

IN BRIEF
Harman to be brand ambassador for Omaxe realty

NEW DELHI: Realty firm Omaxe Ltd has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian women's cricket team, as its brand ambassador. On Sunday, India won the maiden ICC Women's World Cup title with a 52-run victory over South Africa. In a statement on Monday, Omaxe announced the appointment of Kaur as the company's brand ambassador. Omaxe said the company's partnership with Harmanpreet Kaur reinforces its vision to back sporting excellence and create infrastructure where athletes can thrive. On the association, Harmanpreet Kaur said, "I am proud to join Omaxe as its brand ambassador and to stand with a company that believes in empowering youth, strengthening communities, and building facilities that inspire dreams and turn them into achievements."

Shilpi named mkt head of BharatPe

NEW DELHI: Fintech major BharatPe on Monday said it has appointed Shilpi Kapoor as its Head of Marketing, effective November 3, 2025. She will lead brand strategy, integrated marketing, and digital growth mandates across the company, working closely with leadership to accelerate brand momentum and market expansion, the company said in a statement. Kapoor brings in over two decades of experience, having held senior leadership roles across American Express, Renault, Godfrey Phillips, Bharti Airtel, and Coca-Cola. Most recently, she served as the Chief Marketing Officer at Airtel Payments Bank.

Bajaj Auto sales up 8% in Oct

NEW DELHI: Bajaj Auto on Monday reported an 8 per cent year-on-year growth in total vehicle wholesales, including exports, at 5,18,170 units in October. The Pune-based automaker had sold 4,79,707 vehicles in October 2024, according to a statement. Total domestic sales (including commercial vehicles) increased 3 per cent to 3,14,148 units in October compared to 3,03,831 units sold in the corresponding month last year. Total exports for October rose 16 per cent year-on-year to 2,04,022 vehicles in the year-ago period. Total two-wheeler sales, including exports, increased 7 per cent to 4,42,316 units in October compared to 4,14,372 units in the same month of last year.

Star Air starts Bng-Hampi flight

MUMBAI: Regional carrier Star Air on Monday said it has started flight services to Jindal Vidyanaagar Airport near Hampi in Karnataka from Bengaluru November 1 onwards, making the UNESCO World Heritage site city as the 32nd destination in the airline's network. In the last two months, Star Air said it has added multiple tier-II, and tier-III stops such as Gondia, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Purnia, Solapur, Surat, Jamnagar, Bhuj, and Bidar, thereby expanding its services network by 25 per cent. "The commencement of our operations at Vidyanagar is a proud moment for Star Air.

Alkem's research centre with IIT-B

MUMBAI: Alkem Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of Alkem Laboratories, and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on Monday announced their collaboration for setting up an advanced research centre in India for immuno-therapeutics and regenerative medicines. Under this collaboration, Alkem Foundation will fund the establishment of "Alkem Centre for Advanced Research and Development of Applied Immuno-Therapeutics and Regenerative Medicines" in the IIT Bombay campus, a joint statement said.

India's solar power capacity to touch **216 GW** in FY28: Report

India needs 36-47 cr solar panels to achieve solar capacity target, says CareEdge report

SUNNY WAYS

- India's installed solar base surged to 127.3 GW as of Sept 2025
- India's exports of solar PVs surged by 10 times from 2019 to 2025
- Govt initiatives also helped to increase of solar capacity to 100 GW
- Now, India occupies fourth position worldwide in solar power



India's module manufacturing capacity is expected to add additional capacity of 100 GWp by the end of FY28, nearly three to four times the average annual module demand of 50-60 GWp over the next three years, the report said

NEW DELHI

INDIA is expected to have around 216 GW of solar capacity generating 305 billion units by FY28, driven by strong responses to applications under the Production Linked Incentive scheme, a report said on Monday.

The PLI scheme is enabling rapid capacity expansion, while efficiency gains -- where 1,700-2,200 panels (at 500 watts peak) are typically deployed for every 1 MW of solar power -- are reinforcing scale advantages in project execution, said the report

from CareEdge Advisory, a subsidiary of ratings agency CareEdge Ratings.

CareEdge Advisory noted India's installed solar base surged to 127.3 GW as of September 2025, up from 3.9 GW in FY15, and contributed about 25.7 per cent of total installed capacity.

India's exports of solar photovoltaic (PV) products have surged by more than 10 times between FY19 and FY25, primarily to the US, the report said.

Government initiatives like PLI, Basic Customs Duty (BCD), and Approved List of

Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) have helped expand domestic solar module capacity to 100 GW, placing the country in fourth position worldwide.

India's module manufacturing capacity is expected to add additional capacity of 100 GWp by the end of FY28, nearly three to four times the average annual module demand of 50-60 GWp over the next three years, the report said. Domestic cell manufacturing capacity is projected to reach 100 GWp during the same period, with capex exceeding Rs 55,000 crore,

Ex-CS, 3 others discharged in Coal scam case

NEW DELHI



A special court here has discharged RKM Powergen Pvt. Ltd, former Coal Secretary HC Gupta and three others in the Fatehpur East coal block allocation case in which they were chargesheeted by the CBI, saying there was no evidence to prosecute them.

The two promoters of the company, Andral Arumugam and T M Singaravel, and former Joint Secretary Kuljeet Singh Krophia have also been discharged by Special Judge Dheeraj Mor after hearing arguments from both sides.

Nearly three years after filing the FIR in 2014, the CBI submitted its closure report on September 21, 2017, claiming that allegations in the FIR under Indian Penal Code section 120B (criminal conspiracy) read with Section 420 (cheating), besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, were not substantiated.

Not satisfied with the findings, the special court directed the agency to conduct a further probe. Six years later, the CBI submitted a charge sheet against five accused in 2023 under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In its charge sheet, the CBI had alleged that RKM Powergen and its directors misrepresented their project preparedness, submitted forged documents and cheated the government to secure the coal block. Judge Mor did not find evidence to substantiate CBI's allegation while hearing detailed arguments from both sides with the company being represented by senior advocate Abhimanyu Bhandari.

CtrlS Datacenters, NTPC Green ink pact for 2 renewable power proj

NEW DELHI

CTRLS Datacenters on Monday said it has signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) to jointly establish grid-connected renewable energy projects with a capacity of up to 2 GW or more.

The MoU was signed between CtrlS Founder & CEO Sridhar Pinnappureddy and NGEL CEO Sarit Mareshwari. "As part of the MoU, CtrlS and NGEL aim to jointly establish grid-connected renewable energy projects/assets with a capacity of up to 2 GW or more through greenfield development and/or acquisitions, for the supply of renewable power to CtrlS for its captive consumption on mutual agreement or any other business as may be mutually decided



between the parties.

The MoU shall be in force for two years with a provision to extend further," the company said in a statement. NGEL, a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, has an operational capacity of over 8.9 GW and 13 GW under implementation.

NGEL plans to have an installed capacity of 60 GW by 2032. Pinnappureddy described the partnership as a pivotal step toward building a sustainable digital future.

"Partnering with NGEL enables us to power our datacenters with renewable en-

India Post ties up with EPFO to provide digital life certificates

The initiative aligns with the government of India's 'Digital India' and 'Ease of Living' vision, harnessing technology and postal infrastructure to ensure inclusive service delivery for senior citizens and pensioners



NEW DELHI

INDIA Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to its pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, an official statement said on Monday.

Under this collaboration, IPPB -- a 100 per cent government-owned entity under the Department of Posts -- will leverage its wide network of over 1.65 lakh post offices and more than 3 lakh postal service providers (postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks).

They are equipped with doorstep banking devices and digital process of face authentication technology

and fingerprint biometric authentication, to assist EPFO pensioners in submitting their Digital Life Certificates conveniently from their homes, eliminating the need for them to visit bank branches or EPFO offices to submit traditional paper-based certificates.

EPFO will bear the cost of issuing Digital Life Certificate entirely, making the service free for their pensioners, according to the Ministry of Communications.

"This partnership with EPFO reinforces IPPB's mission to bring essential financial and citizen services to every doorstep in India. With our technology-enabled postal network and trusted last-mile reach, EPFO pensioners -- especially in rural and semi-urban areas -- will now be able to complete their life cer-

tificate submission seamlessly, with dignity and convenience," said R Viswesvaran, MD and CEO, IPPB. The initiative aligns with the government of India's 'Digital India' and 'Ease of Living' vision, harnessing technology and postal infrastructure to ensure inclusive service delivery for senior citizens and pensioners, he mentioned. India Post Payments Bank introduced the doorstep service of Digital Life Certificate in 2020 for generating Jeevan Pramaan for pensioners using Aadhaar-enabled biometric authentication to reduce the turnaround time for issuance of Jeevan Pramaan.

On completion of the certificate generation process, confirmation SMS will be received by the pensioner in his mobile number and the certificate can be viewed online the next day.

IRF welcomes highways ministry's move to install QR code on road proj

NEW DELHI

INTERNATIONAL Road Federation (IRF) on Monday welcomed highways minister Nitin Gadkari's recent announcement to install QR code on every major road project for improving the quality of roads, and termed it as a bold new transparency push and a major step towards participatory governance.

IRF is a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide. IRF president emeritus K K Kapila said the bold new transparency and visionary initiative to introduce QR codes for improving the quality and monitoring of Indian roads marks a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards creating a more transparent, accountable, and technology-driven



infrastructure management system. By enabling real-time tracking of road construction quality and maintenance, this initiative will go a long way in ensuring durability, safety, and long-term sustainability of India's road network," Kapila said. He added that this innovative step by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways truly reflects the government of India's dedication to enhancing the quality, transparency, and efficiency of road infrastructure development -- a move that will greatly benefit citizens.

Indian tourists to Nepal on decline

KATHMANDU

NEPAL has witnessed a significant decline in the number of Indian tourist arrivals during the first 10 months of 2025 and only a marginal increase in total foreign tourist inflows, according to the latest statistics released by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

India remains the largest source market for Nepal's tourism industry, accounting for one-fourth of total



international visitors to the Himalayan nation.

According to NTB data, arrivals from the southern neighbour dropped by 11 per cent year-on-year to 2,43,350 between January and Octo-

ber this year. Overall foreign tourist arrivals, however, grew marginally by 0.3 per cent to 9,43,716.

Likewise, arrivals from another neighbour, China, decreased by 5.3 per cent to 78,929 during the same period. China currently ranks as Nepal's third-largest source market -- down from the pre-Covid period when it had emerged as the second-largest source market for Nepal's tourism industry.

Lenskart to launch AI-powered smart glasses

NEW DELHI: EYEWEAR major Lenskart is gearing up to launch its first pair of AI-powered smart glasses by the end of December, marking a step towards positioning itself as a technology-led lifestyle brand, according to people familiar with the matter. Internally referred to as "B by Lenskart Smartglasses", the upcoming device is expected to integrate AI-based interactions

ISA pitches for BIPV tech to promote solar energy

NEW DELHI

THE International Solar Alliance (ISA) is focusing on integrated photovoltaics technology that helps buildings generate solar power and reduce emissions, its Director General Ashish Khanna said on Monday. He stressed on the need to embed solar intelligence into architecture itself.

Addressing 17th GRIHA Summit being held in the national capital, Khanna noted that urban areas consume over

70 per cent of global electricity and produce more than two-thirds of emissions.

"This trend is likely to enhance further as the residential consumption of electricity is expected to have the highest share of increase in energy consumption over next few decade," he added.

The two-day summit, starting Monday, has been organised by GRIHA Council that administers green building rating system GRIHA.

Khanna pointed out that

the pollution in cities is already choking lives of the next generation and impacting sustainable growth.

"Yet, the vast potential of their roofs, facades, and skylights remains untapped," he rued. "To decarbonize cities, we must go beyond adding renewables to the grid -- we must embed solar intelligence into the architecture itself. This would require innovations across dimensions of institutions, technologies, and financing," Khanna said.

Aluminium industry seeks 15% customs duty to check surge in imports

India's aluminium demand stands at 5.5 MTs and is expected to reach 8.5 MTs by 2030

NEW DELHI

CHECK IMPORTS

- India's aluminium imports increased by over 50% in last 5 years
- To safeguard the industry, AAI seeks investments
- It urged govt to impose 15% import duty on all aluminium products
- AAI also sought stringent quality norms for non-standard scrap imports



According to the Government of India's Vision 2047 for the sector, aluminium has been identified as a strategic metal crucial to India's industrial transformation, powering defence, infrastructure, national security, power, aerospace, transportation and overall economic growth.

India's aluminium demand currently stands at 5.5 million tonnes and is projected to reach 8.5 million tonnes by 2030. According to the 'Aluminium Vision Document', this demand is expected to surge nearly six-fold to 37 million tonnes by 2047, re-

quiring investments exceeding Rs 20 lakh crore to build a self-reliant ecosystem. However, without swift action, India risks repeating the rare earth scenario seen in China, where strategic materials became trade levers through export restrictions. This challenge is compounded by global trends in 'scrap nationalism', where developed economies like the US and Europe retain high-quality scrap for domestic circularity while exporting poor-grade material to countries like India, according to the AAI statement.

This protectionist trend

According to the Government of India's Vision 2047 for the sector, aluminium has been identified as a strategic metal crucial to India's industrial transformation, powering defence, infrastructure, national security, power, aerospace, transportation and overall economic growth

could erode India's manufacturing base by curtailing future investments and derail its Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. While Global economies are realising the importance of aluminium being a strategic metal and facilitating their domestic industry with tariff and non-tariff barriers, similar measures in India can prevent shortfall of aluminium

Q2 RESULTS

Bharti Airtel profit doubles to ₹8,651 crore

NEW DELHI: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday reported over twofold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs8,651 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had clocked a profit of Rs4,153.4 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from operations increased by 25.7 per cent to Rs52,145 crore during the quarter from Rs41,473.3 crore in the year-ago period. Bharti Airtel's India revenue rose by 22.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs38,690 crore.

Ambuja Cements net profit surges to ₹2,302 cr

NEW DELHI: Ambuja Cements on Monday reported an over four-fold increase in profit after tax year on year at Rs2,302 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025. The Adani group firm reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs496 crore in the July-September quarter of last fiscal. The PAT for the September quarter this fiscal includes income tax provision reversal of Rs1,697 crore.

TCPL net profit up 10.7% to ₹406.5 cr

NEW DELHI: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Monday reported a 10.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs406.51 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025, led by India business. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs367.21 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from TCPL, the Tata group's FMCG arm. Its revenue from operations rose by 17.83 per cent to Rs 4,965.9 crore in the September quarter of FY26.