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Of these approved companies, 23 companies are ready to start their manufacturing on Day Zero while the other four will start production within the next 90 days," Vaidyanath said. The government expects that these companies will generate a total of 50,000 direct jobs and 15,000 indirect jobs. The second phase of the PLI scheme for IT hardware was notified in May this year. It had a budgetary outlay of ₹7,000 crore, which was more than double the incentives offered by the ministry of electronics and information technology in the first phase of the scheme. The first phase had, however, failed to attract enough applications, and was given a nudge by more incentives till June 2022. Several investments under the first phase of the scheme were only around ₹200 crore as against indicated investments of more than ₹200 crore. Subsequently, it was done away with and a second phase of the PLI scheme was introduced with better sops and an improved incentive structure for applicants. This attracted proposals from about 50 Indian and foreign IT hardware manufacturing companies. In August, the government said the proposals received had led out plans for incremental investments of more than ₹5,000 crore, with an additional production value expected to be ₹4,650 lakh crore over the next six years.

Global IT hardware giants such as Dell and HP applied directly under the scheme, while others such as Lenovo had applied for the scheme through their respective EMSI electronic manufacturing services companies such as Electronics and Rising Star, a subsidiary of Taiwan's Foxconn. Indian companies such as Pegatron (Dixon), VVDN, Netweb, Syntex, Optomax, Sabars, Nedyne, Pasache, Solo (Larsen) and Karmve Tech had also applied, the ministry had then said. The companies which have not applied yet under the revised scheme are also evaluating their proposals, according to Vaidyanath, who said it is just a matter of time before these companies also set up shop in India.

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RPG Group is aiming for more than 40% gender diversity in fresher hiring from the Class of 2024. Up from 35% a year ago, Supriak Bhattacharyya, chief talent officer, said. "Entry level fresher hiring is a key way for us to build gender diversity into our workforce."

Companies like Vedanta are focusing on campus drives from women engineering colleges, the Harshali Vaidya said. The company has increased the intake of female workers from 22% in 2022 to 46% in 2023, and is aiming at 50% in the next couple of years, said Manu Srivastava, CHRO.

Global energy company Schneider Electric, which sees India as a global talent hub, is targeting a 50% gender mix for new hires across diverse domains including data analytics, digital services, data science, and cybersecurity. "This is critical to building a robust pipeline of future leaders in various technical domains," said Binu Philip, CHRO for the Greater India Zone at Schneider Electric.

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Sutcliffe and his allies on the OpenAI board had chafed at Altman's plans to raise funds off of OpenAI's name, and harbored concerns that the new businesses might not share the same governance model as OpenAI, the person told said.

Altman remained upbeat late on Friday according to a person close to him. In a post on X, Altman said, "I love you all!" He added, "Today was a weird experience in many ways. But one responsibility is that it has been worth like reading your own eulogy while you're still alive. The outpouring of love is awesome."

Shockwaves over the moves were felt widely within OpenAI and across the tech landscape. "Sam and I are shocked and saddened by what the board did today," Brockman wrote in

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Executives at Microsoft, the largest investor in OpenAI, were also taken by surprise. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella was "blindsided" by the news and was furious, according to someone with direct knowledge of his thinking. Altman is likely to start another company, one person said, and will work with former employees of OpenAI. There has been a wave of departures following Altman's firing, and there are likely to be more in the coming days, this person said.

In another post, Altman suggested he would have more to say about the company in the future. "If I start going off, the OpenAI board should go after me for the full value of my shares," Altman famously has said he has no equity in the startup.

Huge Demand Upsurge

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"Everyone is trying to cash in on tomorrow's match. There are not enough quality rooms in Ahmedabad. There are about 60 new properties that are going to come up in the Ahmedabad urban area, but that will take time. People are also staying in Vadodara and Gandhinagar," said Malik of Lemon Tree Premier.

The Leela Gandhinagar hotel was sold out for November 18-19. Gift City Club, a member of Radisson Individuals, in Gandhinagar was charging

Rs 43,000 plus Rs 7,500 in taxes for Saturday night, while the Taj Gandhinagar Resort & Spa was charging Rs 77,000 plus Rs 13,000 in taxes for Saturday night on Booking.com.

Rates for The Belvedere Golf and Country Club, located about 12.9 km from Gandhinagar, for Saturday night were about Rs 89,500 plus Rs 10,100 in taxes. Manoj Sharma, vice president, operations for Gujarat at The Fern Hotels & Resorts, said there had been a huge upsurge in prices in Ahmedabad and nearby destinations ever since India reached the final.

The last room in our upper mid-scale hotel, The Fern Residency in Ahmedabad, which is about 15 minutes away from the Motera stadium, was sold for Rs 40,000. Our properties in Vadodara are almost sold out. Our luxury resort, MYSA Zinc Journey by the Fern in Sanand, is almost sold out," he said.

SKY'S NOT THE LIMIT
The CEO of a pharma company, who flew in from Dubai, said he made staying arrangements with friends for a night in Ahmedabad since there was hardly any availability in hotels. Match tickets were being re-sold for as high as Rs 2.54 lakh by some people who had bought them. Chaitanya Ramalingam, co-fo-

under of mattress and sleep solutions startup Wakefit, stayed on LinkedIn that fans could sleep for free at the Wakefit store in Sarkhej Gandhinagar after showing their match ticket and could also email to book the offer in advance.

Many fans, like the managing director of a Singapore-based firm, however, told ET they had decided to cancel their travel plans and watch the match at home. "It does not make sense to pay so much. For the seat I paid 10k, the price was high. My friend has paid over Rs 3 lakh for the tickets alone. I would rather sit at home with friends and family and watch the final," the executive said on condition of anonymity.

Elon Musk Says X to File 'Thermonuclear' Lawsuit Against Media Watchdog

Media watchdog Media Matters alleges ads were being placed alongside antisemitic content

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"The split second court orders on Monday X will be filing a thermonuclear lawsuit against Media Matters and all those who colluded in this fraudulent attack on our company," Musk wrote in a post on X, without naming any other parties.

Liberal media watchdog group Media Matters for America earlier this week said it found that corporate advertisements by IBM, Apple, Oracle and Comcast's Minority were being placed alongside antisemitic content.

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"Media Matters created an alternate account and carried the posts and advert taking appearing on the account's timeline to misinform advertisers about the placement of their posts," Reuters.

Balanced Policy: Kant

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However, after Israel's massive counter-offensive, which has led to thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza, there is a strong possibility that Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE could want to put the IMEC project on the back burner.

Kant, though, believes the project will flourish. "With India's balanced policy and close relations with partner countries, we have every reason to believe IMEC will be a resounding success," he said.

Kant also said it was critical to understand that IMEC is a long-term initiative, along with being crucial to driving regional prosperity.

"The development of islands, ports, inland waterways and rail-inland hubs will lead to a reduction in the cost of logistics. For instance in the case of India, IMEC has the potential to reduce trade time with the EU, our second largest trading partner, by 40%," he said.

India's official push to green hydrogen, the hydrogen policy planned as part of IMEC, may significantly boost India's export potential in the field. "It will also be critical in developing a regional clean hydrogen economy,

as four of eight signatory countries (EU, Germany, France and Italy) can potentially import hydrogen, while others such as India, Saudi Arabia and UAE have strong hydrogen export potential," Kant said.

Last month, US President Joe Biden said at a press conference that he is "convinced" that one of the reasons Hamas attacked is "because of the progress we are making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall." Indirectly referring to the recent initiatives such as IMEC, as well as an agreement that the US was trying to reach between Israel and Saudi Arabia for normalisation.

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Rs 43,000 plus Rs 7,540 in taxes for Saturday night, while the Taj Gandhinagar Resort & Spa was charging Rs 77,000 plus Rs 13,040 in taxes for Saturday night on Booking.com. Rates for The Belvedere Golf and Country Club, located about 12.9 km from Gandhinagar, for Saturday night were about Rs 89,500 plus Rs 10,110 in taxes. Manoj Sharma, vice president, operations for Gujarat at The Fern Hotels & Resorts, said there had been a huge upsurge in prices in Ahmedabad and nearby destinations ever since India reached the final.

Chaitanya Ramalingam, co-founder of mattress and sleep solutions startup Wakefit, stayed on LinkedIn that fans could sleep for free at the Wakefit store in Sakheraj Gandhinagar after showing their match ticket and could also email to book the offer in advance. Many fans, like the managing director of a Singapore-based firm, however, told ET they had decided to cancel their travel plans and watch the match at home. "It does not make sense to pay so much. For the seat final itself, the price was high. My friend has paid over Rs 3 lakh for the tickets alone. I would rather sit at home with friends and family and watch the final," the executive said on condition of anonymity.

Balanced Policy: Kant

From Page 1

However, after Israel's massive counter-offensive, which has led to thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza, there is a strong possibility that Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE could want to put the IMEC project on the back burner.

Kant, though, believes the project will flourish. "With India's balanced policy and close relations with partner countries, we have every reason to believe IMEC will be a resounding success," he said.

Kant also said it was critical to understand that IMEC is a long-term initiative, along with being crucial to driving regional prosperity.

"The development of islands, ports, inland waterways and rail-inland hubs will lead to a reduction in the cost of logistics. For instance in the case of India, IMEC has the potential to reduce trade time with the EU, our second largest trading partner, by 40%," he said.

India's official push to green hydrogen, the hydrogen policy planned as part of IMEC, may significantly boost India's export potential in the field. "It will also be critical in developing a regional clean hydrogen economy,"

as four of eight signatory countries (EU, Germany, France and Italy) can potentially import hydrogen, while others such as India, Saudi Arabia and UAE have strong hydrogen export potential," Kant said.

Last month, US President Joe Biden said at a press conference that he is "convinced" that one of the reasons Hamas attacked is "the erosion of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall." Indirectly referring to the recent initiatives such as IMEC, as well as an agreement that the US was trying to reach between Israel and Saudi Arabia for normalisation.

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PAN INDIA INFRA PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION CIN: U92412MH2007PTC171016 Liquidator's Address: Plot No. 1, Group B, Rajawade Layout, Gull No. 3, Opp. Air Bakery, Durgam Chattrani Nagar, Nagar Malad West, Dist. 400010. Contacting Address: Sakshita Industries, Panshet, Powai Station, 118, 3rd Floor, 217, Gandhinagar, Andhera West, Nagar 400016. Email ID: panindiainfra@gmail.com; csp.panindia@gmail.com

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Huge Demand Upsurge

From Page 1: "Everyone is trying to cash in on tomorrow's match. There are not enough quality rooms in Ahmedabad. There are about 60 new properties that are going to come up in the Ahmedabad urban area, but that will take time. People are also staying in Vadodara and Gandhinagar," said Malik of Lemon Tree Premier. The Lemon Gandhinagar hotel was sold out for November 25-29. Gift City Club, a member of Radisson Individuals, in Gandhinagar was charging

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Balanced Policy: Kant

From Page 1 However, after Israel's massive counter-offensive, which has led to thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza, there is a strong possibility that Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE could want to put the IMEC project on the back burner. Kant, though, believes the project will flourish. "With India's balanced policy and close relations with participating countries, we have every reason to believe IMEC will be a resounding success," he said. Kant also said it was critical to understand that IMEC is a long-term initiative, along with being crucial to driving regional prosperity. "The development of islands, ports, inland waterways and multimodal hubs will lead to a reduction in the cost of logistics. For instance in the case of India, IMEC has the potential to reduce trade time with the EU, our second-largest trading partner, by 40%," he said. India's official push to green hydrogen - the hydrogen produced as part of IMEC - was significantly boosted by the field. "It will also be critical in developing a regional clean hydrogen economy."

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Britain May Slash Inheritance Tax in Next Wk's Budget

London: The UK may cut taxes on inheritance when it unveils its latest budget next week, The Telegraph newspaper reported, as the government tries to support a slowing economy without reigniting inflationary pressures. A reduction in the country's inheritance tax was possible, the newspaper said, along with an extension of the "full expensing" benefit for companies' investments announced in the last budget in March. Also under consideration for next week's Autumn Statement was a cut to stamp duty, it added, without giving additional details. Bloomberg

Liberia's George Weah Concedes Defeat to Boakai

Monrovia: Liberian incumbent president George Weah conceded defeat on Friday evening after nearly complete returns showed opposition leader Joseph Boakai leading with nearly 51% of the run-off ballots. "The results announced tonight, though not final, indicate that... Boakai is in a lead that we cannot surpass," Weah said in a speech on national radio. The CDC party has lost the election, but Liberia has won. This is the time for graciousness in defeat, to put national interest above personal interest," he said. The expected victory for former V-P Boakai would be sweet revenge for the 78-year-old, who lost to Weah, 57, by a large margin in the second-round presidential vote in 2017. AFP

Better Sops in PLI 2.0

Of these approved companies, 23 companies are ready to start their manufacturing on Day Zero while the other four will start production within the next 90 days," Vishwanath said. The government expects that these companies will generate a total of 31,000 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs. The second phase of the PLI scheme for IT hardware was notified in May this year. It had a budgetary outlay of ₹17,000 crore, which was more than double the incentives offered by the ministry of electronics and information technology in the first phase of the scheme. The first phase had, however, failed to attract enough applications, and was given a time by major companies till June 2022. Several investments under the first phase of the scheme were only several ₹20 crore as against estimated investments of more than ₹100 crore. Subsequently, it was done away with and a second phase of the PLI scheme was introduced with better sops and an improved incentive structure for applicants. This attracted proposals from about 50 Indian and foreign IT hardware manufacturing companies. In August, the government used the proposals received but laid out plans for incremental investments of more than ₹5,000 crore, with an additional production value expected to be ₹4.65 lakh crore over the next six years. Global IT hardware giants such as Dell and HP applied directly under the scheme, while others such as Lenovo had applied for the scheme through their respective OEMs/electronics manufacturing service companies such as Flextronics and Rising Star, a subsidiary of Taiwan's Foxconn. Indian companies such as Pegatron (Dixon), VVDN, Netesh, Syntex, Optisense, Subaru, Nityx, Panache, Selo (Larsen) and Kaynes Tech had also applied, the ministry had then said. The companies which have not applied yet under the revised scheme are also evaluating their proposals, according to Vishwanath who said it is just a matter of time before these companies also set up shop in India. "We have very objective evaluation mechanism. And the companies which have been evaluated and passed the rigour that we expect, only those have been approved. Many of the companies already have their investments in India. So, this will be the incremental investment," Vishwanath said.

Israeli Air Strikes Kill 32 in Gaza Amid Calls for Civilians to Flee

Israel warns civilians in south Gaza to relocate as it turns to attack Hamas in the enclave's south

Gaza | Jerusalem: Israeli air strikes on residential blocks in south Gaza killed at least 32 Palestinians on Saturday, medical sources said, after hours of fighting warned civilians to relocate as it turns to attack Hamas in the enclave's south after subduing the north.

Such a move could compel tens of thousands of Palestinians who fled south from the Israeli assault on Gaza City to move again, along with residents of Khan Younis, a city of more than 400,000, suffering a dire humanitarian crisis. "We're asking people to relocate. I know it's not easy for many of them, but we don't want to see civilians caught up in the crossfire," Mark Dagan, an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told MSNBC on Friday. Israel vowed to annihilate the Hamas militant group that controls the Gaza Strip after its Oct. 7 rampage into Israel in which its fighters killed 1,200 people and dragged 240 hostages into the enclave, according to Israeli officials.

Since then, Israel has bombed much of Gaza City - the enclave's urban core - to rubble, ordered the



The first plane load of Palestinian children wounded in the Israel-Hamas war reached the United Arab Emirates on Saturday. The group of 15 people, including children and their family members, made it across the Gaza Strip's Rafah border crossing with Egypt on Friday. They then took a flight to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates.

depopulation of the northern half of the narrow strip and displaced around two-thirds of Gaza's 2.5 million Palestinians. Many of those who have fled fear their homelessness could become permanent. Gaza health authorities raised the death toll on Friday to more than 12,000, 5,000 of them children. The United Nations deems those figures credible, though they are not updated infrequently due to the difficulty of collecting information. Overnight on Saturday, 20 Palestinians were killed and 20 injured by an air strike on two apartments in a multi-story block in a busy residential district of Khan Younis, according to health officials. Eyed Al-Zawati told Reuters he had his aunt, her children and her grandchildren in the air strike in Khan Younis, and that all had evacuated from north Gaza on Israeli army orders only to die where the army told them they could be safe. "All of them were martyred. They had nothing to do with the (Hamas) resistance," said Zawati, standing outside the mosque at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis where 26 bodies were laid out before they were to be carried by land to be buried.

US: Hamas Must Release Hostages to Get More Aid

Washington: Hamas must release more hostages in return for a significant increase in aid to Gaza and a pause in fighting, one of the US's top Middle East envoys said on Saturday.

"The surge in humanitarian relief, the surge in fuel, the pause in fighting will come when hostages are released," said Brett McGurk, who's Joe Biden's Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa. McGurk, speaking at the USA-Matsumi Dialogue, a regional security conference in Lebanon, said the US's approach has helped hostage negotiations so far. Hamas, which the US and Europe designate a terrorist organization, swarmed Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking 240 back to Gaza as hostages. Israel's preoccupied with mounting a military and a ground offensive on the enclave, which the Hamas-run government says have killed more than 12,000 people. Bloomberg

Elon Musk Says X to File 'Thermonuclear' Lawsuit Against Media Watchdog

Media watchdog Media Matters alleges ads were being placed alongside antisemitic content

New York: X Corp, formerly known as Twitter, will file a lawsuit against Media Matters and those who attacked social media platform X, Elon Musk said on Saturday in a post on the platform, soon after major US companies paused their advertisements on the site.

"The split second court orders on Monday X will be filing a thermonuclear lawsuit against Media Matters and all those who colluded in this fraudulent attack on our company," Musk wrote in a post on X, without naming any other parties. Liberal media watchdog group Media Matters for America earlier this week said it found that corporate advertisements by IBM, Apple, Oracle and Comcast's Minority were being placed alongside antisemitic content. IBM on Thursday said it immediately suspended all advertising on Musk-owned X after the watchdog found its ads were placed next to content promoting Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Disney, Warner Bros Discovery and Comcast's Lions Gate Entertainment and Paramount Global said on Friday they were also pausing their ads on X. Axios reported that Apple would do the same. Musk on Wednesday endorsed an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people.

"This week Media Matters for

WH Slams Musk for His Remarks on Antisemitism

San Francisco: The White House has slammed Elon Musk for his "abhorrent" promotion of antisemitism and racist lies, while several top American companies like Apple have pulled out ads from his social media platform X. "It is unacceptable to repeat the heinous acts of antisemitism in American history at any time, let alone one month after the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust," White House spokesperson Andrew Bass said. PTI

America posted a story that completely misrepresented the real expertise on X, in another attempt to undermine freedom of speech and mislead advertisers," a statement posted by Musk said. "Media Matters created an alternate account and carried the posts and advertising appearing on the account's timeline to misinform advertisers about the placement of their posts," Reuters

Balanced Policy: Kant

as four of eight signatory countries (EU, Germany, France and Italy) can potentially import hydrogen, while others such as India, Saudi Arabia and UAE have strong hydrogen export potential," Kant said. Last month, US President Joe Biden said at a press conference that he is "convinced" that one of the reasons Hamas attacked is "because of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall," indirectly referring to the recent initiatives such as IMEC, as well as an agreement that the US was trying to reach between Israel and Saudi Arabia for normalisation.

Samsung Executive Chairman Pleads for Chance to Lead as Lawyers Seek Jail



Jay Y. Lee

Seoul: Samsung Electronics Co. Executive Chairman Jay Y. Lee denied wrongdoing and pleaded for a chance to lead South Korea's biggest company after prosecutors requested he receive a five-year prison term for charges involving a controversial merger of two Samsung Group units in 2015. In the hour-long at the Seoul Central District Court on Friday, prosecutors also asked for Lee to be fined 500 million won (\$395,000). The court is scheduled to deliver its ruling on January 26, ending a trial that has lasted more than three years. In his final argument late Friday, Lee stressed his duty to steer the company his grandfather founded to the next stage of a three-of-high-tech geopolitical risks, rapid supply-chain reorganization and technological disruptions. He said his responsibilities include preparing for the future while competing and collaborating with global tech giants. "I will grow everything I have to fulfill these responsibilities," he said in an argument that lasted about 45 minutes. Bloomberg



SpaceX Starship Rocket Lost in Second Test Flight

SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship but lost both the booster and the spacecraft in a pair of explosions minutes into Saturday's test flight. The rocketship reached space following liftoff from South Texas, but communication suddenly was lost. SpaceX officials said it appears the ship's self-destruct system blew it up over the Gulf of Mexico. AP

Russian Drone Attack Hits Ukraine Infra

Kyiv: Russia carried out a major drone attack on Ukraine overnight, hitting infrastructure facilities and causing power outages in more than 400 towns and villages in the south, southeast, and north of the country, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday. Ukraine air defenses shot down 23 out of 38 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched from Russian territory, the air force said. The air force said in a statement the attack on several Ukraine regions lasted from 8 p.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday to 4 a.m. on Saturday. The energy ministry said 48 settlements in the Odessa region in the south and in the Zaporizhzhia region in the southwest were cut off from electricity after power networks were damaged in the strikes. Last winter, Russia pounded Ukraine with hundreds of missiles and drones, leaving millions without electricity heating, and water during the coldest months. "This year Ukraine had an unusually warm autumn. But as temperatures start to fall, officials have urged residents and businesses to prepare for renewed Russian attacks. "We do not have a right to relax," Volodymyr Kutrynskiy, head of the power grid operator Ukrenergo, told Ukrainian TV. "Certainly, all of us, energy workers and defence forces, are preparing to repel possible Russian attacks on the energy infrastructure this winter." Reuters

Gender Diversity Goals

From Page 1 This will help create a culturally dynamic and forward-looking organization for the next phase of growth, said Pattanayak. The focus is on creating opportunities across businesses. "This includes hiring younger talent as well as women engineers in our factories and across the organization," said Pattanayak. "The group aims to achieve a 45% gender diversity mix by FY20 from the current mix of 4%." Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro said it has 30% women in Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) and Post-graduate Engineer Trainee (PGET) intake. "We have seen a consistent rise in our women's hiring and overall initiatives in increasing the women workforce," said CHRO C. Jayakumar. "We remain committed to further increasing this percentage in the current year," he added.

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