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Green hydrogen plan gets nod from Cabinet

Rajeev Jayaswal

NEW DELHI: In an ambitious move aimed at improving India's energy security and helping the country cut carbon dioxide emissions, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission up to 2029-30, including incentives to attract investments worth ₹8 lakh crore and create 600,000 direct jobs. The mission is expected to cut around 50 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

Stating the expected deliverables of the mission after the meeting, information and broadcasting minister Anurag Singh Thakur said: "We will have annual production of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen, it will annually reduce 50 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions. Not only that, it will lead to [cumulative] savings of ₹1 lakh crore in fossil fuel imports."

Hydrogen produced using renewable energy to split water (electrolysis) is termed as "green hydrogen" as opposed to "grey hydrogen" produced from fossil fuel. India plans to invest in developing an electrolysis capacity (or electrolyser capacity) of 60-100 GW as part of the effort to produce green hydrogen, Thakur added.

There are two main components of the key incentive package of ₹17,490 crore under the approved mission — about ₹4,500 crore is set aside for manufacturing of electrolyser (which breaks water into hydrogen and oxygen) in next five years, and ₹15,000 crore for producing green hydrogen in the next three years, according to an official who requested anonymity.

Besides that, the mission also set aside ₹1,466 crore for pilot projects, ₹400 crore for research and development (R&D), and ₹388 crore for other components of the mission, this

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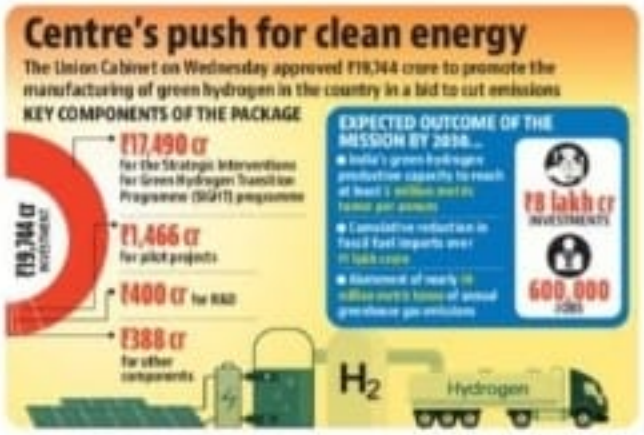

₹2,500cr scheme to lift AIR and Doordarshan

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday approved a ₹2,539.61 crore project to boost the "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" (BIND), Union minister Anurag Thakur said.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding Central Sector Scheme, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" (BIND) at a cost of ₹2,539.61 crore for infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD)," he said.

+FULL REPORT ON P5

SC relief to UP govt on OBC quota issue

Abraham Thomas

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an order of the Allahabad high court that allowed elections for chairpersons of state municipal bodies in Uttar Pradesh to be notified without any reservation for backward classes — a decision that comes as a relief for the UP government since the issue has become a political hot potato in the state.

Hearing separate appeals by the state government and UP state election commission against the December 27 verdict of the high court, a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and justice PS Narasimha said: "High court has directed to go ahead with the elections. This cannot be accepted as we see that a segment of the state would remain unrepresented."

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath hailed the top court's verdict.

"We welcome the Supreme Court order on urban local body polls in the state. The state government will assist in holding these polls within the stipulated time frame set by the

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Yogi Adityanath during the UP Global Investors Summit on Wednesday.

OUR AIM IS NOT TO TAKE BOLLYWOOD FROM MUMBAI TO UP: YOGI IN CITY

MUMBAI: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that the North Indian state is transforming and will emerge as one of the most progressive states in the country by achieving the target of becoming a $ 1 trillion economy in the next five years.

In Mumbai on a two-day visit for a road show, Yogi said that UP seeks to take neither the Mumbai's film industry nor any industrial investment here to UP, but wants to have a healthy competition with them.

"Our aim is not to take Bollywood from Mumbai to UP. We are invoking the film industry by giving them world class facilities. Renowned studios, from across the globe, such as Universal Studios are ready to come here.

"So, we are not snatching anything from anybody, but it will be a healthy competition between the two," he said.

During his visit, Yogi is expected to meet industrialists, investors, bankers and personalities from Bollywood.

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[URINATED ON PASSENGER] [IN BUSINESS CLASS]

Obnoxious flyer faces FIR after month of inaction by Air India

NEW DELHI: Air India came under fire from within and outside on Wednesday as details emerged of a revolting incident on New York-Delhi flight on November 26, when a purportedly inebriated man urinated on a co-passenger in business class, and the crew allegedly did little to help the affected person.

The airline said on Wednesday it had filed a police complaint, but it seemed to have been formally made only after the incident emerged in public domain.

A Delhi Police official said they were given basic details of what happened on December 28 — over a month after the flight — and a formal complaint was made only on Wednesday.

A Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) official, while asking not to be named, too said the regulator had not been notified, and that a report had been sought from the airline.

"There were failures at multiple levels... In all, it's a complete breakdown of the system," said an airline official, who asked not to be named.

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[ADMITTED TO KOKILABEN HOSPITAL]

Pant airlifted to Mumbai for further treatment

An ambulance carrying Rishabh Pant leaves Mumbai airport for Kokilaben hospital in Andheri on Wednesday.

HT Correspondent

MUMBAI: Five days after injuries suffered in a serious accident near his home town Roorkee after his car flipped over and burst into flames, India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant left the hospital in Dehradun and was flown to Mumbai by air ambulance for further treatment.

The 25-year-old, who was being treated for injuries on his forehead and right knee, wrist, ankle and toe and abrasions on the back at the Max Hospital in the Uttarakhand capital, landed in Mumbai on Wednesday evening and was admitted to Andheri's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital (KDAH).

The Indian cricket board in a press release said Pant's further treatment will be under the direct supervision of the renowned sports orthopaedic Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, who is in the BCCI panel. Pardiwala heads the centre for sports medicine and is director orthopaedic and shoulder services at

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