MY INDIA

'Andhra a land of possibilities': Modi launches ₹2L-cr projects

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HYDERABAD: The Centre will
work with Andhra Pradesh in
realising its vision of Decoming a
nearly \$2.5 utilion economy by
2047. Prime Minister Narendra
Modi said on Wednesday as he
laid the foundation stone and
launched projects worth ₹2.lash
crore in Visakhapatnam, including the country's first Green
Hydrogen Hub under National
Green Hydrogen Mission.
Modi, who was on his first visit
to the Telugu state after assuming
the office of the PM for the third
consecutive term last June, also

the office of the PM for the third consecutive term last June, also took out a grand roadshow in the costal city along with chief min-ister N Chandrababu Naidu and deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Kalyan-led JanaSena Party are key allies of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Describing Andhra Pradesh as a "land of possibilities and oppor-tunities". Modi said the time has come for it to become a centre of

unities, 'Modi said the time has come for it to become a centre of new futuristic technologies. The country launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023. Our aim is to make 5 million merictonnes of green hydrogen production (annually) by 2030. As a first step, two green hydrogen hubs will be set up, of which one is in Visakhapatama,' he said.

As part of its "Swarna



PM Narendra Modi with Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu and deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

in Visakhapatnam on Wednesda Andhra@2047* initiative, the Chandrababu Naidu government has set an ambitious target of transforming the state into a \$2.4*trillion economy by 2047. Modi said his government at the Centre will work with the southern state in realising that vision. Modi also laid the foundation stone of a bulk drug park in Nak-kapalli, saying it will provide excellent infrastructure for manufacturing and research, boosting investor enthusiasm and confidence while benefitting local planma companies.

pharma companies. Andhra Pradesh was one of the

three states in the country where such a park is being established, he added.

The PM also laid the foundation stone for the Krishnapatnam Industrial Area, or Kris City, which will be integrated into the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, a move anticipated to strengthen the state's industrial ecosystem. Highlighting the role of 5ri City as a manufacturing hub, Modi said the aim is for the state to be among the top states in state to be among the top states in the country in the industrial and

Zone, a long-pending demand of people of the state, said its estab-ishment will expand agricultural and trade activities in the region, and provide new opportunities for tourism and the local econy. The infrastructure revolution in Andhra Pradesh, with better connectivity and facilities, will transform the state's landscape. Modi stressed the government's commitment to inclusive and all-around development in every sector, ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sections of society, saying the manufacturing sectors. Modi, who laid the foundation

nrmly with the state.

Expressing gratitude to the people of the state for their support to the NDA. Mod said the propert to the NDA. Mod said the propert to the NDA. Mod said the state and their state and

ROLL OUT SCHEME FOR CASHLESS TREATMENT IN ACCIDENT CASES: SC

Abraham Thomas

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to implement a 2022 Scheme for cashless treatment to motor whiche accident victims during the 'golden hour', the first hour after the accident, and also asked GGC, apec body for suprementation of the companies, to set up a portal for expeditious processing of compensation claims for his and run accident victims by March 14.

A bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka said, "When a persong ests injured in a motor accident, his near and dear ones may not be a round. However, the injured person must receive the required medical treatment in the golden hour, since it is essential for his survival." The court directed the scheme to be implemented expeditiously and, in any event, by March 14, 2025.

The court was dealing with two applications filed by advocate Kishan Chand Jain, who pointed out that despite there being a provision under Section I achieve the survival. The court victims, introduced by the Parliament in April 2022, the Centre is yet to frame the scheme.

Jain also moved a separate system of the contractions, introduced by the Parliament in April 2022, the Centre is yet to frame the scheme.

Jain also moved a separate system of the court of accident soft of the contraction of victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022 under Section [6] of MV Act which entitles victims of hit and run casses to seek mortary claim up to ₹2 lakh.

The court passed a slew of directions to expedite processing of these claims and directed the process of uploading documents for this purpose.



Swamy temple, in Tirupati, on Wednesday evening.

Stampede kills 6, many hurt

died and several others were hured in sampede at Trupad died and several others were hured in sampede at Trupad day evening as hundreds of devotees jostled for tickets for a religious event in the temple town, officials said. Chief minister N Chandrababu Nadlu condoled the incident which, he said, "deeply disturbed" him. The incident took place when a large number of devotees, who turned up from across the country, jostled for tickets for the annual Valkunta Dwara Darshanam at Lord Venkateswan Swamy temple on Trumala Hills, an official from the Tirumala Trupati Der from

from the Tirumala Tirupati Dev-asthanams (TTD) said. The 10-day Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam (darshan of the deity

temple) commences from January 10. "The death of several devotees in a stampede near Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati for tokens to visit Tirumala Srivari Vaikuntha

Dwar has shocked me." CM Naida work and post in Tatigu on X. TTD. Chair Care BR Naida und the incidence und so one for a DSP opened the gates for distribution of tickets. He added that one body has been identified. The TTD chief informed that CM Naidu conducted a teleconference and expressed dissatisfaction over the temple employees and said such an incident was unfortunate. The CM is coming to the temple town on Thursday, he said. According to officials, the TTD made arrangements for the distribution of 120,000 tokens to the devotees for the "sarva darshan"

bution of 20,000 tokens to the devices for the saw darshar' (free darshan) of Lord Venkuests of the saw awam for the first three darshan of Lord venkuests days of the annual darshan or January 10 to 12. The distribution arrangements were made at 94 counters at three plignin idegs—Vishnu Nivasam, Srinivasam, and Bludevi complexes, besides other places like Sayamarayanapuran, Bairagipatteda and Ramanaidu school, in Trupati, officials said, A TTD Official said the pligrims began thronging the lodges from Wednesday evening itself.

SC, GOVT SPAR ON JUDICIAL SALARIES AND PENSIONS

Utkarsh Anand

INEASTS MAND

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court and the Union government are locked in a ficere tussle over the uniformity of salaries and pensions for judges, with the Centra asserting that not all service conditions impact judicial independence and the court insisting it cannot remain a passive spectator to financial inequities undermining the judiciary's autonomy. At the heart of the conditions impact judicial independence, pitted against the government's argument for balancial stability as a cornerstone of judicial independence, pitted against the government's argument for balancing competing priorities.

On Wednesday, a bench of justices Bhushan R Gavai and AG Masih underscored the critical need for financial security and uniform service conditions omaintain the judiciary's independence and efficacy.

"For judges to act in an independent manner, there has to be social security, and one way of ensuring this is by guaranteeing inancial stability," the bench told attorney general R Venkaramanni, who represented the Centre. It added that the judiciary, as a unified institution, must offer consistent service conditions across all states and Unione True discussion was prompted with the proper service and the service and the service and the service conditions across all states and Unione True discussion was prompted with the condition of the property of the service and the s

tions across all states and Union territories.

The discussion was prompted by dispartities in salaries and pensions among retired judges and judicial officers. Senion and judicial officers, senion and judicial officers, senion has been assisting the bench as amicus curiae, pointed out anomalies, including pensions as low as \$17,000 for some retired high court judges. He contrasted this with legislators, who enjoy pensions indexed to inflation even if they serve for just one year. To this, AG Venkatramania ragued that comparing the judiciary to other branches of government is "misconceived." He contended that while judges' financial stability is essential, not all issues of service conditions directly impact judiciary to machine the conditions directly impact judiciary conditions directly impact judiciary. conditions directly impact judi-cial independence.

Anna varsity case accused DMK supporter, not member: Stalin

Divva Chandrababu

minister MK Stain admines on the floor of the state assembly that the accused in the Anna University sexual assault case is a sympathiser of his Dravida

a sympathiser of his Dravida Munnetra Karbagan but not a member and promised that his government would ensure jus-tice for the survivor.

A Madras high court-ap-pointed Special Investigation Team (STI) is probing the crime after the Chennai police arrested the lone accused Gnanasekaran, a biryani vendor next to the cam-puso of the city's premier engi-neering institution.

Tassure you that the accused

neering institution.

"I assure you that the accused who has been arrested is not a DMK member but he is a DMK sympathiser," Stalin said days after opposition parties AIADMK and BJP released photos of the accused with DMK beeder used before the different and the state of the st



Mt Stalin

the accused had not been not arrested or if the accused was being shielded, the government can be blamed. But he was arrested within a few hours."

AlADMK MLAs wore black in protest and also claimed that there was a second accused. The police have denied this and Stalin asked the opposition to give evidence to police, if they have any, of a second accused. The survivor, in her complaint had said that the accused spoke to someone over phone calling him

"sir" during the assault. While police said that the accused put his phone on airplane mode and pretended to receive instructions from someone to instil fear in the survivor, the AIADMK has been insisting that there is a second accused with some memors sporting badges with the legend "Who is that sir?" in Tamil.

legend Who is that si?" in Tambe opposition asks, Who is that si?" in The opposition asks, Who is that, si?" if you have evidence, please provide it to the SIT instead of indulging in chap activities for short-term political gains, "Stall mail.

In her complaint to the police, the woman said she was with a male friend behind a building on December 23 when the accused threatened them. He first assaulted her male friend before sexually assaulting her. The Madras high court had criticised the city police over the leak of the FIR in the case and transferred the probe to the SIT comprising three senior women IPS officers.

ASARAM MOVES PETITION SEEKING SUSPENSION OF LIFE SENTENCE

LIFE SENTENCE

JODHPUR: Self-styled godman
Asaran on Wednesday moved a
fresh plea in the Rajasthan high
court seeking suspension of a life
sentence awarded to him by a
Jodhpur court in 2018 for sexually assaulting a minor girl. Asaram's counsel moved the plea a
day after the Supreme Court
granted him interim bail until
March 31 in a separate rape case.
He is currently serving a life
term at Jodhpur central jail, he
was recently readmitted to
prison after undergoing treatment for a heart ailment. His
lawyer RS Saluja said, 'An
appeal against the life sentence
is already pending before the
Rajasthan high court. The fresh
application has been filed to suspend the sentence:

""".

application has been filed to suspend the sentence."

Asaram received interim bail on Tuesday in a 2013 rape case for which he was convicted by a Gandhinagar court in 2023. Despite the apex court's relief, Asaram cannot leave prison until he gets similar relief from the high court.

2 JEE aspirants found dead in Kota hostels, cops suspect suicide

HT Correspondent

JAIPUR: Two students preparing for the Joint Entrance Examina-tion (JEE) for admission to

for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to
undergraduate engineering
course were found dead in separate incidents in Rajasthan's
Kota district, police said on
Wednesday, suspecting both to
be cases of suited in took place.
The first incident took place
The first incident
The first incident
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of police (ASF) Dieep Sami sad, adding no suicide note has been recovered from the hostel. The second incident came to light on Wednesday evening when a 20-year-old sudent was when a 20-year-old sudent was tudent, who halled from Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, arrived in Kota in May and was preparing for JEE at a reputed coaching centre. Vilgan Nagar station house officer (SHO)

Mukesh Meena said.

A forensic science laboratory (FSL) team was called to probe both scenes. Poth of their parents have been informed. We will question them about any behavioural changes in the victims over the last few days. We are also probing whether there was any deterioration in their performance or attendance in the coaching centres. Saini said.

Tuesday's incident was the first case of suspected suicide by a student preparing for a competitive exam this year in Kota. Last year, at least 20 students died by suicide cases in Kota, the district administration in August 2023 ssued several guidelines for hostels and paying guest (PG) accommodations, in additions, in additions, in a competitive the said of the single state of the said of flouting the mandatory guide-lines. "The ceiling fan in the hos-tel was not equipped with the prescribed anti-hanging device as per the guidelines," he said.

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY

WILSON, DHAWALE GET HC BAIL IN 2018 KOREGAON VIOLENCE CASE

HT Correspondent

MUMBAI: Activists Rona Wilson

MUMBA!. Activists Rona Wilson and Sudhir Dhawale, arrested in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Korregaon case, are likely to be relaced from jail next week as the Bombay high court on Wednesday granted them bail in view of their nearly sky-qar-long pre-trial incarceration and the unlikeliness of the trial concluding anytime soon.

They have been in jail since 2018 and even the charges in the case are yet to be framed. The prosecution has cited over 300 witnesses. Thus, there is no possibility of the trial concluding in the near future," the division bench of justices AS Gadkari and Kamal Khata said while ordering their release on personal bonds. their release on personal bonds of ₹l lakh and 1-2 sureties of the same amount each. The Elgar Parishad, a day-long programme, was organised

The Elgar Parishad, a day-long programme, was organised in Pune's Shaniwar Wada on December 31, 2017 to commemo-rate 200 years of the battle of Koregaon, in which a small group of Mahar soldiers under the East India Company defeated

the East India Company defeated a much larger Peshwa army on January I, 1818. A day after the event, violence broke out near the memorial to the war at Koregaon Bhima vil-lage, located around 100 km from Pune, in which one person was killed.

Army readies blueprint for 'year of reforms'

NEW DELHF: The Indian Army has prepared a blueprint for the goals it will pursue in 2025 in line with it being declared the "year of reforms" by defence minister Rajnath Singh on January I, with the force focusing on five key areas: jointness and integration, force restructuring, modernisation and technology infusion, systems and processes, and human resource management, people aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The setting up of integrated the attree commands for the best use of the military's resources to fight future wars, a focus on new domains such as cyber and space, and simpler weapons buying procedures are among the specific interventions identified by the defence ministry. The aim is to NEW DELHI: The Indian Army ha

5 key areas for reforms

Force restructuring: Establishing integrated battle groups for mountain strike corps; expand cyber, electronic warfare, and

tackle new challenges.
Declaring 2025 as the year of reforms signals a decisive shift towards a more agile, technologically advanced, and combat ready military, said one of the persons cited above. The declaration aims at transforming India's defence

arnessing indigend Iutions in Al, ML,

erhouse capable of executing mul-ti-domain integrated operations, he said. "The army has swiftly aligned its transformative initia-tives with this roadmap to chart its course towards a future ready army," an official said. To be sure, the "year of reforms"

comes on the back of the army's "year of transformation" (2023) and "year of treshormation" (2023) and "year of treshonlogy absorption" (2024). Acknowledging the long gestation period required for meaning-ful change, the army has dentified 2023 to 2023 as the "decade of transformation". The announcement of 2025 as the "decade of transformation". The announcement of 2025 as the "decade of transformation period transformation" will give strategic direction and impects to the long-term initiative, said as econd person.

Proactive steps are being talken to facilitate the seamles sroll-out of integrated theatree commands and initiatives such as joint doctrines, shared tactics, and cross-service staffing between the army, navy, and air force, this person added. The development comes at a time when the armed forces are charting a path towards theaterisation, a long-awaited military reform.

Writer-filmmaker Pritish Nandy dies, tributes pour in

HT Correspondent

Herespondent lettersplendestumes.com MUMBAI: Eminent journalist and writer Pritish Nandy died at the age of 73 in Mumbai on Wednesday, Nandy was a poet, translator, film-maker, former parliamentarian, and was known to be a great spotter of artistic talent. In the 1980s, he discovered and shone the spottight on some of the leading names in contemporation of the litustrated Weekly of India at the age of 27 and made a mark as a young editor. Within a few years, he groomed a stable of stellar journalists who would often pick up subjects that set the national news agenda. Some ofhis notable work included stortesabout "godman" Chandraswami, the private life of the then



Orissa chief minister JB Patnaik

Orissa chief minister. IB Patnalik, American mercenary Frank Camper's terror camp in Alabama, and a memorable interview with Kishore Kumar. Sailesh Kotary, Nandy's colegage at the Weelshy between 1983 and 1991, said on Weenseday. He was an intrepid journalist. We took on SC judges, chief ministers, intelligence agencies and he stood by the journalists who torogist those stories.

those stories."
His contemporary Shobhaa De said, "Pritish had a combination of Bong arrogance and chutzpah. His

brand was very linteresting – he was a master of his own branding, he had a distinct way of spinning stories – some found his Bong intellectualism, endearing others mocked him; but he did not care. By the early 1890s as news television gained popularity, Nandy, who worked with the passion of an moved first to the elevision and the neventually to films and television moved first to the elevision and hen eventually to films and television and then eventually to films and television and then eventually to films and television and then eventually to films and television and the Advanced to twite profile ally for newspapers, wrote over 40 books, produced popular films such as Pyur Ke Side Effects and Chameli, and remained, till the end, a passionate animal rights activist. He founded India's first animal rights NGO People for Animas, now headed by Maneka Gandhi.

