



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'.

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.

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.

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

Well-organised 'syndicate' behind ghee scam: Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday launched a blistering attack in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, alleging that a well-organised "syndicate" operated during the previous government's tenure to supply adulterated ghee to the Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

Making a detailed PowerPoint presentation during a short discussion on the Tirumala laddu controversy, Naidu claimed that 59.71 lakh kgs of adulterated ghee was procured at a cost of Rs 234 crore. He alleged that the ghee was used to prepare nearly 20.01 crore Tirumala laddus offered as Srivari prasadam.

He accused those involved of manipulating tender rules, ignoring lab standards and submitting fake quality cer-

- ▶▶ Former PA to the then TTD chairman took Rs 4.5 cr bribe to facilitate contracts
- ▶▶ SIT seized chemicals and documents detailing alleged kickbacks
- ▶▶ Complaints surfaced in 2022; CFTRI report allegedly suppressed by previous board
- ▶▶ CM rejects attempts to link controversy with Heritage Dairy
- ▶▶ This is not just about ghee. It is about faith and sanctity of Tirumala, says CM



tificates. "Sacred Prasadam meant for devotees was compromised," he said. "This is not just corruption. It is an assault on faith," he added.

Naidu alleged that a former personal assistant to the then TTD chairman accepted a Rs 4.5 crore bribe to facilitate contracts. He claimed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) seized chemicals such as monoglycerides and acetic acid, along with documents

detailing alleged kickbacks.

According to the Chief Minister, complaints about ghee quality surfaced as early as 2022. He said a report by the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) that flagged adulteration was suppressed at the time. After his government assumed office, fresh samples were tested. A July 23, 2024, report from the National Dairy Development Board

(NDDB), he said, detected the presence of animal fat.

Naidu told the House that the matter reached the Supreme Court. The court directed that there should be no political interference and allowed a probe under central supervision. The SIT has since filed cases against those allegedly involved, he added.

The Chief Minister also rejected attempts to link the

controversy with Heritage Dairy, a company promoted by his family. "No government department has purchased ghee from Heritage," he asserted. He clarified that Indapur Dairy in Pune, which does co-manufacturing for multiple brands, has no connection with the alleged supply to TTD.

Expanding the attack, Naidu accused the previous regime of weakening temple governance, altering tender norms between 2020 and 2022, and failing to act on repeated complaints. He alleged that over 2,000 temples faced attacks between 2019 and 2024 and claimed that several incidents went uninvestigated.

He also defended Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's remarks on protecting Hindu traditions and said places of worship must respect established customs.

Continued on Page 7

Data of Andhra University students, staff on dark web

Over 46,000 records have allegedly been breached and leaked online



NARESH NANDAM
VIJAYAWADA

IN a major cybersecurity concern, the personal data of 46,160 individuals associated with Andhra University has allegedly been compromised and leaked online. The breach reportedly came to light after a user on a dark web cybercrime forum claimed to have posted a database containing sensitive information belonging to students and staff of the university.

According to details shared on the forum, the leaked dataset includes a wide range of personal and academic information.

The exposed records allegedly contain full names, dates of birth, phone numbers, email addresses, enrollment

numbers, programme names, father's names, residential addresses, batch details, and academic validity periods. In addition, links to student photographs and digital signatures were also reportedly part of the data dump, raising serious concerns about identity theft and misuse.

Cybersecurity observers noted that the breach was publicly exposed online on Tuesday, although preliminary indications suggest that the actual compromise may have occurred last month. The delay between the suspected breach and its public disclosure has heightened concerns about the potential misuse of the data during the intervening period.

Continued on Page 7



Screen shot of the post on a cybercrime forum

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 af-



ternoon 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.

Continued on Page 7

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.

Continued on Page 7

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.

FULL REPORT: P11

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 7

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 7



Iran set to buy Chinese anti-ship cruise missiles

Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase anti-ship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the United States deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic.

