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IPL 2027: Sourav Ganguly appointed Delhi Capitals head coach

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed head coach of Delhi Capitals ahead of the next Indian Premier League season, marking his first formal coaching role with...

12



Mercedes-Benz India posts best quarter with 6 pc annual sales surge

Mercedes-Benz India recorded its best quarter and retailed 5,422 units in Q3 2026, up 6 per cent from 5,119 units in Q3 2025 and up 17 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter basis...

07



Red Cross Society members paid a courtesy call on the District Collector

The newly elected executive members of the Adilabad District Indian Red Cross Society paid a courtesy call on District Collector Rajarshi Shah at his chamber in the Collectorate...

03

Hot breakfast scheme for 27 lakh students is investment, not freebie: Bhatti



Hyderabad, Oct 6 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said Telangana had become the first State in the world to launch an initiative to provide hot breakfast every day to 27 lakh students, describing it as an investment in the State's future human resources rather than a welfare freebie. He said the nutritious food being provided to students should not be viewed as a freebie.



Harish opposes proposed power tariff hike, warns of agitation

Hyderabad, Oct 6 : Senior BRS leader and Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government over the proposed increase in electricity charges, alleging that an additional burden of 5,420 crore was being imposed on consumers through true-up charges. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao targeted the state government for failing to manage the power sector, leaving citizens to contend with both escalating bills and frequent power outages during the festival season. "During Dasara and Diwali, when the government ought to provide relief, it has chosen to hike electricity bills instead.

Asaduddin alleges conspiracy to delete muslim votes through Form-7

Hyderabad, Oct 6 : AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday alleged systematic attempts to delete Muslim voters from Telangana's electoral rolls using bulk Form-7 applications during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Addressing reporters, Asaduddin Owaisi questioned the origin of pre-printed Form-

7 forms found in the Goshamahall constituency, specifically targeting voters at Booth Nos. 28, 30, and 127. "How can a single individual submit 122 Form-7 applications?" Asaduddin Owaisi asked, demanding criminal charges against those responsible for bulk submissions. He directly blamed local BJP leaders for orchestrating the dele-

tions. Owaisi urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to exercise its independent authority and initiate legal action against BJP leaders involved. He also criticised the current mechanism for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), demanding a return to the previous selection panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader



of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India. Pointing to operational lapses, the MP cited an instance where a voter registered in 2002 was excluded from current rolls despite presenting valid documentation.

Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan discuss seat-sharing for Andhra local body polls

Amaravati, Oct 6 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday to discuss seat-sharing for the upcoming local body elections. Pawan Kalyan attended the breakfast hosted by Chandrababu Naidu at his official residence at Undavalli. Chandrababu Naidu's son and Minister Nara Lokesh was also present during the breakfast. Later, Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan discussed the

upcoming elections to rural and urban local bodies. During the two-hour meeting, they reportedly discussed seat adjustments among partners in the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The discussion between the national president of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena reportedly centred around the number of seats their respective parties will contest. The two leaders also discussed sharing posts of mayors and deputy mayors in the key municipal corporations. Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan also reported to have discussed the strategy of the ruling coalition for the civic polls and coordination among the allies. They are reported to have agreed on the need for the coalition partners to move forward with a co-



ordinated strategy after the announcement of the poll schedule. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister felt that TDP, Jana Sena and BJP leaders should work together to ensure a clean sweep in the local body polls. BJP state president P.V.N. Madhav is likely to meet Chandrababu Naidu separately to discuss the seat-sharing issue. The allies are likely to agree to the seat-sharing in local body polls in proportion to their respective strength in the state Assembly.

Union Cabinet passes resolution hailing PM Modi's unique leadership with 'standing ovation'

New Delhi, Oct 6 : The Union Cabinet on Tuesday passed a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on achieving the milestone of a quarter century in continuous leadership in an executive office as head of government and gave a standing ovation. This was achieved with three overwhelming mandates in Gujarat and support in three successive Lok Sabha elections, reflecting the enduring trust that the public has reposed in PM Modi, shared Union Minister Ashwini



Vaishnav, briefing the media after the Cabinet Meeting. "People in very few countries of the world have continuously supported one leader, said Vaishnav, terming PM Modi's feat as unique. "That faith has come from his style of work, the right policies, and pure intentions," he added.



It is a matter of pride that 'Stree Shakti' has completed over 100 crore journeys: CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, Oct 6 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced that the 'Stree Shakti' scheme has reached the milestone of 100 crore journeys. He extended his best wishes to women on this occasion. He emphasized that the scheme achieved this historic milestone thanks to the support of women and the approval of mothers. The Chief Minister shared this update on the social media platform X.

INDIA bloc MPs raise heat against CEC Gyanesh Kumar, demand his resignation



New Delhi, Oct 6 : Several lawmakers of the INDIA bloc marched towards the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday, against alleged irregularities in poll body decisions, regarding the Special Intensive Revision exercise and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. From Congress to Trinamool Congress to Samajwadi Party to other allies of INDIA bloc, all participated in the mega demonstration against the CEC. Samajwadi Party

(SP) MP Virendra Singh said that they joined the protest at the behest of party president Akhilesh Yadav. "I do not know about the INDIA Alliance, but our national president has called upon all MPs to reach Makar Dwar. We are all party workers, we have come here on the instructions of our national president," Singh said. All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee launched a sharp attack on the CEC during the protest. Speaking on the INDIA bloc's protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Banerjee said, "That vote thief Gyanesh should resign..." Congress MP Imran Masood also demanded resigna-



tion of the CEC, alleging that Gyanesh Kumar had undermined the credibility of the Election Commission as an independent institution. Speaking to IANS, Masood said, "The CEC should resign. Gyanesh Kumar has broken the trust that the Election Commission had earned as an independent and impartial institution in the country. When we demand Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, the BJP starts raising questions." Reacting to the decision of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to skip the INDIA bloc's protest against the CEC.

Realizing the poor's dream of owning a home is possible only with CM Chandrababu: Sujatha



Amaravati, Oct 6: Pithala Sujatha, Chairperson of the AP Women's Cooperative Finance Corporation, stated that realizing the dream of homeownership for the poor is possible only under CM Chandrababu. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, she noted that 5.50 lakh houses have already been completed and handed over to the poor. She criticized Jagan, pointing out that despite promising to build 25 lakh houses in five years.



Bengal: Command Hospital Kolkata administers indigenous CAR-T therapy to soldier

Kolkata, Oct 6 : Command Hospital (Eastern Command), Kolkata, has successfully administered indigenously developed CAR-T cell therapy to a 39-year-old serving soldier battling relapsed/refractory B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (B-cell ALL). NexCAR19 is India’s first indigenous CAR-T cell therapy, developed to provide affordable and accessible immunotherapy for blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma. The therapy was developed through a collaboration involving IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Centre and ImmunoACT, a biotechnology start-up. It works by reprogramming a patient’s own T-cells with Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs) to identify and destroy CD19-expressing cancer cells.



Folk Industry Foundation Day Celebrations – November 1st, starting at 4 PM

Let us make the Folk Festival a grand success

Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 6 : Office bearers of the Telangana Folk Industry—including State President Pathipati Ramanakar, State General Secretary MD Sattar Bhair, Chief Advisor Daruvu Anjanna, State Vice Presidents G.L. Nandev and Kalanjali Rajesh, State Treasurer Gajwel Erram Venu, and members Relare Ganga and Telu Vijaya—have called for making the folk artists’ festival, organized by the Telangana Folk Industry on November 1st, a resounding success. On Tuesday, the poster for this folk artists’ gathering was unveiled at the Shadikhana in Sircilla town. Speaking on

the occasion, they stated that folk artists representing various genres from all 33 districts of Telangana are expected to attend the event organized by the Telangana Folk Industry members in Sircilla. They announced that a “Folk Night” is being organized, featuring state ministers, prominent artists, technicians, music directors, actors, and dancers from across Telangana. It was stated that the folk songs performed by members of the Telangana Folk Industry today rival the quality of those found in mainstream cinema; consequently, the Telangana govern-

ment should recognize the folk industry just as it does the film industry and grant it special concessions. Noting that many artists in the Telangana folk industry have sustained themselves for the past 30 years by relying on their art, the speakers urged the government to recognize these artists and allocate special funds for them. They mentioned that numerous programs have been organized under the aegis of the Telangana Folk Industry and announced that, following an inaugural meeting in Sircilla on November 1st, district-level committees would be established across Telangana. Artists and State Committee members—including Edamala Sridhar Reddy, Jadala Ramesh, Akunuri Devayya, Matla Thirupathi, Singer Shirisha, Nagalakshmi, Sriramula Ramachandram, Nakka Srikanth, Parashuram, and Praveen—participated in the event.

Sikkim man held with licenced pistol at India-Nepal border

Kolkata, Oct 6 : A Sikkim resident apprehended by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) while attempting to enter Nepal with a licensed firearm on October 5 has claimed that he had no ulterior motive and was unaware of the procedure for depositing the weapon before crossing the international border. Tashi Palki Bhutia was detained during routine vehicle checks at New Bridge, Panitanki, by the Border Intelligence Team (BIT) of D Company, 41 Battalion, SSB, Panitanki.



NFR celebrates 146 years of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway’s architectural heritage

Guwahati, Oct 6 : The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) organised the Sukna Station Mahotsav to commemorate 146 years of the architectural heritage of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, officials said on Tuesday. The programme was attended by the NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava and several senior railway officials

and distinguished dignitaries, highlighting the railway’s commitment towards preserving its historic assets and promoting community participation. NFR’s Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said that during the celebration, the General Manager inaugurated the newly renovated Sukna Museum, which showcases the rich history and operational legacy of DHR, and released its

first DHR Volume of Collector’s Edition related to its Heritage and History. Students from Narayana School, Siliguri and Sukna School presented vibrant cultural performances. Essay and drawing competitions were also organised, with the top three winners in each category receiving DHR certificates. Artist Ajay Sarkar presented a live nail art demonstration, and the artwork was formally handed over to the Station Manager of Sukna.

Following the programme, the General Manager flagged off the 125-year-old heritage locomotive 780B and a flat wagon that has been restored after 36 years at the historic Tindharia Railway Workshop, Sharma said. The Giddaypahar siding was also restored and reopened after 21 years to strengthen the operational capacity of DHR. A new barrack for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) was also inaugurated at

Giddaypahar to improve facilities for security personnel and support railway protection. The celebrations brought together heritage preservation, infrastructure development and local participation for DHR. Through the restoration of vintage rolling stock, renovation of heritage facilities and improvement of operational and security infrastructure, NFR continues to safeguard DHR’s unique legacy while sup-



porting its continued service to the region as well as the entire nation. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), headquartered at Maligaon near Guwahati.

Mizoram Governor calls for priority to Kaladan project, seeks faster progress

Aizawl, Oct 6 : Mizoram Governor General V.K. Singh (Retd) on Tuesday said that the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) is an important initiative of the Central government and must be accorded top priority. The Governor noted that the project has been delayed for a long time and cannot be delayed any further. KMMTTP Project Head and government-owned IRCON International Ltd’s Myanmar Branch official Sanjay Tripathi on Tuesday called on the

Mizoram Governor at Lok Bhavan in Aizawl and briefed him on the progress, challenges and the way forward for the 109.2-km road being constructed between Paletwa and Zorinpui under the KMMTTP. The Governor stressed that all possible efforts must be made to ensure the successful completion of the project. General Singh (Retd) directed that maximum progress should be achieved during the next working season.



Kumaraswamy warns K’taka govt over SIR cases, threatens statewide protest

Bengaluru, Oct 6 : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday warned the Karnataka government that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S)) would launch protests outside police stations across the state if the alleged harassment of their workers and registration of false cases in connection with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls were not stopped.

150 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants shifted from J&K to Bengal for deportation

Kolkata, Oct 6 : A total of 150 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who were evicted from J&K have been brought to West Bengal for deportation, sources said on Tuesday. Sources confirmed that the illegal immigrants were flown from Srinagar to Bagdogra Airport by an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft. An official said they had been handed over to officials of the North Bengal Frontier of the Border Security Force (BSF) for further processing. They will be housed at a detention centre, and efforts will be made to send them back to Bangladesh through official channels. The official added that if Bangladesh refuses to accept them, the illegal immigrants will be “pushed back” across

the border. The process is likely to take place on October 7. “The process takes place in a phased manner along different stretches of the border. The illegal immigrants are taken beyond the border fence and moved close to the zero line. They then cross into Bangladesh on their own,” the official said. The BSF in West Bengal has handled similar deportations in the past. Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants apprehended in different parts of the country are often sent to West Bengal for deportation across the international border. In some cases, Bangladeshi authorities agree to take back their citizens. In other cases, they deny responsibility, officials said. According to officials, there is a possibility that more illegal immigrants may be shifted from



J&K in the coming days. This could result in more Bangladeshi nationals being brought to West Bengal for deportation. In the past, illegal Bangladeshi immigrants from states such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka have also been deported through West Bengal. In 2026 alone, around 4,800 to 5,000 illegal immigrants have reportedly been deported to Bangladesh through West Bengal. According to data tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of External Affairs, there were 23,653 deportations between 2009 and 2011.

East Khasi Hills leads Meghalaya’s small-business sector: NSO survey

Shillong, Oct 6 : East Khasi Hills has emerged as Meghalaya’s largest hub for unincorporated businesses, with more than 68,000 establishments and nearly 1.47 lakh workers, according to the latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2025 released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), officials said on Tues-

day. The district has an estimated 68,038 unincorporated establishments employing 1,46,863 people, according to the ASUSE 2025, putting it well ahead of other districts in the state. A senior official said the ASUSE covers enterprises operating outside the corporate sector in manufacturing, trade and selected services, including proprietorships, partnerships, self-help groups,

cooperatives and other establishments not incorporated under the Companies Act. The district-level estimates show Meghalaya’s small-enterprise economy, which supports employment and activity beyond the formal corporate sector. West Garo Hills, with 28,087 establishments, and West Jaintia Hills, with 28,071, are the next biggest hubs, followed by Ri-Bhoi with 22,881 establishments.

Together, the four districts account for more than half of the state’s estimated unincorporated establishments, according to the survey. The survey found that the top 10 districts account for around 88 per cent of Meghalaya’s unincorporated establishments. The survey also highlights strong participation of women in Meghalaya’s unincorporated economy. In Eastern West Khasi Hills, women constitute

61.52 per cent of workers, while they own around 58.62 per cent of proprietary establishments. The district has an estimated 13,933 establishments employing 19,467 people. East Khasi Hills also records significant female participation, with women accounting for 44.76 per cent of workers and owning 50.95 per cent of proprietary establishments. Women account for 55.52 per cent of workers in Ri-



Bhoi and 56.80 per cent in South West Khasi Hills, reflecting their substantial contribution to local enterprise and employment.

Opinion Mail



Andhra govt targets 5 lakh women entrepreneurs under 'Swayam AP' initiative

The Andhra Pradesh government has set a target of creating 5 lakh women entrepreneurs. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to make concerted efforts towards the economic empowerment of Self-Help Group (SHG) members. He asked officials of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) to extend full support to the initiative and seek assistance from corporate organisations. The Chief Minister said women interested in self-employment should also be encouraged to take up franchise-based business opportunities. Naidu reviewed programmes aimed at developing 5 lakh women entrepreneurs and the 'Swayam AP' initiative with SERP and MEPMA officials at the camp office. He observed that no other state in the country has an SHG network as extensive as that of Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister said products manufactured by DWCRA women should reach global markets. He directed officials to develop 'Swayam AP' by bringing together thousands of products made by DWCRA women under a common brand, supported by standardised quality, modern packaging, e-commerce platforms, signature stores and an integrated marketing system. Naidu also directed officials to make the National Saras Mela 2026, being organised for the first time in Vijayawada from October 15 to 31, a major showcase of women's empowerment. Women entrepreneurs and women Members of Parliament from across the country should be invited to participate in the event, he said. Officials informed the Chief Minister that SHGs from across the country would set up 600 stalls at the Saras Mela and that around one lakh visitors per day are expected. They also informed him that President Droupadi Murmu would formally inaugurate the event. Officials said sales of 'Swayam AP' products through signature stores and the Flipkart platform would commence from October 15. They also briefed the Chief Minister on programmes already initiated to achieve the target of creating 5 lakh women entrepreneurs, including market linkages, financial assistance, training and quality standards. Officials said a comprehensive plan had been formulated around five key areas: building a strong support system for women from the village level to global markets; identifying opportunities and converting them into viable businesses; providing financial support through loans amounting to Rs 68,585 crore; capacity-building and business-management training in partnership with leading institutions; and developing an integrated entrepreneurship plan with the participation of more than 60 organisations. They informed the Chief Minister that successful women entrepreneurs were already being connected as mentors for women entering business for the first time. Special camps will also be organised at the district level to help achieve the target of creating 5 lakh women entrepreneurs. Officials further informed the Chief Minister that incubation programmes were being implemented to transform rural women's businesses from small livelihood activities into wealth-creating enterprises. In collaboration with institutions such as IIM Visakhapatnam and Centurion University, women entrepreneurs are being provided access to mentorship, markets, credit, resources and business skills, they said. Officials also stated that Stree Nidhi, a banking institution focused on women, has provided loans worth Rs 4,800 crore to 4.73 lakh women. They added that SHG women are currently producing more than 23,000 products across sectors including food, handicrafts and textiles.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



BJP's 'Seva Sankalp Yatra' concludes after 17,000 km journey across MP

Bhopal, Oct 6 : The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'Jal, Jan and Seva Sankalp Yatra' concluded in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday after covering nearly 17,000 km across all 53 districts and organising more than 700 programmes focused on community service and public participation. The yatra, held from September 18 to October 5 as part of the BJP's Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, was organised by the party's youth wing to connect young volunteers with people at the grassroots level and highlight Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service. BJP state general secretary and Seva Sankalp Abhiyan convenor Rahul Kothari said the yatra passed through 14 routes and had 393 halts, including 139 night stays and 254 other stops. "The purpose of the yatra was not simply to travel from one place to another, but to reach villages and towns and involve people in service, water conservation, cleanliness, plantation and other social activities," Kothari said. The programmes included blood donation and health camps, cleanliness drives, plantation activities, cleaning of rivers and ponds, water conservation initiatives and cow service. Volunteers also interacted with students and beneficiaries, distributed nutrition kits and

foodgrains to needy people, honoured sanitation workers and provided assistive devices to persons with disabilities. The BJP said the campaign enabled young volunteers to interact directly with farmers, rural residents, women, students and other sections of society and understand local issues. The yatra also witnessed the participation of senior BJP leaders at different locations.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav joined the campaign in Dewas and participated in a plantation programme, while state BJP president Hemant Khandelwal took part in similar activities in Harda and Betul. Ministers, MPs, MLAs, party office-bearers and residents also participated in programmes held along the route. Kothari said the conclusion of the yatra would not mark the end of the service activities undertaken during the campaign.

"The conclusion of the yatra is not the end of the service initiative. The objective is to make service and public participation a continuing activity among the youth and society," he said.

A permanent roof, a new beginning: PM Awas Yojana brings relief to rural family in Nashik

Nashik, Oct 6 : For years, a modest family in the rural area of Nashik district in Maharashtra lived in a fragile mud house. They were facing uncertainty and hardship, particularly during the monsoon. Leaking roofs, exposure to the weather and the lack of a safe living space had become a part of their daily struggle.

A ray of hope came with the family receiving assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), the government's housing scheme aimed at helping eligible families build permanent homes. With financial assistance of Rs 1.28 lakh received so far under the scheme, the family was able to construct a pucca house with a concrete slab roof. Another Rs 50,000 is expected to be received.



Rajasthan CM asks urban bodies to transform cities in 100 days

Jaipur, Oct 6 : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Tuesday held a dialogue at the Chief Minister's residence with newly elected Mayors, Chairpersons, Presidents and other representatives of urban local bodies on a 100-day roadmap for city development and civic administration. The Chief Minister directed that all works related to cleanliness, roads, electricity, street lighting, sewerage, drains, painting and beautification be completed within one month, before Diwali. Emphasising the need for planned urban development and improved civic amenities, Sharma directed officials and public representatives to focus on sanitation, waste collection and disposal, roads, waterlogging, street lighting, beautification, park maintenance, the stray animal menace, encroachments and sewerage systems. He called for these issues to be resolved promptly at the

local level and urged urban local bodies to work towards transforming the face of Rajasthan's cities within 100 days. The Chief Minister directed heads of urban local bodies to regularly visit their respective areas, assess local conditions, coordinate with officials, verify the quality of development works and ensure their timely completion. He emphasised that development should not remain confined to planning and paperwork and that its benefits must reach ordinary citizens. Holding a position in an urban local body, he said, is not merely an office but a mission of public service. Public representatives must work with sensitivity and responsiveness towards the problems faced by residents. Sharma said elected heads of urban local bodies must work to meet public aspirations through planned urban development, dedication and integrity. Since people have elected urban governments for development, visible improvements should be



evident on the ground.

He urged the heads of urban bodies to lay the foundation for schemes and projects in their respective areas that establish new benchmarks in urban development.

The Chief Minister said urban local bodies are responsible not only for providing basic civic amenities but also for playing a key role in shaping the development and future of cities.

Issuing directions on financial management, he urged urban local bodies to strengthen their financial position and increase their revenue.

He also called upon their heads to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity in governance, while adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption. Sharma urged councillors to

rise above ward-specific considerations and work with a collective vision for the development of the entire city.

He emphasised that planning for roads, sewerage and other civic amenities should be based on the needs of the city as a whole rather than being confined to individual wards. He also stressed the need for phased development plans for urban local bodies.

The Chief Minister said that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has undertaken several major initiatives, including the Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), AMRUT and the Smart Cities Mission, to transform cities into modern and convenient urban centres.

ED busts Rs 1,000-crore betel nut smuggling syndicate across Northeast



Guwahati, Oct 6 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has unearthed a well-organised, multi-layered syndicate allegedly involved in smuggling foreign-origin areca nut into India through the India-Myanmar border and laundering the proceeds, with bank credits exceeding Rs 1,000 crore identified in accounts linked to the network. According to officials, the ED's Guwahati Zonal Office conducted searches on October 1 at 16 premises in Guwahati.

Every moment matters in cyber fraud cases: Rajasthan Chief Secy

Jaipur, Oct 6 : Rajasthan Chief Secretary V. Srinivas and Director General of Police Rajiv Kumar Sharma on Tuesday inspected the Cyber Crime Police Station at the Jaipur Police Commissionerate and reviewed preparedness and measures being undertaken to combat cybercrime. Srinivas said the initial stage is critical in cases of cyber fraud and stressed that prompt action must begin immediately upon receipt of a complaint to secure defrauded funds through effective coordination among the police, banking institutions and other concerned agencies. He directed officials to strengthen technical capabilities and rapid-response mechanisms further to prevent and combat cybercrime. The Chief



Secretary sought detailed information on the entire process followed at the Cyber Crime Police Station, from the receipt and registration of complaints to the filing of FIRs, collection and analysis of digital evidence, and the progress of investigations. He also reviewed the technical resources available for cybercrime investigations and the proficiency of personnel.

Indian American Thanedar loses Democratic Party nomination for Congress re-election in upsurge for progressives

New York, Oct 6 : Indian American member of the House of Representatives, Shri Thanedar, has lost the Democratic Party primary in an upsurge of support for progressive candidates in Michigan state where Israel was a factor in the background. Thanedar, who was first elected in 2022 and won again in 2024, lost to Democratic Socialist Donovan McKinney by a narrow 3.8 per cent margin, according to the results announced on Tuesday in the intra-party elections held. The seat in a majority African American constituency that covers parts of Detroit

and its suburbs is considered safe for the Democratic Party in the November mid-term elections. In the trend of progressives upstaging more moderate Democrats, Abdul El-Sayed won the state-wide primary for the Senate seat, and if elected would be the first Muslim in the upper Chamber of Congress. By a slender margin of less than one per cent, he defeated Haley Stevens, a moderate member of the House who sought the party's Senate nomination to succeed Gary Peters, who is retiring. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee's backing for Thanedar and Stevens -- as also many other candidates -- were turned into election issues by their

opponents. There are six Indian Americans in the House, and two of them, Thanedar and Raja Krishnamoorthi, who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate nomination, will not be there next year. But they could be joined by Amish Shah, who won the Democratic primary last month if he can turn the tide in the Arizona constituency held by a Republican. Thanedar's victory in the last two elections was remarkable because he ran in a constituency that is nearly 75 per cent African American. Besides his story of rags to riches, he was helped by several African Americans running against him in the primaries splitting the community's votes. This time McKinney, an African

American, was the only opponent in the primary. He was backed by several socialist and anti-Israel campaigners like Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Rashida Tlaib and US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed. El-Sayed and many progressives made the Palestine issue a central in their campaigns. Thanedar had been a member of the Democratic Socialists, but quit in 2023 after the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. However, he shared common stands with McKinney, like opposition to the Iran War and demand for extending government health insurance for all. Thanedar ranked among the staunchest opponents of President Donald Trump, trying to introduce



measures for impeaching him. His full name is Shrinivas Prasad Thanedar and he was born in Chikodi in Karnataka, coming to the US for a PhD at the University of Akron. While working for a pharmaceutical company, he

took out a relatively small loan to buy the failing enterprise. After turning it around, he went on to buy several other companies and became a multi-millionaire who financed his campaigns.

US Senate confirms Erica Schwartz as CDC chief after nearly year of vacancy

Washington, Oct 6 : The US Senate has voted to confirm Erica Schwartz as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after nearly a year-long vacancy in which the role was filled only on an acting basis. The upper chamber on Tuesday (local time) voted 51 to 44 to confirm the nomination, mostly along partisan lines. Schwartz, who served as deputy surgeon general during President Donald Trump's first term, was already the Trump administration's third nominee to lead the CDC in the past two years, reports Xinhua news agency.

She has served as a rear admiral in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and was Deputy Surgeon General from January 2019 to April 2021. Trump initially nominated David Weldon, a physician and former US Representative from Florida. Weldon's nomination was withdrawn in March 2025 due to insufficient Senate support. Then Susan Monarez was confirmed by the Senate as CDC director, but she was fired by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in August 2025, just a month into her tenure, over vaccine policy disagreements. After Monarez was removed,



HHS Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill was appointed acting director of the CDC, but he then departed the department in February 2026, prompting the appointment of Jay Bhattacharya, director of the National Institutes of Health, as acting CDC chief. The newly Senate-confirmed CDC director will take the helm

of the agency that is confronting a series of high-profile public health threats, ranging from domestic outbreaks of measles and cyclosporiasis to a surge in Ebola cases in Africa.

US planning security strategy 10 years ahead

Washington, Oct 6 : President Donald Trump's national security team is conducting strategic planning that extends as far as five to 10 years into the future, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, describing a weekend meeting at Camp David as part of the administration's longer-term approach to global challenges. Rubio said the meeting brought national security officials together in a setting with fewer distractions and was not centred solely on immediate crises confronting the administration. "We constantly are meeting for long-term strategic planning and things of this nature," Rubio told reporters at Joint Base Andrews when asked about

the Camp David meeting on Friday. "It's not unusual for us as a team to get together," he said. Rubio did not identify the specific issues discussed at Camp David or disclose who participated in the meeting. He said such sessions were part of the role played by the National Security Council in bringing together officials responsible for different areas of US national security policy. "That was just an opportunity to do it in a setting where there were less distractions, but we're constantly -- that's just part of the role the National Security Council plays," Rubio said.



Indian American lawmakers condemn anti-India act in Texas

Washington, Oct 6 : Six Indian American members of the US Congress have strongly condemned the tearing of an Indian flag during an immigra-

tion-related protest outside Frisco City Hall in Texas and expressed solidarity with the Indian American community amid growing concerns over xenophobia and

anti-India rhetoric. Representatives R a j a Krishnamoorthi, Ami Bera.



US bill seeks steep H-1B fraud penalties

Washington, Oct 6 : A Republican lawmaker has introduced legislation that would raise penalties for serious H-1B visa violations to as much as \$250,000, extend some employer sponsorship bans to at least 10 years and sharply increase fines for immigration document fraud. Rep. Beth Van Duyne of Texas announced the H-1B Visa Fraud Crackdown Act on Tuesday, saying existing penalties were too small to deter employers from abusing the programme. The legislation, H.R. 10643, is co-sponsored by Republican Reps. Brian Babin, Pat Fallon, Brandon Gill, Keith Self and Pete Sessions, all of Texas. "When a business can lie to the

government and push American workers aside for cheaper labor, and the worst it faces is a \$5,000 fine, many view that as the cost of doing business," Van Duyne said. "The H-1B Visa Fraud Crackdown Act changes the penalties. American jobs should go to American workers, and fraudsters should face real accountability for their actions." The bill would raise the maximum civil penalty for covered willful H-1B violations from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Van Duyne's office said those violations could include lying about the job being performed or underpaying an H-1B worker.

100 deaths in mass border crossing into Spain's Ceuta: Local leader

Brussels, Oct 6 : About 100 people died during a mass border crossing into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta last week, Ceuta President Juan Jesus Vivas told an extraordinary meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on Tuesday. Vivas said about 80,000 people entered Ceuta, nearly 75,000 of whom subsequently returned voluntarily, Xinhua News Agency reported. Between 3,000 and 5,000 migrants remain in the enclave, leaving reception centres overwhelmed and creating a severe humanitarian emergency, he said, calling for stronger security, more reception resources and greater support from EU agencies. "An attack, a violation of territorial integrity. It is not a migratory crisis, but an episode in which the integrity of

the city, of Spain, and of Europe has been called into question," said Vivas, Italian News Agency Adnchronos reported. According to Guillaume Mercier, European Commission spokesman, the European Commission maintains "very high" attention in view of August 15, a date indicated by various rumours and speculations for a possible new attempt to massively cross the border between Morocco and the enclave of Ceuta. "Threats to external borders can happen, as we have seen. We have seen the alerts and are in contact with the Spanish authorities on this. Attention remains very high, in view of August 15. We are also in contact with Frontex and Europol. We remain very vigilant," he stated during the press briefing in Brussels. The European Commission is expected to disburse "additional" funds to Spain, to help it manage migratory flows in Ceuta, said spokesman Guillaume Mercier "We have seen that through various channels, including Russian

ones, the situation we saw on the ground last week has rapidly escalated," he added. He confirmed that the Commission received a first needs assessment from Spain on Wednesday and the Commission is rapidly examining the document to identify the best way to provide support. According to the spokesperson, the next step "will be for Spain to submit a formal request to the Commission, in order to concretely demonstrate what we are doing. It will be additional support," which "could cover a range of elements, starting from

equipment and services for border management, given the current situation, and could also provide humanitarian and medical assistance." "Regarding European Union agencies, we have offered support through Frontex and the European Asylum Agency. Yesterday, a meeting was held between DG Home and the heads of the executive agencies to discuss a regular and coordinated exchange of information on how we can support Spain. Work is ongoing on several fronts.





High Court order on CBI probe significant development in Punjab politics, says Akal Dal leader

Chandigarh, Oct 6 : Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia on Tuesday targeted the Bhagwant Mann government after the Punjab and Haryana High Court handed over to the CBI the investigation into alleged corruption involving Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann’s OSD Rajbir Singh Ghuman and other associates. Calling the High Court order a significant development in state politics, Majithia said the court had directed the CBI to register a criminal case, investigate the allegations and submit a status report within two months. He said the matter was no longer limited to political allegations and that the complete record would now come before the investigating agency. “The questions we have been putting before the people of Punjab

for a long time must now be answered through evidence during the investigation. The truth must come out,” Majithia said. He said the most serious aspect was that the Enforcement Directorate had written three letters to the Punjab DGP seeking action and registration of an FIR over alleged corruption, but the matter did not move forward. This eventually led to the matter reaching the High Court through a public interest petition, following which the court handed the investigation to the CBI. Majithia alleged that certain police officers had attempted to prevent the matter from progressing and allegedly destroy evidence in order to protect people close to Chief Minister Mann, including his OSD Ghuman, Ghuman’s associate Nitin Gohal and others.

Ex-MLA Kanwarlal Meena moves Rajasthan HC over delay in parole decision

Jaipur, Oct 6 : The Rajasthan High Court has directed the State Parole Committee to decide within seven days on the permanent parole application filed by former MLA Kanwarlal Meena, who is currently serving a three-year prison sentence in a two-decade-old case involving allegations of threatening an SDM with a pistol and obstructing government officials from performing their duties. A division bench comprising Justice Ganesh Ram Meena and Justice Pramil Kumar Mathur issued the direction while hearing a petition filed by Meena after his parole application remained pending for over two months without a decision.



Congress attempted to create violence on polling day in Manjalpur: Gujarat BJP

Vadodara, Oct 6 : Gujarat Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President on Tuesday alleged that the Congress attempted to create violence and disorder on polling day in the Manjalpur Assembly by-election after realising it was heading for defeat, while also thanking party workers for the BJP's victory in the constituency. The allegation was made during a "Rin Svikaar" (Expression of Gratitude) programme organised at Tarsali in Vadodara to acknowledge the efforts of party workers following the party's victory in the by-election. State Organisation General Secretary Ratnakarji was also present at the event.

Addressing party workers, Vishwakarma claimed that the Congress "did not even have enough polling agents during the election" and alleged that it "attempted to create violence and disorder on polling day" after accepting defeat. "Expressing gratitude to voters and party workers after every electoral victory was part of the BJP's organisational culture and tradition," he said. He attributed the party's victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, public confidence in the BJP's lotus symbol and what he described as "meticulous booth-level planning combined with the hard work of party workers".

Calling on workers to remain active, Vishwakarma urged them to strengthen public contact, dialogue and service so that the welfare schemes of the BJP governments at the Centre and in Gujarat reached every citizen. He also appealed to party workers to participate enthusiastically in the upcoming 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Referring to the BJP's broader political position, Vishwakarma said the party continued to receive public support in Gujarat because of what he described as development-oriented governance under Prime Minister Modi's guidance and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's leadership. He also highlighted central government welfare initiatives, including housing, Jan Dhan, Ayushman Bharat and schemes for farmers, and said these had benefited millions of people. "25 crore people had been lifted out of poverty under the Prime Minister's leadership," he said. State Organisation General Secretary Ratnakarji said the positive election result reflected the united efforts of party workers from the booth level to the state organisation. He described the BJP's organisational strength as a major challenge for the opposition and said resolving public issues remained the priority of the BJP governments at the Centre and in Gujarat.

Punjab records 84 stubble-burning fires; Amritsar accounts for 49 incidents

Chandigarh, Oct 6: Administrative and enforcement measures are continuing in Punjab to curb incidents of paddy stubble burning, with the state recording 84 fire incidents so far this season, according to the latest monitoring and enforcement report of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). As per the CAQM report updated on October 6, field inspections have been carried out in 78 of the 84 reported fire incidents. Physical verification during these inspections confirmed crop residue burning at 30 locations across the state. The report said environmental compensation (EC) has been imposed in 28 cases related to stubble burning, with the total amount reaching Rs 1.40 lakh. Of this, Rs 55,000 has been recovered so far. The enforcement measures also include the

entry of red remarks in farm records in 13 cases, while one FIR has been registered in connection with stubble burning. In addition, nodal and supervisory officers have issued 36 warning and show-cause notices to those found linked to the incidents. District-wise data showed that Amritsar recorded the highest number of reported fire incidents in the state, with 49 cases so far. Authorities conducted field inspections in 45 of these cases, and crop residue burning was confirmed at 13 locations. In Amritsar, environmental compensation was imposed in 11 cases, amounting to Rs 55,000 in total. Of this amount, Rs 35,000 has been recovered so far. The district also saw 32 warning notices being issued by the concerned nodal and supervisory officers as part of the enforcement action. Tarn Taran recorded the second-highest number of incidents, with

18 cases reported so far. Field inspections were carried out in 16 cases, while physical verification confirmed stubble burning at nine locations. Environmental compensation amounting to Rs 45,000 was imposed in nine cases in Tarn Taran. According to the report, Rs 10,000 of the imposed amount has been recovered so far. Red entries were also made in farm records in nine cases. Ferozepur district reported five stubble-burning incidents during the period covered by the CAQM report. Field inspections were conducted in all five cases, and crop residue burning was confirmed at each of the inspected locations. The authorities imposed environmental compensation of Rs 25,000 in the five confirmed cases in Ferozepur. Of this, Rs 5,000 has been recovered so far, while red entries were made in the farm records in four cases.



Patiala district reported two incidents of stubble burning. Field inspections were carried out in both cases, and crop residue burning was confirmed during the physical verification. Environmental compensation totalling Rs 10,000 was imposed in the two Patiala cases. However, according to the CAQM report, no amount had been recovered from the imposed compensation as of October 5. One FIR has also been registered in the district in connection with stubble burning. The latest figures come amid continued efforts by Punjab authorities and enforcement agencies to prevent crop residue burning, which is closely monitored during the paddy harvesting season due to its impact on air quality in the region.

Focus on execution over rules to cut road fatalities: Komatireddy



Hyderabad, Oct 6 : Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy emphasised that formulating road safety guidelines is meaningless without effective ground-level execution, calling for a shift from passive compliance to active risk mitigation. Chairing a session titled “Designing Safe Highways: From Standards to Implementation” on day two of the national Chintan Shivir–2026 at Ektanagar, Gujarat, on Tuesday, the Minister urged Indian road authorities to adopt inter-

national safety models tailored to domestic conditions. Pointing to Sweden’s 'Vision Zero'—which treats all traffic fatalities as preventable Australia’s 'Safe System' approach, and US Federal Highway Administration guidelines, he called for road safety to be treated as an independent professional discipline alongside traditional engineering. "Road safety audits must not remain a one-time formality," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said, advocating for continuous audits across the design, construction, pre-commissioning, and operational phases.

CBI busts international tech-support fraud; arrests 4 from Punjab, Delhi

New Delhi, Oct 6 : The CBI arrested four accused during raids at multiple locations in Punjab and Delhi and seized 15 laptops and digital devices from members of a gang targeting US nationals as part of an

international tech-support fraud and extortion racket, an official said on Tuesday. The accused were identified as Sourabh Rana (kingpin), Indermohan Singh, ?Harneet Singh and ?Jappandeep Singh, the CBI said in a statement. The CBI

conducted raids on the intervening night of August 5 and 6 at 10 locations across Punjab and Delhi, including a fake call centre running from the premises of the main accused (kingpin) at Mohali, said the statement. During the searches, in-

criminating material including more than 20 mobile phones, 15 laptops/tablets, multiple hard disk/pen drives/memory cards, huge amount of cash, incriminating documents and crypto wallets were seized, the CBI said.



CHANGE OF NAME
I ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO (NEW NAME), S/o Antavredi Suryanarayana previously called ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO (Old Name), Resident of Door No.2-92/1 Rajkapeta, Appanaramuni Lanka, Sakthimettipalli Mandalam, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema Dist.,
Now changed my name from ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO (Old Name) to ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO (New Name). Henceforth I will be called as ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO (New Name) for all purpose.
ANTARVEDI GIRI NARASIMHA RAO

KTR steps in to pay ICU bills for Medak constable after hospital scheme rejection

Hyderabad, Oct 6 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao has offered to personally cover the medical expenses of Medak Town Police Station Constable Devasoth Shankar, who is currently in intensive care after suffering a brain stroke while on duty. Constable Shankar, who joined the force as a home

guard in 2013 before being elevated to constable in 2024, fell critically ill on duty. BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar visited Shankar’s family at KIMS Secunderabad, reporting that the family has exhausted their financial resources attempting to fund his critical care. According to Praveen Kumar, the family’s attempt to secure emer-

gency medical care exposed significant procedural hurdles across multiple healthcare facilities. The BRS leader said Shankar was first brought to Wellness Hospital and subsequently transferred to NIMS, where his family was informed that no ICU beds were available. Upon seeking admission at Yashoda Hospitals, the family was

reportedly informed that the state Employee Health Scheme (EHS) could not be applied for his treatment. Shankar was eventually admitted to KIMS after friends and relatives raised 1.5 lakh for his emergency surgery. As treatment costs continued to mount with a request for an additional 2 lakh, police colleagues began pooling their own funds to assist, RS Praveen Kumar explained. Demanding systemic accountability, Praveen Kumar urged the Director General of Police (DGP).

INDIA SHELTER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.				POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Regd. Office: Plot-15, 6th Floor, Sec-44, Institutional Area, Gurugram, Haryana-122002, Branch Office: Madanapalle-1				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd., under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in Exercise of Power conferred under Section 13(12) Read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon the borrower and also the owner of the Property/Surety to repay the Amount within 60 days from the date of the said notice. Whereas the owner of the Property and the other having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. Now, the borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd. for an amount mentioned as below and interest thereon, costs, etc.				
Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Owner of the Property) & Loan Account Number	Description of the charged/ Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice, Amount Due as on Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	
1. N Chandrakala W/o. K. Nagendraprasad, 2.K Nagendraprasad Above all residents of D No 3-146-24, School Road, Bandameeda Kammappalli Village, N.G Pali, Madanapalle Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh-517325 Also At, Kushi S.No. 40, after Sy.No.40-2, Plot No.101, Ward No.3, D.No.3/146-24,Bandamdhakammappalli Village, Neeruguttuvu palli (Maya Bazaar School Road) Madanapalli Municipality and Mandal, Chittoor District (Present Annamaiah District), Andhra Pradesh-517325 (Loan Account No: HL11CHLON 580000502774AP-10121793)	Andhra Pradesh, Chittoor district, Madanapalli sub district, Bandameeda kammappalli village belongs to Madanapalli Municipality, Madanapalli mandal, 3rd ward, Neeruguttuvu palli, SRQR 40 kushi, after sub division, Survey No:40-2, Plot No:101, Door No:3/146-24, Site measuring east to west 27 feet or 8.13 meters, north to south 27 feet or 8.13 meters in total 720 square feet or 81 square yards and R.C.C building therein being bounded by: Boundaries:- East - C Schedule Property Part House of Kadiri Lokesh, West - Road, North - House of S.Nageswara Rao, South - Road.	Demand Notice Dated 12/07/2026 calling upon to all above mentioned in notice being to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2399202/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Two Only) pertaining to loan account No. HL11CHLON580000502774/AP-10121793 as of 10/07/2026 with further interest applicable from 10/07/2026 and cost till the date of the payment.	01-10-2026	
Place: Madanapalle-1, Date: 07/10/2026. Sd/- (Authorized Officer) For India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd. FOR ANY QUERY PLEASE CONTACT: Mr Mandala Ramesh (+91 998062299) or Mr. Kalyan (7995705815)				

Mercedes-Benz India posts best quarter with 6 pc annual sales surge

New Delhi, Oct 6 : Mercedes-Benz India recorded its best quarter and retailed 5,422 units in Q3 2026, up 6 per cent from 5,119 units in Q3 2025 and up 17 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter basis, a report said on Tuesday. The company recorded its highest-ever January-September sales of 15,190 units, with roughly 8 per cent growth over

14,132 units in the same period last year. The performance was driven by strength across its Top-End luxury models, including the S-Class, Mercedes-Maybach, EQS Maybach SUV, G-Class, V-Class and AMG range. Top end models grew over 13 per cent year-on-year and accounted for over 25 per cent of sales, with the MANUFAKTUR

personalisation programme accounting for nearly 75 per cent of that segment. Mercedes-AMG deliveries rose over 18 per cent, and the AMG G 63 posted its highest-ever monthly sales, the company said. It noted upcoming deliveries of the New Electrified S-Class which will begin mid-October; the New GLC BEV makes its India debut on November 4, 2026.

"Mercedes-Benz continues its outstanding growth story in India, clocking best-ever quarter and highest January-September sales, driven by exceptional value led customer strategy," said Santosh Iyer, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India. "Our record sales in each quarter in CY 2026 is a result of our unwavering focus on high product substance, brand exclusivity and



elevating customer experience. Our diverse product portfolio mix, new powertrain and elevated customer experience reflects the strong desirability of Mercedes-Benz among India's most discerning luxury consumers," Iyer said.

British Airways flight to Chicago declares emergency over Ireland, descends to 9,000 feet

New Delhi, Oct 6 : A British Airways flight operating from London to Chicago declared an emergency while flying over Ireland, prompting the aircraft to squawk the 7700 emergency code and descend to around 9,000 feet, according to

flight-tracking data on Tuesday. According to flight-tracking website Flightradar24, flight BA295 triggered the emergency alert while en route across the Atlantic. The Boeing aircraft's descent and emergency signal attracted attention from aviation observers.



Through 'BRIDGE', Kerala Startup Mission targets 500 corporate partnerships

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 6 : Seeking to bridge the gap between India's fast-growing startup ecosystem and established industrial and business sectors, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has launched BRIDGE (Business Revolution through Innovation, Digital Growth and Enterprise), a corporate-startup convergence programme

aimed at accelerating technology adoption and innovation partnerships. The state-run KSUM, through this initiative, expects to enable structured collaboration, faster deployment of emerging technologies and new growth opportunities by bringing startups and established enterprises onto a common platform. KSUM CEO Anoop Ambika said BRIDGE would create a structured pathway for collaboration between startups and established businesses with measurable outcomes.

Coal India clocks robust rise in coal supply to power sector

New Delhi, Oct 6 : Government-owned mining giant Coal India Ltd has recorded a 7.6 per cent increase in coal supplies to 384.2 million tonnes (MT) during the first six months of financial year 2026-27 (April-September), compared with 357.0 MT in the same period of the previous financial year, according to an official statement issued on Monday. The momentum strengthened considerably in the second quarter.



Underground market for Anthropic's Claude surges in China to circumvent blockage

New Delhi, Oct 6 : An underground market for access to Anthropic's AI model Claude has rapidly expanded in China, with brokers reselling account tokens to domestic users even as the service is officially blocked in the country, a new report has said. The report from South Korea-based The Chosun said the trade relies on "token resellers" who set up servers overseas where Claude is permitted and then gather numerous accounts. Further, they sell access to Chinese users, including scholars and engineers as they prefer Claude over domestic models for code generation and eagerly test new versions. "Token resellers use bulk email addresses acquired through past cryptocurrency ventures to successfully.

Experts advise investors to avoid impulsive decisions driven by short-term noise

New Delhi, Oct 6 : Markets are reacting to US tariff-related concerns and global uncertainties, yet these periods of volatility have always tested — and ultimately rewarded — long-term conviction, market experts said on Tuesday. The Indian stock markets, like their global peers, reacted sharply to the US reciprocal tariffs, and plunged. According to Arvind Kothari, smallcase manager and Founder, Niveshaay, panic is rarely a strategy and staying anchored to fundamentals is key. "We urge investors to remain calm and focused, avoiding impulsive decisions driven by short-term noise. While it's difficult to pinpoint which sectors will rebound first, but domestic-focused areas like FMCG and consumption appear better placed in the near term," he said. Export-heavy or globally linked sectors may take longer, with clarity emerging over time. Periods like these often pave the way for the next growth cycle. As clarity improves, staying invested in fundamentally strong businesses are likely to lead the recovery and create long-term value, according to Kothari.



Sarvam AI turns unicorn after raising \$234 million in Series B round

Bengaluru, Oct 6 : Indian artificial intelligence startup Sarvam on Tuesday announced that it has entered the unicorn club after raising \$234 million in the first close of its \$300 million Series B funding round, taking its post-money valuation to \$1.5 billion. The funding round was led by HCLTech as a strategic investor, with participation from Bessemer Venture Partners and continued backing from existing investors Khosla Ven-

tures and Peak XV Partners. The latest fundraise marks a major milestone for the Bengaluru-based company, which is positioning itself as India's full-stack sovereign AI platform. Sarvam said the capital will be used to advance research on its next-generation frontier AI models focused on agentic AI, coding and cybersecurity applications, while also expanding access to large-scale computing infrastructure and accelerating deployments across key sectors.

As part of the round, HCLTech will invest \$150 million, making it the lead strategic investor. The IT services major said the partnership would combine Sarvam's AI research capabilities with HCLTech's enterprise expertise, engineering talent and global customer relationships to build a comprehensive sovereign AI ecosystem for India and international markets.



Blue Star's Q1 profit falls over 15 pc to Rs 102 crore

Mumbai, Oct 6 : Blue Star Limited on Tuesday reported a 15.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in net profit for the June quarter (Q1 FY27), as margin pressure and lower operating profitability offset healthy growth in revenue. The cooling products and refrigeration major posted profit of Rs 102.5 crore for the quarter despite reporting a one-time gain. In the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q1 FY26), the firm reported a profit of Rs 121 crore, ac-

cording to its stock exchange filing. The air-conditioning and commercial refrigeration company registered strong revenue growth during the quarter, with revenue rising 13.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,378 crore from Rs 2,982 crore. However, operating performance weakened during the period. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) declined 12.3 per cent to Rs 175 crore from Rs 200 crore a year earlier. EBITDA margin contracted to 5.2 per cent from 6.7 per cent in the

year-ago quarter, as per its regulatory filing. The company said the quarter's earnings included a one-time gain of Rs 9.2 crore, as per its filing. Meanwhile, tax expenses declined to Rs 32.1 crore from Rs 42.4 crore in the corresponding quarter last financial year. Following the announcements, the shares of the company were trading at Rs 1,565.40, down by 5.98 per cent or Rs 99.60. Founded in 1943, Blue Star is among India's leading air-conditioning and commercial refrigeration companies.

Kerala BJP questions need for new Administrative Reforms Commission

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 6 : The Kerala BJP has questioned the need for another Administrative Reforms Commission in the state, asking the V.D. Satheesan-led government to first explain what happened to the recommendations of the previous panel before spending more public money on a new one. BJP National Executive member Kummanam Rajasekharan on Tuesday said the government should reconsider the decision to constitute the Fifth Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by IUMML leader M.K. Muneer with Cabinet rank. The commission was formally constituted through a government order on October

1. Kummanam pointed out that the Fourth Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by former Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan, was constituted in August 2016 during the first Pinarayi Vijayan government. It submitted 13 reports before its term ended. The commission cost the state exchequer Rs 10.79 crore up to April 30, 2021, according to figures given by the then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the Assembly. The Kerala Development Report 2026 says five of the 13 reports have since been approved and implemented, while the remaining reports are still under consideration. A committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted to examine the recommendations. Kummanam has now

demanding that the government make public the exact status of each recommendation and explain the results achieved from the money spent on the previous commission. He questioned whether the state needs another commission when the Administrative Reforms Department already has a mechanism to examine and follow up on reform proposals. "Again a chairman. Again Cabinet rank. Again staff. Again office. Again vehicle. Again travel allowances. Again public



money," Kummanam said, questioning the financial burden of the new arrangement. He demanded that the government disclose the total expenditure involved, including the chairman's salary and allowances, personal staff, office facilities, vehicle and travel expenses. "The relevant question is not how many commissions have been constituted, but what changes they have brought about in governance," he said. The appointment of Muneer with Cabinet rank has already triggered a political controversy within the ruling UDF, with UDF convenor Adoor Prakash expressing displeasure that he was not consulted on the decision.



Bihar: Preeta Verma to continue as Bihar DGP in additional charge

Patna, Oct 6 : Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Preeta Verma will continue to hold the additional charge of Director General of Police (DGP), Bihar, with the state Home Department extending her tenure until further orders. The Home Department issued an order on October 6, 2026, stating that the additional charge currently held by the 1991-batch Bihar cadre IPS officer, Preeta Verma, will continue until further orders. According to the Home Department notification, Preeta Verma was assigned the additional charge of DGP, Bihar, through a departmental order issued on September 15. She replaced Vinay Kumar, who went on 21 days' leave while serving as Bihar DGP.

Vinay Kumar was later appointed Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), Bihar, a week ago and subsequently took voluntary retirement from the post of Bihar DGP. Preeta Verma is currently serving as Director General-cum-Commandant General of Bihar Home Guards and Fire Services. After being given the additional charge of DGP, she has been overseeing the functioning of Bihar Police Headquarters alongside her existing responsibilities. The latest order reiterates that Verma will continue to hold the additional charge of DGP, Bihar, until further orders. The government order does not constitute Verma's appointment as the permanent DGP of Bihar. She continues to hold the post in an additional or acting capacity.

No voter names deleted under Form 7 so far, says Karnataka CEO

Bengaluru, Oct 6 : Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar, following the state Congress government's allegations that the BJP and JD-S are conspiring to remove the names of voters from minority communities and oppressed classes, on Tuesday clarified that no deletions have been made from the electoral rolls based on Form 7 applications so far and said the voter concerned would be issued a notice before any decision is taken.



Form 7 is an Election Commission of India form used to object to the inclusion of a person's name in the electoral roll or request deletion of a name. Addressing a press conference here, Anbukumar said every objection seeking deletion of a voter's name would be followed by a notice to the person concerned and an inquiry before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) takes a decision. "So far, no names have been deleted under Form 7. The concerned voter will first be issued a notice and only after an inquiry will a decision be taken," he said. Anbukumar said 91,278 Form 7 applications seeking deletion of names had been received so far. He added that no cases had been registered specifically in connec-

tion with Form 7 applications, while cases relating to allegations surrounding the process are before the authorities and are sub judice. Responding to questions about allegations by the Congress that BJP leaders had printed Form-7 applications and submitted them in bulk, Anbukumar said FIRs had been registered in connection with such matters and that he could not comment further as the cases were sub judice. He said the EROs had been briefed about the rules and would act independently in accordance with the law. "An objector can submit 10 forms in a day and a maximum of 50 forms under the SIR process. If more forms are submitted, the concerned ERO will conduct an inquiry. The ERO can reject the

applications or take appropriate action. The ERO is an independent officer, and I cannot direct him," Anbukumar said. He added that if false forms were submitted, action could be taken. The ERO would have seven days to conduct an inquiry and take a decision, he said. Anbukumar said 43,82,313 notices had been generated in the state as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. Of these, 43,55,818 notices, or 99.4 per cent, have been served on the concerned electors, while 26,495 notices are pending service. Hearings have been completed for 36,89,063 notices, accounting for around 85 per cent of the notices served, while hearings for 6,66,755 notices remain pending.

Punjab's debt servicing costs over 23 per cent of total revenues, says Manish Tewari

Chandigarh, Oct 6 : Punjab's debt servicing cost, interest plus principal repayment, is in the range of about Rs 42,481 crore, or "more than 23 per cent of the state revenues", Congress MP Manish Tewari said on Tuesday. "It means for every one rupee of revenue generation by Punjab 23 paise go towards only debt servicing -- the revenue expenditure minus debt servicing is at 71.4 per cent", the three-time Member of Parliament and former Union Minister Information and Broadcasting wrote on X "What is then left for Capital Expenditure -- development expenditure that creates.



Mule account supply gang busted by Delhi Cyber Police, ten arrested

New Delhi, Oct 6 : In a major breakthrough against cybercrime, the Cyber Police Station of Delhi Police's East District on Tuesday busted a well-organised mule bank account supply racket involved in facilitating cyber frauds across the country, arresting ten persons and recovering several incriminating items, including POS machines, ATM cards, cheque books, and mobile phones. According to Delhi Police, the gang was engaged in procuring, operating, and supplying bank accounts that were used by cyber fraudsters to receive and route proceeds generated through online scams. The network came to light during the investigation of FIR No. 49/2026 registered

under Sections 112(2) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at PS Cyber East. The case originated from a cyber fraud complaint filed by a woman residing in Kerala. During the investigation, police discovered that Rs 2 lakh, fraudulently obtained from the complainant, had been transferred to a mule bank account maintained with Yes Bank. Detailed scrutiny of the financial trail revealed.



NHAI to develop 121-km long Guwahati Ring Road on BOT mode

New Delhi/Guwahati, Oct 6 : The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would develop a 121-km-long Guwahati Ring Road on Build Operate Toll (BOT) mode at a total cost of Rs 5,729 crore, officials said on Tuesday. The NHAI on Tuesday signed a concession agreement with the Ahmedabad-based M/s Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd in the national capital to accomplish the vital project. NHAI Chairman, Santosh Kumar Yadav and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Bihar govt signs MoUs worth Rs 51,600 crore to boost industrial investment

Patna, Oct 6 : In a major push to accelerate industrial development in Bihar, the state government on Tuesday signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth around Rs 51,600 crore with several leading industrial groups from across the country. The agreements were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, with the state government asserting that the proposed investments will spur large-scale industrialisation and generate substantial employment opportunities in the state. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Choudhary said the state government is committed to converting these investment proposals into projects on the ground at the earliest. He added that Bihar aims to emerge as a major steel manufacturing hub and that the state government will actively promote investments in the steel and metal industries. He added that equal emphasis will be placed on expanding sectors such as tex-

tiles, nuclear energy, food processing, and pharmaceuticals. According to an official government statement, companies signing investment agreements with several leading private companies in above sectors. Besides these, a private firm has proposed investment in the nuclear energy sector, while several other companies have committed investments in the textile and allied industries. Highlighting the importance of the textile sector, Chief Minister Choudhary noted that it is labour-intensive and has the potential to generate large-scale employment within Bihar. He added that investments in clean and nuclear energy would help meet the state's future energy re-



quirements, while growth in the food processing sector would improve market access for farmers and strengthen the rural economy. The Chief Minister also reviewed preparations for Bihar Business Connect-2026, describing it as a key platform to connect domestic and international investors with Bihar's emerging industrial opportunities. Emphasising the slogan "Build and Believe in Bihar", Samrat Choudhary said the state govern-

ment is working in mission mode to strengthen investor confidence and simplify the process of establishing industries. The event was attended by several senior government officials, including Deputy Chief Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Industries Minister Shreyasi Singh, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Deepak Kumar, Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit, the Development Commissioner.

Bengal youth arrested for leaving motorcycle on the way of train at level crossing

Kolkata, Oct 6 : A 23-year-old youth has been arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district for leaving his motorcycle at a level crossing between the Sonarpur and Champahati stations, leading to a train smashing into the two-wheeler and stopping, causing a disruption in services, officials said. The incident occurred. "We are treating this matter very seriously. The act could have caused a derailment. There could also have been a fire as the motorcycle had petrol in its tank. In both cases, passengers may have suffered injuries. We have charged the man under several sections of The Railways Act, 1989," a senior Eastern Railway (ER) official said. The youth, identified as Sudipta Mistry, is a resident of Purba Mali Pukuria in Sonarpur. He evaded arrest for six days before being picked up on Tuesday evening. He has been charged with obstructing rail movement and endangering the lives of passengers and may end up spending two years in jail.



High time EU calls out Pakistan on political imprisonments, election theft and terror financing

Brussels, Oct 6 : Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is visiting Brussels currently for the 4th EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum and also holding several meetings with European counterparts on the sidelines of the gathering. Earlier this week, Dar, who is leading the Pakistani delegation for the 7th Session of Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue, also called on the President of the EU Council, Antonio Costa. Ironically, his visit is taking place just weeks before the European Commission submits its 2026 report on Pakistan's compliance with the 27 core conventions tied to GSP+ – the preferential trade scheme that delivers Pakistan roughly \$3-4 billion a year in extra exports.



Pluralism in Geneva, containers in Islamabad: Pakistan's double-faced reality exposed once again

Islamabad, Oct 6 : Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, stood before the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva on July 29, 2025 and warned his colleagues against populism, ultra-nationalism and "narrow interpretations of nationalism", before closing with the line -- "It is time to promote pluralism. It's time to accept diversity." Fourteen months later, on September 25, 2026, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took the podium at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and told the world that Pakistan had chosen dialogue over confrontation, that it would give Kashmiris "full diplomatic, political, and moral support", and that the demolition of a mosque in Saharanpur was proof of Islamophobia in India. Both speeches were written for audiences outside Pakistan, and both said very little about the country they came from. However, the most revealing line in Sharif's address was one he probably did not mean as a confes-

sion, when he thanked Field Marshal Asim Munir for helping to "create space for diplomacy". An elected Prime Minister crediting his Army Chief from the UN podium says more about where power sits in Pakistan than anything he said about Palestine or the Indus. Pakistan's domestic challenges and its rhetoric in Geneva are very different. While similar diplomatic displays occur in our region, the extent to which they reflect reality is a matter for deeper introspection. This also highlights the need to consider the structure of the Pakistani state and the record of the past 18 months. The reality on the ground is different from the rhetoric and requires attention. Pakistan's own parliament has been told that of the 1,817 Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras in the country only 37 remain operational, a figure placed before its Minority Caucus in late 2025, with the Hindu legislator Ramesh Kumar Vankwani blaming the Evacuee Trust Property Board.



Spanish PM Petro Sanchez calls for snap election on Nov 29

Madrid, Oct 6 : Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Tuesday called for an early General Election for November 29, after Congress did not pass two housing decrees presented by his government. The lower house voted against the measures put forward by the government on Friday, despite negotiations made for gaining enough support. The decrees were part of the Spanish government's response to the housing crisis, Euro News reported. Sanchez's announcement comes after he held talks with ministers and senior figures in his Socialist Party (PSOE) over the weekend, before deciding whether to continue government until the end of the parliamentary term or

call for early polls. While sharing a video from his address on X, Sanchez stated, "Facing their penthouses, their cuts, and their servility to the elites, our commitment to the people: affordable housing, public services, and social rights. Spain must continue advancing, and for that, we need citizens to bolster our strength in Parliament. It's time to mobilise. It's time to fight. On November 29, we're going to make history. Again." Sanchez's decision comes after his coalition government faced a difficult few months as it has struggled to gather support in Congress amid corruption cases involving people close to the PSOE and the migration crisis in Ceuta.



"The devastating hostilities that followed (the attacks) have inflicted untold suffering on Palestinians in Gaza.

Don't believe in idle gossip and hearsay: Kremlin on reports of plague in Irkutsk region

Moscow, Oct 6 : Reacting to reports about suspected outbreak of 'plague' in the Irkutsk region, Russian Presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said that professional assessments and official statements should be heeded, not idle gossip and hearsay. "The leading agency with authority in this area is Rospotrebnadzor," the Kremlin spokesman emphasised. "And it is Rospotrebnadzor's official statements that should be relied upon, without listening to various rumours and speculation," Russia's state-owned Tass news Agency quoted Peskov as saying during a regular media briefing in Moscow. "Rospotrebnadzor is home to highly qualified professionals in this field. Let's listen to their official statements," the Kremlin spokesperson urged. Earlier, Rospotrebnadzor reported that a series of anti-epidemic measures have been organised and implemented in the Irkutsk Region in response to a



case involving an employee of the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Institute of Siberia and the Far East. "Due to the patient's professional activities, upon receipt of information, a comprehensive set of anti-epidemic measures was immediately and fully organised and implemented in accordance with sanitary legislation, including identifying the widest possible circle of people who had been in contact with the patient, and providing inpatient medical observation with daily laboratory testing," the statement mentioned.



8 feared dead after US Air Force B-52 bomber crashes shortly after takeoff from California base

Los Angeles, Oct 6 : A US Air Force B-52 Stratofortress crashed shortly after takeoff from Edwards Air Force Base in California's Mojave Desert, the base said. B-52 Stratofortress was carrying eight people and crashed shortly after takeoff from Edwards Air Force Base, with no survivors reported, the base said. The aircraft was on a routine test mission, the base said on X. The crash sent a huge plume of black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles. "Initial indications are that the crash was not survivable," the base said. Officials are working to account for all personnel involved. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The B-52 is a long-range strategic bomber that has been participating in bombing raids on Iran during the latest US-Israeli war on the country.

passes were suspended until further notice to allow the installation to focus entirely on emergency response operations, the base said. B-52 Stratofortress was carrying eight people and crashed shortly after takeoff from Edwards Air Force Base, with no survivors reported, the base said. The aircraft was on a routine test mission, the base said on X. The crash sent a huge plume of black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles. "Initial indications are that the crash was not survivable," the base said. Officials are working to account for all personnel involved. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The B-52 is a long-range strategic bomber that has been participating in bombing raids on Iran during the latest US-Israeli war on the country.

US Democrats push bill to rebuild America's manufacturing base

Washington, Oct 6 : The opposition Democrats unveiled sweeping legislation in the US Senate aimed at rebuilding America's manufacturing base, reducing reliance on Chinese-dominated supply chains and expanding federal support for industries considered vital to US economic and national security interests. The proposed Make More in America Act would significantly broaden the mandate of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), allowing it to finance domestic manufacturing projects in sectors ranging from semiconductors and artificial intelligence to critical minerals, biotechnology, robotics, batteries and shipbuilding. Announcing the legislation, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said repeated disruptions to global supply chains had exposed vulnerabilities in the US economy and contributed to higher costs for American consumers. "Americans cannot keep



paying the price every time a supply chain crisis hits — whether it's a pandemic, a war, or the whims of the Chinese Communist Party trying to undermine the American economy," Schumer said. "We have to break the cycle of supply chain shocks that are raising prices, invest in American industry, and protect our national security," he added. The legislation has been introduced by Schumer along with Senators Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Coons, Brian Schatz, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Andy Kim, Lisa Blunt Rochester and Angela Alsobrooks. According to the bill, EXIM would be empowered to support

PM Modi makes history in Bratislava as India and Slovakia sign key agreements: MEA

Bratislava, Oct 6 : In a landmark moment for bilateral relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the Slovak capital on Tuesday for the first-ever visit by an Indian head of government since Slovakia's independence in 1993, a historic trip that saw the two nations sign multiple agreements, including a key defence pact. MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George said that upon his arrival, invited by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, PM Modi was received with full diplomatic honours. "The significance of the visit was immediately underscored when President Peter Pellegrini conferred the Order of the White Double Cross First Class upon the Indian leader at the Presidential Palace. This decoration, the highest civilian award of the land, has rarely been bestowed upon foreign dignitaries," he said.



the development, commercialisation, production and future export of technologies deemed critical to America's economic competitiveness and national security. The legislation would establish a permanent "Make More in America Program" focused on expanding manufacturing capacity across the United States. Priority industries include semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum technology, biotechnology, advanced energy systems, critical minerals, drones, robotics and shipbuilding. "The United States has faced a manufacturing decline under the Trump Administration and we need to reverse that trend," Reed said. "We must bolster domestic supply chains, revive America's manufacturing competitiveness, and get our manufacturing workforce growing again to ensure America is capable of responding to global threats and builds critical technologies here at home."

UN chief calls for permanent Gaza ceasefire

United Nations, Oct 6 : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza ahead of the third anniversary of the October 7, 2023 attacks. The horrors of those attacks must never be repeated, and the ensuing hostilities in Gaza must end, Guterres said in a

message marking the third anniversary. On October 7, 2023, Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza, killing about 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. Israel responded with a war on Hamas in Gaza that killed at least 74,000 Palestinians, Xinhua news agency reported.



Assam: 74 cartons of foreign liquor seized, three held

Guwahati, Oct 6 : Assam Police seized 74 cartons of illegally transported foreign liquor concealed inside a cargo truck during a routine checking operation at the Kalainchhara Toll Gate police checkpoint on National Highway-6 in the Cachar district, and arrested three persons in connection with the smuggling attempt, officials said on Tuesday. Police said the contraband was hidden behind consignments of legitimate goods loaded in the truck in an apparent bid to evade detection. The three arrested have been identified as Sandhyaram Debbarma, Katarajay Debbarma and Deniya Reng,

all residents of Tripura. They have been taken into custody for further interrogation. According to police officials, the truck was intercepted during routine vehicle checking at the naka checkpoint near the Kalainchhara Toll Gate in Cachar district. Suspicious movement of the vehicle prompted personnel on duty to carry out a detailed search. During the inspection, officers discovered 74 cartons of foreign liquor concealed behind other goods being transported in the vehicle. The entire consignment, along with the truck used for transporting it, was seized.

BJP leader compares Bengaluru street vendor removal drive to Turkman Gate demolitions

Bengaluru/New Delhi, Oct 6 : BJP MP and former Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, Govind Karjol, on Tuesday condemned the eviction of street vendors in Bengaluru by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) under the 'Safe Footpath Campaign', comparing the government's actions to the controversial Turkman Gate demolitions during the Emergency and accusing it of threatening the livelihoods of lakhs of poor families. The Karnataka government launched a 'Safe Footpath Campaign' on July 1 this year to remove footpath encroachments across Bengaluru, with

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda asserting that nearly 300 pedestrians lose their lives in road accidents every year after being forced to walk on roads due to encroached footpaths. He had clarified that the encroachments were being removed in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court and in response to repeated demands from Bengaluru residents for safe and accessible footpaths. While the state government promised relocation and organised pushcarts for registered vendors.



Over two dozen Jan Aushadhi Kendras currently operate in Bhagalpur, beneficiaries thank govt

Bhagalpur (Bihar), Oct 6 : The Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK), an initiative by the Narendra Modi government, is rapidly emerging as a beacon of hope for the residents of Bihar's Bhagalpur. Currently, more than two dozen Jan Aushadhi Kendras are operating across 16 blocks in the Bihar district. The large crowd of beneficiaries at Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras in JLN Hospital, Mayaganj, and Sadar Hospital's Bhagalpur Campus indicates that this government scheme is highly beneficial to



the public. IANS spoke to some of the beneficiaries of PMBJK to understand their experiences. Dilip Bhagat, who traveled 10 km from Nathnagar to buy medicine, expressed his gratitude, saying: "PM Narendra Modi deserves thanks for this work. I have been taking medicines from this Jan Aushadhi Kendra, and it benefits my health more than the medicines I used to buy from outside. I request the government to open these Kendras in different areas of Bihar.

Quota should continue as long as social inequality persists: Mohan Bhagwat

Mumbai, Oct 6 : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday stated that caste-based reservations in India must continue as long as social discrimination and inequality exist in society. He emphasised viewing the issue through the perspective of Dr B R Ambedkar to avoid friction and controversy. Bhagwat was speaking during an interactive session with over 2,000 youths from Gen Z and Gen Alpha at an event organised to mark the 15th anniversary celebrations of India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN). During the session,

IIMUN founder Rishabh Shah posed several questions to young participants regarding student protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, reservation policy, and key challenges facing the youth. When asked if the time had come to reduce reservation quotas in education and employment, Bhagwat declined to answer with a direct "yes" or "no". Instead, he stressed that the issue must be understood through Dr B R Ambedkar's vision. "Reservation exists due to social factors," he said. "As long as social inequality remains, reservation must continue." Bhagwat appealed to well-off individuals within reserved categories to show generosity. He noted that those who have already achieved socio-economic progress using reservations should voluntarily step aside so that underprivileged members of society can benefit. He added that a thought process favouring this



shift is gradually emerging among quota beneficiaries themselves, referencing recent Supreme Court observations regarding sub-classification to ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Expressing dissatisfaction over political weaponisation of reservations, Bhagwat stated that reservation was originally designed as a tool to achieve social harmony. "The concept itself is not wrong, but those holding the sword are wielding it intentionally in the wrong direction," he remarked. The RSS chief added that until this political mindset shifts, the situation will not improve, though effective implementation of welfare schemes could eventually reduce the need for quotas.

Maharashtra govt waives registration fees for ancestral land partition

Mumbai, Oct 6 : In a bid to provide significant relief to farmers and the general public, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced a total waiver of registration fees for the partition deeds of ancestral agricultural land. The Revenue Department officially issued the circular regarding this exemption today. The waiver now extends beyond cases handled by Tahsildars under Section 85 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966. It also covers partition deeds of ancestral agricultural land brought directly to the Sub-Registrar's office for registration through mutual consent. This decisive step was taken by Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, following directives from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the government circular said. According to Minister Bawankule, no registration fee will be charged for land partition among family members. The waiver applies whether the partition is processed via the Tahsildar's office or registered directly at the Sub-Registrar's office. By making the process free,



the government aims to reduce pending land disputes and encourage formal documentation of family settlements. A notification issued on June 23, 2025, had previously exempted registration fees for partitions made under Section 85, for which Tahsildars are authorised. However, many citizens preferred registering their mutual partitions directly at Sub-Registrar offices. Due to a lack of explicit provisions in the original notification, Sub-Registrars continued to charge fees, leading to confusion and a financial burden on farmers, the government circular said. The clarification ensures that as long as the partition involves ancestral agricultural land among legal heirs or co-holders of the same family.

Haryana signs pact with IIT-Madras for data-driven road safety interventions

Chandigarh, Oct 6 : The Haryana government on Tuesday announced to extend its collaboration with IIT-Madras by signing a two-year pact for data-driven road safety interventions. The agreement was unveiled in the presence of Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi and Prof Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Head of the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety (CoERS) at IIT-Madras. The partnership leverages

tools like the 'Sanjaya' platform, previously launched in the state, to visualise accident data and plan targeted interventions. Additional Chief Secretary (Transport) Ashok Khemka, Additional Chief Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) Sudhir Rajpal, Transport Commissioner Dusmanta Kumar Behera and senior officers of various departments were present on the occasion. During a meeting on road safety measures, Rastogi called for the formation of a working group to implement actionable



strategies, emphasising the need to save lives lost in road accidents. He directed the Transport and Health Departments to develop a detailed roadmap for upgrading trauma centers, particularly near highways, to improve emergency response. The meeting was in-

formed that due to safety measures implemented by the government, there was a declining trend in the number of road accident fatalities in the state since 2022 and the major cause for these deaths was found to be overspeeding.



Punjab approves policy to enhance supply of sand, gravel; reduce illegal mining

Chandigarh, Oct 6 : The Punjab Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, on Tuesday paved the way for checking illegal mining and further reducing the price of sand and gravel for the public. A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office said the Cabinet approved significant amendments in the Punjab Minor Mineral Policy that aims to enhance the supply of raw materials in the market, reduce illegal mining and corruption.

MP govt preparing to stop farmers from entering Bhopal : Congress

Bhopal, Oct 6 : Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari on Tuesday alleged that the state government was preparing to prevent farmers from entering Bhopal by deploying barricades and other security measures at 16 major entry and exit points instead of addressing their concerns. Patwari claimed that the government had studied arrangements used during the farmers' agitation in Delhi.



Madhya Pradesh Congress begins 'talent hunt' for spokesperson selection

Bhopal, Oct 6 : The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Tuesday launched a "talent hunt" programme for the selection of spokespersons to represent the party's views and ideology at the district, division, state, and national levels. A formal announcement was made by state Congress chief Jitu Patwari during a press conference at the party's headquarters in Bhopal, stating that in the changing political landscape, the party needs ideologically committed and research-oriented colleagues who can effectively

convey the Congress ideology to the public. Patwari shared that based on the applications received, interviews will be conducted at the division level. In these interviews, the AICC-designated coordinator, members of the talent hunt committee, senior Congress leaders.



Nepal Home Minister Sudan Gurung to visit India next week

Kathmandu, Oct 6 : Nepal's Home Minister Sudan Gurung is scheduled to visit India next week to participate in the first meeting of the home ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), scheduled for October 13, a senior official has said. It will be Gurung's first foreign trip since he assumed office following the formation of the government led by Prime Minister Balendra Shah on March 27. The meeting will bring together

home ministers from the seven-member regional grouping -- Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. "Home Minister Gurung is scheduled to travel to New Delhi on October 12 to participate in the first meeting of the BIMSTEC Home Ministers," said Ananda Kafle, spokesperson for the Home Ministry. The meeting is expected to cover a range of cross-cutting security issues, including cross-border crime, drug trafficking and human

trafficking among member states, Kafle said. He, however, said the minister's detailed itinerary, including possible meetings with Indian leaders, has yet to be finalised. Gurung is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the event, including Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, according to Nepali officials. "There can also be a meeting with the Nepali diaspora in India," he said. Gurung's visit comes as BIMSTEC members seek to

strengthen regional cooperation on security matters and build on discussions among senior security and home officials of the member states. Security cooperation has been an important component of BIMSTEC's regional agenda. The security sector comprises three sub-sectors, namely counterterrorism and transnational crime, energy, and disaster management, according to the BIMSTEC website. At the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on



August 30-31, 2018, BIMSTEC leaders expressed their determination to strengthen cooperation and coordination among law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies and decided to hold meetings at the level of BIMSTEC

home ministers. They also decided to continue the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' meetings as part of efforts to promote cooperation and coordination on counterterrorism and transnational crime.



Vance backs Alaska gas pipeline to Asia

Washington, Oct 6 : US Vice President JD Vance said that the Trump administration expects a major Alaska natural gas pipeline to move forward, citing strong demand from Japan and other Asian economies, even as details involving South Korea remain unresolved. Vance, speaking to reporters before departing aboard Air Force Two for Alaska, said the administration "really" wants to see the project happen and argued that demand for American natural gas would help overcome outstanding issues. "The pipeline is something that we really want to see happen and a lot of our Asian friends want to see happen as well," Vance said. "It's not just the South Koreans the Japanese would love to see this pipeline a lot of the East Asian economies that have suffered from higher natural gas prices would love to see more American gas flowing into their economies." Asked whether Alaskans should trust that the pipeline would proceed even though South Korea has said a deal was not finalised.

India urges all members to pay UN dues on time, highlights its record of prompt payments

United Nations, Oct 6 : India which has consecutively made the UN "Honours List" for prompt payment of its dues, has urged all member nations to send in their dues on time, and to ensure adequate funding for development agenda. Speaking on Tuesday at the General Assembly's Fifth Committee, which deals with the UN's budget, BJP MP Banshilal Gurjar highlighted India's timely payment of its contribution to the general budget, putting it on the Honour Roll. He emphasised that everyone should pay their assessed contributions in full, on time, and without preconditions. That was an implied criticism of the US, which has been withholding part of its dues to the UN and setting conditions for paying its assessed dues under the UN Charter. Delayed payments by the US and China, the two largest contributors to the UN, have brought it to the brink of a financial crisis before Washington paid a part of its share and Beijing sent in this year's dues in full just before the high-level meeting of the General Assembly last month. Gurjar spoke in Hindi with simultaneous translation piped into the five official languages of the UN.



India reaffirms support for Afghanistan during Moscow Format Consultations

Moscow, Oct 6 : India on Tuesday reaffirmed that it remains committed to the welfare of Afghan people and supports Afghan sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The stance was asserted once again by the Indian delegation participating in the 8th Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan. "Indian delegation - Ambassador Vinay Kumar and JS (PAI) Dr M Suresh Kumar - participated in the 8th Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan hosted by the Russian Foreign Ministry on 5 October 2026 in Moscow. Based on its long-standing friendship with Afghanistan, India remains committed to the welfare of Afghan people and supports Afghan sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity," the Embassy

of India in Russia posted on X. Last month, India delivered another consignment of life-saving medicines and medical consumables in Kabul as part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. "India's humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan continues. Another consignment from India has reached Kabul, including life-saving medicines and medical consumables for government hospital in the city. Health remains at the heart of India's humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people".

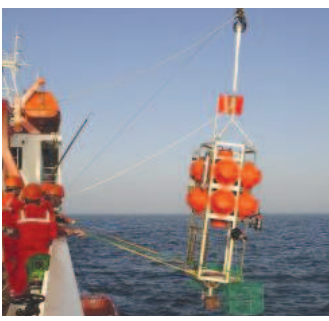
China's actions in South China Sea undermine international legal order: Report

Naypyidaw, Oct 6 : China's actions constitute a systematic assault on the international legal order. By asserting adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) — while violating its core provisions, spreading disinformation to obscure violations, intimidating monitors and negotiating in bad faith- Beijing demon-

strates that law matters only when it aligns with Chinese interests, a report said on Tuesday. According to a report in Myanmar's media outlet 'The Irrawaddy', China's stated commitment to upholding international law appears hollow amid growing evidence of systematic violations of the UNCLOS — a treaty Beijing ratified in 1996. "The scene of these egregious violations is the South China Sea,

where China lays spurious claim to sovereignty over the Scarborough Shoal, a resource-rich atoll in the Philippines' so-called Exclusive Economic Zone. Known as Bajo de Masinloc in the Philippines and Huangyan Island in Chinese, the shoal has been effectively occupied by a permanent Chinese Coast Guard presence since a 2012 standoff, both because of

the rich fishing grounds that surround it and its strategic position on international shipping routes," the report detailed. "An international arbitration ruling in 2016 invalidated China's expansive claims and found that the shoal is a traditional fishing ground for several nations. But rather than abiding by the arbitration it signed up to, China has responded by escalating its maritime aggression, combined with a coordinated disinformation campaign designed to obscure its illegality," it added. The report highlighted that China's Coast



Guard presence at the Scarborough Shoal more than doubled in 2025, with 1,094 "ship days," patrolling the area — compared to 516 in 2024 — maintaining a near daily presence in the disputed territory.

Mongolia: Indian Ambassador visits UNCCD COP17 venue



Ulaanbaatar, Oct 6 : India's Ambassador to Mongolia, Atul Malhari Gotsurve, on Tuesday visited the venue of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Ulaanbaatar. "On 11 August 2026, HE Mr Atul Malhari Gotsurve, Ambassador of India, along with the Resident Diplomatic Corps, visited the venue of the UNCCD COP17. Present at the event were HE Mr T Sandag Ochir, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, HE G Amartuvshin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior officials, etc," the Indian Embassy in Mongolia stated on X. The 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UNCCD will be hosted by Mongolia in its capital city, Ulaanbaatar, from August 17 to 28 under the theme of 'Restoring Land. Restoring Hope'.

US embargo inflicts severe humanitarian toll on Cuba: Report

Havana, Oct 6 : The US embargo against Cuba has caused incalculable humanitarian damage and become the main obstacle to the Caribbean country's social development, local media reported. Citing a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Cuban online news outlet Cubadebate said Cuba's infant mortality rate rose from 4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 9.9 in 2025, an increase of 148 per cent. The report says that the sharp

rise in infant mortality during that period may have been mainly caused by the tightening of US sanctions against Cuba, which began during US President Donald Trump's first term in 2017, Xinhua news agency reported. Cuban officials, including Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez and Deputy Public Health Minister Carilda Pena, have recently denounced the impact of the US embargo on Cuba's healthcare system, particularly the effects of executive orders issued on Jan. 29 and May 1 this year.



According to official statistics cited by Cubadebate, the survival rate for children with cancer in Cuba has fallen from 85 per cent to 65 per cent since the United States imposed restrictions on oil supplies to the island and intensified its sanctions. The US measures, described by Havana as "collective punishment," have affected more than 100,000 patients awaiting surgery, including 5,152 cancer patients

and nearly 12,000 children, the outlet said. Cuba's Public Health Ministry has also reported adverse impacts on 2,888 patients receiving hemodialysis, whose treatment depends on supplies, water and specialised equipment. The restrictions have made it harder for Cuba to obtain raw materials, equipment and financial resources needed to sustain domestic production of vaccines, basic medicines and diagnostic tools for diseases such as cancer, Cubadebate said. The US oil restrictions have worsened Cuba's energy crisis, with power outages exceeding 20 hours in Havana and a daily electricity shortfall of about 2,000 megawatts, the outlet said. So far in 2026, Cuba has re-

ceived only one fuel shipment, delivered by Russian tanker Anatoly Kolodkin, which carried 100,000 metric tonnes of crude oil. The fuel crisis has prevented more than 100,000 children from receiving state-subsidized milk, as transport from production centers to cities has been disrupted, according to food industry officials cited by Cubadebate. In addition, 170 containers of essential goods worth 6.3 million US dollars have not been distributed across Cuba. Humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme.



'I'm not a cheater or thief': Gauff hits out at social media backlash after China Open win

New Delhi, Oct 6 : American tennis star Coco Gauff hit out at the social media backlash she faced in the aftermath of her win in the round of 32 at the China Open against Chinese Sun Xinran. Gauff defeated Sun 7-5, 6-1 to march into the round of 16, but a moment in the first set agitated the fans, following which she was subject to racist comments on social media, Gauff revealed. The American was serving at 4-5 and at 15-15, she lost one point but raised an issue with the chair umpire over the flickering of the LED advertising boards. The point was replayed, and Gauff went on to win the game and the set 7-5. However, the incident did not go down well with a section of fans. The American took to social media to reveal the abuse she has been receiving. "Hey everyone, you can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist. The amount of racist comments/dms I've received in the last few hours is insane. Lastly, I'm not a cheater or a thief," Gauff wrote in reply to a user on X. She then detailed the incident, highlighting that the players are allowed to challenge for a point and that she didn't have the decision in her hands.



'Still some years in Samson': Pujara wants Sooryavanshi to wait for Sanju

New Delhi, Oct 6: Former India cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara feels Sanju Samson should be the preferred option to open the innings for India with Abhishek Sharma, pointing out that the Chennai Super Kings batter still has years left in him and that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi should wait. Samson was the T20 World Cup player of the tournament and recently scored twin fifties against Afghanistan, although he was dismissed for cheap scores in Japan. With India set to play against the West Indies in a five-match T20I series starting Tuesday, Pujara feels Samson should be the opening partner with Abhishek. "I would go with Sanju Samson because he is an experienced player who has won a World Cup," Pujara told JioStar. "You can't suddenly make a change when someone is performing well just because you have an exceptional talent sitting on the bench. "Sanju Samson is equally talented. He has also performed really well and is actually at his peak right now. You still have some years left in Sanju Samson, so try and make the most of it," he added.



IPL 2027: Sourav Ganguly appointed Delhi Capitals head coach

New Delhi, Oct 6 : Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed head coach of Delhi Capitals ahead of the next Indian Premier League season, marking his first formal coaching role with the franchise. Ganguly has been closely associated with the Capitals since 2019, when he joined the organisation as an advisor. He subsequently held several senior roles within the franchise, including Director of Cricket for both the men's and women's teams. The 54-year-old now moves into the dugout as Delhi Capitals look to build on their recent performances and mount a stronger challenge for the IPL title. Delhi Capitals chairman and co-owner Parth Jindal welcomed

Ganguly's appointment, highlighting his long-standing association with the franchise and his leadership credentials. "Dada is and has always been an integral part of the Delhi Capitals family. I am incredibly proud and honoured to announce that one of the greatest Indian captains and administrators is now stepping into coaching by taking over as the head coach of the Delhi Capitals. I am excited to see him take on this role and I'm sure that under his guidance and visionary leadership Delhi Capitals will be best prepared to challenge for the IPL title. I cannot wait for all our players and staff to learn from Dada and am looking forward to seeing DC in action at the earliest." Delhi Capitals co-owner Kiran Kumar Grandhi said Ganguly's familiarity with the franchise's cricketing structure would be an asset in his new role. "Dada has been an integral part of the Delhi Capitals journey over the years and has played an important role in strengthening our cricketing structure. His deep understanding of the franchise, coupled with his experience and leadership, will be invaluable as we move forward.

'I have done my duty': Harmanpreet Kaur steps down as India captain

New Delhi, Oct 6 : Indian women's ODI World Cup winning skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has stepped down from captaincy across all formats after serving as the full-time T20I captain since 2018 and as the ODI captain since 2022, having taken over the reins from the legendary Mithali Raj. "Today, I step down as captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team across all formats. This is not an easy decision. It carries years of memories, emotions, sacrifices, and moments that will stay with me for the rest of my life," Kaur wrote on Instagram. "I have given everything I had to this team and to Indian women's cricket — my blood, my sweat, my time, and many times, a part of my own game and personal ambitions. There were moments when I had to put my individual performance, my own growth, and what I wanted for myself aside, because I believed the team had to come first. "As a captain, I have had to make difficult decisions. Decisions that were not always understood, not always easy, and sometimes came at a personal cost.



Michael Bracewell joins Melbourne Renegades for BBL 16

Melbourne, Oct 6 : Melbourne Renegades have bolstered their overseas contingent for the Big Bash League (BBL) 16 with the signing of New Zealand all-rounder Michael Bracewell, adding an experienced campaigner capable of influencing matches with both bat and ball. Bracewell becomes the Renegades' second international signing for the season after England batter Jonny Bairstow, giving the club another proven option as it builds its squad for the upcoming Big Bash League campaign. The 35-year-old, who made his New Zealand debut in 2022, has established himself as a multi-format international and has also led the Black Caps in

both ODIs and T20Is. His value, however, extends beyond his international record, with Bracewell having built a substantial T20 resume across several major franchise competitions. He has played more than 200 T20 matches, accumulating over 3,600 runs at a strike rate above 135 while also claiming more than 100 wickets. His experience includes stints in the Indian Premier League, Pakistan Super League, Major League Cricket, The Hundred and the Super Smash. Bracewell's ability to change the course of a game with the bat was underlined by his unbeaten 141 off 65 balls for Wellington in the 2022 Super Smash.

SA to wait till last moment on Rabada's availability ahead of Australia Test



Durban, Oct 6 : South Africa will delay a decision on Kagiso Rabada's availability for the first Test against Australia, with

batting coach Ashwell Prince indicating that the fast bowler will be given every opportunity to prove his fitness before the series opener on Friday. Rabada has not played competitive cricket since the Indian Premier League in May and has been recovering from an aggravated hamstring injury that also ruled him out of South Africa's recent ODI series. The fast bowler returned to action in a two-day intra-squad match on Sunday and Monday, completing his first meaningful workload in several months.

ICC Rankings: Hayley Matthews reaches new career-high after Zimbabwe heroics

New Delhi, Oct 6 : West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has achieved career-best positions in the latest ICC rankings following her outstanding performances in the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe. Matthews, who was named player of the series, amassed 326 runs across the three games in the ongoing Women's Championship. Her performances have helped her reach new career-high ratings in both the ODI batting and all-rounder rankings. The 28-year-old has climbed to fourth place in the ODI batting rankings with a career-best 731 rating points. India's Smriti Mandhana leads the list with 790 points, followed by South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt (782) and Australia's Beth Mooney (744). Matthews has also reached a new career-best rating of 467 points in the ODI all-rounder rankings. She remains second behind Australia's Ash Gardner, who leads the list with 497 points, leaving Matthews just 30 points behind the top-

ranked player. The West Indies skipper was in exceptional form throughout the ODI series, with her biggest contribution coming in the opening match in Harare, where she struck a career-best 182. Her performances played a key role in the West Indies securing a 2-1 series victory over Zimbabwe.

