



# THE Hans India



**Social media driving negative opinion on contraceptive pills among women: Study**  
A new study from the University of Sheffield has shed light on how social media may be shaping women's experiences with the contraceptive pill, often in harmful ways.

**From truth to tattle: How gossip overshadows political analysis**  
In an epoch where information cascades like a torrential river, political analysis, once a bastion of reasoned discourse, has been seduced by the tawdry allure of gossip.

**'AI misuse a threat to women's dignity, needs safeguards'**  
The first National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women was inaugurated in Tirupati on Sunday, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to advance gender equality.

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## WINDOWS



### Indian Navy gets indigenous anti-sub 'Androth'

NEW DELHI: In a move likely to enhance the Indian Navy's underwater capabilities, it has received 'INS Androth', the second of the eight ASW SWCs (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. It was delivered to the Indian Navy on September 13 at GRSE, Kolkata, marking yet another step towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing. According to a Naval spokesperson, the ASW SWC ships have been indigenously designed and constructed as per the Classification Rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) at GRSE, Kolkata, and it will strengthen the Navy's anti-submarine, coastal surveillance and mine-laying capabilities. The name 'Androth' holds strategic and symbolic significance, derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago, underscoring India's commitment to safeguarding its vast maritime territories.



### Over 200 killed in 2 boat disasters in Congo

KINSHASA: Over 200 people have been killed in two deadly boat accidents in two days in Democratic Republic of Congo. The most recent incident occurred a day ago and saw a boat with nearly 500 passengers catch fire and capsize on the Congo River, in the Equateur Province's Lukolela territory, authorities said. Some 107 people were killed and a further 146 are missing, the Congolese humanitarian affairs ministry said. It came a day after at least 86 people were killed in a separate boat accident in the Basankusu territory, in the same province. Most of those victims were said to have been students.



How can we say no to cricket? It's the game of quick U-turns

## MODI TARGETS CONG OVER 'INFILTRATION'

**Accuses the GOP of siding with anti-nationals**  
Lays stone for projects worth ₹6,300 cr in Assam

GUWAHATI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress during a public meeting in Assam's Darrang district, alleging that the party has consistently sided with anti-national forces and even terrorists groomed by Pakistan. "Instead of standing with our brave soldiers, Congress has chosen to back infiltrators and those who threaten India's unity. This party has repeatedly provided cover to anti-national forces," PM Modi told the gathering at Mangaldai, adding that the BJP would not allow infiltrators to grab land or alter the state's demography.

Signalling a major leap in Assam's healthcare sector, Modi unveiled projects worth Rs 6,300 crore in Darrang district. The projects include Darrang Medical College along with a nursing college and a GNM school in Mangaldai town. It also includes the 118.5 km-long Guwahati Ring Road project, connecting Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam and Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya. The Prime Minister hailed the BJP government's work in Assam,



PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration of a refinery at Golaghat in Assam on Sunday

For its politics, Congress stands with every person and thought that is against India. We saw this even during Operation Sindoor. Today, when our Army carries out Operation Sindoor and uproots terror hide-outs across Pakistan, Congress chooses to side with Pakistan's Army. Instead of standing with our forces, this party furthers the agenda of those who shelter terrorists

saying that they have begun to "correct those wrongs and remove illegal claims", as he accused the Congress party of encroaching on farmers' land and places of worship during their rule in the state.

"Encroachments on farmers' land and on places of worship were carried out under the previous Congress governments. Since the formation of the BJP-led NDA government, we have begun to correct those wrongs and remove illegal claims," he said.

"In Assam, lakhs of acres have been reclaimed from infiltrators," he claimed, adding, "The BJP's objective is to protect the country from infiltrators and restore its integrity. I challenge those politicians who defend infiltrators to come forward and face this issue, let them show what efforts they have made to remove infiltrators, compared with the efforts we have made."

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## Earthquake jolts Assam

GUWAHATI: An earthquake of magnitude 5.8 struck Assam on Sunday evening, according to the National Center for Seismology. The earthquake occurred at 4.41pm and the epicentre was in Udalguri district. The depth of the earthquake was 5km, the officials said. Tremors were also felt in other northeastern states and neighbouring Bhutan. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa said there has been no report of any major damage or loss of life. "We are actively monitoring the situation," he wrote on X.

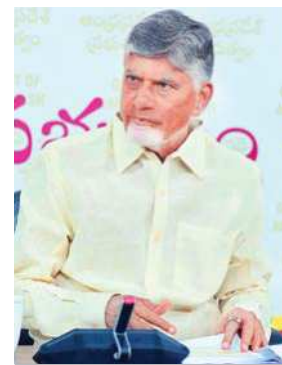
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## CM to lead collectors' conference from today

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will preside over the two-day 4th Collectors' Conference beginning here on Monday. The conference, being held at the 5th block of the Secretariat, will begin at 10:00 am.

The Chief Minister has sharpened the focus of the conference as ensuring accountability from each district in respect of the delivery of public services and the im-



plementation of government schemes. Accordingly, officials have prepared presenta-

- » Chandrababu will assess district-wise performance
- » Implementation of government schemes to be the touchstone
- » Accent on accountability for delivery of public services

tions on various departments to facilitate this review.

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## Women-led development underpins Viksit Bharat: Om Birla



LS Speaker Om Birla inaugurating the National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women in Tirupati on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla has underscored that women-led development, centered on the empowerment of women and the welfare of children, is the cornerstone of India's vision to

become a developed nation by 2047.

Inaugurating the National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women in Tirupati on Sunday, Birla emphasised that achieving inclusive growth requires the nation's daughters to be edu-

cated, self-reliant, and active participants in governance. The two-day event, with representatives from more than 20 states, is focused on the theme "Women-led development for Viksit Bharat".

Discussions at the conference will cover key areas like gender-responsive budgeting

and equipping women to handle the challenges of emerging technologies. Birla hailed the conference as a landmark in India's democratic journey, bringing together lawmakers and women leaders to share experiences and create strategies for equality.

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## 'TAX REFORMS FOR RISING BHARAT'

### GST 2.0 big win for citizens: FM

- From morning tea to dinner, GST benefits everyone: Sitharaman
- Says reforms for MSMEs to fuel growth and employment across India

CHENNAI

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the GST reforms are a huge victory for each and every citizen of the country. Taking into account that every state in India has its own festivals, it has been decided to implement the GST reforms much ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instruction of launching them before

Deepavali festival, Sitharaman said at an event in Chennai.

In her address at the joint conclave of the trade and industries association on "Tax Reforms for Rising Bharat" organised by Chennai Citizens Forum, she said the beneficial impact of Goods and Services Tax would be there for all products from the start of the day till people go to bed.

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## New Nepal PM Karki seeks calm

Promises to meet protesters' push to end corruption

KATHMANDU: Nepal's new Prime Minister Sushila Karki has called for calm and urged her compatriots to "get together to rebuild the country" after violent protests against corruption killed at least 72 people and injured hundreds more.

In her first public remarks since becoming the Himalayan nation's interim prime minister on Friday, Sushila Karki said on Sunday that the country must listen to its young citizens.

"We have to work according to the thinking of the Gen Z generation," the 73-year-old former chief justice said, referring to the demographic that led the anticorruption protests.

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## Lokesh's son honoured in London for chess world record

DEVAANSH HAILED AS 'FASTEST CHECKMATE SOLVER - 175 PUZZLES'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

IN a proud moment for India, which is home to several chess prodigies, 10-year-old Nara Devaansh, son of IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, was honoured by the World Book of Records on Saturday at a ceremony held in the historic Westminster Hall. The young prodigy received the prestigious award for setting a new world record for the "Fastest Checkmate Solver - 175 Puzzles". Devaansh



Devaansh, son of IT Minister Nara Lokesh, being honoured by the World Book of Records in London

achieved the feat last year during a "Checkmate Marathon". He successfully solved 175 progressively difficult checkmate puzzles from the famous compilation 5334 Problems, Combinations, and Games by László Polgár. The challenge, which tested speed, accuracy, and strategic thinking,

solidified his place as a rising star in the global chess community.

Devaansh's achievement is the result of months of diligent practice under the guidance of his coach, K. Rajashekar Reddy, and the unwavering support of his parents, Nara Brahmani and Nara Lokesh.

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## 'WE DON'T TAKE PART IN WARS'

China hits back at Trump's 100% tariffs threat

BEIJING: China has hit back at the US over President Donald Trump's proposal that NATO impose 50-100% tariffs on Beijing over its purchase of Russian oil.

Reiterating that Beijing is committed to promoting peace talks for resolving hot-spot issues, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said wars cannot solve problems and highlighted that sanctions would only complicate them.

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## IPO rush: Over 12 cos look to mop up ₹10k-cr in 3 wks

NEW DELHI

OVER a dozen companies are gearing up to launch their IPOs over the next two to three weeks, aiming to raise nearly Rs 10,000 crore, buoyed by supportive policy measures, including GST 2.0 reforms, and the RBI's monetary policy easing through rate cuts.

Among the firms preparing to tap the primary markets are iValue Infosolutions, Saatvik Green Energy, JinKushal Industries, Atlanta Electricals, Park Medi World, SolarWorld

## Policy push, favourable liquidity measures, GST 2.0 buoy stock market sentiment

### FESTIVE JOSH

- » Aiming at Diwali rally in markets
- » Jain Resource Recycling to raise Rs 2k cr
- » Anand Rathi coming with Rs 750-cr IPO



Energy Solutions, Jain Resource Recycling, CIEL HR Services, GK Energy,

Ganesh Consumer Products, Anand Rathi Share and Stock Brokers, and Sessaasai

Technologies, merchant bankers said. All these companies are

expected to announce their price bands in the week beginning September 15 and

plan to launch their IPOs before September 30, they added. Merchant bankers further indicated that this will be followed by offerings from Anantam Highway InvIT (Alpha Alternatives), Epack Prefab Technologies, Pranav Construction, and TruAlt Bioenergy.

These firms are likely to announce their price bands during September 22-30, with launches slated for the end of September or early October. Together, these companies are aiming to

mobilise nearly Rs 10,000 crore. All of them have already secured clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The fundraising will help companies meet capital expenditure requirements, finance expansion plans, repay borrowings, and cover general corporate purposes. The pipeline adds to an already strong year for IPOs. So far, 55 companies have floated their maiden public offerings, raising nearly Rs 75,000 crore.

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