomed increased engagement between Canada

and India over the past year and underlined the opportunity to build on the renewed momentum in bilateral relations. The leaders reaffirmed their "commitment to conclude CEPA negotiations at the earliest opportunity, supporting efforts to double two-way trade by 2030". As per the press release, they also welcomed the ongoing Team Canada Trade Mission to India, described in the release as historic, led by Canada's Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu. The leaders also noted the visit to New Delhi this week by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand to advance shared priorities, including trade, energy and

people-to-people ties. The two PMs discussed the impact of geopolitical instability on the Indo-Pacific region and the need for trusted partners in the areas of energy and agriculture. According to the statement, Carney thanked PM Modi for his leadership in seeking a peaceful resolution to Russia's war on Ukraine. The leaders also welcomed "the bilateral security dialogue held in India last week as part of ongoing security and law enforcement engagement at the National Security Advisor level". The two PMs agreed to remain in close contact ahead of PM Modi's visit to Canada in December. Regarding the conversation, in a post on X, PM Modi said, "Had a warm and productive conversation with Prime Minister Mark Carney. We agreed to build on the positive momentum in India-Canada ties and work towards concrete outcomes across key areas of our Strategic Partnership, including trade, energy, technology, security and people-to-people ties." "Together, India and Canada are contributing towards a more stable and

prosperous world," he added. The conversation came shortly after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal interacted with Sidhu to discuss advancing CEPA negotiations, with a focus on a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement. Sharing details of the engagement in a post on X, Goyal said, "Discussed advancing the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations, with a focus on a balanced, mutually beneficial agreement that enhances market access & unlocks new trade and investment opportunities. Confident that the CEPA will provide fresh momentum to bilateral trade and strengthen our economic partnership for shared prosperity." Sidhu is leading Canada's largest corporate delegation to visit India in three decades, with approximately 300 delegates exploring potential joint ventures across key sectors. In a post on X, Sidhu said the delegation would focus on sectors including aerospace, clean energy, technology, life sciences, agri-food and forestry as Canada seeks to expand trade with India.

Indian Seafarers' Safety Discussed In

Ajit Doval's Call With Iran Official

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to media queries, said the two officials discussed bilateral issues, the regional situation and international developments during their conversation. New Delhi: The safety and security of Indian seafarers and tankers were raised during a telephone conversation between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei on October 12, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday, amid heightened regional tensions

and attacks on commercial vessels. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to media queries, said the two officials discussed bilateral issues, the regional situation and international developments during their conversation. "The National Security Adviser spoke to his Iranian counterpart, His Excellency Dr Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, on 12 October. They discussed bilateral issues. They also discussed the regional situation and international developments. And during the meeting, the safety and security of Indian seafarers and the



security of Indian tankers were also raised," Jaiswal said. The Iranian Embassy in India also confirmed the conversation in a post on X, stating that the two officials exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments

and issues of mutual interest to both countries. The discussions came amid concerns over maritime security in the Gulf region following a series of reported attacks on commercial vessels carrying Indian crew members. On October 11, the Nicaragua-flagged tanker MT Petro Dolphin, carrying 11 Indian seafarers, was subjected to a drone attack at Sohar Anchorage. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said nine crew members had been rescued safely, while two Indian nationals remained missing.

Can't Make Lame Excuses: Top Court Pulls

Up Poll Body Over Missing Footage

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Election Commission of India over its inability to trace the video recording of the counting in Karnataka's Sringeri Assembly constituency in 2023, stressing that it would not accept "lame excuses". The court questioned how the poll body could say it

had lost records of an election it had conducted. The bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva expressed strong displeasure after the counsel for the Election Commission informed the court that the footage of the original counting could not be traced. The court directed the Commission to produce

whatever records it has at the next hearing, warning that it could draw an adverse inference if the documents were not produced. "How can the Election Commission of India say that it has lost the records? Your whole purpose is to hold an election, and you need to have a document. Where is the question of you saying we are trying to trace

it?" the bench asked. "We will not accept these kinds of lame excuses," it remarked. The court was hearing a plea filed by Congress leader TD Rajegowda, who has challenged the revised election result for the Sringeri constituency. Rajegowda had initially won the seat in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections.

AP Village Mergers: Supreme Court

Refuses to Grant Stay

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 14: The Supreme Court has refused to grant interim relief or stay the government orders (GOs) issued by the Andhra Pradesh government for the merger of certain villages into municipalities. The petitioners alleged that the villages were merged unilaterally without following the prescribed legal procedures. However, the apex court issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh government on petitions challenging the merger of villages into municipalities. The petitions were heard on Wednesday by a Supreme Court bench comprising Justice P.S. Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta presented arguments on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government, while senior advocate Ramakrishna Prasad

represented petitioners Eddula Subba Reddy and Vallepalli Venkata Subrahmanyam. After hearing the arguments, the Supreme Court declined to stay the government orders or issue interim directions. However, the bench clarified that the merger of villages into municipalities would remain subject to its final judgment. The petitioners primarily alleged violations of statutory provisions and established legal procedures. They argued that the government had failed to obtain resolutions from the respective gram panchayats or secure the consent of local residents before merging the villages into municipalities. They contended that the government had issued the orders unilaterally without complying with the legally prescribed process. The petitioners further argued that the merger

could deprive villagers of benefits under rural welfare schemes, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), and adversely affect their rights to local self-governance. On behalf of the state government, it was argued that the merger process had been undertaken in accordance with the law to facilitate urban expansion and accelerate development activities based on population growth. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had earlier delivered a verdict in favour of the state government on the matter. Subsequently, the dispute reached the Supreme Court. While refusing to grant a stay or interim relief, the Supreme Court made it clear that the entire process of merging villages into municipalities would be subject to its final verdict.

Viveka Murder Case: MP Avinash Reddy

Appears Before ED for Questioning

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati/Hyderabad, October 14: Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with the murder case of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. ED officials are examining the case from a money-laundering angle. During the investigation, the MP submitted statements detailing his bank transactions since 2019. According to reports, ED officials are questioning him about the alleged Rs. 40 crore contract killing deal and the destruction of evidence at the crime scene. Avinash Reddy appeared for questioning accompanied by his lawyer. The Enforcement Directorate has intensified its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), based on

the chargesheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Several individuals, including Y.S. Bhaskar Reddy, Devireddy Shivashankar Reddy, Erragangi Reddy, Sunil Yadav and Dastagiri, have already appeared before the ED for questioning. Sunil Yadav had reportedly alleged that senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders were involved in the murder and that a Rs. 40 crore deal had been struck. He had also made controversial allegations claiming that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Y.S. Bharathi and Avinash Reddy were the ultimate beneficiaries of Vivekananda Reddy's murder. In August this year, the ED conducted searches at Avinash Reddy's residence and reportedly



seized Rs. 24 lakh in cash and a bank locker key. The CBI had earlier alleged that Rs. 40 crore was offered for Vivekananda Reddy's murder. ED officials are reportedly planning to question Avinash Reddy based on statements given by Sunil Yadav and Dastagiri regarding the alleged contract killing and money trail.

Officials are also expected to question him about the bank lockers and cash identified during the investigation. The CBI had previously indicated Avinash Reddy's alleged involvement in the murder during the period when Jagan Mohan Reddy was serving as Chief Minister. During the YSRCP

government's tenure, dramatic scenes unfolded near a hospital in Kurnool when party supporters allegedly attempted to prevent the CBI from arresting the Kadapa MP. Avinash Reddy's followers and YSRCP workers reportedly obstructed CBI vehicles and strongly resisted the officials.

Red Sanders Smuggled Under Cover

of Coffee Powder Shipment; Eight Arrested

Kadapa, October 14: Police arrested eight interstate red sanders smugglers in Kadapa district and seized 70 red sanders logs weighing approximately 1,984 tonnes. The accused were allegedly transporting the valuable timber concealed beneath a consignment of coffee powder packets. Police also seized three vehicles and 643 cartons of coffee powder. The total value of the seized materials is estimated at Rs 1.30 crore. Acting on specific information about the illegal transportation of red sanders, police conducted vehicle inspections near

Akula Narayanapalle in S.A. Kasinaayana mandal. During the checks, officers intercepted a vehicle carrying a consignment of coffee powder packets and discovered a large quantity of red sanders logs concealed inside. Addressing the media, District Superintendent of Police Nachiketh Viswanath disclosed details of the operation. He said police had apprehended a gang involved in red sanders smuggling. Of the eight arrested individuals, seven belong to Tamil Nadu and one is from Andhra Pradesh. The SP further revealed



that several other suspects were absconding and efforts were underway to apprehend them. He warned that stringent action would be taken

against those involved in illegal red sanders transportation. The Preventive Detention (PD) Act would also be invoked against repeat offenders, if necessary.

SP Nachiketh Viswanath appreciated and congratulated the police personnel who successfully cracked the smuggling case.

Vijayawada SARAS Mela Begins Today; MP

Kesineni Sivanath Chinni Inspects Arrangements

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 14: President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the SARAS Mela on Thursday, organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Andhra Pradesh government. Ahead of the inauguration, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), along with Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar and Andhra Pradesh Minister for MSMEs Kondapalli Srinivas, inspected the arrangements at the

venue. They also issued several instructions to the officials concerned. Speaking to the media after the inspection, MP Kesineni Sivanath said the SARAS Mela was being organised jointly by the Central and State governments to provide national-level marketing opportunities for products manufactured by women's self-help groups (SHGs). He stated that the event was being conducted in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of encouraging women to achieve self-reliance in production and marketing. "Products

manufactured by 480 self-help groups from across the country will be displayed at the mela. Special training centres have also been established to provide women with the necessary skills and training," the MP said. He further explained that the SARAS Mela would help improve marketing facilities for products made by women's self-help groups while contributing to their economic empowerment. MP Kesineni Sivanath appealed to the public to participate in large numbers and make the event a grand success.

EDITORIAL

Rules Will Not Be Changed for Musk

Anyone wishing to do business in India must comply with the country's laws. This is neither a new rule nor a principle that needs to be explained. The same applies to every country in the world. However, Elon Musk, who heads companies such as Tesla, SpaceX and Starlink, appears to be forgetting this fundamental principle. His remarks over delays in the approval process for Starlink's satellite internet services in India have gone beyond business frustration and turned into unwarranted comments on the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. Starlink has already been granted a Unified Licence in India. However, security clearances and other regulatory procedures still need to be completed. These requirements are not exclusive to Starlink. The same process applies to other companies seeking to enter the satellite communications sector. Reliance Jio, OneWeb and other companies also operate within the same regulatory framework.

Under these circumstances, what is the basis for alleging that India is deliberately obstructing Starlink's entry? Musk, however, did not stop there. He accused certain "oligarchs" of blocking Starlink to protect their monopolies. He spoke as though denying Indian citizens access to better internet services was a crime. He also directed criticism at Indian business leaders. Yet, he failed to provide sufficient evidence to substantiate his allegations. Such conduct does not reflect the responsible approach expected from an internationally prominent entrepreneur. There is no shortage of competition in India's internet sector. Telecommunications companies such as Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea already provide services to hundreds of millions of consumers. The government is also creating opportunities for competition in satellite internet services. Satellite technology can play a significant role in providing high-speed internet connectivity to remote villages, mountainous regions, border areas and islands. India recognises this need, which is precisely why Starlink was granted a licence.

However, granting a licence does not mean that a country must set aside its security regulations. Satellite communication is not merely a service intended for ordinary consumers. It also involves military, strategic and border security considerations. The government requires clear assurances regarding user information security, network monitoring, lawful access to communications and data protection. No government can simply allow foreign companies unrestricted operations without examining these issues merely because people need internet connectivity. India may need Starlink, but the Indian market is even more important to Starlink. India is one of the world's largest telecommunications markets. Hundreds of millions of internet users, an expanding digital economy and vast rural regions that still lack adequate connectivity present enormous business opportunities for the company.

Musk's enthusiasm to enter the Indian market is therefore understandable. However, using commercial interests as a means of pressuring the country's regulatory system is unacceptable.

Starlink's entry into India could increase competition, improve access to advanced technology and provide better connectivity to remote areas. These would undoubtedly be welcome developments. But competition does not mean exemption from regulations. Foreign investment does not mean compromising national sovereignty. Offering world-class technology does not grant a company the right to disregard a country's security concerns. Musk may be an entrepreneur who has developed technologies capable of transforming the world. But regardless of his technological achievements, he is not above the laws of any country. India may be a market for him, and Indians may be his potential customers. But India is not a market that he can dictate terms to. It is a sovereign nation.

India has no reason to prevent Starlink from entering its market. At the same time, it has even less reason to change its rules to accommodate Starlink. India may benefit from Starlink's services, but any permission granted to the company must strictly comply with Indian laws and regulations. The sooner Musk understands this reality, the better it will be for both him and Starlink.

Lured By Salaries, Fed To War: How India's Jobless Youth Have Become Canon Fodder

As per India's Ministry of External Affairs, 259 Indian nationals are believed to have been drafted into the Russian armed forces. Out of these, 139 have obtained an early discharge, while information remains to be sought about 69 others who may reportedly still be serving, or whose statuses remain undetermined. This raises a pertinent policy question: why and how were Indian citizens in the civilian overseas-employment market able to get into a foreign military force without prior identification? Moreover, the matter exposes the frailty of overseas-employment regulation, highlighting questions about the credibility of recruitment agents and emphasising the gravity of wage disparities, making a high-risk foreign military job appear unignorably enticing.

Why People Take The Risk Latest reports from Telangana, where youth workers were trapped by allegedly being offered salaries of about Rs 2 lakh a month, along with insurance and an additional bonus, highlight the pivotal role of financial incentives in understanding the recruitment process. Additionally, one worker paid Rs. 2.5 lakh a month to an agent to secure employment in Russia. These foreign salaries, albeit associated with tremendous risks, can matter a great deal to workers from extremely low-income backgrounds as they present the opportunity to alter their economic status. The informal nature of local employment, coupled with irregular or poor salary structures, makes this sort of overseas employment seem even more lucrative despite being surrounded by incomplete information regarding the work conditions and expectations. This environment acts as a breeding ground for predat-

tory agent behaviour, where they do not necessarily need to conceal the perils of such overseas employment opportunities. Rather, they end up presenting any risks of this as temporary, manageable, and financially justifiable. Moreover, the worker may even be deceived into believing that the job involves roles related to security, logistics, or other support work rather than war-zone combat. Hence, the promised payout inadvertently becomes the most prominent part of the equation. The predicament of the workers in Russia, as highlighted by the Ministry of External Affairs and the news reports from Telangana, demands stricter regulation of overseas employment through stern enforcement against fraudulent agents and more accessible employment opportunities within India. Under Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, it is mandatory for recruiting agents to acquire registration from the Protector General of Emigrants before recruiting Indian citizens overseas. This law is intended to curb fraud and exploitation by safeguarding recruitment through identifiable and liable intermediaries. The Ministry of External Affairs mandates that the operation of recruitment only through a valid registration certificate and an online platform known as the eMigrate portal is used for the allotment of these certificates. There also exists a publicly available published list of registered recruiting agents. Furthermore, according to a July 2026 parliamentary response, there are roughly 3,505 unregistered agents on the portal. The framework obliges the registered agents to provide detailed employment records, maintain a faultless record of contracts and advertisements, issue all receipts of payments,



etc. It also forbids the usage of sub-agents for recruitment while limiting the service fee payable by an emigrant to the equivalent of 45 days of wages, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000. In spite of such guidelines in place, the cases emphasise a discrepancy between formal regulations and actual practices on the ground. It is clear that workers have been approached through informal sources, and may have even been recruited through social media platforms or induced to travel on visas that lacked congruence with the employment ultimately provided. In cases like these, it is unlikely that recruitment would come to the attention of the regulated system enforcers until the worker has already left India and commenced their work abroad.

Limits Of Digital Regulation

Although the eMigrate system was developed to make overseas recruitment unambiguous and transparent, the digital regulation is effective only when the recruitment passes through this channel. If a worker travels to another

country under the pretense of something else, such as a tourist visa, student visa, or other non-employment-related visas, the system would not record the actual job. Moreover, if the worker enters a new employment contract after arriving in the foreign country, the prior employment information that may even be on the record becomes irrelevant. The policy conundrum thus is not just to expand the eMigrate system, but to plan the infrastructure in a way such that it connects effectively with visa verification and post-arrival monitoring. Such checks must be undertaken at three stages: before departure, upon arrival in the foreign country, and after the beginning of employment. There must also be a mechanism to routinely check whether the Indian citizen has remained with the same employer or has discreetly decided to enter illegitimate contracts under the guise of more significant payouts. In the absence of these safeguards, the workers' whereabouts may become untraceable, rendering the government incapable of protecting them, as is the case in

the Russia scenario.

The 'Agents'

The situation makes it clear that the role of intermediaries must be put under greater scrutiny. The MEA's advisory warns Indians against accepting opportunities from unverified individuals and also highlights that some Indians were deliberately seeking military recruitment in exchange for seemingly life-changing financial benefits. The advisory directs us towards two separate categories: individuals accepting military contracts willingly, and those who may have been misled towards them. An appropriate policy response must differentiate between these scenarios and investigate both with distinguished approaches. It must begin with authorities identifying the involved agents, examining transaction records, and authenticating advertisements to understand which of the two categories the case in point corresponds to. In certain circumstances, the cases could involve provisions pertaining to fraud, unauthorised recruitment, forgery, trafficking, or other gross violations of the Emigration Act.

Starlink, India, And Why Elon Musk Must Know His Billionaire Tantrums Won't Work

Elon Musk's public tirade against India's regulatory establishment is a revealing demonstration of the entitlement that increasingly characterises the world's most powerful technology billionaires. Frustrated by the delay in securing final approvals for Starlink's commercial launch in India, Musk has chosen to portray a sovereign government's regulatory process as an obstacle to technological progress and consumer welfare. His intervention reveals less about the merits of Starlink's application than about his own understanding of power, privilege, and market access.

The underlying message is difficult to miss. Musk appears to believe that because Starlink possesses advanced technology, operates across much of the world, and promises to connect underserved populations, India should expedite its entry on his terms. When New Delhi does not oblige, the implication is that the regulatory system must be dysfunctional or obstructive. This is a familiar playbook: elevate a commercial dispute into a moral crusade, cast the entrepreneur as the champion of ordinary citizens, and portray the host government as an impediment to progress. It may generate headlines and rally supporters on social media. It is no substitute for engaging with the sovereign requirements of the Indian state.

India must reject this framing unequivocally. Its regulatory institutions do not derive their legitimacy from Elon Musk's approval, nor do they require validation from a foreign billionaire who mistakes global commercial influence for political authority. India is an independent country, not a market in which powerful technology executives can demand

preferential treatment and publicly pressure the government when they encounter regulatory resistance.

The Indian government's response has been appropriately firm. The Ministry of Communications has maintained that the satellite communications authorisation framework is fair and non-discriminatory. Starlink, Reliance Jio's satellite business, and Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb are broadly at the same regulatory stage, with mandatory security assessments still to be completed before spectrum can be assigned. Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has reiterated that India does not permit monopolies and that commercial operations can begin only after the necessary security requirements are met and spectrum charges are finalised.

This is not an unreasonable position. It is the basic responsibility of any government that takes national security seriously. If Musk believes that Starlink has fulfilled every requirement, he should demonstrate as much through the appropriate institutional channels. What he cannot reasonably expect is that India will dilute its regulatory standards because his company has a powerful global brand or because he can mobilise public opinion against the government.

What Musk Has Got Wrong

The presumption that India must accommodate Musk is itself the problem. India's economic rise has been accompanied by a growing determination to exercise control over the terms of its engagement with global capital and technology. The days when access to the Indian market could be treated as a concession extracted through diplomatic pressure or

corporate lobbying are over. India welcomes investment, innovation, and competition, but it does so on the basis of its own laws, security requirements, and strategic priorities. Market size is not an invitation to disregard these conditions. Nor does technological sophistication confer a right to operate without regulatory approval.

Musk's intervention is particularly misplaced because satellite communications is not an ordinary commercial sector. It is a strategic domain in which connectivity, data governance, defence preparedness, and territorial security intersect. Low-Earth-orbit satellite networks offer substantial benefits, especially in remote and underserved regions, but they also present complex questions concerning terminal activation, control of satellite beams, data routing, network oversight, and potential dual-use applications.

For India, these are not abstract concerns. The country confronts security challenges along sensitive borders and across strategically important maritime spaces. Reports of Starlink terminals being recovered during sensitive operations in Manipur and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reinforced the importance of establishing robust controls. They underscore why the government cannot treat the deployment of satellite communications infrastructure as a purely commercial matter.

Musk may insist that Starlink has developed India-specific safeguards, established local infrastructure, and made arrangements for data localisation. These claims deserve technical assessment, not automatic acceptance. The responsibility for determining whether security conditions

have been met rests with the Indian authorities. It cannot be transferred to the company seeking market access, much less settled through the public pronouncements of its chief executive.

The Thing About Credibility

Indeed, Musk's rhetoric risks undermining his own credibility. By reducing outstanding security and spectrum questions to an alleged failure of the Indian system, he has effectively suggested that the government's concerns are obstacles to be overcome rather than legitimate requirements to be addressed. That is an extraordinary assumption for a foreign company to make about a country whose cooperation it needs. A company that wants to operate in India must understand that trust is earned through compliance, transparency, and sustained engagement, not through public denunciations of the institutions responsible for granting permission.

There is also a troubling double standard in Musk's argument. The billionaire presents himself as an advocate of consumer choice and technological disruption, yet appears unwilling to accept that the Indian state has its own legitimate obligations and priorities. His preferred narrative pits an innovative outsider against an allegedly obstructive establishment. But India's interests cannot be reduced to the commercial ambitions of a foreign technology entrepreneur.

Nor is it India's responsibility to resolve Musk's commercial frustrations by granting him political accommodation. Starlink is a private enterprise seeking access to a commercially attractive market. It is not performing a charitable service for which India must set aside its own requirements. Rural

connectivity is an important national objective, but it is not an argument for exempting any provider from the rules. If Starlink can help bridge India's digital divide, it should be encouraged to do so within a framework that applies equally to all operators.

The satellite broadband debate must be situated within India's broader strategic priorities. Connectivity is essential to economic growth, financial inclusion, education and access to public services. Satellite technology can complement terrestrial networks, particularly in geographically difficult regions where conventional infrastructure is expensive to deploy. Starlink's capabilities may therefore have a useful role to play in India's digital transformation.

But the desirability of a technology does not settle the terms on which it should enter the market. India must retain the ability to determine how critical infrastructure is deployed, how sensitive data is handled, and what safeguards are required to prevent misuse. These are sovereign responsibilities, not regulatory inconveniences that can be dismissed whenever they conflict with a company's commercial timetable.

There is a larger geopolitical dimension to this question. The global technology landscape is increasingly shaped by private corporations whose economic resources, communications platforms, and infrastructure networks give them influence extending well beyond conventional commercial activity. Satellite constellations, cloud infrastructure, and digital networks can acquire strategic significance because the entities controlling them possess capabilities that states cannot simply ignore.

Vivek calls for affordable, clean energy for all



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, October, 14: Minister for SHAKTI and Mines Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy has stressed the need to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and promote renewable energy sources to achieve sustainable development. He emphasised that clean energy solutions, including solar power, should adhere to quality and safety standards. Speaking as the chief guest at the World Standards Day-2026 programme organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at a hotel in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the Minister said this year's focus, in line

with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, was on ensuring access to affordable and clean energy for all. Calling for coordinated efforts by industries, governments and educational institutions, Vivek Venkataswamy urged all stakeholders to work together to improve energy efficiency and promote eco-friendly technologies for a sustainable future. He said efforts were also being made to encourage industries to adopt solar power, including the installation of solar panels on building rooftops. He also encouraged people to use solar lights in their homes and gardens.

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GRADUATE MLC POLLS: DUNDRA URGES VOTER REGISTRATION

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, October, 14: Dundra Kumaraswamy, National President of BC Dal and Chairman of the BC Reservations Achievement Coordination JAC, has urged eligible graduates in Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahabubnagar districts to register as voters for the Graduate Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) elections.

Addressing an awareness meeting attended by graduates and intellectuals in Rangareddy district, Kumaraswamy said voting was an important democratic responsibility and a means of ensuring accountability in public life. He stressed that graduate voters could play a crucial role in raising issues concerning unemployed youth and employees. Elected representatives must be held accountable for their promises and their response to public concerns, he added.

Urging graduates to look beyond political affiliations, Kumaraswamy called on them to assess candidates based on merit, qualifications, competence, track record and commitment to public service. He said voters should support capable candidates who could effectively address public issues rather than be

swayed by election promises alone. He also emphasised the need to increase voter awareness and encourage more eligible graduates to participate in the democratic process. NRI Krishna Reddy, Raju, social activist Gopal Reddy, Gali Srinivasa Rao and Naveen were among those who attended the meeting, along with several graduates and intellectuals.

Harish consoles families of Dalit workers killed in Karnataka accident



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, October, 14: Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday visited Induvasi village in Gattu mandal of Gadwal district to console the families of two Dalit agricultural labourers who died in a road accident in Karnataka's Yadgir district. He also met the injured workers and assured their families of the BRS party's support. Acting on the instructions of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao visited the village and extended immediate financial assistance to the families of the deceased workers, Asepu and Naganna, and those injured in the accident. Harish Rao demanded that the government announce compensation of Rs.10 lakh each to the families of the deceased. He also sought the best possible medical treatment free of cost and financial assistance for those who sustained serious injuries.

Expressing concern over the plight of the villagers, Harish Rao said around 40 Dalit families from Induvasi had migrated to Karnataka in search of daily-wage employment. Two workers died in the accident, while several others suffered serious injuries, including fractures to their arms, legs and backs. The BRS leader

criticised the government for its alleged failure to respond adequately to the tragedy. He said neither the district administration nor the two Ministers from the district had extended the necessary support to the affected families. Harish Rao alleged that the injured workers were struggling to meet their medical expenses

and demanded immediate government intervention. "This is the Chief Minister's own district. When poor Dalit families are forced to migrate in search of work and meet with such a tragic accident, the government must stand by them. The families should not be left to face this crisis on their own," he said.

Bathukamma, folk arts add cultural colour to India-West Indies cricket match

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, October, 14: Telangana's vibrant cultural heritage took centre stage at the India-West Indies cricket match at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal here on Wednesday, with the Department of Tourism and Culture showcasing Bathukamma celebrations, folk performances and tourism attractions. The special cultural promotion programme brought the colours and traditions of Bathukamma, Telangana's iconic floral festi-

val, to the cricketing arena, highlighting the State's cultural identity and the festival's close association with nature and community life. Local folk artists enthralled the spectators with performances representing Telangana's diverse folk traditions and performing arts, creating a blend of sport, culture and entertainment. A Telangana Tourism promotional film was also screened during the match interval, featuring the State's historic forts, monuments, temples, scenic landscapes, heritage sites and cultural experiences. The film

aimed to encourage spectators to explore Telangana's diverse tourism destinations. The initiative sought to leverage the wide reach of an international cricket match to promote Telangana's cultural heritage and tourism potential among national and international audiences. The Department said such initiatives would help showcase the State's traditions, increase visibility for local folk arts and position Telangana as a destination offering a rich mix of history, heritage, spirituality, nature and living culture.

Reservations Finalised for ZPTC, MPP Posts in East Godavari

- 21 ZPTC seats and 21 Mandal Parishad president posts allotted to different categories

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 14, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The East Godavari district administration has finalised reservations for 21 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats and 21 Mandal Parishad President (MPP) posts ahead of the local body elections. District Collector and District Election Officer ****Keerthi Chekuri**** issued a notification on Wednesday, detailing the category-wise reservations in accordance with the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, and Government Order No. 154, dated October 12, 2026.

Of the 21 ZPTC seats, five have been reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs), including three for women, while five have been earmarked for Backward Classes (BCs), including three for women. The remaining 11 seats fall under the unreserved category. Korukonda, Kapileswarapuram and Tallapudi ZPTC seats have been reserved for SC women, while Rajamahendravaram Rural and Chagallu have been allotted to SC candidates. Undrajavaram, Gokavaram and Rayavaram have been reserved for BC women. Similarly, five MPP posts each have been reserved for SCs and BCs,



while 11 remain unreserved. Kovvur, Devarapalli and Nallajerla MPP posts have been reserved for SC women, while Mandapeta, Rajamahendravaram Rural and Chagallu have been al-

lotted to BC women. The Collector said the complete Mandal-wise reservation details were available in the official notification issued by the district administration.

Local Body Election Schedule Announced; Model Code of Conduct Comes into Force

- MPTC and ZPTC Elections on November 3
- Gram Panchayat Polls in Three Phases
- Collector K. Dinesh Kumar Calls for Free and Fair Elections

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 14: The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission announced the schedule for the second general elections to rural local bodies on Wednesday. Polavaram District Collector and Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar said. The Model Code of Conduct came into force immediately following

the announcement and will remain effective until the completion of the election process. According to the schedule, MPTC and ZPTC elections will be conducted in a single phase, while Gram Panchayat elections will be held in three phases. For MPTC and ZPTC elections, the notification will be issued on October 19, nominations will be accepted until Octo-

ber 23, and the last date for withdrawal is October 27. Polling will take place on November 3, followed by counting of votes and declaration of results on November 5. Gram Panchayat elections will be conducted in three phases on November 26, November 29 and December 2. Notifications will be issued on November 13, 16 and 19, respectively. Indirect elections for

MPTC and ZPTC-related posts are scheduled for November 11. Collector Dinesh Kumar directed officials to strictly follow the Election Commission's guidelines and ensure transparent, peaceful and impartial elections. He also urged political parties and candidates to comply with the Model Code of Conduct throughout the election process.

Local Body Election Reservations Finalised in Polavaram District

- All 12 ZPTC and 12 MPP Seats Reserved for STs
- 71 of 101 MPTC Seats Reserved for ST Candidates
- District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar Announces Reservation Details

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 14: Polavaram District Collector and District Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar announced the reservation details for the 2026 local body elections on Wednesday. All 12 ZPTC and 12 MPP seats in the district have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs), with six seats in each category earmarked for ST women. Of the 101 MPTC seats across 12 mandals, 71 have been reserved for ST

candidates, including 39 for ST General and 32 for ST Women. The remaining 30 seats fall under the unreserved category, comprising 14 General and 16 Women seats. In Chinturu Division, the ZPTC seats of Chinturu, VR Puram and Etapaka are reserved for ST Women, while Kunavaram is reserved for ST General. In Rampachodavaram Division, Addateegala, Guruthedu and Y. Ramavaram ZPTC seats are reserved for ST Women,

while Devipatnam, Gangavaram Agency, Maredumilli, Rajavommangi and Rampachodavaram are reserved for ST General. Notably, the Gangavaram ZPTC seat has been reserved for ST General, while the MPP post is reserved for ST Women. The announcement has sparked political activity across the district, with major parties expected to begin selecting candidates and preparing for the upcoming local body elections.



No Negligence in Local Body Election Preparations: Collector

- Special Control Rooms to Be Set Up in Every Mandal
- Focus on Reservations, Voter Lists and Polling Stations

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 14: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to ensure foolproof arrangements for the upcoming local body elections without any negligence or delays. During a teleconference with Sub-Collectors, MPDOs, Tahsildars and other officials on Wednesday, he reviewed election preparations, reservations, voter lists, polling stations and infrastructure facilities. The Collector instructed officials to verify Sarpanch and Ward Member reservations carefully and complete the digital notification process within the stipulated deadline. He ordered the establishment of special control rooms in every Mandal, jointly managed by MPDOs and Tahsildars, to address election-related complaints and ensure smooth coordination. Officials were directed to attend daily review teleconferences at 9 a.m. with updated information. Reviewing agricultural activities, the Collector stated that 96% of e-Crop registration had been completed and instructed officials to finish the remaining work and expedite digitisation. He also directed Revenue officials to clear pending land re-survey cases within the prescribed deadlines. Sub-Collectors Donaka Prithvi Raj Kumar and Ch. Narendrapadali, District Panchayat Officer G. Bhaskar, District Agriculture Officer J.V. Ram Mohan Rao and other officials participated in the teleconference.



Sant Malkiyat Nath Ji Visits Akshay Sharma’s Residence to Bless Him



Amritsar: BJP leader Akshay Sharma received the blessings of Sant Malkiyat Nath Ji, along with Sant Sevak Nath Ji and Sant Girdhari Nath Ji, who hold prominent positions in the Sant community associated with Bhagwan Valmiki Ashram Dhuna Sahib Trust. The saints specially visited Sharma’s residence and invited him to attend the function being organised by the Trust on October 22 as the Chief Guest. The invitation process for the event was formally initiated from Akshay Sharma’s residence. BJP Punjab president

Kewal Singh Dhillon and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will also attend the function. During the visit, Sant Malkiyat Nath Ji offered prayers for Akshay Sharma and blessed him. Trust chairman Om Prakash Gabbar and Baba Balwant Nath Ji were also present on the occasion. Sant Malkiyat Nath Ji said they had visited Akshay Sharma’s residence to invite him to the special occasion and offer prayers for him. He expressed hope that God would continue to bless Sharma with strength to carry forward his efforts

for the welfare of society. Akshay Sharma expressed his gratitude for receiving the invitation to the special occasion. He thanked Sant Malkiyat Nath Ji and the entire Sant community for visiting his residence and blessing him. Sharma said the teachings of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji convey the message of equality, brotherhood and humanity. These teachings are particularly important for today’s society and the younger generation. He appealed to residents of Amritsar, people across Punjab, and devotees living in India and

abroad to participate in the Shobha Yatra in large numbers and contribute to spreading Bhagwan Valmiki Ji’s teachings among the masses. He also appreciated the efforts being made by the Sant community towards the development of the Ashram and the organisation of religious activities. He said the blessings and guidance of saints help society move in the right direction. Trust chairman Om Prakash Gabbar said the teachings of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji promote equality, brotherhood and humanity. The objective of the Shobha Yatra is to take these teachings to every neighbourhood and section of society so that future generations can also draw inspiration from Bhagwan Valmiki Ji’s ideals. Gabbar further informed that the Shobha Yatra would be welcomed at the Central Ravidas Temple near Hall Gate. From there, the procession, accompanied by a chariot, will pass through various locations before reaching Gilwali Gate. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Akshay Sharma will be present on the stage at the venue and address the youth.

Haryana Chief Minister sets out seven key sankalps for a drug-free Haryana, with a focus on awareness, treatment, rehabilitation and positive activities for youth



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini chaired the first meeting of the SANKALP Society and directed officers to draw up a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to make Haryana drug-free and protect its youth from addiction. He said active participation by every section of society, alongside the government, was essential to safeguard the future of young people and effectively curb the drug menace. The Chief Minister outlined seven key sankalps: making police station jurisdictions drug-free; ensuring districts are free of drug traffickers; keeping chemist shops free of narcotic pills; securing family support in the fight against drugs; ensuring hospitals provide treatment; equipping schools to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drugs, provide student counselling and promote a safe learning environment; and giving young people better opportunities to participate in sports and other positive activities. The Chief Minister said the government’s resolve is clear—a drug-free Haryana and a secure future for our youth. He directed

officers to ensure that action against drug trafficking did not stop at the person selling drugs. Investigations must establish where the drugs came from and identify the network behind their supply. He called for strict surveillance of supply sources and trafficking networks, along with effective investigations and appropriate legal action against traffickers in coordination with the police. The Chief Minister issued clear directions that the SANKALP Society must present concrete results of its work every month. Progress would be assessed in reducing the availability of drugs, connecting young people with treatment services and preventing relapse. Accountability, he said, must be fixed at every level. He said the government is organising marathons, cycloathons and other public awareness activities to educate young people about the harmful effects of drugs. The purpose of the campaign, however, is to secure a lasting solution to the problem. The SANKALP Society would also have to track how many young people were referred to de-addiction centres, how many com-

pleted treatment and whether they remained free of addiction afterwards. Alongside treatment, sustained follow-up, rehabilitation and family support must receive special attention, he said. The Chief Minister said assistance must reach every person affected by addiction. Young people must have access to positive opportunities, proper guidance and an environment that helps them stay away from drugs. The government had established the SANKALP Society for this purpose. The Society would strengthen coordination among the Home, Health, Education, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development departments and other departments concerned, ensuring effective action at every stage, from prevention to treatment and rehabilitation. He said Haryana’s youth had immense potential, and both the government and society had a responsibility to provide them with the right direction, opportunities and support. Along with the administration, families, teachers, panchayats, social organisations and

elected representatives must play their part in the fight against drugs. The government’s goal, he said, was to ensure that Haryana’s young people were healthy, aware, self-reliant and committed to nation-building, while the state made tangible progress towards a drug-free society. Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Sh. Sudhir Rajpal, Additional Chief Secretary, Health Department, Dr. Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Department, Smt. G. Anupama; Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Sh. Vijay Dahiya, Commissioner and Secretary, Women and Child Development Department, Sh. Shekhar Vidyarthi, Commissioner and Secretary, Urban Local Bodies Department, Sh. Ashok Meena, Director, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Dr. Aditya Dahiya, ADGP, Sh. Sanjay Kumar; SANKALP Society CEO Sh. O. P. Singh and officers from other departments.

Punjab CM Mann assures strictest punishment for killer of anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota

Chandigarh : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday termed the killing of anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota in Mansa an unfortunate incident and assured that those responsible would be given the strictest punishment. Mann said he had directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to ensure a thorough investigation into the case and bring the truth to light. “This is a very unfortunate incident in Mansa, in which social worker Parminder Singh Jhota was shot dead. I want to clarify that Punjab Police will leave no stone unturned in this matter. The culprits will be given the strictest punishment. If anyone is behind this conspiracy, they will also not be spared,” Mann said. Expressing condolences to Jhota’s family, the Chief Minister said the death of a young man was deeply unfortunate and that such an incident should never have happened. “I express my sympathy to Parminder

Singh Jhota’s family. A young son has left the world, and such an incident should never have happened. However, I have given strict instructions to the DGP to ensure that this is investigated thoroughly and the truth is brought to light,” he said. Mann reiterated that his government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs and those involved in the drug trade, asserting that no one would be spared regardless of their influence or reach. “Across Punjab, whether it is the drug menace or the selling of drugs, we have launched a war against it. We will not extend any leniency or show any consideration to anyone, no matter how influential they may be or how far their reach may extend,” he said. The Chief Minister said the Aam Aadmi Party government would neither support anyone involved in drugs nor extend protection to them. Appealing to the people of Punjab to maintain peace, Mann assured



them that those responsible for Jhota’s killing would face action. “I appeal to the people of Punjab to maintain peace, and I assure you that the culprits involved in this incident will not be spared,” he said. Jhota, who was known for his activism against drugs in Mansa, was shot by a medical shop owner. He was taken to a hospital after sustaining bullet injuries and later succumbed to them. The Punjab Police, in a joint operation with Rajasthan Police, on Wednesday ar-

rested the main shooter involved in the murder from Salasar, Rajasthan, officials said. According to Salasar Station House Officer (SHO) Shankar Lal Bhari, the accused sharpshooter was arrested from the Shri Ganganagar Dharamshala, situated near the Salasar Balaji Temple, where he was reportedly hiding in disguise. Following the apprehension, the Punjab Police team took the accused into custody and further investigation into the case is currently underway.

Boost to organic farming: Gurmeet Singh Khudian inaugurates 3rd bio-fertiliser testing lab at Mohali to check spurious products, cut chemical use



Chandigarh/SAS Nagar: In a major push for sustainable farming and to ensure availability of high-quality inputs, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian today inaugurated a state-of-the-art bio-fertiliser testing laboratory at Kalkat Bhawan, SAS Nagar, completing Punjab’s three-lab quality assurance network set up at a cost of Rs 4.50 crore to ensure supply of certified, spurious-

free bio-inputs to farmers. The other two laboratories have already been established at Gurdaspur and Bathinda. Speaking after the inauguration, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian said, “These laboratories will ensure that farmers get certified and effective products, protect them from spurious inputs and help reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers.” He added that the labs will also help enforce the Fertiliser

Control Order, monitor manufacturers and dealers and generate data for improving bio-fertiliser strains suited to Punjab’s agro-climatic conditions. Punjab is a major agrarian state, contributing over 30% to the nation’s wheat and rice production, S. Khudian said, adding that organic farming is an alternative system aimed at sustainable production while conserving precious natural resources. It is a holistic approach fo-

cused on achieving quality agricultural production and improving soil health. The Agriculture Minister said that India has a rich tradition of organic agriculture, but it was overshadowed by the rapid growth of input-intensive modern farming. With rising awareness about food safety, environmental health and evidence of comparable productivity, organic farming has re-emerged as a viable system. As of 2025-26, Punjab has approximately 30,000 acres under certified organic cultivation. S. Khudian informed that the annual consumption of bio-fertilisers in Punjab is around 15,000-16,000 MT/KL and is steadily increasing. With the rapid growth of organic farming, ensuring quality became critical. The three new labs at Bathinda, Gurdaspur and SAS Nagar (Mohali) will ensure only certified products reach farmers, safeguard them from spurious inputs.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Strategic Restructuring of IDBI Bank Ltd.

Q1. Who is the Strategic Buyer for the IDBI Bank Ltd.?

Answer: M/s 10955230 Canada Inc. (parent entity M/s Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.) has been approved as the Strategic Buyer for the IDBI Bank Ltd.

Q2. What is the size of this Transaction?

Answer: The purchase consideration for this transaction is Rs.52,878.0806181 Crores (in words Rupees Fifty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Eight Crore Eight Lakh Six Thousand and One Hundred Eighty-One only).

Q3. How will it be split between the Government of India (GoI) and the Life Insurance corporation of India (LIC)?

Answer: 60.72% stake out of the total shareholding of the IDBI Bank Ltd is being sold through this transaction, comprising 30.48% shareholding held by the GoI and 30.24% shareholding held by the LIC. The proceeds will be divided in the same proportion.

Q4. How many entities were involved in the bidding process?

Answer: Of the five parties who initially submitted their Expression of interest, four parties qualified as per the eligibility criteria and disqualification conditions prescribed in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), of which, two finally submitted their techno-financial bids and became Qualified Bidders (QBs) for this transaction.

Q5. What methodolo-

gies were used for the valuation of IDBI Bank Ltd.?

Answer: The fair value of the enterprise was determined using two alternate methodologies, namely the Market Multiple Method and the Asset Valuation Method.

Q6. Who carried out the valuation exercise?

Answer: The valuation of enterprise was carried out by two independent, professional valuation agencies appointed for the purpose. Their names cannot be disclosed due to confidential guarantees enshrined in the process.

Q7. What role did the stock market price play in the valuation of the IDBI Bank?

Answer: The volatile stock market price of the narrowly traded IDBI stock fluctuated both above and below the bid offer price (low high range of Rs.61.01 to Rs.118.38 over the valuation period). It was disregarded, as it tended to misalign the valuation with the intrinsic value of the enterprise, and instead, relative valuation by the market multiple method, which overcomes this problem, was used to determine the fair market value of the enterprise based on the 31st March, 2026 closing accounts for all public sector banks.

Q8. How have the assets, including land and properties, been valued for the IDBI Bank?

Answers: The Asset Valuation Method, which considered both tangible and intangible assets, including land and properties, along

with the liabilities, was used to determine the fair net asset value of the enterprise as per the 31st March, 2026 audited accounts of the IDBI Bank.

Q9. What was the benchmark price used for this transaction?

Answer: The average of the two independent valuations (Rs.75.99 per share) served as the benchmark price for the evaluation of the qualified bids. The winning bid was found to be higher than the benchmark price as well as the fair value estimates of both the independent valuation agencies.

Q10. How was the benchmark price determined?

Answer: The benchmark price was the average of the fair market value determined by the Market Multiple Method and the fair net asset value determined by the Asset Valuation Method.

Q11. What is the further course of action?

Answer: The Successful Bidder would now present its credentials to the RBI in accordance with the ‘Fit & Proper’ assessment conducted at the EoI stage and submit a roadmap for the compliance of regulatory conditions prescribed therein.

Q12. What is the residual equity stake left with the GoI and the LIC?

Answer: GoI will retain 15% residual equity stake while the LIC will retain 19% equity stake. Both of them will withdraw their nominees from the Board and become public shareholders.

Q13. How will the GoI and LIC dissolve their re-

sidual shareholding in the IDBI Bank?

Answer: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has delegated powers to the Alternative Mechanism to undertake minority stake sales of the residual GoI shareholding through the open market in accordance with the standard operating procedure. The LIC will be free to manage its residual shareholding in accordance with its internal procedures while ensuring compliance with the direction of its regulators.

Q14. What impact will it have on the banking sector and the economy at large?

Answer: It will have a significantly positive effect on the banking and financial sector of our economy. The IDBI Bank, post-privatization, would be able to generate funds without any dependence on government assistance as has been the experience in the past. It is expected that the strategic buyer will infuse private capital, bring-in new technology and better management practices, which will help enhance its business potential and make it more competitive for both credit and deposit growth.

Q15. What impact will it have on India’s external sector at the time of geo-political strain?

Answer: It will be the largest FDI in the financial sector of our economy so far, and will help generate a positive sentiment for economic reforms, while improving the investment climate in the country at large.

TDB signs agreement with ideaForge for Rs.151 crore RDI support to develop YETI heavy-lift autonomous aerial logistics vehicle



New Delhi: Strengthening India's capabilities in autonomous aerial systems and next-generation logistics, the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed an agreement with ideaForge Technology Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra for financial support of ₹151 crore under the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund. The project, with a total project cost of ₹302 crore, focuses on the development of YETI, a heavy-lift, long-range autonomous aerial logistics vehicle, with the objective of advancing the technology from Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-9. The financial support will be provided through debt financing. Designed for demanding operating environments, YETI is an autonomous vertical take-off and landing, fixed-wing hybrid unmanned aerial vehicle (VTOL-FW UAV) intended to transport heavy payloads over long distances. Its proposed capabilities are aimed at addressing logistics requirements in areas where conventional transportation can be difficult, time-consuming or operationally constrained. The

platform is designed to carry payloads of up to 200 kg, with a targeted range of up to 200 km and an operating altitude of up to 6,500 metres above mean sea level. Its weather-resistant design is intended to support operations in challenging environments, including high-altitude regions, deserts and marine conditions. A key feature of YETI is its ability to take off and land vertically while retaining a fixed-wing configuration for longer-range operations. The vehicle is designed to operate from relatively small, unprepared landing areas measuring approximately 15 metres × 15 metres, enabling deployment in locations with limited ground infrastructure. The platform incorporates distributed and redundant propulsion and power architecture to improve fault tolerance. The design is intended to enable the vehicle to be transported and set up quickly, supporting logistics missions across geographically challenging locations. The development

of heavy-lift autonomous aerial platforms has growing relevance for applications requiring the movement of essential supplies across difficult terrain. By combining vertical take-off and landing with long-range flight capability and substantial payload capacity, YETI is being developed to address a distinct segment of the unmanned aviation and aerial logistics market. The RDI-supported programme will facilitate further technology development, engineering, integration, testing and validation required to progress the platform towards TRL-9, subject to the applicable technical, safety and regulatory requirements. The project falls under the Deep Technology sector, with Intelligent Systems and Robotics as the sub-sector. It reflects the growing importance of indigenous autonomous systems that integrate aerospace engineering, propulsion, navigation, communications and intelligent control. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, said, "The development of advanced autonomous systems is opening new possibilities for addressing complex operational and logistical challenges. Indigenous heavy-lift aerial platforms can play

an important role in improving access to remote and difficult-to-reach locations. Through the RDI Fund, TDB is supporting technology-intensive projects that require sustained investment to progress from advanced development towards deployment. The agreement with ideaForge reflects our commitment to strengthening India's capabilities in autonomous systems, robotics and next-generation aerospace technologies." Speaking on this development, CEO and Co-founder of ideaForge Technology Ltd., said, "YETI represents a generational leap in what India can design, build, and operate autonomously. Our armed forces and our logistics networks face the daily reality of reaching where roads end, and weather doesn't cooperate. YETI is our answer to that challenge, which is engineered not just to fly, but to deliver, reliably and repeatably, in the conditions that define the toughest operational environments. The government's confidence in ideaForge through the RDI framework is a reaffirmation that Indian deep-tech players are now ready to carry the weight of national capability-building."

Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) strengthens Nasha Mukta Bharat vision by dismantling vast illicit cannabis cultivation in Himachal Pradesh



New Delhi: In one of the major destructions conducted over one month in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, officers of the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), destroyed 5,165 acres (2,070 hectares) of illicit Cannabis (ganja) cultivation under "Operation Pariyartan". The cultivation was identified with the help of ground surveys and drone technology, and the destruction operation was

carried out with the support of the Forest Department and the Police Department. Despite the difficult Himalayan terrain, CBN teams destroyed illicit cultivation up to a maximum altitude of approximately 3500 metres, wherever cannabis was found growing. Officers trekked daily to remote locations to expedite the destruction of illicit cultivation. At the end of the operation, CBN officers held a

public dialogue (Jan Samvad) with villagers of Malana village to promote alternative development strategies including alternative crop development, which is a mandate of CBN as per the NDPS Policy 2012. The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) is the Apex Drug Law Enforcement and Regulatory Agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, respon-

sible for identifying and destroying illicit cultivation of Cannabis and Opium. By destroying illicit crops at source, CBN cuts off a key part of the narcotics supply chain from the source. CBN will continue such destruction operations of illicit cultivation across India and reaffirms its commitment to combating the illegal narcotics trade and fostering a drug-free and safe environment for the future.

Salaries in India likely to rise 9.1pc in 2027, Aon survey finds

New Delhi: Salaries in India are expected to rise by 9.1 per cent in 2027 as employers maintain stable compensation budgets while balancing growth ambitions, rising workforce costs and intensifying competition for skilled talent, a report said. The projection, based on global professional services firm Aon's Annual Salary Increase and Turnover Survey for India 2026-27, is broadly unchanged from the actual average salary

increase of 9 per cent recorded in 2026. The survey analysed data from more than 1,200 organisations across 45 industries, making it one of the country's largest compensation studies. According to the report, strong domestic consumption, sustained investments and export growth continue to support business confidence, enabling companies to invest in talent while maintaining cost discipline. Sector-wise, non-banking

financial companies (NBFCs) are expected to lead salary growth in 2027 with projected increments of 10.1 per cent. The energy sector is likely to witness salary hikes of 9.9 per cent, followed by real estate and infrastructure at 9.8 per cent. Roopank Chaudhary, Partner and Rewards Consulting Leader for Talent Solutions India at Aon, said employers are increasingly adopting a targeted approach to compensation. "Strong domestic con-

sumption, sustained investment and export growth continue to support business confidence, allowing employers to invest in talent while maintaining cost discipline," said Chaudhary. "Stable salary budgets are enabling a more targeted approach to pay. A modest rise in non-merit adjustments, particularly in manufacturing and technology, reflects greater focus on market alignment, scarce skills and critical talent. Employers are increasingly

focused not only on how much they spend, but where that investment can deliver the greatest workforce and business value," he stated. The report also highlighted growing challenges in talent retention. Overall attrition increased to 18 per cent in 2026 from 16.2 per cent in 2025 and 17.1 per cent in 2024. At the same time, companies are rapidly integrating artificial intelligence into their operations. Established adoption of AI

productivity tools rose to 56 per cent in 2026 from 46.1 per cent a year earlier, with usage expanding across all major job categories covered in the survey. Amit Kumar Otmani, Associate Partner, Talent Solutions India at Aon, said compliance alone would not be sufficient and employers must assess the broader workforce and cost implications of the Wage Code while ensuring effective communication with employees.

Ministry of Minority Affairs undertakes Special Campaign 6.0 to strengthen swachhata, efficiency and workplace management



New Delhi: Ministry of Minority Affairs is undertaking Special Campaign 6.0 from October 2 to October 31, 2026, with a focus on institutionalising Swachhata, reducing pendency, strengthening record management, promoting responsible e-waste disposal and ensuring optimum utilisation of office space across the Ministry and its associated organisations. Under this campaign, efforts are being made to clean and declutter workspaces, identify and dispose of obsolete and unserviceable items and scrap, clear unnecessary materials and release space

that can be put to more productive use. A plantation drive was also organised to promote greener, healthier surroundings and reinforce the message of environmental responsibility. A special thrust under Special Campaign 6.0 is being given to the responsible management of e-waste. The Ministry is implementing systematic measures to identify, segregate, collect and dispose of obsolete electronic and electrical equipment through authorised channels, in accordance with the prescribed framework. Through such activities, the Ministry is ensuring envi-

ronmentally responsible handling of all electronic items that have reached the end of their useful life. The campaign also focuses on the systematic review and management of official records in accordance with applicable record-retention schedules. The review and weeding out of records, wherever due, will help strengthen record management, improve information accessibility and support more organised and efficient office systems. Reducing pendency is another key area of focus under this campaign. As part of ongoing efforts, the Ministry is conducting a

systematic review of pending references and matters with an emphasis on their timely disposal within prescribed timelines. Effective grievance redressal and timely disposal of pending matters are also being considered as part of efforts to improve institutional efficiency. With such sustained efforts, Ministry of Minority Affairs is striving to achieve tangible outcomes through Special Campaign 6.0, reaffirming its commitment to creating a clean, organised, efficient and environmentally responsible workplace.

Swachhata Se Sabhyata Session Held At Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

- Swachhata Campaign 6.0 Focusses on Cleanliness, Inner Values and Jan Bhagidari

New Delhi: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, organized a special awareness session titled Swachhata se Sabhyata in collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris at the Ministry, in the National Capital here. The session was held as part of the Swachhata Campaign 6.0 observed across the country with its focus on Jan Bhagidari. Addressing officers and staff, Sister Vidarthi of the Brahma Kumaris spoke about the connection between inner values and the cleanliness of one's surroundings. Citing the principle Jaisi Awastha, Waisi Vyavastha,



she explained that a person's state of mind shapes the order they create around them, whether at home, in the workplace or in the wider community.

Referring to the maxim Cleanliness is next to Godliness, Sister Vidarthi encouraged participants to regard cleanliness as a practice rooted in self-respect

and inner purity, alongside their civic responsibilities. She emphasised respect for nature, social sensitivity and simple living, and observed that lasting physical cleanliness is supported by cleanliness in thought, speech and conduct. Sister Vidarthi also highlighted recycling as a practical habit that promotes responsible use of resources and contributes to better waste management. At the conclusion of the session, officers and staff of the Department reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining cleanliness in their workplaces and communities throughout the year.

Central Government approves India's accession to Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

New Delhi: Central Government has approved India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), representing a strategic milestone that reinforces India's position in global fisheries governance. Subsequent to Guidelines for High Sea Fisheries issued in December, 2025 by Government of India, this initiative would provide a regional framework to expand India's fishing fleet into international waters. Consequently, India will be positioned to safeguard its strategic interests, broaden economic opportunities, and establish legitimate rights for the sustainable harvesting of high-value marine resources under the SIOFA framework. Further-

more, it affirms a recognized presence on the high seas and advances India's Blue Economy in alignment with national economic, scientific, and strategic priorities. With India's accession to SIOFA, Indian-flagged fishing vessels and enterprises will be able to undertake authorised fishing of squids, toothfish, alfonsoino, and other non-migratory fish stocks within SIOFA's jurisdiction. Accession to SIOFA will further enable India to collaborate with other Cooperating Parties to advance the objectives of the Agreement, namely, scientific understanding and sustainable harvest of High Seas resources, participation in the scientific assessments of the resources covered under

the Agreement, and prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Accession will also advance India's strategic regional priorities and strengthen national coastal security through active involvement in the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme, which has been adopted and is set to be implemented under the SIOFA. Currently, India, as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) to the SIOFA, has limited participation in decision-making, including in key bodies such as the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee. Accession as a Contracting Party would enable India to participate fully in these bodies and provide access to scientific data, research programmes, and stock assessments. It will open up new fishing opportunities for the Indian fishers and entrepreneurs. India's active contribution to sustainable fishing practices in the SIOFA region will also play a key role in preserving marine resources, ensuring their long-term viability and supporting the livelihoods of Indian fishing communities. The High Seas constitute approximately 65% of the global ocean and are currently dominated by five countries/regions: China (21%), Taiwan (13%), Japan (11%), South Korea (11%),

and Spain (8%). There are two major Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in the Indian Ocean, viz. the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). India has been a Contracting Party to the IOTC since 1996, which regulates highly migratory tuna and tuna-like species. India has been a cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of SIOFA, since 2022. With this membership, India secures legitimate fishing rights, access to marine resources in the High Seas under the SIOFA's area of competence, and the opportunity to establish a recognized presence alongside existing global fleets. This Agreement covers fishery resources including fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and other sedentary species within the area, but excludes highly migratory species (Annex I of UNCLOS) and the sedentary species which are subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal states (Article 77(4) of UNCLOS). Indian fishing vessels currently operate largely within 60-80 NM of the EEZ, and India needs to develop and expand its fishing capacity across all possible High Seas areas, including through access agreements in other countries' EEZs, thereby contributing to the national exchequer.

MoS Dr Sukanta Majumdar Calls for Faster Banking Expansion and Improved Credit Access in Northeast at Bankers' Conclave 3.0

MoS Urges Banks to Improve Credit-Deposit Ratio and Strengthen Lending to MSMEs, Farmers and Women Entrepreneurs



New Delhi, October, 14 (PIB): Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and Education, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, called for faster expansion of banking services, greater access to credit and stronger coordination between banks and State Governments to accelerate economic growth in the North-eastern Region while addressing the North East Bankers' Conclave 3.0 at Mizoram University in Aizawl on 13th October 2026. Highlighting the

progress in financial inclusion, Dr Majumdar said that 131 new bank branches have been opened and 126 ATMs installed across the Northeast. Of the 9,479 identified villages, 6,905 villages, or around 73 per cent, are now connected to a bank branch or India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). Expressing concern over the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio in the region, MoS Dr Majumdar said that Manipur and Assam are at or above the national ratio of 79.5 per cent, while Mizoram and several other

Northeastern States lag behind. He stressed the need to turn regional savings into local investment and business opportunities. To improve credit flow, Dr Majumdar called for bank-specific lending targets, regular reviews through State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs), reliable land records, complete Aadhaar seeding of eligible CASA accounts and wider participation in PM SVANidhi. He encouraged banks to proactively examine viable loan proposals from farmers,

MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and tourism enterprises. Dr Sukanta Majumdar pointed out that 2,574 villages are yet to be covered. Of these, 2,515 are to be connected through India Post Payments Bank and 59 through physical bank branches. He urged State Governments and banks to set clear deadlines and speed up the expansion of banking services. The Union Minister of State identified the lack of suitable buildings, all-weather roads and VSAT or fibre connectivity as major challenges. He urged Chief Secretaries to assign clear responsibilities and timelines for every pending location. He also asked banks to operationalise prepared locations quickly and deploy Business Correspondents and BC-Sakhis wherever full-fledged branches are not feasible. Referring to the six-point roadmap adopted at the North East Bankers' Conclave 2.0 in Agartala in December 2024, held under the guidance of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Dr Majumdar highlighted efforts to expand

banking infrastructure and improve financial inclusion. The roadmap focused on increasing bank branches and ATMs, connecting unbanked villages, improving coverage in low-density districts, adapting banking norms to regional conditions and ensuring universal access to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). As part of these efforts, the population norm for establishing a bank branch in the North-east has been reduced to 2,000 on a cluster basis, compared with the national norm of 3,000. The first North East Bankers' Conclave was held in New Delhi in April 2023 to address regional banking gaps. Dr Majumdar emphasised that infrastructure development must be supported by accessible and affordable credit to help farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses benefit from new economic opportunities. Highlighting the Northeast's potential in agriculture, tourism, entrepreneurship and infrastructure, Dr Sukanta Majumdar said that the conclave provides an important platform to strengthen the region's fi-

nancial ecosystem. The four breakout sessions at the conclave focused on banking infrastructure, MSMEs and women entrepreneurs, agricultural finance, and infrastructure financing. Union MoS Dr Sukanta Majumdar said that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government continues to address policy barriers and monitor progress on the banking roadmap. He urged State Governments, banks and Central agencies to work together with clear responsibilities and firm deadlines to deliver results on the ground. He also acknowledged the guidance of Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia in advancing the region's development. Concluding his address, Dr Majumdar stressed that stronger banking infrastructure, improved credit access and coordinated implementation would help create more opportunities, strengthen livelihoods and support sustainable growth across Mizoram and the entire Northeastern Region.

INDIAN NAVY TO HAND OVER COMMAND OF COMBINED TASK FORCE 154



New Delhi, October, 14 (PIB): The Indian Navy is scheduled to relinquish Command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) during a ceremony at Manama, Bahrain, on 14 Oct 2026. The ceremony will mark the completion of the Indian Navy's maiden command of a Task Force of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). CTF 154 is CMF's dedicated multinational maritime Training Task Force and facilitates professional training and capacity building aimed at strengthening interoperability and operational readiness across the 47 nation CMF partnership. India joined CMF as an Associate Partner in 2022 and became a full member in 2023. The Indian Navy assumed Command of CTF 154 on 11 Feb 2026, marking its first command of a CMF Task Force (<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2226776>).

During the Indian Navy led tenure, CTF 154 delivered a sustained programme of multinational training under CMF's Maritime Domain Enhancement Training framework. The tenure included 20 Staff Enhancement Training engagements, Operation Compass Rose 26-1, Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 and the inaugural Subject Matter Expert Exchange on Piracy and Armed Robbery (SPAR 2026), collectively generating over 7,800 training hours, with personnel from 39 countries participating across CTF 154 activities. (Press Release on the completion of Operation Southern Readiness 26-2: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2288511>).

The training programme combined virtual, hybrid and in person engagements across a range of maritime security subjects and drew upon expertise from the Indian Navy, CMF Task Forces, Partner Nations, regional maritime agencies and specialist international organisations. The tenure also widened CTF 154's professional engagement with operational Task Forces, regional partners and specialist institutions in support of multinational training and future capacity building. The forthcoming handover will mark a further milestone in India's growing engagement with CMF and reflects its contribution to collaborative maritime security, multinational training and capacity building across the Indian Ocean Region and beyond. The tenure has further reinforced the Indian Navy's role as a Preferred Security and Training Partner in the region.

ICAR to Organise Curtain-Raiser and Media Interaction Ahead of ESTIC-2026

Dr. M. L. Jat to Address ICAR's Role in ESTIC-2026 at Curtain-Raiser Event in Karnal, Haryana

New Delhi, October, 14 (PIB): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will organise a curtain-raiser event and media interaction on 15th October 2026 at the ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, Haryana, ahead of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC)-2026, scheduled to be held from 27 to 29 October 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), will address the curtain-raiser event of ESTIC-2026 and speak on ICAR in ESTIC-2026. The programme will feature a media interaction on Agri-Tech, Food Systems and Nutrition, providing a platform for discussions on emerging developments in agricultural technology, food systems and nutrition.

ICAR in ESTIC 2026

Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is a member of the Steering Committee of ESTIC-2026, alongside the heads of several major scientific and technology departments of the Government of India. ICAR is directly associated with the thematic session on "Agri-Tech, Food Systems and Nutrition," one of the 12 major thematic sessions of ESTIC-2026, scheduled for 29th October 2026. The session will be chaired by the Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, and the Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). It will feature a keynote address, presentations by a deep-tech startup CEO, a woman entrepreneur and science and technology (S&T) leaders, followed by a panel discussion. The session will provide a platform to highlight the contribution of agricultural research, innovation and emerging technologies to India's broader science and technology landscape. Several ICAR scientists, including researchers from ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology and ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, are also listed among the speakers at ESTIC-2026. ICAR's participation will highlight advances in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, digital agriculture, advanced crop improvement, gene editing and sustainable agricultural systems. In addition, ICAR will showcase its innovations under the theme "Agri-Tech, Food Systems and Nutrition" at the ESTIC-2026 exhibition.

ESTIC-2026

ESTIC-2026 is a flagship platform for science, technology and innovation, bringing together Ministries and Departments of the Government, researchers, innovators, deep-tech start-ups, industries, policymakers, funding agencies and global experts. Organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, under the guidance of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, with the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) as the Organising Partner, the three-day event will provide a platform for showcasing cutting-edge research, emerging technologies and deep-tech innovations and fostering collaboration in emerging and critical areas of science, technology and innovation towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. Your dedication and hard work will get noticed and will bring some financial rewards for you today. Someone you live with will be highly irritated with your recent actions today. Travel will promote romantic connection. Successful day for those in the creative fields as they receive long awaited fame and recognition. Boundless creativity and enthusiasm leads you to another beneficial day. Today you will know the true ecstasy of being married.

Remedy :- Wrap two fist full of lentils in red cloth and give in charity to poor and needy people. This remedy will help in increased family happiness.



Taurus

Evenings at the movie-theatre or dinner with your spouse seem to keep you in a relaxed and wonderful mood The arrival of money today can relieve you from many financial troubles. Your family would come to your rescue and guide you at the time of crisis. You can learn some lessons by observing others who have mastered a practice. It is extremely helpful in strengthening self-confidence. Today your love blooms to show what a beautiful deed you have done. Natives who are working may have to face several problems at the workplace today. You will unknowingly make mistakes, thereby making you bear the brunt of your seniors.

Remedy :- For a successful professional life, offer raw milk on Shivlinga.



Gemini

A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. Married couples may have to spend a lot of money on the education of their children today. A repair work at home or social get-togethers likely to keep you busy. Emotional disturbances could trouble you. Beneficial day therefore-push up and go ahead as good opportunities await you. If you are able to find time for yourself, even after a busy routine, then you should learn to utilize it properly. Doing this can help you improve your future. Married life comes with some side-effects; you may face some today.

Remedy :- Gift your girlfriend/boyfriend yellow clothing/fabrics and make your relations strong.



Cancer

A sparkling laughter filled day when most things proceed-as you desire. New sources of income will generate through people you know. There may be opportunities to attend social functions-which would bring you in close contact with influential people. Wrong communication or a message might make your day dull. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Your free time will be wasted today because of any unnecessary work. Your relatives might cause some harm your marital bliss today.

Remedy :- Wear a golden ring in your ring finger for a harmonious love life.



Leo

It is right time for the heart patients to quit coffee. Any further use would put unnecessary pressure on your heart. Today, a creditor can visit you and ask you to repay your loan. Although you will repay the amount, but it can further create financial hardships in life. Therefore, you are advised to avoid borrowing. Spend some relaxed moments with family members. Your careless attention to your sweetheart might bring in the tensed moments at home. Keep your ears and eyes open when interacting with important people - as you could pick up a valuable tip. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Your spouse might cause you some loss today.

Remedy :- Use moderate amount of red chilly while preparing food, for economic well-being.



Virgo

Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. Today, there is a possibility of gaining monetary benefits, but due to your aggressive nature, you may not be able to earn as expected. Love-companionship and bonding on the rise. Love life seems to be blessing you today. Today you will realize that it is the support of your family that you are doing well at work. As you like to carry out your favourite activity in free time, you'll think of doing something similar even today. However, you won't be able to fulfil your plan due to an uninvited guest.

Remedy :- Wear gold always, depending on your affordability, for constant improvement in your economic condition.



Libra

Your energy level will be high and you should use it to complete pending tasks. You are most likely to attain financial profits today at night because as any money lent before will come back instantly. Your witty nature would brighten the environment around you. Today, you will want to share your life struggles with your partner. However, instead they will start narrating their own problems, which will upset you more. Co-workers and subordinates will bring moments of worry and stress. You can remain free the whole day and watch as many movies and programs on TV as you want. An external party might try to create differences between you and your partner, but you both will manage it.

Remedy :- Keeping yellow piece of cloth, handkerchief in your pocket/wallet will be auspicious for business life.



Scorpio

Participating in sports and other outdoor activities will help you gather your lost energy. Put your extra money in a safe place that will promise you returns in times to come. Someone you live with will be highly irritated with your recent actions today. Your love will reach a new height. The day will begin with the smile of your love, and end in the dreams of each other. Your confidence is growing and advancement is apparent. Your communication techniques and working skills will be impressive. Life keeps on giving you surprises, but today you are going to be awestruck seeing a wonderful side of your partner.

Remedy :- Light a lamp and add some black and white sesame seeds in it. This remedy will restore lost family happiness and pave the way for closer familial bonds.



Sagittarius

Take proper care about your diet especially migraine patients who should not miss their meal otherwise it could give them undue emotional stress. Today, you are likely to attain economic benefits due to your children. This will make you very happy. Children may bring in some thrilling news. Romantic memories will occupy your day. Support and appreciation from seniors will raise your morale and confidence. You can watch a movie in your spare time. However, you'll feel like you have wasted your time by watching this movie as you won't like it. Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars, but it's the day when Venus and Mars will melt into each other.

Remedy :- Showing affection and helping widows will be beneficial for health.



Capricorn

Do not neglect your health especially avoid liquor. Today you can invest your money in religious activities, and most likely to incur mental peace and stability. You will be in the limelight at the social get-together that you attend today. Your love story can take a new turn today, in which your partner can discuss the prospect of marriage with you. In this case, you must consider every aspect before taking any decision. Any of your competitors at the workplace can conspire against you today, which is why you need to remain alert and work with caution. You can watch a movie in your spare time. However, you'll feel like you have wasted your time by watching this movie as you won't like it.

Remedy :- Distribute and also eat white coloured sweets for positive health vibrations.



Aquarius

For a contented life improve your mental toughness. You'll come to understand the fact today that investing often proves to be very beneficial for you, as any old investment made by you an offer profitable returns. Do not share your personal matters with the casual acquaintances. Sudden romantic encounter may confuse you. Interacting with eminent people will bring you good ideas and plans. Natives of this zodiac sign should read some spiritual books in their free time today. By doing this, many of your troubles can be overcome. The day is really romantic. With nice food, fragrances, happiness, you will spend an amazing time with your better-half.

Remedy :- Chanting (Om Kraam Kreem Kroum Sah Bhauamaaya Namaha) 11 times early in the morning will ensure peaceful and blissful family life.



Pisces

Avoid high calorie diet and stick to your exercise. If you feel that you do not have enough money, then seek the advice from an elder regarding money management and savings. Great day when you would receive all the attention you want- you would have many things lined up and you would have problems in deciding which ones to follow. Be alert as chances of losing friendship are high on card today. Lectures and seminars that you attend today will bring new ideas for growth. Natives of this zodiac sign are very interesting. Sometimes they will feel alive amidst their friends, but would love to spend time alone at times. Adding to it, you'll be able to take out some 'me' time from your busy schedule.

Remedy :- Help and serve visually-challenged persons and see positive magic spread in your love life.

ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2027 ticket applications cross 15 million in 12 days



Dubai: The ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2027 has attracted more than 15 million ticket applications within 12 days of the ballot opening, underlining the growing anticipation for the tournament scheduled to be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), a total of 15,083,752 ticket applications have been submitted, with 4,423,417 ballot registrations

recorded from fans across 142 countries. The surge marks a significant jump from the one million applications received during the first week of the registration process. The 14th edition of the tournament will return to Africa for the first time in 24 years and is set to feature a new format, with organisers anticipating a global following for what is being billed as the biggest edition in the competition’s history. ICC Chief Executive Of-

ficer Sanjog Gupta attributed the response to the tournament’s global appeal, the attraction of its African host nations and the promotional efforts leading up to the launch. “The overwhelming demand for tickets is testament to the stature and appeal of the Cricket World Cup, the allure of Africa as a destination and the anticipation for the event generated by the ICC and its partners’ promotional

activities leading up to the event launch,” ICC Chief Executive Officer Sanjog Gupta said. Gupta also outlined the ICC’s plans to build momentum in the lead-up to the tournament, which is now less than a year away. “With a year to go, the ICC has planned an exciting runway of 360 degree activations, multi-platform campaigns and content line-ups, which will elevate the fandom associated with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027.” Fans can register for the ticket ballot until 23:59 Central Africa Time (CAT) on November 21, 2026. The deadline falls exactly one year before the scheduled World Cup final at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. The tournament is scheduled to begin on October 2, 2027, with a three-team Super Series in Windhoek, Namibia, before the competition unfolds across the three host nations. With ticket applications already exceeding 15 million, the early response highlights the scale of interest surrounding the next edition of the men’s ODI showpiece as preparations continue across southern Africa.

Mighty Marathas beat Chero Archers in thrilling shootoff in APL

Hyderabad: Despite playing catch-up for most of the match, Mighty Marathas came from behind to script a thrilling shootoff win against in-form Chero Archers in Archery Premier League Season 2. Aman Saini and Dhiraj Bommadevara nailed their arrows into the yellow ring in the APL’s signature hit-or-miss shootoff. For Chero, compound world No. 1 Mathias Fullerton scored a hit in the shootoff, but the other three archers missed as Marathas won 2-1 in the tiebreaker after a 4-4 draw in regulation time. Chero, who have now lost two matches in tiebreakers this season, started strongly and took the first set. However, in what turned out to be a high-quality display of archery, the second and third sets were split between the two sides. Another high-scoring fourth set went down to the wire, but after a few tense seconds spent checking the final scores of a couple of close arrows, it went Marathas’ way and the match headed into the shootoff. Mighty Marathas, after starting the season with a couple of defeats, have now made it three



wins in a row to go level with Chero on six points. For Chero, Yashdeep Bhoge was nominated in place of the in-form Atanu Das, and he shot two fine arrows in the first set to help his side take a 2-0 lead against Mighty Marathas. The second set came down to the teams’ recurve stars, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Asian Games double gold medallist Kumkum Mohod, who both

shot 9s with time winding down. In the third set, it was Kumkum’s turn to come up with a sensational 10 into the centre of the target face to tie the scores. The fourth set saw both Bommadevara and Kumkum finish with 10s, but Aman Saini’s first arrow was upgraded from 9 to 10, giving the set points to Marathas. Saini, in fact, finished the match with 60 out of

60 and then added a shootoff hit to his tally as well. “It’s easy for me,” Saini joked after the match when asked about his high-scoring performance. “There is a process behind all this, lot of hard work. It gives a lot of joy when results pay off for the team.” Tuesday will mark the start of the second half of the league phase as things heat up in the race for the semi-finals.

Liverpool FC Foundation discusses community football initiatives in Telangana



Hyderabad: Colin Contini, head of operations at the Liverpool Football Club (LFC) Foundation, visited the Gachibowli Sports Complex here on Monday at the invitation of the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG). As part of the visit, SATG hosted a round-table meeting chaired by its vice-chairman and managing director, Dr A Sonibala Devi, to identify areas of collaboration with the LFC Foundation to expand community football and use sport as a tool for social development

across Telangana. The meeting brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including owners and representatives of football clubs in the State, representatives of various foundations, corporate representatives interested in directing corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds towards sport, and senior SATG officials. Former India internationals Victor Amalraj and Shabbir Ali also participated in the meeting and shared their insights on developing football at the grassroots level. During the

meeting, Contini said the Foundation organised programmes across seven areas of impact: inclusion; sport and physical activity; health and well-being; education and life skills; employability and training; youth intervention; and community engagement. “It delivers close to 200 sessions every week for young people and families and works with dozens of schools across the Liverpool City Region. Its international work, delivered in partnership with

Right To Play, reaches vulnerable children through programmes in countries such as Thailand, Senegal and Tanzania,” Contini said. Contini appreciated SATG’s efforts to develop football and strengthen grassroots participation in Telangana. He expressed interest in exploring collaboration with SATG on community football, inclusion and sports-for-development programmes, drawing on the LFC Foundation’s experience. Dr Sonibala Devi said Telangana had strong football traditions and considerable young talent. “The LFC Foundation’s experience in using football to change lives in communities is something we can learn from. Today’s round table is a first step towards a partnership that brings together government, clubs, CSR partners and former players to take community football to every corner of the State,” she said. The meeting concluded with participants agreeing to identify specific areas of collaboration and work towards a framework for future engagement between SATG and the LFC Foundation.

TCA demands scrapping of Hyderabad Ranji squad, threatens BCCI protest



Hanamkonda: Alleviating serious irregularities in team selection and commercial interests overriding merit, the Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has demanded the immediate scrapping of the existing Hyderabad Ranji Trophy squad. Alleging systematic neglect of cricketers across Telangana’s 32 districts, the TCA also threatened to mobilise thousands of young cricketers for a mass protest at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai if the concerns raised by district-level players continued to be ignored. The proposed agitation, the association said, would seek to draw the national cricket administration’s attention to the need for equitable opportunities and a transparent selection system. Speaking to the media here on Monday, TCA general secretary Dharam Guruva Reddy and vice-president Dr Pesaroo Vijay Chander Reddy accused the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) of concentrating opportunities in limited pockets of Hyderabad

at the expense of promising cricketers from the rest of Telangana. Guruva Reddy questioned the selection process overseen by Ambati Rayudu and HCA secretary Jeevan Reddy, alleging that places in the Ranji squad had been allotted to individuals associated with cricket-kit and T-shirt vendor companies, while deserving local Telangana players were left out. He said the HCA leadership should participate in an open debate on the selection process, the criteria adopted and the alleged exclusion of district-level talent. Complaints of alleged cash-for-selection practices could not be brushed aside, he said, stressing the need for accountability and transparency in selecting players to represent Hyderabad in domestic cricket. Dr Vijay Chander Reddy accused the HCA of failing to adequately identify and nurture talent across the 32 districts. The future of Telangana cricket depended on a system that reached the grassroots rather

than one that concentrated opportunities within a narrow geographical area, he said. The TCA intends to field teams representing all 32 districts of Telangana in domestic cricket competitions to create a wider platform for local talent. Cricketers from rural and district backgrounds must receive a fair opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and progress to higher levels, the association leaders said. The TCA leaders spoke to the media on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Under-19 State League Championship at Kakatiya University Grounds, featuring 16 teams. Exceptional performers in the tournament would be officially recommended to the BCCI to ensure merit-based opportunities for young cricketers, they said. TCA zonal convener and district secretary Thallapelli Jaipal Reddy, Technical Committee member Chittaranjan, Allam Venkateshwarlu, coach Shafi and senior cricketers Navarasan and Aditya were present.

To avoid further forfeitures, BCCI conducts selection trials for various Arunachal Pradesh teams



New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is organising selection trials for various Arunachal Pradesh men’s and women’s age-group and senior teams to avoid further forfeitures from them and keep them in the reckoning in the ongoing domestic season. The intervention comes after Arunachal Pradesh forfeited their opening Ranji Trophy fixture against Nagaland in Ahmedabad, alongside earlier non-participation in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy and Under-19 Women’s T20 Trophy due to a legal deadlock over two factions in the Arunachal Cricket Association

(ACA) in the Guwahati High Court-Itanagar Bench. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed to IANS on Tuesday that Apex Council member M. Khairul Jamal Majumdar has been appointed as convener. “Yes, trials are going on in Arunachal Pradesh. The BCCI has appointed M. Khairul Jamal Majumdar (also known as Mamon) as the convener to conduct trials because we cannot allow the teams to go without participating in this season’s domestic competitions. So trials are going on in Arunachal with some independent selectors from outside the state. The association is not

involved in these trials, as the BCCI is directly conducting the trials and we are trying to send the teams from Arunachal to Ranji Trophy and games in other tournaments, which will be happening in the coming days,” Saikia said on Tuesday. A panel of independent selectors from Assam, comprising former players Satya Gopal Chakraborty, Jayanta Chowdhury, and Deep Bora, have been tasked with conducting the trials and ensure teams are fielded from Arunachal in the Ranji Trophy, Col CK Nayudu Trophy, Senior Women’s T20 Trophy and Vijay Merchant Trophy. “The selectors at the trials in Arunachal are three former players from Assam – Satya Gopal Chakraborty, Jayanta Chowdhury, and Deep Bora. Chakraborty is the chairman of selectors for these trials,” added Saikia. A local source in Arunachal Pradesh confirmed to IANS about the ongoing selection trials in Itanagar. “Yes, there was a notice which came for trials for various men’s and women’s teams players happening from 8am today at the Delhi Public School in Itanagar. The trials are happening to pick teams for Senior Women’s, Boys U16, Men’s U23 and Senior Men’s teams,” further said the source.

Para Sports Association urges Telangana to issue Deepthi Jeevanji’s appointment order

Hyderabad: Gadipally Prasanth, general secretary of the Para Sports Association of Telangana, has appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the State Sports Minister, and the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana to intervene immediately and ensure the prompt issuance of Group-II appointment orders to international athlete Deepthi Jeevanji. Prasanth urged the government to translate its commitment into concrete action, eliminate unnecessary administrative delays and issue the promised appointment order without further delay.



“Recognising Deepthi’s extraordinary achievements at the international level is not merely a matter of honouring one athlete; it is also a powerful message of encouragement to para-athletes

across Telangana who aspire to represent the country,” he said. “The government must act decisively and fulfil its promise by issuing her appointment order at the earliest.

BSS Haindava Teaser: Mystery, Magic & Menace

After attaining the blockbuster with Kishkindhapuri, Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is coming up with an intriguing project Haindava co-starring Samyuktha. The film's teaser has been dropped just a while ago, promising a captivating blend of mystery, magic and menace. What happens when a police officer who refuses to believe in God is confronted with events that challenge every explanation he can offer? That intriguing question forms the crux of Haindava. Set in a village named Rangapuram, the teaser introduces a mystery that revolves around an ancient temple, missing idols, and an unexplained murder. The teaser's central conflict provides an interesting foundation for the film. While the investigation demands evidence and logical answers, the circumstances appear to carry a mystical dimension that refuses to be easily explained. Director Ludheer Byreddy seems to have woven these contrasting elements into a suspense-



driven narrative, blending devotional themes with occult mystery and action. Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas appears in a dynamic avatar as the officer tasked with unraveling the mystery. His character's belief in humanity over divinity adds another dimension to the investigation, while the action sequences

showcased in the teaser suggest a powerful performance. Samyuktha makes her presence felt and Mahesh Manjrekar's portrayal of the temple priest adds significance to the spiritual side of the story. Harish Kannan's cinematography lends visual depth to the unfolding mystery, while Sam CS provides the pulsating back-

ground score. Produced by Mahesh Chandu under the Moonshine Pictures banner, Haindava is nearing completion, with post-production progressing alongside the final stages of shooting. The teaser has set the stage for an intriguing theatrical experience, with the film scheduled to arrive on November 27th.

Pic Talk: Prabhas' King Size Meals To Fauzi Heroine



Prabhas is known for his grand food feasts, and almost every celebrity who works with him has a story to share. From actors to directors, many celebrities have spoken about the delicious spread he arranges for his film units. Now, Fauzi heroine Imanvi is the latest to experience Prabhas' hospitality. The actress celebrated her birthday yesterday, and Prabhas reportedly treated her to a grand Bahubali-style feast featuring a wide variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Imanvi shared a video of the lavish spread, saying the food filled both her stomach and heart. She also thanked Prabhas for the wonderful treat. Prabhas has often left his co-stars amazed with his food arrangements. While fans love hearing these stories, many also wonder how anyone on his film sets manages to stick to a diet plan with such lavish meals around!

Amma Kadhili Vacche From Bharata Varsha: Divine Euphoria



T Gopichand's historical action extravaganza Bharata Varsha, being helmed by Sankalp is gearing up for release. As part of the musical promotions, the makers released second single- Amma Kadhili Vacche. The imagery becomes even more striking with the presentation of Durga's nine forms. Music and visuals work in tandem to heighten the impact. Anudeep Dev crafts the composition with a stirring devotional character, while Kalyan Chakravarthy Tripuraneni's lyrics bring poetic expression to the goddess's glory and might. Skanda Veluvali leads the vocal presentation with considerable force. The presence of T Gopichand and Ritu Varma adds another dimension to the sequence, placing the lead actors within the cultural landscape of the narrative. Yet, it is the collective participation of the devotees and the authenticity of the festivities that give the song much of its emotional weight. Backed by producer Srinivasaa Chitturi under Srinivasaa Silver Screen, the story is set in 642 AD.

Fatima Sana Shaikh Blends Modern Glam With Charm



Fatima Sana Shaikh may be going through a quiet phase at the box office and on streaming, but her fashion game is far from dull. The Dangal actress continues to prove she is a true style star. Fatima looked graceful in a pistachio green saree with gold sequin and zari floral motifs and a pink scalloped border. She paired it with a sleeveless, plunging V-neck blouse with colourful mirror work. Chandelier earrings and stacked bangles added festive shine, while soft waves, warm eye makeup and nude lips kept the glam balanced. The soft green shade gave the look a calm and earthy charm, while the plunging neckline added a modern touch to the traditional drape.

Buchi Compares Vijay Devarakonda With Pawan Kalyan



Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika are coming up with Ranabaali, scheduled for a grand release on the 16th of this month. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is set against a period backdrop. The team celebrated the pre-release last night grandly, and many young directors attended the event to convey their best wishes to the team. During the event, Buchi Babu Sana compared Vijay to Pawan Kalyan. Buchi Babu made his debut with Uppena, bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers. Buchi shared that Geetha Govindam's assistant director worked on Uppena and told an interesting incident that proves the range of Vijay. "During the shoot of Geetha Govindam, the team was reportedly shooting in a college, and the female students went crazy to catch a glimpse of Vijay. The college management had locked the students inside the classrooms to control them," said Buchi. The Peddi director compared this incident to Pawan Kalyan's craze. "The incident shows the craze of Vijay Deverakonda, and his range matches Powerstar Pawan Kalyan's range," said Buchi Babu. In fact, Vijay Deverakonda enjoys a huge craze among the youth, especially girls. From the time of Pelli Choopulu, Vijay started to attract youth. Interestingly, Arjun Reddy also hiked the craze of Vijay and there was no going back. Despite flops, Pawan always commanded a huge fan base and so is Vijay. With Ranabaali, Vijay aims to make a massive comeback and he is confident of the same.