

## Scindia launches 24 Speed Post, promises nationwide rollout

Enhanced logistics, real-time tracking, and Sunday delivery introduced

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HYDERABAD

UNION Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Tuesday said that India Post remains committed to serving every citizen across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of the 24 Speed Post service at Rang Bhawan Auditorium, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi, he said the department's slogan, "Dak Seva, Jan Seva," reflects its commitment to millions of customers worldwide.

He said the 24 Speed Post service offers next-day guaranteed delivery for urgent and time-sensitive consignments. In the first phase, the service will be introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. Scindia added

that, along with 24 Speed Post, the department is also introducing 48 Speed Post and 24 Speed Post Parcel services. "Our value proposition is simple — what India Post promises, it delivers," he said.

Highlighting the department's vast reach, the Minister said that India Post serves over 6.5 lakh villages through 1.65 lakh post offices, with a strong network of Grameen Dak Sevaks. "Where roads reach, my 'dak' reaches; during natural calamities, the 'dak' reaches; in moments of joy, the 'dak' reaches," he remarked.

Calling it a phase of renewal, he said India Post is reinventing itself for a new journey from Amrit Kaal to Shatabdi Kaal, with enhanced services such as door-to-door delivery, specialised packaging, real-time tracking, and even Sunday deliveries. He assured that the service, currently launched in six cities, will be expanded nationwide

by March 31, 2027.

Referring to the growth of e-commerce, Scindia noted that India's market, currently valued at Rs 11 lakh crore, is expected to reach Rs 30 lakh crore by 2030, and said India Post is well-prepared to meet this demand. He emphasised that the country's progress depends on three pillars — connectivity, credibility, and confidence.

Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, who also addressed the event, congratulated the department for aligning with the Prime Minister's vision. He added that business customers will benefit from features such as book now, pay later, centralised billing, pickup services, and volume-based discounts.

He said the department is working to build strong partnerships with e-commerce players so that India Post becomes a preferred delivery partner.

# KISHAN CASTIGATES CONG FOR SNIPING AT RAW, RSS

- Union Minister accuses Congress of being "brazenly anti-national" over a tweet
- RAW is recognised as India's frontline defence against external threats
- RSS is described as a socio-cultural organisation promoting unity
- BJP alleges Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi is inviting foreign interference in India's affairs

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UNION Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy criticised the Congress for its recent tweet endors-



ing recommendations from a foreign body that called for sanctions against India's premier intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and the socio-cultural organisation Rash-

triya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). On Tuesday, Reddy described the tweet as "an example of the Congress party degrading itself into a brazen anti-national entity"

and accused the party of systematically undermining institutions that safeguard India's sovereignty. He emphasised that RAW works tirelessly to protect the nation from external threats, while the RSS contributes to social unity and cultural values.

The controversy comes against the backdrop of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report, which the Government of India has categorically rejected as biased and motivated. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that USCIRF has repeatedly presented a distorted picture of India, relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives. The MEA further urged the body to reflect on incidents of vandalism and attacks on Hindu temples in

the United States, as well as growing intolerance against the Indian diaspora abroad.

Reddy accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of "cheering when calamities struck India, spreading misinformation during crises, and inviting foreign interference in India's internal matters." He argued that the party's endorsement of sanctions against Indian institutions shows it is no longer working within the constitutional framework it claims to uphold.

The BJP has condemned the Congress party's stance, calling it irresponsible and dangerous for national security. The incident has sparked sharp political debate, with the ruling party framing it as yet another example of Congress prioritising partisan politics over national interest.

## CM REVANTH, PCC CHIEF MEET KHARGE

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CHIEF Minister Revanth Reddy and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud paid a courtesy visit to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. The meeting was held in the context of Vem Narendra Reddy's recent election to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana. MPs Mallu Ravi, Suresh

Shetkar, and Baram Naik were also present. On the occasion, Kharge congratulated Vem Narendra Reddy. During the meeting, the Chief Minister and PCC President discussed current political developments and state politics with Kharge. Earlier, the Chief Minister, PCC President, and a delegation of MPs also met AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal.



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud call on AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi, along with MPs, following Vem Narendra Reddy's election to the Rajya Sabha, and discuss current political developments.

## Couple posed as doctors, looted patients in city hospitals

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HYDERABAD

THE Commissioner's Task Force, Secunderabad Zone Team, alongside Market Police, has apprehended a couple involved in hospital robberies. The accused, Goundla Shirisha, a 25-year-old Pharm D student, and Edulapally Sai Kumar Goud, 30, both from Nawabpet, allegedly impersonated medical professionals to rob patients. Police seized 11 tolas of gold ornaments, two phones, and a car.

Driven by financial problems, the duo targeted elderly female patients. Leveraging her medical knowledge, Shirisha used Diazepam injections to render victims unconscious. Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, DCP Task Force, stated that Shirisha concealed the sedative in her doctor's apron to avoid suspicion. On 11 March, she entered Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad, where she sedated a victim and fled with their gold.

Investigations revealed the pair was previously involved

in a similar offence at Citizen Speciality Hospital in Nallagandla. The stolen gains were reportedly spent on personal shopping and other lifestyle expenses. The accused had been absconding in two cases before their eventual arrest. By posing as staff, they bypassed hospital security to exploit vulnerable patients within supposedly secure medical environments. This arrest marks a significant breakthrough for the Malkajgiri Commissionerate in curbing specialised hospital thefts. The duo has been re-



mandated to judicial custody as police continue to verify if they were involved in any additional undetected offences across the city.

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THE Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, Khairatabad Zone Team, alongside GHMC food safety officers, has busted illegal manufacturing units and apprehended an owner for producing sub-standard ginger and garlic paste. Officials seized a significant quantity of the paste and other food products worth Rs 4.5 lakh during the primary operation. The team conducted a surprise inspection at the premises of A1 Sahara Gold Ginger & Garlic Paste, located at Madhura Nagar in Borabanda. During the raid, it was discovered that the accused, Mohd Abdullah, was manufacturing the paste in plastic containers under extremely unhygienic conditions. Investigators found that the product was being created by mixing chemicals such as acetic acid and salt with substandard raw materials, including shells.

Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, DCP Task Force, stated that the prepared paste was stored in open plastic tubs, exposed to dust, flies, and other contaminants, rendering it unsafe for human consumption. The adulterated product was supplied to various wholesale stores and catering services, allowing the accused to gain huge illegal profits.

The DCP warned that such adulterated paste is hazardous to human life. Police noted that Abdullah managed the business using an FSSAI licence obtained in his father's name. The apprehended individual and the seized materials were handed over to Borabanda police for further legal action.

In a separate operation, police conducted another surprise inspection at Sahara India in Tappachabutra, Karwan. During this raid, the owner, Mohammed

## Police seize adulterated ginger and garlic paste



Zafar Alam, was booked for similar offences. The inspection revealed that the accused was manufacturing ginger and garlic paste in plastic containers under highly unhygienic conditions by mixing chemicals such as citric acid and salt. Police seized adulterated stock worth approximately Rs 2.50 lakh from this unit. Zafar Alam was reportedly engaged in the large-scale manufacture and sale of these tainted products to restaurants and retail shops across Hyderabad.

The total value of seized material from

both operations amounts to Rs 7 lakh. The accused from the second raid was handed over to Tappachabutra police for further proceedings.

These coordinated efforts by the Task Force and GHMC highlight a rigorous crackdown on food adulteration units that bypass health regulations to exploit public demand. Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious manufacturing activities to ensure community health and safety across the city.

## Women journalists get cyber hygiene training

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HYDERABAD

IN an era where journalism increasingly intersects with the digital world, cyber safety has become as essential as reporting itself. Recognising the growing cyber threats faced by media professionals, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) organised a cyber hygiene workshop for women journalists in Hyderabad under the theme OnlineButUnafraid, aiming to equip them with knowledge and practical tools to navigate the digital space safely.

The workshop was held as part of International Women's Month and witnessed participation from women journalists representing various media organisations. The session was conducted in the presence of Direc-

tor General of Police B Shivadhar Reddy and TGCSB Director Shikha Goel, highlighting the importance of cyber awareness among professionals who maintain a strong online presence.

The Cyber security expert Sunny NV, CEO, Vatins, delivered detailed presentations on cyber hygiene practices, emerging cyber threats and preventive strategies. Participants were sensitised to common cybercrimes targeting women journalists, including cyberstalking, online harassment, sextortion, fake social media profiles, image morphing and matrimonial fraud.

Real life case studies were discussed to illustrate how cybercriminals manipulate trust and digital behaviour to exploit victims.

The session also focused on recognising early warn-

ing signs, protecting personal and professional digital identities, and responding effectively to online abuse. Officials encouraged journalists to promptly report cyber incidents through official channels such as the national cyber crime helpline 1930 and the online reporting portal.

Addressing the gathering, DGP Shivadhar Reddy emphasised that cybercrime is growing rapidly and requires collective vigilance. Director Shikha Goel highlighted that awareness and responsible digital practices remain the first line of defence against cyber threats.

Through initiatives like OnlineButUnafraid, TGCSB aims to build a cyber aware society where individuals can confidently use digital platforms while remaining alert, informed and secure.



DGP B Shivadhar Reddy addresses a cyber hygiene workshop for women journalists in Hyderabad on Tuesday

## INDIA GEARS UP FOR GLOBAL QUANTUM LEADERSHIP

In all, 23 academic institutions approved for quantum labs under the National Quantum Mission, preparing a skilled workforce for the tech frontier

HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI: In a decisive step toward becoming a global leader in quantum technologies by the Centre several Higher Educational Institutions in Hyderabad to benefit under the National Quantum Mission.

Approval has been granted for establishing quantum teaching facilities and laboratories in 23 academic institutions across the country, with another 100 institutions under consideration. This initiative aims to accelerate advanced research, innovation, and training in quantum computing, communication, and sensing—fields that are expected to redefine science and technology in the coming decades.

The announcement was made during the monthly meeting of Secretaries of Science Ministries, chaired by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who emphasised the importance of greater coordination among science ministries to strengthen India's innovation ecosystem. The meeting brought together top scientific leadership, including the Principal Scientific Adviser Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, and secretaries from DST, DBT, CSIR,



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairs a meeting attended by Secretaries of Science Ministries in New Delhi on Monday

MoES, and ISRO.

Dr Singh highlighted that quantum technologies are not just futuristic but essential for national security, healthcare, and industrial competitiveness. By embedding quantum teaching labs in universities and research institutions, India aims to create a skilled workforce capable of driving breakthroughs in computing power, secure communication, and precision measurements.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for major upcoming events such as the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2026, proposed to be held in Pune, and the National Technol-

ogy Day celebrations in May at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. These events will showcase India's scientific achievements and foster collaboration between research, industry, and startups.

Another key highlight was the review of the 5th RISE conclave held in Chennai, which brought together over 140 startups, industry leaders and researchers to showcase technologies developed in CSIR and other national laboratories. The conclave underscored the importance of linking research with commercialisation and industry adoption.

The space sector also featured prominently in the

discussions, with updates on upcoming PSLV missions and the launch of a new navigation satellite for the Navy. These initiatives, alongside quantum research, reflect India's integrated approach to strengthening both frontier science and strategic capabilities.

Dr Singh stressed the need for stronger communication and outreach so that scientific achievements receive wider visibility and inspire public engagement. The establishment of quantum labs is expected to be a cornerstone in India's journey toward technological self-reliance and global leadership in emerging sciences.

## BJP denies hand in attack on Congress MLA's house

HYDERABAD: BJP State Secretary Koppu Basha refuted allegations linking the party to the recent attack at the residence of Congress MLA Mandula Samuel. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he said that violence is not part of the BJP's culture, instead accusing Congress of fostering attacks against BJP workers in Chandur.

Basha highlighted the BJP government's initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour Dr BR Ambedkar, contrasting them with Congress's history of humiliating Ambedkar. He noted the development of "Panchteerth" sites as a global recognition of Ambedkar's legacy. Responding to Samuel's claim of inadequate Dalit representation, Basha emphasised that Modi's government has consistently included SC ministers in key portfolios, unlike Congress, which he accused of sidelining Dalit leaders. He criticised Congress for failing to deliver on promises made in the "Chavella Declaration," including the Rs 12 lakh Dalit Bandhu scheme and land allocations. Basha also condemned Congress leaders for remaining silent on custodial deaths and accused them of exploiting religious symbols for votes. He reaffirmed the BJP's support for the Madiga community's ABCDE categorisation struggle and warned against the misuse of police machinery to target BJP activists.