

THE INDIAN MAIL

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ICICI Bank Q2 profit surges 20 pc to Rs 14,843 crore
India's second-largest private lender -- ICICI Bank -- on Monday reported a 20.1 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY27. The lender....

07



Punjab FC look to build on winning start as Mumbai City seek ISL response
Punjab FC will look to maintain their early momentum when they host Mumbai City FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Monday, while the Islanders will be...

12



Harish distributes festival gifts to Siddipet civic workers
Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao spent on Monday morning alongside Siddipet's municipal sanitation workers, joining them for breakfast and addressing...

03

Bhatti directs officials to expedite utilisation of SC, ST sub-plan funds

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to accelerate the utilisation of funds allocated under the SC and ST Special Development Sub-Plan in the State Budget, stressing that there should be no delay in spending earmarked funds for the welfare and de-

velopment of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). During a review meeting with senior Finance Department officials at the Secretariat on Monday, Bhatti reviewed department-wise budget allocations, expenditure incurred so far under the SC and ST Sub-Plan, and various aspects of the State's financial management. He in-

structed officials to focus on departments lagging behind in fund utilisation and take immediate corrective measures to ensure that allocations are spent in accordance with budgetary provisions and their intended objectives. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that funds earmarked for the social advancement and economic empow-

erment of SC and ST communities must be utilised efficiently. He directed departments to implement their expenditure plans effectively and ensure that Sub-Plan allocations, made in proportion to the population of these communities, are used for their intended purposes. He also called for full utilisation of funds provided under the special SC and ST budget heads in accordance with statutory provisions and budgetary allocations.



'Violence is in their very DNA' CM Chandrababu expresses anger at YSRCP

Amaravati, Oct 19 : "Politics is what shapes our destiny," stated Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking to the media on Monday, he lashed out at Jagan for bringing his own media crew to the

Election Commission office to broadcast a live feed. He questioned how many seats were won unopposed during the YSRCP's tenure. The Chief Minister further criticized Jagan, alleging that he had

intimidated government officials, coerced them into carrying out his bidding, and ultimately caused them to end up in jail. They pointed out that even industrialists were sent to jail. Stating that everyone is aware of the atrocities



committed during the YSRCP's tenure, they explained that they are reminding the public about these events once again. They lashed out, questioning how such individuals could even speak about democracy. The Chief Minister stated that 'social re-engineering' was applied in the selection of candidates for the local body elections, with priority given to women and the youth. He mentioned that, this time, the posts of Chairperson and Mayor are being filled through direct elections. He explained that direct elections were introduced to put an end to 'blackmail politics' in local body elections.

TRS demands 25-crore cofferdam at Kannepalli to combat drought

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday urged the Telangana government to immediately construct a 93-meter cofferdam near the Kannepalli pump house to divert Pranahita River waters and relieve farmers facing severe drought. Speaking after inspecting water levels at the Kannepalli site alongside party leaders, Kavitha presented a technical proposal indicating the temporary dam could be built within 45 days at an estimated cost of 25 crore. Kavitha noted that despite widespread drought across the state, nearly two thousand million cubic feet (TMC).



Dattatreya invites Telangana Governor to Alai Balai celebrations

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : A delegation led by former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Monday invited Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to attend the Alai Balai celebrations scheduled for Oct 22 at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad. The delegation called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan and extended the invitation for the annual event. In separate meetings, C. Sushma, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Cairo, Egypt, and Sanjay Kumar Muluka, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Kuwait, also called on the Governor.

BRS serves legal notices to Congress leaders over allegations against KCR

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has served legal notices to Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President, Mahesh Kumar Goud, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, and MP Vamsi Krishna Gaddam for allegations made regarding the diversion of Kondapochamma Sagar water to the farmhouse of BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. BRS General Secretary and Legal Cell In-charge, Soma Bharat Kumar, issued notices to the Congress leaders, demanding them to unconditionally delete social media posts and retract the 'false propaganda'. The Congress leaders had alleged that water from the Kondapochamma Sagar project was diverted to



the farmhouse of K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR). According to the notice, the allegations are intended to damage KCR's reputation. The notices to Congress leaders were issued a day after a similar notice was issued to the management.

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NFR steps up efforts to start passenger train services between Tripura and Bangladesh

Guwahati/Agartala, Oct 19 : Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) General Manager (Construction), Ashish Bansal, on Monday instructed railway officials to expedite the completion of pending works to facilitate the early commencement of passenger train services between Tripura and Bangladesh. The 12.24 km Agartala-Akhaura railway line (5.46 km in India and 6.78 km in Bangladesh) is linked with Akhaura through an international immigration station at Nischintapur in western Tripura. The Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh) rail link project, being implemented by NFR, is also nearing completion and is expected to enhance rail connectivity between the North-eastern states and Bangladesh. NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said that during his recent visit to Tripura.

TN announces Rs 2 per kg incentive for cooperative ration shop onion sales

Chennai, Oct 19 : Salespersons at ration shops run by cooperative societies will receive an incentive of Rs 2 for every kilogram of onions sold under an initiative aimed at controlling retail prices and ensuring access to quality produce at reasonable rates. The incentive was announced in a procedural order issued by Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Latha. It recognises the additional responsibilities undertaken by salespersons handling onion distribution alongside their regular ration shop duties. According to the order, onions were procured in three phases from the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). The procurement was undertaken to help check rising onion prices in the open market. The onions are being sold to the public through ration shops operated by cooperative societies. The arrangement is intended to make quality onions available at fair prices while using the existing cooperative distribution network to reach consumers. Under the order, the incentive payable to

each salesperson will depend on the quantity of onions sold. The prescribed rate is Rs 2 per kilogram, linking payment directly to the volume handled through sales at the participating shops. The Registrar's order lists several additional tasks associated with the initiative. These include receiving onion consignments, storing the produce, sorting it, weighing quantities for customers, conducting sales and maintaining the related sales ac-



counts. These responsibilities involve work beyond the routine distribution of ration commodities. The incentive is intended to encourage salespersons to undertake the additional duties required to carry out onion sales through cooperative outlets. The amount due to eligible salespersons will be credited directly to their bank accounts through the Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), according to the order. Payments will therefore be made through bank transfers based on the quantity sold. The measure combines consumer relief with an incentive for the staff responsible for implementing the sales programme. While the procurement and distribution arrangement seeks to contain the impact of higher market prices, the additional payment acknowledges the work involved at the retail level. The order specifies a uniform incentive rate for onion sales conducted through the participating cooperative ration shops.



Gujarat records all-time high power demand of 29,822 MW; 4,200 MW nuclear project planned

Gandhinagar, Oct 19 : Gujarat recorded its highest-ever electricity demand of 29,822 MW on October 19, a 36.6 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year, prompting the state government to step up power procurement and accelerate plans for battery storage, thermal generation and a nuclear power project. The state's daily electricity consumption also rose to 574 million units in October, compared with 457 million units in the same month last year, an increase of around 27 per cent. Electricity demand during September and October has increased by approximately 12 per cent, or 4,000 MW, compared with previous years, according to the state Energy and Petrochemicals Department.

Bihar: Pappu Yadav questions the Centre over Nepal policy

Patna, Oct 19 : Purnea MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav on Monday questioned the Narendra Modi government over its response to Gen Z-led political developments in Nepal and Bangladesh, while alleging that the Centre had failed to provide adequate assistance to flood-hit Bihar. Addressing a press conference in Purnea, Yadav criticised the Centre over the alleged lack of financial assistance.



‘Yes, we want regime change’: Uddhav Thackeray attacks Centre

Mumbai, Oct 19 : The Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray on Monday strongly criticised the Centre over allegations of attempting a "regime change." He delivered a fierce rebuttal, stating that if opposing the government democratically is branded as a regime change, then "Yes, we are trying to bring about a regime change, and we stand here precisely to overthrow this power." Addressing an awards presentation ceremony organised by the All India Journalists' Conference here, Thackeray questioned how the opposition could remain silent when the

ruling establishment deprives citizens of their fundamental rights to express opinions through elections and stage peaceful protests. He attacked the Centre for labelling anyone who raises a voice against the government as "anti-national." Responding to the controversy surrounding the phrase "regime change," Thackeray referred to advocate Prashant Bhushan's recent remarks in Delhi. "If the ruling party claims that we are attempting to change this system, what is wrong with that?" he asked. He questioned what could possibly be incorrect about standing up for a change of government when



those opposing it are denied their rights to vote and protest freely. He also launched a sharp attack over police action against protesters in Delhi. "I want to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajnath Singh, and those deploying thousands of police personnel in Delhi—have these police officers been brought in to play Dandiya during Navratri?" Thackeray alleged that young protesters were being brutalised, heads were being smashed, and women and young girls were subjected to violence, including hair-pulling and tearing of clothes.



Significant number of Tripura youths enthusiastically participates in 5-day Agniveer recruitment rally

Agartala, Oct 19 : A large number of youths from Tripura have enthusiastically participated in the five-day Agniveer Recruitment Rally, reflecting the growing interest among the state's young people in joining the Indian Armed Forces, officials said. A Defence spokesman said that the five-day Agniveer Recruitment Rally 2026 came to a successful conclusion on Monday at the Dasaratha Deb State Sports Complex at Badharghat on the outskirts of Agartala.

Assam CM's son graduates from NLSIU Bengaluru, secures AIR 40 in CLAT

Guwahati, Oct 19 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday shared an emotional message after his son, Nandil, received his law degree from the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, recalling his journey from preparing for the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) to graduating from one of the country's premier law institutions. In a social media post, the Chief Minister said that he and his wife were proud parents as they witnessed their son receive his degree at a ceremony held in Bengaluru. Sarma recalled that Nandil had once expressed his desire to take a year off to prepare for CLAT, a decision that had initially raised questions and concerns among the family. "As parents, we had our share of questions and, admittedly, a few worries too," Sarma wrote, adding that his son remained confident about his decision and worked hard to achieve his goal. Nandil subsequently secured All India Rank (AIR) 40 in CLAT, demonstrating the importance of determination, self-belief and perseverance, the Chief Minister said. Reflecting on the



experience, Sarma said parents often spend years guiding their children but eventually discover how much they learn from them along the way. The Chief Minister also emphasised the importance of trusting children's choices and allowing them to pursue their ambitions with confidence. "Today, our hearts are full. So proud of you, Nandil. Go write your next chapter," Sarma said in his message. NLSIU Bengaluru is widely regarded as one of India's leading institutions for legal education and has produced several prominent lawyers, judges, legal scholars and public policy professionals. Admission to the university's undergraduate law programme is through CLAT, a highly competitive national-level entrance examination conducted for admissions to participating national law universities across the country.

Bengal BJP in Alipurduar expels five leaders for anti-party activities



Kolkata, Oct 19 : The Alipurduar Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership has taken strict action in the unrest surrounding the assault on party workers in front of the police outpost and expelled five leaders involved in the incident. Alipurduar BJP President Mithu Das announced the expulsion at a press conference on Monday. He said that the decision to expel the leaders concerned has been taken after receiving allegations of violating party discipline and being involved in anti-party activities. The expelled BJP leaders are one of the district's secretaries Sunil Mahato, general secretary of Kumargram No. 3 mandal Debesh Barman, and convenor of Kumargram No. 2 region Dilip Pandey. In addition, the expulsion of Kalchini No. 1 mandal president Rajesh Chhetri and district executive member Ratan Roy has also been announced for being involved in anti-party activities.



Delhi has achieved 211 good-to-moderate air quality days in 2026: Environment Minister

New Delhi, Oct 19 : Delhi has achieved a significant milestone in its efforts to improve air quality, recording 211 days of Good, Satisfactory and Moderate Air Quality as of October 19, marking its best performance since 2016, except for the COVID-affected year 2020, said the city's Environment Minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa. Significantly, with more than two months of the year remaining, Delhi has already surpassed the total number of Good-to-Moderate air quality days recorded during the entire year in most previous years, including 200 days in 2025, 209 days in 2024, 206 days in 2023, 159 days in 2018 and 110 days in 2016, he said. He said under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi government has adopted a comprehensive, coordinated and result-oriented approach towards combating air pollution, and the sustained efforts of various agencies and stakeholders are beginning to show positive outcomes. The Minister highlighted that the number of Poor, Very Poor and Severe air quality days during the corresponding period has also declined substantially, from 168 days in 2016 to just 79 days in 2026. Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) reviewed enforcement actions, inspection

findings and compliance status across the National Capital Region (NCR) at the 141st meeting of its Enforcement Task Force (ETF), held on Friday. During the 15-day reporting period from September 25 to October 9, a total of 124 inspections were reported, comprising six inspections at Construction and Demolition (C&D) sites, 54 in the industrial sector and 64 related to Diesel Generator (DG) sets. These inspections resulted in 55 reported violations, including five at C&D sites, 35 in the industrial sector and 15 related to DG sets, said a statement issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In a separate development, a team led by T.S. Panwar, Member (Technical), CAQM, visited Firozpur and Faridkot districts in Punjab on Saturday to review the ground-level implementation of measures to prevent paddy stubble burning during the ongoing harvesting season. During the meeting, the team reviewed the preparedness of the district administrations and coordination among concerned departments for effective in-situ and ex-situ management and utilisation of paddy stubble.



BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Sita City One, 7-1-22/2, Leelanagar, Greenland Road, Amerpet, Near Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad, 500016

POSSESSION NOTICE
U/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. Rule 8-(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. (Appendix-IV)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **M/s BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (BHFL)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand Notice(s)** to Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of **M/s Bajaj Housing Finance Limited**, has taken over the **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 8-(1) of the said rules. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of **BHFL** for the amount(s) as mentioned herein under with future interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch : HYDERABAD, LAN: H400HLL048660 and H400HLL0497591, 1. Sourabha Ranjan Sahu (Borrower), At: Door No. 13-20/403, Flat No. 403, Fourth Floor, Balaji Abode, Gandhamdaga Village, Peerancheruvu, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500086	Schedule of property: All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: All That The Flat No.403, Bearing Door No.13-20/403, In Fourth Floor, In The Building Complex Known As "Balaji Abode", Admeasuring 975.00 Square Feet, Of Plinth Area (Inclusive Of Common Areas), Together With Undivided Share Of Land Of 31.82 Square Yards Out Of 517 Square Yards, Including Car Parking Space In Stilt Floor, On Plot Bearing Nos.11 And 12, In Survey No.20/A, Situated At Gandhamdaga Village, Under Peerancheruvu C.P., Gandipet Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana State And Bounded As Follows:- Flat Boundaries: North: Open To Sky. South: Corridor And Staircase. East: Open To Sky. West: Open To Sky. Entire Plots Boundaries: North: Plot No. 13. South: Park. East : 40' Wide Road, West : Plot Nos.24 And 25.	22nd Notice Date 2026, Rs. 24,91,722/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Two Only)	15-Oct-26

Symbolic Possession Date: 15-Oct-26, Place: Telangana Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited



STRESSED ASSET MANAGEMENT BRANCH
3rd Floor, Bungalow No.109, New No.1-7-252 to 254, Oxford Street, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana. E-mail: ubin0812048@union-bankofindia.bank.in, Tel No: 8860700230 / 9608777803

Notice of 15 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Date & Time of Auction: 13-11-2026, Friday from 12.00 Noon to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increments are also mentioned hereunder.

Name and address of the Borrower: M/s. Ravindra Bharathi Educational Society, Regd Office: #23/8/12, Fathekhapet, Ramesh Reddy Nagar, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Corporate Office: Plot No.16-18, Mega Hills Colony, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana. Name and address of the Guarantor: M.Subrahmanyam, S/o M.Ankaiah, Address: 23/8/12, Ravindra Bharathi English Medium School, Near Water Tank, Fathekhapet, Nellore, Dargamitta, Andhra Pradesh-524003. M.Ankaiah, Address: 23/8/12, Ravindra Bharathi English Medium School, Near Water Tank, Fathekhapet, Nellore, Dargamitta, Andhra Pradesh-524003. M.Revanth S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Address: 23/8/12, Ravindra Bharathi English Medium School, Near Water Tank, Fathekhapet, Nellore, Dargamitta, Andhra Pradesh-524003. M.Lalitha, W/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Address: 23/8/12, Ravindra Bharathi English Medium School, Near Water Tank, Fathekhapet, Nellore, Dargamitta, Andhra Pradesh-524003. Sangam Nagaraja S/o. Sangam Subbarayudu, Address: 23/359, Thambaramvati Street, Fathekhapeta, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524004. S.Rekha W/o. Sangam Nagaraja, Address: 23/359, Thambaramvati Street, Fathekhapeta, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524004. Revuru Babu Rao, S/o Revuru Sriramulu, Address: 15-25-890, Flat No.304, Megha Nayana Apartments, Phase I and II, KPHB Colony, Kukatpally, Telangana-500072. Demand Notice Dated: 07-02-2020 Possession Notice Date: 30-01-2025	The secured debt for the recovery of which the immovable secured asset is to be sold:- Rs.130,75,27,534.00 (Rupees One Hundred Thirty Crore Seventy five lakhs Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Four only) as on 30.09.2026 with subsequent interest, charges and costs.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE SECURED ASSETS TO BE SOLD:-	
1 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural Land admeasuring Ac. 0.70 cents at S.No. 572/B1, patta no 277 at Kanupuru Bit-2, Chavatapalem, Venkatachalam Mandal Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh held in the name of Mannuru Kanthamma W/o. Ankaiah, bounded by: East: Land of Yamala Masthanaiah, South: Irrigation Channel, West: Land of Yaragalla Veniah, North: Land of Mandala Ramanaiah. Sale Deed: 1439/2014 dtd. 05.05.2014 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore.	
2 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac.0.61 cents, situated at Survey No.574/P2, Venkatachalam Mandal, Kanupuru Bit-2, Abbisaheb Kandriga, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh in the name of Mannuru Revanthi S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Yamala Masthanaiah, South: Land of Yamala Ravindra, West: Land of Borrowers, North: Land of Borrowers. Sale Deed: 859/2017 dtd.19.06.2017 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore.	
3 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac.0.24 cents, situated at Survey No.574/P3, Venkatachalam Mandal, Kanupuru Bit-2, Abbisaheb Kandriga, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh in the name of Mannuru Revanthi S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Borrowers, South: Land of Mannuru Lalitha, West: Land of Yamala Ravindra, North: Land of Borrowers. Sale Deed: 859/2017 dtd.19.06.2017 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore.	
4 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac.0.45 cents, situated at Survey No.575/P2, Kanupuru Bit-2, Abbisaheb Kandriga, Venkatachalam Village, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh in the name of Mannuru Revanthi S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Valpi Chenchu Krishnaiah, South: Irrigation Canal, West: Land of Yamala Masthanaiah, North: Land of Mannuru Kanthamma. Sale Deed: 859/2017 dtd.19.06.2017 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore.	
5 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac.0.49 cents out of Ac 0.92 cents land in patta No.186 situated at Survey No.578/B, present its sub division as 578-B1, Venkatachalam Mandal, Kanupuru Bit-2, Chavatapalem Panchayat area, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Borrowers, South: Land of Borrowers, West: Land of Borrowers, North: Channel Sale Deed: 860/2017 dtd.19.06.2017 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore.	
6 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac 0.95 cents at S No. 577.1-B Khattha No 36 in Veeranna Kanupuru bit II Village at Venkatachalam Mandal, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Channel, South: Channel, West: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah, North: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah. Sale Deed:3957/2014 dtd.10.10.2014 registered with Joint SubRegistrar, Gudur	
7 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land admeasuring Ac 1.28 cents at S No 576-A, 576-B & 577 VEERANNA KANUPURU Bit II Chavatapalem village in the name of Mannuru Revanthi S/o. M Subrahmanyam as detailed below held in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam A) All that part and parcel of Non-Agril land admeasuring 0.48 cents or 0.194 hectares of land situated at Sy No.577, Veeranna Kanupuru Bit-II, Chavatapalem Panchayat area, Venkatachalam Mandal, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore Dist, bounded by: East: Channel, South: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah, West: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah, North: Land of Lankapalli Chetaiah to some extent and channel to some extent and B) All that part and parcel of Non-Agril land in patta No.265, Survey No.576-A consisting an extent of Ac 0.31 cents and patta No.205, survey no 576-B consisting an extent of Ac 0.49 cents of land in total Ac 0.80 cents or 0.324 hectares of land situated at Veeranna Kanupuru Bit-II, Chavatapalem Panchayat area, Venkatachalam Mandal, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore Dist., Bounded by: East: Land of Lankepalli Venkramaiah, South: Channel, West: Land of Gowrineni Balaramaiah, North: Land of Yamala Ravindra. Sale Deed: 589/2015 dtd.07.03.2015 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore	
8 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural Land in Sy no: 576/A, 574/P1 VEERANNA KANUPURU Bit II Chavatapalem village, Venkatachalam Mandal, Nellore to the extent of Ac 0.85 cents held in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Yaragalla Vanamma, South: Land of Yamala Ramanaiah, West: Land of Yamala Masthanaiah, North: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah. Sale Deed: 805/2015 dtd.09.03.2015 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore	
9 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural Land in Sy.No.571/A, 574/P KANUPURU Bit II Chavatapalem village, Venkatachalam Mandal to the extent of Ac 1.66 cents held in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah, South: Land of Mannuru Ankaiah, West: Land of Yamala Ravindra, North: Land of Yamala Masthanaiah, Sale Deed: 10/2015 dtd.02.01.2015 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Gudur	
10 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land in survey No 573/B2, Veeranna Kanupuru Bit - II, Venkatachalam Mandal, Nellore, in an extent of Ac 1.10 cents held in the name of Mannuru Revanthi, S/o. M.Subrahmanyam, Bounded by: East: kaluva, South: Land of Uppu Puttaiah, West: Vaagu, North: Donka Sale Deed: 3013/2014 dtd.09.10.2014 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore	
11 All that part and parcel of Non-Agricultural land in Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District - Guduru Registration District - Bujabuja Nellore Sub - Registration - Venkatachalam Mandal - Kanupuru Bit - I Gram Panchayath area - Veeranna Kanupuru Bit - I Village - (as per Document and Pass Books the Survey Nos. 953 - A1, 953 - A3, 953 - B2 & 953 - B3) as per Present Revenue Records it is Survey Nos. 953 - A1 - A3 consisting an Extent of Ac. 1.11 cents of land and in Survey No.953 - B consisting an Extent of Ac. 1.08 cents of land in total Ac. 2.19 cents or 0.886 hectares of land. Bounded by: East: land of Volipi Venkataiah, South: Land of Poluri Lakshmaiah, West: Land of Uppu Puttaiah, North: Land of Sankaramma, Sale Deed: 562/2016 dtd.21.04.2016 registered with Joint Sub-Registrar, Buja Buja Nellore	

Reserve Price: Rs.4,68,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.46,80,000/-; Bid Multiples: Rs.5,00,000/-
The details of encumbrances, if any known to the Secured Creditor: Not Known to the Bank.
Last date for Submission of EMD: EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Map the EMD amount with the Property ID before End Time of Auction. It is advisable to deposit and Link / Map the EMD amount with the property ID well in advance to avoid any technical glitch.
Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit the following sites:
Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit the following sites: The Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website https://baanknet.com on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders / purchasers required to register through https://baanknet.com (Buyer Registration - link provided in the home page of the website) by using their mobile number and valid email-id. The intending bidders / purchasers further required to upload KYC documents and Bank Details. The intending bidders / purchasers can be guided by the Buyer Manual provided in the home page of the website, o https://baanknet.com using mobile number and email id, o For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit Buyer Manual link provided in the home page of https://baanknet.com, o For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & email ID support.baanknet@psballiance.com o For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit Buyer Manual link provided in the home page of https://baanknet.com, For auction related queries e-mail to ubin0812048@unionbankofindia.bank.in or contact 8860700230 / 9608777803. Bidders are advised to go through the website: https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in/auction-property/ view-auction-property, asp, tenders for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the EAuction sale proceedings. Successful bidder will be intimated through e-mail by PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. after the closing of the e-Bidding Process.
Place: Hyderabad, Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorized Officer, SAM Branch Hyderabad, Union Bank of India
Date: 17-10-2026



BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch offices: D.No:38-8-28, 3rd floor, Above KTM Bike Showroom, opp to All India Radio station, Punnamma Thota, M.G. Road, Vijayawada - 520010.

Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Undersigned being the Authorized officer of **M/s. Bajaj Housing Finance Limited**, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s)/Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** and as a consequence the loan(s) have become **Non Performing Assets**. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/ undelivered, as such the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : GUNTUR, LAN: H443HLP 0328204, 1. Vishnu Impex (Borrower) (Through if the Proprietor/Partner/Director) At: Flat No.504, Gowri Enclave, Ponnur Road, Near Sai Baba Temple, Indira Priyadarshini Colony, Sai Baba Temple, Indira Priyadarshini Colony, Ward No. 16, Guntur-522003, 2. Jujuru Vishnu Vardhan (Co-Borrowers), 3. Guggilam Srikanth (Co-Smt. Guggilam Kalyani (Co-Borrower) 2 & 3 At: Flat No.302, Gowri Enclave, Ponnur Road, Near Sai Baba Temple, Indira Priyadarshini Colony, Sai Baba Temple, Indira Priyadarshini Colony, Ward No. 16, Guntur-522003.	Schedule Of Property: All That Piece and Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: All That An Extent Of 44.7 Sq. Yards (37.37 Sq. Mts.) Of Undivided Share Out Of Total Extent Of 894 Sq. Yards (747.50 Sq. Mts.) Of Site Together With Flat No.302 In The Second Floor Of "Gowri Enclave" Having A Plinth Area Of 1050 Sq. Ft., Including Common Area And Car Parking Area, Along With All Easement Rights, Situated At Door No.19-16-85, Block No.8, Ward No.14, S.No.53, Withilur Gurur Municipal Corporation Limits, Guntur Sub-Registry,Guntur District. Site Boundaries: East: Property Of Salim Ahmed Kidway, South: Remaining Property Of Site Owner, West: Property Of M.Ra. Suresh, North: 30' Wide Road, Flat Boundaries (Flat No.302 In Second Floor Of Gowri Enclave): East: Open To Sky, South : Open To Sky, West: Common Corridor, North: Staircase And Open To Sky.	15th Oct 2026 Rs. 21,09,935/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five Only)

This step is being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/ or Co-Borrowers Guarantors are advised to make the payments of outstanding along with future interest within **60 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited**) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/ mortgaged property will be initiated as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** has the charge.
Date: 20-10-2026, Place: Guntur Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

Andhra Pradesh SEC issues notification for November 3 MTPC, ZPTC polls

Amaravati, Oct 19 : Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission on Monday issued a notification for elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs, scheduled to be held on November 3. About 2.81 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes in elections to Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs). State Election Commissioner (SEC) Anil Chandra Punetha told media persons that elections will be held in 28 Zilla Praja Parishads. Out of the total 663 ZPTCs, polling will be held for 659 ZPTCs. Similarly, polling will be held for 9,829 MPTCs out of 9,858 ZPTCs in the state. Filing of nominations will begin on October 21, while the last day for receipt of nominations will be October 23. As per the notification, scrutiny of nominations will be taken up on October 24. Appeals against rejection of nominations can be filed on October 25 before the concerned



Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) in case of MPTCs and before the District Collector in case of ZTPCs. The appellate authority will dispose of appeals the next day.

Harish distributes festival gifts to Siddipet civic workers

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao spent on Monday morning alongside Siddipet's municipal sanitation workers, joining them for breakfast and addressing their grievances individually. Marking the Dasara festival, Harish Rao personally funded and distributed sarees to female workers and shirt-and-trousers sets to male workers, emphasising that no municipal funds were used for the initiative. Reflecting on past governance, the BRS



leader contrasted current conditions with the tenure of previous Congress administrations under K. Rosaiah and N. Kiran Kumar Reddy. He noted that sanitation workers frequently faced pay delays ranging from three to six months, often forced to stage protests outside revenue and municipal offices for their earned wages.



Hyd police arrest Rajasthan man in Shamshabad ATM theft; 4 others absconding

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, Shamshabad Zone, along with Shamshabad Police and with assistance from Rajasthan Police, has arrested a 34-year-old man from Rajasthan in connection with an Axis Bank ATM theft in Shamshabad and the theft of a car and a motorcycle. Four other accused remain absconding. The arrested accused, Rashid alias Kakoo, Yousuf and Kake, a lorry driver from Rajasthan's Alwar district, is allegedly involved in three cases registered at Shamshabad, Pahadishareef and Saidabad police stations. Police seized Rs.4,500 in cash, a Santro car, a Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle, a gas cutter and equipment, a gas cylinder, and two mobile phones, collectively valued at Rs.1.84 lakh.

According to the police, the theft came to light in the early hours of October 6, 2026, when Axis Bank's Satamrai branch to suspicious activity at its cash dispensing machine around 3.28 am. The branch head, Dommeti Anil, alerted the police and directed staff to inspect the ATM. The offenders had allegedly used a gas cutter to break open the machine, sprayed paint on CCTV cameras and cut the hooter cable to disable security measures. A subsequent reconciliation revealed a cash shortage of Rs.7.40 lakh, police said. During interrogation, Rashid allegedly told police that he and his associates had planned the ATM theft in advance. About a month before the offence, he and another accused, Shamshuddin, allegedly brought gas-cutting equipment and paint spray to Hyderabad in a truck and concealed them in bushes in Pahadishareef area. Rashid later returned with associates identified as Sohail, Faizan alias Ayaan and Rehan alias Zangi. The group allegedly stole a motorcycle and subsequently a Santro car to facilitate the crime. After identifying the Axis Bank ATM in the Shamshabad area, the accused allegedly sprayed paint on the CCTV cameras, disabled the alarm system and cut open the machine using gas-cutting equipment.



Pawan Kalyan orders non-bailable case against YSRCP leader for damaging road

Amaravati, Oct 19 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Pawan Kalyan, on Monday ordered that a non-bailable case be filed against a YSRCP leader and others who allegedly destroyed a

road built under 'Palle Panduga'. The Chief Minister took a serious view of the destruction of a road constructed between the villages of Ananthasamudram and Papakkagaripalle in the Pullampeta mandal of Tirupati district.



BRS alleges third-degree torture of journalists, demands probe

Hyderabad, Oct 19 : BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has accused the Telangana police of allegedly torturing journalists and filing illegal cases against them under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's government. He demanded an impartial investigation into the alleged assault on two reporters of Ek Dham News. Praveen Kumar alleged that the

journalists were booked for reporting on police interference in land disputes in Gambhiraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district. He claimed that the two reporters were subjected to third-degree methods of torture and that an attempt on their lives was also involved.

CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME
I, YALLAMELLI GOVINDARAO S/o Dharmarao Resident of Door no.2-- 290, Gamalla palem, Kadali Village, Razole Mandal, Dr.B.R Ambedkar konaseema District, A.P. Have changed my name from YALLAMELLI GOVINDA RAO (Old name) to YALLAMELLI GOVINDARAO (New name). Hence after all my documents (passport... etc) and correspondence will continue with my new name YALLAMELLI GOVINDARAO.	I, TADI N CHNDRA SEKHAR S/o TADI V.V. STYANARYANA MURTY Resident of Door no. 2-- 72, Mogalikuduru Village, Mamidi kuduru Mandal, Dr .B.R Ambedkar konaseema District, A.P. Have changed my name from TADI NAGA CHANDRA SEKHAR (Old name) to TADI N CHNDRA SEKHAR (New name). Hence after all my documents (passport...)etc) and correspondence will continue with my new name TADI N CHNDRA SEKHAR	I, SHANTA KUMARI, W/o YADLA SURESH, residing at 20, Gali No. 3, Salt Pan Road, Panchshil Nagar, Wadala, Mumbai-400037, Maharashtra, India, have changed my name from SHANTA KUMARI to YADLA VIJAYAKUMARI SURESH. Henceforth, I shall be known as YADLA VIJAYAKUMARI SURESH for all purposes. Old Name: SHANTA KUMAR. New Name: YADLA VIJAYAKUMARI SURESH YADLA VIJAYAKUMARI SURESH W/o YADLA SURESH



BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 2nd Floor, Sita City One, 7-1-22/2, Leelanagar, Greenland Road, Amerpet, Near Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad, 500016.

Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Undersigned being the Authorized officer of **M/s. Bajaj Housing Finance Limited**, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s)/Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** and as a consequence the loan(s) have become **Non Performing Assets**. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/ undelivered, as such the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : HYDERABAD, LAN: H400HLL0994030, H400HLL1025096 and H400HLL1025095, 1. Santosh Kumar Palkala @ Palkala Santosh Kumar @ P. Santosh Kumar (Borrower), At: F: No. 317, Lotus Block, Ushodaya Signatures Building, Deepthi Nagar Serlingampalli, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500049.	Schedule of property: All That Piece and Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: All That The Semi-Finished Independent Duplex House On Plot No.249 Admeasuring 165 Sq. Yds., With A Total Plinth Area Of 1756 Sq. Feet (Consisting Of Ground Floor And First Floor), In Survey Nos. 232/A1, 232/A2, 232/A3, 232/A4, 232/C, 232/G, 235/P, 234/P, 235/P, 236/P, 237/A, 237/B, 238/A2, 238/B, 238/P, 238/A1/2, 239/P, 240/B, 240/P, 241/A, 241/B, 241/C, 241/Lu/1, 241/G, 242/A1, 242/A2, 242/A3, 242/A4, 242/C & 242/D2, Of The Venture Named As "Apr Praveen's Grandio" Situated At Patancheru Village Area Mandal, Sangareddy District, Telangana State And Bounded By: North : Plot No. 248, South : Plot No. 250, East : Plot No. 260, West : 30' Wide Road.	15th Oct 2026, Rs. 1,09,09,594/- (Rupees One Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Four Only)

This step is being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/ or Co-Borrowers Guarantors are advised to make the payments of outstanding along with future interest within **60 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited**) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/ mortgaged property will be initiated as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** has the charge.
Date: 20-10-2026, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



Jagan demands deployment of Central forces for local body polls in Andhra

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday demanded deployment of Central forces in the state to ensure free and fair local body elections. Accusing the ruling coalition of unleashing a reign of terror to stop YSRCP candidates from filing nominations, he urged the State Election Commission (SEC) to intervene and provide security to candidates coming to nomination centres to file their papers. He alleged that the entire system, from the SEC to the police under the direction of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu were obstructing the process of nominations as he was "scared of defeat". Jagan Mohan Reddy, who earlier called on State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha, told him that if candidates are not allowed to file their nominations, the reputation of the Commission and its officials would be at stake. "If the SEC becomes a party to such undemocratic practices by allowing nominations to be obstructed, it would be an unprecedented incident in history. We urged the SEC not to be part of such practices," he said. He requested the SEC to ensure that every candidate who wishes to file a nomination is allowed to do so through an online system or at a centralised location at the SEC office in Amaravati. "We also asked the Commission to arrange police escorts, with the respective Superintendents of Police (SPs) taking responsibility, to ensure that candidates can file their nominations without obstruction," he said. "We also pointed out that if candidates are facing such difficulties even at the nomination stage, one can only imagine the plight of candidates and voters when the actual polling takes place. Therefore, it is crucial that central forces be deployed and that elections be conducted under the supervision of paramilitary forces. We requested the SEC to speak to the authorities in Delhi once again and exert pressure to ensure their deployment," he said. He also informed the SEC that he would meet the Governor and try to impress upon him the need to request the deployment of paramilitary forces. Jagan said wherever YSRCP candidates are going to file nominations, thousands of TDP goons are already positioned in large numbers within the premises of the nomination centres, with the police facilitating their presence. "When they try to enter, their nomination papers are literally snatched and torn, and they are not allowed to file their nominations, all in full view of the police standing right beside them," he said. Alleging that Chandrababu Naidu breached every promise he made in the 2024 elections, Jagan remarked that Chandrababu Naidu has no face to go to people to seek their votes. "The measure of atrocities is unprecedented with YSRCP candidates' nomination papers being snatched away and their associates being attacked, false cases being foisted, kidnapping, arson, intimidation, all under the watch of police," he said. The YSRCP chief said the party MPs in Kadapa, Punganuru and Tirupati were stopped.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Gujarat's 'Ekta Prakash Parv' opens at Statue of Unity, to run until Jan 15

Ekta Nagar (Gujarat), Oct 19 : A 7.6-km stretch of Ekta Nagar has been illuminated with themed installations depicting India's cultural diversity, heritage and technological progress as Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the second edition of 'Ekta Prakash Parv' on Saturday. The festival at the Statue of Unity complex in Narmada district will continue until January 15, 2027. The event, organised following the public response to its inaugural edition last year, aims to showcase India's regional traditions, architecture, art and lifestyles through indoor and outdoor lighting displays. It is part of the state government's broader efforts to expand the celebrations of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Bharat Parv and Deepotsav. Patel said the festival would strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's message of national unity. "The state government is working to uphold Sardar Patel's vision and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on bringing people from different parts of the country closer through a shared sense of national identity," he asserted. The Chief Minister said the festival showcased the culture, art, sports, cuisine and lifestyles of different states, allowing visitors to experience their own traditions as well as those of other regions. "The displays are intended to reinforce the idea of unity in diversity," he added. The indoor section is divided into



four zones representing North, East, West and South India. The North India zone features Himalayan culture, Punjabi folk dances, the Ram Temple and Rajasthani art. The East India zone highlights Assam's Bihu, Odisha's architectural heritage and Bengal's cultural identity. The West India zone showcases Gujarat's Garba, handicrafts from Kutch, Rani ki Vav and Maharashtra's culture. The South India zone features landmarks

such as the Meenakshi Temple and Hampi, alongside depictions of Kerala's traditional boat races. The outdoor section comprises artistic lighting installations across 11 major sections. Themes include 'Bharat - Sone Ki Chidiya' and 'Samay Ka Chakra', along with illuminated sculptures, a tunnel of lamps, colourful balloons, glowing flowers and yoga-inspired displays.

SSB seized gold bars along India-Nepal border, two persons apprehended

Kolkata, Oct 19 : In back to back operations, troops of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) seized two gold bars weighing 15 grams close to the India-Nepal Border at Panitanki in West Bengal, officials said. Two persons have been apprehended and are being questioned regarding the matter. In the first case, the SSB personnel stopped a taxi travelling from Nepal to India on the New Mechi Bridge at Panitanki around 1:05 p.m. on Monday. During baggage screening, the Border Intelligence Team detected a gold bar weighing 10 grams in the baggage of a male passenger, identified as Paras Lama (52). During preliminary questioning, he said that the gold bar had been gifted to him by his sister nearly 10 years ago and that he intended to use it to get ornaments made in his hometown Gorabari in West Bengal's Darjeeling. Lama is a resident of Hill Cart Road in Jorebungalow of Darjeeling.



'Not custodian of pending files': Jharkhand LoP's sharp message to CM Soren over stalled projects

Ranchi, Oct 19 : Jharkhand Leader of Opposition Babul Marandi has questioned Chief Minister Hemant Soren over the functioning of the state government, flagging the 'closure of 288 sand ghats' despite their auction, suspension of holding tax collection and delays in road construction projects worth Rs 1,410 crore in Ranchi. In a post on X, Marandi sought answers from the Chief Minister on the three issues and demanded time-bound action, transparency and public disclosure of the progress made. "Government can run on the assurances of bureaucrats, but that does not absolve it of accountability," Marandi said, questioning why 288 out of 302 auctioned sand ghats in the state remained closed. He alleged that despite the completion of auctions, files related to mandatory approvals were still pending, creating conditions that encouraged illegal sand mining. He questioned who was responsible for completing environmental clearances, Gram Sabha permissions and other statutory formalities. Marandi also sought public disclosure of the role of Rajiv Lochan Bakshi, Member Secretary of the State Pollution Control Board, and details of work pending at his level. "People cannot build houses merely by auctioning sand ghats. They need sand to be made avail-

able," he said, demanding regular supplies from authorised ghats at reasonable prices and transparent transportation arrangements. Raising the issue of holding tax collection, the BJP leader questioned why the process had remained suspended since August 21. He pointed out that the agreement with the previous agency had been terminated without putting an alternative arrangement in place. He demanded that the government disclose the period of suspension, the resulting revenue loss and the proposed alternative mechanism for collection. He also called for immediate restoration of collection and a clear timeline for introducing the new system.

SC orders fresh elections in two more Patiala municipal wards

New Delhi, Oct 19 : The Supreme Court on Monday directed fresh elections in Ward numbers 15 and 58 of the Patiala Municipal Corporation in Punjab, while refusing to entertain a plea seeking similar directions for Ward numbers 10 and 11 of the Dharamkot Municipal Council as the two wards were not covered by the fact-finding report accepted by the apex court. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi passed the order on Friday while dealing with applications seeking

clarification and directions in connection with its September 28 order directing fresh elections in certain municipal wards across Punjab's municipal bodies. Modifying paragraphs 11 and 12 of its earlier order, the CJI Kant-led bench said: "Ward numbers 15 and 58 of Patiala Municipal Corporation.



TN BJP chief Nagenthran criticises minister over non-Hindu's entry into Arunachaleswar temple

Chennai, Oct 19 : Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nainar Nagenthran on Monday criticised the State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister S. Ramesh over the alleged entry of a Muslim man accompanying him into the Arunachaleswarar temple in Tiruvannamalai, demanding action against what he described as a violation of temple rules and traditions. In a post on social media platform X, Nagenthran accused

the Minister of creating an unnecessary controversy in a society where communal peace prevailed. He said that those responsible for administering Hindu religious institutions should respect their sanctity and ensure that established customs were followed. Referring to a 2024 Madras High Court judgment, Nagenthran added that the court had directed that non-Hindus should not be permitted beyond the flagstaff in temples in Tamil Nadu. He alleged that the Minister had nevertheless taken a Muslim man wearing a skullcap into the Tiruvannamalai shrine. The



BJP leader described the alleged incident as condemnable and accused Minister Ramesh of disregarding the Agama rules governing temple worship and practices. Such conduct, he claimed, reflected arrogance on the part of a Minister entrusted with protecting Hindu reli-

gious institutions. Nagenthran also referred to the presence of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA V.M.S Mustafa in the front row during the consecration ceremony at the Meenakshi Amman temple in Madurai.

US invokes emergency authority to protect power supply for 65 million

Washington, Oct 19 : The Trump administration has invoked emergency federal authority to reduce the risk of power outages across the US Mid-Atlantic region, which supplies electricity to about 65 million people in 13 states and Washington, D.C. Energy Secretary Chris Wright issued the emergency order on Monday (local time) under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, allowing a generating unit in Maryland to continue operating beyond its current limit to meet anticipated electricity demand. The order permits PJM Interconnection, in coordination with Talen Energy Corporation, to operate Unit 4 at the Wagner Generating Station in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. PJM, the regional transmission organisation responsible for coordinating electricity supplies across much of the Mid-Atlantic, requested federal intervention because it expects to need the generating unit during periods of high demand. "Energy shortfalls for 65 million Americans are simply unacceptable," Wright said. "Previous orders in the mid-Atlantic region have helped keep the lights on, and I am confident this order will help do so in the coming months as well," he said. "Today's order helps temporarily address the urgent need to strengthen grid reliability and ensure Americans across the mid-Atlantic region have access to affordable, reliable, and secure energy regardless of whether the sun shines or wind blows," Wright added. The Energy Department said the emergency order would strengthen grid reliability and minimise the threat of electricity shortages. It will remain effective from August 20 through November 17. PJM had asked the department to permit Wagner Unit 4 to operate beyond its existing limit after warning that the facility would continue to be needed during periods of elevated electricity consumption.



China's 'waiting game' on Dalai Lama succession could intensify resistance, galvanise support for Tibetan cause

Beijing, Oct 19 : Beijing's refusal to negotiate with the Dalai Lama reflects a calculated waiting game, with Chinese leadership anticipating that his passing will allow it to control succession and neutralise the Tibetan issue, a report has stated. However, it argued that the belief that succession can be dictated by decree overlooks the spiritual authority underpinning Tibetan Buddhism, while warning that the Dalai Lama's passing could instead intensify resistance and galvanise international support for the Tibetan cause. "Beijing has consistently refused to negotiate with the Dalai Lama. This stance is not tactical indecision but a deliberate strategy: the Chinese leadership is playing a waiting game, anticipating that His Holiness's passing will allow them to control succession and neutralise the Tibetan issue. While this approach may consolidate short-term authority, it carries significant risks for legitimacy, stability, and international relations," Khedroob Thondup, nephew of the 14th Dalai Lama, wrote in 'The Tibet Express'. According to Thondup, Beijing's reluctance to engage in dialogue stems from concerns that doing so would confer political legitimacy on the Dalai Lama, contradicting its narrative that he is a separatist figure. He noted the Chinese authorities also fear that concessions to Tibet could embolden other minority regions to demand greater autonomy, posing a challenge to China's centralised system of governance. At the same time, he said, Beijing intends to appoint the next Dalai Lama through state-controlled mechanisms, reinforcing its claim to authority over religious affairs. "The Waiting Game. Beijing's refusal to negotiate is rooted in three assumptions: Exile fragmentation: The Tibetan exile community will weaken without the Dalai Lama's unifying leadership.

US senators urge political courage

Washington, Oct 19 : Republican Senator Todd Young and Democratic Senator Mark Kelly called on American politicians to show greater political courage and put the national interest ahead of partisan politics, while offering contrasting views on President Donald Trump's leadership. The two senators made the remarks during a joint interview on ABC's This Week, where they discussed political polarisation, bipartisan cooperation and the challenges of governing in an increasingly divided America. Kelly said elected officials must sometimes take positions that could damage their own political careers. "You have to take stands that you know are the right thing for the nation that moves us forward in a positive way, but could be politically harmful to you and your career," the Arizona Democrat said. "That's hard for some folks." Young, an Indiana Republican and former Marine, said political courage often meant accepting criticism from one's own supporters. "It's the courage to be misunderstood by people you respect and love and whose values you share on difficult issues," Young said.



Pakistan lodges protest over US Ambassador's remarks on J&K

Islamabad, Oct 19 : Pakistan on Monday summoned the US Chargé d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a demarche over remarks made by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir. According to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan delivered the demarche over what it described as the US Ambassador's "factually incorrect" remarks on the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Islamabad condemned and categorically rejected the characterisation of Jammu and Kashmir as an "important part of India." Gor had also said it would reconsider travel advisories. Pakistan underscored that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised "disputed territory", awaiting "final disposition" in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Hurricane Lala leaves Hawaii Island communities in lengthy recovery

Los Angeles, Oct 19 : About 17,000 customers on Hawaii Island remain without power, while residents in parts of the southern Kau district are still struggling with roads covered by mud, boulders and fallen trees days after Hurricane Lala battered the island state of the United States in the Pacific Ocean. Hawaiian Electric said in an update that its crews made strong overnight progress repairing damaged infrastructure and restoring power to 99 per cent of affected customers on Oahu, 98 per cent on Maui, and 75 per cent on Hawaii Island. The company expects to complete repairs on Monday on the majority of remaining customers without power on Oahu and Maui, reports Xinhua news agency. Hawaiian Electric added that repairs in some heavily damaged areas could take at least two weeks.



UNSC must not be used to legitimise terrorists by de-listing them : India

United Nations, Oct 19 : In an implied criticism of Pakistan's role in dealing with terrorism, India has called for transparency in the Security Council listing and delisting groups as terrorist organisations, adding that it should not be driven by narrow political interests. "Presence in the Security Council must not be instrumentalised to legitimise terrorists by attempting to de-list them or to list other entities as terrorist organisations based solely on political considerations, without any objective criteria or supporting documentation", Yojna Patel, the charge d'affaires of India's UN Mission, said on Monday (local time). Speaking at the Council's Open Debate on its Working Methods, she also drew attention to the ignominy of the headless subsidiary bodies of the Council that deal with terrorism, left without chairs because of tussles within the Council. The process of listing and delisting of terrorists, as well as the appointment of chairs to panels, is shrouded in secrecy. Pakistan and China tried unsuccessfully this year to declare the Baloch Liberation Army and the Majeed Brigade as 'terrorist groups subject' to UN sanctions.



Ousted press secretary Zacharia denies throwing Trump under bus

Washington, Oct 19 : Katie Zacharia, ousted as White House Press Secretary after less than a week, has denied throwing President Donald Trump under the bus and thanked him for hosting her family in the Oval Office on her son's birthday. "I never threw him under the bus nor would I ever, and any insinuation or assertion otherwise is an abject lie and fake news," Zacharia said on X on Monday. She was replying to conservative commentator Wayne Root, who had written: "Once she responded by throwing Trump under bus, it was over for her." The charge stemmed from a "Fox & Friends" interview hours before her exit, when she was asked whether she should have told Trump she had not passed the bar exam. "Those questions weren't asked," Zacharia said, according to The Hill. "I'm being hired as White House press secretary, not White House counsel." Less than two hours later, she posted a photograph and wrote: "Thank you, President Trump, for hosting my family and me in the Oval Office and for the generous gifts you gave my children on my son's birthday. It was an unforgettable honor." NBC News quoted a senior administration official as saying she would move to a new role to be announced later. No successor or acting press secretary has been named. There has been no formal White House statement. Fox News' John Roberts reported on October 16 that she was transitioning out, and that Trump considered her a good person whom he initially believed was right for the job.



Trump vows Iran will never get nuclear weapon

Washington, Oct 19 : US President Donald Trump has declared that Iran's nuclear weapons capability has been destroyed by American military operations and vowed that Tehran would never be allowed to rebuild it, presenting the campaign against the Islamic Republic as one of the major national security achievements of his second presidency. Addressing a Republican election rally at Northern Kentucky University's Truist Arena on Monday, Trump defended his decision to launch military operations against Iran, saying the threat of a nuclear-armed Tehran had made American intervention necessary. "They cannot have a nuclear weapon. They can't because they'll use it," Trump told supporters while discussing the military campaign. The President said the United States had successfully struck Iran's nuclear infrastructure and was taking steps to ensure that the programme could not be revived. "We have to make sure it doesn't come back," he said, recalling his instructions to senior administration officials during the operation. Trump linked the military action to his broader argument that American military strength had been restored under his leadership and that Washington was once again prepared to confront threats to its national security. He said the decision to undertake military operations had come at a time when the American economy and stock market were performing strongly.





MP: Scindia rides bullock

cart, interacts with villagers at Gram Chaupal

Ashoknagar, Oct 19 : Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday said government welfare schemes were bringing positive changes to rural communities, as he interacted with farmers, women and other residents during a Gram Chaupal in Semarkhedhi village in Madhya Pradesh's Ashoknagar district.

Scindia, the Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, was visiting Ashoknagar, part of his Guna parliamentary constituency.

During the village meeting, he reviewed the implementation of various Central and state government schemes and spoke to beneficiaries about the assistance they had received.

"Welfare schemes of the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Madhya Pradesh government under Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are reaching villages across the state," Scindia said.

He said the schemes were bringing positive changes to the lives of farmers, women, rural residents and poor families, making villages stronger and more self-reliant.



Two killed as truck ploughs into house in MP village

Bhopal, Oct 19 : Two persons were killed on Monday morning when a speeding truck ploughed into a house in Hardua village, located in the Nohta police station area of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. The devastating accident, which took place around 7.30 a.m., has triggered fury among villagers who staged a "chakka jam" on Damoh-Jabalpur highway.

Vice President calls for collective efforts to achieve 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'

Bengaluru, Oct 19 : Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Monday called for collective efforts to achieve 'Nasha Mukh Bharat', highlighting that every young life lost to addiction represents a loss of national potential. Addressing the Nasha Mukh Bharat Conclave, organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) in association with the Narcotics Control Bureau and Disha Bodh Foundation, the Vice President said that a Nasha Mukh Bharat is not merely about the absence of drugs but about promoting healthy choices, informed decisions, supportive families and resilient communities. He said that to build a Nasha Mukh Bharat,

the fight against substance abuse must begin with individuals and grow into a nationwide movement through the combined efforts of educational institutions, families, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and civil society.

Radhakrishnan, while attending the 31st Foundation Day of RGUHS at Sree Kanteerava Stadium, said that sub-



stance abuse threatens not only individual health but also educational attainment, productivity, social cohesion and national development. Stressing that individuals must have complete control over their own minds, he remarked that when drugs take control of the mind, one loses control over one's own life. The Vice President said that every young life lost to addiction represents a loss of national potential.

AIADMK will welcome Dhanush with open hands, says former TN minister Balaji

Sivakasi, Oct 19 : Former Tamil Nadu Minister and AIADMK leader K.T. Rajendra Balaji said on Monday that actor Dhanush would be welcomed "with open arms" if he chooses to join the party, amid social media speculation about the actor's possible entry into politics. Speaking to reporters in Sivakasi, Balaji described Dhanush as a leading actor with considerable influence among young people. He said the AIADMK remained open to in-

dividuals who could contribute to strengthening the organisation and advancing its objectives.

"If Dhanush joins the AIADMK, we will welcome him with both hands," the former Minister said, responding to questions about reports linking the actor to a possible political move.



The remarks come against the backdrop of social media claims that Dhanush was preparing to enter politics and had registered a party reportedly named "Tamil Nadu Uchi Kazhagam" with the Election Commission. However,

no official confirmation of these claims has emerged. Separately, reports suggested that a meeting of the actor's fan clubs on October 15 discussed their future activities.

According to these reports, the clubs would function as a charitable organisation, with a flag and an emblem also being introduced. The reported organisational changes have added to speculation surrounding Dhanush's plans.



'Emergency taught us difference between Rule of Law vs Law of Ruler': UP CM Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, Oct 19 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that the Emergency imposed in 1975, helped the country to differentiate between "Rule of Law and Law of Ruler". Addressing the fifth convocation ceremony of Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University in Lucknow, the Chief Minister asked the graduates to consider their case number as '2047-Viksit Bharat', whose petitioners are 140 crore Indians.

"The opponents in this case are those who believe that this development is not possible in any case. You have to fight this case against those stubborn opponents who are not ready to hear any arguments and do not believe any evidence," he said in a veiled reference to the Opposition. CM Adityanath said

that the "first date of the case" fell on August 15, 1947, when India attained Independence. "There were many lawyers who led the freedom struggle and then there were several lawyers in the Constitution drafting committee. The last date of the case that I have handed you '2047-Viksit Bharat', falls on August 15. You are the ones who have to do its advocacy and hence have to prepare yourself for that." "The second date of the 1947 case fell on January 26 when India adopted its Constitution. Every Indian, and every institution in the country is bound by this one book. The most important document to realise our vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' is the Constitution of India," he added.

Sikkim govt defends

AI permit system, Tourism Dept to retain control



Gangtok, Oct 19 : The Sikkim government on Monday defended its proposed AI-based integrated online permit system for restricted and protected areas, asserting that regulatory control over permits and revenue collection will remain with the Tourism

Department even if a private agency is engaged for technology and portal management.

Tourism Secretary Raj Yadav said the proposed arrangement aimed to simplify the permit process, reduce possible revenue leakages, and ensure that a larger share of tourism earnings remained with local operators, drivers and vehicle owners. He clarified that outsourcing technology-related functions would not amount to privatisation of the permit system.

India's MICE industry to become key economic driver, create high-quality jobs: Minister

New Delhi, Oct 19 : India's meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) Industry is set to be a major economic driver, generating high-quality jobs, the government said on Monday. Speaking at an event in Jaipur, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the MICE industry is rapidly emerging as a global powerhouse, fuelled by robust economic growth, world-class infrastructure, and strong government backing. "States are unlocking tourism opportunities in their own unique ways — and now, it's

time for India to position itself firmly on the global MICE map," the minister told the gathering. With iconic venues like Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi and Jio World Centre, and with special focus on MICE, "we aim to elevate at least 10 Indian cities into the world's top MICE destinations," the minister added. Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, and with states like Rajasthan leading through legacy and innovation, India is poised to become the world's most admired tourism and events destination.

The India MICE market generated a revenue of \$49,402.6 million in 2024 and is expected to reach

\$103,686.5 million by 2030, while registering a growth of 13 per cent. This growth is fuelled by the recent developments in MICE-ready destinations coming up in cities like Varanasi, Khajuraho and Kochi, etc. Over the last decade, India has shown a tremendous growth curve in infrastructure with be it the construction of roads over 1,50,000 km, new railway stations,

semi high-speed trains, inland waterways, more than 150 operational airports and over 2.48 million hotel rooms. Further, India's hosting of G20 nations has reinforced India's growing venue network and regional tourism potential. According to Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, the vision laid by PM Modi during India's G20 presidency has opened new pathways.



Security forces seize drugs valued at Rs 48.7 crore in Manipur; one held

Imphal, Oct 19 : Smuggling of drugs from Myanmar continues unabated in northeastern states of India as brown sugar valued at Rs 48.7 crore has been seized by the security forces in Manipur's Churachandpur district, an official said on Monday. Manipur's Churachandpur district shares unfenced border with both Myanmar and Mizoram. A police spokesman said that acting on secret information, the security forces arrested a drug peddler identified as Thianmuansiam Samte (32) from Gamgpimual village and 5.016 kg of brown sugar were recovered from his possession. The value of the drugs is Rs 48.7 crore, he said, adding that the brown sugar was contained in 418 soap cases. A car and a mobile phone were recovered from the detainee's possession. Security personnel suspect that the drugs, after being smuggled from Myanmar, were brought to Manipur through Mizoram. Appreciating the police efforts, former Manipur Chief Minister



N. Biren Singh, in a post on X, said: "Well done, Churachandpur Police. Saving us from illegal drugs is saving our future."

Manipur's Tengenoupal and Mizoram's Champhai district are the two hotspots for smuggling of various drugs, explosives, exotic animals, arms and ammunition and other contraband from neighbouring Myanmar. Politicians, senior security officials and experts observed that drug menaces are also one of the many reasons for Manipur's ethnic crisis.

Govt launches AI-enabled rural internal audit portal to strengthen transparency

New Delhi, Oct 19 : The government on Monday launched the AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal, a first-of-its-kind digital platform aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability and technology-driven governance across rural development programmes. Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the portal during the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan at the Pusa Campus in New Delhi.

The platform has been developed by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to manage the entire internal audit process through a unified digital system.

The Rural Internal Audit Portal has been conceived by the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts

(CCA) and is designed to handle both risk-based and compliance audits.

The ministry said the platform marks a major step towards modernising traditional audit practices and leveraging emerging technologies to improve governance. According to the ministry, the portal transforms internal audits from a paper-intensive and fragmented exercise into a transparent, technology-enabled and data-driven management system.

It integrates audit planning, execution, reporting, compliance management, monitoring and analytics within a single digital ecosystem.



FSSAI moves to ban sucrose and fructose in foods for infants up to six months

New Delhi, Oct 19 : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has published a draft amendment that would prohibit the addition of sucrose and fructose in food products intended for infants up to six months of age, an official statement said on Monday. The statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the draft Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2026, aims to strengthen nutritional safeguards for infants. The amendment published in the Gazette of India on



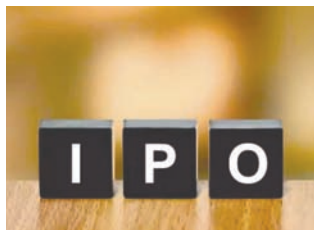
October 16, 2026, would strengthen the existing regulatory framework by ensuring infant nutrition products are formulated to meet age-appropriate requirements and minimise early exposure to added sugars.



ICICI Bank Q2 profit surges 20 pc to Rs 14,843 crore

New Delhi, Oct 19 : India's second-largest private lender -- ICICI Bank -- on Monday reported a 20.1 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY27. The lender posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 14,843 crore for the quarter ended September 30 compared with Rs 12,359 crore a year earlier. Meanwhile, the bank's net interest income rose 18 per cent year-on-year to Rs 25,339 crore from Rs 21,529 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Meanwhile, operating profit in-

creased 18.9 per cent to Rs 20,575 crore from Rs 17,298 crore a year ago. Asset quality improved sequentially during the quarter. The gross non-performing asset ratio declined to 1.2 per cent from 1.38 per cent in the June quarter and was better than the estimated 1.4 per cent. Net NPA ratio improved to 0.30 per cent from 0.35 per cent in the previous quarter. Provisions fell to Rs 851 crore, compared with Rs 914 crore in the year-ago quarter and Rs 1,260 crore in the preceding quarter.



GK Energy's costs surge sharply ahead of IPO, shows DRHP

New Delhi, Oct 19 : GK Energy Limited, which specialises in solar-powered agricultural water pump systems, is prepared to launch its initial public offering (IPO) after receiving final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last month. The company had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI on Aug 24, 2026. However, it submitted an addendum to the DRHP.



Hyundai Motor steps up physical AI push amid Chinese competition, stock slump

Seoul, Oct 19 : Seeking to remain competitive against fast-growing Chinese automakers and find new sources of growth amid a sharp retreat in its share price, Hyundai Motor Group is stepping up its push into robotics and physical artificial intelligence (AI). The move comes as the world's third-largest automotive group faces growing pressure to improve profitability in its conventional carmaking business amid intensifying competition in the

global electric vehicle (EV) market, particularly from lower-priced Chinese models. Investors are also questioning when the group's heavy investments in robotics will start to pay off, reports Yonhap news agency. Hyundai Motor Co.'s shares more than doubled after its U.S. subsidiary Boston Dynamics unveiled its Atlas humanoid robot at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in January, reaching a record closing high of 755,000 won (US\$565.2) in June.

But the stock has since fallen sharply to near pre-CES levels, closing at 312,000 won Friday, as enthusiasm over robotics has faded amid weak earnings and growing concerns about how soon the technology can turn profitable. Speculation about a delayed initial public offering of Boston Dynamics has added to the uncertainty. The U.S. robotics company reportedly incurred cumulative losses of around 1.7 trillion won over the past five years.

Analysts forecast BOK to hold benchmark rate unchanged at upcoming meet

Seoul, Oct 19 : Local economic experts expect the Bank of Korea (BOK) to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at its upcoming policy meeting later this week, with a possible rate hike at its next meeting, a survey showed on Monday. According to the survey on six economists conducted by Yonhap News Agency, all expected the BOK's Monetary Policy Board.



HDFC Bank Q2 profit rises 5 pc, misses estimates on higher provisions

New Delhi, Oct 19 : India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank Ltd, on Monday posted a net profit of Rs 19,610 crore for the second quarter of FY27 that missed analysts' expectations. The bank's higher provisions and softer-than-expected net interest income weighed on performance even as the lender posted robust growth in loans and deposits, according to the NDTV Profit report. The lender's net profit rose

5.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 19,610 crore in the quarter ended September 30. However, key operating metrics came in below analysts' expectations, the report added. Meanwhile, net interest income (NII), the difference between interest earned and interest paid, increased 9.7 per cent from a year earlier to Rs 34,619 crore below analysts' estimate of Rs 34,991.51 crore. Net interest margin (NIM), measured against to-

tal assets, stood at 3.16 per cent. Apart from that, provisions climbed 2.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,574 crore from Rs 3,501 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Asset quality improved during the quarter. The gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio declined to 1.11 per cent as of September 30 from 1.24 per cent a year earlier, while the net NPA ratio improved to 0.37 per cent from 0.42 per cent.

Google launches one-year free AI Plus plan for Indian college students

New Delhi, Oct 19 : US-based technology giant Google has announced a one-year free subscription to its 'AI Plus' plan for eligible college students in India which offers access to enhanced artificial intelligence tools and higher usage limits to support learning. In its latest blog post, the tech company said that under the offer eligible

students will get access to Gemini Omni, twice the usage limits available to non-AI subscribers, 400 GB of storage and other features at no cost for one year. It is also offering students a discounted bundle of Google AI Pro and YouTube Premium, with savings of up to 70 per cent for those seeking ad-free music and video streaming.



Ethical issues on data compliance loom as China's healthcare leans on AI

New Delhi, Oct 19 : While AI in China's healthcare industry is progressing towards providing reliable solutions, it is still not clear whether it can make a major change in the future of medicine, because this will depend on how stakeholders balance opportunity against risk, according to a media report. China's National Healthcare Security Administration issued guidance formally classifying "AI-assisted diagnosis" as an extended item within pathological diagnosis and incorporating it into the pricing framework for pathological diagnostic services, the report in the Greek City Times said. It highlights that behind this wave of innovation, legal and ethical questions around data compliance, algorithmic governance, and the boundaries of medical practice remain unanswered. How does AI in healthcare bridge the gap between the laboratory and the clinic?

L&T wins order worth up to Rs 5,000 crore for Dubai airport APM system

New Delhi, Oct 19 : Larsen & Toubro's transportation infrastructure business has secured an order worth up to Rs 5,000 crore to design and build the Automated People Mover (APM) system for Phase 1 of Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, the company said on Monday. The order has been won in a consortium with Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) with L&T

responsible for the turnkey delivery of the fully integrated APM system, including construction, supply, testing, commissioning and operational readiness. An automated people mover is a driverless transit system used to transport passengers between airport terminals and other facilities. Under the design-and-build contract, L&T will undertake the design, procurement, delivery and integration of key APM infrastruc-

ture and systems which include guideways, DC traction substations, power distribution, signalling and telecommunications, onboard communication systems, platform screen doors and depot equipment. Moreover, the project is being developed by Dubai Aviation City Corporation and implemented through Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects, according to L&T.



Tripura State Cooperative Bank posts Rs 78 crore net profit, marks 7th consecutive year of profitability

Agartala, Oct 19 : State-owned Tripura State Cooperative Bank (TSCB) has reported a record net profit of Rs 78.08 crore for the financial year 2025-26, registering its seventh consecutive year of profitability, senior bank officials said on Monday. TSCB Chairman Nagadhiraj Dutta and Managing Director Bhajan Chandra Roy highlighted the bank's growing contribution to Tripura's rural economy and its continued financial growth. Dutta said the bank earned an operating profit of Rs 166.08 crore during the 2025-26 fiscal, registering a 40 per cent increase over the previous financial year (2024-25). "The bank's net profit stood at Rs 78.08 crore in 2025-26, re-

cording a growth of 103 per cent compared to the previous financial year (2024-25). This is the seventh consecutive year of profitability and the highest-ever net profit in the history of the Tripura State Cooperative Bank," Dutta told IANS. The Tripura State Cooperative Bank Ltd. was established on January 21, 1957, making it the oldest cooperative bank in the Northeastern region. The bank was set up under the Bombay Cooperative Societies Act and has since played a significant role in promoting cooperative banking and rural development in the state. The TSCB Chairman further said the bank's total business volume reached Rs 6,950.92 crore during 2025-26, an increase of approximately Rs 289.11 crore over the previous financial year. At present, the bank operates



through a network of 67 branches and provides banking services through 12 ATMs across Tripura. The 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Tripura State Cooperative Bank was held at Nazrul Kalakshetra in Agartala on Saturday. Addressing the AGM, Tripura Finance Minister Pranajit Singha Roy said cooperatives play a crucial role in strengthening the rural economy and that the TSCB has been making significant contributions to the socio-economic development of people living in rural areas across the state. The Finance Minister said the

bank has been working to make small and marginal farmers, as well as unemployed youth, self-reliant by extending financial assistance under various schemes of the Central and state governments. He said the TSCB has been playing an important role in strengthening and enriching Tripura's rural economy. Highlighting the bank's performance, Singha Roy said its Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio stands at 66 per cent, which is significantly higher than the state's average CD ratio of 55 per cent.

BSF seizes fake currency valued at Rs 1.99 lakh along India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Malda



Kolkata, Oct 19 : The Border Security Force (BSF) has seized fake Indian currency notes (FICN) worth Rs 1,99,500 from the India-Bangladesh Border in the Malda district of West Bengal, officials said. The FICN was of Rs 500 denomination. "On Monday, troops of the 71st Battalion BSF, posted at the Sovapur border outpost, received secret information regarding an attempt to smuggle FICN through their area of responsibility. All on-duty personnel were put on full alert. Around 1 p.m., suspicious movement was spotted on the Bangladesh side of the border fence. The jawans in the area alerted their colleagues and rushed towards the spot. A search of the area led to the seizure of a packet that contained 399 currency notes," a senior BSF official said on Thursday.

"The currency notes were found to be fake. A total of 399 currency notes of Rs 500 denomination were seized. The counterfeit notes were thrown across the border fence into India by Bangladeshi smugglers to be picked up by their accomplices. This attempt was thwarted by the alert BSF jawans," he added. The seized counterfeit notes have been handed over to the concerned department for further action. Another BSF official said that the FICN seized was of high quality. Such high-quality currency notes are known to be printed in Pakistan and some other countries and then smuggled into India through the India-Bangladesh Border. Sovapur, where the FICN was seized, is located in Malda's Kaliachak. This particular location of the district in north Bengal is a favourite for FICN smugglers.

UP: 'Complainant turns out to be mastermind behind fake Rs 10 lakh robbery in Saharanpur'

Saharanpur, Oct 19 : In a sensational twist, police in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district have claimed to have solved a Rs 10 lakh robbery, with the complainant himself emerging as the alleged mastermind behind the incident. The police said the robbery was fabricated to deal with a massive debt, and the entire amount allegedly looted was recovered from the complainant's vehicle. The incident took place on Monday around 11.20 a.m. near a country liquor shop on the Gandewad-Raipur road under the Behat police station area. The police received information that four unidentified men had allegedly intercepted a car, pelted it with stones, assaulted its driver, Deepak Saini, at gunpoint and fled with Rs 10.10 lakh. Following the information received through the emergency helpline 112, the Behat police station team immediately swung into action. Superinten-

dent of Police (Rural) Mayank Pathak, along with other police officials and the Special Operations Group (SOG), reached the spot and launched an investigation. During preliminary questioning, however, the police found discrepancies in the robbery complaint and decided to investigate the matter more deeply. According to SP Rural Mayank Pathak, Deepak Saini operated a private ATM service. During the investigation, the police discovered that the entire amount reported to have been looted was lying inside his own vehicle. On being questioned, Saini allegedly admitted that he was burdened with a debt of around Rs 10 lakh and had hatched the conspiracy to stage a fake robbery. Pathak said the complainant allegedly made a false emergency call to the police, claiming that he had been robbed by four armed men. Acting on the information, the police initially registered a case and began taking necessary action.



J&K: 671 kanals of land in Samba transferred for Art Plug & Play Park

Srinagar, Oct 19 : J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday that, in a major boost to industrial infrastructure, 671 kanals of land have been transferred in Samba district to the Industries & Commerce Department for a state-of-the-art Plug and Play Industrial Park under the BHAVYA Scheme. Omar Abdullah's office said on X, "In a major boost to industrial infrastructure in J&K, the Government has approved the transfer of 671 kanals of land in Samba to the Industries & Commerce Department for a state-of-the-art Plug and Play Industrial Park under the BHAVYA Scheme. "The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) envisages ready-to-use infrastructure, reliable services and streamlined approvals to help enterprises begin operations faster. "The Chief Minister said the initiative will attract investment, strengthen local MSMEs and encourage entrepreneurship.

Bihar: Gopal Mandal attacks JD-U after his son joins Congress

Patna, Oct 19 : Former MLA Gopal Mandal targeted JD-U after his son, Ashish Mandal, joined the Congress in Bhagalpur on Monday. The induction ceremony was held at the Congress office in the presence of Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram and the party's Bihar in-charge, Krishna Allavaru. Following his son's induction, Gopal Mandal described the JD-U as a "party of middlemen" and claimed that the party no longer had influential leaders. He also remarked that the in-



fluence of JD-U leader Nitish Kumar had declined. His remarks have added a new dimension to the political debate in Bhagalpur. Gopal Mandal praised the Congress as the country's oldest political party, highlighting its ideology and historical legacy.



Assam govt hopes to bring back Vrindavani Vastra from UK: Assembly Speaker

Guwahati, Oct 19 : Assam Legislative Assembly Speaker Ranjeet Kumar Dass on Monday expressed confidence that the historic Vrindavani Vastra, an iconic 16th-century Assamese textile masterpiece preserved in the United Kingdom, would be brought to the state for public display, adding that efforts are also underway to showcase another rare Assamese textile housed in a museum in Paris. Speaking to reporters, Dass said the initiative to bring the Vrindavani Vastra to Assam has been pursued for several years.



Hand hygiene is not a luxury, it is the cornerstone of safe healthcare: Saima Wazed

New Delhi, Oct 19 : On World Hand Hygiene Day, observed annually, Saima Wazed, the Regional Director for the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia, emphasised that hand hygiene is not a luxury but a vital element of safe healthcare. This important day, which started with WHO's Global Patient Safety Challenge in 2005, aims to promote the practice of hand hygiene, particularly in healthcare settings, to reduce infections associated with medical care. "Hand hygiene plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety of health workers, patients, and their families during every healthcare encounter," Wazed said.

'Rs 5,000 relief a mockery': Supriya Sule slams Maha govt

Pune, Oct 19 : Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) Working President and MP Supriya Sule said that while farmers in the state are reeling under a severe drought, the financial aid of Rs 5,000 announced by the Maharashtra government is nothing short of a mockery of the farmers. Following the Central scheme, the state government had decided to provide Rs 6,000 annually under the 'Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi' scheme. The last instalment of this scheme was credited to accounts on January 13, 2026. However, the government has still not disbursed the previous Rs 4,000 due for the current financial year. Depriving farmers of their right-

ful Rs 4,000 is a grave injustice against them, Sule stated. Speaking to reporters, Sule said that as highlighted by respected Sharad Pawar in his letter, farmers should receive direct compensation of Rs 1 lakh per hectare. Furthermore, the previous Rs 4,000 along with the new Rs 5,000—totalling at least Rs 9,000—should be credited to their accounts immediately. While the government claims that the state treasury is empty when it comes to helping farmers, new luxury cars worth Rs 18 crore are being purchased for ministers, she added. Sule pointed out a major discrepancy in voter data, stating, "In my own Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, there were 25 lakh voters. Shockingly, 700,000 voters suddenly vanished, bringing the count down to 19 lakh. In the Khadakwasla Assembly constitu-

ency, the voter count dropped drastically from 500,000 to 250,000. First, 50,000 voters were artificially added, and then 2.5 lakh voters were slashed. Who are these missing voters, and why is the Election Commission hiding this information?" Sule asserted, "I have been elected from Baramati, yet I demand an inquiry into myself and my constituency. We do not want to pass by copying; we want to win through hard work."



Yemeni PM steps down amid political tensions

Aden (Yemen), Oct 19 : Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak has submitted his resignation to the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), citing constitutional constraints and obstructions that hampered his reform initiatives.

In his official resignation statement on Monday, the outgoing premier revealed he had faced "lots of difficulties," including being unable to reshuffle the government and

exercise his constitutional powers to implement necessary institutional reforms, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I have just met with the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Rashad Al-Alimi, and resigned as Prime Minister," Bin Mubarak posted on X, also sharing his resignation letter.

"I could not exercise my constitutional powers and take the necessary decisions to reform government institutions or implement rightful governmental changes,"

the letter said. "Despite the challenges, we achieved significant financial savings for the state," he noted, pointing to more than \$133.5 million saved in electricity fuel purchases costs within the past year.

The Prime Minister's resignation came as Yemen continues to face multiple challenges, including ongoing conflict with Houthis forces and economic instability. Sources familiar with the matter indicated that "the growing tensions between bin Mubarak and



PLC chief Rashad al-Alimi, had reached an impasse".

Prior to his resignation, 18 Cabinet Ministers signed a memorandum in April calling for his removal, highlighting severe fractures within the internationally-recognised government.

Russia accuses US of wrongly granting citizenship to diplomats' children

Moscow, Oct 19 : Russia on Monday accused the US State Department of unlawfully granting American citizenship to children of Russian diplomats born in the United States, a move Moscow says violates international norms and bilateral diplomatic practice. In Vedomosti, a Russian business daily, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova wrote that US authorities were invoking "birthright citizenship" to automatically register such children as US citizens, Xinhua news agency reported. "The State Department, or those behind the facade of American diplomacy, have begun to extend US citizenship to children of employees of Russian consulates born within US jurisdiction—literally by force—under the pretext of the constitutionally enshrined 'right of the soil' and the allegedly limited nature of consular immunity," Zakharova wrote in a column for Vedomosti. She argued that this practice contradicts international and national law, the policy of US President Donald Trump, and the will of the parents. "The deep state in the United States has created a new problem to pressure Russian diplomats, disregarding the fact that this is becoming a glaring example of the decline of the so-called 'American democracy'," she said.



Punjab AAP questions Congress on sharing Bhakra water with Haryana

Chandigarh, Oct 19 : Hours ahead of the day-long special legislative Assembly session on sharing the state's waters with Haryana, Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) questioned the state's main Opposition Congress for its double standards on the issue.

Singapore tightens online scam safeguards for major platforms

Singapore, Oct 19 : Singapore has introduced new and enhanced codes of practice requiring major online platforms to strengthen safeguards against scams and malicious cyber activities, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said. The new rules, issued on Monday, cover online messaging and conferencing services, social media and e-commerce platforms, building on measures introduced in 2024, the SPF said in a statement.

According to the SPF, scam cases reported on designated online services fell about 37 per cent between 2024 and 2025.

The new Messaging Code requires platforms to introduce measures, including user consent before unknown contacts add them to groups, warnings on suspicious accounts, and options to filter or block messages and calls from un-



known contacts. The Social Media Code asks platforms to prevent and remove suspected scam advertisements and verify advertisers' identities. Financial advertisements targeting Singapore users must also be from licensed providers, Xinhua news agency reported. The enhanced E-Commerce Code will strengthen login and advertising safeguards.

Children account for one-third of reported Ebola deaths in DR Congo: UNICEF

Kinshasa, Oct 19 :Children account for about one-third of reported deaths in the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), despite representing only around one-fifth of confirmed cases, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Monday in its latest situation report. According to UNICEF, children aged 17 and below account for approximately 21 per cent of confirmed cases but 33 per cent of reported

deaths, pointing to a "concerning upward trend" in the mortality burden among children, calling for continued attention to appropriate pediatric care.

UNICEF warned that treatment services remain under pressure. Service delivery has been affected by delayed referrals, overcrowding, limited critical care and pediatric capacity, resource constraints and gaps in data reporting, according to the agency.

UNICEF said community surveillance and contact tracing

still need to be accelerated, calling for stronger early detection, timely referral and pediatric care as transmission continues, Xinhua news agency reported. As of Sunday, the DRC had reported 5,021 confirmed cases across 55 health zones in six provinces, with a case fatality rate of 47.4 percent, according to the latest report released by the WHO Regional Office for Africa on Tuesday.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that the Ebola outbreak in the DRC remains a



Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), as the epidemic surpasses 5,000 cases, spreads into new areas and prompts authorities to pursue experimental vaccines and treatments.

The outbreak is now the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded and is spreading faster than all previous ones, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at an emergency committee meeting.

The epidemic, caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, has surpassed the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, previously the country's deadliest. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Monday that the current outbreak is killing roughly one person every 30 minutes and risks becoming the deadliest Ebola epidemic ever recorded globally if its trajectory is not urgently reversed.

"We must be frank: the epidemic is far from being under control," Tedros said. "It had a big head start, and we are still playing catch-up." During the first 95 days of reporting, the seven-day moving average rose to more than 90

confirmed cases a day, substantially higher than at the same stage of the 2014-2016 West Africa epidemic and the DRC's 2018-2020 outbreak, according to a WHO situation report.

The eastern province of Ituri remains the epicentre, accounting for 84.8 per cent of cumulative cases, but infections are accelerating in neighbouring provinces. The WHO warned that high mortality, deaths outside treatment facilities, a growing surveillance workload and uneven response capacity indicate that current measures are not sufficient to interrupt transmission.



Tripura: CPI-M slams BJP govt for 'not providing jobs' to unemployed youths

Agartala, Oct 19 : Slamming the BJP government in Tripura, opposition CPI-M on Monday claimed that the state government is unwilling to provide jobs to the unemployed youth, even as 51,000 posts at different government departments have been lying vacant for many years. Tripura Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Jitendra Chaudhury, said that despite pre-poll assurances, the BJP government was not providing adequate jobs to the unemployed youths. "As per the government's data, over 51,000 posts are lying vacant in many departments.

Security in Indian Ocean remains central to India-Seychelles relationship: Seychelles President Herminie

Victoria, Oct 19 : Seychelles President Patrick Herminie said on Monday that security in the Indian Ocean remains central to the relationship between his country and India and announced that both nations have affirmed their commitment to counter piracy, drug trafficking, illegal fishing, and cross-border crime.

Addressing a joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their talks, President Herminie described his discussions with PM Modi as "comprehensive and forward-looking", reflecting the deep bonds of friendship and mutual trust that unite both nations.

He stated that India and Seychelles have committed to a partnership rooted in common geography, history and a collective vision for a stable, secure and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

"A centrepiece of our talks was the implementation of the Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages, which Seychelles adopted earlier this year. This framework provides strategic direction for cooperation across all sectors. I express my deep appreciation for India's steadfast support in translating this vision into tangible outcomes that benefit the people of both nations." Herminie called the development partnership a

"strong pillar" of India-Seychelles ties. He said that both nations have concluded various legal instruments that will deepen our collaboration across foreign service, digital banking, health, agriculture, sea flooring, extradition, space exploration, and the construction of a new national hospital in Seychelles. "As maritime neighbours, security in the Indian Ocean region remains central to our relationship. We reaffirmed Seychelles special place in India's Mahasagar vision. We affirmed our commitment to counter piracy, drug trafficking, illegal fishing and cross-border crime.



Philippines accuses China of 'insincerity, hypocrisy' over South China Sea dispute: Report

Manila, Oct 19 : Philippines Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. has accused China of "insincerity and hypocrisy" after Beijing rejected Manila's demand to comply with the landmark 2016 international arbitral ruling on the South China Sea, according to a report. According to a report by Democrata, the latest diplomatic exchange follows the Philippine government's renewed call for China to honour the 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which in-

validated Beijing's expansive claims over much of the South China Sea and ruled in favour of the Philippines. Responding to the Chinese Embassy's rejection of Manila's official statement, Teodoro said, "The statement from the Chinese Embassy in response to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a window into the true intentions of the Chinese Communist Party in its relations with our country." Teodoro, who has reportedly been barred from entering China.



India-UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 concludes in Uttarakhand

New Delhi, Oct 19 : The India-UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 has concluded at the Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand's Chaubatia, reaffirming the shared commitment of the two Armies to operational excellence and enduring military co-operation, the Indian Army said on Monday. "The India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 concluded at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand, following intensive joint training from 05 to 18

October 2026," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army posted on X. "Troops of the Indian Army and the UAE Armed Forces undertook joint planning, tactical drills and integrated field exercises, focusing on enhancing interoperability, operational coordination and combat effectiveness in sub-conventional operations," it added. "The exercise reaffirmed the shared commitment of both Armies to operational excellence, enhanced interoperability and enduring military cooperation, fur-

ther strengthening the India-UAE strategic defence partnership," the ADGPI stated. Earlier this week, the Indian Army said the exercise was in full swing, with troops from both armies undertaking joint tactical drills, operational planning and integrated training. "Troops from both armies are undertaking joint tactical drills, operational planning and integrated training activities, leveraging modern technology to enhance interoperability and refine tactics, techniques and procedures in sub-conventional operations. The exercise continues to strengthen professional camaraderie.

No longer dependent on lenders for buying seeds, fertilizers: PM-KISAN beneficiaries thank govt

Begusarai (Bihar), Oct 19 : The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is proving to be a boon for city farmers as the monetary assistance under the programme has come as a big respite for them in tackling many challenges, including financial hardships and dependence on money lenders, particular during seed sowing and harvesting of crops. The monetary aid under the scheme is helping farmers in their needs on time and they now don't have to wait for sale of crops to fulfill their basic needs. Many beneficiary farmers of Begusarai district in Bihar, while speaking to IANS, also expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for this scheme. Vidyand Singh, a resident of Sihma village in Matihani block of Begusarai, said.



NIA searches key suspect's Rohtak house in CPI (Maoist) NRB revival case

New Delhi, Oct 19 : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday searched the rented accommodation of a key suspect in Haryana's Rohtak area in a case relating to attempts by the CPI (Maoist) terror organisation to re-energise its influence in the Northern Region Bureau (NRB). The search at the house of Naresh led to the seizure of two mobile phones and some handwritten documents. "NIA investigations had identified Naresh as a former member of Chhatra Ekta Manch (CEM) and a close aide of accused Priyanshu Kashyap in the case RC-01/2023/NIA/LKW," the NIA said in its press note. As part of the CPI (Maoist) conspiracy, Priyanshu Kashyap used to frequently visit the said premises, where he conducted meetings with the organisation's underground cadres. "The terror outfit has been concerted working towards the revival of its presence in various regions of the country, including the NRB comprising the states of Uttar Pradesh.

India first country to develop genome-edited rice varieties: Minister

New Delhi, Oct 19 : Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday announced the development of two genome-edited rice varieties in India, thus becoming the first country in the world to achieve this feat. This marks a new beginning in the field of scientific research and innovation. The development of these new crops will not only enhance production but will also yield positive results in environ-

mental terms. It will save irrigation water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby lowering environmental pressure. Addressing the gathering at an event here, Chouhan said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "India's vision for a developed nation is being realised, and farmers are moving towards prosperity. Today's achievement will be written in golden letters". "During the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', PM Modi had called



upon farmers to adopt modern techniques to overcome agricultural challenges. Inspired by his words, ICAR scientists have made exceptional achievements in the field of agriculture with the creation of these new varieties," the

minister said. Chouhan emphasised that in the coming times, there is a need for ensuring food security, increasing nutritious production, and providing food for both India and the world, while making India the food basket of the world. He stated, "We are proud that our efforts have led to the export of 48,000 crore worth of Basmati rice annually." The minister also urged the need to take further steps to increase production of soybean, arhar, tur, lentils, urad, oilseeds, and pulses. Chouhan also introduced the "Minus 5 and Plus 10" formula, explaining that it involves reducing the area of rice cultivation by 5 million hectares while increasing rice production by 10 million tons in the same area. This would free up space for the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds. He urged the farmers, especially the young farmers, to adopt advanced farming techniques.



Romanian F-16s shoot down two drones; calls NATO meeting on Black Sea defence

Bucharest, Oct 19 : Romania said on Monday that two F-16 fighter jets of its Air Force shot down two drones that entered the country's airspace without authorisation over the Black Sea, and announced that a dedicated meeting of the North Atlantic Council will be held on October 20 at its initiative to discuss Black Sea defence and deterrence. Romanian Foreign Minister Oana Toiu said the first drone entered national airspace at 17:59 local time and was shot down within two minutes, 25 km south-east of Sulina, while the second was engaged and downed at 18:05 in the same area, 20 km east of Sulina, four minutes after entering the airspace. "The Black Sea will be safe again," Toiu said on social media platform X. "The Black Sea serves as a critical maritime artery for the global export of grain, energy resources, and industrial commodities, making its stability vital to international food and energy security. We have briefed our Allies and EU partners," the Foreign Minister added. "Our military has prepared for an increased intensity of hybrid interference and will continue to prioritise air defence and maritime security," Toiu said.

Nepal balances immigration enforcement with investment protection in Chinese-funded project

Kathmandu, Oct 19 : Chinese nationals on tourist visas found working at a Chinese-funded meat processing plant in Nepal have been told to obtain work permits or leave the country within a set deadline. However, Chinese nationals found working at the plant in violation of their business visa conditions are being deported, a senior official of Nepal's Department of Immigration said on Monday. The decision to allow tourist visa holders time to change the visa type or leave Nepal came after the Chinese Embassy informally requested flexibility, citing the scale of the investment and the genuine nature of the industrial project, according to Immigration officials. The 88 Chinese nationals who entered Nepal on business visas issued for activities associated with other companies but were found working at the project are being deported after their visas were cancelled and fines were imposed under Nepal's immigration laws. The Department of Immigration said on September 23 that



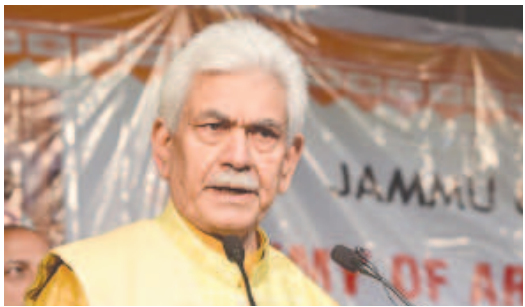
it had initiated the deportation process for the 88 Chinese nationals for violating the conditions of their business visas. Immigration officials also identified an additional 329 Chinese nationals who had entered Nepal on tourist visas and were working at the same project. The Chinese nationals were working at Ziyan Foods Private Limited, which is developing the Nepal Heat-Processed Buffalo Meat Export to China Project at Sahan in Marini Rural Municipality of Sindhuli district, in financial partnership with Chengdu Tian Food Limited. According to officials, the project is among the largest Chinese investments in Nepal and is potentially the country's largest investment project in the agricultural

sector, with a promised investment of NPR 20 billion. "In the case of the Chinese nationals who were working in the project and arrived in Nepal on tourist visas, we have created an environment in which they can obtain labour permits or complete the required procedures and leave within the stipulated period of 20 days to one month," Ram Chandra Tiwari, Director General of the Department of Immigration, said. "During our inspection, we found that these people were not here to engage in wrongdoing or theft; they were genuinely working," he added.



Protests in Albania escalate into violent clashes

Tirana, Oct 19 : Protests in Albania continued on Monday, which have escalated into violent clashes with police and leaving government buildings, banks, businesses and public facilities damaged in the capital, Tirana. The latest wave of protests began on Oct. 13, when students gathered outside the Ministry of Education to demand better university conditions, lower education costs and improved youth employment prospects, according to local media. Clashes broke out that afternoon, when some demonstrators threw stones and other objects at police and government buildings. Police responded with tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds. The situation remained tense into Friday evening, with large numbers of riot police deployed to disperse protesters, Xinhua News Agency reported. Widespread damage was caused to public institutions, banks, businesses and public facilities in Tirana. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and the central bank were among the institutions targeted.



J&K L-G finds transaction of business rules in contravention of Reorganisation Act, returns file

Srinagar, Oct 19 : Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has returned the transaction of business rules (TBR) file to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah after finding it "in contravention of the Reorganisation Act 2019".

Cheap drones creating dystopian wars; we don't accept this: UN relief chief

United Nations, Oct 19 : Cheap armed drones are transforming modern warfare and creating a “dystopian reality” in which civilians and humanitarian workers can be deliberately targeted from a distance, the United Nations’ relief chief has warned. Tom Fletcher, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said rapidly advancing technology was extending the reach of wars while weakening accountability for those responsible for attacks. Speaking from Ukraine on World Humanitarian Day, Fletcher said nearly 1,000 aid workers had been killed, injured or kidnapped, with governments responsible for much of the violence. “This is not a temporary spike that we’re seeing. This is a stain. It is the normalisation of violence against our community, and we will not accept it,” he said. “We do not accept it. We will not allow this



violence, this killing of humanitarians, to be normalised,” Fletcher said. He pointed to what he described as a pervasive sense of impunity surrounding attacks on humanitarian personnel. “And behind it all, this sense we feel of impunity, of a lack of accountability for those who pulled the trigger, those who gave the order, those who supplied the weapon.



Iran's FM renews Tehran's offer to help end Saudi-Yemen conflict

Tehran, Oct 19 : Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that Tehran is ready to provide any kind of assistance to help stop the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. He made the remarks in a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty on the sidelines of the 52nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, according to a state-

ment released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Araghchi stressed that 12 years of tension and conflict have shown that there is no military solution or approach to the Yemen issue, Xinhua News Agency reported. He highlighted Iran's commitment to diplomacy and peace in the region, stressing that the country has always been committed to de-escalating tensions, while adopting a "responsible" approach toward diplomacy.



Indian-American Republican candidate Komatireddy trails Letitia James by 13 points as early voting nears

Washington, Oct 19 : Indian-American Republican Saritha Komatireddy has cut New York Attorney General Letitia James’s lead to 13 points in the latest public poll, but remains badly outgunned on money and name recognition with early voting set to open on October 24. A Siena poll of likely voters conducted September 11-17 put James at 52 per cent and Komatireddy at 39 per cent.

China closing undersea gap, US warns

Washington, Oct 19 : China is investing aggressively to narrow America’s long-held undersea advantage, two senior US naval leaders told lawmakers. They spoke at a hearing of the US-China Economic

and Security Review Commission titled “Part of Your World: US-China Competition Under the Sea.” Vice Admiral Richard Seif, Commander of US Naval Submarine Forces, said America’s edge beneath the waves remains strong but is under pressure.



Arab ministerial committee rejects 'Israel's measures to isolate Jerusalem'

Cairo, Oct 19 : An Arab ministerial committee here rejected "the Israeli measures to isolate Jerusalem," stressing that "Israel has no sovereignty over Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites". The committee, in charge of international action to confront illegal Israeli policies and measures in Jerusalem, issued a joint statement on Monday following its 10th meeting on the sidelines of the 164th regular meeting of the Council of the Arab League (AL), Xinhua news agency reported. The committee, formed by the AL in 2021 and chaired by Jordan, includes Iraq, Palestine, Algeria, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and the AL Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit. In the statement, the committee condemned Israel's recent approval of the E1 settlement plan as a prelude to "besieging the Old City and isolating it from its Palestinian surroundings". The approval is an attempt to "undermine the establishment of a Palestinian state and a blatant assault on the right of the Palestinian people to embody their independent state," it said.



South Korea's Land minister says govt considering part of Yongsan Park as housing site

Manila, Oct 19 : South Korea's Land Minister Kim Yun-duk said on Monday the government is considering using parts of Yongsan Park that have already lost some of their function as green spaces for limited housing development. Kim dismissed concerns that the government plans to turn the central Seoul park into a massive public housing development as part of efforts to increase housing supply in the capital. The park, mostly located on land returned from the former US military garrison, spans about 3 million square metres, equivalent to roughly 420 soccer fields, reports Yonhap news agency. "It is not true that the government is pushing to build houses by bulldozing green areas in Yongsan Park," Kim said during a parliamentary committee meeting at the National Assembly. Kim said the government is reviewing sites within or around the park that have already been developed or used for other purposes, citing former officers' residences, military housing and the former site of the Defence Acquisition Program Administration.

UN deputy chief to visit India to discuss advancing sustainable development

United Nations, Oct 19 : United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed will be visiting India this month to discuss cooperation and sustainable development, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric has said. she will meet "senior government officials to discuss UN-Indian cooperation and India's engagement in advancing sustainable development goals" in New Delhi, Dujarric said on Monday (local time). The UN Spokesperson mentioned that a meeting

with students at the Indian Institute of Technology is also on her calendar. Dujarric said with students she will discuss ideas on the opportunities and challenges to deliver "digital innovation in support of level individual innovation in support of the sustainable development goals". Mohammed's visit to India will be a part of her swing through Asia, starting with a visit to China where she is convening on Thursday 'The Third Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence and Human Development'. Dujarric said the meeting



is part of a series of high-level dialogues with "leading figures from around the country, around the region, and around the world

to examine how one of humanity's most transformative technologies is shaping human progress".

West African countries pledge stronger response to epidemics

Abidjan, Oct 19 : Experts from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have reaffirmed their commitment in Abidjan to strengthening the response to epidemics and other public health emergencies. Health experts, representatives of member states and technical partners are participating in a four-day workshop from Monday, focused on the technical validation of the third Regional Strategic Plan for Epidemic Prepared-



ness and Response and other Public Health Emergencies of the ECOWAS Regional Center for Surveillance and Disease Control (RCSDC). "West Africa has faced health crises of exceptional magnitude in recent years."



Pakistan ISPR's web of lies exposed; used Chinese drones, fabricated chats, invented stories to blame India

New Delhi, Oct 19 : Days after Pakistan’s Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) along with its Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar shifted blamed on India.

Los Angeles mayoral candidate Raman faces audit row

Washington, Oct 19 : Indian-American Los Angeles mayoral candidate Nithya Raman faces two late attacks: a City Attorney demand for a full audit of the nonprofit behind an eviction-defence programme she championed, and Mayor Karen Bass’s charge that she does not know the city’s Black community. In an October 9 “Supplemental Report in the Public Interest”, City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto said that “between \$55 million and \$87 million in funds provided to LAFLA from the City and County remain unaccounted for in the publicly available information for the period 2021 through 2025.” The report, on the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), said the nonprofit’s tax returns “suggest that the money may well have been used for other purposes, most notably to fund litigation

against the very City that provided the funds.” “The City’s interests requires a complete audit of and accounting from LAFLA of all of these amounts,” the report said. The contract began in 2021 as a no-bid \$7 million pilot and grew to more than \$90 million. The \$55 million to \$87 million range first appeared in a July 2 report. The report does not name Raman, and it does not allege that she mis-handled funds. The California Post, in reports carried by the New York Post, has

called the programme Raman’s “signature” effort, reporting that she voted in March for a tenant package that included \$106.6 million for LAFLA. LAFLA rejects the claims. In an August 10 letter to the City Council, responding to the City Attorney’s earlier reports, its board said “the Reports do not make any specific claims of any financial improprieties or misapplied funds.” The board said it was



“aware of no misspent funds, nor any other impropriety related to LAFLA’s administration of SHLA,” referring to Stay Housed LA. Barbara Schultz, LAFLA’s director of housing justice, has called the claims “inaccurate and misleading,” the Post reported.

