

IN BRIEF

Tea Board
for testing of
imported crop

KOLKATA: Deputy chairman of Tea Board C Murugan on Saturday assured that hundred per cent testing of quality of imports would be carried out to prevent inflows of the cheap variety into the country. The industry had been complaining that cheap imports of inferior quality are entering the country, which is destroying the industry. Speaking at the biennial general meeting of the Tea Association of India (TAI) here, Murugan said that the Board is formalising the procedure for hundred per cent testing of the quality of imports of the beverage. "We are creating the infrastructure towards this. It will take 15 to 20 days.

NTPC new biz
head takes over

VISAKHAPATNAM: Senior NTPC officer Ayaskanta Jena has assumed charge as the Business Unit Head & Head of Project of Simhadri Super Thermal Power Station. Jena brings with him over 36 years of rich experience with NTPC, having served the organisation in diverse roles across multiple domains. He joined NTPC in October 1990 and has since held several key leadership positions. Prior to assuming his current role, he served as Chief General Manager, ENGG-Planning & Systems, CC-EOC, Secunderabad, where he played a significant role in steering critical engineering functions and gained extensive experience in task force operations and project management.

India's coal
import rises in Nov

NEW DELHI: India's coal imports, which jumped 28.1 per cent in November, is expected to see a decline in the coming months on account of increased availability of domestic resources, according to industry data. Imports in November rose to 25.07 million tonnes (MT) as against 19.57 MT imported in November 2024, according to data compiled by Junction Services Ltd, a B2B e-commerce platform and joint venture of SAIL and Tata Steel. "There was an up-tick in volumes in November mainly due to winter restocking by steel mills. Also, some buyers took fresh positions as seaborne prices remained weak.

80% of MoUs
signed since 2021

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has attracted investments to the tune of Rs 12.16 lakh crore since 2021 and about 80 per cent of the MoUs signed by the government are under various stages of execution, state Industries Minister TRB Rajaa said. Since 2021, Tamil Nadu has signed over 1,176 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with corporates committing investments of Rs 12.16 lakh crore, the minister said. "In 2025, the Industries department focused strongly on execution and future-ready growth.

Centre for farm
scheme spending

NEW DELHI: Union Agriculture Minister Shri Raj Singh Chouhan on Saturday urged states to adopt a strategic approach to budget utilisation, warning that delays in spending allocated funds result in losses for states and hamper the timely release of subsequent central instalments. Addressing a review meeting with state agriculture ministers, Chouhan said states must ensure funds earmarked for various schemes are spent before March to avoid administrative bottlenecks that delay the effective implementation of programmes.

Bringing food from chemical-free
farms of a resilient region

ORGANIC GROWTH

- Bahula Foods camel milk startup began May 2022
- Team grew from 3 to 15 employees rapidly
- Company supported by philanthropic grants despite bootstrapped model
- Bahula growing 100% annually targeting Rs2.5 crore
- Primarily B2B premium regenerative foods serving HORECA exports

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

We are a primarily B2B force with premium healthy food product offerings made from camel milk and indigenous cow milk. So we are on the lookout for people who can sell with empathy, market with honesty, and grow with responsibility." The company is growing at a 100 per cent rate YoY. It will close this year at Rs2.5 Cr.

BAHULA Foods has been operational since May 2022. At the time of inception at the Thar desert in Rajasthan, it was a 3 people team.

It is a bootstrapped company; however, it is supported by grant-in-aid through some philanthropic organisations, including the Grant for Agro-ecology Program (GAP) Fund by ACCESS Development Services. The company boasts of having 15 people on its roll now. Talking to *Bizz Buzz*, Aakriti Srivastava, Founder of Bahula Foods, says, "We are looking to hire self-driven and creative individuals across sales and marketing domains.

Welfare schemes
empowering
beneficiaries
strengthening grassroots
entrepreneurship
nationwide

NEW DELHI

UNDER the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, development has reached the last mile, ensuring that welfare schemes directly empower beneficiaries and strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, has said. This inclusive approach has

Sonowal: Modi-led governance
ensures last-mile dev delivery

transformed governance into a people-centric model that drives both social upliftment and economic growth, he said while addressing the 17th Central Mid-Term Conference of the Assam Press Correspondents' Union (APCU) in Tinsukia. He reaffirmed the media's indispensable role as the fourth pillar of democracy, describing journalists as the vigilant sentinels of society and the authentic voice of the people. Sonowal said the press carries a critical responsibility in safeguarding freedom of expression and strengthening democratic values in a rapidly evolving information landscape. "The role of the media as society's conscious watchdog is immeasurable. As the voice of the people, journalists have consistently

worked to protect freedom of speech and ensure accountability," Sonowal told the gathering. Highlighting the need for responsible journalism, he urged media professionals to prioritise truth, credibility and ethical reporting, and to resist misinformation and sensationalism.

Sonowal said journalism must act as a bridge between the government and the people, amplifying public concerns while promoting social harmony.

D-Mart's Dec quarter revenue rises 13% to ₹17cr

Company operates 442 stores nationwide currently

NEW DELHI

AVENUE Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, has reported a 13.15 per cent rise in its standalone revenue from operations to Rs17,612.62 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025.

The company had registered Rs15,565.23 crore revenue from operations a year ago, Avenue Supermarts informed BSE in a regulatory filing on Friday.

"Standalone Revenue

from operations for the quarter ended December 31, 2025, stood at Rs16,218.79 in the September quarter (Q2 FY26).

"Standalone Revenue from operations for Q4 December 31, 2025..is subject to limited review by the statutory auditors of the company," it said.

The total number of stores of the Damani-family promoted retail chain stood at 442 as of December 31, 2025.

This also includes its Sanpada in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, which is currently closed for customers due to reconstruction.

On a quarter-on-quarter



billions of dollars to produce more oil in the Latin American country.

"We're going to have our very large U.S. oil companies, the biggest anywhere in the world, go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure, oil infrastructure, and start making money for the country," he said.

Trump also noted that Venezuela had earlier grabbed the oil assets of US oil companies, which would now be recovered.

Rajnath Singh to commission
Coast Guard pollution vessel

NEW DELHI

Samudra Pratap first
indigenously built pollution
control ship

@goashipyardltd, #Goa on 05 Jan 26."

"Built by #GSL with over 60 per cent indigenous content, the 114.5 Mtr, 4,200 ton vessel boasts a speed of more than 22 knots and an endurance of 6,000 nm, significantly enhancing the ICG's pollution response, fire-fighting, and maritime safety & security capabilities," the ICG said. Earlier on December 23, the ICG inducted Samudra Pratap under the 02 PCV project of Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). The induction of this ship reinforced the vision of the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, said an official of the Ministry of Defence.

Uday Kotak cites hard power
race behind Venezuela attack

Victim country's vast oil reserves central to US action

NEW DELHI

that the US operation in the South American country was linked to this fact.

"The United States takes control over Venezuela, which has the largest oil reserves on earth. As I said in my year-end musings, this is a world of hard power, and the race between nations in today's world."

Kotak highlighted the fact that Venezuela is a country with the "largest oil reserves on earth" and hinted

tive points of view and has become more transient and transactional in relationships, with the dominance of hard power over soft power.

He highlighted that the race between countries is getting more intense and less mindful of consequences.

President Donald Trump announced, at a press conference after the capture of Maduro, that the US would return Venezuela and American oil companies would invest

Gautam Adani vows to strengthen
sustainable partnership with Bhutan

Hydropower cooperation advances with 5000 MW MoU

MARCHING AHEAD

- Wangchhu project marks key bilateral energy milestone
- Gelephu Mindfulness City hailed as visionary sustainable initiative
- Adani Group Bhutan projects built on trust value
- ₹60 bn investment planned for Wangchhu hydropower

NEW DELHI



Bhutan. "Deeply privileged to be a founding member of the Gelephu Mindfulness City. Indeed, a visionary initiative of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck that reflects Bhutan's enduring commitment to mindful and sustainable development," Gautam Adani posted.

The Adani Group Chairman further stated that in a significant step for our energy partnership, "we advanced key milestones by signing an MoU for 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan. The MoU, signed in Bhutan by Druk Green Power

Corporation's (DGPC) MD Dasho Chhewang Rinzin and Adani Green Hydro Ltd's COO (PSP and Hydro) Narash Telgu, in the presence of Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Lyonpo Gem Tshering and other senior dignitaries, builds on the ongoing partnership for the 570/900 MW Wangchhu Hydropower Project, in which DGPC will hold a majority 51 per cent stake and the Adani Group will hold 49 per cent.

Gautam Adani said that the signing of the MoU to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan "represented a deepening of the group's partnership with the Himalayan country."

In May last year, the Adani Group announced the signing of an MoU to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan. The MoU, signed in Bhutan by Druk Green Power

IRCTC launches R-Day
special 5-day Dubai tour

Package priced around ₹95,000 per person inclusive

TRAVEL PACKAGE

- Tourists travel as single Indian group abroad
- Package includes flights, hotels, visa, meals, sightseeing
- Dubai attractions Abu Dhabi, shopping included
- Bookings open till Jan 6, Europe tour announced

JAIPUR



casing national unity and cultural diversity abroad, IRCTC said in a statement. The package includes return airfare, accommodation in three-star hotels, visa charges, meals, sightseeing in air-conditioned buses, a desert safari and travel insurance, it said. Major attractions such as Palm Jumeirah, Miracle Garden, Burj Al Arab, Gold and Spice Souks, and the Burj Khalifa light and sound show are part of the itinerary, the statement said. IRCTC Jaipur Ad-

ditional General Manager Yogendra Singh Gurjar said the tour also features shopping at Dubai's gold market and a day trip to Abu Dhabi, including visits to the Sheikh Zayed Mosque and temple, it said.

Bookings will remain open till January 6, it said.

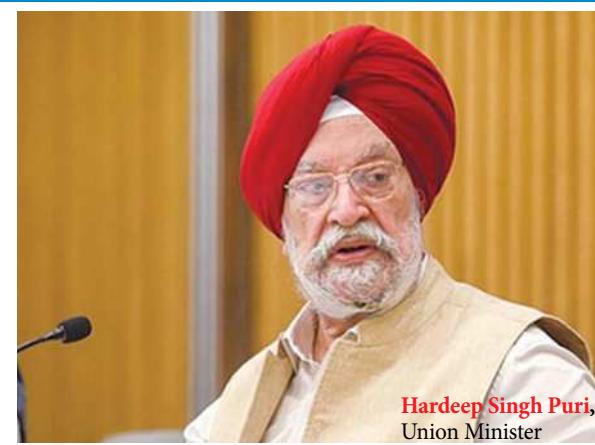
IRCTC has also announced a 13-day Europe tour covering several countries, with departures from Jaipur scheduled between April and June, the statement said.

HPCL residue upgradation facility
boosting energy security: Minister

Project marks milestone in Aatmanirbhar Bharat energy ambitions

VITAL MILESTONE

- Visakha refinery facility converts low-value residue into fuels
- Advanced hydrocracking tech maximises crude oil utilisation efficiency
- Indigenous engg showcased through world's heaviest LC-Max reactors
- Facility reduces imports, supports growth, meets energy demand

Hardeep Singh Puri,
Union Minister

NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu," he added. The Residue Upgradation Facility at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's Visakh Refinery is designed to convert low-value refinery residue into high-value petroleum products using advanced residue hydrocracking technology.

With a capacity of 3.55 million metric tonnes per annum, the facility can achieve a conversion rate of around 93 per cent, helping maximise the use of every barrel of crude oil.

"This critical infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh is a decisive leap toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM N Chandrababu

turing. The facility houses three LC-Max reactors, each weighing nearly 2,200 metric tonnes, making them among the heaviest engineering blocks in the world.

He noted that these reactors were fabricated and assembled entirely within Bharat, reflecting the country's growing capabilities in complex industrial engineering.

According to the minister, the commissioning of the RUF will not only improve fuel efficiency and refinery output but also reduce dependence on imports by extracting more value from existing crude supplies.

He said such projects are critical for supporting India's fast-growing economy and meeting rising energy demand in a sustainable manner.

Puri added that the Vizag refinery project strengthens India's push toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat and showcases how large-scale infrastructure, powered by domestic expertise, can play a key role in securing the nation's energy future.