



THE Hans India



WOMENIA
Aishwarya Sakhuja on meeting herself without 'filters or performance'
Aishwarya was a Miss India finalist in 2006. From 2010 to 2012, she starred in the TV show 'Saas Bina Sasural'.

P8 EDIT
The rise and fall of El Mencho
In Milenio Cartel, El Mencho started as a member of the assassin squad that protected the drug lord Armando Valencia Cornelio ("El Maradona"). On 12 August 2003, his boss was arrested by Mexican authorities.

P6 BUSINESS
iQOO launches 15R; Co sees good demand in India
iQOO, the specialised mobile brand from Vivo stable, on Tuesday launched iQOO 15R in India as it eyes more young professionals' user base in the country.

P9 YOUNG HANS
What recruiters will truly seek from 2026 data science graduates
Core technical skills remain essential, but expectations have advanced. Python and SQL are baseline requirements rather than differentiators.

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WINDOWS

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR (Wed)
6.27 PM

SEHAR (Thu)
5.15 AM



PM Modi's 2nd visit to Israel set to upgrade strategic ties

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a two-day visit to Israel beginning Wednesday to shore up bilateral defence and trade cooperation amid the ongoing tensions in the Middle-east including deteriorating ties between the US and Iran. Modi's engagements will include his address to Israel's parliament, wide-ranging talks with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and a meeting with President Isaac Herzog. "This visit will reaffirm the deep and long-standing strategic partnership between the two countries and will present an opportunity to review the common challenges as well as realign efforts towards achieving their shared vision for a robust partnership between two resilient democracies," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It is learnt that boosting overall defence and security cooperation will be a major area of discussions during delegation level talks between the two prime ministers on Thursday.

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Cabinet raises raw jute MSP to ₹5,925

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved a Rs 275 per quintal increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute for the 2026-27 marketing season, reinforcing income support for jute farmers. The MSP for raw jute (TD-3 grade) has been fixed at Rs 5,925 per quintal, ensuring a margin of 61.8 per cent over the all-India weighted average cost of production. The pricing decision remains aligned with the government's policy of fixing MSP at a minimum of 1.5 times the cost of production, as outlined in Budget 2018-19.



Not a 'naked protester'... A Dalit Street player

TG to take up Medigadda repair works in summer

Uttam monitoring finalisation of designs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE state government is likely to take up the repairs of the three damaged barrages under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project – Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla before the onset of this year's monsoon.

Following the recent assurances by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy that the Kaleshwaram project would be functional soon, the Irrigation Department has expedited review of the technical study reports and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) recommendations. The department also speeded up designs for the three damaged barrages.

Officials said that the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, has already submitted its site inspection report along with a schedule of works for all three barrages. Testing works are under progress at Annaram and Sundilla barrages, while rehabilitation designs are to be prepared shortly.



"Systematic and scientific efforts are underway to salvage Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages", an official said.

Officials said that Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy is closely monitoring the developments regarding finalisation of designs. The government's priority is to restore the barrages, for which independent, highly qualified technical institutions and consultants have been engaged. The CWC has advised that designs be prepared by well-qualified and experienced technical experts, which they

will vet, approve, and guide through execution. The selected consultant will use CWPRS data to prepare detailed designs and cost estimates for restoring all three barrages. The Irrigation Minister has made it clear that the designs prepared by the consultants would be vetted by the CWC before execution begins.

"Work on rehabilitation will commence as soon as the water recedes and the final approvals are received from the CWC. Our goal is to ensure technical integrity, accountability, and full recovery of public assets".

Officials said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has instructed the authorities to comply with the recommendations made by the NDSA, while undertaking repairs of the barrages.

STOCK MARKET CRASH

Investors lose ₹3L cr as Sensex plunges 1,069 points



MUMBAI: Frontline indices, the Sensex and the Nifty 50, suffered strong losses on Tuesday as investors booked profits across sectors, tracking weak global cues.

The Sensex crashed 1,069 points, or 1.28%, to end at 82,225.92, while the NSE counterpart Nifty 50 fell 1.12% to close at 25,424.65. The mid- and small-cap indices also ended in the negative territory, but they still outperformed the benchmarks. The BSE 150 MidCap Index slipped 0.40%, while the BSE 250 SmallCap Index fell 0.76%. Investors lost Rs 3 lakh crore as the overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms fell to Rs 466 lakh crore from Rs 469 lakh crore in the previous session.

FULL REPORT: P9



40% TARIFF DROP

Indian exporters set to gain as US customs rolls out 10% global tariff

It's lower than Trump's threatened 15% levy

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

INDIA products clearing US customs from Tuesday onwards will be subject to 10% duties instead of 50% when the contracts were negotiated, opening doors for some kind of a relief even for cargoes on seas.

While immediate windfall will be for the importer who would have to pay 40% less

tariffs, some of it may be passed on to Indian sellers. "Many exporters had an understanding with the buyers while negotiating contracts at very thin margin or even loss that benefit from change in duties would be shared with them too," CEO and Director General of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Ajay Sahai said.

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Devuji, 3 other top Maoists surrender to TG police

DGP Shivadhar Reddy says top hierarchy of Maoist party has collapsed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA DGP B Shivadhar Reddy on Tuesday said the top hierarchy of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) collapsed, as four top Maoist leaders, including Thippiri Thirupati alias Devuji, key strategist and Central Committee Member, surrendered to the Telangana police.

The other surrendered top Maoists included Malla Raji Reddy alias Sangram, Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar and Nune Narsimha Reddy alias Ganganna. They are



DGP B Shivadhar Reddy, SIB IG B Sumathi, Addl DGP Vijay Kumar and Mahesh Bhagwat along with four surrendered Maoists Devuji, Sangram, Damodar and Ganganna at a press meet in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Photo: Ch Prabhu Das

considered among the top surviving last members of the banned outfit, and their surrender is considered a big setback to the armed revolution. On Sunday, they sur-

rendered before the Telangana police, and this marked a major step toward peace and the strengthening of security efforts in the state.

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No full land resurvey in Telangana even as Andhra braces for 2nd one

TG farmers express concern over delay in resurvey

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

While Andhra Pradesh is gearing up to undertake its second comprehensive land resurvey, Telangana is yet to begin its first full-fledged survey since the formation of the state over a decade ago!

During the 71st Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2017, at Golconda Fort, then Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) announced a comprehensive land resurvey, describing it as the first such exercise since the 1936 survey conducted under the Nizam's rule. He



said the initiative would curb corruption and resolve land disputes.

However, the exercise was largely confined to what the government termed "comprehensive land records

cleansing" and the proposal of comprehensive land survey remained on the paper.

In 2021, KCR revived the proposal, calling for a state-wide digital survey alongside the launch of the 'Dharani'

portal. He stated that fixing precise coordinates for agricultural lands would prevent encroachments and boundary disputes. Despite these announcements, a full resurvey did not materialise. Critics allege that disputes and informal settlements increased after the portal's introduction.

The Congress party made the Dharani portal a major election issue in 2023. Leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, promised to scrap the portal. After coming to power, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy replaced Dharani with a new platform named 'Bhu Bharathi'. Continued on Page 5

Kerala is now Keralam

Union Cabinet okays renaming the state

NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to alter the name of the state of Kerala to 'Keralam' and initiated the constitutional process required to amend the First Schedule of the Constitution for renaming the state.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following the



approval, the President of India will now refer the proposed Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to the Kerala Legislative Assembly to seek its views under Article 3 of the Constitution.

The change has its origins in a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024, requesting the Union government to modify the State's name from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam', the matter being the name used in the State's native language, Malayalam.

Under Article 3 of the Constitution, parliament has the power to alter the name of an existing State by law. Continued on Page 5

MAKING WATER FROM AIR

A Nobel laureate makes Modi's vision a reality

NEW DELHI

IN October 2020, during a virtual interaction with Danish wind energy giant Vestas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that wind turbines could suck moisture from the air to generate clean drinking water.

Fast-forward to February 2026, and science has achieved that very goal through the work of a Nobel laureate.

As first reported by The Guardian, the Nobel laureate has unveiled an industrial machine that harvests

water from the driest air on Earth.

Professor Omar Yaghi, the 2025 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, has turned the tide with his company Atoco, a California-based deep-tech firm specialising in atmospheric water harvesting and carbon capture using atomic-scale precision.

Put simply, Yaghi has built a company that creates molecular traps to grab water and carbon directly from the sky with extreme accuracy. By using a breakthrough called reticular



Nobel laureate Prof Omar Yaghi, the pioneer of reticular chemistry, whose invention harvests clean water from the world's driest air

chemistry, the Nobel laureate is transforming what was once a subject of political mockery into a vital life-

line for a thirsty planet. The heart of this breakthrough lies in reticular chemistry, a discipline that involves

stitching together molecular building blocks into expansive, crystalline structures known as Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs).

Think of these as the world's most advanced molecular sponges, but instead of cleaning a kitchen counter, they are designed to soak up invisible gases and moisture from the air.

Their internal architecture is so intricate that a single gram of the material, which is hardly the weight of a paperclip, possesses an internal surface area large enough to cover several

football fields.

These are nano-engineered materials, which means scientists have designed them at a scale 1,00,000 times smaller than the width of human hair. At this microscopic level, they can build custom-made chemical pockets that act like tiny rooms specifically sized to fit water molecules.

Unlike traditional atmospheric water generators (AWGs) that rely on energy-intensive cooling to reach the dew point, Yaghi's materials use adsorption.

Continued on Page 5



SHIRTLESS PROTEST

IYC chief arrested

NEW DELHI: Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib was arrested on Tuesday after questioning in connection with T-shirt protest at the India AI Impact Summit, immediately inviting criticism from the Congress with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi calling the police action "proof of dictatorial tendencies and cowardice". The Youth Congress leader, who the police claimed was the 'main conspirator and mastermind', was picked up for questioning on Monday afternoon for the second time in connection with the protest at Bharat Mandapam on the last day of the AI summit. Police have already arrested seven Youth Congress activists, including three from Gwalior on Monday in the case. Police also claimed that Chib's associates raised "anti-national slogans" and "tried to incite riot-like situations" at the venue. They also claimed Chib did not cooperate with the probe and did not disclose names of other co-accused and the source of printing T-shirts used in the protest.

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