



SCAN QR CODE
FOR EPAPER

NATION

TN govt revokes licence of Coldrif firm

>> Page: 05 <<

BUSINESS

Foxconn plans Rs 15,000 cr investment in Tamil Nadu

>> Page: 07 <<

SPORTS

Rahul, Sai steady ship; India need 58 on final day

>> Page: 10 <<

Business boom: Trade estimated to touch Rs 7.58 lakh crore, says BUVM

JAIPUR, OCT 13
India's economy is witnessing a major festive and wedding season boom, with the Bharatiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal (BUVM) estimating Rs 7.58 lakh crore in trade turnover. From Diwali to weddings, markets nationwide are bustling, driven by PM Narendra Modi's Swadeshi appeal and positive GST reforms. BUVM President Babulal Gupta reported strong performances across sectors—automobiles (Rs 1.3 lakh crore), real estate (Rs 1.2 lakh crore), groceries (Rs 1 lakh crore), jewellery, utensils, and electronics (each Rs 50,000 crore). The Swadeshi movement is now a powerful market trend, reflecting India's growing economic confidence and festive-driven consumer enthusiasm.

Infant dies after polio vaccine; asphyxia blamed

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT
In Telangana's Sangareddy district, a three-month-old infant died after receiving pulse polio drops, with health officials stating that the cause was likely asphyxia, not the vaccine. The parents alleged that he died within 20 minutes of vaccination on Sunday. However, officials denied, stating he was observed post-vaccination and appeared normal. About an hour later, the parents returned with the infant, who had been crying and vomiting after being fed bottled milk. A post-mortem revealed that the death was likely due to laryngeal spasm from aspiration, with the final report pending. No adverse events were reported among the other 108 children.

WB allows green crackers for 2 hrs during Deepavali

KOLKATA, OCT 13
The West Bengal Pollution Control Board on Monday said bursting of green fireworks will be allowed for two hours on the occasion of Kali Puja and Diwali on 20 October. Only green fireworks, "which result in significantly less pollution", can be used during the two-hour period, as per court directives, WBPCB Chairman Kalyan Rudra said. Fireworks certified by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) or the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) can only be used, it said. It has also launched a special vigil in collaboration with the police to prevent supply of unlicensed fireworks, he said.

13-year-old gangraped by 3 boys in UP

MIRZAPUR, 13 OCT
A 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three juveniles, including her cousin, in a village within the Dehat Kotwali area on Sunday evening. Police have taken the trio into custody. Circle Officer Amar Bahadur Singh said that the girl's cousin lured her to a secluded spot where the other two awaited. After the assault, they fled, leaving the girl in serious condition from bleeding. She managed to return home, where her family took her to the district hospital. An FIR has been filed under relevant sections of BNS and the POCSO Act. Inspector Amit Mishra said, "The three minors have been sent to a juvenile home. Further legal proceedings are underway."

Retail inflation in Sept slips to 1.54%: Govt data

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Retail inflation slipped to 1.54 per cent in September from 2.07 per cent in the preceding month mainly due to subdued prices of food items, including vegetables and pulses, according to government data released on Monday. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was 5.49

per cent in September 2024. "The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during September 2025 is mainly attributed to favourable base effect and decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses and products, cereal and light," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in a statement.

It dropped from 2.07% in Aug to 1.54% in Sept owing to decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses, cereal and fuel, the government said



Year-on-year food inflation during September 2025 was (-) 2.28 per cent compared to (-) 0.64 per cent in August and 9.24 per cent in September last year. In its October bi-monthly monetary policy, the Reserve Bank lowered its inflation projec-

tion for 2025-26 to 2.6 per cent from 3.1 per cent estimated in August. Regarding the inflation outlook for second half of the fiscal, RBI said that healthy progress of the south-west monsoon, higher kharif sowing, adequate reservoir levels and comfortable buffer stock of foodgrains should keep food prices benign.



Hostages freed, prisoners swapped in Gaza deal

Bibi says he is committed to peace as Trump visits Israel



Hamas gunmen on pickup trucks escort buses carrying freed Palestinian prisoners following their release from Israeli jails in Jerusalem; People react as they watch a live broadcast of Israeli hostages being released from Hamas captivity, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday



DEIR AL-BALAH, 13 OCT

All 20 remaining living hostages held in Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel walked free Monday as part of a ceasefire pausing two years of war that decimated the Gaza Strip and killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Hamas said Monday that it will release the bodies of four of the 28 deceased Israeli captives, though it was not immediately clear when the rest of

"We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity.... Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President (Donald) Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region"

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

the bodies would be sent back to Israel. Israel says it has released more than 1,900 Palestinian prisoners as part of the Gaza ceasefire deal. Speaking to parliament, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared

he was "committed to this peace," raising hopes that the ruinous war, which triggered other conflicts in the Middle East and had left scores of captives in militant hands, might come to an end. Cheering crowds greeted

buses of released prisoners in the West Bank and Gaza, while families and friends of the hostages gathered in a square in Tel Aviv, Israel, cried out with joy and relief as news arrived that the captives were free.

US President Donald Trump flew to the region and addressed the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. He was later to head to Egypt for a summit with other leaders on the US-proposed deal and post-war plans.

>>>More on Pages 6, 8

CITY CRUMBLES, BIT BY BIT



For months, a portion of Mosque Road in the City has been left dug up, with the promised white topping works incomplete, inconveniencing pedestrians and affecting shopkeepers

Expelled Tej Pratap to contest from Mahua

PATNA, 13 OCT

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav will contest the Bihar elections from Mahua as his newly-floated party, Janshakti Janta Dal (JJJ), announced candidates for 21 seats on Monday. Yadav, a former minister in the state government, floated the party after his father expelled him from the RJD in May.

"Tej Pratap, will contest the assembly elections from the Mahua constituency in Vaishali district," JJD state Chief Madan Yadav said, releasing the names of candidates for 21 seats.

Yadav had represented the Mahua seat till 2020 when RJD

shifted him to Hasanpur.

The JJD fielded Sanjay Yadav in Madhepura, Taurif Rahman in Narkatiaganj, Dharmendra in Barauli, and Braj Bihari Bhatt in Kuchaikot, among others.

Yadav was expelled from the RJD for six years after he "confessed" on social media to being "in a relationship" with a woman. He, however, deleted the post later, claiming that his account was "hacked". Prasad disowned him, due to his "irresponsible behaviour".

Yadav had alleged that there was a "conspiracy" to drive a wedge between him and his younger brother, Tejashwi Yadav.

>>>More on Page 5

Amit Shah inaugurates, lays foundation stone of development works worth Rs 9,315 crore in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, OCT 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Jaipur on Monday, marking his third trip to Rajasthan in three months. He inaugurated a state-level exhibition on the three new criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam—at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Deputy CMs Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa, and cabinet ministers attended. Shah also flagged off Forensic Science Lab vans, patrol scooters, and bikes to boost women's safety and launched a tech-based session on modern policing. He inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects



worth over 4 lakh crore from the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit and announced 9,300 crore worth of development initiatives. The government also began registrations for the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and digitally transferred 260 crore in student uniform aid and 364 crore in milk producer subsidies. Shah earlier visited Rajasthan in April, July, and September.

STOCKHOLM, 13 OCT

Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt have won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their research on how innovation drives economic growth. The trio shared the 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly USD 1.2 million) prize for work that quantified and explained "creative destruction," the process in which new technologies and businesses replace older ones, a concept popularised by economist Joseph Schumpeter.

The winners represent contrasting approaches. Economic historian Mokyr, 79, from Northwestern



University, analysed long-term historical trends, showing that scientific explanations are essential for successful innovation. Howitt, 79, from Brown University, and Aghion, 69, from Collège de France and the London School

of Economics, developed mathematical models to study sustained growth, including their influential 1992 paper on creative destruction.

Mokyr expressed surprise at the award, joking he was "more likely to be elected

Pope." Aghion, also shocked, said he would invest his prize money in his research laboratory. The Nobel committee highlighted that the laureates' work demonstrates that economic growth cannot be taken for granted and that mechanisms supporting creative destruction must be upheld globally to avoid stagnation.

Aghion has previously advised French President Emmanuel Macron and co-chaired France's Artificial Intelligence Commission.

The prize also recognises the importance of combining historical and mathematical approaches to understand growth.

'GO TO ECI INSTEAD'

SC refuses to form SIT for 'vote chori' in Karnataka

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking an SIT probe headed by a former judge to inquire into allegations of electoral roll manipulation in Bengaluru Central and other constituencies.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the petitioner to pursue his plea with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The bench ordered, "We have heard the petitioner's counsel and we are not inclined to entertain the petition, which is purportedly filed in public interest. The petitioner may pursue his plea before the ECI, if so advised."

Counsel for the petitioner, Rohit Pandey, a practising advocate, said that they

have already filed the representation with the poll panel but it has not been accepted. The petitioner sought some time limit to be fixed for the poll panel to decide the plea, which the bench refused.

The plea refers to a press conference held by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in which he made explosive claims of a "huge criminal fraud" in polls through collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission, and termed it "vote theft".

He had cited an analysis of voter rolls in State and said "vote chori" is an "atom bomb on our democracy".

The plea also sought that no further revision or finalisation of electoral rolls be undertaken until the completion of an independent audit of the rolls.

SC orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a CBI probe into the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed, saying that the incident has shaken the national conscience and deserves a fair and impartial investigation.

In its order on a plea by actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) for an independent probe, the top court also set up a three-member supervisory committee headed by former apex court judge Ajay Rastogi to monitor the CBI investigation.

Suspending the directions for the appointment of SIT and a one-man enquiry commission, the apex court criticised Justice N Senthilkumar of the Madras High Court for entertaining petitions on



incident, ordering an SIT probe and making observations against TVK and its members without making them a party to the case.

A bench, comprising Justices JK Maheshwari and NV Anjaria, said the stampede had wide ramifications with respect to the fundamental rights of the families who lost their kith and kin.

However, the DMK said that there are chances that the CBI probe could be cancelled.

>>>More on Page 5

'INNOVATION DRIVES GROWTH'

3 researchers share Nobel in Economics

STOCKHOLM, 13 OCT

Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt have won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their research on how innovation drives economic growth. The trio shared the 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly USD 1.2 million) prize for work that quantified and explained "creative destruction," the process in which new technologies and businesses replace older ones, a concept popularised by economist Joseph Schumpeter.

The winners represent contrasting approaches. Economic historian Mokyr, 79, from Northwestern



University, analysed long-term historical trends, showing that scientific explanations are essential for successful innovation. Howitt, 79, from Brown University, and Aghion, 69, from Collège de France and the London School

of Economics, developed mathematical models to study sustained growth, including their influential 1992 paper on creative destruction.

Mokyr expressed surprise at the award, joking he was "more likely to be elected

Three BLOs
Suspended for
Failing to Assume
Election Duties

JAIPUR, 13 OCT
Strict disciplinary action has been taken against personnel showing negligence in election-related duties and failing to join their Booth Level Officer (BLO) assignments. In this context, Electoral Registration Officer of Bagru, Sanghamitra Bardiya, has suspended three BLOs with immediate effect under the powers granted by Sections 32 and 13(13)(g) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and Rule 13 of the Rajasthan Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1958. The suspended personnel include Mohammad Aziz Khan, a teacher at Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Khaniyo; Priyanka Jindal, a teacher at the same school; and Parth Sarathi Gaur, Junior Assistant at Directorate of Treasury and Accounts, Rajasthan, Jaipur. All three were appointed as BLOs and ordered to assume their duties. Notices were issued for their repeated absence and to compel them to report for duty, but they neither appeared at the election office nor submitted any written explanation.

Applications Open
for Guest Faculty
in Government
Ambedkar Hostels
Until October 24

JAIPUR, 13 OCT
The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has invited applications from experienced subject specialists to serve as temporary guest faculty for teaching challenging subjects such as Mathematics, English, and Science in government Ambedkar hostels located in rural areas of Jaipur district. Deputy Director of Social Justice and Empowerment, Jitendra Kumar Sethi, stated that under the Vidya Sambal Scheme for the academic session 2025-26, guest faculty will be appointed to provide coaching to resident students of classes 9 to 12. Experienced retired personnel and private candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility and qualification criteria will be considered for appointment as guest faculty.

Consumer Care
Campaign: Fines
Imposed on 11
Establishments

BY MOHIT JAIN
AJMER, 13 OCT
As part of the ongoing Consumer Care Campaign, authorities conducted inspections across the city on Monday and imposed fines totaling 36,000 on 11 establishments for violations related to measurement, packaging, and sale of festive items such as sweets, dry fruits, and bakery products. District Supply Officer Neeraj Kumar Jain stated that surprise inspections were carried out to prevent under-weighing, incorrect packaging, and non-compliance with prescribed measurement standards during the Diwali festival. The first inspection team included Bhavna Dayal, Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, and Enforcement Inspector Atul Kumar Badaiya. The second team comprised Sunita Sharma, Enforcement Officer; Jitenendra Sachdeva, Inspector of Legal Metrology; and Mahendra Kumar Yadav, Enforcement Inspector.

Gravel Mafia
Flourishes Along
Banars River as
Administration
Turns Blind Eye

BHILWARA, 13 OCT
Despite a strict Supreme Court ban, the gravel mafia continues to operate openly along the Banars River in the Mangrop police station area of Bhilwara district. Large machines are digging deep pits in the flowing river, extracting gravel illegally both day and night. Villages including Guwardi, Mandapiya, Darri, Kalyanpura, Pipli, and Hasiyas have become hubs for this illicit trade. The extracted gravel is dumped in isolated locations and transported under cover of darkness to the city using tractors and heavy vehicles. Locals allege that this entire operation occurs under the watchful eyes of the administration and police, with dozens of vehicles passing daily without any intervention. The community questions whether the police fear the mafia or are complicit in the illegal trade.

Crackdown on Adulterated Mawa: 1,380 Kg Destroyed

JAIPUR, 13 OCT

In a major action against adulteration during the festive season, the “Pure Food – War on Adulteration” campaign intensified inspections at the Mawa Mandi in Shastri Nagar. Acting on the directions of Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Control Dr. T. Shubhamangala, the drive was led by Joint Commissioner of Food Safety Dr. Vijay Prakash and Chief Medical and Health Officer Jaipur First Dr. Ravi Shekhawat, starting at 7:30 AM on Monday. During the operation, over a dozen establishments in the Mawa Mandi area were inspected. The team checked mawa stored in two pickup vehicles and one Mahindra jeep on-site. A total



of 13 samples were collected from 12 mawa traders for testing. Both Dr. Vijay Prakash Sharma and CMHO Dr. Ravi Shekhawat were personally present during the inspection. Preliminary tests revealed adulterated mawa, prompting immediate action. Approximately 1,380 kilograms of mawa were destroyed on the spot. The operation continued until 6 PM, with active participation from Food Safety Officers Vinod Kumar Sharma, Virendra Kumar Singh, and Naresh Kumar Chejara. The department emphasized that no attempts at adulteration will be tolerated during the festive season, and such strict actions will continue in the future to ensure food safety.

Connectivity Between
Ajmer and Pushkar to
Improve with New Road

By Mohit Jain
AJMER, 13 OCT
Connectivity between Ajmer and Pushkar is set to become smoother with the approval of 7.62 crore for a new road from Varun Sagar to Kharekdi. The project, sanctioned under the guidance of Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, will be executed by the Ajmer Development Authority (ADA). The upcoming road will be 9 meters wide, aimed at improving traffic flow on the Ajmer-Pushkar route and facilitating easier movement for tourists. This development is expected to benefit local residents by providing better commuting facilities, while also playing a significant role in the religious and tourism development of the region. The new road is anticipated to reduce travel time, enhance regional connectivity, and contribute to the area's economic and social growth. Beyond improving accessibility, tourism promotion, and citizen convenience, strengthening the overall infrastructure between Ajmer and Pushkar.

‘Nari Chaupal’ Program to be Held in Khora Meena

JAIPUR, 13 OCT
Under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Saksham Jaipur campaign and Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative are organizing the ‘Nari Chaupal’ program across all sub-divisions of Jaipur district. As part of this ongoing effort, the second Nari Chaupal will be held on October 14 at the premises of Government Senior Secondary School in Khora Meena, Amer Panchayat Samiti. District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni has issued necessary directives to the concerned officials to ensure the program's successful execution and maximize participation of women and girls. The nodal officer for the program, IAS trainee Mr. Mrinal, stated that the initiative aims to empower and sensitize women. During Nari Chaupal, participants will be informed about government schemes, their rights, and welfare programs, while their concerns and suggestions will

also be heard. Deputy Director of the Department of Women Empowerment, Dr. Rajesh Dogiwal, added that the program will take place from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Government Senior Secondary School campus in Khora Meena. Activities will include street plays, Marwari songs, self-defense training, and other interactive sessions. Guests will also honor winners of various competitions during the event. The program seeks to promote gender ratio improvement, women's dignity and safety, and awareness on issues related to women's empowerment. Government schemes, rules, and acts from both central and state authorities will be widely publicized to foster an equitable society. Officials from departments including Women & Child Development, Health, Education, Police, and Social Justice will engage directly with women on topics such as health, education, safe-

ty, nutrition, self-employment, and self-reliance. Success stories and experiences will be shared to inspire participants, while help desks will be set up to provide immediate guidance and support. Nari Chaupal is not just a dialogue platform but also a means to instill confidence, guidance, and motivation among women, ensuring effective outreach of government schemes and strengthening their participation in society. Thousands of women across the district are expected to benefit directly from this initiative, marking a significant milestone in women's empowerment. The first Nari Chaupal under the Saksham Jaipur campaign was held on September 24, 2025, at Jalsu Panchayat Samiti, presided over by District Head Mrs. Rama Devi Chopra, where thousands of women and girls actively participated in various competitions.

Ambulance skids on oil spill, collides with truck on Jaipur-Ajmer Highway; two dead

JAIPUR, 13 OCT
Two people were killed and three others injured after a speeding ambulance collided with a truck on the Jaipur-Ajmer highway near Chhitaroli station in the Bagru area in Rajasthan, police said. The accident occurred around 2.30 a.m. after the ambulance skidded on palm oil that had spilled onto the road. Confirming that the oil spill led to loss of control, Sub-Inspector Sher Singh Meena of Bagru Police Station said, “A palm oil tanker was parked near Chhitaroli when a gravel dumper coming from behind rammed into it. The impact caused palm oil to leak and spread across the road. Shortly afterwards, an ambulance coming from Kishangarh lost control after its wheels skidded on the slippery surface and crashed into a side truck parked nearby.” Five people were inside the ambulance, including the driver, when the accident was reported. Dinesh Kumari (55), a resident of Kishangarh, Ajmer, and Vicky alias Veeram Singh (31), son of Govind

Singh, died on the spot. The injured included ambulance driver Satish Dhamani (31), Amit Vaishnav (30), and Bithudas (60), who were first taken to the Bagru Community Health Centre (CHC) and later referred to Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, Jaipur, where they are undergoing treatment. Locals said police personnel immediately reached the spot and helped rescue the injured before shifting them to the hospital. Police said that Bithudas, whose health had deteriorated, was being taken to SMS Hospital in Jaipur for treatment in the ambulance when the accident was reported. However, misfortune struck, and the deceased's wife, Dinesh Kumari, and his son Amit's friend Vicky died in the accident. The collision severely damaged the ambulance, and traffic on the highway was briefly affected before being restored. It was said that the ambulance was driving at a speed of over 100 kms when the accident happened

‘Shri Sanwaria Seth’ Bhajan Sandhya to be Held on Friday

By Mohit Jain
AJMER, 13 OCT
The Shri Sanwaria Seth Youth Committee, Ajmer, will host a grand Bhajan Sandhya titled “Intezaar Sanware Ka” on Friday, October 17. The devotional evening will take place at B.K. Colony, outside the gate of Gyan Vihar Colony, starting from 8 PM. During a press conference on Monday, the committee officials unveiled the event poster and shared details about the program. The Bhajan Sandhya will feature performances by renowned devotional singers and a captivating tableau of Shri Sanwaria Seth, providing devotees with an opportunity to deepen their devotion and reverence. Committee



members Dinesh Pamnani, Rajat Khatri, Manish Khandelwal, Sanjay Daslania, and Uday Pratap jointly stated that the event aims to offer devotees a spiritually enrich-

ing experience. Renowned singers Gokul Sharma and John Ajmeri from Ajmer will enthrall the audience with melodious bhajans, while the popular religious troupe

Manoj Ria & Party from Delhi will add further charm to the evening with their devotional performances. A special highlight of the event will be the presence of Vishal Maharaj, Chief Priest of Shri Sanwaria Seth Dham Mandira. Devotees will also witness the beautifully adorned tableau and special ceremonial decorations of Shri Sanwaria Seth, enhancing the overall spiritual atmosphere. The organizers have arranged separate seating for male and female devotees to ensure comfort and convenience. The pandal will be elaborately decorated, creating an inspiring and vibrant ambience for the devotional evening, making it a memorable experience for all attendees.

Giant 11-Foot Lamp Set to Illuminate Shri Charbhuj Nath Temple

BHILWARA, 13 OCT
A massive lamp, measuring 11 feet in width and 7.25 feet in height, has been constructed in the courtyard of Shri Charbhuj Nath Temple in Kotdi. Designed to hold 121 liters of oil at a time, the lamp has been built using approximately 3,000 bricks, one ton of cow dung, and a trolley of yellow soil. Its enormous wick, crafted from raw cotton, ensures a continuous and radiant glow, making it a spectacular blend of devotion, art, and environmental consciousness. The lamp will be



lit on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras in the presence of saints and devotees, with its eternal flame burning until Choti Diwali, symbolizing faith and joy. This tradition, inspired by the lighting of three lakh lamps in Ayodhya in 2018, has become a

local cultural highlight. The construction of the lamp is supervised by the Charbhuj Nath Shakti Sangathan, with skilled artisans and youth including Shyam Purohit, Prakash Vaishnav, Devkishan Kumhar, Roshan Suthar, Mahavir Mali, and others actively participating. The use of yellow soil and cow dung emphasizes the message of environmental protection while keeping traditional practices alive. Mandanas, made from yellow clay, are applied on the lamp, continuing the ancient Diwali customs.

‘Nav Vidhan – A New Identity of Justice’ Exhibition Inaugurated



BHILWARA, 13 OCT
A six-day exhibition titled “New Constitution: A New Identity of Justice” was inaugurated at the Pratap Nagar police station premises in Bhilwara. The event, broadcast live on Monday, was attended by CLG members, Bar Association members, police personnel, and community security volunteers. The chief guest, Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, inaugurated the exhibition from Jaipur via video conferencing. Scheduled from October 13 to 18, 2025, the exhibition aims to educate citizens about the provisions of the new criminal laws, including the Indian Criminal Code, Indian Civil Defense Code, and Indian Evidence Act. Visitors will receive detailed information about the recent amendments, their importance, and their impact on the justice system. Police station officer Surjeet Singh Thalia stated that during the exhibition, police officers and CLG members will guide citizens on the changes in the new laws, helping the public understand the improvements and reforms introduced in the justice system.

ADULTERATED MAWA RAID

1,380 KILOGRAMS OF ADULTERATED MAWA DESTROYED AMID STRICT FOOD SAFETY DRIVE

JAIPUR, 13 OCT

In a major crackdown against adulterated sweets and mawa during the festive season, the Food Safety and Drug Control Department conducted a significant operation at Mawa Mandi, Shastri Nagar, Jaipur. The action was part of the ongoing “Pure Food – War on Adulteration” campaign and was led jointly by Joint Commissioner (Food Safety) Dr. Vijay Prakash and Chief Medical and Health Officer, Jaipur First, Dr. Ravi Shekhawat, under the guidance of Commissioner Dr. T. Shubhamangala. The operation began at 7:30 AM and involved thorough inspections of over a dozen shops



and warehouses in the Mawa Mandi area. Samples of mawa stored in two pickup vehicles and a Mahindra jeep were collected, totaling 13 samples from 12 traders. Preliminary testing

revealed that the quality of the mawa was suspicious. Upon confirmation of adulteration, the team swiftly destroyed approximately 1,380 kilograms of mawa on the spot. The drive

continued until 6 PM, with officers checking mawa quality, storage hygiene, billing, labeling, and other compliance standards. Food Safety Officers Vinod Kumar Sharma, Virendra Kumar Singh, and Naresh Kumar Chejara actively participated in the campaign, highlighting its importance for public health and consumer protection. The department emphasized that any attempts at adulteration during the festival season will not be tolerated. Sudden inspections and monitoring will continue across all districts. Commissioner Dr. T. Shubhamangala stated that adulteration compromises consumer health, and strict action will be taken against offenders under the on-

going “Pure Food – War on Adulteration” campaign. Joint Commissioner Dr. Vijay Prakash noted that special inspection drives will also target sweet production units, dairy product vendors, and namkeen manufacturers in the coming days. Food business operators have been warned to strictly adhere to licensing conditions and quality standards. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Ravi Shekhawat added that the department is also running awareness initiatives to alert consumers about adulteration. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious food products to the department's helpline or district office for immediate action.

Son Beats Father to Death with Stick After Alcohol-Fueled Dispute

SATNA, 13 OCT
A heated argument between a father and son over alcohol turned fatal on Sunday evening in Badhkhar, Satna, when the son allegedly beat his father to death with a stick. The father sustained severe injuries to his head and nose. He was rushed to a private hospital but died en route. Doctors at the district hospital declared him dead and sent the body for postmortem. Father and Son Worked Together at a Timber Stall The deceased, Bhailyan Mawasi (aka Gulli Mawasi), 45, was a resident of Kalmaha village, Baroundha Police Station area, and had been working for the past 15 years at a timber stall along to Satna-Semariya road in Badhkhar. In recent years, his son and other family members also started working there. Alcohol Dispute Turns Fatal On Sunday evening, Bhailyan and his son Rinku reportedly consumed alcohol, after which a dispute broke out. During the argument, Rinku allegedly picked up a stick lying at the stall and started beating his father. Other workers tried to intervene, but Bhailyan suffered serious head and nose injuries. He was taken to a private hospital, where doctors advised transferring him to the district hospital. Unfortunately, he died on the way.

Jio Payments Bank Enters Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling Services

MUMBAI, 13 OCT
Jio Payments Bank Limited (JPBL), a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited, has secured a contract to implement a FASTag Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) toll collection system at Shahjahanpur and Manoharpur toll plazas on the Gurugram-Jaipur corridor. The advanced system automatically identifies vehicles and calculates toll charges, eliminating the need for vehicles to stop or slow down. It leverages cutting-edge technologies including RFID, ANPR, DSRC, and GNSS, ensuring smooth and contactless tolling. Under this pilot project issued by IHMC Ltd., five MLFF tenders have been released, with JPBL securing two of them. Since July 2025, JPBL has been operating FASTag-based toll systems and currently manages 11 toll plazas across India.

Hemodialysis Benefits 100 Patients in Three Months

BANSUR, 13 OCT
At the Sub-District Hospital, Bansur, hemodialysis treatment has successfully benefited 100 patients in just three months. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav stated that earlier, patients had to travel to Jaipur for dialysis. However, with the efforts of MLA Devisingh Shekhawat, a dialysis machine was installed in July 2025, providing local treatment for patients. Since the installation, 100 patients have received the benefits of dialysis. Patients and their families expressed relief that they no longer need to travel to Jaipur for treatment. The successful dialysis program has been conducted under the supervision of Sonologist Dr. Amit Yadav, Radiographer Indra Gurjar, and the Surgery Team led by Dr. Omprakash Palsania, along with Nursing Officer Shripal Gurjar. The initiative has significantly improved healthcare access in Bansur, ensuring patients receive timely and essential treatment within their own city.

Former MLA Shankarlal Tiwari, Thousands Attend Emotional Farewell

SATNA, 13 OCT
Former three-time MLA Shankarlal Tiwari passed away on Sunday afternoon at AIIMS, Delhi. He was 72 years old and had been unwell for a long time, unable to speak during the last week of his life. His death has left a wave of grief among his supporters and the political community in Satna. Thousands gathered at Muktidham, Nazirabad, to bid a tearful farewell to the veteran leader. CM Dr. Mohan Yadav paid tribute on social media, while BJP state president Hemant Khandelwal visited AIIMS to offer floral tributes. Political Journey and Achievements Shankarlal Tiwari was elected as MLA from Satna three times—in 2003, 2008, and 2013—as a BJP candidate.

“Viksit Bharat Buildthan 2025” Special Program Held in Kushinagar

KUSHINAGAR, 13 OCT

A special program under the Viksit Bharat Buildthan 2025, conducted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, was organized at Kisan Inter College, Pipra Bazar, Kushinagar, as part of the National Service Scheme (NSS) general program.

The event was inaugurated with a floral tribute to Goddess Saraswati by Nodal Principal Ashwin Kumar Pandey and Dr. Vishnu Pratap Choubey. They highlighted that India has entered a new era of development, which requires students to learn, innovate, and implement new inventions and skill development techniques. The program encouraged students to develop prototypes solving real-world problems through their innovative ideas.

During the event, students were shown a live national program broadcast on YouTube. Science teacher Nitin Kamboj emphasized that this



initiative will be a milestone in enhancing students' learning abilities at the school level and contributing to India's growth globally.

Under the themes of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, Vocal for Local, and Samridh

Bharat, students were encouraged to submit their innovative ideas on the portal. Biology teacher Krishna Kumar Mishra explained that students were grouped into teams and guided by teachers to create new items using locally

Mission Shakti 5.0 Program Promotes Women's Safety and Empowerment



DEORIA, 13 OCT
Under the Mission Shakti 5.0 campaign, a public awareness program was organized at Thana Bankata, Deoria, jointly by the Police Department and the Women Welfare Department. The program was presided over by DIG Shiv Shippi Sannapa.

During the event, officials from the police and women welfare departments provided information to women and girls about women's safety, respect, and self-reliance, along with various government schemes. Key discussions focused on Women Helpline 1090, Child Helpline 1098, One Stop Centre 181, Mahila Shakti Kendra, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, and Domestic Violence Act.

Neetu Bharti (Central Administrator) highlighted that the campaign aims to make women self-reliant and increase their participation in society. Meenu Jaiswal (Psychologist) offered guidance on mental health, self-confidence, and self-defense for girls. Manisha Singh (Gender Specialist) emphasized that knowing one's rights is the first step toward safety, and a society becomes truly empowered when its women are empowered. DIG Shiv Shippi Sannapa remarked that the police department is fully sensitive toward women's safety and that initiatives like Mission Shakti play a crucial role in fostering positive attitudes toward women in society.

Food Department Cracks Down on Adulteration Ahead of Diwali in Bhilwara

BHILWARA, 13 OCT

The Food Safety Department has stepped up inspections across Bhilwara ahead of Diwali as part of the ongoing campaign “War on Pure Food Adulteration.” The initiative aims to curb the sale of adulterated food items and ensure the safety of consumers during the festive season.

Under the guidance of Commissioner (Food Safety and Drug Control) Dr. T. Shubhamangala and District Collector Jasmeet Singh Sandhu, a special inspection drive was carried out on Monday. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma supervised a team of Food Safety Officers who inspected sweet shops and edible oil outlets across the district. During the operation, five food samples were collected, adding to the 50 samples already obtained under the campaign. Approximately 3,000 kilograms of food items were destroyed, and 270 kilograms were seized for further action.

The inspection team, led by Food Safety Officer



Rajesh Kumar Tripathi, collected samples from well-known establishments including M/s Bikaner Mishthan Bhandar at Ajmer Chauraha, M/s Vrindavan Sweets in Indira Market, Gopalganj, M/s Charchhujia Sweets in Mangrop, and M/s Maheshwari Traders in Sa-

dar Bazar, Hamirgarh. The samples, which included sweets such as tasteless mawa, Malai Burfi, Bikaji Sohan Papdi, and groundnut oil, have been sent to the Public Health Laboratory in Ajmer for testing. Legal action will be initiated against any establishment found violating the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma stressed that the risk of food adulteration increases during Diwali and urged all food businesses to display valid licenses, avoid selling edible oils and spices openly, maintain shop cleanliness, keep food items properly covered, and use only high-quality ingredients and food-grade packaging. He also assured that the campaign will continue, and no adulterators will be spared. Consumers are encouraged to report any suspected adulterated food items immediately by contacting the control room at 9462819999 or 01482-232643. The Food Safety inspection team included Rajesh Kumar Tripathi, laboratory assistant Prem Dutt Sharma, and other staff members.

BIKANER SOLAR EXPO 2025

Hon'ble Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Unveils Poster for Power Connect International Solar Expo 2025

BIKANER, 13 OCT

Bikaner, one of India's fastest-growing solar power hubs, is set to host the Power Connect International Solar Expo 2025, a landmark event dedicated to renewable energy, innovation, and sustainability, following the unveiling of its official poster by Hon'ble Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law and Justice and Union Minister of Culture and Parliamentary Affairs of India. Organized by Namaste Bharat, the three-day expo will be held from December 19 to 21, 2025, and will bring together policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and energy leaders from across India and around the world. During the event, detailed information about the



upcoming expo was shared through a comprehensive presentation, which was highly appreciated by the Hon'ble Minister. Speaking on the occasion,

Shri Meghwal underscored the vital role of innovation, collaboration, and awareness in shaping India's clean energy future, remarking, The poster

available, natural, and reusable materials such as plastic bottles, paddy straw, cow dung, and more.

In the innovation idea writing competition, students proposed creative ideas such as: Sanjana Yadav: Decorative items and ropes from plastic bottles, Preeti Patel: Mats from paddy straw, Preeti Kushwaha: Clay diyas

Teachers including Shivendra Kumar Choubey, Sunil Kumar Pandey, Satish Kumar Kushwaha, Nimesh Mishra, Chandrabhushan Pandey, Arundhati Dubey, Yogendra Yadav, and Rani Mishra guided students, explaining the importance and utility of the program. NSS volunteers and VVB-registered students actively participated in the event.

The program aimed to inspire students to think creatively, adopt eco-friendly solutions, and contribute toward a self-reliant and innovative India.

Sangam Group Celebrates Diwali with Awards and Festivities

BHILWARA, 13 OCT

Sangam Group hosted a grand Diwali celebration, filling the venue with lights, music, and an atmosphere of excitement. The event began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony and the exchange of Diwali greetings among employees.

CHRO Manish Swami highlighted the group's achievements over the past year, including new initiatives, organizational changes, and strategic directions. Employees who demonstrated exceptional performance were recognized with the Chairman's Award in multiple categories, including Employee of the Year, Salesperson of the Year, and Leader of the Year.

Vice Chairman Dr. S.N. Modani honored Rajesh Singh, Mahavir Prasad Raigar, Mukesh Nath Yogi, Hemant Sethi, Abhay Kothari, Virendra Shakyas, Yash Raj Bat, and Chandra Prakash as Employees of the Year, while Himanshu Tripathi, Ankit Kumar Toshniwal, Kapil Ba-

Young Woman Found Dead Under Suspicious Circumstances

DEORIA, 13 OCT

In a shocking incident, the body of a young woman was found under suspicious circumstances in Harikundawal village of the Lar police station area in Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday morning. The family has alleged that she was murdered. On receiving the information, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Suman immediately reached the spot and took details from the family. According to the police, the deceased, Manisha (20), daughter of Viran Prasad, was an intermediate-level student. Her body was found in the lane behind her house early Monday morning. The news quickly drew a crowd of villagers, and someone informed the police. Thana In-charge Mahendra Chaturvedi, along with SP Sanjeev Suman, Deputy SP Sunil Kumar Singh, and CO Manoj Kumar, reached the site shortly thereafter. The body was taken into police custody and sent to Deoria for post-mortem examination. Preliminary reports suggest that the young woman may have been strangled. Her father has alleged murder. Following the SP's instructions, a dog squad and forensic team also reached the spot to assist in the investigation.

HUGE CACHE OF FACTORY-MADE AND HANDMADE FIRECRACKERS SEIZED FROM RESIDENTIAL AREA



KUSHINAGAR, 13 OCT

In a proactive drive to ensure safe and peaceful celebrations during upcoming festivals, Kushinagar police carried out raids across the district. On Monday, Kotwali Padrauna police, in the presence of Tehsildar Padrauna, recovered a large quantity of firecrackers stored illegally in a residential area at Sidhuwa.

The seizure included 20 cartons and 11 sacks of factory-made and handmade firecrackers and sparklers from various companies. Based on the

recovery, a case has been registered at Kotwali Padrauna police station (FIR No. 580/2025) under Section 5/9(b) of the Explosives Act and Section 288 of the IPC.

The recovery team comprised Station House Officer Harshvardhan Singh, ASI Akash Kumar Singh (Sidhuwa Chowki), Sub-Inspector Amit Kumar Singh (Subhash Chowk Padrauna), along with six other police personnel.

The police have urged residents to follow safety norms and report any illegal storage of firecrackers to prevent accidents during the festive season.



heti, Vishnu Joshi, and Saviral Chaudhary received the Salesperson of the Year awards. Chairman Rampal Soni presented the Leader of the Year award to Vikas Jain and extended heartfelt Diwali greetings, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, dedication, and progress.

The Sangam Group management team, including Managing Director Anurag Soni, Executive Director VK Sodani, and CEO Yarn Denim Pranal Modani, congratulated all awardees and encour-

aged them to continue striving for excellence. The event was skillfully moderated by CEO Manish Swami and PRO Dr. Rajkumar Jain and concluded with a vibrant fireworks display and melodious music, making the celebration memorable for all employees. Chairman Rampal Soni remarked that everyone's hard work, dedication, and team spirit had propelled Sangam Group to new heights, underlining the collective effort behind the company's success.

Textile Park Receives Rs 221 Crore Approval for Development

BHILWARA, 13 OCT

Thanks to the persistent efforts of MP Damodar Agrawal, the Rajasthan government under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has granted administrative approval of 221 crore through RICO for the development of the proposed textile park in Rupaheli, Hurda tehsil. The establishment of this textile park was a key promise in MP Agrawal's election campaign, and its approval marks a significant development milestone for the residents of Bhilwara.

According to MP spokesperson Vinod Jhurani, MP Agrawal's development initiatives are creating new opportunities every day. The textile park project, considered vital for Bhilwara's textile industry—the lifeline of the district—will now move forward with enhanced momentum. Earlier, 178 hectares of land had been allotted for the park, and with this new approval, comprehensive development work will commence.

MP Damodar Agrawal stated that the approval will accel-

erate Bhilwara's industrial growth, positioning the district as a leader not only in Rajasthan but across India. The construction of the textile park is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities. The park will host facilities for spinning, weaving, processing, and readymade garment units, providing all essential infrastructure within a single complex. Local industries will also gain a new identity as an export hub. On the occasion, MP Agrawal expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for supporting the project. Prem Garg, in-charge of the MP office, said that the allocated budget will fund the construction of separate sections for process houses, spinning, weaving, and readymade garments. Additional facilities will include a dumping yard, earth station, community building, bank, weighbridge, skill development centre, fire station, police station, hospital, dispensary, labor quarters, and a Sulabh complex, making the textile park a fully integrated industrial hub.

Students Trained in CPR During National Awareness Week

BANSUR, 13 OCT
As part of the National CPR Awareness Week, senior specialist Dr. Pradeep Kumar at the Sub-District Hospital, Bansur, conducted a training session for ITI College students on performing CPR in emergency situations.



The students were also administered a pledge to provide CPR when needed. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dayaram Gurjar highlighted that the Central Government's initiative aims to raise public awareness about CPR, enabling ordinary citizens to save lives during emergencies.



Centre didn't give Himachal aid for disasters: Priyanka

SHIMLA, 13 OCT
Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the Union government on Monday of neglecting disaster-hit Himachal Pradesh, claiming the Centre 'ignores' states ruled by Congress. Speaking at a rally in Himachal, Priyanka said, "After Sukhvinder Sukhu became CM, heavy rains hit Himachal, but the Union government did not provide adequate help despite repeated requests." She alleged the BJP is focused only on elections and discriminates against Congress-ruled states. Between June and September, Himachal reported 47 cloudbursts, 98 flash floods, and 148 major landslides, killing 270 people and causing losses of Rs 5,426 crore. Priyanka emphasised the need for honest leadership and praised the Congress

Sabarimala row: Tension erupts in Yuva Morcha march

T'PURAM, 13 OCT
Tensions erupted on Monday as Yuva Morcha activists staged a protest march to the Secretariat over alleged irregularities in the gold-plating of the Sabarimala temple. The agitators attempted to push police aside and jump barricades, hurling plastic bottles and sticks at officers, who repeatedly used a water cannon to disperse the crowd. Protesters raised slogans against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the state government. The demonstration follows a Kerala High Court order directing an inquiry after noticing a reduction in the weight of gold on the Dwarapalaka idols. On 10 October, the court instructed the state police to register a criminal case and investigate the suspected misappropriation of gold from the shrine's lintels

SP leader Azam Khan's security restored

LUCKNOW, 13 OCT
Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan has had his security cover reinstated following his release on bail from Sitapur jail. Police confirmed that Khan, 77, now has a 'Y' category security detail, including five constables and three armed gunmen, typically provided to moderate security risks. The veteran leader, a founding member of the SP, was released after serving 23 months in jail on multiple charges, including a land encroachment case for which the Allahabad High Court recently granted bail. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who visited Khan in Rampur, described the cases against him as "fake" and pledged they would be withdrawn if the SP wins in Uttar Pradesh polls.

Bhutan must compensate for WB floods: Mamata

KKOLKATA, 13 OCT
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has attributed the recent devastating floods in North Bengal to water flowing from Bhutan and demanded compensation from the Himalayan kingdom. Visiting Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri district on Monday, Banerjee said rainwater from Bhutan through various rivers caused widespread damage, leaving at least 32 people dead and thousands homeless. She urged that West Bengal be included in the proposed Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission, with a meeting scheduled for 16 October. Banerjee is overseeing relief efforts, assuring victims that damaged houses will be rebuilt and vital documents, including Aadhaar and land papers, will be reissued. Temporary bridges were constructed to restore connectivity in flood-affected areas.

JD(U), BJP discuss swapping of seats

Both the parties consider giving up certain constituencies in favour of smaller allies in the polls



Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal (centre) with former Congress MLA Siddharth Saurav, former RJD MLA Sangeeta Kumari and former JDU MP Sunil Kumar Pintu as they join BJP in Patna

PATNA, 13 OCT

Having struck a seat-sharing deal, leaders of the JD(U) and the BJP met here on Monday to thrash out constituencies they planned to swap or give up in favour of smaller allies in Bihar. Both parties have decided to contest 101 seats each in the polls to the 243-strong assembly, leaving 29 for Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and six each for Rashtriya Lok Morcha of Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha and Hindustani Awam Morcha



founded by former chief minister, and now a Union minister, Jitan Ram Manjhi. After the meeting that took place at the residence of JD(U) working president Sanjay

Kumar Jha, state minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin downplayed the outbursts of Manjhi, who has been feeling "undervalued" by getting far fewer seats than Paswan, and as many as Kushwaha, even though unlike the HAM which has four MLAs, the LJP(RV) and RLM have no representation in the outgoing assembly. When the seat-sharing formula was announced in Delhi, Manjhi was back in Patna, where he warned the NDA of "adverse effects" of the "raw deal" given to his party. The BJP candidates will be announced soon here.

Shankaracharya to field cow vigilantes in Bihar polls

PATNA, 13 OCT

Shankaracharya Avimuktesh waranand Saraswati has announced that he will field 'gau rakshaks' (cow vigilantes) as candidates across all 243 assembly constituencies in Bihar for the upcoming elections. This announcement came after the completion of his 'Gau Mata Sankalp Yatra,' which he undertook to urge

voters not to engage in cow slaughter. Saraswati remarked, "During the course of the yatra, I saw Bihar very closely. It is more rooted in its culture than I had expected. People came out in support of 'gau raksha'." He expressed his frustration with political parties for ignoring the issue, stating, "I am safeguarding dharma."

SBSP to contest 153 seats in Bihar

Ballia, 13 Oct

The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) on Monday announced it will contest 153 seats in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, expressing disappointment over being denied seats by the NDA. SBSP national general secretary Arvind Rajbhar said the party would announce its

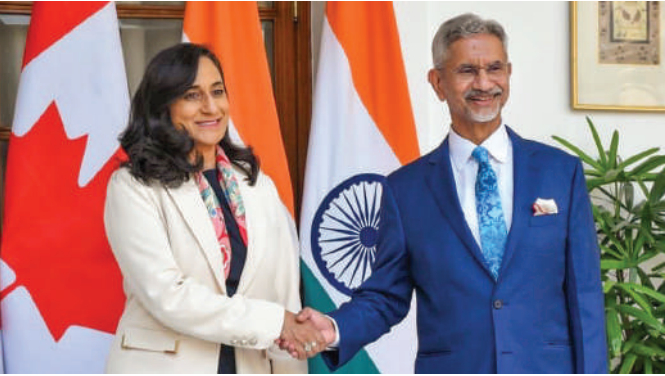
candidates in Patna on Tuesday. "We informed Amit Shah and JP Nadda in May that if no seat-sharing deal was reached, we would contest alone," he said. Rajbhar claimed the BJP's Bihar unit gave a negative report on the SBSP's strength. The party rejected RJD's offer to contest five seats.

Nomination filing for phase 2 begins

Patna, 13 Oct

The filing of nominations for 122 Bihar Assembly seats going to polls in the second phase began on Monday, officials said. The process started after the Election Commission issued the notification for polling on 11 November. Candidates can file nominations till 20 October, and the last date

for withdrawal is 23 October. Prominent constituencies include Imamganj, represented by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's daughter-in-law Deepa Manjhi; Bodh Gaya, held by ex-RJD minister Kumar Sarjeet; Lauriya, represented by Vinay Bihari; and Nautan held by former minister Narayan Prasad.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Canada Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand during a meeting in New Delhi

India, Canada firm up roadmap to expand ties

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

India and Canada have prepared an ambitious roadmap to advance ties in areas of trade, investment, critical minerals, energy and civil nuclear collaboration, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday. Jaishankar made the remarks during his talks with his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand. "India-Canada bilateral relations have been steadily progressing in the last few months. We are working to restore and reinvigorate the mechanisms necessary to advance our partnership," he said. The India-Canada relations

hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. However, both sides have initiated a series of measures to repair the ties after Liberal Party leader Mark Carney became the Prime Minister. The renewed vibrancy in the ties between the two countries followed PM Modi's talks with Carney on the margins of the G7 summit at Canada's Kananaskis in June. Before her talks with Jaishankar, Anand met PM Modi. Anand arrived in New Delhi last evening as part of her three-nation tour.

Cong leader seeks action against Kerala CM's son

THRISSUR, 13 OCT

Congress leader Anil Akkara has lodged a formal complaint with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Union Finance Ministry, seeking action against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's son, Vivek Kiran, for failing to appear for questioning in the Life Mission money laundering case. The controversy centres around a housing project for flood-affected families, funded by the UAE Red Crescent, which allegedly involved a commission of Rs 4.5 crore paid by Unitac Builders to middlemen. Akkara claims that Kiran is implicated and must be interrogated to avoid delays in the trial. "The custodial interrogation of CM's son is essential to prevent any attempt to sabotage the case," he stated. He also urged authorities to locate Khaled Mohamed Ali Shoukry, the former Finance Head at the UAE Consulate, who remains absconding. While the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a separate case over violations of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, Education Minister V Sivanikutty dismissed Akkara's allegations as a "politically motivated conspiracy."

Lalu, Rabri and Tejashwi charged in IRCTC scam case

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

A Delhi court on Monday framed charges against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Bihar CM Rabri Devi and their son and leader of opposition Tejashwi Yadav in the alleged IRCTC scam case. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), headed by Lalu, is one of the major political parties contesting the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The court said there was a "prima facie" case against the accused and "grave suspicion" regarding the land transfers. Lalu and Rabri, the former CMs, and Tejashwi, the former deputy chief minister and leader of opposition in the Bihar legislative assembly, pleaded "not guilty" and claimed trial after the charges were read. The trial is likely to commence in the last week of October. The issue may be used by their political opponents in the upcoming poll campaign. Charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating were framed against Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav in the case, which stems from alleged irregularities in the grant of operational contracts of two Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) hotels to a private firm.



RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, and son Tejashwi Yadav at Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Monday

Corruption charges were framed against Lalu. The judge said that land parcels were given at undervalued rates causing a loss to the public exchequer. A detailed order is awaited. According to the CBI

chargesheet, a conspiracy was allegedly hatched in pursuance of which BNR hotels of the Indian Railway were first transferred to IRCTC and later given on lease to the Sujata Hotels Private Limited situated in Patna in Bihar.

QUIT SERVICES IN 2019

Rebel ex-IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan joins Congress

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who quit the services in 2019 over "denial of freedom of expression" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, joined the Congress on Monday and said he realised that only the grand old party can take the country in the right direction. Gopinathan joined the party in the presence of Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, AICC media and other senior leaders. Gopinathan's joining the Congress party is a clear message that it's the only party fighting for justice with an ideology, Venugopal said. "He resigned in 2019, but his resignation has still not been accepted. Bureaucrats who



Kannan Gopinathan, Congress leader Pawan Khera and AICC in-charge of NSUI Kanhaiya Kumar in a meeting in New Delhi on Monday

fight for justice and the marginalised are being penalised by the government ...," Venugopal said. AICC media and publicity department head Pawan

Khera said that when speaking out in the country had become almost impossible, Gopinathan raised his voice. "I am happy to join Congress party," Gopinathan said.

Raj Thackeray wants Congress on board, says Raut

MUMBAI, 13 OCT

Sanjay Raut, MP from the Shiv Sena (UBT), claimed on Monday that the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), led by Raj Thackeray, would like to collaborate with the Congress as part of the Opposition alliance, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). However, MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande firmly stated, "The party will forth its position and no one else. In future, only we will state our stance," dismissing Raut's comments. Amid discussions of potential cooperation for upcoming local body polls, Raut remarked, "Even Raj Thackeray desires that the Congress... should be taken along," although he emphasised no firm decisions have been made yet. Discussions took place between Raut and Congress members.

PFI's plea against Centre's ban acceptable, says HC

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Delhi High Court has deemed a plea by the Popular Front of India (PFI) against a tribunal's decision to uphold the Centre's five-year ban on the group as maintainable. A bench comprising Chief Justice Dvendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued a notice to the Centre, requesting a response within six weeks. The PFI has been granted two weeks to file its rejoinder, with the next hearing scheduled for 20 January, 2026. The tribunal's verdict, confirmed on 21 March, 2024, followed the Centre's 27 September, 2022, ban citing the PFI's alleged connections to global terrorist



organisations like ISIS and its attempts to foment communal discord. The Centre characterised the PFI and its associated entities, including the Campus Front of India and the Rehab India Foundation, as "unlawful associations." Over 150 individuals linked to the PFI were detained in a nationwide crackdown in September 2022.



Snakebite
envenoming health
emergency: Kerala

T'PURAM, 13 OCT
The Kerala government has officially declared snakebite envenomation a disease of "utmost public health importance" under Section 28 of the Kerala Public Health Act, 2023. The move, announced through a gazette notification, seeks to improve statewide data collection, reporting, and treatment standards amid growing concerns over fatalities and long-term disabilities by snakebites. Officials said the designation will ensure timely care and uniform treatment protocols across all districts. The decision follows a Kerala High Court directive last month, which urged the state to make snakebite cases notifiable to enable better policy interventions. The court order followed the petitions filed after the 2019 death of a schoolgirl in Wayanad.

T'gana children's
home official
rapes boy

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT
A supervisor at a state-run children's home in Saidabad, Hyderabad, has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy living at the facility. Police said the assaults reportedly occurred on several occasions since May this year within the premises of the children's home, where the accused was responsible for supervising the children. The victim disclosed the abuse to his mother after returning home for the Dussehra holidays, following which she lodged a complaint with the police. A case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused remains in custody, and investigators are also probing whether other children were subjected to similar abuse.

Andaman fisher
asks PM for fishing
training institute

PORT BLAIR, 13 OCT
Durai Selvam, a fisherman from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss the future of the islands' fishing industry. During the meeting, Selvam requested approval for a deep-sea fishing training facility, an extension of the fishing harbour, a fish processing unit, and diesel subsidies to support local fishermen. In response, PM Modi advised him and others to focus on harvesting tuna and tuna-like species as it could significantly boost seafood exports, with a potential annual yield of 60,000 tonnes. Selvam also expressed gratitude for support under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, which improved cold chain infrastructure and hygienic fish transport

TN temples earn
Rs 17.76 cr via gold
monetisation

CHENNAI, 13 OCT
Tamil Nadu temples have collectively earned an impressive Rs 17.76 crore annually through interest accrued from the state government's gold monetisation scheme, announced State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister PK Sekar Babu. A total of 1,074kg of gold ornaments, donated to various temples, have been melted down into bars and deposited with the State Bank of India under each temple's name. On 12 October, gold weighing 53.38kg was handed over from four Kancheepuram temples in the presence of retired Supreme Court judge Dorai Swamy Raju and state officials. 378.6kg from a further 12 temples will soon be deposited. The government orders would facilitate the scheme in the temples

TN govt revokes licence of Coldrif firm

Company ordered to shut down following deaths of children; ED raids 7 premises of firm

CHENNAI, 13 OCT

The manufacturing licence of Tamil Nadu based Sresan Pharmaceutical company involved in making the adulterated cough syrup Coldrif has completely been revoked, and the company has been ordered to shut down, the state government informed on Monday.
The state Drug Control Department officials had found the cough syrup contained 48.6 per cent of diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic substance.
This medicine is linked to

the death of 22 children in Madhya Pradesh.
The company lacked proper good manufacturing practices and good laboratory practices and they recorded over 300 critical and major violations.
The company's owner, G Ranganathan, was recently arrested by a special investigation team from Madhya Pradesh.
"Orders have been given to conduct a detailed inspection of other drug manufacturing companies located in Tamil Nadu," a government statement said.
Meanwhile, the Enforcement

Directorate (ED) on Monday raided seven premises linked to Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Chennai and top officials of the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TNFDA) as part of a money laundering investigation.
The action came after the federal probe agency registered a criminal case, taking cognisance of police complaints filed against the company in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
Licensed in 2011 by TNFDA), the Kanchipuram-based company continued operations unchecked for over a decade

despite its dismal infrastructure and multiple violations of national drug safety rules, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation said.
Following the deaths, the Madhya Pradesh government suspended two drug inspectors and a deputy director of the FDA. It also transferred the state's drug controller and ordered an investigation into the deaths, while police arrested a doctor from Chhindwara district on charges of negligence.
The TN government earlier suspended two senior state drug inspectors.



The Drug Control Department found the cough syrup contained 48.6% of DEG, a toxic substance, linked to the death of 22 children in MP



Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad raise slogans during a protest over the alleged rape of a medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur, in Kolkata, Monday

2 more arrested in
Durgapur gangrape

KOLKATA, 13 OCT

The West Bengal Police on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the alleged gangrape of a medical student in Durgapur, taking the total number of apprehensions in the case to five.
The 23-year-old woman hailing from Jaleswar in Odisha's Balasore district was gangraped on 10 October when she had gone out with a friend to have dinner.
Three persons were arrested earlier for their alleged involvement in incident.
Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said her government has 'zero tolerance' for such crimes. However, she also urged women not to venture out alone late at night, a remark that drew sharp criticism from opposition parties and women's rights groups.
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urged his West Bengal counterpart to ensure the strictest punishment for the culprits.
Odisha State Commission for Women chairperson Sovana Mohanty also reached West Bengal to speak to the

- CM Mamata Banerjee said her government has 'zero tolerance' for such crimes. However, she also urged women not to venture out alone late at night, a remark that drew sharp criticism from opposition parties.

Durgapur rape
victim's father
fears for her life

BHUBANESWAR, 13 OCT

The father of a 23-year-old woman allegedly gang-raped in Durgapur, West Bengal, has appealed to the Odisha government to transfer his daughter to Bhubaneswar for treatment, citing fears for her life.
The survivor, a second-year MBBS student, remains hospitalised in Durgapur.
"I appeal to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to help shift my daughter to Bhubaneswar. I fear her life may be in danger," he said on Sunday.
The Dalit woman was reportedly attacked by three men shortly after 8 pm on Friday while accompanying a male student.
Her father said, "They will kill my daughter. Her health has improved, but she is still at risk. I cannot trust them."
Balasore Additional District Magistrate Hemant Singh confirmed three arrests within 36 hours and noted the Odisha government's support. BJP MP Pratap Sarangi criticised West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, blaming the incident on a "complete breakdown" of law and order.

SC issues notice over
Mullaperiyar dam

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre, the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments as well as the National Disaster Management Authority on a PIL seeking construction of a new dam to replace the 130-year-old dam following concerns over its safety and structural stability.
The court heard the Save Kerala Brigade's petition alleging that over 10 million people live in close vicinity of the British-era dam.
The court said that the matter be examined by an expert body to assess safety aspects and feasibility of constructing a new structure.

The Mullaperiyar dam, built in 1895 across the Periyar River in Kerala's Idukki district, is operated by Tamil Nadu under a lease agreement. It has long been a point of contention with Kerala citing safety concerns due to its age and seismic vulnerability and Tamil Nadu emphasising its importance for irrigation and drinking water supply to several southern districts.
Meanwhile, the Kerala police said that security personnel conducted intensive searches at the Mullaperiyar dam following a bomb threat.
An email, threatening to blow up the reservoir, was received at the district collectorate in neighbouring Thrissur.



MNS worker slaps
woman over
remark on Marathi

THANE, 13 OCT

A video circulating on social media shows a Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) office-bearer slapping a woman at Kalwa railway station on Friday night, sparking widespread attention online.
The incident reportedly occurred after an argument in which the woman allegedly made derogatory remarks about the Marathi language while confronting the husband of the MNS functionary. In the clip, the woman is seen apologising before being slapped and verbally warned by the office-bearer.
A Government Railway Police official said the dispute was resolved after the woman offered an apology.
Both parties later approached the GRP to confirm the matter was settled and left without registering a case. Officials at Kalwa police station also received no complaint. The video sparked debates on social media about the conduct of political functionaries and language sensitivity.



The Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala's Idukki district has long been a point of contention with Kerala citing safety concerns

2 Karur families misled in CBI pleas

KARUR, 13 OCT

Two families affected by the tragic stampede in Karur, which claimed 41 lives on 27 September, have alleged they were misled into filing writs in the Supreme Court seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry. They believed the documents were for seeking compensation and employment for bereaved relatives.
Sharmila, the mother of a

9-year-old victim, stated, "We did not know that a CBI inquiry was requested on our behalf regarding the Karur tragedy." She revealed that Panneerselvam, her husband who signed the petition, abandoned the family when their son was just six months old.
P Selvaraj, another affected individual, confirmed he signed papers thinking they were related to com-

pensation after losing his wife, Chandra, in the stampede. "I did not know what exactly they were until the news broke out on the court case asking for a CBI probe," he remarked.
The Tamil Nadu Digital Journalists Union has filed a petition in the Supreme Court regarding the petitions and demanding an investigation into the matter.



Now, eminent people to discuss
Zubeen Garg's autopsy report

GUWAHATI, 13 OCT

The Assam Police has invited prominent members of civil society to discuss the final post-mortem report of celebrated singer Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore last month. CID's Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta clarified that the report, including the viscera analysis, "will not be made

public," but will be shared with selected individuals during a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 4pm. Gupta did not disclose the names of those invited but emphasised that the findings would be presented to the court in due course.
Garg, who tragically passed away while swimming off Singapore on 19 September, had attended the 4th edition of the North

East India Festival.
In a related development, three more Assamese expatriates who witnessed his final moments have come forward to speak to the police. Criminal Investigation Department officials are currently interrogating these witnesses, with hopes of hearing from additional individuals in the coming days. The investigators have discovered a "definite angle" after receiving the viscera report.



HC dismisses PIL
on Arundhati
Roy's book

KOCHI, 13 OCT

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a stay on the sale of Arundhati Roy's new book over its cover showing her smoking.
The petition, filed by Kochi resident Rajsimhan, claimed the cover of Mother Mary Comes to Me violated statutory norms by displaying the author smoking without the mandated health warning.
Roy's counsel countered that the petition ignored the publisher's disclaimer clarifying the image was not intended to promote smoking and lacked proper research.
The court noted that any alleged breach of Section 5 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) must be determined by the competent authority. Since the petitioner had not approached that authority, the court said using a PIL in this case was unwarranted.
The bench also cautioned against filing PILs for self-publicity.



FORCED HUMILIATION

MP man made to wash Brahmin's feet over AI pic

DAMOH, 13 OCT

A young man was allegedly forced to wash the feet of a Brahmin villager and drink the water after sharing an "objectionable" AI-generated image, prompting police to register a case against four people.
The incident occurred on September 11 in Satariya village, and a video has circulated on social media.
Purshottam Kushwaha, from an OBC community, reportedly posted an AI-generated image showing Annu Pandey wearing a garland of shoes. After the post went viral, Kushwaha deleted it and publicly apologised.
A village panchayat convened and ordered Kushwaha to wash Pandey's feet, drink the water, and pay a fine of Rs

5,100.
Another video showed him saying he did not want the matter politicised.
Local officials noted the victim has not filed a formal complaint.
A FIR was registered against four men, including Pandey, confirmed Damoh Collector Sudhir Kumar Kocher.
The Congress condemned the incident as a "blot on humanity" and called for strict action, urging adherence to Dr B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution, not the "favourite Manuvad" of the RSS and BJP.
BJP state media in-charge Ashish Agrawal accused Congress of politicising the matter, asserting that Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's government acts promptly in all crimes.



A village panchayat was convened and Kushwaha was forced to wash Pandey's feet and drink the same water. The panchayat also imposed a fine of Rs 5,100 on him



Rupee rises by 5P,
closes at 88.67
against USD

MUMBAI, 13 OCT
The rupee appreciated five paise to close at 88.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by suspected RBI intervention and fresh foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said the domestic unit faced some resistance as renewed trade war tensions between the US and China led to risk aversion in global markets. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.75 and traded in the range of 88.57-88.79 before settling at 88.67 (provisional), registering a rise of 5 paise than its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.13 per cent higher at 99.10, as safe-haven demand for dollars continues keeping the dollar well bid.

Andhra to raise
₹11.9K cr via govt
securities auction

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT
Andhra Pradesh is set to raise an additional Rs 10,000 crore through the auction of state government securities in the open market during the October to December quarter, as per the Indicative Calendar of Market Borrowings issued by the state government. On 7 October, Andhra Pradesh successfully garnered Rs 1,900 crore through bonds auction. As outlined by the Reserve Bank of India, the state is anticipated to secure Rs 5,000 crore on 4 November and another Rs 5,000 crore on 25 November. By the end of August, the state's borrowings had reached Rs 55,901.43 crore, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of the estimated Rs 79,926.89 crore earmarked in the budget.

Tryfacta to
file IPO papers,
eyes \$150M

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT
US-based IT and staffing firm Tryfacta Inc plans to file draft papers by month-end for an IPO at GIFT City to raise USD 100-150 million, people familiar with the matter said. The firm will list on India INX or NSE International Exchange, the two bourses operating at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City. Yoki Financial Services, a Mefcom Capital arm and IFSCA-registered investment bank, has been appointed as the lead manager. Founded in 1996 by Adesh and Ratika Tyagi, California-headquartered Tryfacta provides AI-driven IT, staffing, and payroll solutions to US government and institutional clients, including the Defense Health Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

World's 1st
semiconductor
museum in Hyd

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT
T-Chip has launched the world's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum (SIM) in Hyderabad to showcase breakthrough technologies and research in the chip-making industry. "We are very happy to inaugurate the T-Chip Semiconductor Innovation Museum. It's the world's first innovation museum dedicated exclusively to semiconductors," said Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala. The museum will feature 20 top innovations, each displayed for 30 days before being replaced with new entries. It will be open to researchers, innovators, investors, and the public, serving as a global knowledge exchange platform. Makthala said the initiative aims to attract investors and promote semiconductor talent in India, with plans to establish similar museums across universities in Telangana and abroad.

Foxconn plans Rs 15,000 cr investment in Tamil Nadu

This move is part of Foxconn's next phase of growth in India

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Electronics giant Foxconn has announced a major investment of Rs 15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu to expand its advanced technology manufacturing operations. The move marks a significant step in strengthening Foxconn's long-term partnership with the southern state and is expected to generate 14,000 high-value jobs, primarily for engineering graduates and skilled youth. Guidance Tamil Nadu posted on social media 'X'. 'Guidance' is the Government of Tamil Nadu's nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation.

The announcement came after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin met with a Foxconn delegation led by Robert Wu, the company's India Representative and senior global executive. The meeting, held in the presence of Tamil Nadu's Minister for Industries, TRB



Guidance is the Tamil Nadu government's nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation

Rajaa, reaffirmed Foxconn's growing trust in Tamil Nadu's industrial ecosystem and its role in India's technology manufacturing push. In a statement shared by Rajaa, the state confirmed that Foxconn will establish India's first-ever "Foxconn Desk" at

Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state's investment promotion agency. The desk will serve as a dedicated coordination point to fast-track projects, facilitate investor engagement, and ensure mission-mode execution across

ongoing and future operations. Rajaa said on X, "Yet another major boost for Tamil Nadu's electronics and advanced manufacturing sector as Honourable @CMOTamilNadu Thiru. @MKStalin avargal met with Foxconn's India Representative, Mr Robert Wu, to reaffirm their deep trust in Tamil Nadu with substantial investment commitments. Foxconn will bring its next phase of value-added manufacturing, R&D integration and AI-led advanced tech operations to Tamil Nadu." The expansion is part of Foxconn's next phase of growth in India, shifting from assembly-based operations to technology-led production and innovation. The Industries Minister also noted, "The first-ever Foxconn Desk in India will ensure seamless facilitation and mission-mode execution! We are setting the stage for #DravidianModel 2.0."



As many as 2,627 stocks declined while 1,664 advanced and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE

Markets decline amid US-China trade tension

MUMBAI, 13 OCT

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell on Monday due to selling in IT and FMCG shares and a weak trend in global markets after US President Donald Trump announced an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods from 1 November. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 173.77 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 82,327.05, snapping its two-day rally. After a gap-down opening, it tanked 457.68 points or 0.55 per cent to a low of 82,043.14. However, resilience in banking and financial majors helped limit the downside in the second half. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 58 points or 0.23 per cent to 25,227.35 as 30 of its constituents closed lower, 19 with gains and one unchanged.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors fell the most by 2.67 per cent a day ahead of the record date for determining shareholders' eligibility for receiving shares in the demerged commercial vehicle business. Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Bharat Electronics, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Tata Consultancy Services were also among the laggards. However, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Axis Bank were among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.43 per cent, and the midcap dipped 0.18 per cent. Financial Services, utilities, bankex, services, power and realty were the gainers. As many as 2,627 stocks declined while 1,664 advanced and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE.

'Tea production declines in August 2025'

KOLKATA, 13 OCT

Tea production in August 2025 dropped significantly year-on-year, reaching 170.12 million kilogram compared to 184.45 million kilogram in August 2024, according to data from the Tea Board. In Assam, production saw a slight decline to 103.52 million kilogram from 104.46 million kilogram in the same month last year. West Bengal also experienced a downturn, with production falling to 45.90 million kilograms in August 2025



from 56.08 million kilogram in August 2024. Combined, tea production in North India fell to 153.99 million kilogram, down from 166.15 million kilogram in

Gold hits record high of ₹1.27L/10g

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Gold prices rallied by Rs 1,950 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,27,950 per 10g in the national capital on Monday, driven by safe-haven demand amid renewed US-China trade tensions. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,26,000 per 10g on Friday. In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 1,950 to touch an all-time high of Rs 1,27,350 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had settled at Rs 1,25,400 per 10g in the previous market session. The US administration's announcement of a 100 per cent tariff hike on select Chinese products, coupled with China's threat to restrict rare earth exports, has heightened global uncertainty and risk aversion.



Spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to hit a fresh record high of \$4,084.99 per ounce

Silver prices too witnessed robust traction in the spot markets. The white metal bounced by Rs 7,500 to hit a new record of Rs 1,79,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. It had finished at Rs 1,71,500 per kg on Friday, as per the Association. In the international markets, spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to hit a fresh record high of USD 4,084.99 per ounce.

India-US trade talks progress amid tariff row

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

A team of senior Indian officials is scheduled to visit the US this week for the sixth round of negotiations on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), aimed at more than doubling bilateral trade from \$191 billion to \$500 billion by 2030. A top official said the talks are "progressing well" and both sides agree they should

be fast-tracked. The first tranche of the pact is planned for conclusion by late 2025. The deliberations are significant as India-US relations have been strained following the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariffs on certain Indian goods, including a 25 per cent penalty on Russian crude oil purchases, which India has described as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable."

Concerns over H1B visa policies have also been raised by Indian industry. Recent phone conversations between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump, and last month's meetings in New York between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and the US trade representatives, have raised hopes for a more positive outcome.

Crude oil prices rise amid US-China tensions

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Crude oil futures surged Rs 96 to Rs 5,342 per barrel in domestic trade on Monday, following strong global cues amid renewed concerns over US-China trade tensions. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), October crude futures rose 1.83 per cent in a turnover of 10,926

lots, while November contracts gained Rs 70, or 1.34 per cent, to Rs 5,308 per barrel in 9,764 lots. Internationally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for November delivery increased 1.88 per cent to USD 60.01 per barrel, while Brent crude for December delivery climbed nearly 2 per cent to USD 63.84 per barrel in New York.



SC refuses Asian Paints' plea against mkt abuse probe

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea by Asian Paint against the Competition Commission of India's order directing an investigation against it for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the market for manufacturing and sale of decorative paints. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi refused to interfere with the Bombay High Court order, which upheld the CCI probe. As the apex court was not inclined to entertain the matter, the matter was dismissed as withdrawn. The CCI direction followed a complaint filed by Grasim Industries (Birla Paints Division), which accused Asian Paints of engaging in exclusionary practices aimed at stifling its entry and growth in the Indian decorative paints segment. "The Commission is of the opinion that a prima facie case of contravention of the provisions of section 4(2)(a)(i), 4(2)(c) and 4(2)(d) of the Act by the OP (Asian Paints) is made out in the present matter," CCI had said in the order.



Drishti: World's first multi-sensor EO satellite

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Space-tech start-up GalaxEye on Monday said it will launch the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation (EO) satellite, 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of 2026, marking the beginning of setting up a constellation of satellites over the next four years. The satellite, offering 1.5 meter resolution, will enable governments, defence agencies and industries to perform advanced geospatial analysis across a wide range of applications, including border surveillance, disaster management, defence, utilities and infrastructure monitoring, agriculture, as well as financial and insurance assessment — providing real-time environmental and structural insights. The company plans to launch 8-10 satellites over the next four years. Weighing 160kg, the Mission Drishti is India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country.

OVER 7 CR SUBSCRIBERS

EPFO eases part withdrawals, allows 100% withdrawals

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The board of retirement fund body EPFO on Monday approved liberalised part withdrawals for its more than seven crore subscribers, allowing up to 100 per cent EPF withdrawal. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of EPFO, headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, took several path-breaking decisions during its meeting, a Labour Ministry statement said on Monday. To enhance the Ease of Living of EPF members, the CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of the EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types, namely, Essential Needs (illness,



Now, the member can apply without assigning any reasons under this category

education, marriage), Housing Needs and Special Circumstances. Now, members will be able to withdraw up to 100 per cent of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share.

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised—education withdrawals allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to 5 times (from the existing limit of a total of 3 partial withdrawals for marriage & education in all).

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised—education withdrawals allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to 5 times.

The requirement for minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals. Earlier, under 'Special Circumstances', the member was required to clarify the reasons for partial withdrawals viz. natural calamity, lockouts/closure of establishments, continuous unemployment, outbreak of epidemic, etc. This often led to rejection of claims and consequent grievances. Now, the member can apply

without assigning any reasons under this category. A provision has been made for earmarking 25 per cent of the contributions in the Members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times. This will enable the member to enjoy a high rate of interest offered by EPFO (presently 8.25 per cent pa) along with compounding benefits to accumulate a high-value retirement corpus. This rationalization enhances ease of access while ensuring members maintain a sufficient retirement corpus. Scheme provision simplification along with greater flexibility and zero need for any documentation will pave the way for 100 per cent auto settlement of claims for partial withdrawal and ensure ease of living.

PORTLAND'S
NAKED
PROTEST

Hundreds of naked and semi-naked cyclists were seen protesting and blocking the Burnside Bridge in Portland, Oregon, in an 'emergency' edition of the annual World Naked Bike Ride. The protest followed US President Donald Trump's decision to deploy National Guard to 'war-ravaged' Portland to take care of 'domestic terrorists'. The decision is on hold for now



Aparajita Bill resurfaces
amid Durgapur rape case

A fresh political slugfest erupted on Monday after the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur, as the TMC and BJP locked horns over the fate of the stalled Aparajita Bill, the Mamata Banerjee government's proposed law to toughen punishment for crimes against women.

While the opposition BJP accused her government of "completely failing" to ensure women's safety in the state, the ruling TMC hit back, blaming the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for "sitting" on the Aparajita Bill and preventing it from becoming law.

The Durgapur woman, a medical student originally from Odisha, was allegedly gang-raped near the college campus in the industrial township on the night of 10 October.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's office posted an appeal on social media urging Mamata Banerjee to ensure "exemplary punishment" for the culprits.

Though the West Bengal CM refrained from a direct response, the TMC leadership reignited the debate over the Aparajita (Women and Child Protection) Bill, 2025, pointing out that it could have served as a stronger deterrent, if only the Centre had not stalled it.

The Aparajita Bill was passed unanimously in a special Assembly session in September 2024, in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The legislation was introduced after the brutal rape and murder of a young doctor at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College on 8 August last year, an incident that had triggered massive protests under the 'Reclaim the Night' movement and forced the state government to promise sweeping legal reforms.

The Bill, named after the Bengali word for 'unconquered woman', proposed stricter punishment, including death penalty and life imprisonment without remission, for heinous crimes such



BJP leaders Locket Chatterjee and Jyotirmay Singh Mahato along with party workers stage a protest against the state government and police administration over the alleged gang rape of an MBBS student, in Durgapur, West Bengal

as rape and murder of women and children.

However, the legislation hit a constitutional roadblock after Governor CV Ananda Bose forwarded it to President Droupadi Murmu for assent.

In July this year, the Centre sent the Bill back to Raj Bhavan seeking clarifications, which were then relayed to the state government.

According to Raj Bhavan sources, the Centre raised "serious objections" to the proposed measures in the Aparajita Bill that sought to alter multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the new national criminal code.

Legal experts say the matter is now in limbo. Unless the state government provides satisfactory explanations addressing the constitutional and legal concerns raised by the Centre, the Bill cannot proceed further.

For the BJP, the Durgapur case has provided a political opening to question Mamata

Banerjee's claims of ensuring women's safety.

"Instead of blaming Delhi, the chief minister should look within. Bengal has become unsafe for women. Law and order has collapsed," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya told PTI.

Echoing his party's criticism, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, said it was "a matter of shame" that women's safety remained in such a poor state even under a woman chief minister.

"It is unfortunate that we failed to protect our sister from Odisha. Instead of ensuring women's safety, the chief minister is telling women to take care of their own protection," the senior BJP leader said.

The TMC countered the charge by accusing the BJP-led Centre of hypocrisy.

"The same BJP that supported the Aparajita Bill in the Assembly is now blocking its implementation by Delhi. The

Modi government talks a lot about 'Beti Bachao', but when a state tries to do something concrete, they stop it," state Women & Child Development Minister Shashi Panja said.

"The people of Bengal are watching. If the Centre doesn't allow this Bill to become law, it will be seen as obstructing women's justice," she said.

The controversy has also reopened the debate over the balance of power between the Centre and the states in framing criminal laws.

Under the Constitution, while 'public order' and 'police' fall under the state list, criminal law remains in the concurrent list, requiring central concurrence for any amendment to national statutes like the BNS.

The Aparajita Bill was among Mamata Banerjee's key political promises made in the wake of the RG Kar outrage, and its fate now risks turning into a symbol of political deadlock between the state and the Centre.

What is Trump's stance
on int'l climate action?

In his rambling speech to the United Nations last month, United States President Donald Trump described climate change as "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world".

Of course, this claim was unfounded, ignoring the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is occurring.

It was also unlikely to convince gathered dignitaries, who appeared bemused by a speech better suited to a campaign rally than a presidential address to world leaders.

But coming on the eve of the crucial global COP30 climate talks in Brazil, the speech does raise the question: what does the second Trump administration mean for international climate action?



Last month, US President Donald Trump announced a plan to open up 13 million acres of federal land for coal mining

TRUMP DIGS COAL

Beyond enabling climate denialists and disinformation peddlers, Trump has ultimately delivered on his campaign promise to aggressively support the US fossil fuel sector. In his words: "drill, baby, drill". Or, more recently: "mine, baby, mine".

Soon after his inauguration, Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement, the legally binding UN treaty aimed at limiting global temperature rise well below 2°C degrees over pre-industrial levels.

Last month, Trump announced a plan to open up 13 million acres of federal land for coal mining, and offered hundreds of millions in federal subsidies for coal projects.

He has ordered the removal of climate data from government sites and all but eliminated direct government funding for climate science research and monitoring.

And he has gutted the Inflation Reduction Act, the signature climate initiative of the Biden administration that was designed to stimulate large-scale investment in renewable energy.

All told, Trump's initiatives are likely to mean an additional 7 billion tonnes of emissions will be created compared to a scenario where the US met its Paris commitments.

This is bad news. But what implications will it have for international climate cooperation?

DARK CLOUDS ON THE CLIMATE HORIZON

Clearly, 7 billion tonnes of additional emissions is a problem. By some accounts, this represents around one-fifth of the global carbon budget if we are to keep to the Paris target of under 2°C.

And when the world's most powerful state, largest

economy and second-largest greenhouse gas emitter walks away from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it does not bode well for international climate action.

Of course, this raises the question of how the Brazilian climate talks organisers can motivate states to adopt strong emissions targets when wealthy, high-emitting countries walk away. There is a real risk that the US position takes the pressure off other high-emitting countries, such as the Gulf States and Russia, who are disproportionately responsible for the problem.

Finally, climate finance – financial resources used to support action on climate change – looms once again as a crucial issue at climate negotiations. Securing sufficient funding will be far more complicated given Trump's "America First" platform, which prioritises foreign and domestic policies serving US interests.

LEADERSHIP WITHOUT THE US

A first point in the case for cautious optimism is that global emissions have potentially peaked and are on the verge of decline for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

This has been driven by unprecedented global investment in renewable energy.

The energy market is changing rapidly despite aggressive US subsidies for the fossil fuel sector. Global energy investment is likely to top AUD 1.5 trillion in 2025. Meanwhile, coal, oil and natural gas will see the first decline in global investment since the Covid pandemic.

dem.

There are also signs other countries, like China, view the US position as an opportunity. Last month Beijing outlined a target for emissions reduction for the first time in its history.

China may want to make a case for itself as a responsible global leader in contrast to the US.

So far, there's no evidence countries have used US backsliding as an excuse to pull back from international cooperation.

Even at home, Trump's position has not amounted to a death knell for climate action. California, whose governor Gavin Newsom famously parodied Trump's communication style on social media, already over-see one of the world's largest emissions trading schemes and has entered into a climate partnership with Brazil to further cooperation ahead of COP30.

All in all, there are grounds for cautious optimism, even hope, that the rest of the world might band together without US leadership.

EYES ON COP

Negotiators at next month's COP30 talks will face formidable challenges which have only become more pressing as a result of the Trump administration's climate stance.

But past experience suggests hard-fought COP negotiations can build strong momentum for global action by focusing international attention.

Perhaps they can build pressure on the US to come back into the fold, or at least enable pro-climate actors within US to pursue reform despite Trump's interference.

LETTERS

write to us at growingindia.co.in@gmail.com

For some Israelis, saving hostages means freeing loved one's killer

On Tal Hartuv's chest is a jagged scar, one of 18 stab wounds on her body from a brutal attack outside Jerusalem in 2010 that killed her friend. Next to the 7-centimetre mark rests a dog tag inscribed with the words "Our heart is captive in Gaza," a popular symbol of support for a ceasefire deal exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

On Friday, as many were celebrating a deal between Israel and Hamas after two years of war, Hartuv read through the list of Palestinian prisoners set to be released and saw the name Iyad Hassan Hussein Fatafta — one of three men who tried to kill her and who was convicted of killing her friend, American tourist Kristine Luken.

Survivors like Hartuv and families of those killed in attacks have faced a wrenching dilemma throughout the war: Should the killers of their loved ones go free, risking future attacks, or should hostages held in the Gaza Strip be left to their fate?

"I can feel thrilled and hopeful and joyful that our hostages are coming home," said Hartuv, who changed her name as part of her rehabilitation.

"But I can still feel angry, I can feel betrayed, I can feel hollow. They're not mutually



People wave Israeli flags as a military helicopter carrying Israeli freed hostages arrives at Beilinson hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, after they were released from Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip; People gather to watch a live broadcast of Israeli hostages being released on Monday



exclusive," she said.

No one from the Israeli government reached out to let her know he would likely be released.

She received the list from a journalist.

By Monday, Hamas is to begin releasing the remaining 48 Israeli hostages held in Gaza, around 20 of them believed to be alive. Israel will release around 2,000 Palestinians, including senior militants convicted of deadly attacks, as well as people convicted of lesser offences and those held without charge under what is known as administrative detention.

'WE NEED TO BRING THEM BACK'

Twenty-two years ago, a suicide bomber blew up Bus 37 in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, killing 17 people, including nine children heading home from school.

Israel convicted five Palestinians of assisting the bomber. Three were released in 2011 as part of an exchange for Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier held in Gaza. A fourth was released during the last ceasefire, earlier this year.

For years, Yossi Zur, whose 17-year-old son, Asaf, was killed in the 2003 Haifa bombing, was a leader campaigning

against releases, especially against the 2011 exchange, in which 1,027 Palestinian prisoners were released.

Zur remembers being heartbroken as buses were loaded with convicted militants leaving prison. Those released in the Shalit deal included Yahya Sinwar, who went on to orchestrate the 7 October, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Sinwar became Hamas' top leader before he was killed by Israeli troops last year.

But when fellow activists reached out to him to protest the ceasefire exchanges in the current war, he declined.

"With the amount of people

that were taken on 7 October, and with a range of ages, I just came to the conclusion that it's not going to be worth the fight this time," he said. "We need to bring them back."

WORST HOSTAGE CRISIS ISRAEL HAS FACED

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in the 7 October attack and abducted 251. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 67,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were militants.

In a previous ceasefire this

year, Israel released nearly 1,800 Palestinians, including around 230 serving lengthy sentences for deadly attacks, in exchange for 25 hostages and the bodies of eight others. Most prisoners convicted of deadly attacks were deported.

After previous releases, joyful crowds welcomed them home, adding to the agony of the families of Israeli victims.

'I WANT TO TRY & MAKE ISRAEL A SAFER PLACE'

Ron Kehrmann's 17-year-old daughter, Tal, a popular high school senior who loved singing and doodling, was also killed on Bus 37. He still cries

whenever he thinks of her.

It feels better to focus on his activism, he says. He remains staunchly opposed to the release of Palestinian prisoners, saying it's about deterring attacks. "I want to try and make Israel a safer place," he said.

A DECISION TO MAINTAIN EMPATHY

Since receiving the news of her attacker's impending release, Hartuv has felt herself sinking into feelings of anger and betrayal. When that happens, she said, she pulls up a photo of a hostage on her phone, or their anguished parents, and looks in their eyes.

"It doesn't melt me, but it creates that room for empathy and reminds me there's another side of the coin," she said.

It's the ability to go back and forth between those heart-breaking stories, holding space for both, that Hartuv wishes more people would emulate. She feels that Israeli discourse has been so fixated on the hostages that people who raise questions about the price of the deal have been pushed aside.

She doesn't want to stop the deal, but after the hostages return, she wants some recognition for the price Israel, and she in particular, had to pay, and for the fear that this could lead to more attacks.

DINE WITH CULTURE

DINING IS MORE THAN JUST FOOD; IT IS AN EXPERIENCE. WITH KAUNTEYA, A LUXURY TABLEWARE BRAND FOUNDED BY SONAL JETHA, MEALS BECOME A JOURNEY INTO INDIA’S CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE.

Kaunteya Dinner Sets
Where Art Meets Dining



KANSA (BANARAS SERIES)

A fusion of tradition and innovation, the Kansa Collection is hand-crafted by skilled tribal artisans using an alloy of 78% copper and 22% tin. Beyond its health benefits and gut-friendly properties, Kansa naturally retains warmth and enhances the taste of food. The Banaras Series draws inspiration from the iconic ghats of Varanasi – the sacred rituals along the Ganga, the mesmerizing evening aartis, and centuries-old traditions that intertwine devotion, art, and culture.



Kaunteya was born from a very personal space,” Sonal Jetha told. “The name comes from the Mahabharata, where the sons of Kunti are called Kaunteya. It is also my tribute to both my mothers, who share the name Kanta. From the beginning, the vision was to bring Indian art, culture, and mythology to a global stage in the most luxurious way possible. That’s why we chose tableware functional, part of everyday life, yet elevated into something extraordinary.” Unlike regular crockery, each Kaunteya collection takes nearly a year to complete. Crafted from fine bone china and finished with 24K gold highlights, the dinnerware fuses traditional Indian artistry with contemporary elegance. The brand avoids heavy tones, instead using pastel shades, delicate motifs, and intricate hand-finishing to create pieces that are modern yet timeless.



PICHWAI (ETERNAL KRISHNA BHAKTI)

Rooted in devotion, the Pichwai collection is inspired by traditional Pichwai paintings that symbolize eternal Krishna bhakti. Adorned with lotus, tree, cow, and bird motifs in serene pinks and greens, the dinnerware radiates spiritual beauty. Finished with 24K gold highlights, the Pichwai dinner set is a celebration of sacred art brought to your table.



DASARA (THE ROYAL LEGACY)

Inspired by the grandeur of Mysore Palace, the Dasara collection evokes royal elegance. Decorated with turquoise-blue hues and intricate floral motifs, each piece is hand-finished with 24K gold detailing. Made from fine bone china, the dinnerware is sleek, lightweight, and durable, ensuring your table setting embodies both beauty and strength.



AIRAVATA (THE BEAUTY OF THE VAHANAS)

A tribute to the Pattachitra art form, the Airavata collection celebrates the Vahanas of Hindu deities through bold lines and symbolic motifs. Hand-painted in pastel yellows and greens with 24K gold accents, the collection blends tradition with modern refinement. Each piece is carefully crafted in fine bone china and perfected through multiple stages of firing and quality checks.

SHAKTI (THE WOMEN OF INDIA)

A limited-edition collection celebrating the eternal feminine, Shakti is Kaunteya’s tribute to the spirit of Indian womanhood. Crafted in fine bone china, lightweight yet sturdy, each piece undergoes a three-stage firing process to achieve perfection. Highlighted with 24K gold, the vibrant designs reflect the joys, struggles, and triumphs of Indian women, woven into a tapestry of resilience and grace.



Afghanistan is likely to pull out of tri-series

KARACHI, 13 OCT

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has started working on an alternate plan as serious doubts have arisen over Afghanistan's participation in an upcoming T20 Tri-Series here amid military conflict between the two countries. The triangular series, also involving Sri Lanka, is scheduled to be held from November 17-29. "The PCB chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, has asked the International Cricket Council to start working on an alternate plan as he wants the Tri-Series to go ahead," a source said. The PCB has also invited Sri Lanka to play three T20 internationals between November 11 and 15, before they take part in the Tri-Series alongside Afghanistan and Pakistan. Interestingly, the Pakistan and Sri Lankan boards are also holding talks for a hurriedly arranged three-match T20 series in Colombo between 1-10 January.



Champion on mat: Kinjo embraces retirement at 30

SHANGHAI, 13 OCT

Japan's Risako Kinjo said her wrestling career had given her a sense of fulfillment after the double Olympic gold medalist announced her retirement at the age of 30. Four-time world champion Kinjo took gold in the 63kg category in Rio in 2016 and stood on top of the podium on home soil in Tokyo five years later by winning the 57kg class. Her sister Yukako also claimed wrestling gold in Tokyo, winning the 62kg event. I've experienced all the joy that comes from being an athlete," said Kinjo, who won her final world championships title in 2024, two years after she had given birth to her first child. "I feel fulfilled."



England vs Latvia: Watkins ruled out of WC qualifier

LONDON, 13 OCT

Ollie Watkins has returned to Aston Villa after an injury ruled him out of England's World Cup qualifying game against Latvia on Tuesday, as captain Harry Kane is set for a possible return. Watkins scored in England's 3-0 win over Wales in a friendly on Thursday but was substituted at halftime after colliding with the goalpost. "The Aston Villa striker has not recovered from the knock sustained against Wales at Wembley on Thursday evening and has returned to his club," England said in a statement. Watkins is the second player to leave the squad after defender Jarell Quansah returned to Bayer Leverkusen.

Ghana fifth African nation, qualifies for 2026 World Cup

ACCRA, 13 OCT

Ghana became the fifth African nation to qualify for the 2026 World Cup on Sunday. The 2010 quarter-finalist joins Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Ghana needed a point against Comoros in its final game in Group I to be certain of qualifying for back-to-back World Cups and sealed its place with a 1-0 win at Accra Sports Stadium. In the end, it didn't even need that after second-placed Madagascar lost 4-1 to Mali.Tottenham forward Mohammed Kudus scored the decisive goal in the 47th minute to ensure Ghana qualified in style.

Denmark Open: Satwik-Chirag pair eyes first title of season



Indian doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

ODENSE, 13 OCT

Indian doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to convert their impressive run of form into a title when they spearhead the country's campaign at the USD 950,000 Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday. Seeded sixth, the Asian Games champions will open against Scotland's Christopher Grimley and Matthew

Grimley. Satwik and Chirag have been this season, reaching back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong and China Masters Super 750 tournaments. The duo also secured a second World Championships bronze in Paris, apart from a string of semifinal finishes. In men's singles, world No. 28 Ayush Shetty, who clinched his maiden BWF Super 300 crown at the US Open earlier this year, will face France's

Toma Junior Popov in his opening round. The 19-year-old reached the Hong Kong Super 500 quarter-finals but has struggled for rhythm in recent weeks, suffering early exits at the Korea and China events and a defeat to Olympic silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn at the Arctic Open. Lakshya Sen, ranked 19th, will take on Ireland's Nhat Nguyen. The 2021 world championships bronze-medallist had rediscovered form with a

runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Super 500 in September, ending a lean spell since his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics. However, defeats to Japan's Kodai Naraoka and Vitidsarn in recent outings have underlined the need for consistency. In women's singles, young Anmol Kharb, who made her maiden Super 500 semifinal appearance at Arctic Open last week, will face seventh seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in her opener.

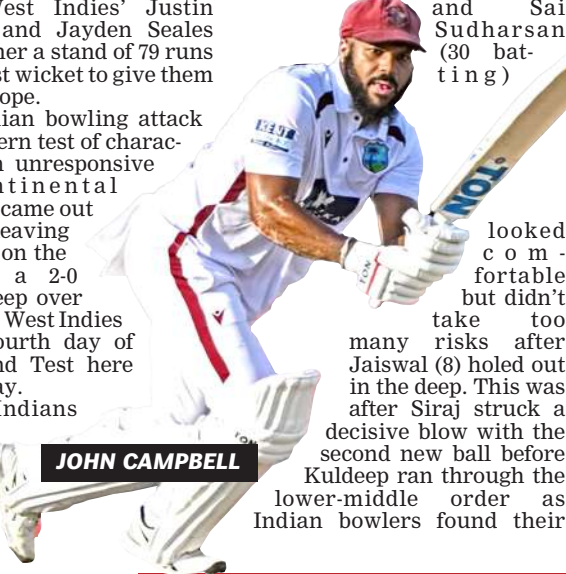
Rahul, Sai steady ship; India need 58 on final day

Bowlers made to toil hard as West Indies stretch Test to Day 5

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

India finished Day 4 just 58 runs away from victory against West Indies in the second Test in Delhi. India reached 63/1 at Stumps, chasing a target of 121. KL Rahul and Sai Sudharsan stitched a 54-run partnership to close out the day after Yashasvi Jaiswal departed early in the run chase. Earlier, the West Indies posted 390 in their follow-on, led by the centuries of John Campbell and Shai Hope. Despite a late collapse, West Indies' Justin Greaves and Jayden Seales put together a stand of 79 runs for the last wicket to give them a ray of hope. The Indian bowling attack faced a stern test of character on an unresponsive sub-continental track but came out trumps, leaving the hosts on the cusp of a 2-0 clean sweep over a fighting West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test here on Monday. The Indians need another 58 runs on the

final day to win the game after reaching 63 for 1 at stumps in pursuit of 121. Jasprit Bumrah (3/44 in 17.5 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (3/104 in 29 overs), Ravindra Jadeja (1/102 in 33 overs), Mohammed Siraj (2/43 in 15 overs), and Washington Sundar (1/80 in 23 overs) toiled hard for more than 118.5 overs in the second innings. They eventually bowled out the West Indies for 390, leaving the home team with a target of 121 to chase in 18 overs left on the fourth evening. KL Rahul (25 batting) and Sai Sudharsan (30 batting)



JOHN CAMPBELL



India's captain Shubman Gill, with teammates Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, walks off the field

mojo in the post-lunch session on day four.

Campbell on his maiden Test century West Indies opener John Campbell was at a loss for words after registering his maiden Test century here on Monday, and said the key to his knock was sensible shot selection. Following on, Campbell (155 off 199) and Shai Hope (103 off 214) shared 177 runs for the third wicket as the West Indies fought back, taking the match to the fifth day. "I can't really put it into words right now. Maybe tomorrow I'll be able to describe it. We always spoke about it being a good batting track. As a batsman, once you get a start here, it becomes

easier. I think I still went for my shots, it was just about being more selective," Campbell said of his maiden Test ton.

Siraj 'treated like King' in dugout on tough day Indian cricket team fast bowler Mohammed Siraj struggled in the sweltering heat of New Delhi during Day 4 of the second Test match against the West Indies on Monday. Following a tough six-over spell in the post-lunch session, Siraj went straight to the Indian dugout, where he received some medical attention. An ice bag was placed on his head while the physiotherapist gave him a foot massage.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETICS C'SHIPS

Nishchay smashes meet record with 63.69m throw



NISHCHAY

BHUBANESWAR, 13 OCT

Haryana's teenage discus thrower Nishchay produced a record-breaking effort to win the boys' U-18 gold on the fourth day of the 40th National Junior Athletics Championships, here on Monday. The 17-year-old hurled the 1.5kg disc to 63.69m, smashing the previous meet record of 60.17m set by Atul in

2022 in Guwahati. His series read 63.56m, 63.69m, 61.22m, no mark, 62.62m, and no mark. Nishchay, who had earlier bagged the shot put gold with a best of 19.48m, thus underlined his all-round strength in the throws events. Rajasthan's Vishal Kumar won silver with 60.90m, also bettering the old record, while Usman Ali Khan of Madhya

Pradesh took bronze with 58.81m. With the qualification standard for next year's World U20 Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, set at 56m, Nishchay's performance has placed him among the leading contenders for national selection. Records were also seen in the U20 200m events with home favorite Pratik Maharana clinching the men's gold in 21.24 seconds.

FELICITATION CEREMONY



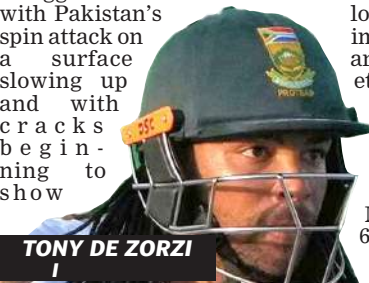
Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and President P.T. Usha pose for a group photograph with 2024 Paris Olympics medallists in New Delhi on Monday

De Zorzi is unbeaten as SA struggle with spin against Pak

LAHORE, 13 OCT

South Africa's Tony de Zorzi scored an unbeaten 81 to take South Africa to 216-6 at stumps against Pakistan on the second day of the first Test on Monday, trailing by 162 runs. De Zorzi survived several reviews in a charmed existence at the crease but provided resistance as the tourists struggled to deal with Pakistan's spin attack on a surface slowing up and with cracks beginning to show

at the Gaddafi Stadium. He will resume with Senuran Muthusamy, not out on six, at the start of day three on Tuesday after Muthusamy's bowling caused a sudden collapse in Pakistan's innings earlier on Monday. The home team was in a commanding position at 313-5 overnight, with Mohammad Rizwan 62 not out and Salman Ali Agha unbeaten on 52, and looked to be heading to an imposing total before the left-arm spinner took three wickets in four balls in the 12th over of the morning. South Africa 216 for 6 (De Zorzi 81*, Rickelton 71, Noman 4-85) trail Pakistan 378 (Agha 93, Imam 93, Masood 76, Muthusamy 6-117) by 162 runs



TONY DE ZORZI

BWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lalthazuala, Vennala register easy wins

GUWAHATI, 13 OCT

Lalthazuala Hmar and Vennala K registered convincing victories in their respective matches as Indian shuttlers began their individual campaigns in the BWF World Junior Championships with an all-win record here on Monday. Having helped the team bag a historic bronze medal in the team championships, the seeded Indian players had a bye in the opening round, while the others had to get their campaign going before the bigger challenges at the National Center of Excellence. Lalthazuala was the first Indian in action and



Lalthazuala Hmar of Mizoram needed just 14 minutes to pack off Uganda's Denis Mukasa 15-4, 15-4 in the first round at BWF World Junior Championships

the Mizoram shuttler needed just 14 minutes to pack off Uganda's Denis Mukasa 15-4, 15-4. Later in the day, Gnana Dattu TT took time to overcome his nerves before beating Milan Mesterhazy of

Hungary 5-15, 15-7, 15-7 in boys' singles, while Asian junior championships bronze medallist Vennala hammered Ireland's Siofra Flynn 15-1, 15-6 in girls' singles opening round.

Dattu, who did not play a single match in the team event, was the only Indian player to struggle on the opening day, and the 17-year-old blamed his nerves for the wild start. The Hyderabad-born shuttler made too many errors in the opening game and looked completely out of sorts. But he took control of the match in the second game and dominated the proceedings thereafter. "This is my first World Juniors, and I was clearly nervous in the first game. Additionally, this is the second time that I was facing a European player, and it took me time to understand their style of play.



Joshna Chinappa wins Japan Open squash title

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Indian squash ace Joshna Chinappa clinched her 11th PSA Tour title, beating Egypt's Haya Ali in four games in the Japan Open final in Yokohama on Monday. The former women's world No. 10 Indian defeated the third-seeded Egyptian 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8 in 38 minutes in the summit clash of the USD 15,000 Challenger event. Earlier, Chinappa, currently ranked 117 in the world, beat fourth seed Rana Ismail of Egypt 11-7, 11-1, 11-5 in the semifinals. Meanwhile, reigning men's national champion and world No. 29 Abhay Singh went down to French world No. 9 and fifth seed Victor Crouin 4-11, 2-11, 1-11 in the round-of-16 match of the Silicon Valley Open, a USD 130,500 PSA Gold event in Redwood City (USA) on Sunday.