

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 in-flows 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 mjunction services ltd, a B2B e-commerce platform and joint venture of SAIL and Tata Steel. "There was an uptick 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 Shivraj 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

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



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 Naturals' future is not just about scaling a food business; it's about transforming how India (and the world) values non-commodity, regenerative food systems. Its long-term destiny blends purpose + profitability.

Bahula's mantra for success is 'Integrity before scale. Community before convenience. Value before volume. Bahula Naturals primarily operates in B2B and institutional markets, including HORECA (Hotel Restaurants Cafes) and modern trade, while actively entering export channels. These segments are well aligned with Bahula's non-commodity, val-

ue-added product portfolio, where buyers prioritise quality, consistency, traceability, and provenance over the lowest price. Long-term institutional relationships ensure predictable demand and lower customer acquisition costs, while HORECA and modern trade build brand credibility. Export markets further enhance feasibility by offering higher value realisation and stronger demand for specialised products like camel milk, making the overall channel strategy commercially sustainable and scalable. Bahula's expansion strategy focuses on selective capital infusion to strengthen infrastructure, working capital, and market access, while incrementally increasing headcount in sales, operations, and R&D functions. This approach ensures that growth is demand-led and financially disciplined, allowing the organisation to scale responsibly without compromising product integrity, unit economics, or community partnerships.

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

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

NEW DELHI

BHARAT'S journey toward achieving energy security has reached an important milestone with the successful commissioning of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's Residue Upgradation Facility at the Visakh Refinery in Andhra Pradesh, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday.

Sharing the development on social media platform X, Puri said the commissioning of the facility marks a decisive step toward a self-reliant India under the leadership of Prime Minister



Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister

Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

He described the project as a major boost to Bharat's energy security ambitions.

"Bharat's journey toward achieving energy security has reached a milestone with the successful commissioning of HPCL's Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) at the Visakh Refinery," Puri said on X.

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

Puri highlighted that the project stands out for its strong focus on indigenous engineering and manufac-

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.

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 (QE) December 31, 2025, stood at Rs17,612.62 crores," said the filing on company update at the end of the quarter.

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

basis, D-Mart's revenue rose 8.6 per cent. It was Rs16,218.79 in the September quarter (Q2 FY26).

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

The board of the company is scheduled on January 10, 2026, to consider and approve the unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2025

Uday Kotak cites hard power race behind Venezuela attack

Victim country's vast oil reserves central to US action

NEW DELHI

KOTAK Mahindra Bank founder Uday Kotak said on Sunday that the US attack on Venezuela and the capture of the oil-rich country's President Nicholas Maduro reflects the "race for hard power" between nations in today's world.

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

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 is on," he wrote on X.

The veteran banker had pointed out in his year-end views that the world has become less tolerant of alterna-

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 run Venezuela and American oil companies would invest



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.

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

GAUTAM Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Sunday said they will continue to strengthen their partnership with Bhutan, which is rooted in sustainability, trust and long-term value, as he hailed the energy partnership with the Himalayan country.

In a post on the social media platform X, the billionaire industrialist said that it is always a delight to return to



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 and officially commencing the 570

MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project".

"I am sincerely grateful for the presence of Prime Minister Dasho @tsheringtobgay at the ceremony to mark this occasion," said Gautam Adani, adding that "We will continue to strengthen this partnership rooted in sustainability, trust and long-term value".

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

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 September, Adani Power and DGPC, Bhutan's state-owned generation utility, signed the shareholders agreement (SHA) to set up a 570 MW Wangchhu hydroelectric project.

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 trip shopping included
- Bookings open till Jan 6, Europe tour announced

JAIPUR

THE Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has launched a special Dubai tour package to coincide with Republic Day celebrations this month, officials said on Sunday.

The four-night, five-day package, priced at Rs94,730 per person, will allow tourists from cities -- Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Kochi -- to travel to Dubai as part of a single Indian group, show-



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.