

## GEV opens dealership in Bengaluru

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

GEV, a last-mile electric mobility solutions provider, has opened its dealership in Bengaluru on Hosur Main Road, Singasandra, in association with Hanoo Mobility Pvt Ltd.

The new showroom was formally inaugurated by Arjun Madra (CEO of GEV), reinforcing the company's expansion into one of India's most progressive EV markets.

The newly launched dealership will showcase the company's latest range of passenger and cargo electric vehicles, including the much-anticipated Dabang MaxX, iCAT-approved 7+1 electric auto, which is now available for test rides. Visitors will also experience the company's advanced Electric Rickshaw (L3 series), engineered for safe, sustainable, and affordable urban commuting.

The new Dabang autos combine power, endurance, and comfort. It features a high-performance motor for strong pickup even on inclines, a long-range 12.6 kWh lithium battery for a 150+ km certified range, and a heavy-duty chassis designed to handle full passenger load with ease.

# IIT Guwahati develops sunlight-driven catalyst to convert CO<sub>2</sub> into methanol

New technology holds potential to be used in thermal power plants, cement manufacturing units, steel production facilities

### CLEAN ENERGY VIA CO<sub>2</sub>

- Useful fuel for several industries
- Helping circular carbon economy, cleaner energy future
- Currently in use graphitic carbon nitride, a low-cost, metal-free material
- This ultra-thin carbon material helps minimise energy loss

GUWAHATI

IN a significant step towards clean fuel and environmental protection, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a photocatalytic material that can convert carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into methanol fuel using sunlight.

Even as the dependence on petroleum-based fuels continues to be a source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, causing environmental stress and global warming, the study, published in the Journal of Materials Science, addresses the most essential challenges -- on how to meet the rising energy needs without further



harming the environment.

The new technology holds the potential to be used in industries such as thermal power plants, cement manufacturing units, steel production facilities, and petrochemical refineries, supporting the transition towards a circular carbon economy and a cleaner energy future.

"The present work is expected to contribute towards mitigating environmental problems, with simultaneous contribution towards green energy. Converting CO<sub>2</sub> to greener fuel using solar energy is a promising technology towards this direction," said Prof. Mahuya De, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

Researchers worldwide have been working on ad-

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ressing this critical challenge by utilising graphitic carbon nitride, a low-cost, metal-free, non-toxic material. However, due to limitations such as rapid energy loss and low fuel generation, no prominent solution has

been developed so far.

The IIT Guwahati team combined graphitic carbon nitride with few-layer graphene. Known for its electrical conductivity and energy transfer capabilities, this ultra-thin carbon material helped minimise energy loss within the catalyst.

The study demonstrated that the incorporation of few-layer graphene improved the photocatalytic energy retention of carbon nitride under visible light/sunlight exposure. It kept the catalyst active for a longer duration, resulting in better light absorption and improved charge generation.

Among the composites tested, the catalyst with 15 weight percentage graphene demonstrated the most efficient conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol. It also displayed strong stability, an important quality for its practical applications. As the next step, the research team aims to scale the technology for practical use. The team also plans to develop a long-lasting photocatalytic system that can convert industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into clean fuels.

## COAI urges transparent, inclusive evaluation of D2M broadcasting

It firmly believes policy decisions of this magnitude must be grounded in comprehensive, technical assessments

NEW DELHI

THE Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on Monday said that it has urged the authorities to ensure a transparent, consultative and technology-neutral approach in the conduct of technical evaluations related to Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) broadcasting in India.

The industry body noted that the recent technical tests, as carried out, do not fully align with the framework envisaged by the Government and called for a more inclusive and comprehensive evaluation process.

Lt. Gen Dr S P Kochhar, Director General, COAI stated, "Direct-to-Mobile broadcasting has far-reaching implications for spectrum, networks, devices and consumer safety."

"Any national-level technical evaluation of such a technology must be transparent, inclusive and technology-neutral, with active participation of all affected stakeholders," Kochhar stated.

"COAI firmly believes that policy decisions of this magnitude must be grounded in comprehensive, techni-



cal assessments to safeguard network integrity, efficient spectrum use and long-term digital growth," he added.

Recognising its potential impact, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) during a stakeholder meeting held in September 2025, directed that a comprehensive technical evaluation of D2M be undertaken with clearly defined Terms of Reference (ToR), participation of all relevant stakeholders and inclusion of all parallel technology options, as per the cellular association.

The cellular association noted that the approach adopted in conducting the recent D2M tests raises serious concerns regarding transparency, procedural fairness and objectivity.

The absence of stakeholder participation -- particularly telecom operators, whose networks and spectrum resources are directly impact-

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**— Lt. Gen Dr S P Kochhar, Director General, COAI**

ed, as well as device OEMs -- undermines the credibility of conclusions drawn from such an exercise.

The industry has further highlighted that the scope of the tests appears narrowly confined to a limited set of parameters, such as interference and device heating, while excluding several critical technical and ecosystem-related aspects.

These include device certification requirements, electromagnetic field (EMF) compliance, regulatory and licensing implications, real-world usage scenarios, and the readiness of the device and chipset ecosystem.

## AI to to applied to entire product lineup: Samsung

AI platform customised for Samsung TVs is capable of better understanding context of conversations with users compared with other models

LAS VEGAS

SAMSUNG Electronics aims to apply artificial intelligence (AI) technology to its entire product lineup under a vision to become an "AI companion" for users in their daily lives, the company said here. "We intend to have consumers enjoy meaningful AI experiences by applying the technology across our entire product lineup and services," Samsung Electronics President Roh Tae-moon was quoted as saying by the company during an event in Las Vegas in the US.

The event came ahead of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2026, a major technology exhibition set to officially kick off from Tues-

### CES 2026



day, reports Yonhap news agency.

"We will become an AI companion in customers' everyday lives and lead the popularisation of AI experiences," said Roh, who heads Samsung's device experience division in charge of mobile, TV and home appliance businesses.

In line with the vision, the company unveiled the

Vision AI Companion, an AI platform customised for Samsung TVs that is capable of better understanding the context of conversations with users compared with other models.

The company said its latest TVs to be released in 2026 will come with the HDR10 Plus Advanced format, offering cutting-edge brightness, color and motion processing.

## Swiggy launches EatRight in over 50 cities

NEW DELHI: Swiggy on Monday announced the launch of EatRight, a new category targeting health-conscious users across more than 50 cities by offering them health-focused food options like high protein, low calorie and no added sugar under a single umbrella.

The food delivery platform also shared insights based on its orders, revealing that Tier-2 cities in India witnessed 2x growth year-on-year in healthy food ordering as compared to metropolitan cities, with Chandigarh, Guwahati, Ludhiana, and Bhubaneswar leading the way.

EatRight will offer over 1.8 million dishes available from over 2 lakh restaurants.

Deepak Maloo, Vice President, Food Strategy, Customer Experience & New Initiatives, Swiggy, said.

## Indian IT sector's revenue to grow 4 to 5% in FY27: Report

Highlights that 3QFY26 was impacted by weak seasons and unlikely to surprise positively, noting mixed company level signals

NEW DELHI

THE Indian IT industry's revenue growth is expected to recover to 4-5 per cent in FY27, leading to high single digit EPS growth, a report said on Monday.

The report from HSBC Global Investment Research, however, said that IT stocks, up about 15 per cent from their lows, could still perform broadly in line with the market in 2026.

"We still see an improving outlook, but now expect the IT sector to perform in line with the broader market in FY27. IT is no longer a long-term double-digit compounding sector, with the long-term stock return tra-



jectory gradient lower than in the past," the research firm said. The report forecasted IT stocks to be a "lot more cyclical, requiring active management" of top tier ones around their cycles and volatility. It added that a possible cyclical rebound in CY26 or FY27 could give IT stocks further upside on top of recent performance.

The report highlighted that 3QFY26 was impacted

by weak seasons and unlikely to surprise positively, noting mixed company level signals.

"We had expected IT to perform better than the market in 2026. This view was led by a likely improvement in growth, less demanding valuations, a favourable base after three years of anaemic growth, and moderation in the sector AI overhang," said Yogesh Aggarwal, Head of Research, HSBC India.

## PPL gets injunction against Star Health

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

PHONOGRAPHIC Performance Limited (PPL India) has prevailed before the Bombay High Court in Phonographic Performance Limited v. Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited, securing an injunction restraining Star Health from publicly performing or communicating sound recordings assigned to and licensed by PPL India without valid authorisation.

In its recent order in December 2025, the High Court recorded that Star Health, had previously procured public performance licence from PPL India for its previous events. The Court has observed that the earlier licence obtained by Star Health constitutes a prima facie admission of PPL India's copyright ownership, and their act of not taking a license for the specific event amounts to infringement.



**THE POLITICA**  
Nothing political about it

DEEPIKA BHAN

AS US troops swooped down on Venezuela in a stealth night operation, flashes of India's own Operation Sindoor inevitably surfaced in the public imagination.

The Indian Armed Forces, from May 7-10, 2025, carried out a successful precision operation in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, followed by airstrikes across 11 Pakistani airbases.

It is tempting -- almost cathartic -- to ask: What if India had gone further? What if the terror masterminds sheltered by Pakistan -- Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar, Dawood Ibrahim -- or even its powerful Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, had been "scooped out" in a similar fashion?

For many Indians, this is not merely a hypothetical question. It reflects a long-simmering frustration with a neighbour that has perfected the art of exporting terror while playing the victim on global platforms.

For most of this period, New Delhi exercised restraint. It was only after 2014 that this posture decisively changed, with punitive yet calibrated responses becoming a declared policy. Even this shift was framed within existing international norms, avoiding actions that could be seen as unilateral overreach. It is precisely this restraint that makes the Venezuela develop-

ments impossible to ignore.

Against this backdrop, the US action in Venezuela came as a shock to the global conscience. When the US President announced that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife had been "captured" and "flown out of the country" following a "successful large-scale strike", and the country being taken over disbelief turned into unease.

Several countries, including Russia and China, expressed concern, stressing that Venezuelans must be allowed to determine their destiny without destructive military intervention from outside.

The disturbing question that followed was simple yet profound: how can one country enter another sovereign nation and 'capture' its President and take over a country? It felt like a return to ancient times -- when kings were seized, territories subjugated, and power determined by brute force rather than international norms. This is 2026, barely days into the new year, and such actions lay out an unsettling framework for the future of global politics.

What makes the episode more jarring is the contrast with the rhetoric that preceded it. On New Year's Eve at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, US President Donald Trump proclaimed "peace, peace on Earth" as his resolution for the year, standing beside First Lady

Melania Trump. Four days later, the world witnessed an unprecedented action, which the US is justifying with its own claims. Maduro has been charged with narco-terrorism, cocaine importation conspiracy, firearms offences and related crimes. The illegal conduct is alleged to have begun around 1999 and continued through 2025, according to the US authorities.

The justifications apart, the world cannot forget the Iraq war, and the US claims on Saddam Hussein were finally found to be untrue years later. But, in between, Iraq was destroyed and aided in the birth and growth of terror elements like ISIS. Even in Afghanistan, after decades of a mission, the US finally abandoned the place, with the brutal, radical Taliban taking over.

How the US' Maduro mission proceeds is to be seen, but the dissonance between words and action could not have been starker.

While leaders, institutions, and international organisations routinely speak of peace, the reality unfolding across continents tells a different story. Conflict zones continue to smoulder without resolution.

The wars in Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza show no sign of abating. Tensions in Southeast Asia, including flashpoints like Vietnam-Cambodia, threaten to spiral. Instead of de-escalation, more regions appear to be



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sliding into cycles of violence, instability, and strategic brinkmanship.

The year 2026, far from offering a fresh start, opens amid rising global anxiety. Power is increasingly being asserted unilaterally, norms are being bent -- or ignored -- and military might is once again becoming the preferred language of influence.

For India, these global tremors are not distant abstractions. Trouble brews dangerously close to home. Bangladesh, once hailed as a development success story, is witnessing a disturbing descent into chaos.

The Hindu minority there is under sustained attack; reports of killings, intimidation, and displacement are mounting. Radical Islamist elements, emboldened by political instability, are pushing an aggressive anti-India narrative. Some have even issued reckless threats about attacking India's northeastern states and severing the strategic Siliguri Corridor -- the chicken's neck.

On India's western flank sits Pakistan, the perpetual antagonist. Economically bankrupt yet ideologically belligerent, Islamabad remains ever eager to manufacture tensions with New Delhi. Its military establishment continues its hostility towards India, using terrorism as a strategic tool and pushing narcotics across the international border.

In such a hostile environment, India's actions are justified and cannot be casually questioned. If the US claims its Venezuela operation was about narco-terrorism, India's charges against Pakistan are far graver: harbouring and sponsoring terrorism, waging proxy wars, causing the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, spreading religious hatred, attempting to destabilise India internally, and aiding narco-terrorism.

The world has already seen compelling proof of Pakistan's role as a terror hub -- most notably when US forces eliminated Osama bin Laden on its soil. Since then, a disturbing number of terror attacks across the globe have traced their origins back to Pakistan.

If the US can do it with Venezuela, then why not India do the same with Pakistan? This question must be uppermost in the minds of the millions of Indians who have been directly or indirectly affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

The world today stands at a crossroads, drifting steadily towards unilateralism, where nations look inward first and act alone. The new year has begun on a troubling note.

Whether it descends further into chaos or forces a collective rethinking of global conduct will depend on the choices made now -- by those who wield power and by those who live under its shadow.