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Azharuddin urges graduates to back Congress in MLC polls
Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin has called upon graduates and youth in the Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahabubnagar constituency to support the Congress... **03**



Gold above Rs 1,47,000, silver near Rs 2.10 lakh on Dussehra
Gold and silver prices in India are in focus on Thursday, as the country celebrates Dussehra. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) remains closed during the morning session due to the festive... **07**



Asian Para Games: Dilip Mahadu Gavit wins second gold in Men's 400m T47, Bhavikkumar bags silver
Indian para-athletes secured another double podium finish at the ongoing Asian Para Games as Dilip Mahadu Gavit (T46 category) and... **12**

Govt to form Cabinet panel on Mudiraj BC-A inclusion: Revanth



Hyderabad, Oct 22 : The Telangana government is prioritising the political empowerment of Backward Classes (BCs) and will constitute a Cabinet sub-committee to examine the long-pending demand to reclassify the Mudiraj community from BC-D to the BC-A category, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced on Thursday. Speaking at the birth anniversary celebrations of Telangana freedom fighter Pandaga Sayanna Mudiraj at

Ravindra Bharati, the Chief Minister said the reclassification had been delayed earlier due to a lack of accurate data. "We will discuss the issue at the upcoming Cabinet meeting and set up a sub-committee to conduct a comprehensive study," Revanth Reddy said, emphasising the need to address concerns raised by other caste groups before taking a final decision. Highlighting his government's commitment to the community, the Chief Minister noted that Mudirajs form the largest population block in his home constituency of Kodangal. He cited the induction of Srihari Mudiraj



into the Cabinet and the nomination of Neelam Madhu for the Lok Sabha polls as examples of political representation under the Congress regime. Revanth Reddy also directed BC Welfare Minister Ponnampet Prabhakar to consult TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud on providing a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) seat to a Mudiraj leader. "It is my responsibility to ensure the Mudiraj community becomes an active partner in governance," he added. Paying rich tributes to historical figures Chakali Ailamma, Doddi Komuriah, and Pandaga Sayanna, as well as cultural icons Gaddar and Ande Sri.

Congress won't return to power for next 30 years: Amit Shah to Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, taking a jibe at his "foreign visits" and saying that Congress "won't get a chance to return to power for the next 30 years". HM Shah made the remarks at the inauguration and foundation laying of the Yamuna revival projects in New Delhi.



Addressing a gathering, he said: "The country has realised Rahul ji that you and your associates want to protect the votes of the illegal infiltrators under the garb of 'vote chori' allegations."



Sridhar Babu urges Congress cadre to focus on graduate voter enrolment

Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has urged Congress leaders and workers to prioritise graduate voter enrolment ahead of the Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahabubnagar Graduates' MLC elections, calling for a co-ordinated campaign.



Alai Balai bridges political divides, promotes harmony : Governor

Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said the Alai Balai programme was a symbol of social harmony and Telangana's rich cultural heritage, bringing people together beyond political differences. Addressing the 'Datthanna Alai Balai' programme organised by former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and his daughter Vijayalakshmi at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad on Thursday, the Governor said ideological differences should not undermine mutual respect, friendship and cooperation. He appreciated Vijayalakshmi for continuing the tradition initiated by Dattatreya in 2005. Emphasising the need for a collective fight against drug

abuse, Shiv Pratap Shukla said the menace was a serious threat to the future of the youth and could not be tackled by the police alone. Government agencies, educational institutions, social organisations and citizens must work together to achieve the goal of a drug-free India by 2029, he said. The Governor recalled administering an anti-drug pledge to around 15,000 students at

Hyderabad's LB Stadium and announced that a similar awareness programme would be held at Osmania University on October 28. He also cautioned against the growing threat posed by synthetic drugs. Calling upon young people to respect cultural traditions and contribute to nation-building, he said social harmony and national integration were essential for the country's progress. Punjab Governor

Gulab Chand Kataria, former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao, Union minister Kishan Reddy, public representatives and political leaders attended the programme. The Governor and his wife, Janaki Shukla, were felicitated by Dattatreya. Dignitaries also honoured individuals who had excelled in various fields.

Not just investments, production must also begin in AP: CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, Oct 22 : The 22nd meeting of the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) was held on Thursday at the State Secretariat, chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Ministers Lokesh, TG Bharat, Anagani Satya Prasad, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Narayana, and Kandula Durgesh attended the

SIPB meeting virtually. During the proceedings, the Chief Minister provided guidance to the officials on several key matters. Chief Minister Chandrababu discussed various investment proposals with officials at the SIPB (State Investment Promotion Board) across sectors including industries, energy, tourism, IT, electronics, food processing, and infrastructure development. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has directed that the focus be placed on ensuring



that previously signed agreements translate into actual investments and the commencement of production. Officials reported that, out of a total of 714 agreements, work has already begun on 519 projects.

Andhra Deputy CM orders legal action against fake WhatsApp channel



Amaravati, Oct 22 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Thursday ordered legal action against a fake WhatsApp channel operating in the name of 'Deputy CMO'. According to a statement from the Deputy Chief Minister's Office, the WhatsApp channel operating under the name "Deputy CMO, Andhra Pradesh" is not an authorised channel of the Deputy Chief Minister's Office. "This unauthorised channel is misusing the Office's identity and circulating misleading information and unrelated content. Such impersonation and the deliberate spread of misinformation are unacceptable and will be dealt with firmly. An FIR is being initiated, and strict legal action will be pursued against those responsible," said the statement posted on the 'X' handle of the Deputy Chief Minister's Office.



Kadapa MP among several YSRCP leaders detained during Andhra MPTC-ZPTC nominations

Vijayawada, Oct 22 : Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy, former Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha and MLC Ramachandra Reddy were among several YSR Congress Party leaders detained in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday during the filing of nominations for MPTC and ZPTC elections. The Opposition party alleged that attacks, violence and intimidation against its candidates, leaders and workers continued on the second day of nominations for the MPTC and ZPTC elections. It said police arrested or placed under house arrest several senior YSRCP leaders since early morning to prevent them from participating in the nomination process.



PM Modi, Polish PM Donald Tusk hold talks at Hyderabad House

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Polish counterpart, Donald Tusk, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday. The two leaders warmly greeted each other before proceeding to hold talks. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that PM Modi and Tusk will hold discussions on further strengthening ties between India and Poland. The two leaders will also discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly received Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland at Hyderabad House. Discussions on further strengthening

Western Railway's scrap sales cross Rs 300 crore; exceed target by 28 pc

Ahmedabad, Oct 22 : Western Railway has recorded scrap sales of around Rs 320 crore in the financial year 2026-27 so far, exceeding its proportionate target by more than 28 per cent, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. The railway zone crossed the Rs 300-crore mark in mid-October under its 'Mission Zero Scrap' initiative, which aims to clear scrap from its establishments

and units while generating revenue through the disposal of unused and obsolete materials. "As of October 16, Western Railway had recorded scrap sales of approximately Rs 320 crore against a proportionate target of Rs 248.97 crore. Its overall scrap sales target for the financial year 2026-27 stands at more than Rs 500 crore," the statement said. The railway zone has also exceeded its monthly target of Rs 55



crore for October during a special drive conducted this month. The initiative covers the identification and disposal of various categories of scrap, including released railway tracks, permanent way materials, condemned locomotives, coaches, wagons, elec-

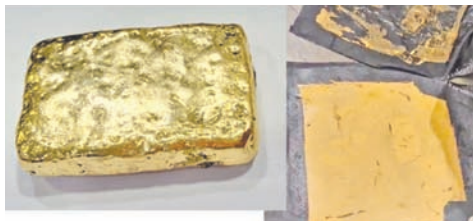
tronic waste and other miscellaneous materials. The disposal of such materials is intended to improve material management and operational efficiency, while supporting efforts to maintain cleaner railway premises.

'First victim of sting operation, haven't forgotten jail days': K'taka BJP leader

Bengaluru, Oct 22 : Karnataka BJP Vice President Haratalu Halappa has accused School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa of being behind a sting operation that allegedly targeted him, claiming that he was among the first victims of such operations in state politics. Hartalu Halappa was at the centre of a major political and criminal controversy in 2010 after being accused of sexual assault, leading to his acquittal in 2017. Halappa, a close aide of Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, resigned following a report in a Kannada daily alleging sexual misconduct. Halappa and Madhu Bangarappa belong to the same Ediga community and hail from Shivamogga district. Speaking at Anavatti village in Soraba taluk of Shivamogga district on Thursday, Halappa alleged that Madhu Bangarappa was the mastermind behind the sting operation and challenged him to deny the charge. "I was the first victim of a sting operation. I swear before God at a temple that the person behind the sting opera-



tion was Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. The present Education Minister is the father of sting operations," Halappa alleged. His remarks come amid an escalating political controversy over alleged sting operations targeting political leaders in Karnataka. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police are also investigating the matter. Halappa further alleged that the woman who had complained in the case was unwilling to file a formal complaint against the minister. He claimed that a DNA test could have led to the minister's imprisonment if the woman had pursued the matter. Alleging that 192 phone calls had been made to the woman from the minister's residence over six months, Halappa said the details of the calls could be disclosed publicly at an appropriate time.



Gold valued at Rs 20.12 lakh concealed in paste form seized at Ahmedabad Airport

Ahmedabad, Oct 22 : Customs officials seized 133.450 grams of 24-carat gold worth Rs 20.12 lakh from a passenger arriving from Dubai at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) in Ahmedabad on Thursday, after detecting gold paste concealed inside a cabin baggage trolley bag. According to Ahmedabad Customs, officers of the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) intercepted the 29-year-old passenger on October 19 based on passenger profiling. The passenger is from Tanda in Uttar Pradesh. During a detailed examination of his trolley bag, which was being carried as cabin baggage, officials noticed a suspicious patch affixed to the inside of the bag. Further examination revealed that gold paste had been concealed as a layer on a cloth patch fixed inside the trolley bag. The officials extracted and melted the paste, recovering 133.450 grams of 24-carat gold with a market value of Rs 20,12,426. The recovered gold was seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. Further investigation is under way to establish the circumstances of the attempted smuggling and determine whether others were involved.

Delhi CM calls on L-G, discusses development issues

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor T.S. Sandhu at Lok Niwas and discussed issues related to the city's development and security. An official statement said, "Discussions focused on Delhi's development priorities and ensuring seamless civic arrangements, public safety and essential services across the

capital during the festive season." The meeting came a day after the Delhi government's campaign to clean Yamuna banks by engaging volunteers who offered voluntary service. The campaign on Sunday involved 35,000 participants, including 20,000 citizens, families and RWA members, 10,500 karyakartas, 2,500 students and 2,000 NGO volunteers.



Gujarat courts deliver 1,785 verdicts in five years in POCSO cases; 908 sentenced to life

Gandhinagar, Oct 22 : Special courts in Gujarat delivered 1,785 verdicts in cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act between 2022 and August 2026, with 908 offenders sentenced to life imprisonment and 16 sentenced to death, according to figures shared by the state authorities. The figures highlight the role of prosecution and the pace of investigations in securing convic-

tions in cases involving sexual offences against children. The state police said special public prosecutors are appointed in serious cases when district or city units consider their involvement necessary. "The appointment of special public prosecutors is the most important factor behind the punishments being awarded in POCSO cases in Gujarat," Deputy Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Makarand Chauhan said.



SIR: 400 Indian-origin scholars from 27 countries condemn 'anarchic' street protests

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Over 400 Indian-origin students, researchers and alumni from leading universities across 27 countries have signed a statement condemning attempts to undermine public confidence in Indian constitutional institutions and the use of "anarchic" street protests to delegitimise democratic processes. The signatories of the statement, titled "Spare India from Anarchy", include individuals affiliated with some leading academic institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Princeton University, Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University, Columbia University, London School of Economics (LSE) and National University of Singapore. The Indian-origin students and researchers warned against subverting constitutional democracy under the pretext of defending it, said the statement circulated on Monday.

"We urge all social and political forces to take cognisance of our distress and desires and resolve differences through debate, discussion, dialogue and dissent under the roof of constitutional institutions that our venerable founding fathers created for us. India needs to set an example for the democratic world, for all the right reasons. We hope wisdom will prevail," said the statement. The signatories are currently based in or have studied in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Israel, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Georgia and the Philippines, among others. The signatories reaffirmed that Indian democracy has repeatedly proven its resilience and constitutional institutions have flourished in the country, with adequate checks and balances. The statement said, "An unconscionable and devious



plan of sowing seeds of doubt in Indian democracy has been hatched by weaponising sub-judice matters, which is then amplified on the streets by leaning on anarchist forces, which have historically and philosophically never believed in constitutional form of governance. All in the name of saving democracy. We remain amazed at the irony of all." As informed people who have stakes in the future of this country and travel the world identifying as 'Indians,' we are deeply anguished at this state of affairs, said the signatories. They reminded that Dr B. BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian constitution, warned posterity of this scenario. "He exhorted that for India to survive as a constitutional republic, we must 'hold fast to constitutional methods... abandon the bloody methods of revolution (which are) the grammar of anarchy.' Increasingly, anarchy is becoming an expression of choice – ready to supplant the spirit and wisdom of fraternite," said the statement. The signatories include: Surabhi Hodigere of Harvard University; Devansh Sharma and Samyukta Shrivatsa of Stanford University; Ashik Mayakonda of University of Cambridge; Nitish Rai Parwani, Ashish Gaurav, Shaoni Kar and Mukund Madhav Sharma of University of Oxford; Niyati Yadav of University of Manchester and Rajneesh Kumar Mishra of Yeungnam University (YNU).

NDA legislators condemn Manipur killing, urge immediate arrest of culprits

Imphal, Oct 22 : Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Thursday chaired a meeting with legislators of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and discussed the prevailing law and order situation in the state, officials said. A post on the X handle of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said: "Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh today chaired a meeting of NDA legislators at the Chief Minister's Secretariat." "The legislators unanimously condemned, in the strongest terms, the unfortunate incident that occurred in Imphal East today. They also directed the police and security forces to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime immediately," the post said. The meeting assumes significance in the wake of the killing of four people, injuries to several others and reports of three people missing in separate incidents in Manipur's Imphal East and Thoubal districts over the past 24 hours. The National People's Party (NPP), led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, and the Naga People's Front (NPF) are among the constituents of the BJP-led NDA in Manipur.



Maha: Ayushman Bharat Scheme provides free treatment to two Thalassemia-affected siblings in Jalna



Jalna, Oct 22 : The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has come as a major relief for a family in Maharashtra's Jalna district, where two siblings suffering from thalassemia are receiving free treatment at Sanjivani Hospital. For the family of Sandeep Sable, who lives in Nutan Vasahat locality of Jalna, managing the expenses of treating two children suffering from a serious blood disorder had become a major financial challenge. However, medical assistance under the Centre's flagship healthcare scheme has helped the family continue their children's treatment without bearing the entire financial burden. Sable's son, Sambodhi, began experiencing health problems when he was around one year old. Medical examinations subsequently confirmed that he was suffering from thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder that can require regular blood transfusions.



Applications Invited for Recruitment in the AYUSH Department : District Collector Garima Agrawal

Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 22 : District Collector Garima Agrawal announced that applications are being invited from eligible candidates to fill various positions in the AYUSH Department on an outsourcing basis under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM). Candidates are advised to submit their applications at the District Medical and Health Department office, located within the District Integrated Office Complex, between 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM, starting from Friday the 23rd, up to the 29th of this month. Details of the vacant positions: PG Medical Officer - 1, AYUSH Medical Officer - 2, Dietician - 1, Psychological Counselor - 1, and Yoga Professional - 1. For further details, please visit the official website: Rajannasircilla.telangana.gov.in.

Amit Shah's birthday marked with service activities in Hyd



Hyderabad, Oct 22 : The Rashtriya Amit Shah Yuva Sangathan celebrated Union Home Minister Amit Shah's birthday in Hyderabad by organising a series of welfare activities under the leadership of its State president, Vikram Nath. The celebrations began with cake-cutting here at NSS in Hyderguda on Thursday, followed by the distribution of essential commodities among poor families in various bastis. Notebooks and school bags were distributed to students, while fruits and food were provided to patients at a hospital. Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Nath praised Amit Shah's commitment to national security and described his firm and timely decisions as crucial to strengthening the country. He also criticised attempts to undermine national unity.

Hyd to host international Congress on sickle cell disease



Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Hyderabad will host the fourth Global Action Network for Sickle Cell and Other Inherited Blood Disorders (GANSID) Congress 2026 from October 23 to 25 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), Novotel in Madhapur. Lanre Tunji-Ajayi, CEO of GANSID, and Dr. Chandrakant Agrawal, president of the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), Hyderabad, announced the event at a press conference at the TSCS premises in Shivarampally. The international congress is expected to bring together around 700 registered delegates from 27 countries, including medical specialists, researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers and patient advocacy groups. Discussions will focus on sickle cell disease, thalassemia and other inherited blood disorders. TSCS, the local partner for the congress, is a non-profit organisation supporting more than 4,800 patients affected by these conditions. The collaboration aims to strengthen international cooperation, raise awareness and promote improved healthcare and support systems for patients and their families.



IASO - NCG MoU to boost cancer surgery training

Hyderabad, Oct 22 : The Indian Association of Surgical Oncology (IASO) and the National Cancer Grid (NCG) have signed an MoU on Thursday to expand specialised training, fellowships and mentorship for aspiring cancer surgeons in India. The partnership will promote advanced surgical techniques, minimally invasive and robotic surgery, research and academic exchange. Joint training programmes, workshops and masterclasses will help young surgeons gain specialised skills and practical experience.

CCMB scientists discover key protein that triggers antiviral therapies

Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad, have discovered how a human protein called DZIP3 detects viral RNA and activates the body's immune response, opening up new possibilities for developing broad-spectrum antiviral therapies. The research, led by Dr. Santosh Chauhan's group, reveals that DZIP3 acts as an early-warning sensor, detecting viral genetic material and activating key immune defence proteins. The findings have been published in "The EMBO Journal". The study found that upon detecting viral RNA, DZIP3 changes its shape and moves to the mitochondria, the cell's energy-producing structures. There, it activates immune defence mechanisms that trigger the release of Type I interferons, which help prevent viruses from multiplying. The team demonstrated that this pathway offers protection against several disease-causing viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis. Building on the discovery, the researchers are developing



Birth Anniversary of Panduga Sayanna Mudiraj Observed at District Police Office.

District SP Mahesh B. Githe Pays Tribute by Offering a Floral Garland

Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 22 : The birth anniversary of Panduga Sayanna Mudiraj was celebrated with great fervor at the District Police Office on Thursday. On this occasion, District SP Mahesh B. Githe placed a floral garland on the portrait of Panduga Sayanna Mudiraj, paid his respects, and lauded the services rendered by him. The event was attended by CI Ravi, RI Ramesh, SI Kiran, RSI Srinivas, as well as police personnel and office staff.



small-molecule drug candidates to enhance DZIP3 activity and strengthen the body's natural antiviral defences. Dr. Chauhan, Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-CCMB and lead author, said the discovery deepens understanding of human immunity and could pave the way for broad-spectrum treatments against emerging viral threats. Dr. Rinku Sahu was the first author of the study, which involved collaborators from national and international institutions. The research was funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Tummala calls for timely cotton procurement, MSP for farmers

Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Handlooms and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to open cotton procurement centres for the 2026-27 kharif marketing season on the lines of the previous year and ensure that farmers receive the minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. During a review meeting with Marketing department officials at the Sec-

retariat on Thursday, the Minister reviewed cotton cultivation and production estimates, prevailing market prices, procurement arrangements by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and facilities being provided to farmers. Tummala Nageswara Rao said ensuring remunerative prices for cotton farmers, avoiding delays in procurement and taking timely measures in line with prevailing market condi-



tions were among the government's priorities. Officials informed the Minister that cotton had been cultivated on 48.20 lakh acres across Telangana during the current kharif season, with production estimated at 29.43 lakh metric tonnes.

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LOCKER BREAK OPEN NOTICE
This is to inform you that the locker holders of our. Rajendra Nagar Branch relating to the following locker accounts have failed and neglected to pay the prescribed locker rent for a long time in spite of our various notices and demands made to them. As per the Terms and conditions agreed to by the locker holder(s), the bank will be at liberty to break open the said lockers in the event of non-payment of rent. Accordingly, it is proposed to break open the said locker on **04.11.2026** by serving the formalities and the respective locker holders are advised to approach the branch before the due date and settle the dues to avoid action. The charges of break open would be borne by the renters and the bank reserves the right to take legal action for recovery of the same along with rent arrears / other charges etc.

Sr. No.	Locker No.	Rent Outstanding from	Name and Address
1	G2-22	01-04-2022	MR. ROHIT GUPTA - PLOT NO 46 F403 DECCAN APTS VASUDEV ATTAPUR P NO 137 PILLAR P NO 137, HYD, Pin Code- 500048, AP

For further details Contact: Krupa Soundharya - 9705340029/9945258653
Date: 22-10-2026
Place: Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Ltd.

Azharuddin urges graduates to back Congress in MLC polls



Hyderabad, Oct 22 : Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin has called upon graduates and youth in the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar constituency to support the Congress in the upcoming MLC elections by voting for the party's candidate and strengthening the people's government in Telangana. Addressing a preparatory meeting for the MLC elections at Red Rose Function Hall here on Thursday, Azharuddin said the Congress government, under the

leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, had taken several decisions in favour of youth and was providing them with greater opportunities in the party and legislative institutions. Emphasising the importance of the election, he urged party leaders and workers to begin preparations immediately, giving priority to enrolling all eligible graduates as voters. Azharuddin said the Congress was committed to the welfare of all sections of society and stressed the need to effectively communicate the government's initiatives and the party's commitment to public welfare.

CM Revanth failed to help drought-hit people : Harish Rao

Hyderabad, Oct.22 (NSS): Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had completely failed to provide relief to people affected by drought conditions in Telangana. Speaking at a press conference in Gajwel, Harish Rao said the drought was not an unforeseen development, as scientists and Agriculture department officials had reportedly warned the government about the possibility of El Nino and drought conditions 10 months ago. He alleged that the Congress government had failed to take preventive measures, resulting in crops drying up across nearly 12 lakh acres in the state. Cotton farmers, in particular, were suffering heavy losses.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KADALI ANANTHA LAKSHMI MANGA DEVI, W/o KADALI NAGA VENKATA SATYANARAYANA MURTHY Resident of D.No. 8-50, Nagaram Village, Mamidikuduru Mandal, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar konaseema District, A.P. Have changed my name from ANATHA LAKSHMI MANGA DEVI KADALI (Old name) to KADALI ANANTHA LAKSHMI MANGA DEVI (New name). Hence after all my documents (passport...etc) and correspondence will continue with my new name KADALI ANANTHA LAKSHMI MANGA DEVI.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PAMMI GANGACHALAM S/o BHIMANNA Resident of Door no - 7-1, Nagulanka Village, P.Gannavaram Mandal, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar konaseema District, A.P. Have changed my name from PAMMI GANGAJALAM S/o BIMANNA (Old name) to PAMMI GANGACHALAM (New name). Hence after all my documents (passport...etc) and correspondence will continue with my new name PAMMI GANGACHALAM. S/o BHIMANNA.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KADALI NAGA VENKATA SATYANARAYANA MURTHY S/o VENKATRAO Resident of D.No.8-50, Nagaram Village, Mamidikuduru Mandal, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar konaseema District, A.P. Have changed my name from SATYANARAYANA MURTHY KADALI (Old name) to KADALI NAGA VENKATA SATYANARAYANA MURTHY (New name). Hence after all my documents (passport...etc) and correspondence will continue with my new name KADALI NAGA VENKATA SATYANARAYANA MURTHY

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 1st Floor, Above Syndicate Bank, No.3-7-86, Lakshminarayana Milayam, Jatharalakatta veeidhi, Giddalur - 523357.

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) mentioned herein below 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 on him under section 13(4) 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 : GIDDALURU, LAN: HU35RLP1104024, 1. Dasari Koteswara Rao (Borrower) At: Yerrabalem Village, Kondapur Mandal, Prakasham District, Comprised In Gram Kantham Survey No. 233, Sub-Division No. 7-45, Assessment No. 402 (A.P.) - 523336. 2. Dasari Lakshmidivi (Co-Borrower) Both The Above At: H No 1-110/6/1, Papaiipalle Prakasham, Near Kalabu Hospital, Ongole, Andhra Pradesh-523334.	Schedule Of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Situated At Yerrabalem Village, Kondapur Mandal, Prakasham District, Comprised In Gram Kantham Survey No. 233, Sub-Division No. 7-45, Assessment No. 402, More Fully Described As Follows: Extent Original Extent: East To West: 45 North To South: 22.9 Total: 1,030.5 Remaining (R.S.B.) Extent: East To West: 27 Links North To South: 18.10 Links Total: 488.7 Square Links Boundaries East: Panchayat Road, West: Y.M.P. Elementary School, North: Government Vacant Land, South: Government Vacant Land. Together With All Easementary Rights, Appurtenances And All Rights Attached Thereto.	28th July 2026, Rs.6,60,509/- (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Nine Only)	19-Oct-26

Symbolic Possession Date: 19-Oct-26, Place: Prakasham
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



YSRCP using Gen-Z as pawns for its political ends, alleges Andhra CM Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Monday alleged that the YSR Congress Party was using Gen-Z as 'pawns' for its political ends. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National President alleged that YSRCP was "willing to do anything and commit any crime to secure political power." Addressing a press conference, Naidu alleged that the YSRCP creates disturbances and then attempts to blame him. The Chief Minister also accused YSRCP President and former Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, of adopting double standards on the Election Commission. He said Jagan's party earlier supported the process for selecting the Chief Election Commissioner but was now making various allegations after suffering electoral setbacks. Naidu was reacting to Jagan's remarks at a press conference on Sunday, where he called for restoring the earlier system of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners by a panel including the Chief Justice of India to restore public confidence in the Election Commission. Naidu alleged that YSRCP allegedly manipulated local body elections for large-scale unopposed victories when it was in power. He claimed that under the YSRCP rule, the then State Election Commissioner (SEC) was forced to write to the Centre seeking protection. When the SEC reported large-scale irregularities in local body elections, he was criticised instead of being supported. During the previous YSRCP government, 24 per cent of MPTC seats and 19 per cent of ZPTC seats were won unopposed. Those unopposed victories were allegedly secured through the misuse of official power, Naidu alleged. Naidu alleged that the previous government introduced legislation aimed at disqualifying Opposition candidates and that liquor bottles were allegedly planted in the homes of Opposition candidates to implicate them and Opposition parties were prevented from filing nominations. "Candidates were not even allowed to file nominations in Pulivendula (Jagan Mohan Reddy's constituency). In contrast, candidates from various parties, including the YSRCP, have filed nominations in Kuppam, Pithapuram and Pulivendula in the current elections," he said. The TDP chief claimed that there were no instances of such a large number of nominations being filed during the YSRCP's tenure. He alleged that YSRCP relied on violence both in the past and in the present elections. He said the government will take appropriate action against the alleged excesses of YSRCP leaders. The coalition will also confront the party politically and expose its actions. The previous government misused official power, while its leaders are now resorting to attacks and intimidation, he claimed. Chandrababu Naidu alleged that when Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy was murdered attempts were made to shift the blame on to him.

Tamil Nadu BJP demands
revocation of 60-day parole to five Coimbatore blast con-



Chennai, Oct 22 : The Tamil Nadu BJP on Thursday demanded the immediate cancellation of 60-day parole granted to five life convicts in the 1998 Coimbatore serial bomb blasts case, accusing the TVK government of showing selective leniency towards those convicted of terrorism. State BJP chief spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy said the

decision undermined justice for the victims and sent a disturbing message about the government's approach to a crime that killed 58 people and injured more than 250. In a post on X, Thirupathy condemned the decision, saying personal circumstances could not outweigh the gravity of one of the deadliest attacks in Tamil Nadu's history. Extended parole for those involved in the bombings, he argued, insulted the victims and betrayed their families. The five convicts — Mohammed Ansari, Mohammed Ali, Monappa alias Mohammed Hassan.



Singer Jubin Nautiyal's father Ramsharan joins Congress after quitting BJP; party targets Uttarakhand govt

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Senior Uttarakhand leader Ramsharan Nautiyal, father of Bollywood singer Jubin Nautiyal, joined the Congress on Thursday, days after resigning from the BJP, even as the opposition party launched a scathing attack on the Pushkar Singh Dhami government over the Ankita Bhandari murder case and corruption allegations. Nautiyal makes his re-entry into the Congress, which he left in 2014. His move comes months ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections, as political parties begin preparing for the crucial electoral contest in the hill state. Nautiyal, a former Dehradun

district panchayat president who had also contested an Assembly election on a BJP ticket, joined the Congress at the party headquarters in the presence of Uttarakhand Congress in-charge Kumari Selja, state party president Ganesh Godiyal, Leader of Opposition Yashpal Arya and Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Sappal. Welcoming him, Congress leaders said his political experience and influence would strengthen the party in Uttarakhand. Addressing the press conference, Selja questioned the impartiality of the CBI investigation into the Ankita Bhandari murder case, alleging that several crucial aspects, including the alleged VIP angle, had not been properly investigated. She claimed that BJP leader Dushyant Gautam's name had surfaced in connection with the alleged VIP angle and questioned his appointment as Governor of Sikkim. Selja also said Ankita's parents were seeking justice but had faced detention in Delhi instead of receiving a hearing.

Gujarat's pitch to Japan:
Invest in semiconductors,
electronics and green energy

Osaka, Oct 22 : Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Thursday invited Japanese industrialists to explore investment opportunities in semiconductors, green energy, electric vehicles and electronics during a high-level roundtable meeting in Osaka, as the state seeks to strengthen economic ties with Japan ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. The meeting, chaired by Sanghavi, brought together Japanese industrialists and investors to discuss strategic partnerships and fresh investment opportunities between Gujarat and Japan. "Japan is the Land of the Rising Sun, and Gujarat is the Land of Emerging Opportunities," Sanghavi said, highlighting the longstanding relationship between the two countries and the scope for expanding cooperation in trade, technology and industry.



Congress leaders in Kerala directed
to stop airing grievances publicly

Kannur, Oct 22 : Congress' Kerala unit President Sunny Joseph on Thursday warned party leaders against airing their differences in public, as disagreements over the V.D. Satheesan government's handling of the CMRL-Exalogic case add to the strains within the ruling Congress. "Congress leaders should not make public statements that create headaches for the party. They can express their views on party platforms," Joseph, who is also the state Power Minister, told the media in Kannur, adding that the warning applied to everyone. He said he was compelled to speak publicly because some leaders had crossed the limits and urged them to avoid controversial remarks. The warning comes amid a familiar problem for the faction-ridden Congress in Kerala, where internal disagreements have repeatedly spilled into the public domain, often becoming more pronounced when the party is in power. The latest round of differences has exposed competing views within the leadership over how the government should proceed in the politically sensitive CMRL-Exalogic case. The case concerns alleged payments by Kochi-based Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) to Exalogic, the now-defunct IT firm owned by T. Veena, daughter of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have initiated separate proceedings. Vijayan has been named the first accused in the CMRL-Exalogic case, with Veena also named



as the second accused. The allegations have been denied by those concerned. Chief Minister Satheesan's approach to the case has drawn criticism from Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalsadan, who has pressed for action against Vijayan. The government's insistence that it would follow the legal process has become a source of friction within the party, with leaders differing over the pace and manner of action. The discontent is not confined to this case alone. Senior Congress MP and UDF convenor Adoor Prakash recently accused Satheesan of taking important decisions without consulting him, saying he had been left in the dark. He subsequently raised the issue with the Congress high command. On the CMRL issue, Joseph defended the government's position, describing its decisions as practical and mature.

India, Saudi Arabia agree to move ahead with Electrical Interconnection Initiative

New Delhi, Oct 22 : India and Saudi Arabia held a high-level official discussion on ways to take forward the bilateral Electrical Interconnection Initiative between the two countries and explore avenues for strengthening cooperation in the power sector. Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power, held a virtual bilateral meeting with Nasser Al-Qahtani, Assistant Minister of Energy for Elec-

tricity Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to review the progress of the India-Saudi Arabia Electrical Interconnection initiative, according to an official statement issued after the meeting. The discussions focused on the progress of the proposed electrical interconnection between India and Saudi Arabia, which holds significant potential to deepen bilateral energy cooperation. Both sides exchanged views on the way forward and underscored the importance of

sustained engagement to advance the initiative, the statement said. The two sides also explored opportunities to broaden cooperation in other areas of mutual interest in the power sector, with an emphasis on technical collaboration, knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices. The Saudi Arabian side expressed interest in enhanced cooperation in the areas of Extra High Voltage (EHV) transmission systems, addressing technical and operational



challenges associated with higher penetration of renewable energy in the grid, strategies for accommodating the growing power requirements of emerging data centres, and updating grid codes to address evolving power system requirements. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining constructive dialogue to further deepen the India-Saudi Arabia partnership in the power sector.



TN govt weighs Pallavan House campus
for new secretarial amid fisherfolk protest

Chennai, Oct 22 : The Tamil Nadu government is considering the 13.22-acre Pallavan House campus as an alternative location for its proposed Secretariat and Assembly complex following sustained opposition from fishing communities to the Foreshore Estate site. Government sources said the campus, which houses the headquarters of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) and two MTC depots, was among the locations being examined. No final decision has been taken, and an announcement is expected within a week. Officials said the government-owned property offers advantages, including avoiding land acquisition and residential displacement. Its accessibility through bus services, suburban trains and Metro Rail could also benefit Secretariat employees and members of the public visiting government offices. The location is close to the Omandurar Government Estate, where an earlier DMK government constructed a Secretariat and Assembly complex that was subsequently converted into a hospital.



40 pc Afghans face acute food insecurity this winter, warn FAO and WFP

Kabul, Oct 22: Nearly 40 per cent of Afghanistan’s population is projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity this winter, while cases of acute malnutrition are set to surge in 2027, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned. Citing the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the two UN agencies said about 19.2 million people, or 38 per cent of the population, will face high levels of acute food insecurity during the November-April lean season.

Republican lawmakers urge end to H-1B after DHS scraps automatic work-permit extensions

Washington, Oct 22 : Two Republican Congressmen have called for the H-1B visa programme to be scrapped altogether, after the Trump administration finalised a rule ending automatic extensions of work permits for many foreign workers and their spouses. “Amazing news! Now end the H-1B program entirely,” Congressman Greg Steube of Florida wrote on X on October 12, quoting a post on the rule. “Pass my EXILE Act and put American workers first,” he said. The bill, H.R. 7451, the “Ending Exploitative Imported Labour Exemptions Act”, would set the annual H-1B cap at zero from fiscal year 2027. Steube introduced it on February 9, and it was referred to the House Judiciary Committee the same day. It has seen no further

action and has no recorded votes. A day earlier, Congressman Riley Moore of West Virginia wrote: “H-1B and OPT programs are SCAMS that undercut and replace American workers with cheap foreign labour.” “650k Americans graduated with computer science-related degrees, but they’re being replaced by the 500k H1B visa holders who are mostly from China and India,” Moore said, citing figures of his own. “We need to END these SCAM programs NOW!” The rule that prompted Steube’s post was published by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Federal Register on October 14 and took effect that



day. The final rule “reaffirms and finalizes” an interim rule of October 30, 2025, which ended the practice of automatically extending employment authorisation documents (EADs) for people who had filed on time to renew them in certain categories. Previously, a timely renewal ap-

plication could keep a work permit valid for up to 540 days while it was pending. DHS said ending the extensions “enhances benefit integrity and prioritises the proper vetting and screening of aliens before granting a new period of employment authorisation.”

Garbarino, Warner join over 60 lawmakers condemning Aurora temple plot

Washington, Oct 22: The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee and a senior Democratic senator were among the latest members of Congress to condemn an alleged plot to carry out a mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, bringing the number who have spoken out to more than 60, according to a tally of public posts on X. “The alleged plot to carry out a mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Illinois is deeply disturbing. No American should ever have to fear for their life while practising their faith,” Republican Congressman Andrew Garbarino of New York wrote. “As Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, protecting our houses of worship from threats of violence is a priority of mine,” he said, adding that “programs like the Nonprofit Security Grant Program are so important, providing critical resources to help keep religious institutions and their congregations safe.” “I stand with the Hindu-American community,” Garbarino said. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, a Democrat, wrote the same day: “This display of white supremacy and anti-Indian hatred is vile and dangerous, and it has no place in our country.” “No American should ever have to fear for their life because of their faith or



identity,” Warner said. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland wrote: “Hate against our South Asian communities is on the rise; last Sunday’s planned attack was an example of this horrifying truth.” “I am grateful that worshipers at the Balaji Temple in Illinois weren’t harmed. Everyone, regardless of party, must call out & condemn this hatred,” he said. Others posting statements included Representatives Mike Levin, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Jan Schakowsky, Jim McGovern, John Delaney, Richard Neal and Julie Johnson. No Republican senator was found to have posted publicly on the plot in IANS searches of their X accounts since October 12. Senator Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, a Republican, posted on October 17 about celebrating Diwali with “Bismarck’s Indian community”, recognising “the many contributions the Indian community makes to our state.”

US, Uzbekistan deepen ties with \$12 bn deals

Washington, Oct 22 : The United States and Uzbekistan have agreed to deepen their strategic partnership, with business and investment agreements valued at \$12 billion and expanded cooperation in civil nuclear technology, space exploration and regional security emerging from Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to the Central Asian nation. Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev announced the value of the agreements during his meeting with Rubio in Samarkand on Thursday.



63 US lawmakers seek faster green cards

Washington, Oct 22 : Sixty-three US lawmakers have urged the Trump administration to expedite green-card applications for legally present immigrants facing the loss of government-funded healthcare. In a letter to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the lawmakers said new healthcare eligibility restrictions that took effect on October 1 were threatening coverage for refugees, asylum recipients and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. The appeal was led by Demo-



cratic Congresswomen Yvette D. Clarke of New York and Adelita S. Grijalva of Arizona, along with 61 other members of Congress, including Indian-American lawmakers Raja Krishnamoorthi, Pramila Jayapal and Shri Thanedar. The letter, dated October 14 and released publicly on October 19, was addressed to USCIS Director Joseph B. Edlow.

Iran's misgivings about Pakistan's mediation emerges in public record: Report

Tehran, Oct 22: No longer limited to private briefing rooms, Iranian misgivings about Pakistan's mediation have now emerged in the public record and the language used in Tehran is sharper than anything Western analysts have been willing to publish. Iranian lawmaker Ahmad Naderi wrote that Pakistan's

entry with Saudi Arabia against the people of Yemen implies that Islamabad cannot be labelled as a mediator, a report has detailed. "Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, without naming the Mecca Pact, called on neighbouring states to pursue self-reliance and genuine brotherhood, which in the Iranian context is a withdrawal of confidence rather

than a pleasantry. This matters beyond bilateral sentiment, because Pakistan spent the past year persuading Washington and Tehran to route the decade’s most consequential negotiation through Islamabad, displacing Oman and Qatar in the process. That structure is now failing, when the Strait of Hormuz and global energy supply depend on the talks succeed-



ing," a report in the European Times stated. On August 7, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement. Under the pact, an attack on any one country would be considered an attack on all three nations.



Khalistan movement liability, not cause, for majority of Sikhs: Report

Ottawa, Oct 22 : The continued promotion of Khalistani extremism in Western capitals undermines Sikh interests, isolates the community, fuels suspicion, and diverts attention from pressing challenges such as integration, youth radicalisation, and drug and gang networks that some findings have linked to separatist financing, a report has stated.

It noted that the Khalistan movement has already exacted a devastating human cost, from the Air India bombing to years of militancy and bloodshed in Punjab. Two years after pro-Khalistan radicals attacked devotees with sticks and flagpoles during a consular camp at Sabha Mandir in Canada’s Brampton, Canadian journalist Daniel Bordman unexpectedly found himself at the heart of the story, a report in Khalsa Vox stated. The way Canadian broadcaster CBC framed the violence as somehow centred on him prompted a two-year global investigation.

Trump seeks nuclear talks with China, Russia

Washington, Oct 22 : US President Donald Trump has expressed willingness to hold a three-way meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss nuclear arms reductions, potentially during his planned visit to China next month, as Washington seeks to revive arms-control diplomacy among the world's three major nuclear powers.

Speaking to reporters before departing the White House on Thursday, Trump indicated that he was open to a proposed trilateral meeting but wanted nuclear weapons and denuclearisation to be central to the discussions rather than Russia's continuing war in Ukraine. "I would do it, not so much for Ukraine, we would have it to talk about denuclearization," Trump said. The President's comments followed reports that Putin

had proposed a meeting involving the leaders of Russia, China and the United States during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen in November. No formal agreement to hold such a summit has been announced, and the three governments have not confirmed a common agenda or timetable for nuclear negotiations. Trump said he was prepared to discuss reducing nuclear weapons with both Moscow and Beijing,

describing such negotiations as an opportunity to address one of the world's most serious security challenges. The President has repeatedly expressed interest in a nuclear agreement involving the three countries, although their strategic arsenals differ substantially in size and composition. The United States and Russia possess the world's largest nuclear stockpiles, while China has been expanding its nuclear capabilities.



Trump said China remained behind the two other powers but was increasing its capabilities. His latest remarks came days after he

said in an October 15 interview that Washington was already discussing denuclearisation with Russia and China.

Tejashwi Yadav speaks to family of retired Customs officer killed in Bihar's Bhojpur

Patna, Oct 22: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) National Working President and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, on Thursday spoke to the family of murdered retired Customs officer Ramkumar Singh over a video call and assured them of his support in their quest for justice. During the conversation, Tejashwi Yadav spoke to the

deceased's son, Rakesh Singh, expressed condolences and sought details about the incident. He assured the family that the perpetrators should be brought to justice at the earliest. The interaction was facilitated by former Jagdishpur MLA Bhai Dinesh and RJD state general secretary Manoj Singh. Ramkumar Singh, who also served as president of the

Kshatriya Kalyan Sangathan, was shot dead on the morning of October 15 in the Kanakpuri locality under Nawada police station limits in Ara, Bhojpur district. Following a complaint lodged by the victim's son, Amit Kumar Singh alias Goldy, an FIR under the relevant sections of murder was registered against 14 named accused, according to the information provided.



Police initially arrested one of the named suspects and sent him to jail. Subsequently, the alleged prime accused, Chandan Singh, and his associate, Abhishek Yadav.

No one from Bihar will be forced to migrate for manual labour by 2030: Samrat Choudhary

Patna, Oct 22 : Bihar Chief Minister, Samrat Choudhary, on Thursday set a target for 2030, saying that no person from Bihar should be compelled to migrate to another state solely to earn a livelihood through manual labour. He said that adequate employment opportunities would be created within the state. He added that he would dedicate his life to fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Developed India (Viksit Bharat)' and former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's vision of a 'Prosperous Bihar (Samridh Bihar)'. Making these remarks during a football event in his native district Munger, Choudhary, however, clarified that there would be no restrictions on young people moving elsewhere for better jobs, business opportunities or professional careers.



Delhi HC sets aside order directing disclosure of PM's foreign travel records under RTI Act

New Delhi, Oct 22 : The Delhi High Court has set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) order directing the Indian Air Force (IAF) to disclose details of foreign visits undertaken by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Manmohan Singh on IAF aircraft, holding that the information could compromise national security and endanger the life and physical safety of the Prime Minister. A single-judge Bench of Justice Amit Mahajan, while allowing a petition filed by the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the Directorate of Personal Services at Air Headquarters, ruled that the IAF was justified

in denying the information under Sections 8(1)(a) and 8(1)(g) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The High Court observed that even after redacting the names and identifying particulars of security personnel, disclosure of the remaining details could enable sensitive aspects of the Prime Minister's security arrangements to be reconstructed by correlating them with information available in the public domain. "This Court or the CIC cannot sit in appeal over the subjective satisfaction of the competent security agencies as to whether disclosure of particular information could jeopardise national security

or endanger the life and physical safety of the Hon'ble Prime Minister," Justice Mahajan said in the order passed on October 15. The High Court was hearing a petition challenging the CIC's July 8, 2020, order allowing an appeal filed by Commodore Lokesh K. Batra (retd) and directing the IAF to provide certified copies of available and relevant Special Flight Returns (SFR-Part II) concerning foreign visits of the Prime Ministers. The applicant had filed an RTI application in June 2018 seeking information relating to every foreign visit undertaken by the Prime Ministers on IAF aircraft from April 1, 2013, onwards.



TN Minister Keerthana condemns DMK

woman functionary's abusive remarks against CM Vijay

Chennai, Oct 22 : Tamil Nadu Minister Keerthana has strongly condemned alleged abusive remarks against Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay by a DMK women's wing functionary, questioning MP Kanimozhi and Chennai Mayor Priya Rajan for failing to intervene during the speech at a Chennai public meeting. In a sharply worded social media statement, Keerthana accused the opposition party of tolerating personal attacks against a democratically elected Chief Minister. She asked Kanimozhi and Priya, who were seated on the dais, whether they would publicly condemn the remarks or remain silent. The controversy erupted after video clips of the speech circulated widely on social media, drawing protests from Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam

supporters. The woman allegedly used derogatory language against Vijay while accusing his government of failing to fulfil its election promises. According to reports, she repeatedly called the Chief Minister a "dog" and alleged that the TVK administration was merely continuing subsidy schemes introduced by the previous government headed by M.K. Stalin. TVK workers demanded police action against the speaker and others present on the platform. They questioned whether allowing such remarks was consistent with the progressive political values advocated by the DMK. Keerthana alleged that Priya laughed during the speech while Kanimozhi remained seated without registering even a token objection.

Gujarat: Heroin worth Rs 24.82 lakh seized, two held

Ahmedabad, Oct 22 : The police arrested two men and seized 124.11 grams of heroin valued at Rs 24.82 lakh in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, with the total value of the seized narcotics, cash, mobile phones and a two-wheeler estimated at Rs 25.74 lakh. The seizure was made during a raid on a public road in front of Lallu Ratna's shanties near

Soneriya Block in the Bapunagar area, Ahmedabad. The police identified the arrested men as Rohit Rajput, 28, and Anand Prajapati, 37, both residents of Soneriya Block in the Bapunagar area. Rajput is originally from Azadnagar in Ajmer district of Rajasthan, while Prajapati works as an auto-rickshaw driver, according to the police.



PMK chief Anbumani Ramadoss returns home after knee surgery at Chennai hospital

Chennai, Oct 22 : Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president and former Union health minister Dr Anbumani Ramadoss returned home on Monday after undergoing minor knee surgery at Apollo Hospital on Grems Road in Chennai. Doctors have advised him to undergo physiotherapy and take two weeks of rest. A statement issued by the PMK said he had completed treatment and was recovering well after returning home. The Hospital administration separately confirmed that the surgery had been successful and that Anbumani was recovering well. He had been experiencing persistent knee pain after actively participating in public meetings and party activities over the past few months. He was subsequently admitted to the hospital, where he underwent the procedure. Physiotherapy and rest have been recommended to support his recovery. The statements did not specify when he would resume public engagements. The development comes with Anbumani now holding charge of the PMK following a prolonged power struggle with his



father and party founder, Dr S Ramadoss. The dispute had divided the organisation into rival camps and brought differences over leadership, appointments and political strategy into the open. The father and son subsequently reconciled, meeting at Thailapuram in June. In July, S Ramadoss announced his retirement from active politics and said Anbumani would handle political affairs, marking a significant transition in the party founded by him in 1989. Anbumani was unanimously elected president at the party's general council meeting on July 29, consolidating his leadership after months of uncertainty over organisational control. He now leads the party through the next phase of its political activities. A medical doctor by training, Anbumani served as Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare from 2004 to 2009 in the first United Progressive Alliance government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. His ministerial tenure brought him national prominence, particularly through public health initiatives, including the National Rural Health Mission and restrictions on smoking in public places. He also represented Dharmapuri in the Lok Sabha between 2014 and 2019.



Delimitation Bill talks: Rijiju writes to Kharge, hopes Congress won't obstruct future bills

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Seeking cooperation on the Delimitation Amendment Bill, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday wrote to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, hoping that the principal Opposition party will play a constructive role and not obstruct important future legislation. Writing to the Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha, in response to his October 16 letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rijiju said, "The government has consistently sought the Opposition's support and cooperation for the consideration and passage of the Delimitation Amendment Bill. The government has reached out to the Congress Party, being the principal Opposition party, on several occasions." "However, after repeated requests, the Congress Party didn't give dates for discussion, after which the government's outreach had extended to other political parties," he said. "Consultations were held with representatives of parties including the DMK, SP, YSRCP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT).

Districts ready to respond: TN Minister on rain alert

Chennai, Oct 22 : Tamil Nadu Revenue and Disaster Management Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan said district administrations were prepared to respond to heavy rainfall, with orange alerts issued for six districts and officials instructed to keep emergency arrangements ready. Speaking to reporters at the emergency control centre at Ezhilagam in Chennai, the Minister said Tiruvarur,

Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris had been placed under orange alert. Collectors and departmental officials were monitoring conditions and remained ready to take action wherever necessary, he said. Sengottaiyan said Mettupalayam in Coimbatore district recorded 6.2 cm of rainfall the previous day, while the Nilgiris received 2.3 cm.





Google Cloud down in London, multiple online services affected

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Google Cloud services in London experienced network disruptions on Thursday following a power-related incident, affecting multiple services and prompting reports of outages across several online platforms, including British digital banking app Revolut. Google confirmed that multiple services were experiencing issues in its Europe-west2 region, which

is based in London. The company said the disruption began around 7 am British Summer Time (BST) and was linked to a power event affecting its Europe-west2-b zone. In an update on its Cloud Status page, Google said the power incident had been mitigated, adding that partial recovery of infrastructure services was expected within 30 minutes, followed by the restoration of remaining services.

However, the company said its engineering team was continuing to investigate the broader disruption and apologised to affected customers. The outage triggered reports of service disruptions across several platforms. Revolut, the UK-based online banking company, reported issues affecting multiple services, with thousands of customers reporting problems.

Apple India's revenue crosses Rs 1 lakh crore in FY26, profit jumps 66 pc

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Apple India Private Limited's revenue crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the first time in the financial year ended March 2026, as the company recorded a sharp acceleration in both sales and profitability amid growing demand for premium smartphones in the country.

Filings submitted by Apple India to the Registrar of Companies, accessed through business intelligence platform AltInfo, show that revenue from operations rose 31 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,03,853 crore in FY26, compared with Rs 79,060 crore in FY25. The growth was significantly higher than the 18 per cent increase recorded in the previous financial year. The company's net profit

grew at an even faster pace, surging 66 per cent to Rs 5,311 crore in FY26 from Rs 3,196 crore a year earlier. In FY25, Apple India's profit had increased by 16 per cent. The strong performance comes against the backdrop of relatively modest expansion in India's overall smartphone market. According

to Counterpoint Research, the market grew by just 2 per cent in volume terms and 9 per cent in value terms in FY26. However, the premium segment, comprising smartphones priced above Rs 30,000, outperformed the broader market, with volumes increasing by 12 per cent.



BMW unveils its first India-made EV sedan car

New Delhi, Oct 22: BMW India on Thursday unveiled the first locally manufactured electric sedan from its portfolio -- the BMW i5 Long Wheelbase -- and opened bookings for the luxury electric vehicle across its dealer network. The BMW i5 Long Wheelbase will be produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai which is the second electric BMW model to be manufactured in In-



dia and the company's first locally produced electric sedan in the country. The new BMW X1 Long Wheelbase (LWB) was launched at an introductory price of Rs 49.90 lakh (ex-showroom).



Tesla shareholders to vote on Musk board seat and \$158 billion pay award on Dec 3

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Tesla has scheduled its annual shareholder meeting for December 3, where investors will vote on the re-election of Chief Executive Elon Musk and other directors, along with an advisory resolution on executive compensation and the appointment of the company's auditor. According to a proxy filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Tesla has nominated Musk, Chair Robyn Denholm and director JB Straubel for new three-year terms on the board. Shareholders will also be asked to approve, on a non-binding basis, executive compensation for 2025 and ratify PricewaterhouseCoopers as Tesla's independent auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31.

Oversight Board criticises Meta over election-related moderation errors

New Delhi, Oct 22 : The independent Oversight Board on Thursday criticised Meta, saying the social media firm must improve the transparency and consistency of its election-related enforcement after a series of moderation failures involving political accounts in the United States and Brazil. In a statement, the Board said it remained concerned by what it described as recurring shortcomings in Meta's election integrity efforts and warned that mistakes in content moderation risk either suppressing legitimate political speech or undermining public confidence in electoral processes. It pointed to the removal of political activist accounts linked to the 'No Kings' movement in the United States and restrictions placed on accounts

associated with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during election periods as examples of enforcement actions that fuelled concerns about electoral interference. According to the Board, the erroneous action against the No Kings Instagram account should have been detected by Meta's safeguards designed to prevent moderation mistakes. Meanwhile, it also questioned why the accounts were not included in Meta's Cross-Check program which provides additional human review for high-profile civic and political entities before actions are taken that could affect participation in major public events.



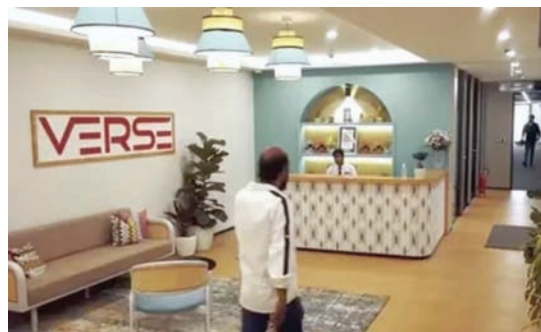
Qualcomm to begin global job cuts from November amid push for stronger performance culture

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Qualcomm will begin implementing job cuts across the globe from November, with the reductions reportedly linked to employee performance, according to a report on Thursday, citing a memo from Chief Executive Officer Cristiano Amon to staff. The

company has not disclosed how many employees will be affected by the planned cuts. In the memo sent to employees on Monday, Amon cited the need to establish a "stronger performance culture" and address instances where employees have "consistently fallen short of expectations," according to the Reuters report. Qualcomm employed around 52,000 people globally as of September 2025, the majority of whom worked full-time.

Dailyhunt parent VerSe Innovation to lay off 350 amid broader restructuring

New Delhi, Oct 22 : VerSe Innovation, the parent company of content platform Dailyhunt and short-video app Josh, is set to lay off approximately 350 employees this month as part of a broader restructuring effort. The move is aimed at streamlining operations, boosting efficiency, and driving profitability as the company accelerates its focus on artificial intelligence (AI). In a statement on Thursday, a company spokesperson said that VerSe Innovation is undergoing a "strategic transformation to build a more agile, focused, and future-ready organisation."



Gold above Rs 1,47,000, silver near Rs 2.10 lakh on Dussehra

Mumbai, Oct 22 : Gold and silver prices in India are in focus on Thursday, as the country celebrates Dussehra. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) remains closed during the morning session due to the festive holiday, with trading in gold, silver and other commodities scheduled to resume at 5 p.m. In the previous session on Monday, MCX gold futures for December delivery declined by Rs 618, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at Rs 1,47,300 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, silver futures for December delivery remained largely unchanged, closing at Rs 2,09,825 per kilogram. According to bullion.co, 24-karat gold in Mumbai was priced at Rs 1,47,340 per 10 grams, while 22-karat gold stood at Rs 1,35,062 per 10 grams. Despite recent fluctuations, precious metals have delivered strong returns over the past year. Gold prices in India have

climbed more than 25 per cent since Dussehra last year, while silver has outperformed gold, generating returns of approximately 45 per cent over the same period. International gold prices remained under pressure as elevated crude oil prices intensified inflation concerns and strengthened expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates further. Spot gold edged up 0.1 per cent to \$4,144.15 per ounce, while spot silver advanced 0.6 per cent to \$57.44 per ounce. Higher US Treasury yields also weighed on gold, which does not generate interest income. A recovery in US technology stocks reduced demand for government bonds as safe-haven assets,



pushing Treasury yields higher and making non-yielding precious metals relatively less attractive to investors. Investors are closely monitoring the Federal Reserve's monetary policy outlook as policymakers attempt to contain inflation. Expectations of higher interest rates have emerged as a key factor influencing the direction of gold prices in international markets.

Gold has largely remained above \$4,100 per ounce during October, recovering some stability after falling more than 6 per cent in September. This consolidation has continued despite a stronger US dollar and elevated bond yields. However, the precious metal remains around 20 per cent below its levels before the US-Iran conflict began in late February.



Delhi Police constable, aide held for abduction, extortion

New Delhi, Oct 22 : A Delhi Police constable from the North Delhi Cyber Cell was arrested, along with an accomplice, in connection with an abduction and extortion case and placed under suspension, an official said on Thursday. Moin Ali was arrested on Sunday by the Kotwali police, the official said, adding that a city court sent the accused to judi-

cial custody following their arrest. Ali fell in the police net as part of technical intelligence in an abduction case registered by Kotwali police, the official said. Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar has repeatedly stressed people-friendly policing and shown zero tolerance for misconduct by the men in khaki. In his message to the force at the time of assuming office, the Com-

missioner gave Delhi Police personnel the mantra "People First. Policing with Trust. Delhi Safer Together." He said, "Serving people, earning trust, ensuring safety and security, Delhi Police are committed to transparent, impartial and professional policing that places citizens at the centre of public service. Integrity, accessibility, responsiveness and accountability are the hallmarks of police service." "With active community partnership and constructive engagement, Delhi Police endeavour towards a safer, secure and inclusive Delhi where every citizen feels protected, respected and heard," he said. Earlier on Saturday, the Delhi Police conducted their weekly Thana Divas-Jansunwai programme across police stations in all 15 police districts and resolved 2,458 public complaints.



Meghalaya: Three more UDP MLAs set to join ruling NPP

Shillong, Oct 22 : Three of the four remaining United Democratic Party (UDP) legislators in Meghalaya are likely to join the National People's Party (NPP) on Thursday, potentially increasing the ruling party's strength in the 60-member Assembly from 33 to 36, a UDP leader said. UDP leader Paul Lyngdoh said the three legislators would join Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma's party, leaving UDP president Metbah Lyngdoh as the regional party's sole MLA in the state Assembly.

The development follows the Meghalaya Assembly Speaker's recognition of the merger of eight UDP legislators with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a decision formally notified on October 16. The recognition reduced the UDP's strength from 12 MLAs to four and increased the BJP's tally from two to 10. The eight legislators — Lahkmen Rymbui, Pius Marwein, Kyrmen Shylla, Mayralborn Syiem, Matthew Beyondstar Kurbah, Ollan Singh Suin, Balajied Kupar Synrem and Synshar Kupar Roy

Lyngdoh Thabah — joined the BJP at its headquarters in New Delhi on September 23. They subsequently submitted a letter to the Assembly Secretariat informing it of their merger with the party. The Speaker recognised the merger under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution. The UDP had earlier initiated disciplinary action against some of the legislators who switched to the BJP. If the three remaining legislators join the NPP, the UDP will be reduced to a single MLA, marking a major change in the state's regional political landscape. The NPP, BJP and UDP are constituents of the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), headed by Conrad Sangma.



Gujarat CM meets PM Modi; reiterates 'Developed Gujarat, Developed India' goal

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel, on Thursday met Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in New Delhi and said he had received guidance on improving the lives of the state's poor, young people, farmers and women, and creating new opportunities for them. He also reiterated his government's commitment to the goal of 'Developed Gujarat – Developed India'. In a post on social media platform X following the meeting, Patel said the discussions focussed on bringing happiness and prosperity to these sections of society. "Today, I had the privilege of meeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi," Patel said. "During this meeting, I received his guidance and valuable advice on bringing happiness and prosperity to the lives of the state's poor, youth, farmers and women.



Bihar: Buxar MP seeks LS Speaker's intervention over defamation notice by IPS officer

Patna, Oct 22 : The controversy surrounding the suspicious death of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari and an alleged staged encounter in Bilauti village of Bihar's Bhojpur district has reached the Lok Sabha, with Buxar MP Sudhakar Singh seeking the intervention of Speaker Om Birla after receiving a defamation notice from senior IPS officer Kundan Krishnan. In a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP has sought an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the legal notice and requested that the matter be referred to Parliament's Committee of Privileges if a prima facie case of breach of parliamentary

privilege is established. According to Sudhakar Singh, Krishnan sent the legal notice through his personal counsel, demanding a public apology and warning of a defamation suit seeking Rs 5 crore in damages, along with possible criminal proceedings. The MP has expressed concern that the notice could discourage elected representatives from raising issues of public importance in Parliament. However, the alleged intention behind the notice has not been independently established. The controversy stems from the suspicious death of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari in Bilauti village, where allegations of a staged encounter have also been raised.

Kerala govt toughens action against drunk driving after 10,000 drivers caught

Thrissur Oct 22 : With road accidents raising serious concerns in Kerala, the police have caught more than 10,000 people driving under the influence of alcohol in a two-day statewide enforcement drive, prompting Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala to warn of stringent action, including cancellation of driving licences. The minister on Thursday said those caught driving under the influence would face strict legal action and that steps would be taken to cancel their licences. The government would also explore measures to prevent them from obtaining licences again. The scale of the violations detected during the checks, conducted both during the day and at night, points to a serious road safety challenge in the state.



The large number of offenders caught in just 48 hours has also raised questions about compliance with traffic laws and the risks posed to other road users. Chennithala said alcohol and intoxicating substances had figured in recent road accidents, underlining the need for stricter enforcement against impaired driving. With the festive season approaching, the police have been directed to intensify checks to identify and take action against drunk drivers.



Jharkhand Police solve CCL employee's murder in Hazaribagh, say compassionate job was motive

Hazaribagh, Oct 22 : Jharkhand's Hazaribagh police have claimed that they have solved the murder of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) employee Manglesh Pal alias Happy within 24 hours, arresting his wife, Sonali, and her cousin and alleged lover, Kaushik Kumar Naunia. A minor has also been detained in connection with the case. Police said they recovered sharp-edged weapons used in the murder along with other key evidence. Barkagaon SDPO Amit Anand, while addressing a press conference here on Thursday, said the conspiracy to kill Manglesh had been going on for nearly a year.

ED searches 29 premises in six cities in WhatsApp-linked 'pump-and-dump' fraud

Mumbai, Oct 22 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches at 29 premises across six cities in Maharashtra and Gujarat as part of a money-laundering probe into an alleged WhatsApp-driven "pump-and-

dump" scheme involving the shares of two listed companies, an official statement said on Thursday. The ED's Mumbai Zonal Office-I carried out the searches on Friday at premises in Mumbai, Nashik (Maharashtra), Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat,

and Bhavnagar (Gujarat) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The investigation relates to alleged manipulation in the shares of R M Drip and Sprinklers Systems Ltd (RMDSSL) and R&B Denims Ltd.

The premises searched included the offices of the two companies, residences of their promoters and persons who had been allotted shares at low prices, offices of stockbroking and finance firms, and premises linked to individuals suspected of operating promo-

tional WhatsApp groups. According to ED, its investigation found that between April 2023 and March 2024, the two companies issued more than 3.5 crore shares and convertible warrants to selected individuals and entities. A substantial portion of the money



used for these allotments came from a small group of connected persons.

SP neglects Dalits, backwards: UP ministers on Akhilesh Yadav's manifesto release announcement on Constitution Day

Lucknow, Oct 22 : Uttar Pradesh ministers on Thursday launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav after he announced that his party would release its manifesto for the 2027 Assembly elections on Constitution Day, accusing the SP of failing to work for Dalit



and backward communities during its tenure in power.

Stop protecting drug traffickers: Punjab BJP tells DGP

Chandigarh, Oct 22 : Former Punjab BJP President Sunil Jakhar on Thursday urged the AAP government to stop protecting drug traffickers and take firm action to curb the drug menace. Expressing anguish over the Chief Minister's visit to France to celebrate his birthday while Punjab burns in the furnace of drugs, he said the people of Punjab were keeping account of every moment. Jakhar was speaking to the me-

dia here after meeting the Director General of Police (DGP), accompanied by Amandeep Kaur, the sister of Lovepreet Singh, and other family members, to seek justice for Lovepreet, who was found dead in Abohar on September 14. During the press conference, the family alleged that despite submitting complaints, they had received no justice in Lovepreet's death case. Questioning the Punjab government's anti-drug policy and the accountability of the police

administration, Jakhar warned that the matter would be taken to court if appropriate action was not taken within the next five to seven days. Lovepreet Singh's sister, Amandeep Kaur, alleged that drug traffickers had murdered her brother on September 14 and dumped his body in bushes. She said the family had sent complaints to the SSP and the Punjab DGP through email and speed post on September 19, but no action had followed. The family alleged



that drugs were being sold openly in the area and that those selling them were also issuing threats.

Jammu-Basohli bike rally flagged off to promote cultural heritage, region's scenic beauty

Jammu, Oct 22: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal on Thursday flagged off the Jammu-Basohli bike rally as part of Basohli Utsav-2026, aimed at promoting the region's rich cultural heritage, scenic beauty and tourism potential while spreading the message of a drug-free society. Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Kundal said that around 30 bikers are participating in the rally, with more riders expected to join the convoy en route. The participants are also carrying the national flag, reflecting their spirit of patriotism and commitment to the

nation. He said that Basohli Utsav provides a platform to showcase the region's vibrant cultural traditions, artistic legacy and rich heritage. He added that the bike ride would further strengthen efforts to highlight Basohli as an attractive tourism destination. Emphasising the vital role of youth in nation-building, the Divisional Commissioner appreciated the initiative for promoting a positive and healthy outlook among young people. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and other social evils and channel their energy towards constructive activities, sports and nation-building.



The Divisional Commissioner further observed that such initiatives would give an impetus to tourism in Jammu and Basohli by showcasing the region's picturesque landscapes, natural beauty and cultural attractions. He said that these activities could encourage more tourists to explore the region and contribute to the growth of local tourism and the economy. The Jammu-Basohli Bike Rally is among the activities being organised as part of Basohli Utsav-2026, scheduled from October 19 to 21, to celebrate the region's distinctive cultural identity and promote its tourism potential among a wider audience.

Assam's Nijut Babu Moina scheme supporting 5.42 lakh students: CM Sarma

Guwahati, Oct 22 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the state government's Nijut Babu Moina scheme is supporting 5.42 lakh students, reaffirming the government's commitment to empowering young women through education and helping them achieve financial independence. In a post on X, CM Sarma said the initiative was aimed at enabling the daughters of Assam to shape their own futures by providing support as they pursue education and aspire for greater opportunities. "Honouring the Shakti in every girl, we are empowering Assam's daughters to shape their own futures. Through #NijutBabuMoina, we are supporting 5.42 lakh students as they move towards independence and bigger dreams," the Chief Minister said. The scheme is part of the Assam government's broader efforts to encourage girls to continue their education, reduce school and



college dropout rates, and address social barriers that prevent young women from pursuing higher studies. The Nijut Babu Moina initiative builds on the state government's earlier Nijut Moina scheme, which was introduced to provide financial assistance to girl students pursuing higher secondary, undergraduate and postgraduate education. The broader initiative seeks to encourage families to prioritise the education of their daughters and discourage early marriage by making continued education more accessible. Under the Nijut Moina scheme, eligible girl students receive monthly financial assistance at different levels of education, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions.



Punjab AAP seeks punishment for Ayodhya's Ram Temple 'chanda chori' accused

Chandigarh, Oct 22 : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab President, Aman Arora, on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure strict punishment for those responsible for the reported 'chanda chori' at Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The AAP asserted that the BJP, which rose to power by invoking the sentiments associated with the Ram Temple, must not shield anyone who betrayed devotees' faith. Citing 105 reported incidents of 'chanda-chori (donation theft)', Aman Arora demanded a thorough probe into the role of senior officials, questioning why accountability should end with junior employees. Arora said more than one lakh Ram devotees from Punjab had written to Prime Minister Modi seeking justice, declaring: "Ram Bhakton ki ek pukar, Chanda choron ko saza is baar."



How Gujarat tribal village revived its forests, inspired 65 others

Surat, Oct 22 : A tribal village in Gujarat's Surat district, where three consecutive years of drought devastated surrounding forests in the 1980s, is set to become a training centre for community-led forest conservation, with around 7,500 members of Joint Forest Management (JFM) committees expected to receive training over five years. Balethi village in Mandvi taluka has been selected for the development of a 'Centre of Excellence' in its historic school building, following a proposal jointly submitted by villagers and the

Forest Department. The initiative aims to replicate the village's forest regeneration model across Gujarat, where 2,500 of the state's 3,414 JFM committees are expected to benefit from training once the centre becomes operational. "The project is being taken forward under the guidance of Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia and Minister of State, Pravin Mali," officials said. Balethi's forest conservation efforts began between 1986 and 1988, when three successive years of drought left the surrounding forests completely destroyed. Village elders Jagudada and Kishor Chaudhary led residents in deciding to take responsibility for protecting and regenerating the forests. The initiative is now being carried forward by Vinaybhai Chaudhary, president of the Balethi Forest Regeneration and Village Development Committee.



Social worker cheated by Maharashtra Minister's 'PA'

Khed (Maharashtra), Oct 22 : A case of fraud involving Rs 5,000 has come to light at Khed in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, where a man posed as the personal assistant (PA) of state minister Yogesh Kadam and cheated a social worker by promising to arrange a meeting with the minister and get his work done. The accused, identified as Raviraj Chikhale, accepted Rs 5,000 from the complainant, Vidyadhar Dattaram Salunkhe, 56, on September 17 in Khed. According to the complaint, Salunkhe wanted to bring to the minister's attention the alleged operation of unauthorised stone quarries in Chiplun taluka.



K'taka sting Op row: Will not speak to media, says Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Oct 22 : Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that he would not speak to the media about recent political developments in the state. He made the statement in Kolar when reporters questioned him about the sting operation controversy. Siddaramaiah's remark assumes significance as he has approached the court and filed a police complaint over the circulation of allegedly defamatory content about him in the media and social media platforms. The issue has triggered a political controversy in the state, bringing Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and the Congress government into a confrontation. Kumaraswamy has pointed fingers at Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over the video involving Siddaramaiah. Against this backdrop, Siddaramaiah's decision to refrain from commenting on the issue.

Shiv Sena to bear wedding expenses for farmers' daughters amid drought conditions, says Eknath Shinde

Mumbai, Oct 22: In a significant announcement ahead of the festive season, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief leader Eknath Shinde on Thursday declared that the Shiv Sena will take full responsibility for funding and organising the weddings of farmers' daughters across the state. He announced that Shiv Sena has taken up the responsibility of arranging mass marriage ceremonies for the daughters of distressed farmers whose weddings are finalised. Launching the initiative from Parbhani, the distribution of 25,000 sewing machines and 25,000 bicycles to women ("Ladki Bahin") has officially begun. Addressing the party's Dussehra rally, Deputy Chief Minister Shinde emphasised that the state government stands firmly with farmers.



India condemns OIC's 'malicious' agenda, exposes 'desperate attempt' by Pakistan to divert attention from chaos at home

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday rejected the anti-India references at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Baghdad over the weekend, terming them as "malicious, biased, false" while spotlighting that the organisation has once again allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan for its "bigoted agenda". "We categorically reject the anti-India references in the resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Baghdad on October 17-18, 2026. The references to India are malicious, biased, and false, and have been orchestrated by Pakistan.

'Owaisi, BJP are twins': Congress MP accuses AIMIM chief of splitting Oppn votes

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Congress MP Pramod Tiwari on Thursday hit back at AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi over his recent remarks, accusing him of acting as an agent of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Tiwari claimed that election results demonstrated how Owaisi's party had contributed to splitting minority votes, prompting him to describe the AIMIM chief and the BJP as "twin brothers". The exchange comes amid political preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, with parties sharpening their positions and trading allegations ahead of the electoral contest. Addressing a gathering in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, Owaisi had declared that

he would "never make a Nehru, a Gandhi, or a Yadav" his leader. He also stressed the need to provide greater opportunities to young people from the Muslim community. "Muslim youth have as much potential as people from other communities... However, they are not given a platform," Owaisi had said, adding that the AIMIM would



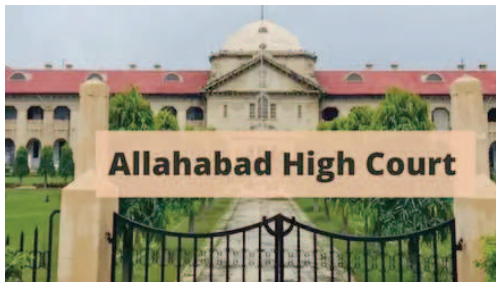
provide them with opportunities to move forward. Responding to the AIMIM chief's remarks, Congress MP Tiwari accused him of working to divide opposition votes in favour of the BJP. Speaking to IANS, Tiwari said, "What standing does Owaisi have to even suggest someone like a Gandhi or a Nehru? His sole function.

ED seeks to uncover Dubai links in former Kerala Minister Riyas hawala case

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 22 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has initiated steps to obtain evidence from Dubai in the alleged hawala transactions case in which CPI-M legislator and former Kerala minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas, the son-in-law of Pinarayi Vijayan, is the first accused, marking a fresh phase in the investigation into suspected financial dealings involving the family of the former Chief Minister. The agency will issue a

Letter Rogatory, a formal judicial request seeking evidence from another country, after first obtaining permission from the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court and subsequently approaching the Ministry of External Affairs to seek assistance from the relevant authorities in Dubai.





Allahabad HC stays conviction of former BJP worker in murder case to enable him to contest 2027 UP polls

Prayagraj, Oct 22 : The Allahabad High Court has stayed the conviction and sentence of Nandlal Rai alias Babloo Rai in a 2017 murder case, observing that the right to livelihood of a common man is no less important than a politician's right to contest elections.

Rai, who claimed to have been an active worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) before his conviction, expressed his desire to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections as an independent candidate or, if possible, on a BJP ticket.

A Bench of Justices Siddharth and Vinai Kumar Dwivedi passed the order on October 5 while hearing Rai's criminal appeal against the judgment of the trial court, which had convicted and sentenced him in the murder case.

In its order, the High Court recorded that the appeal, filed in 2026, was not likely to be heard in the near future and held that the conviction and sentence deserved to be stayed during the pendency of the proceedings. "Keeping in view the right to livelihood of a common man which is not less important than the right to contest election by a politician, conviction and sentence of appellant deserves to be stayed so that he may be able to survive for hearing the final verdict in his above noted appeal," the Justice Siddharth-led Bench observed.



Centre launches portal to give farmers access to agri schemes on mobile phones

New Delhi, Oct 22 : Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal to provide farmers across the country with direct, easy access to government schemes, financial assistance and reliable agricultural information on their mobile phones.

Karnataka Dy CM urges Cong leaders to protect govt's image amid sting Op row

Bengaluru, Oct 22 : G. Parameshwara, Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister, has urged Congress leaders to exercise restraint amid controversy over alleged sting operations, saying the party must focus on protecting the government's image and communicating the facts to the public.

Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, he said, "The Chief Minister is there, and all of us are here. We have to think about how to protect the government's image and communicate the facts to the public. We must do that." He said it was better to remain silent rather than react to every statement. He said public

exchanges of accusations would not help the government and stressed the need to handle the issue carefully. "If each of us starts responding to every statement made by others, where will it end? That is why it is not advisable to discuss this issue extensively in public," he said. Responding to questions about the government's legal position on the

controversy and former Chief Minister and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah's silence, Parameshwara said the government cannot react immediately to every statement. "There is a legal process, and the Home Minister is taking the necessary steps within that framework.



Rakhigarhi a legacy of craftsmanship, advanced civilisation: Haryana CM

Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Oct 22 : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday inaugurated the seven-day Rakhigarhi Festival -- 2026 at Rakhigarhi in Hisar district, highlighting the archaeological site's significance as a symbol of India's ancient civilisation and announcing a grant of Rs 51 lakh for the village panchayat.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Saini said the soil of Rakhigarhi preserved the legacy of the hard work, craftsmanship and advanced civilisation of India's ancestors. He described the historic site as a symbol of the region's thousands-of-years-old identity, cultural affinity and pride.

The festival's theme this year is 'Maati Se Mahotsav Tak' (From Earth to Festival). Heri-

tage and Tourism Minister Arvind Kumar Sharma was also present at the event.

The Chief Minister assured the village panchayat that its demands, submitted through a memorandum, would be addressed. He also announced financial assistance of Rs 51 lakh for the panchayat.

Before inaugurating the festival, Saini visited the museum under construction at Rakhigarhi and inspected various stalls, sports activities and other attractions organised at the site. He also reviewed a demonstration by the



Archaeology Department explaining the excavation process and displaying artefacts recovered during archaeological digs.

Saini, Sharma and Haryana Heritage and Tourism Department Commissioner and Secretary Amit Agrawal also examined a seal dis-

played at the site. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the festival would provide an opportunity for people to reconnect with their roots and understand their responsibilities towards future generations.

JMI forms 7-member panel on demand to revive students' union polls

New Delhi, Oct 22 : The Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has constituted a 7-member committee to engage with the protesting students demanding the revival of the students' union elections that were banned in 2006 following violence -- a decision that has withstood several challenges in the Delhi High Court, an official said on Thursday. The committee, comprising Deans and Professors, has been tasked by Vice Chancellor Mazhar Asif to examine the students' demands and take necessary steps towards restoring peace and ensuring a return to normalcy on the campus, said JMI Chief Public Relations Officer Saima Saeed in a statement.

The committee was formed after a meeting of senior university functionaries on Sunday evening to deliberate on the demands raised by students who have been sitting on a hunger strike and staging protests, Saeed said.

A group of Jamia students had launched a hunger strike on October 12, demanding the restoration of the students' union and withdrawal of the alleged suspension of agitators by the university.

Vice Chancellor Asif chaired the meeting on Sunday, attended by Registrar Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi; Controller of Examinations Ahteshamul Haque; Deans of Faculties, Dean of Students' Welfare, Dean, Academic Affairs; Chief Proctor; Provosts of all Hostels; Chief



Public Relations Officer and other officials, said the statement.

The University administration remains committed to resolving the matter through constructive dialogue and deliberation, grounded in mutual trust and understanding and seeks the same spirit of cooperation from the protesting students and other stakeholders, it said.

It is worth noting that union elections were dissolved in JMI in 2006, following recurrent incidents of violent clashes, attacks on teachers, and the occasional disruption of classes during that period, said the statement.

In the intervening years, in view of the well-documented history of violent disruptions and frequent shutting down of the campus, the courts have issued no directions to the university, it said. Most recently, in 2022, the High Court accepted the argument and submission of the Standing Counsel, JMI, and disposed of the matter, giving no directions to the university to conduct elections of the Students' Union, in light of the rampant history of violent clashes on campus in and after 2006, it said.

Bengal: Two killed, one injured in Siliguri road accident

Kolkata, Oct 22: Two young men lost their lives on the spot in a head-on collision between a bike and a scooter on the old bridge at Jhongkar crossing in north Bengal's Siliguri on Thursday.

Both the vehicles were severely mangled in the accident. Another young man on the scooter was seriously injured due to the intensity of the incident and is currently fighting for his life in the ICU of a private hospital. This untimely death in the festive atmosphere has cast a shadow of deep grief over the city.

According to the locals, one of the deceased is Arijit Pramanik, a resident of Goyerkata. He had come to visit a relative's house in Siliguri on the occasion of Durga Puja.

On Monday, he was riding his bike towards Jhongkar crossing from the direction of Air View crossing, while Shankar Singh, a 17-year-old resident of Ward No. 3 of Siliguri Municipal Corporation.



Pickup truck loaded with explosives blows up in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, driver killed

Jaipur, Oct 22 : A powerful explosion in a pickup truck loaded with explosives in Aguncha village of Rajasthan's Bhilwara district killed the driver on the spot on Thursday. The blast, which occurred around 11:30 a.m. within

the jurisdiction of Gulabpura police station, completely destroyed the vehicle and reduced a nearby enclosure wall to rubble.

The explosion was so intense that the pickup truck's parts were blown apart, with debris scattered

over a wide area. The driver's body was found beneath the rubble of the collapsed wall.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as 35-year-old Ram Avtar, a resident of Bundi.

Jubin Nautiyal's father Ramsharan returns to Congress days after BJP exit

New Delhi, Oct 22: Ramsharan Nautiyal, father of singer Jubin Nautiyal, rejoined the Congress at the party headquarters here on Thursday, days after quitting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Nautiyal makes his re-entry into the Congress, which he left in 2014. His move comes months ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections, as political parties begin preparing for the crucial electoral contest in the hill state. He joined the party in the presence of Congress leaders, including Uttarakhand Congress in-charge Kumari Selja, Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Yashpal Arya, and state Congress unit President Ganesh Godiyal. Addressing a press conference on the occasion, Selja criticised the prevailing political situation in Uttarakhand and raised concerns over the state of democracy in the country. "Everyone knows what the current situation in Uttarakhand is like. Democracy is being shredded across the entire country, be it the SIR issue, the role of the Chief Election



Commissioner or the conduct of the Election Commission of India. Our leader Rahul Gandhi has been consistently speaking out about 'vote theft', " Selja said. She also brought up the recent controversy involving Uttarakhand Minister Rekha Arya and her husband. Questioning the state government's response to the matter, Selja asked why Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was "shielding" Arya when her husband had levelled corruption allegations against her. On Nautiyal's decision to return to the Congress, Selja said he had become "dissatisfied" with the BJP's working environment and organisational approach and hence decided to rejoin the Congress. Speaking to IANS after joining the Congress, Nautiyal said he had decided to work for the party without seeking any specific assurance or commitment in return.

US pushes Central Asia critical minerals plan

Washington, Oct 22 : The United States has announced plans to strengthen critical mineral supply chains, expand transport corridors across Central Asia and train thousands of technology professionals in the region, as Washington seeks to reduce dependence on potentially unreliable foreign suppliers of strategically important materials. Secretary of

State Marco Rubio outlined the priorities at the C5+1 ministerial meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Thursday, describing Central Asia as a vital link between Asian and European markets and an increasingly important destination for American investment. The initiative brings together the United States and five Central Asian republics — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — in a framework aimed at strengthening economic, energy and security cooperation. Rubio said Washington wanted to develop more secure supply chains for industries essential to economic growth and national security. "We in the United States, we seek to secure our critical industries and the supply chains that support them so that we may be a

sovereign, independent country and economy, and not ever have to rely on risky foreign partners or even adversaries," he said. The Secretary of State identified critical minerals, transport infrastructure and emerging technologies as major areas of cooperation. He said the United States would work with regional governments to improve infrastructure along the trans-Caspian trade route.



World Bank unveils first digital strategy

Washington, Oct 22 : The World Bank Group has launched its first comprehensive digital strategy, placing artificial intelligence, affordable internet access and job creation at the centre of its development agenda as 1.2 billion young people prepare to enter the workforce in developing countries over the next 10 to 15 years. Announced in Seoul on Thursday, the strategy brings together the institution's public and private sector capabilities to help developing economies expand digital connectivity, improve access to technology and create employment opportunities. World Bank Group President Ajay Banga said the initiative would focus on practical ap-

plications of technology, particularly affordable artificial intelligence tools that can improve productivity and public services. "Digital technology can help countries create jobs and make scarce resources go further. Realizing that potential requires a comprehensive approach—from reliable connectivity and affordable devices to digital skills and useful services," Banga said. "Our first digital strategy brings these pieces together, helping countries build the foundations to benefit from today's digital tools and the promise of small AI—AI for the people," he added. The announcement comes against a widening employment challenge across developing economies. According to the World Bank, approximately 1.2 billion young people will reach working age over the next 10 to 15 years, while their economies are projected to generate only about 420 million jobs.



US says Iran oil exports blocked at Hormuz

Washington, Oct 22 : The United States has effectively blocked Iranian oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz while allowing millions of barrels of crude from other countries

to reach global markets, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said, describing the strategy as part of Washington's efforts to weaken Tehran's economy.



US lawmakers propose parliamentary India group

Washington, Oct 22 : A bipartisan group of four US lawmakers has introduced legislation to establish a formal parliamentary dialogue between the United States and India, proposing a permanent mechanism for congressional engagement on trade, defence, emerging technologies and other issues shaping relations between the world's two largest democracies. The United States-India Interparliamentary Group Act was introduced by Republican Congressman James Gallagher of California, along with Republican Bill Huizenga, Democrat Mike Thompson and Indian-American Democrat Shri Thanedar.



US sanctions five Chinese firms over AI theft

Washington, Oct 22 : The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on five Chinese companies and investment entities linked to the theft of Google's artificial intelligence trade secrets. The State Department said the sanctions targeted entities connected to Linwei Ding, a Chinese national convicted by a US federal jury earlier this year of stealing confidential Google technology. The action was taken under the Protecting American Intellectual Property Act

(PAIPA), a federal law authorising sanctions against foreign individuals and organisations involved in significant theft of American trade secrets. "Theft of trade secrets is a serious threat to US economic, foreign policy, and national security interests," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement. The five designated entities are Shanghai Zhisuan Technology Co Ltd,

'I may be killed, but I will return': Sheikh Hasina

Washington, Oct 22 : Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared that she is determined to return to her country despite the possibility of being arrested, tortured or killed, saying she cannot remain away while her supporters and ordinary Bangladeshis continue to suffer. Addressing a Washington-based press conference virtually, Hasina said the dangers surrounding her return would not prevent her from going back to Bangladesh. She left Bangladesh following the collapse of her government in August 2024. "How risky it is, I don't care. I have to go back," Hasina said. The former Prime Minister, who has been living in India since her removal from power, thanked the Indian government and people for receiving her and providing refuge during a period of political upheaval. "Well, thanks to Indian government, and the people, all party, they received me just

like 1975," she said, recalling the period when she and her sister survived the assassination of several members of their family. Hasina said she understood that returning to Bangladesh could expose her to imprisonment or violence, but argued that political responsibility required her to stand alongside her supporters. She recalled several earlier episodes in her political career when she returned to Bangladesh despite threats to her safety. These included her return in 1981 after years abroad following the assassination of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and other family members in 1975. She also referred to her decision to return during the political emergency in 2007, when she faced criminal allegations. Hasina accused Bangladesh's current political leadership of using criminal proceedings against her and members of the Awami League to suppress political opposition. She disputed the legitimacy of the cases and maintained that allegations against political leaders should be resolved through

fair judicial proceedings. However, she did not announce a confirmed date for her return. Her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, subsequently told journalists that no date had been fixed and that an announcement would be made closer to the time. In a broader appeal to Washington, Hasina urged the United States to support democratic institutions, political pluralism and inclusive elections in Bangladesh rather than favour any particular leader or political party. "My message to Washington, I do not ask the U.S. to choose Sheikh Hasina or Romani. I ask the U.S. to choose democracy," she said, according to the conference transcript. She said Bangladesh's political future should be determined by its citizens through free and inclusive democratic processes. "I ask that Bangladeshis determine their government through free inclusive political process," Hasina said. The former Prime Minister called for independent courts, freedom of expression, political association, protection of minorities and respect for due pro-



cess. She argued that excluding political parties from democratic participation would deepen divisions and undermine national reconciliation. "Equally, those who oppose my government are citizens whose rights must be respected. The future of Bangladesh must be built on reconciliation, not revenge," she said. Hasina also acknowledged that her own administration faced difficult questions over its record and the events surrounding the 2024 protests. "I acknowledge the difficult questions surrounding my government, the events of 2024 and their aftermath," she said. She maintained that allegations against anyone, including herself, should be resolved through transparent and impartial legal proceedings. Turning to relations with India, Hasina said Bangladesh should maintain constructive ties with its neighbours and major international partners, including the United States, China and Japan. She argued that Bangladesh should not become a battleground for competition among major powers. Hasina also expressed support for stronger economic relations with Washington, including American investment, education, technology and security cooperation.



French PM urges targeted curfews after violent weekend protests

Paris, Oct 22 : French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said Monday that partial curfews would be introduced in some areas starting Thursday evening following incidents of looting during weekend protests. At a news conference, Lecornu said he had asked French prefects to implement "a number of partial curfews as early as this evening," describing the disorder as "very localised in urban centres." Lecornu said a state of emergency would be declared "if necessary," but added that curfews "appear to be more appropriate." "There is no question of allowing the looting to become established," he said, adding that the Interior Ministry would release a detailed map of the areas concerned during Monday afternoon, Xinhua News Agency reported. Partial unemployment measures would be activated from Tuesday for shopkeepers affected by damage.

Asian Para Games: Dilip Mahadu Gavit wins second gold in Men's 400m T47, Bhavikkumar bags silver

Nagoya, Oct 22 : Indian para-athletes secured another double podium finish at the ongoing Asian Para Games as Dilip Mahadu Gavit (T46 category) and Bhavikkumar Bharwad clinched a gold and a silver medal in the Men's 400m T47 final at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium here on Thursday. Gavit won his second gold after he clinched a yellow metal in the Men's 100m T47 category too. The Indian sprinter won his sec-

ond gold in the 400m T47 event when he clocked a time of 48.27s, while the other Indian, Bhavikkumar, was a close second, having taken the silver with a time of 49.31s. Japan's Kakeru Ishida took the bronze when he clocked 49.58s. Gavit's gold was India's 20th gold at the ongoing Asian Para Games as the contingent continues putting up strong performances in Aichi-Nagoya. This was also his second gold of the ongoing Para Games. Gavit (T46 category) clinched the gold medal in the 100m T47 event with an impressive time of 10.69 seconds. Adding to India's success, Basil (T47 category) secured silver with a time of 10.72 seconds, setting a new Games record. Dilip Gavit had earlier won gold in the Men's 400m T47 event at the 2022 Asian Para Games, securing India's



historic 100th medal at the Games. He further made the nation proud by reaching the final of the Men's 400m T47 event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.



Asian Para Games: Sheetal Devi stages stunning comeback to clinch women's compound gold

Nagoya, Oct 22 : Sheetal Devi delivered another memorable performance at the Asian Para Games 2026, overcoming Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim 142-139 in the women's compound individual final to secure India's 17th gold medal at the continental showpiece. The Indian para-archer recovered from a four-point deficit to successfully defend the title she won at the 2023 edition in Hangzhou. The final tested Sheetal's composure after she fell behind 55-59, with a 26-point second end threatening to derail her gold medal bid. However, the 18-year-old responded emphatically, producing two consecutive perfect scores of 30 to regain control of the contest

and close out the victory. The triumph capped an outstanding campaign for Sheetal in Aichi-Nagoya, where she once again demonstrated why she is among the leading names in international para archery. She had already made headlines during the qualification round by equalling the world record with a score of 704 out of 720, surpassing her own Asian record of 698 set in Bangkok in March. Sheetal's individual gold also added to her success in the mixed team compound event, where she partnered Toman Kumar to defeat Indonesia 151-148.



Asian Para Games: Bhavina-Shubham clinch bronze in mixed doubles table tennis

Nagoya, Oct 22 : India's Bhavina Patel and Shubham Wadhwa secured a bronze medal in mixed doubles XD7 table tennis at the Asian Para Games after going down to South Korea's Jang Yeongjin and Lee Migyu in the semifinal here on Thursday. The Indian combination went down 6-11, 11-8, 5-11, 8-11 in the last-four encounter, bringing their campaign to a close. However, their place on the podium had already been secured by their quarterfinal victory. Bhavina and Subham had produced a convincing display in the quarterfinals against Japan's Kimie Bessho

and Masanori Uno. The Indian duo won 11-9, 11-3, 11-6 to advance to the semi-finals in straight games and guarantee themselves a medal. Their challenge against the South Korean pair proved tougher.

Asian Para Games: Anjanaben Bumbadiya, Jayanti Nehra win gold and silver in Women's 400m T47



Nagoya, Oct 22 : In more double medal delight for India, Anjanaben Bumbadiya and Jayanti Nehra clinched gold and silver medals, respectively, in the Women's 400m T47 event at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium here on Thursday. Anjanaben clinched the yellow metal in the 400m T47 run with a time of 59.97s (848 Raza points). She finished less than a second earlier than the other Indian, Jayanti, who won the silver with a time of 1:00.65s (815 Raza points), while Thailand's Sasirawan Inthachot was also close with a bronze medal finish and a time of 1:02.58s (714 Raza points). Nepal's Prabha Angdembe finished fourth as she clocked 1:15.81 (89 Raza points).

1st T20I: Coming to NZ is always refreshing; We've been well taken care of, says Samson

Christchurch, Oct 22 : India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson said the team has been well looked after since landing in New Zealand and that the side was raring to go in the first T20I at the Hagley Oval despite having taken on the West Indies at home only four days ago. With barely any breathing space between the two assignments, Samson said the arrangements made for the players had ensured the quick switch from Indian conditions to the Kiwi summer was a comfortable one. "Travel was really nice. I

think you get that luxury of being an Indian player. We are well taken care of. Everything was very nice. I think coming to New Zealand is always very refreshing. Good people, good climate, good atmosphere to come and play a great brand of cricket," Samson told broadcasters ahead of the series opener. Far from being weighed down by the packed calendar, Samson said the Indian team players were happy to keep turning out for the country. "The more you play, the better. I think we are at the stage of our career where we love coming in, coming out and playing for the country more. So very much excited." Samson has toured New Zealand before in 2020, though his returns were just only ten runs in three games, and he replied about how he now handles the pressure of being an India player compared to a few years ago, when he was more in and out of the team. "Definitely, you need to find your own



patterns. You need to find your own mental state. Everyone has their own mantras to actually be at their best mental state here. I think it definitely took me a while, but I can say that I found out my own way to

enjoy myself here." There was a moment of light-hearted banter too when Samson was reminded that Stephen Fleming.

'He looks better today': Hazlewood confirms Smith will bat after neck discomfort

Gqeberha, Oct 22 : Australia fast-bowler Josh Hazlewood has confirmed that veteran Steve Smith will be batting on Day 5 despite the neck discomfort that troubled him on Day 4 of the second Test against South Africa at the St George's Park here.



Saka's quad injury 'doesn't look good at all': Arteta

Munich, Oct 22 : Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said Bukayo Saka's quadriceps injury "doesn't look good at all" after the winger left the pitch in the 10th minute of 2-2 Champions League draw with Bayern Munich. Kai Havertz pulled the ball back for Saka in a dangerous position, but he was crowded out by the Bayern defence. That proved to be Saka's final involvement, as he was forced off with a non-contact injury after just nine minutes. Ebere Eze replaced him. "It's his quad. It was early in the game, and the level of intensity his game requires is something incredible. The quality, strength and attention you need has to be at the highest level, and those things happen unfortunately. It doesn't look good at all, but we have to wait and see,"



Arteta said during the post-match presser. Asked if Saka's injury will give other attacking players opportunities, Arteta said, "I'm really impressed with all our forwards. I thought Ebs had a great game, not just the goal but his actions, overall performance and without the ball as well. When the others came in, I thought they really contributed to both the energy.

India sweep in men's high jump T63 podium as Shailesh Kumar wins gold

Nagoya, Oct 22 : India delivered a spectacular performance in the Men's High Jump T63 Final, achieving a podium sweep by securing all three medals. Shailesh Kumar clinched the gold medal, while Varun Bhati secured silver and Rahul bagged bronze. Shailesh registered an outstanding jump of 1.89 metres to win the gold, while Varun secured silver with a jump of 1.84 metres. Rahul completed India's clean sweep with a personal-best performance of 1.81 metres. India replicated their 2022 podium sweep in the Men's High Jump T42/T63, once again claiming all three medals. It was India's third podium clean sweep at the Games. Devender Kumar had earlier led an Indian sweep in the men's discus throw F44/64 event while Sachin Khilari led another in the men's shot put F46 final.



Megan Schutt gets two-match suspension over prescription medication breach

Melbourne, Oct 22 : Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt has been handed a two-match suspension for failing to adhere to requirements around the use of prescription medication, Cricket Australia said on Thursday. CA said the two-match ban includes all international and domestic cricket. As a result, the pace bowler will miss Thursday's third and final T20I against New Zealand at North Sydney Oval, as well as the Adelaide Strikers' opening game of Weber WBBL 12 against Melbourne Stars on October 31. "The breach was a failure to adhere to requirements under the Sports Science and Sports Medicine guidelines with regard to prescription medication," CA said in a statement. According to CA, it was a one-off incident and occurred while out of competition.