

IN BRIEF

**Akasa Air starts flight services to Noida airport**

MUMBAI: Domestic carrier Akasa Air has commenced its flight services to the newly-launched Noida International Airport with its inaugural flight QP2017 departing from Navi Mumbai International Airport on Tuesday morning, linking the Mumbai metropolitan region with Delhi-NCR. Akasa Air flight departed from Navi Mumbai at 7.30 am while the return flight arrived at NMIA at 12.30 pm, a Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd (NMIAL) spokesperson said. The airline will operate seven flights a week to the green-field airport.

**Inox Wind inks MoU with Inox Clean**

NEW DELHI: Inox Wind Ltd (IWL) on Tuesday said it has signed an initial pact with Inox Clean Energy to supply 1,500 MW of wind turbines. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), IWL will supply its 3.3 MW and 4X MW wind turbines for renewable energy projects being developed by Inox Clean Energy across India, the company said in a statement. Bharat Saxena, CEO, Inox Clean Energy, said that this partnership will enable faster project execution, greater supply chain certainty and improved capital efficiency as the company continues to scale one of India's fastest-growing renewable energy platforms.

**Siemens gets Pune Metro supply order**

MUMBAI: Technology firm Siemens Ltd on Monday said it has secured a supply order from Titagarh Rail Systems for advanced propulsion systems, and train control and monitoring systems (TCMS) for the Pune Metro Rail project extension. The scope of the work includes design, manufacture, supply and warranty of traction converters, auxiliary converters, traction motors and TCMS for 12 trainsets, and the company said, without sharing financial details of the deal. This collaboration will accelerate indigenisation, while serving as a great start to a long potential partnership between Titagarh Rail Systems and Siemens for the Indian urban mobility landscape, according to Umesh Chowdhary, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Titagarh Rail Systems.

**Delhivery launches 1,000 new facilities**

MUMBAI: Logistics firm Delhivery has announced the launch of a nationwide network of over 1,000 platform-dedicated rest facilities for delivery associates in close to 600 cities and towns, including major hubs and emerging markets. These facilities, "vishram" which are spread across cities such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, and Lucknow, will support the well-being of all delivery personnel across the country irrespective of their platform, parent organization, or sector, including those working in e-commerce, quick-commerce, food-tech, and traditional courier services, the company said.

**Leyland signs MoU with Delhi-NCR**

NEW DELHI: Ashok Leyland and Switch Mobility have become the first OEMs to provide discounts under the scheme for the replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR, an official statement said. The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Centre's scheme for replacement of old trucks and buses in the Delhi-NCR region was signed on Monday between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Ashok Leyland, along with Switch Mobility, a subsidiary of the company.

# India and France aim to double bilateral trade to \$30 bn by 2030

France emerging as key strategic partner for India with cooperation in various sectors including defence, AI, clean energy, space, and education

GROWING TRADE

- India-France bilateral trade reached \$15.8 bn in FY26
- France is India's top European investor with \$11.9 bn FDI inflows from 2000-25
- India exported goods worth \$7.1 bn to France in FY26
- India's imports from France stood at \$8.7 bn in FY26



could double from the current \$15 billion to \$30 billion by 2030, making the India-France relationship one of the most forward-looking economic partnerships between India and Europe.

"Together, both nations are well-positioned to shape a more innovative, sustainable, and prosperous global economic order," it said.

Addressing the India Innovates (Bharat Innovates) event in France's Nice on June 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the remarkable transformation of India-France relations into a partnership driven by innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, and shared global aspirations. Sharing the stage with French President Emmanuel Macron, he

highlighted that both countries are moving beyond traditional areas of cooperation to embrace emerging sectors, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies, cybersecurity, biotechnology, digital public infrastructure, green hydrogen, advanced manufacturing, and deep-tech innovation.

The event, organised under the India-France Year of Innovation 2026, showcased more than 100 Indian innovations and reflected both nations' determination to build future-oriented economic and technological partnerships. PM Modi, during his visit to France, emphasised that the two countries have complementary strengths that can shape the next wave of global economic transfor-

The two countries work closely within the G20, the United Nations system, and other multilateral forums. This strategic alignment has created a stable environment that has encouraged businesses and investors to pursue long-term partnerships

mation. He called for deeper collaboration among startups, innovators and industries for the development of resilient bilateral supply chains, accelerating growth, promoting technological sovereignty, and contributing to a more balanced and multipolar world order.

The article underscores that over the years, India and France have established robust institutional mechanisms to support economic and strategic cooperation. France has consistently supported India's aspirations on major international platforms, including India's candidature for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

# Chouhan warns of major impact of El Nino in 9-10 states

Minister calls for district-level contingency plans for Kharif season ahead

NEW DELHI

AGRICULTURE Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday directed coordinated meetings with district officials, Agriculture Departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other extension agencies in 9-10 states where El Nino's impact is likely to be "relatively severe" during the Kharif season.

Chairing the weekly review meeting on Kharif 2026 preparations, Chouhan stressed the need for advance contingency planning in rain-deficient districts, while also pushing for increased acreage under cotton and pulses.

Chouhan directed state governments to clearly identify vulnerable districts and prepare crop-wise contingency plans in advance, so that farmers can be promptly provided with options, advice, and assistance in the event of any weather challenge, the ministry said in a statement.

"A separate and practical strategy should be developed for each vulnerable district, with special attention to water conservation, moisture management, intercropping, and alternative crop patterns," he said.



The minister underscored that the government's priority is to ensure farmers receive "calm, reliable, and solution-oriented messages based on scientific analysis" rather than alarmist communication.

The meeting reviewed crop-wise targets, sowing progress, and state-wise Kharif 2026 preparations, with particular emphasis on boosting cotton output.

Chouhan called for wider adoption of scientific methods, right variety selection, intercropping, mulching, and moisture conservation to improve both productivity and farm incomes.

The Pulses Self-Sufficiency Mission also figured prominently in the discussions.

Chouhan said the government is working closely with states to expand cultivation of pigeon pea, black gram, and green gram through crop rotation, area expansion, im-

proved seed availability, and technical guidance, with the aim of reducing import dependence. The review covered fertilizer availability, market prices, reservoir levels, and water storage status across states. Chouhan assured that fertiliser supply is adequate at the national level and will be further streamlined to states and districts as the monsoon progresses.

# TaMo targets highest growth rate in FY27

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and its British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) will continue to collaborate on manufacturing, technology and people, enhancing scale efficiencies, accelerating learning and reinforcing capital discipline, Chandrasekaran said in his letter to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2025-26



NEW DELHI

NOTWITHSTANDING macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles is confident of delivering industry-leading growth in FY27, supported by a robust pipeline of new launches and multi-powertrain offerings, according to its Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and its British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) will continue to collaborate on manufacturing, technology and people, enhancing scale

efficiencies, accelerating learning and reinforcing capital discipline, Chandrasekaran said in his letter to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2025-26. Looking ahead, he said, "We enter FY27 with confidence, supported by a robust pipeline of new launches and multi-powertrain offerings. Our focus will remain on delivering industry-leading growth, deepening our commitment to safety, sustainability, quality and customer delight, while becoming resilient and staying agile amid macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties."

# JCB India logs production milestone

HYDERABAD: JCB India has produced and sold its 600,000th machine in the country, marking a significant milestone in its over four decades of operations in India. The milestone machine is a Backhoe Loader, one of the country's most widely used construction equipment models. Deepak Shetty, CEO, JCB India, said: "This milestone is much more than a number. It reflects the trust that customers have placed in JCB over several decades. The Backhoe Loader, which marks this achievement, has become closely linked with India's infrastructure and development journey."

Deepak further added: "This milestone has been made possible by the enduring trust and support of our customers, dealers, suppliers, and stakeholders, who have been integral to our journey.

# India, SL discuss ways for local currency trade

COLOMBO

INDIA and Sri Lanka have discussed ways to enhance trade settlement in local currencies to reduce transaction costs and insulate the bilateral trade from dollar volatility.

Local currency settlement reduces transaction costs, eliminates conversion losses in both directions, and insulates bilateral trade from dollar volatility, said Santosh Jha, Indian High Commissioner.

"And for Sri Lanka specifically, it reduces pressure on scarce hard currency reserves - preserving dollars for uses where they are truly necessary, while rupee-to-rupee trade flows freely between our two economies," Jha said here at a roundtable discussion on 'Rupee to Rupee: Strengthening the



India-Sri Lanka Commercial Corridor' on Monday. The event, organised by the Indian High Commission in Colombo, brought together representatives from government institutions, banking and financial sector organisations, industry leaders, importers, exporters, and business stakeholders from both countries. The participants discussed opportunities to deepen India-Sri Lanka economic and commercial engagement through enhanced use of local currencies.

# Navi Mumbai, Guwahati airports win Prix Versailles awards

MUMBAI

ADANI Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) has strengthened its position as a leading airport infrastructure developer after two of its airports were featured in the prestigious Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026, highlighting the company's focus on creating globally benchmarked aviation hubs that contribute to economic growth, tourism and regional development.

The airports recognised are Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) and Terminal 2 of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati.

The annual Prix Versailles awards, presented at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, celebrate excellence in architecture and design, recognising projects that combine innovation, sustainability, cultural identity and enhanced user experience.

The recognition places AAHL among a select group of global airport operators whose infrastructure projects are redefining modern air travel through a blend of architectural excellence and passenger-centric design.

Navi Mumbai International Airport's Terminal 1 was

Navi Mumbai International Airport's Terminal 1 was honoured for its distinctive lotus-inspired architecture, futuristic design approach and seamless integration of technology, art and functionality. The Terminal 2 of Guwahati airport was recognised for its architecture inspired by the 'Bamboo Orchid'

honoured for its distinctive lotus-inspired architecture, futuristic design approach and seamless integration of technology, art and functionality.

The airport has been envisioned as a world-class gateway that reflects India's aspirations as a modern global economic powerhouse.

Meanwhile, Terminal 2 of Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport was recognised for its architecture inspired by the 'Bamboo Orchid', a design concept that pays tribute to the region's rich biodiversity.

The terminal combines sustainability with functionality while showcasing the cultural and natural heritage of Northeast India.



# India's long-term growth remains intact despite global uncertainties: Report

NEW DELHI

INDIA continues to remain one of the world's most attractive investment destinations despite global geopolitical uncertainties and periodic market volatility, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, policy continuity and resilient corporate earnings, a report showed on Tuesday.

A report by domestic brokerage Ventura Securities highlighted that India's long-term growth outlook



remains constructive, backed by healthy corporate balance sheets and sustained domestic investor participation.

Sectors linked to infra-

structure development, healthcare, financialisation, technology and sustainability are well-positioned to benefit from India's long-term growth trajectory, it said.

Promising opportunities continue to emerge across sectors such as healthcare, power equipment, financial services and technology, alongside new-age themes including recycling and energy transition, said Vinit Bolinjar, Head of Research at Ventura Securities.

"A disciplined, research-

driven approach will be key to identifying the next generation of market leaders," according to him.

However, the brokerage has advised investors to focus on companies with strong earnings visibility, healthy balance sheets and clear growth catalysts while maintaining a disciplined long-term investment approach.

India's power and infrastructure sector continues to benefit from the country's energy transition and infrastructure expansion.

# VAAA Super launches GI-tagged ingredient brand

HYDERABAD: Aetetus Enterprises LLP has launched VAAA Super Foods, a premium food brand focused exclusively on GI-tagged (Geographical Indication) ingredients sourced from their native regions and offered in single-origin form.

The brand has debuted with three products — Lakadong Turmeric Powder from Meghalaya, Byadagi Chilli Powder from Karnataka, and Gulbarga Toor Dal from Kalaburagi, Karnataka. The products are available through Amazon India and the company's website.

# India's FTA with EU opens new doors for trade: Report

GROWING TRADE

- EU accounts for 11% of India's total global trade
- EU was India's second-largest trade partner after China
- India accounts for 1.7% of EU's global trade and ranks at No. 10
- This shows EU can become a major market for India

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's recent four-nation tour of Europe, aimed partly at consolidating strategic relations with key European partners amid the chang-

ing geopolitical and trading landscape, has a greater significance in terms of diversifying India's external economic engagement with access to wider markets, according to a new report.

The article by Politeia Research Foundation (PRF) cites the finalisation of the India-EU free trade agreement as a major step forward in the economic partnership.

"By reducing barriers to goods and services, the agreement can help the EU diversify its partnerships and strengthen its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing markets, while



enabling India to expand exports, attract investment, upgrade its industries and integrate more deeply into global value chains," the PRF article published in India Narrative states. It highlights that

in 2024, the EU was India's second-largest trading partner after China, accounting for 11 per cent of India's total global trade. Meanwhile, India was the EU's tenth-largest trading partner, accounting

for only 1.7 per cent of the EU's global trade. This shows that while the EU is a major market for India, the latter remains relatively smaller, though increasingly relevant, partner for the EU.

The EU-India FTA could, therefore, help address this gap by supporting stronger Indian export growth to the EU and by improving market access for EU firms in India.

With a market of close to 1.5 billion people and an expanding middle class, India offers the EU an important source of export diversification and long-term demand growth. For India, the agree-

ment offers an equally important opportunity. Under the EU-India FTA, the EU has committed to eliminating tariffs on over 90 per cent of tariff lines, covering 91 per cent of the trade value, creating a window for India to drive export growth and increase its share of EU imports

ing tariffs on over 90 per cent of tariff lines, covering 91 per cent of the trade value, creating a window for India to drive export growth and increase its share of EU imports.

Overall, the FTA is expected deepen EU penetration in high-value sectors and increase India's access to advanced technologies and industrial inputs.

The key point is that these provisions reduce the tariff disadvantage faced by Indian exporters in sectors where even small price differences can affect market share, the article points out.