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'Unfinished business': Gill sets sights on 2027 World Cup after 2023 heartbreak

India captain Shubman Gill has described the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup as "unfinished business", saying players...

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HDFC Bank appoints Anup Bagchi as next MD & CEO, to take charge on Oct 27

HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer after receiving...

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Telangana Governor, CM pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Bapu Ghat in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 2 : Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Bapu Ghat here on his birth anniversary on Friday. They offered floral tributes at Bapu Ghat at Langer Houz here, where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed at the confluence of Musi and Esi rivers. The Governor and the Chief Minister paid their respects at the Samadhi and later showered flower petals on the statue of the father of the nation. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Mohammed Azharuddin, Governor Advisor V. Hanumanth Rao and others paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. The Governor and the Chief Minister inaugurated a digital museum on the occasion. The leaders also participated in an all-faith prayer meet in the Prayers' hall, which has a 76-ft-long collage wall featuring more than 400



pictures of Mahatma Gandhi. Meanwhile, the Governor paid heartfelt tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries. The Governor said in a message that Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of truth, non-violence and compassion continue to inspire humanity.



Gathered courage by reciting the Hanuman Chalisa... Captain Smith with Modi

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Captain Smit Machchhar, speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a video call on Friday, gave him a brief account of the fatal attack and his fightback inside the Dubai-Tel Aviv flydubai flight cockpit and stated that he kept chanting 'Hanuman Chalisa' while fighting off the attacker co-pilot.

The wounded pilot turned emotional, briefing the Prime Minister about his valiant rescue act mid-air and said that he had almost gone down staving off the deadly attack, but one thing that kept him going on was the thought that he could not let 170 passengers die.

Common pass for Metro-RTC travel... Launched by Bhatti Vikramarka



Hyderabad, Oct 2: A common pass for Metro and RTC services has been introduced in Hyderabad. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka launched the Metro-RTC common pass on Friday) at Praja Bhavan. Ministers Ponnam, Vivek, and Azharuddin participated in the event. The Deputy CM purchased the one-day RTC-Metro common pass by paying the required fare for 15 individuals.

70 government doctors dismissed; action against another 193

Amaravati, Oct 2 : The coalition government has once again cracked the whip on government doctors failing to discharge their duties properly. The government has dismissed doctors who were absent from duty without authorization for extended periods, removing 70 of them from service. Action is also set to be taken against another 193 doctors exhibiting similar conduct, with the relevant proceedings currently at various stages. Officials from the DSH and DME submitted a report containing full details regarding that list to State Minister for Medical and Health, Satya Kumar, at the Velagapudi Secretariat on Friday.



Gig workers vital to urban economy : Vivek

Hyderabad, Oct 2 : Telangana Power and Mines Minister Vivek Venkataswamy affirmed that the state government is according the highest priority to the safety, legal protection, and social security of gig and platform workers.

Inaugurating 'Upzy House', a dedicated facility for cab drivers, delivery personnel, and platform workers at Kondapur on Friday, the Minister highlighted the vital role gig workers play in sustaining the urban economy. "Food and essential supplies are delivered to doorsteps within 10 to 15 minutes because of the tireless effort of gig workers. They have become an indispensable part of urban life," Vivek Venkataswamy said.



We will transform Rayalaseema into a global horticulture hub: CM Chandrababu



Annamayya District, Oct 2 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu stated that Rayalaseema would be transformed into a global horticulture hub with an investment of 1 lakh crore. He laid the foundation stone for the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub in Madanapalle, Annamayya district, on Friday. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Minister Lokesh, and Anant Ambani participated in the event, where CM Chandrababu delivered an address. "From today, Anant Ambani is a son of the Telugu land—a beloved son to us all," he remarked. He praised Anant Ambani, expressing confidence that he would succeed in any project he undertakes. He noted the tremendous enthusiasm shown by the people of Madanapalle during the event and highlighted that a magnificent initiative had been launched in this drought-prone region, predicting that the area would transform into a land of prosperity. He emphasized that Rayalaseema is set to be transformed into a global horticulture hub with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that this hub would be established to benefit the farming community.

We will transform Rayalaseema into a water conservation region: Pawan Kalyan

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan stated that farmers in the Rayalaseema region possess great determination. The foundation stone for the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub was laid in the district on Friday, an event attended by Pawan Kalyan. Speaking at the meeting held on the occasion, he noted that land once plagued by drought is now advancing on the path of development. He announced plans to establish a horticulture hub in Rayalaseema with an investment of 1 lakh crore.



Vivekananda Reddy murder case: ED issues notice to Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 2 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a notice to Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy and directed him to appear before it on October 14 in connection with the investigation into alleged financial transactions related to the murder of his uncle and former Andhra Pradesh minister Y.S. Vivekananda



Reddy. Avinash Reddy, one of the accused in the 2019 murder case, is the cousin of former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

AP students earn a place in the World Book of Records; Minister Lokesh expresses happiness

Amaravati, Oct 2 : Nara Lokesh, Minister for Education and IT, expressed happiness over students from Andhra Pradesh securing a place in the World Book of Records. He congratulated the students on this achievement. The Minister stated that students from 170 schools participated in the 'Swachh Pathasala' (Clean School) program organized within the limits of the Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation. He revealed that 35,000 students earned a spot in the World Book of Records by collecting approximately 75,000 kilograms of dry waste. On this occasion, Minister Lokesh congratulated all the students who set a record. He stated



that the 'Swachh Pathasala' (Clean School) program was organized to create awareness among students about environmental protection.

While weavers' looms fell silent... How did the number of rooms in your hotels increase?

■ Lashing out at the lies of BRS leaders from the undivided district
■ KTR must answer three questions: the tally of assets, the source of investments, and the work done for Sircilla
■ Government Whip Adi Srinivas at a media conference



Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 2 : Government Whip and MLA Adi Srinivas alleged that BRS leaders from the undivided district, rattled and disoriented by the success of Revanth Reddy's rally and public meeting, resorted to telling lies again. He held a media conference at the Sircilla District Congress Party office on Friday and slammed the falsehoods spread by these BRS leaders. He expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the Chief Minister's public meeting and massive rally. Speaking on the occasion, Adi Srinivas remarked that KTR's heart, instead of beating normally, was now pounding "Revanth, Revanth" following the CM's speech. He questioned KTR, noting that while he claims to have started a hotel in 2006, declared it in a 2009 affidavit, and now owns three hotels, he must explain who is responsible for the hardships of the Sircilla people. "Did the number of rooms in your hotels increase while the weavers' looms fell silent? You were elected MLA by Sircilla... but what have you actually given to Sircilla?" he asked. "KTR, how did you acquire the five-star hotels in Hyderabad?" he asked. He demanded that KTR provide answers regarding three specific issues: the details of his assets, the source of his investments, and the work actually done for Sircilla. He warned KTR that the people of Sircilla are watching; if he fails to account for the public's trust, they will certainly settle the score in the upcoming elections. He demanded explanations for the 1,400% increase in KTR's assets and the 3,400% rise in Harish Rao's assets between 2009 and 2026. He also insisted that KTR hold classes for young entrepreneurs to reveal the "tricks of the trade" behind such growth and address the statements made by Kavitha. He pointed out that while funds from the Rajanna Temple's fixed deposits were diverted for the construction of the Pochamma Temple, the current administration is now repaying the associated debts. He noted that the Tank Bund Park was completed at a cost of ¹ 12 crore, and questioned why land acquisition was never carried out despite the ceremonial groundbreaking for the bridge construction. Adi Srinivas declared that the tricolor flag would undoubtedly fly over Sircilla in the upcoming elections. DCC President Sangeetham Srinivas, District Library Organization Chairman Nagula Satyanarayana Goud, Market Committee Chairperson Swarupa Reddy, Town Congress President Devaraju, councilors, other Congress leaders, and others participated in the meeting.



Vakiti-led Telangana delegation witnesses Asian Games events

Hyderabad, Oct 2 : A Telangana government delegation led by Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari witnessed the Asian Games competitions at Aichi-Nagoya in Japan on Friday as part of its visit to study international sporting facilities and management practices.
The delegation visited various sporting venues on the second day of its tour and observed the conduct of competitions and the performance of athletes at the international sporting event.
The delegation comprised Minister Vakiti Srihari, government representative A.P. Jitender Reddy, former Sports Authority chairman Shiva Sena Reddy, and VC and MD Soni Baladevi.
Following India's bronze medal win in Sepak Takraw at the Asian Games, Vakiti Srihari congratulated the Indian team and lauded the players for their hard work and determination.
The Telangana delegation expressed happiness over India winning a medal on the international sporting stage and said the achievement would inspire the youth.
Vakiti Srihari said the Telangana government was taking steps to further develop the sports sector in the State, strengthen training facilities for young athletes and encourage talented sportspersons to excel at the international level.

Komatireddy slams opposition over drought politics



Nalgonda, Oct 2 : Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Friday mounted a sharp attack on the Opposition BRS and BJP, accusing their leaders of taking "sadistic pleasure" in the public distress caused by widespread drought-like conditions.
Addressing reporters at Indira Bhavan in Nalgonda, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy blamed the global impact of El Niño and an increased reliance on agricultural borewells for triggering a sharp spike in Telangana's power demand, which has now touched nearly 20,000 MW. He dismissed the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) administration's claims of delivering uninterrupted free electricity as "false propaganda." "We are not making false promises like the previous government did regarding a 'Dalit Chief Minister' or '24-hour power.' We are placing the true facts before the people," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said, adding that the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government remains committed.



'May Bapu's timeless message keep guiding us towards better society': PM Modi on Gandhi Jayanti

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, recalling his ideals of truth, non-violence, simplicity and Swadeshi, saying Bapu's timeless message would continue to guide the country towards a better society and a Viksit Bharat.
In a post on X, PM Modi said: "May Bapu's timeless message keep guiding us towards a better society and a Viksit Bharat."
In a video message, the Prime Minister said the significance of October 2 was well known to every child in the country and underlined the global relevance of Gandhi's ideology.
"The importance of October 2 is well known to every child of our nation. The ideology of Mahatma Gandhi has inspired the entire world. Mahatma Gandhi was such a person who remained distant from power, yet today he continues to rule the hearts of crores of people," PM Modi said.
He further said that Gandhi's thoughts and ideals would continue to remain relevant as long as their influence remains among humanity.
"I believe that as long as the impact of Gandhi Ji's ideology remains with humankind, its inspiration and relevance will continue to remain among us," he said.
PM Modi also recalled Gandhi's emphasis on Swadeshi and Khadi and urged people to purchase Khadi products on October 2.

Harish Rao seeks Rahul Gandhi's intervention over proposed power sector privatisation

Hyderabad, Oct 2 : BRS senior leader and former minister T Harish Rao has urged Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to intervene immediately to stop the proposed privatisation and equity dilution of key Telangana public-sector institutions, including TG-Transco, TG-Genco, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the Discoms. In a letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, the BRS leader alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was moving towards dilution of ownership in strategic public assets. He questioned whether such a policy was consistent with the Congress party's own economic commitments. Harish Rao cited the Congress manifesto, 2019, which, he said, restricted disinvestment to non-core and non-strategic public-sector enterprises, as well as the 2023 Raipur Economic resolution, which emphasised that disinvestment should not lead to private monopolies or duopolies.
"A CWC resolution cannot be binding in Delhi and optional in Hyderabad", Harish Rao said, questioning the Congress national leadership's silence on the reported proposals. Harish Rao argued that TG-Transco could not be treated as an ordinary commercial enterprise, describing it as a critical public utility forming the backbone of Telangana's electricity transmission network. He pointed to its extensive transmission infrastructure, including 400-kv, 220-kv and 132-kv substations, more than 31,420 circuit kilometres of EHT lines and 1,184 power transformers, and questioned the reported proposal to initially dilute 26 percent equity. According to Harish Rao, the proposed transaction raises a broader question over whether strategic public infrastructure is gradually being opened to private ownership and influence.

SHRIRAM Finance

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri. Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited)** We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.
The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors

1. Chinthala Nirmala W/o. Anangala Ramulu, Aged About 30 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. M/s. Sri Durga Bhavani Cloth Store, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet Dist, R/o. H.No: 2-88/26, Singannagudem Village, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet 502336. **2. Anangala Ramulu S/o. Anangala Narayana** Aged About 34 Years, Degn: General Worker, O/o. M/s. Sanofi Health Care India Private Limited, Medchal-Malkajgiri, R/o. H.No: 2-88/26, Singannagudem Village, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet 502336. **3. Anangalla Srikanth S/o. A Yadaiah**, Aged About 32 Years, Degn: General Worker, O/o. M/s. Sanofi Health Care India Private Limited, Medchal-Malkajgiri, R/o. H.No. 2-88/13, Village Singannagudem, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet 502336.

Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

NPA DATE	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	LOAN AMOUNT
07.11.2023	08.09.2026	Rs. 26,19,790.39/-	Rs. 10,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS:SECU5TF2302280004 Description Of The Immovable Property All that the RCC & ACC House bearing No. 2-88/26, admeasuring 189/94 Sq. Yards., equivalent to 158.81 Sq Mts., with a plinth area of 524.80Sft., RCC & ACC House plinth area of 262.40 Sft., situated at Block No.2, Singannaguda Village & Grampanchayath, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet Dist., and **bounded by: North:** House of Burra Bixpathi, **South:** 12' Wide Road, **East:** Open Place if A. Mallaiah, **West:**15' Wide Road

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.
Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 01-10-2026,
Place: Singannagudem
Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM Finance

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri. Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

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The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors

1. Dharavath Venkatesh S/o. Dharavath Ravi @ Dharavath Golya, Aged About 25 Years, Occ: M/s. Sri Renuka Yellamma Onion Business, Nagaipally Thanda, Thurkapally, Yadadri, R/o. H.No: 3-81, Nagaipalle Thanda, Nagaipalle Village, Thurkapally Mandal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist -508116. **2. Dharavath Namki W/o. Dharavath Golya** Aged About 44 Years, Occ: M/s. Sri Renuka Yellamma Onion Business, Nagaipally Thanda, Thurkapally, Yadadri, R/o. H.No: 3-81, Nagaipalle Thanda, Nagaipalle Village, Thurkapally Mandal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist -508116. **And Also At 2. Dharavath Namki W/o. Dharavath Golya** Aged About 44 Years, R/o. H.No: 2-71, Nagaipalle Thanda, Nagaipalle Village, Thurkapally Mandal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist -508116. **3. Dharavath Hari S/o. Dharavath Devla,** Aged About 42 Years, Occ: Brick Business, R/o. H.No. 4-39, Madhapur Post, Madhapur Village, Thurkapally Mandal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist -508116.

Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

NPA DATE	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	LOAN AMOUNT
07.10.2023	04.09.2026	Rs. 30,65,438.77/-	Rs. 10,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: KSHDATF2303130004 Description of The Immovable Property All that the Part & parcel of House bearing No. 2-71, Gramakantam (Assessment No. 172), admeasuring an extent of 225 Sq. Yards or 188.12 Sq.Mts., with RCC Ground Floor , roof plinth area 635 Sft., situated at Nagaipally Village Thurkapally Mandal, Yadadri Bhongir Dist., and **bounded by: North:** House of Eslavath Thauv, **South:** House of Dharavath Eeru, **East:** 30' Wide Road, **West:** 30' Wide Road.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.
Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 01-10-2026,
Place: Thurkapally.
Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

Manipur CM felicitates Mirabai Chanu, Roshibina Devi for Asian Games silver medals



Imphal, Oct 2 : Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Friday felicitated ace weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu and Wushu player Naorem Roshibina Devi on their return to the state after winning silver medals at the ongoing Asian Games in Japan's Aichi-Nagoya.

The Chief Minister congratulated the two athletes for their impressive performances and bringing laurels to Manipur and the country at the continental sporting event. During the felicitation, Chief Minister Singh expressed his desire to establish sports complexes in the rural areas of Manipur, saying that Imphal city is becoming increasingly congested. He added that such facilities would provide sportspersons with easier access to sports infrastructure. The Chief Minister said that if the law and order situation in the state improves, the state government would be able to increase the assistance provided to sportspersons who bring laurels to the state. Regarding the formation of more than one federation or association for a single discipline in Manipur, Chief Minister Singh said that this creates difficulties in the selection process of players for participation in national and international level competitions.

The Chief Minister lauded the responsibilities undertaken by the local clubs and Civil Society Organisations who contribute significantly towards fulfilling the dreams of the young and successful sportspersons of the state.

Chief Minister Singh maintained that the cash reward provided by the state government to medallists at the Asian Games has been enhanced.

The new cash incentives have been fixed for gold, silver, bronze and participants at Rs 25 lakh, Rs 20 lakh, Rs 15 lakh, Rs 5 lakh respectively.

Regarding the proposed establishment of the Weightlifting Sports Academy, the Chief Minister.



Trinamool leader's brother-in-law among four held in job fraud case

Kolkata, Oct 2 : Former Trinamool Congress MLA and district president Ajit Maity's brother-in-law, Govinda Kar, and three others have been arrested in connection with an alleged financial fraud involving promises of jobs, police said on Friday. The former MLA is already in police custody in the same case following his arrest. Along with his brother-in-law, police also arrested his driver, Amal Bhuiyan, and an associate, Pranab Mandal alias Saheb.

On Thursday, police from Kharagpur Local Police Station arrested Govinda Kar from his residence in Madpur.

Investigators said they recovered cash and several gold ornaments during the search.

Meanwhile, police also raided the residence of Pranab Mandal, a resident of Ajit Maity's native village.



Assam Police seize yaba tablets worth Rs 60 lakh, arrest two

Guwahati, Oct 2 : Assam Police have seized a large consignment of suspected narcotic tablets worth around Rs 60 lakh and arrested two persons in Hailakandi district, officials said on Friday.

The operation was carried out as part of intensified action against the trafficking and illegal transportation of narcotic substances in the district. According to officials, police recovered 816.9 grams of suspected Yaba tablets during the operation.

Two persons, identified as Baharul Alam Majumdar and Chayekh Hussain Laskar, were arrested in connection with the seizure.

Officials said the accused were taken into custody after police intercepted them and recovered the contraband from their possession.

The seized tablets are suspected to be Yaba, a synthetic drug containing methamphetamine and caffeine and commonly trafficked across the northeastern region. The estimated street value of the seized contraband is around Rs 60 lakh, officials said. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to establish the source of the drugs and identify the intended recipients. Investigators are also examining whether the arrested persons are linked to a larger inter-state narcotics trafficking network operating through Assam and neighbouring states. Police are questioning the two accused to gather information about the supply chain, including the origin of the consignment.

EC assured action over false Form 7 applications: Shivakumar



Bengaluru, Oct 2 : Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday night said the Election Commission had assured action against those who knowingly file false claims or objections in electoral forms, following complaints over the alleged bulk submission of Form 7 applications seeking the deletion of voters. Shivakumar, accompanied by members of his Cabinet and senior Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B.K. Hariprasad and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, met officials at the Election Commission office and submitted a detailed representation on the issue.

He subsequently staged a protest.

Addressing reporters later, Shivakumar alleged that thousands of Form 7 applications had been generated and distributed at the grassroots level, containing details such as EPIC numbers and voters' names.

He alleged that attempts had been made to use these forms to delete eligible voters from the electoral rolls. "We have found many cases. Many issues have come to my notice," Shivakumar alleged, claiming that leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)] had been involved in fraud, illegal activities and a criminal conspiracy against eligible voters.

He claimed that attempts to delete voters had been reported in several constituencies, with the number of applications in some places running into thousands.

Sachin Dev Burman's musical legacy continues to inspire generations: Tripura CM



Agartala, Oct 2 : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has paid tribute to legendary singer and composer Sachin Dev Burman on his birth anniversary, recalling his immense contribution to Indian music and his enduring connection with the state.

Speaking at a programme organised at Rabindra Shatabarshiki Bhawan here on Friday, CM Saha said that Sachin Dev Burman's journey from his roots in the erstwhile Royal family of Tripura to becoming one of India's most celebrated musicians was an inspiration for the younger generation.

The Chief Minister added that the state government had donated the house associated with the legendary musician, who belonged to the Royal family but remained grounded despite his aristocratic background.

"He belonged to the Royal family, where he had access to everything, but he left it all behind and created his own identity," CM Saha said. He recalled that Sachin Dev Burman was born in Comilla, now in Bangladesh, and said the folk traditions, melodies and songs of the region deeply influenced his musical sensibilities.



Monsoon to withdraw from Delhi, Punjab within 48 hours; more rain likely in several states

New Delhi, Oct 2 : The monsoon is expected to withdraw from the plains of North India, including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, within the next 48 hours. However, the withdrawal is likely to be accompanied by another spell of rainfall in several parts of the country.

According to the Meteorological Department, rainfall is likely in Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab on October 6 and 7. Heavy rainfall is expected in Himachal Pradesh from October 5 to 7, Jammu and Kashmir from October 6 to 7, and Uttarakhand from October 5 to 7. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also likely over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during this period.

Navy chief to attend Lawrence School Sanawar's 179th Founder's Day celebrations



Shimla, Oct 2 : The Lawrence School, Sanawar, in Himachal Pradesh, will celebrate its 179th Founder's Day with a three-day programme beginning on October 3, bringing together students, faculty, parents and the extended Old Sanawarian community from across India and overseas.

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, will be the chief guest at the 179th Founder's Trooping of the School Flag Ceremony on October 5.

Admiral Swaminathan assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff on May 31.

The Founder's Day celebrations will mark another milestone in the journey of one of the world's historic residential educational institutions.

Founded on April 15, 1847, by Sir Henry Lawrence and Lady Honoria Lawrence, Sanawar began with just 14 boys and girls living under canvas on the Kasauli hills before the first buildings were completed.

Over nearly 18 decades, the school has evolved into a distinguished co-educational residential institution while retaining its traditions, values and strong sense of community.

Located in the hills of Solan district, Sanawar's residential environment has traditionally combined academic learning with sports, outdoor activities, cultural pursuits and community living.

Its long-standing traditions have played an important role in shaping generations of Sanawarians, with the school's ethos emphasising not only academic development but also character, leadership, discipline and participation beyond the classroom.

Founder's Day remains one of the most significant occasions on the school calendar, bringing together current students and faculty with parents, alums and members of the wider Old Sanawarian community.

The three-day programme will reflect this enduring legacy through a mix of sporting events, cultural activities, exhibitions, special assemblies and traditional ceremonies.

The concluding day on October 5 will begin with the Founder's Day Special Assembly, followed by the much-awaited 179th Founder's Trooping of the School Flag Ceremony with Admiral Swaminathan as the chief guest.



Bapu's ideals, simplicity, and thoughts continue to guide us in building self-reliant, Viksit Bharat: CM Yogi

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary on Friday, stating that Bapu's ideals, simplicity, and thoughts continue to guide us in building a self-reliant and Viksit Bharat. In a post on X, CM Yogi wrote: "On the sacred birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji, who walked the path of truth and non-violence to convey the message of freedom to the entire world through indigenous means and non-violence, millions of salutations. Best wishes to the people of the state on International Day of Non-Violence," the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said.

"The revered Bapu's ideals, simplicity, and thoughts continue to provide us all with constant guidance even today in building a self-reliant and Viksit Bharat," he added.



Himachal govt raises apple procurement price, announces higher milk support rate

Shimla, Oct 2 : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday announced an increase in milk support prices from December 1 and a Rs 1 per kg hike in apple procurement rates under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), reiterating the government's commitment to strengthening the rural economy.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAPAKA SUMA,** w/o RAPAKA DANIYELU residence of D.No: 1-85, Kotha Colony, Gollapalem, Kesanapalli, Malkipuram mandal, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Konaseema dist. A.P. Have changed my name **RAPAKA MARIYAMMA (Old Name) to RAPAKA SUMA (New Name).** Hence after all my documents (Passport., etc.) and correspondence will continue with my new name **RAPAKA SUMA.**

NOTICE

My client, **Smt. Hemalatha,** wife of Sri Dantuluri Seetharama Raju, resident of Pedamadi Village, within I. Polavaram Gram Panchayat limits, I. Polavaram Mandal, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, hereby informs that the original document registered in the name of her mother, Smt. Lakshmi, wife of Sri Kanumuri Suryanarayana Raju, bearing **Registered Document No. 688/2006, SRO I. Polavaram, was lost on 25-08-2026.** The said original document was lost while she was travelling on her husband's motorcycle on the way to a Xerox shop at Murumalla for taking Xerox copies of the said document.If anyone finds or comes across the said original document/original deeds, they are requested to kindly inform us immediately.

D. V. V. S. Murthy, Advocate
Bogaraju Veedhi, K. Agraharam, Amalapuram.

Opinion Mail



India and Bangladesh reaffirm longstanding ties, discuss matters of mutual interest

India and Bangladesh reaffirmed the enduring bilateral ties and cooperation and discussed is sues of mutual interest during a meeting between India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi and Bangladesh's Minister of Liberation War Affairs, Ahmed Aazam Khan in Dhaka. "High Commissioner Shri Dinesh Trivedi met with the Minister of Liberation War Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr. Ahmed Aazam Khan, on a courtesy call on September 30th. The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed the longstanding ties and cooperation between India and Bangladesh," the Indian High Commission in Dhaka posted on X on Thursday. Trivedi on Wednesday stressed the need for thorough preparations by both sides ahead of the meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and PM Narendra Modi, saying there was no need to rush, local media reported.

Addressing reporters following his meeting with Liberation War Affairs Minister, Trivedi said, "We have to make sure that proper preparations are made because many issues will have to be discussed - trade, commerce, water - many issues. We are very positive about the future."

"It is absolutely certain that at some point in time, both the leaders of sovereign independent countries will meet. Let us give both the leaders, both the countries, convenient time. At the right time, all right things will happen," Bangladeshi media outlet Bonik Barta quoted the Indian High Commissioner as saying. Stressing that any outstanding issues could be resolved if the two leaders met and discussed them together, he further said, "See, challenges will be there. If we think there are no challenges - that would be wrong." The meeting came a day after Trivedi met Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir in Dhaka, where the two sides explored ways to deepen bilateral engagement and advance cooperation for mutual benefit between the two countries.

Following the meeting, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka took to X and posted: "High Commissioner Shri Dinesh Trivedi held a courtesy meeting with the Minister of State-1 for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Humaiun Kobir, on 29 September 2026. High Commissioner conveyed congratulations on his assumption of charge as the State Minister. The discussion focused on continued cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, for mutually beneficial outcomes for the peoples of India and Bangladesh." During the meeting, Kobir reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to engaging with India in a "forward-looking and mutually respectful" manner on matters of shared interest and for the benefit of both countries' peoples. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral ties as well as regional and international developments, including the recently concluded 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported.

UP farmers welcome hike in MSP price for Rabi crops, say it will help them plan crop diversification



Lucknow, Oct 2 : With the Centre clearing an increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops for 2027-28, the move has been welcomed by scores of farmers across the country as a "positive, farmer-friendly and income-boosting" step.

The Cabinet announced the highest increase in MSP for safflower at Rs 675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs 413 per quintal. The farming community in Uttar Pradesh.

EDITORIAL

the indian mail

Mamata Banerjee named in ED statement over probe in money laundering case



Kolkata, Oct 2 : Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and ex-Cabinet Minister Indranil Sen had been named by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday in relation to the central probe agency's investigation into a case of money laundering, other than that of "Mass Art", which had been accused of selling "Durga Puja Preview Show Passes" in 2024 and 2025.

Sen is already under the ED scanner in connection with the "Mass Art" case.

In this particular case, where both Mamata Banerjee and Sen, a singer-turned-politician, had been named by the ED is in relation to the agency's investigation against Sen's proprietorship concern christened Octave Records.

According to a statement issued by ED on Thursday evening, during Sen's tenure as the West Bengal Tourism Minister during the previous Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government, multiple tenders from both the state tourism as well as cultural departments of more than Rs 85 crore, were awarded to the entities owned by Dhrubajyoti Bose and Dipesh Roy, both of whom were close aides of Sen.

"These entities subsequently transferred large sums of money to entities controlled by relatives of Indranil Sen. Furthermore, massive cash withdrawals have been observed from the bank accounts of the entities that secured these tenders," the ED statement said.

In the same statement, the ED claimed that a detailed investigation in the matter had revealed that cash of more than Rs 3.3 crore was deposited into the bank accounts of Sen and his proprietorship entity, Octave Records. "Also, from the bank account of Octave Records, a sum of nearly Rs 30 lakh was transferred via banking channels to Mamata Banerjee, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal, which Indranil Sen has claimed was paid in the form of royalty," the ED statement added.

According to the central agency, during search and seizure proceedings, incriminating digital devices and documentary evidence were found

Delhi: Kiren Rijiju joins NDMC's voluntary service for cleanliness

New Delhi, Oct 2 : As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday organised a mass voluntary service drive as part of the initiative "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath", with Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju joining the event.

Union Ministers, senior officers of the Government of India, the Delhi Government Minister, the NDMC Chairman, senior officials, students, traders, residents, Safai Sevaks, and representatives of various institutions actively participated in Shramdaan, reaffirming their collective commitment to a cleaner, greener, and healthier New Delhi, an official statement said. The initiative saw enthusiastic public participation at schools, markets, residential areas, public places, offices and institutional complexes, turning cleanliness into a people-centric Jan Andolan, the statement said. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju joined the Shramdaan programme at Navyug School, Peshwa Road, near Gole Market, along with NDMC Chairman Manoj Kumar Dwivedi.





Gujarat CM reviews child nutrition and honours workers

Ahmedabad, Oct 2 : Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday visited an Anganwadi centre in Bopal as part of the 'Angan Milan Seva' initiative under the ongoing 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', interacting with children and parents and reviewing the services provided at the centre. During his visit to Bopal Anganwadi-6, Patel distributed fruits, Sukhdi and toys to children. Take-Home Ration (THR) was also distributed to pregnant women, adolescent girls and children aged six months to three years.

The Chief Minister inspected the Anganwadi premises and reviewed the facilities and activities available for children.

He also interacted with children and their parents and enquired about the regularity and quality of services being provided through the Anganwadi. As part of the programme, Poshan Champion Awards were presented to children who had improved their nutritional status and maintained the improvement.

Patel also felicitated Anganwadi workers, helpers and ASHA workers for their outstanding performance.

The 'Angan Milan Seva' event was organised as part of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', being held to mark 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service.

Ahmedabad Mayor Hitesh Barot, Collector Bhavya Verma, Deputy Mayor Anju Shah, Standing Committee Chairman Kamlesh Patel, officials of the Women and Child Development Department, office-bearers and officials of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, along with parents and children, were present at the event. On Wednesday evening, Patel visited Dam View Point-1 in Ekta Nagar. The CM interacted with tourists from Danta taluka, Banaskantha, who visited Ekta Nagar to see the Statue of Unity.

MP BJP chief counters Rahul Gandhi over Balaghat visit, seeks answers on Congress record



Bhopal, Oct 2 : Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Hemant Khandelwal on Friday hit back at Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his allegations against the BJP government during his visit to Balaghat, asking him to explain what Congress governments did for tribal areas during their long tenure in power.

LoP Rahul Gandhi visited Balaghat on Thursday and met tribal families, including those affected by the deaths of children.

After interacting with the tribal families, LoP Rahul Gandhi raised questions regarding healthcare, malnutrition, education and basic facilities in the tribal region and alleged that the BJP government had failed to address their problems.

Responding to the remarks, Khandelwal said LoP Rahul Gandhi was welcome to meet people and listen to their concerns, but should also answer questions about the Congress party's record in tribal areas. "LoP Rahul Gandhi should also give an account of the Congress' long rule," Khandelwal said.

He added that while Congress was raising questions about problems in tribal areas today, it should also explain what concrete efforts its governments had made for development, healthcare, education, roads and basic facilities in those regions.

Khandelwal said several basic problems continued to exist in tribal areas despite the Congress having been in power for years and asked why the party had failed to resolve them during its tenure.

The BJP state president also referred to the issue of Naxalism in Balaghat, recalling the killing of former minister and senior Congress leader Likhiram Kanwre by Naxalites. He asked LoP Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party to explain what concrete steps the Congress government had taken to deal with Naxalism at the time and whether he had met Kanwre's family and understood their suffering. Khandelwal said the Congress could not escape responsibility merely by raising questions about the BJP government.

Samrat Choudhary invites investors to Bihar, highlights infrastructure push at summit

Patna, Oct 2 : Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Industries Minister Shreyasi Singh and Road Construction Minister Kumar Shailendra jointly inaugurated the Rising Bihar Investor Summit 2026 at the Taj City Centre in Patna on Friday. Addressing the inaugural session, Choudhary said Bihar was ready to welcome investments and assured investors that the state government would provide all possible support and facilities.

He said infrastructure, including roads, electricity and water supply, was being strengthened to create a favourable environment for industries. Urging industrialists to invest in Bihar, the Chief Minister said the government was working to expand investment and employment.





Brazil, US move closer to trade deal

Milwaukee, Oct 2 : Brazil and the United States are moving closer towards a trade agreement and will work in the coming weeks to define the scope of negotiations, including tariffs, non-tariff barriers, quotas and safeguards, a senior Brazilian minister has said.

Brazil's Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services Márcio Elias Rosa said he held a "good meeting" with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting here.

"We spoke about the possibility of an agreement. We renewed the commitment to having an agreement," Rosa said through an interpreter during an impromptu gaggle. "Greer is interested in building this agreement," he said. Rosa said the immediate task was to determine what would fall within the negotiations. "In the coming weeks, we are going to define a conceptual scope of such trade agreements, which can talk about tariff or non-tariff issues," he said.

The Brazilian side, he added, had never lacked willingness to negotiate. Rosa said negotiations had resumed following direct engagement between the presidents of the two countries after tariffs affected Brazil's economy.

The two sides subsequently held talks, including a second in-person meeting during the G20 gathering in Milwaukee, he said.

War risks drag global growth to 3.1 pc: IMF

Washington, Oct 2 : The global economy is set to slow in 2026 as war-driven disruptions in energy supplies and trade routes push up prices and dent growth, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said, warning of tougher conditions if the conflict persists.

"Even if the conflict is short-lived, extensive infrastructure damage and supply-chain disruptions are pushing prices up and slowing global growth down from 3.4 per cent last year to 3.1 per cent in 2026," Georgieva said at the IMF's Spring Meetings press briefing on Friday (local time).

She cautioned that a prolonged conflict and sustained high oil prices could sharply worsen the outlook. "In the most adverse case, growth could fall to 2 per cent, and the shock is global," she said, adding that "all countries are affected by higher energy prices."





Media outlet faces restriction in Pakistan over PoK unrest coverage; concerns grow over press freedom

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Users in Pakistan have taken to social media platforms to express outrage over what they describe as the blocking of access to one of the international media outlets in the country following its coverage of recent developments in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Several users reported difficulties accessing Al Jazeera, which calls itself the first independent news channel in the Arab world, and raised concerns over press freedom, internet restrictions, and the public's right to access independent information.

The reported restriction comes amid growing tensions in PoK, where protests and unrest have intensified over the past several days. The claims regarding the website's inaccessibility have sparked a debate online, with users questioning whether the move was linked to Al Jazeera's reporting on the ongoing situation in the region.

The controversy follows criticism from Pakistani authorities over international media's coverage of sensitive issues related to the country. Officials have previously accused the international news organisation of biased reporting, while the outlet has maintained its role as an independent media organisation.



Iran war to end 'very quickly': Trump

Washington, Oct 2 : US President Donald Trump said that the war with Iran would end "very quickly" and predicted oil prices would fall sharply once the conflict was over, as he portrayed Tehran as militarily and economically weakened.

Speaking to reporters after arriving in Texas and later during a visit to a Peterbilt Motors facility in Denton, Trump said Iran faced a choice over how the conflict would end.

"Iran will very soon be ending one way or the other," Trump told reporters. "It'll either just say, look, they have 301 percent inflation. They have no money, they have no currency. Their military has been defeated, their navy is gone, their air force is gone, everything's gone." "And, one way or the other, it's going to end very quickly. And when that ends, oil prices are going to drop like a rock," he said.

Trump also said the United States could consider seeking the release of diesel stocks held by a European country to help ease prices, although he did not identify the country.

"Well, we may do that. They have some diesel, but the prices are coming down. All prices are coming down," he said.

Trump acknowledged that oil prices remained elevated, but argued they were lower than under former President Joe Biden.

"The one thing we have is oil is a little high, but oil is much lower than it was for Biden," he said. "And we did something that Biden didn't do. Iran will never have a nuclear weapon."

During his later remarks at the Peterbilt facility, Trump returned repeatedly to Iran and energy prices. He said the United States had maintained movement of oil despite the conflict and Iranian restrictions around the Strait of Hormuz.

Former US Treasury Secretary, Harvard head hit by disclosures in Epstein files

New York, Oct 2 : As Congress readies to vote on Friday on the release of all the files on convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, once a high-flying billionaire social figure, preliminary leaks have hit Larry Summers, a former Treasury Secretary and Harvard University head.

After disclosures in emails between them that Summers sought advice from Epstein about seducing a woman, Summers said that he was "deeply ashamed" and would withdraw from public engagements.

Democrat Representative Ro Khanna, who spearheaded the effort for the legislation to release the documents, told a TV interviewer that he wanted the elite involved to be exposed.



South Africa to uphold diplomacy while sticking to principled positions, says minister

Johannesburg, Oct 2 : South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola reaffirmed the country's commitment to diplomacy, emphasising that it will remain firm on its principled positions.

Speaking on Friday at the opening of the inaugural Annual Aziz Pahad Peace, Security, and Human Rights Dialogue in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, Lamola noted that South Africa will not engage in "trading insults" with any country, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We're practicing diplomacy. We're not in the business of trading insults with anyone in the world. We will remain firm on our principled positions. We will continue to pursue our national interest in line with diplomatic decorum," Lamola said. "If we disagree with any country, it should not be on the basis of insults but the substance of the matter." He further noted that South Africa valued its "mutually beneficial trade relations" with the United States, and the government remained committed to extending a "hand to bridge our recently challenging relationship with the US."



While Pretoria was open to mending its strained ties with Washington, it remained firm on its policies, including taking the Israeli government to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2023 over alleged genocide in the Gaza Strip.



US lawmaker, diplomats hail Indian Flydubai pilot

Washington, Oct 2 : An American lawmaker has joined US President Donald Trump and Indian diplomats in praising Captain Smit Machchhar for his courage aboard a Flydubai flight, as messages of appreciation for the seriously injured Indian pilot continue to pour in.

Congressman Rich McCormick, who represents Georgia's 7th Congressional District, called Machchhar a "true hero" and highlighted his connection with the Indian community in his constituency.

South Korea's Defence Ministry launches new counterintelligence unit in overhaul

Seoul, Oct 2 : South Korea's defence ministry on Friday launched a new counterintelligence unit tasked with countering espionage and terror threats from North Korea and elsewhere, as part of a sweeping overhaul aimed at replacing a former unit long dogged by criticism over its political influence.

The new defence counterintelligence agency is one of three new bodies being established under the reform plan, after the ministry decided to disperse and transfer the core functions of the Defence Counterintelligence Command (DCC) to new and existing agencies. The ministry unveiled the reform plans in early June to dismantle the DCC, marking the command's dissolution 49 years after its establishment.

The new counterintelligence unit will "proactively tackle future security threats" by working with domestic and foreign partner agencies to combat increasingly covert intelligence activities and terrorist threats from North Korea and other countries, the ministry said in a release.

It will also focus on preventing military secret leaks in the defence industry, while seeking to provide security support for other strategic areas, such as maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) operations being pursued in cooperation with the US Navy, reports Yonhap news agency.

Also, a major task will be protecting advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and satellite systems against potential cyberthreats, the ministry added.

A launch ceremony was held at the former headquarters in Gwacheon, just south of Seoul, attended by Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back and other military officials. A new security support unit was also launched within the ministry on the same day. It will mainly oversee internal military security, including security audits for corps-level units or larger formations and investigation into security breaches.





Kumaraswamy attacks Congress govt over Bidadi land acquisition notification

Bengaluru, Oct 2 : Strongly condemning the Congress government for issuing the final notification for land acquisition for the Bidadi township project despite intense opposition from farmers, Union Minister and Karnataka JD(S) President H.D. Kumaraswamy on Friday announced that a legal battle would be launched against what he termed an anti-farmer move.

He declared that he would fight on behalf of the farmers who stand to lose their land. The Bidadi township row centres on the Karnataka government's plan to acquire agricultural land in and around Bidadi, near Bengaluru, for a proposed township project. The Bidadi region is located close to Bengaluru. Amid the opposition, the Congress government led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar issued the final notification for land acquisition on Saturday.

The Union Minister challenged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to accompany him to the affected villages and determine whether the owners of the land notified for acquisition under the Bidadi township project are genuine farmers or not. "Claiming that farmers are not farmers is the height of arrogance. It is a grave insult to the very people who feed the nation. If the Chief Minister wants to know whether they are genuine farmers, let him visit those villages. I will also go there.

Punjab isn't Kejriwal's personal jagir : Sirsa slams AAP convener for use of state resources

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has mounted a sharp attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of exploiting Punjab's resources for personal and political gains.

In a strongly worded post on X on Friday, Sirsa, who holds the portfolios of Food & Supplies, Industry, and Forest & Environment in the Delhi government, questioned Kejriwal's frequent use of Punjab's state helicopter.

"Punjab isn't Kejriwal's personal jagir! Why is Arvind Kejriwal using Punjab's state helicopter like his personal ride? In what official capacity? Who gave CM Bhagwant Mann the right to hand over Punjab's resources to serve AAP high command?" Sirsa wrote.

He further criticized the Punjab government, highlighting the state's financial distress and governance issues. "Punjab is buried under debt. Farmers are in distress, youth are jobless, industries are collapsing… and public money is being blown on Kejriwal's VIP luxuries!" he alleged.



The Delhi minister called out Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, demanding an explanation for the apparent misuse of state resources. "Is he Punjab's CM or Kejriwal's travel agent?" Sirsa asked, indicating that Mann was prioritising Kejriwal's political activities over Punjab's governance.

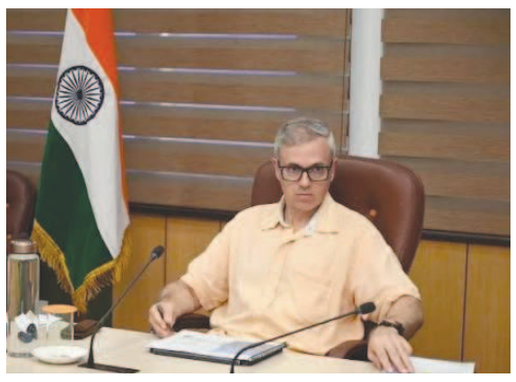
Come and join Congress directly leaving behind your 'baggage': Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury tells Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, Oct 2 : Former West Bengal Congress President and five-time previous Lok Sabha member, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, on Friday gave an open call to the former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to directly come under the fold of the Congress leader but after leaving behind her "baggage" attached to the Trinamool Congress. "Mamata Banerjee will take the right decision if she joins Congress directly with the existing MPs and MLAs who are still loyal to her. We will accept it. When she had already taken shelter under the leadership of Congress, which is like a banyan tree, she should join the party directly instead of carrying along a separate entity.

J&K govt sanctions Rs 10.95 crore for preservation, upgradation of religious sites in Anantnag

Srinagar, Oct 2 : The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Friday that it has approved two projects worth Rs 10.95 crore for the preservation and upgradation of important religious sites in Anantnag district. Office of the J&K Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, said on X, "Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved two projects worth Rs 10.95 crore for the preservation and upgradation of important religious sites in Anantnag. Rs 5.03 crore has been approved for the restoration and renovation of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, while Rs 5.92 crore has been sanctioned for the repair and renovation of Shiv Mandir, Thajiwara, Bijbehara." "These projects will preserve the sanctity and heritage of both religious places while improving facilities for devotees," the CMO said. While Muslim religious sites need upgradation, it is the Hindu religious sites in the Valley whose preservation and upgradation have become a serious challenge for the authorities. The Hindu sites have been lying unattended for over 36 years after the forced exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community due to terrorism.

The preservation of Hindu religious and cultural heritage in Kashmir involves temple restoration, legal protections against land encroachment, and community-led revival efforts. Revival and preservation efforts include government-funded renovation projects, court-mandated safeguards for unattended sites, and the reopening of historic places of worship. Friday's decision by the Jammu and Kashmir government to provide Rs 5.92 crore for the repair and renovation of the Shiv Mandir at Thajiwara in Bijbehara is another step towards the objective of preservation of Hindu religious sites. The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh ordered the administration to safeguard unattended Hindu temples and shrines from land grabbers and encroachments. Local leadership has discussed introducing dedicated legislation to protect the properties and religious sites of the displaced community.



Dozens of long-closed sites, such as the 300-year-old Anandishar Temple in Srinagar and the Shiral Nath Temple, have resumed regular rituals and prayers. For decades following the migration of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s, many local Muslim neighbours voluntarily acted as caretakers and cleaners to protect temple structures from decay.



Delhi HC rejects bail plea of ex-AAP MLA Naresh Balyan in MCOCA case

New Delhi, Oct 2 : The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Naresh Balyan's bail plea in a case registered under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

A single-judge Bench of Justice Manoj Jain, who had reserved the verdict last week, declined to grant bail to the former Uttam Nagar legislator. Balyan has challenged the trial court's order refusing him bail in the organised crime case registered by the Delhi Police Crime Branch under the MCOCA. The former AAP MLA was rearrested by the Crime Branch in December 2024 under the MCOCA.

Delhi Police arrest two for selling banned Chinese product, recover 37 reels in Dayalpur crackdown

New Delhi, Oct 2 : In a major crackdown on the sale of prohibited Chinese product (kite strings), Delhi Police on Friday arrested two persons and seized 37 reels of the banned kite string during a coordinated operation in the Dayalpur area of northeast Delhi.

Police said the recovery prevented a potential threat to public safety, as Chinese Manjha has been linked to several fatal and serious injuries in recent years.

According to police, the action began on the night of August 1 at around 11:30 p.m., when Head Constable Karan Pal and Constable Rajan were on routine patrol. During the patrol, the team reached Shop No. D-1/102 on Main 25 Foota Road in Nehru Vihar, where they allegedly found a man selling prohibited Chinese Manjha.

The accused was identified as Mohd. Rihan (23), a resident of Ashok Vihar, Loni. A search of the shop led to the recovery of six reels of banned Chinese Manjha, including five Hero Plus reels and one Mono Kite reel. The reels were seized on the spot.

Based on the recovery, Delhi Police registered FIR No. 363/2026 at Dayalpur Police Station under Section 223(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 5 and 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act. Police said Mohd. Rihan has no previous criminal record.

During interrogation, Rihan allegedly revealed the source from where he had procured the prohibited kite string. Acting on the information, the investigating team traced and arrested Deepak (28), a resident of Indra Market in Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Police conducted a search of Deepak's shop and recovered 31 more reels of banned Chinese Manjha. The entire stock was seized in accordance with legal



procedures. Like Rihan, Deepak also has no previous criminal involvement, police said.

NIA interrogates JeM suspect Hamim Mondal, Arpita Sarkar in Bengal

Kolkata, Oct 2 : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday interrogated Hamim Mondal, the suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) associate, and his female aide, Arpita Sarkar, both of whom were arrested last week by the Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police.

Considering the seriousness of the charges against Mondal and Sarkar, who also have links with Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN).



Assam Rifles conducts drone awareness, security exercises for CISF personnel in Tripura

Agartala, Oct 2 : The Assam Rifles conducted a demonstration on drone operations and emerging aerial threats for personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport in Agartala, officials said on Friday. A defence spokesperson said that the drone awareness session focused on contemporary security challenges faced by the CISF and explored effective ways to counter them through timely detection, swift response and coordinated action.

The interaction covered drone identification, detection and mitigation techniques, safe interdiction procedures, legal aspects governing drone operations and practical measures required to safeguard critical aviation infrastructure, he said.

According to the spokesperson, the lecture sessions also highlighted the importance of inter-organisational synergy among the Assam Rifles, CISF, airport authorities and other stakeholders to strengthen overall



security preparedness. The initiative underscored the spirit of collective responsibility towards national security, with emphasis on unity, vigilance and coordinated response to emerging threats, the official pointed out.

He said that senior officials and CISF personnel appreciated the session, which reinforced the importance of seamless coordination and preparedness in ensuring the nation's security.

Jharkhand: Latehar farmers rejoice over extension of PM KISAN scheme, thank Prime Minister

Ranchi, Oct 2 : Farmers across the country are rejoicing over the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, one of the flagship schemes for the agriculture sector and are expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the benevolence. In Jharkhand's Latehar district, hundreds of farmers celebrated the five-year extension in the PM-KISAN scheme, from 2026-27 to 2030-2031. The extension of the scheme was recently approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi.



They are delighted with the Central Government's decision to extend the scheme and its benefits for another five years. A couple of them, counting its benefits, said that this helped them reduce their dependence on money lenders, thereby freeing them of their devious trap. Shashi Bhushan Pathak, a local farmer, told IANS, "It is an excellent development for farmers.

Rupee climbs to near one-month peak on lower crude oil prices

Mumbai, Oct 2 : The Indian rupee surged to a near one-month high on Friday as crude oil prices fell by up to 7 per cent to below the $80-a-barrel mark amid hopes of a deal to end the Iran conflict, while strong foreign inflows further supported the currency. The domestic currency strengthened nearly 0.3 per cent to 95.13 against the US dollar, its highest level since July. It had settled at 95.38 against the US dollar in the previous session and had gained more than 1 per cent last week. According to market experts, the rupee strengthened to around 95.1 per dollar as lower crude prices improved India's inflation and import outlook. They noted that the RBI's near-daily dollar sales helped ease concerns of the currency weakening beyond the 97-per-dollar level.





ASSOCHAM urges RBI to hold rates steady in key MPC meet next week

New Delhi, Oct 2 : As the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prepares for its upcoming monetary policy meeting, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on Friday called for a cautious approach, recommending that the RBI adopt a "wait and watch" stance rather than opting for an immediate rate cut.

ASSOCHAM President Sanjay Nayar emphasised that while the central bank had already injected liquidity into the market through measures like a 25-basis-point rate cut during the last policy cycle, it is important to allow time for these measures to take effect.

"The RBI has recently injected liquidity into the market through various measures, including a 25 basis points cut last time," he said. Nayar contended that the focus should be on assessing the impact of these steps on capital expenditure (capex) growth and consumer consumption before making any further decisions.

Muthoot Finance shares tumble over 14 pc after Q1 results



New Delhi, Oct 2 : Shares of Muthoot Finance plunged more than 14 per cent on Friday after the gold loan financier announced its June quarter (Q1 FY27) results. The stock opened 7.81 per cent lower at Rs 2,876 on the NSE and extended losses during the session, falling as much as 14.38 per cent to Rs 2,671 apiece by around 12:15 p.m. At the last count, the NBFC stock was trading over 8.5 per cent lower, underperforming the broader market. The decline came despite Muthoot Finance reporting a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,799 crore for the first quarter of FY27.

Institutional investments in Indian real estate up 31 pc at $1.3 billion in Q1

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Institutional investments in India's real estate sector saw a strong start to 2025, with total inflows reaching $1.3 billion in the first quarter, a new report said on Friday.

This marks a 31 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, driven largely by domestic investors, according to the report by Colliers India.



Food businesses must stop using metallic pins, wires in food packaging immediately: FSSAI

New Delhi, Oct 2 : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Friday directed food business operators (FBOs) to immediately discontinue the use of metallic pins, staple pins, wires or similar materials for sealing, fastening, securing or packaging food items, saying such practices pose a serious risk to consumer safety.

In an advisory issued to food businesses, the food regulator said it had come to its notice that metallic pins and wires are being used in decorative cakes as well as for fastening food packets, cake boxes, sweet boxes.

HDFC Bank appoints Anup Bagchi as next MD & CEO, to take charge on Oct 27

Mumbai, Oct 2 : HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), according to a stock exchange filing on Friday.

Bagchi, currently the MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, will assume charge on October 27, 2026, following the completion of incumbent MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan's tenure on October 26. Jagdishan had chosen not to seek reappointment for another term. "The Board of Directors of the Bank, based on the recommendation of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee, at its meeting held today i.e. October 1, 2026 approved the following: a. appointment of Anup Bagchi as an Additional Director of the Bank w.e.f. October 2, 2026 till the date of approval of the shareholders as per the provisions of Companies Act, 2013.

b. appointment of Anup Bagchi as the MD & CEO of the Bank on such terms and conditions including remuneration, as approved by the RBI, for a period of 3 (three) years with effect from October 27, 2026, subject to approval of the shareholders as per the provisions of Companies Act, 2013," the private lender said.





The appointment marks a key leadership transition at India's largest private sector lender. Earlier, HDFC Bank had submitted two names to the RBI for consideration for the top position: Anup Bagchi and the bank's Deputy Managing Director Kaizad Bharucha.

Ola Electric's revenue from operations drops 55 pc in Q3, losses up on-quarter

Mumbai, Oct 2 : Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric on Friday reported 55.02 per cent decline in its revenue from operations (year-on-year) to Rs 470 crore in Q3 FY26, compared to Rs 1,045 crore in the same period last fiscal. The company's total revenue also saw a significant decline in the December quarter, falling 56.99 per cent year-on-year to Rs 504 crore, compared to Rs 1,172 crore in the same period last year. Ola Electric continues to suffer losses. In the December quarter of FY26, the company reported a loss of Rs 487 crore, compared to Rs 564 crore in the same period last year.

The company's losses increased quarter-on-quarter. The company had incurred a loss of Rs 418 crore in the September quarter.

The company's expenses declined in the December quarter of FY26. The company's total expenses decreased by 50.76 per cent to Rs 741 crore in the October-December period, compared to Rs 1,505 crore in the same period last year. The significant reason for the decrease in expenses is the lower cost of materials used in production. Material costs in the December quarter of FY26 were Rs 223 crore, a 74 per cent decrease from Rs 867 crore spent in the December quarter of FY25.

Ola Electric shares closed at Rs 30.9 on Friday, down 0.26 per cent. During the day, it hit a new 52-week low of Rs 30.41. The stock has delivered a negative return of 51.90 per cent over the past year. Since the beginning of this year, the stock has fallen 17.59 per cent. Ola Electric, which has been facing difficulties, laid off employees last month. It stated that approximately 5 per cent of its employees will be affected as part of this ongoing structural change. The company further stated that it is focused on providing a superior customer experience and building a streamlined organization for long-term, profitable growth.



Govt scraps charges on updating nominee details in PPF accounts

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday that the government has issued a Gazette Notification to bar financial institutions from levying any charges for modifying or updating nominee details in PPF (Public Provident Fund) accounts.

"Recently it was informed that a fee was being levied by financial institutions for updating/modifying nominee details in PPF accounts. Necessary changes are now made in the Government Savings Promotion General Rules 2018 via Gazette Notification April 2, 2025, to remove any charges on the updation of nominees for PPF accounts," the Finance Minister posted on X along with a copy of the Gazette Notification.

The Banking Amendment Bill 2025, passed recently, allows the nomination of up to four persons for the payment of depositors' money, articles kept in safe custody and safety lockers, the Finance Minister said. A PPF account is a long-term, government-backed savings scheme offering tax-free returns and a secure way to accumulate wealth for those looking for safe investments.



Hyundai Motor Group expands community initiatives as it completes 30 years in India

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Hyundai Motor Group on Friday marked 30 years of operations in India and announced expansion of its community initiatives such as healthcare, education, cultural and environmental programs across the country.

The Group said it will scale activities delivered by its seven affiliated companies and the Happy Move program to broaden private-sector exchanges between India and South Korea, the company said in a release.

It announced that Hyundai Mobis is implementing pond and lake restoration projects to improve water storage in water-scarce regions of Tamil Nadu. Hyundai Motor's 'Ecogram' program has established local waste recycling facilities and converts food waste into biogas for power generation.

Through its global 'IONIQ Forest' social contribution program, Hyundai Motor has planted 1.1 million trees and developed parks in regions including Pune, Sriperumbudur and Gurgaon since 2021.

The group mentioned ongoing efforts to integrate its 'Hyundai Hope for Cancer campaign' with the global 'Hyundai Hope on Wheels' initiative and establishment of the Hyundai Centre for Cancer Genomics at IIT Madras to advance cancer research.





Assam panchayats get Rs 525 crore Finance Commission allocation: CM Sarma

Guwahati, Oct 2 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the state government is working to strengthen villages and Panchayats by promoting self-reliance and ensuring that development reaches the grassroots.

In a post on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, CM Sarma paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and highlighted the Assam government's initiatives aimed at empowering rural communities.

"The nation, guided by his vision, is forging ahead in a new era of Swadeshi and Atmanirbharta, ensuring growth reaches the last man standing," CM Sarma said.

He said that in 2025, more than Rs 525 crore was allocated by the Finance Commission to Assam's Panchayats to carry forward welfare initiatives at the grassroots. The Chief Minister said the state government would continue to follow Gandhi's vision by empowering villages and Panchayats and making them more resilient and self-reliant.

"We will continue to follow his footsteps, empowering our villages and panchayats to become more resilient and Atmanirbhar," CM Sarma said.

The Chief Minister's remarks came as the country observed Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his emphasis on village-based development, self-reliance and grassroots participation. The Assam government's focus on Panchayati Raj institutions forms part of its broader rural development efforts.

BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar calls out Rahul Gandhi over alleged hypocrisy, double-speak

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Kerala Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday charged that the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's politics is built on lies, fraud, and unkept promises, where in the last 12 years, the LoP has neither shared a positive agenda, nor delivered any definitive results for the people.

The Congress leader, who claims to speak for the youth, fails to acknowledge the opportunities and skills that are expanding in India today, Chandrasekhar said while hitting out at a press conference at the BJP's central office here. Rahul Gandhi should explain why Kerala still has the highest unemployment in the country, former Union Minister Chandrasekhar, calling LoP Gandhi a "pre-eminent fraudster". The United Democratic Front (UDF), a coalition of parties led by the Congress won the Assembly election this year in Kerala, where power alternates between it and the Communist



Party of India-Marxist-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), except in the last two terms. Chandrasekhar said that Kerala is one of the four states ruled by the Congress, including Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh, "where Rahul Gandhi's politics, Rahul Gandhi's governance, and their impact are being felt directly by the people". "From Rafale to Pegasus, and from the economy to manufacturing, Rahul Gandhi's claims have repeatedly been proven to be lies, yet his "fraudulent and inauthentic" politics continues," the State BJP President claimed. "Why does he (Rahul Gandhi) not arrange a "Chhatron Ki Goonj" in Keralam?" Chandrasekhar asked. The BJP leader hit out at the Gandhi scion calling him "an entitled, inauthentic, and fraud politician who lacks a positive developmental agenda, relies heavily on baseless allegations against democratic institutions, and uses misinformation merely to mislead the public and create political chaos".

Tamil Nadu leads India in organ donation: Minister KG Arun Raj

Coimbatore, Oct 2 : Tamil Nadu Minister K.G. Arun Raj on Friday said that the State continued to lead the country in deceased organ donation, accounting for nearly one-third of organ donations in India, while reiterating that the government would show no leniency towards hospitals or organisations involved in irregularities in the transplantation system. In a post on X following the "Life After Life" organ donor appreciation ceremony in Coimbatore, Arun Raj described the inauguration of a "Wall of Honour" dedicated to organ



donors as a deeply emotional experience. He said organ donors represented the highest form of humanity by giving others a chance to live even after their death.



'A family destroyed every 20 minutes': Congress flags rising road deaths in UP, seeks urgent action

Lucknow, Oct 2 : The Congress on Friday raised the issue of rising road accidents and fatalities in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that the state government's steps to improve road safety have been inadequate and largely symbolic.

Participating in a discussion under Rule 56 in the Assembly, Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' called for concrete and technology-driven interventions at identified accident-prone stretches, commonly referred to as "black spots". She said that in a state with a population exceeding 25 crore, where lakhs of people commute daily, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a leader in road accidents.

Citing data, she stated that speeding accounts for 56 per cent of accidents, 12 per cent of deaths occur due to wrong-side driving, and 8 per cent are linked to drunk driving. According to Mishra, around 45,000 road accidents take place annually in the state. , resulting in over 24,000 deaths.

Nagaland varsity names its library after RSS founder Hedgewar

Kohima, Oct 2 : The International University in Nagaland's Dimapur has named its new library after Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, founder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Nagaland Governor La Ganesan on Friday inaugurated the Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar Central Library at International University, formerly, the Global Open University, Nagaland.

The inauguration of the library with 75,000 books coincided with the eve of the 136th birth anniversary of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who was born on April 1, 1889, in Nagpur.

Addressing the function, the Governor emphasised the importance of libraries in fostering intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning.

He lauded the establishment of the Central Library as a fitting tribute to Dr. Hedgewar's legacy, describing him as a towering figure in India's cultural and nationalist resurgence.

"A well-equipped library serves as a center of learning and reflection, inspiring students and scholars to delve into history, philosophy, science, and humanities while staying rooted in the ethos of our great civilisation," the Governor stated.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he reiterated that education is the manifestation of perfection already within individuals and that libraries play a crucial role in nurturing this process. The Governor further highlighted the significance of integrating digital learning tools, online resources, and modern technology into the central library to cater to the evolving needs of students and researchers. He encouraged students



to use the library not just for academic excellence but for intellectual and personal growth, fostering a deeper understanding of values, nation-building, and innovation. The Governor congratulated International University, Dimapur, for this initiative and extended special appreciation to its founder and promoter, Dr. Priyaranjan Trivedi, for his contributions, including authoring books on the aims, objectives, and achievements of RSS in both English and Hindi.

He also commended the faculty, students, and administration for their dedicated efforts in making the vision of the Central Library a reality.

Maha govt unveils 'Invest Maharashtra' brand, signs 66 MoUs worth Rs 8.58 lakh crore

Mumbai, Oct 2 : Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday launched the 'Invest Maharashtra' brand initiative with the tagline "Made for Business", unveiling a proposed investment portfolio of 66 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than $92.19 billion, or approximately Rs 8.58 lakh crore. The proposed investments are estimated to generate more than three lakh direct and indirect jobs.

Addressing global investors, industry leaders and state officials, Chief Minister Fadnavis said the initiative aims to connect enterprise with grassroots development and create opportunities for young engineers, local suppliers and farming communities across the state. The newly unveiled logo merges the "i" of investment with the "M" of Maharashtra, symbolising a partnership between enterprise and government. Under the "Made for Business" positioning, the administration has promised single-window accountability, time-bound approvals and proactive dispute resolution. The 66 MoUs worth $92.19 billion target high-growth sectors, including semiconductors, data centres, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, defence, healthcare and agro-processing.

Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for economic growth, the initiative is designed to help Maharashtra achieve its target of becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2030, Chief Minister Fadnavis said. A key focus of the initiative is to ensure that industrial opportunities extend beyond traditional metropolitan centres such as Mumbai and Pune.



Gujarat: GSECL enters nuclear power sector, signs MoU with NPCIL for new project

Gandhinagar, Oct 2 : Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for the development of a new nuclear power project in the state, with the proposed project at Dhuvaran expected to have a capacity of around 4,000 MW and involve potential investment of nearly Rs one lakh crore. The agreement marks GSECL's first entry into the nuclear power sector. It aims to strengthen Gujarat's long-term energy security and expand its access to clean, reliable power.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Energy Minister Rushikesh Patel, Principal Secretary of the Energy and Petrochemicals Department, GSECL Chairman Ashwini Kumar, and NPCIL Chairman and Managing Director V. Rajesh.

According to the state government, the proposed project at Dhuvaran will add around 4,000 MW to Gujarat's power generation capacity. It said the project could generate employment, support industrial development and the local economy, while contributing to efforts to reduce carbon emissions and support India's net-zero target. Gujarat has been expanding its renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar and wind power. The state has set a target of establishing more than 100 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. However, solar and wind generation are dependent on weather and other natural conditions, making continuously available generation important for grid stability. The government said nuclear power could complement renewable sources by providing



continuous and reliable electricity. Under the MoU, GSECL will assess land availability and supporting infrastructure, while NPCIL will undertake site surveys, technical studies and provide expert guidance.

Further work will be determined based on the site's technical and economic feasibility and the statutory approvals required for the project.

The initiative comes as the Centre expands its nuclear energy program, with the government announcing a target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. The Department of Atomic Energy has also been working with Gujarat on nuclear power development, including discussions on large nuclear projects, small modular reactors.

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South Korea and Italy agree to elevate their ties into special strategic partnership



Rome, Oct 2 : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Italian President Sergio Mattarella agreed Friday to elevate their countries' ties into a special strategic partnership, while exploring ways to expand cooperation in semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI) and other strategic sectors.

The two presidents reached the agreement during summit talks at the presidential Quirinal Palace in Rome, the second stop on Lee's first visit to Europe since taking office a year earlier. "Today, the president (Mattarella) and I agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a special strategic partnership, reflecting our determination to further develop bilateral ties," Lee said in a joint press announcement at the palace following the talks, Yonhap news agency reported.

The president noted that a South Korea-Italy business roundtable, to be held here on Friday, involving around 30 companies from the two countries, will explore opportunities for growth.

Lee cited semiconductors, AI, defence manufacturing, aerospace, energy and biotechnology as areas in which the two countries could deepen cooperation.

"Just like the trust built over 142 years, the landscape for cooperation (between the two countries) is expanding," Lee said, vowing to "open a new chapter in cooperation toward shared prosperity."

South Korea and Italy established diplomatic ties in 1884. The president also disclosed the countries' plan to sign memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation for small and medium-sized enterprises and social solidarity economy, saying they will serve as the foundation for closer cooperation. Mattarella said the two countries plan to implement joint action plans through 2030 under the newly established special strategic partnership. The two countries have begun new industrial cooperation, including in the advanced technology sector, the Italian president noted, stressing that they are deepening cooperation in trade, defense.



UK Armed Forces Minister Al Carns resigns over defence spending dispute

London, Oct 2 : UK Armed Forces Minister Al Carns has resigned from Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's government, citing deep concerns over defence funding and military preparedness, in a move that further exposes divisions within the administration over national security spending. Carns' departure follows the resignation of former Defence Secretary John Healey, who had also clashed with the Prime Minister over the government's defence budget. Healey had argued that the level of military spending proposed by Starmer's government "falls well short" of what is needed to protect the country. Announcing his resignation on X, Carns said the government was failing to adequately support Britain's armed forces. "We owe those who serve the UK the kit to do the job and the loyalty to stand by them when it's done. We are failing on both," he wrote. "I've spent my whole time in government making that case. Number 10 will not listen, so I am resigning as Minister for the Armed Forces," he added.



Two in critical condition after shooting, stabbing attack on Australia's Gold Coast

Sydney, Oct 2 : Police in Australia are searching for a man who allegedly shot one man and stabbed another, leaving both with life-threatening injuries.

The police service in the state of Queensland said that a 30-year-old man fled the scene after allegedly shooting one neighbour and stabbing another during a dispute in the early hours of Friday morning, Xinhua news agency reported.

Police said that emergency services responded to a disturbance at an address in Surfers Paradise -- 70 km southeast of Brisbane on Queensland's Gold Coast -- just before 2 a.m. local time.

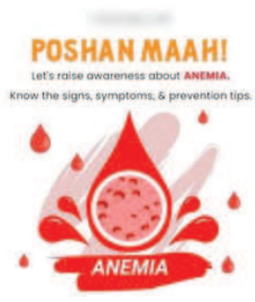
A 21-year-old man was found at the scene with a gunshot wound to his stomach and stab wounds to his back, and a 44-year-old male was found with stab wounds to his head, neck and leg. Both men were treated at the scene for life-threatening injuries before being taken to a nearby hospital in a critical but stable condition.

Centre doubles down on schemes to achieve 'Anaemia Mukt Bharat'

New Delhi, Oct 2 : In a bid to achieve 'Anaemia Mukt Bharat' (AMB), rice fortification initiative was scaled up in a phased manner, and by March 2026, all custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme, the government said on Friday.

The number of laboratories notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for fortified rice, fortified rice kernels and premix for fortified rice kernels are 57, 35 and 15, respectively, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The government supplies fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients through Targeted Public Distribution System.





South Korea, US launch joint underwater survey for Korean War aircraft wreckage

Seoul, Oct 2 : South Korea and the United States on Friday launched a joint underwater excavation project in waters off the country's eastern coast to find wreckage of US aircraft that went down during the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul's defence ministry said.

The project, which is scheduled to run through August 28, will take place in Gangneung and Yangyang in Gangwon Province, involving the ministry's Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification and the US Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Some 40 people will be deployed for the project, including personnel from the South Korean Navy's First Fleet and the Air Force's 18th Fighter Wing, as well as US underwater planners and divers, according to the ministry.

The search will begin in waters off Yangyang County, about 215 kilometres east of Seoul, to find the wreckage of a US F4U Corsair fighter aircraft. The fighter jet crashed while conducting an escort mission of another damaged US attack aircraft in February 1952, leaving one pilot dead, records showed.

The research team will then focus on retrieving the wreckage of US military transport aircraft, known as the Curtiss C-46 Commando, which went down in the Gangneung area, about 170 kilometres east of Seoul, in October and November 1952, on two separate occasions, reports Xinhua news agency.



Marine Le Pen banned from running for French Prez; far-right leaders slam decision

Paris, Oct 2 : Far-right leaders slammed the decision of the Paris court concerning Marine Le Pen, leader of National Rally, being banned from running in the 2027 presidential election.

A Paris court on Friday ruled that Le Pen, who has been a three-time presidential candidate, will be barred from running in the next presidential race following her conviction for embezzlement of European Union funds.



South Sudan intensifies preventive measures after Marburg outbreak in Ethiopia

Juba, Oct 2 : South Sudan's government said it has stepped up vigilance along its borders following an outbreak of the Marburg virus in neighbouring Ethiopia. Minister of Health Sarah Cleto Rial said the government, together with the World Health Organization and other partners, has intensified surveillance, preparedness and response measures to prevent any importation and spread of the virus.

"The Ministry of Health reassures the public that no confirmed cases have been reported in South Sudan," Cleto said on Friday evening during a press conference in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. She urged citizens to remain calm and promptly report any suspected symptoms of the hemorrhagic disease to the nearest health facility.

This development came after the Ethiopian government declared a Marburg virus outbreak on November 14 in the southern town of Jinka, near the border with South Sudan.

The South Sudanese government has reactivated the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) in the capital to strengthen surveillance, screening, risk assessment.



South Korean ruling party urges Constitutional Court to make swift ruling on Yoon's impeachment

Seoul, Oct 2 : The interim leader of the ruling People Power Party (PPP) on Friday called on the Constitutional Court to swiftly deliver its verdict on President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment.

Rep. Kwon Young-se made the call as the court has continued its deliberation on Yoon's fate, 34 days after it wrapped up hearings. No date has been set on Yoon's impeachment ruling, Yonhap news agency reported. "Acting court President Moon Hyung-bae should stop delaying any more time and issue a ruling promptly based on the decisions of each justice," Kwon said after a meeting of the PPP's emergency leadership committee. Yoon was impeached December 14 over his failed bid to impose martial law. It took 63 days for former President Roh Moo-hyun to be reinstated and 92 days for former President Park Geun-hye to be removed from office from the passage of their impeachment motions.

With 107 days having pass ed since Yoon's impeachment, the court has yet to rule on the case.

On April 18, the terms of two judges appointed by the previous administration will expire.



India, Fiji discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

Suva, Oct 2 : India's High Commissioner to Fiji Suneet Mehta held a meeting with Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Sakiasi Ditoka, discussing new avenues to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across priority sectors of mutual interest. "High Commissioner Suneet Mehta was honoured to call on the Minister for Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Honourable Sakiasi Ditoka.

Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on birth anniversary

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, recalling his teachings on truth, non-violence, self-reliance and public service.

Amit Shah took to the social media platform X and said Mahatma Gandhi did not consider Swaraj merely as the goal of freedom, but the foundation of self-respect and self-reliance.

"Mahatma Gandhi ji did not consider Swaraj merely as the goal of freedom, but as the foundation of self-respect and self-reliance. With the belief that no nation can become great without being connected to its roots, he established Swadeshi, one's own language, one's own culture and cleanliness as the fundamental philosophy of Indian society," HM Shah said.

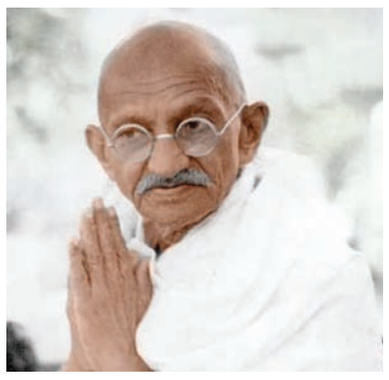
"Gandhi ji taught through his life that when there is devotion in action and purity in thoughts, no goal is impossible. On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi ji, who gave the message of truth, non-violence and compassion to the entire world, I pay my respectful obeisance to him," he added.

Rajnath Singh also paid homage to Gandhi, saying his principles continue to inspire people across the world.

"On the occasion of the revered Bapu's birth anniversary, we offer our humble respects and respectful homage. By walking the path of truth and non-violence, he gave a new direction to India's freedom movement.

His message of peace, tolerance, equality and unity remains a source of inspiration for the entire world," Singh said.

He said Gandhi had deep faith in the values of Indian culture and



civilisation and presented the strength of India's spiritual and moral heritage to the world.

"Drawing inspiration from his ideas of Swadeshi, self-reliance and Sarvodaya, we continue to move forward relentlessly. His emphasis on social harmony, cleanliness and public service remains relevant even today. The life and ideals of the revered Bapu inspire us to fulfil our duties towards society and the nation," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also paid tribute to Gandhi on his birth anniversary and extended greetings to the people of the state on the International Day of Non-Violence.



Four killed as bus collides with trailer in UP's Ambedkar Nagar

Ambedkar Nagar, Oct 2 : At least four passengers were killed and three others seriously injured after a bus collided head-on with a trailer on the Gorakhpur Link Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar district early Friday morning, police said.

The accident took place at around 5:30 a.m. near kilometre 85 of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway, under the jurisdiction of Jaitpur police station. The collision triggered panic in the area, following which local villagers rushed to the spot to assist the passengers and alerted the police. Police teams reached the site shortly afterwards and, with the help of local residents, carried out a rescue operation and evacuated the passengers trapped inside the bus. The injured were initially taken to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Nagpur for treatment. Additional Superintendent of Police Dr Tejveer Singh said police received information about the accident through UP-112 at around 5:30 a.m. "Information was received through UP-112 that a Volvo bus and a truck had collided near kilometre 85 of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway under Jaitpur police station. The police immediately reached the spot and began rescue operations," Singh said. He said the injured passengers were taken to the CHC for medical treatment. During treatment, four passengers were declared dead, while three others were referred to Medical College Sadarpur for further treatment.

According to the Additional Superintendent of Police, a preliminary investigation has indicated that the bus belonged to Tegra Express and was travelling from Delhi to Darbhanga in Bihar.

Prima facie, police suspect that the accident may have occurred after the bus driver allegedly dozed off while driving.

Tripura govt provides jobs to 18 kin of political violence victims: Minister

Agartala, Oct 2 : Tripura Power and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Friday reiterated the state government's commitment to supporting families affected by political violence, stating that government jobs are being provided to eligible family members of those killed in such incidents.

Nath said a large number of political killings had taken place in the state before the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in 2018. Citing available records, he told the media at the Civil Secretariat that between 1993 and 2017, as many as 15,589 murders were reported in Tripura, of which several hundred were linked to political violence. The minister said that after assuming office, the BJP-led government decided to provide government employment to one eligible family member of each victim of political violence under a dedicated rehabilitation scheme. "Accordingly, the 'Scheme for Providing Employment to Members of the Family of Persons Killed in Political Violence' was notified on December 23, 2020. Initially, the scheme covered families of persons killed in political violence up to March 9, 2018," Nath said.

He informed that the state Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Manik Saha, later approved an amendment to the scheme by removing the condition



restricting eligibility to cases occurring before March 9, 2018, thereby widening its scope.

Explaining the process for granting employment under the scheme, Nath said a detailed verification mechanism has been put in place to establish whether a death was the result of political violence. Police reports, official records and other relevant inquiries are examined to ascertain the nature of the incident and determine whether an eligible family member is available for appointment. "To ensure transparency and fairness, a scrutiny committee has been constituted under my chairmanship. The committee includes the Secretary of the Law Department, the Director of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, an Inspector General of Police and a representative of the Home Department," he said.

According to the minister, the government has so far received 38 petitions seeking benefits under the scheme. Of these, 18 eligible family members have already been provided government jobs, while 11 additional cases have been recommended for employment.

Sikkim govt raises DA, DR for employees and pensioners from Jan 1

Gangtok, Oct 2 : The Sikkim government has announced an increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, effective January 1, in a Finance Department circular issued Friday.

Under the revised order, employees and pensioners drawing salaries or pensions under the pre-revised basic pay structure will receive DA/DR at 262 per cent, up from the existing 257 per cent.

For employees and pensioners covered under the revised basic pay structure, DA/DR has been increased from 58 per cent to 60 per cent.

The revised rates will also apply to contractual employees and personnel working in work-charged establishments who are drawing revised pay in the regular scales of the state government.



The Finance Department has also revised the Dearness Allowance applicable to All India Service (AIS) officers posted in the state. For AIS officers continuing to draw salaries under the pre-revised pay band and grade pay structure based on the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, the DA has been raised from 257 per cent to 262 per cent, effective from January 1. Similarly, AIS officers drawing pay under the revised basic pay structure based on the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission will receive DA at 60 per cent, up from 58 per cent.

The revised rates will apply from January 1, with financial implications calculated under the applicable pay structures.

The government circular also specified rules for rounding off the revised payment amounts.



Liquor company owners to face fines if consignments seized : Bihar Minister

Patna, Oct 2 : Madan Sahani, the Minister for Prohibition in the Bihar government, on Friday announced that the state government is preparing to further tighten the liquor prohibition law. Sahani, who reached Darbhanga for an event, reiterated that there is no proposal under consideration to repeal the prohibition policy in Bihar.

Speaking to the media after attending an event, Sahani said the liquor ban law is being made more stringent and informed that a recent review meeting on prohibition was held in Patna, during which strict instructions were issued to officials.

PM E-DRIVE scheme enables 26.59 lakh EV sales, helps expand charging infra

New Delhi, Oct 2 : The PM E-DRIVE scheme, launched in September 2024, has enabled 26.59 lakh EV sales (as of June 2026), accelerating EV adoption, expanding charging infrastructure and strengthening the domestic manufacturing ecosystem, according to an official statement. With an outlay of Rs 11,900 crore and implementation extended until March 2028, the scheme supports multiple EV categories and infrastructure. It supports incentives for 28.30 lakh EVs, and also supports e-buses, charging stations and testing facilities, advancing cleaner, sustainable mobility across India, said the government factsheet. About Rs 4,391 crore has been allocated for the deployment of 14,028 e-buses under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. Of these, 14,000 e-buses have been allocated (as of August 2026). About 13,800 e-buses have been allocated to seven cities — Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune and Surat. Grant support is also available for EV public charging stations (EV PCS) and upgradation of testing agencies. Nearly Rs 2,000 crore has been earmarked for nationwide EV PCS across India.



ECI directs states, UTs to launch special drive to enrol voters left out of electoral rolls

New Delhi, Oct 2 : The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed states and union territories where the nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been completed to conduct a special drive to identify and enrol voters who may have been left out.

In a communication to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all states and UTs, the Commission said the special drive would focus on left-out electors as well as first-time and young voters.

The direction comes in continuation of the Commission's letter dated September 29 and a meeting held with all CEOs on October 1.

The ECI said that during the enumeration phase of the SIR exercise, each Booth Level Officer (BLO) prepared a list of voters classified as Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD), along with the probable reasons for their non-inclusion.

The list was displayed on the notice boards of respective Panchayat Bhawans and Urban Local Body offices. It was also



shared with Booth Level Agents (BLAs), political parties and uploaded to the websites of the respective Chief Electoral Officers. Following this, the draft electoral roll was published and shared with political parties and uploaded to the CEO websites. The final electoral roll was subsequently published after the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) decided on claims and objections.

The Commission said the final electoral roll contains electors added or deleted after publication of the draft roll. Therefore, compared to the pre-SIR electoral roll, the final roll reflects deletions made during the enumeration phase as well as additions and deletions following publication of the draft roll.

The ECI emphasised that voter enrolment is a continuous process and that individuals who have not yet been enrolled, or whose names have been deleted from the electoral roll, can apply for enrolment at any time.

"The objective of the special drive is to identify and facilitate such electors," the Commission said.

UFC joins US diplomacy push under Rubio

Washington, Oct 2 : The United States signed an agreement with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), bringing the world's largest mixed martial arts organisation into Washington's expanding sports diplomacy efforts as the Trump administration seeks to strengthen America's global outreach through popular culture.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio signed the memorandum of understanding with UFC executives at the State Department, describing the organisation as an example of American entrepreneurship and a platform capable of connecting people across borders.

"It truly is the United Nations of fighting," Rubio said, citing the diverse nationalities represented among UFC fighters and champions. The agreement adds UFC to a growing portfolio of sports partnerships being pursued by the State Department. Officials said the initiative is intended to use the global appeal of sports to foster international engagement and people-to-people connections.

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Darren Beattie Rogers said sports often create common ground even when governments disagree on other issues.

"Sports are something we all agree on," Rogers said.

He described UFC as "tailor-made for diplomacy" because it brings together athletes trained in different martial traditions from around the world.

Lawrence Epstein, UFC's chief operating officer, said the organisation currently stages 43 events annually, including about 17 or 18 outside the United States. "We have fighters from in excess of 75 countries," Epstein said. "We truly are a global sport and a global brand."Rubio said the rise



of UFC reflected what he called the American tradition of pursuing ideas once considered impossible. "You have one of the most recognizable American sports brands on the planet," he said, praising the organisation's transformation into a global enterprise.

The Secretary of State also highlighted the sport's international following, saying world leaders regularly express interest in attending UFC events.



China outpacing US in biotech race: Report

Washington, Oct 2 : China is moving aggressively to dominate biotechnology and is already implementing many of the policies recommended by a US national security commission, raising concerns that Washington could lose its long-held leadership in a sector increasingly seen as critical to economic and military power. A new analysis released on Friday by the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) said the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is advancing biotechnology across five key areas identified in the commission's April 2025 action plan: national strategy, regulation, infrastructure, investment and data.

The report argues that Beijing is moving faster than Washington in translating biotechnology ambitions into government policy and industrial capacity.

"China's biotech strategy is clear, and it's a playbook we have seen before—corner the market, scale the technology, and then strangle supply chains to gain strategic advantages."



Piyush Goyal pushes trade deals in G20 bilaterals

Washington, Oct 2 : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stepped up India's trade diplomacy on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, holding a fresh round of talks with counterparts from Canada, Saudi Arabia and South Korea as New Delhi pursued trade agreements and greater market access with major partners. Goyal's meeting with Canadian International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu focused on negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or CEPA, and the two countries' target of taking bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030.

"A productive meeting with Mr. Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade of Canada, on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee," Goyal said. "We reviewed the ongoing negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), launched by our Prime Ministers in March this year, to take bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030," he said.

Goyal said the meeting built on his recent discussions with Sidhu in Mumbai.

"Building on our recent meeting in Mumbai, we reaffirmed our commitment to expediting negotiations and working towards an early conclusion of the agreement," he said. In another bilateral, Goyal met Saudi Arabia's Commerce Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kassabi. Their talks focused on negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council.



US shifts to 'managed trade relationship' with China: Greer

Milwaukee, Oct 2 : The United States is pursuing a "managed trade relationship" with China rather than expecting fundamental changes to Beijing's economic system, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said, as he detailed a new mechanism aimed at insulating some trade from future tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Greer said decades of US experience had shown that China's economic system was closely connected to its political system and was difficult to change. "Our view over the past decades of American experience with the Chinese is their economic system, which is not a market-based system. It's closely tied to their political system, which makes it very difficult to change," Greer told reporters after the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee. "Obviously we welcome, market-based changes in China. We think that makes sense, but at the same time, they are going to have their policies and we, we need immediate action to balance our relationship with the Chinese," he said. Greer said President Donald Trump had therefore chosen a different approach. "So the president, very appropriately has decided to have a managed trade relationship with China, and we have seen that become very effective," he said.

Greer pointed to the US goods trade deficit with China as evidence of the shift.

"Our trade deficit with China and goods coming into the Trump, second Trump administration was $300 billion. Right now, today, we're on track for $140 billion trade deficit annualized for this year.



Australia to import 250,000 tonnes of fertiliser urea from Indonesia

Canberra, Oct 2 : Australia will import 250,000 tonnes of fertiliser urea from Indonesia under a deal announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Friday. Albanese said in a joint statement with Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong and Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins that the deal between Australian supplier Incitec Pivot Fertilisers and manufacturer PT Pupuk Indonesia will supply 20 per cent of Australia's fertiliser needs for the current season. "This is a significant outcome for our farmers. We understand how critical fertiliser is for Australian farmers, for our food production system and the food security of our region," he said. It comes after Collins on Thursday announced that Australia would streamline the import process for fertilisers to mitigate supply issues caused by the conflict in the Middle East.



Gang rape at elite university draws attention to rampant sexual assaults on US campuses

New York, Oct 2 : A gang rape at an Ivy League university that surfaced after two years of attempts by the institution and law enforcement to brush it off has brought attention to the long-festering issue of sexual assaults on US campuses.

Only after the victim of the alleged rape at Cornell University in New York State filed a civil suit against the institution last month, the two-year-old incident came to public attention and forced law enforcement to open a proper criminal investigation.

Pakistan govt orders to nab, deport Afghan refugees as deadline ends

Islamabad, Oct 2 : Pakistan law enforcement agencies have been ordered to arrest and deport thousands of Afghan refugees as the government's deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders to leave the country ends on Friday, local media reported. The authorities, particularly in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, ordered the prompt evacuation of all the Afghan refugees.

The Rawalpindi police chief has directed the superintendents of the Rawal, Potohar, and Saddar divisions to take legal action against Afghan nationals residing or working in the district, according to a report in Pakistan's leading daily, Dawn. "We have received directions that all Afghan nationals holding ACC cards must be expelled from Rawalpindi and Islamabad," a police official told Dawn.



South Korea's FM calls nuclear-free Korean Peninsula 'imperative', never to be abandoned

Seoul, Oct 2 : South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said on Friday a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons is an "imperative" that should not be abandoned, committing to ensure the peninsula does not become a flashpoint of armed conflict.

Cho made the remarks in his keynote speech to the Seoul Diplomacy Forum 2025, hosted by the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. The speech was read out by Youn Jong-kwon, Ambassador for international cyberaffairs, as the minister is currently on an overseas trip.

"Korea's top priority on the security front is to prevent war and ensure that the Korean Peninsula does not become a flashpoint of armed conflict," Cho said, calling a "nuclear-free" Korean Peninsula an "imperative we must never abandon," Yonhap News Agency reported. The minister referred to the government's goal of the phased denuclearization of the peninsula -- first stopping North



Korea's nuclear arsenals, then reducing and ultimately dismantling them.

Seoul will solidify its defense capabilities against North Korean threats, but such measures should also be "accompanied by efforts to prevent inadvertent conflicts, deescalate tensions and restore dialogue with Pyongyang," he said.

Now, South Korea faces "ever more complex strategic calculations," Cho noted, citing increasing geopolitical and geoeconomic competition, and growing nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

"The quest for peaceful coexistence should not be limited to the Korean Peninsula, but we must seek to prevent the hardening of confrontational blocs in our region as well."



Pandya key to India's balance in 2027 ODI WC, biggest challenge is to get him fit, says Ganguly

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Former India captain Sourav Ganguly believes star fast-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be vital to maintaining the side's balance at the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup in South Africa, adding that keeping him fit and match-ready will be head coach Gautam Gambhir's biggest off-field challenge leading into the marquee event.

The ICC officially launched the schedule for the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup in Cape Town on Thursday and set the stage for the tournament to commence in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 2 to November 21. Pandya has played two ODI World Cups for India in 2019 and 2023, where he was ruled out of the competition after sustaining an ankle injury in the clash against Bangladesh in Pune.

"I think Hardik Pandya is very important to India's balance in the World Cup. That's one of Gambhir's and the team's biggest challenges, to get him fit on the park. I don't think he plays enough cricket, but for India, the balance has got to be right.



'Unfinished business': Gill sets sights on 2027 World Cup after 2023 heartbreak

New Delhi, Oct 2 : India captain Shubman Gill has described the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup as "unfinished business", saying players do not get too many opportunities to represent their country at the marquee tournament, and he is grateful to have another chance to do so. The 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will kick off on October 2, with the final scheduled for November 21. Two-time champions India will open their 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup campaign against defending champions Australia in Cape Town on October 7.

The marquee clash offers Shubman Gill and his team an immediate rematch of the 2023 World Cup final, where Australia beat India in Ahmedabad, as their opening assignment of the 14-team mega event to be played in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"Yes, absolutely, it's unfinished business because of the way we played throughout that World Cup. We were looking like the best team in the tournament. But World Cups are like that. You might play the entire tournament well, but you don't play one game well, and that game could be the final of the World Cup," Gill said on JioStar ahead of the third ODI against the West Indies.

"So definitely, it is unfinished business. And as a player, you don't get that many opportunities to represent your country in a World Cup. There could be two, three, four, five, you never know. So, every World Cup that you play for your country is a big honour. So, very grateful to be able to play another one," he added.

Asian Games: India lose to South Korea, clinches silver in recurve mixed team



Okazaki, Oct 2 : Indian men's recurve archery team settled for a silver medal in the final after going down to nine-time champions South Korea at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square at the ongoing Asian Games here on Friday. The Indian trio of Neeraj Chauhan, Yashdeep Bhoge, and Dhiraj Bommadevara lost to the Korean powerhouse, featuring Kim Je Deok, Kim Woojin, and Lee Wooseok, in the title clash, 1-5 to settle for a silver as a historic gold slipped out of their hands.



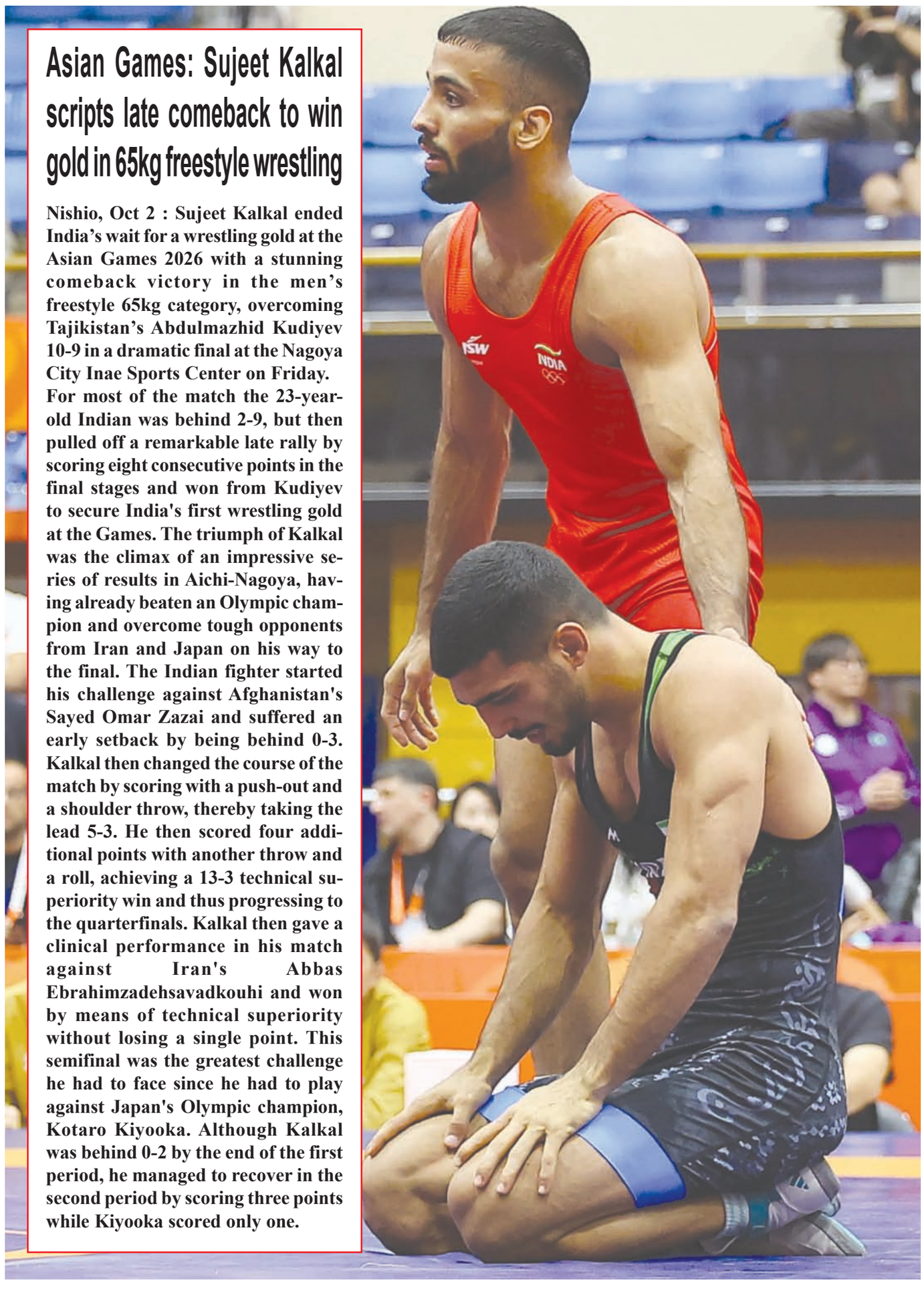
CM Himanta Sarma dials Lovlina after Asian Games gold, says Assam proud of 'Golden Girl'

Guwahati, Oct 2 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday spoke to boxer Lovlina Borgohain over the phone and congratulated her on winning the gold medal in the 75kg boxing category at the Asian Games, describing the achievement as a moment of immense pride for the state and the country.

Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina won the gold after beating China's Bao Ziyi 5-0 in the final, becoming only the second Indian woman boxer to win Asian Games gold after Mary Kom.

CM Sarma said he personally called the Assam-born boxer to convey his best wishes on behalf of the people of Assam, coinciding with her birthday. "Just spoke to Lovlina over call and extended my best wishes on behalf of the people of Assam on her birthday as well as for this prized gold at the Asian Games. She is super elated, and so are we," Sarma said in a social media post. Earlier, congratulating Lovlina on her gold medal, Sarma described her as Assam's "Golden Girl" and said there could be no bigger birthday gift than winning the ultimate honour for the country. "Our Golden Girl punches it off in style.

Asian Games: Sujeet Kalkal scripts late comeback to win gold in 65kg freestyle wrestling



Nishio, Oct 2 : Sujeet Kalkal ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Center on Friday.

For most of the match the 23-year-old Indian was behind 2-9, but then pulled off a remarkable late rally by scoring eight consecutive points in the final stages and won from Kudiyev to secure India's first wrestling gold at the Games. The triumph of Kalkal was the climax of an impressive series of results in Aichi-Nagoya, having already beaten an Olympic champion and overcome tough opponents from Iran and Japan on his way to the final. The Indian fighter started his challenge against Afghanistan's Sayed Omar Zazai and suffered an early setback by being behind 0-3. Kalkal then changed the course of the match by scoring with a push-out and a shoulder throw, thereby taking the lead 5-3. He then scored four additional points with another throw and a roll, achieving a 13-3 technical superiority win and thus progressing to the quarterfinals. Kalkal then gave a clinical performance in his match against Iran's Abbas Ebrahimzadehsavadkouhi and won by means of technical superiority without losing a single point. This semifinal was the greatest challenge he had to face since he had to play against Japan's Olympic champion, Kotaro Kiyooka. Although Kalkal was behind 0-2 by the end of the first period, he managed to recover in the second period by scoring three points while Kiyooka scored only one.



Yuzvendra Chahal retires from first-class cricket, vows to continue playing white-ball formats

New Delhi, Oct 2 : Veteran Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal on Friday announced his retirement from first-class cricket, acknowledging that his long-cherished dream of earning a Test cap was no longer within reach, while adding that he remains committed to competing in white-ball formats. Chahal, who has represented India in 72 ODIs and 80 T20Is, never got the opportunity to don the Test whites despite a 17-year career in domestic and county circuits. His last international appearance came during a T20I against the West Indies in August 2023.

"The first cricket ball I ever held was a red ball. I was 10 years old, and I had no idea then how deeply I would fall in love with this game. For me, red-ball cricket was never just another format. It was where I learned the meaning of patience, character, resilience and the pure joy of being out there for hours, fighting for every run and every wicket. "I played my last First-Class match at Lords, saying these words is emotional as a Test cap was always a dream, one that I carried with me for many years.