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THE Hans India

NATION\SPORTS
Gavit leads India's gold-silver finish in men's 100m T47 event
India's Dilip Gavit won the men's 100m T46/47 combined event gold medal at the Asian Para Games while compatriot Mohammed Morssinganakath Basil clinched the silver in the same event here on Wednesday. P6

EDIT
The agony and ecstasy in the high-stakes journalism career
Today's world offers young and qualified people many opportunities for rewarding and productive careers. From medicine or engineering, through law, accountancy, and the civil services or journalism to politics, there are innumerable choices. P4

BUSINESS
Markets ride earnings wave amid global headwinds
Driven by strong renewed buying in IT stocks, upbeat Q2 earnings, appreciation in the rupee with RBI measures, and sustained support from DIIs;equity markets extended their rally for the second consecutive week, posting their strongest weekly gains since April. P7

ENETERTAINMENT
Sara Arjun shines in embroidered blue gown
Sara Arjun, the actress who starred opposite Ranveer Singh in the successful Dhurandhar and Dhurandhar The Revenge is generating attention for her latest elegant fashion show after stardom.
The actress flaunted a powder-blue strapless gown. P8

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City reports season's first poor air quality day

Hans News Service
New Delhi

- **Multiple reasons for the decline in air quality; seasonal weather shifts, like falling temperatures and fluctuating wind speeds**
- **GRAP Stage 1 invoked later this year thanks to govt's preventive measures: Sirsa**

Delhi reclaimed its dubious honour of having the season's first 'poor air quality day' on Wednesday.

The national capital was enveloped in a thick layer of haze over parts of the city Wednesday morning following the overnight Dussehra celebrations.

On Tuesday, Delhi's Air Quality Index was 179; on Wednesday it climbed by 59 points to 238, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board.

Two of Delhi's 59 air monitoring stations, in fact, registered 'very poor' air quality, with levels of 308 and 314.

Delhi's 16 stations, including Anand Vihar, reported "moderate" category.

Multiple reasons were for this decline in air quality; seasonal weather shifts, like falling temperatures and fluctuating wind speeds, were the most common.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Wednesday that Delhi implemented Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) later this year than in previous years. He added that the government was prepared with preventive measures, including restrictions on polluting vehicles, staggered office timings and work-from-home arrangements, to combat winter air pollution.

Sirsa said the city had gone longer than usual without GRAP restrictions this year, attributing the improvement to the Rekha Gupta-led government's sustained efforts and public participation.

The minister's remarks came as the Commission for Air Quality Management on Wednesday imposed Stage I of GRAP across Delhi-NCR after the capital's air quality slipped into the 'poor' category. Sirsa said the government was adopting both short- and long-term measures under its 11-point air pollution mitigation plan, involving nearly 30 agencies working together to tackle pollution.

WINDOWS

7 held with hand grenade, pistols and 3 kg heroin

CHANDIGARH: Seven people have been apprehended along with a hand grenade, two pistols and 3.491 kg of heroin in Punjab, an official said on Wednesday. In a post on X, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the recovery was made by the Amritsar Rural Police while dismantling a drug trafficking, illegal arms and explosives smuggling network. "Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were allegedly in contact with foreign-based smugglers supplying illegal weapons for further distribution among criminal elements," the DGP said. FIRs have been registered at Chatiwind and Lopoke police stations, he said, adding that further probe is underway to uncover the complete network and establish backward and forward linkages.

Train guard injured in stone-pelting incident at Amethi

AMETHI: A guard of the Lucknow-Varanasi Intercity Express was injured after an unidentified person allegedly hurled a stone at him at Amethi railway station, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday night when the Varanasi-Lucknow Intercity Express (24203) was halted at Amethi station, which falls on its route to Lucknow. Amethi Kotwali SHO Shivakant Tripathi said the stone was hurled at the train guard, Harkesh Kumar, from the rear side of the platform by an unidentified person. The train did not suffer any damage in the incident, he said. Kishan Bindu, the outpost in-charge of the Government Railway Police (GRP) at Amethi, said the stone hit Kumar on the head and he was given first aid on board the train. An FIR has been registered against an unidentified person under Section 152 of the Railways Act in connection with the incident, he said.

Cong candidate dies by suicide ahead of poll

JAIPUR: A 45-year-old Congress candidate contesting the panchayat samiti elections in Rajasthan's Barmer district allegedly died by suicide on Wednesday, a day before polling, police said. The deceased, identified as Mohanlal, was contesting from ward number 8 of the Mangta Panchayat Samiti.

Believe me, the India-US trade deal is just weeks away. I've been telling you this for years. Don't you remember?

Rubio visits RIL's Jamnagar

US now India's top LPG supplier: Gor

Rubio describes India as a crude oil refining superpower and advocates processing more Venezuelan crude in the country

JAMNAGAR: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Wednesday said his country has become India's largest LPG supplier as he accompanied Secretary of State Marco Rubio during his visit to Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)'s mega refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Rubio, on a three-day visit to India, and Gor were welcomed at the complex by the Mukesh Ambani family. Gor highlighted a sharp rise in India's imports of American LPG and RIL's planned investment in a new oil refinery in the United States.

"Over the past year, India's imports of US LPG have surged from under 10% to 67%, making the United States India's largest LPG supplier," he said. Gor further said "Reliance's planned investment in the first new US oil refinery in 50 years is another major opportunity to expand American energy production and create jobs."

Rubio described India as a crude oil refining "superpower" and advocates for processing more Venezuelan crude in the country.

Earlier, Rubio met Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran in Mumbai.

PRETTY CLOSE: TRUMP ON INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

TEXAS: US President Donald Trump indicated that a trade agreement with India is close to being finalised, echoing recent remarks by Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the progress of negotiations between the two countries. Trump said, "They want to make a deal. We're going to make a deal. Pretty close, yeah. Going to be a much different kind of a deal than we've made in the past." Rubio clarified that he was not directly involved in the negotiations, which are being handled by the US trade representative. However, he said he had been closely following the discussions and expected the agreement to conclude soon.

Pb CM detained at IGI for 3 hours, fined 50K

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was detained for nearly three hours at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after returning from Paris. Officials then issued him a challan of Rs 50,000, claiming they were under "tremendous pressure from above".

The party has accused the Centre of deliberately humiliating Mann and creating hurdles in Punjab's progress, linking the alleged incident to repeated denials of political clearance for the chief minister's foreign visits.

The fine was levied by the Customs Duty Department over, what they call, undeclared luxury goods, sources said. Baltej Pannu, AAP's media in-charge in Punjab, alleged that Mann was kept waiting at the airport under the pretext that his luggage was still arriving and being checked.

AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj also alleged that Mann was made to wait at the airport after travelling to Paris to promote Punjab's products. In a post on X, Bharadwaj said the chief minister's visit came after he challenged the Centre's decision to deny him political clearance for the trip.

Rooftop solar registrations cross 1L mark in Capital

Hans News Service
New Delhi

Over one lakh power consumers have registered for solar rooftop connections within a month of the launch of a dedicated portal, as part of the Delhi government's initiative to provide 230,000 free installations by March 2027, officials said on Wednesday.

Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood said that the rising registration numbers were a milestone in clean energy. "This progress is inspired by the "visionary leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his commitment to a sustainable, solar-powered India through the PM Surya Ghar initiative," Sood said.

Crediting this feat to the citizens of Delhi, he added, "Our people are stepping forward to make Delhi cleaner, greener, and energy independent." Latest figures up to October 21 reveal a total of 102,461 registrations, with the highest number, 37,168, coming from South and West Delhi areas served by BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), officials said.

Two senior executives to probe HDFC Bank data leak

Hans News Service
New Delhi

HDFC Bank has initiated an internal enquiry into the alleged leak of confidential information of the country's biggest private sector lender by two senior executives.

Sources indicate the internal review began after senior executives flagged concerns over potential information leaks.

Investigators are examining whether the information disclosed was misused, sources said.

Acknowledging an internal review on the matter, a spokesperson of HDFC Bank said, "The bank is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethics and governance as outlined in our Code of Conduct. We take any report of potential violations seriously."

In line with the bank's policies, the spokesperson said, an internal review into this matter is currently underway to gather and evaluate all relevant facts.

"To protect the integrity of the process and the privacy of all parties involved, we do not comment on active internal reviews. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings, once the review is complete," the spokesperson added.

Magistrate orders release of CJP leaders Das, Ranka

Hans News Service
New Delhi

A special executive magistrate (SEM) on Wednesday ordered the release of CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka after the expiry of judicial custody in connection with the October 14 protest at Jantar Mantar.

The two were produced before the SEM, where their sureties were also submitted during the proceedings. Das and Ranka were initially remanded to five days of judicial custody on October 14 after being detained for allegedly entering the denotified protest site of Jantar Mantar and violating peace bonds. Their custody was extended by two days on October 19 and was due to expire on Wednesday.

Earlir, the Delhi High Court refused to interfere with the judicial custody of Cockroach Janta Party leaders, asking them to await the outcome of the hearing scheduled before the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM), and approach the appellate court if their grievance continues.

Justice Subramonium Prasad permitted the CJP co-conveners to withdraw their plea, observing that a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution was not an appropriate remedy for a "repeat case" of violating a 'peace' bond.

Looted French goods popping up on resale site

Hans News Service
Paris

THE second-hand online marketplace Vinted has removed listings of looted French goods and stepped up checks on "suspicious" adverts, as the country's authorities seek to prevent goods stolen during riots from being sold online.

Vinted says its teams have taken "immediate action to identify and remove listings linked to the looting," following a weekend of unrest that saw shops ransacked across France, with the cost of property damage and theft estimated to be several hundred million dollars. "The sale of stolen goods, or soliciting them, is strictly prohibited on Vinted, and we have zero tolerance for it," the company said in a statement, noting that it had "stepped up monitoring of suspicious listings."

Accounts found to have breached its rules could face permanent bans, Vinted said, adding that it is working with law enforcement and French authorities to "detect and counter emerging risks and malicious behaviour."

The response comes as the French government increases scrutiny of online marketplaces following reports that goods stolen during Saturday's unrest were being offered for sale online.

First space mission to nearest star will take 80,000 years

None of us will be here when this journey ends, and that is the point. It's about taking the first achievable step and inspiring future generations to keep pushing beyond the limits we inherited: Co-founder and president of the Fermi Explorer Mission Philip Johnston

London

A spacecraft targeted for launch in 2028 could embark on an estimated 80,000-year journey to Proxima Centauri, the nearest star beyond the Solar System, in what its organisers describe as humanity's first step towards interstellar travel.

The Fermi Explorer mission will carry scientific instruments to study conditions along the route to the star, which is located 4.4 light-years, or approximately 25.8 trillion miles, from Earth.

The journey will take tens of thousands of years, meaning none of the scientists involved will live to see its completion.

None of us will be here when this journey ends, and that is the point. It's about taking the first achievable step and inspiring future generations to keep pushing beyond the limits we inherited said Co-founder and president of the Fermi Explorer Mission Philip Johnston

The spacecraft will carry a copy of the Golden Record sent aboard Nasa's Voyager missions. The record contains images of Earth, greetings in 55 languages, music, natural sounds and a message from former US President Jimmy Carter. The spacecraft will also carry new messages from children around the world. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are the only human-made spacecraft to have entered interstellar space. The Fermi Explorer would be the first spacecraft launched specifically towards another star system.

Philip Johnston said, "We hope to be both the first to leave and the last to arrive at Alpha Centauri. None of us will be here when this journey ends, and that is the point.

Recruitment for 1600 vacant police posts soon: U'khand CM

The annual budget allocated for the operational requirements of police stations will be doubled from Rs 4 crore to Rs 8 crore: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Hans News Service
Dehradun

CHIEF Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday paid tribute to the martyred personnel of the police and paramilitary forces on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.

He also made eight announcements aimed at strengthening the police system and ensuring the welfare of police personnel, and said that a recruitment process would commence soon for approximately 1,600 vacant posts across various units of the Uttarakhand Police. "The police and paramilitary forces play a vital role in the nation's internal security.

Over the past year, 154 personnel across the country made the supreme sacrifice while in the line of duty,"

said Dhami while addressing the commemoration event at the Police Lines in Dehradun. He also directed a review of the staffing requirements at police stations and outposts and said that the annual budget allocated for the operational requirements of police stations will be increased from Rs 4 crore to Rs 8 crore.

The chief minister also announced initiatives to upgrade all Police Modern Schools in the state, construct transit hostels and multi-story barracks for police personnel in Dehradun, and upgrade the police hospital located in Dehradun.

"Police personnel often remain away from their own families, even during festivals, to ensure the safety of the public. Given the geographical conditions and the frequency of natural disasters in Uttarakhand, the role of the police force is particularly significant," said Dhami.

Dhami said that a State Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is currently being constructed for approximately Rs 32 crore. Furthermore, to enhance the safety of women, quick response teams have been formed at every police station. He also praised the Uttarakhand Police for their contribution in ensuring a safe and smooth experience for the nearly 5 crore Kanwar pilgrims this year, as well as for the more than 60 lakh devotees who participated in the Char Dham Yatra so far.

He noted that 319 police personnel have been honoured with various medals and commendations this year for their exemplary service. Director General of Police (DGP) Deepam Seth informed that since the formation of the state, 206 personnel of the Uttarakhand Police have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Punjab cops have delivered a decisive blow to drug mafia: DGP

Striking at the economic roots of the narco-trade, the DGP stated that the police have frozen properties worth Rs 902 crore belonging to drug traffickers, marking the highest forfeiture anywhere in the country, alongside securing an unprecedented 90 per cent conviction rate in courts

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

Asserting that Punjab Police has delivered a decisive blow to drugs, DGP Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday said over 95,000 NDPS cases have been registered in the state since March 16, 2022, leading to over 1.27 lakh arrests and the recovery of over 7,260 kg of heroin.

Striking at the economic roots of the narco-trade, the DGP stated that the police have frozen properties worth Rs 902 crore belonging to drug traffickers, marking the highest forfeiture anywhere in the country, alongside securing an unprecedented 90 per cent conviction rate in courts. Furthermore, sustained anti-gangster operations launched in April 2022 have dismantled up to 1,288 organised criminal modules and led to the arrest of over 3,300 gang members, he said while speaking on the sidelines of a Police Commemoration Day ceremony, held to pay tributes to the personnel

who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The event was held at the Punjab Armed Police (PAP) Headquarters in Jalandhar. The National Police Commemoration Day is observed in memory of 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed on this day in 1959 in an ambush by Chinese troops in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.

Outlining new strategic frameworks under the ongoing Yudh Nashian Virudh campaign, the DGP said that campaign has now transitioned into an intensive 60-day mission mode wherein all designated drug hotspots are being jointly monitored by senior police officers and gazetted officers from the civil administration round-the-clock.

The DGP outlined future strategies focused on dismantling financial networks, targeting drug hotspots, modernising infrastructure with over Rs 1,600 crore investment, and bolstering cyber security capacities to effectively suppress criminal syndicates across the state.

BJP govt's 3rd term marred by rising crime, corruption: Cong

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

THE Congress on Wednesday said the BJP government's two years in Haryana were riddled with promises never fulfilled, a spike in crime, and mounting corruption.

The BJP government in Haryana completed two years of its third consecutive term on Saturday. The state Congress on Monday said it will expose the two years of "misgovernance, broken promises and anti-people policies."

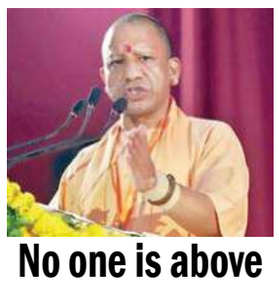
On Wednesday, Haryana Congress chief Rao Narender Singh spoke to reporters in Sirsa, Leader of the Opposition and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda addressed the media in Delhi, while Congress MP Kumari Selja spoke to reporters in Chandigarh - all lambasting the BJP-led Haryana government.

Rao Narender Singh said that instead of merely making claims, the government must present a factual account of its election promises before the people. Even after two years of the present dispensation, people in the state continue to grapple with crime, unemployment, corruption and

Rao Narender Singh

deteriorating public services.

"During the Assembly elections, the BJP made major promises to every section of society. The government must now clarify how many promises have been fulfilled, how many are under implementation, and what timelines have been set for completing the remaining commitments," he said. Rao also flagged extortion demands and gun violence against traders.



No one is above law in 'new Uttar Pradesh': Yogi

Hans News Service
Lucknow

CHIEF Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said police in Uttar Pradesh have the freedom to take effective action against criminals, asserting that no one is above the law in the state.

On Police Commemoration Day, Adityanath paid tributes to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation, maintaining peace in society and safeguarding the lives of citizens.

"The valour, courage and dedication of these brave personnel, who laid down everything at the altar of duty, will always remain a source of inspiration for us all," the chief minister said in a post on X.

Hitting out at previous governments, he said before 2017, the state was under the grip of mafia rule. Anti-social elements were so emboldened at the time that brave police officers had to sacrifice their lives while upholding the law at Jawahar Bagh in Mathura, he said, referring to the violent clash on June 2, 2016 during a police operation to evict squatters.

However, in the 'new Uttar Pradesh', no one is above the law, he asserted. Uttar Pradesh has transformed from a state plagued by disorder into one known for celebrations.

The police have been given the freedom to take effective action against criminals, he said. With more than 2.26 lakh police personnel recruited, introduction of the police commissionerate system in seven major cities, the establishment of cyber police stations in every district and women's help desks at every police station, the state's police system has become more capable, modern and accountable, he said.

Bus falls into gorge in Udhampur, two killed

Hans News Service
Jammu

TWO persons, including a minor girl, were killed and 15 others injured after a passenger bus veered off a hilly road and plunged into a deep gorge in a remote area in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah voiced grief over the incident, and assured all necessary assistance to the victims and their families.

The bus was travelling from Pechound to Ramnagar and the accident occurred at Gulli Gala at around 8 am, the officials said, adding the bus was reduced to a mangled heap of iron. Local village volunteers immediately launched a rescue operation following the accident and shifted 17 injured passengers to nearby Public Health Centre (PHC) Basantgarh.

After first aid, the injured were shifted to Ramnagar hospital, where a woman identified as Sunita Devi (24) and four-year-old Takshika succumbed to injuries, the officials said. They said 11 of the injured were referred to the Udhampur district hospital for specialised treatment as condition of most of them was stated to be critical.

Senior BJP leader and MLA Sunil Bhardwaj visited the Ramnagar hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured passengers. He voiced concern over the condition of the road where the accident occurred and emphasised the need for its upgradation to ensure safer travel for commuters. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening healthcare facilities in the constituency to ensure timely medical assistance and better treatment for people, particularly during emergencies.

POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY

Har DGP pays tributes to fallen personnel

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

HARYANA DGP Ajay Singhal on Wednesday paid tributes to the police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. On the occasion, the Director General of Police (DGP) paid floral tributes at the Police Martyrs' Memorial during the state-level ceremony at Panchkula Police Lines.

Senior police officers and other police personnel also paid their respects to the martyrs. Addressing the gathering, the DGP said that commemoration day is an occasion to express gratitude to the police personnel who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the country's internal security, maintain law and order, and protect citizens.

Expressing his respect for the families of the martyrs,

he said that it is the responsibility of the police department to ensure that the families of martyrs receive support, respect and a sense of security.

The National Police Commemoration Day is observed in memory of 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed on this day in 1959 in an ambush by Chinese troops in Ladakh's Hot Spring area. The DGP said that since the formation of Haryana in 1966, 88 police personnel of the state have laid down their lives while performing their duties.

NSUI LEADER'S ASSAULT CASE

Raj Congress to challenge police stand on zero FIR

Hans News Service
Jaipur

THE Congress on Wednesday ended its nearly two-day dharna at the Jaipur Police Commissionerate after police gave in writing that a zero FIR could not be registered over the alleged assault on NSUI leader Ritu Barala by Delhi Police personnel, citing that a complaint regarding the incident was already under probe in the national capital.

Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra, who had been camping at the commissionerate along with other party leaders since Monday evening, said the party would approach the High Court and the Supreme Court, alleging that police had wrongly interpreted Section 173(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The dharna ended after Jaipur police handed over a written response to the Congress leaders, following which Dotasra and others came out of the commissionerate. "Our demand was that an FIR should be registered, but police have given us in writing that since a complaint has already been lodged in Delhi, an FIR cannot be registered here. We will now approach the court," Dotasra told reporters.

He said the Congress would seek judicial interpretation of the legal provision and pursue registration of an FIR in the case. "The officials have wrongly interpreted the law. We will approach the High Court and Supreme Court for registration of the case and interpretation of the law. We have no option left but to go to court and we will ensure justice for Ritu Barala," he said.

Armed men attack BJP leader during Ramleela

Hans News Service
Ballia

ARMED men allegedly stormed a Ramleela stage and attacked Mahamandaleshwar Kaushlendra Giri, a BJP leader and priest at Shri Nath Baba Math, police said on Wednesday. Uttar Pradesh minister Om Prakash Rajbhar was present at the venue when the alleged attack happened. BJP district president Sanjay Mishra said Giri is a local BJP leader.

An FIR has been registered against three named accused and some unidentified persons on charges of attempt to murder, assault and rioting while armed with deadly weapons, they said. According to the FIR, the incident took place on Tuesday evening at the premises of Shri Nath Baba Math in Rasra town, where Giri was watching the Ramleela along with Panchayati Raj Minister Rajbhar.

The accused, allegedly armed with weapons, climbed onto the stage and attacked Giri with the intention of killing him, the complaint stated. When Giri's associate, Rupesh Tiwari, intervened, the accused allegedly assaulted him as well.

The attackers fled the scene, taking advantage of the commotion and the gathering of people, the FIR said. Giri sustained injuries in the attack and was rushed to a hospital. The case was registered late Tuesday night at Rasra police station against Satish Singh, Sanjeet Gupta, Monu Jaiswal and unidentified persons.

Har Health Minister calls for intensified food safety surveillance

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

HARYANA Health Minister Arti Singh Rao has directed officials to intensify the food safety surveillance campaign across the state in view of the festive season. She instructed the Food and Drug Administration to collect 100-150 surveillance samples of food items in each district. Rao also appealed to the public to remain vigilant while purchasing food items, buy food products only from reliable sources, and report any suspected food adulteration or food safety-related activity to the concerned authorities.

Dr Manoj Kumar, Commissioner of the Food and

Special emphasis is being placed on ensuring the quality and safety of food items, particularly in view of the increased consumption of sweets, milk and dairy products during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja

Drug Administration, said on Wednesday that the Health Minister has issued directions to further strengthen the food safety surveillance campaign across the state.

The primary objective is to ensure that the public has access to safe, pure, high-quality and unadulterated food products. Special emphasis is being placed on ensuring the quality and safety of food items, particularly in view of the increased consumption of sweets, milk and dairy products during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, he said.

He stated that, under this special campaign, letters have been sent to all Deputy Commissioners in Haryana, asking them to constitute district-level special food surveillance teams under the supervision of the district administration, in coordination with the concerned Designated Officers (Food Safety) and Food Safety Officers.

These teams will conduct inspections and collect surveillance samples from major markets, sweet shops, dairies, milk vendors and other food business establishments to identify substandard, adulterated and unsafe food products.

The district-level special surveillance teams have been assigned a target of collecting 100-150 additional food surveillance samples per district, separate from the samples routinely collected by Food Safety Officers.

Can't disclose details of PM's foreign visits on IAF plane: HC

Hans News Service
New Delhi

The High Court further opined that the CIC erred in directing disclosure of the Special Foreign Returns (SFR) - II relating to the prime minister's foreign visits after redacting the names and identifying particulars of security personnel

THE Delhi High Court has set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) order directing disclosure of information under RTI related to foreign visits of the prime minister on Indian Air Force aircraft, considering the potential implications for national security and the life and physical safety of the prime minister. The High Court said no sufficient larger public interest has been demonstrated by the RTI applicant to warrant disclosure of these particulars.

"The mere fact that public funds have been expended on the foreign visits of the prime minister does not, by itself, justify disclosure of information which may compromise the security arrangements put in place for such visits," Justice Amit Mahajan said in an order passed on October 15. "In the absence of any demonstrated larger public interest that outweighs these concerns, disclosure of the information sought cannot be directed," the order said. The High Court further opined that the CIC erred in directing disclosure of the Special Foreign Returns (SFR) - II relating to the prime minister's foreign visits after redaction of the names and identifying particulars of security personnel.

"The petitioner (Directorate of Personal Services, Air Headquarters, India Air Force) was justified in invoking the exemptions under Sections 8(1)(a) and 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act to deny disclosure of the aforesaid information, in view of the potential implications for national security and the life and physical safety of the prime minister, as specifically pointed out by the petitioner," it said while allowing the Air Force's petition challenging the CIC order. SFR contains sensitive information regarding the Prime Minister of India, including details of the aircraft, aircrew, passengers and accompanying entourage. The court was hearing a plea filed by the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), Directorate of Personal Services, Air Headquarters, Indian Air Force, challenging a July 2020 order of the CIC directing it to provide certified copies of available and relevant SFR-II records.

HC to hear Neha Bora's plea against 'peace' bond today

Bora, who has been at the forefront of protests against the alleged irregularities in the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has sought quashing of the notice and directions to the police not to take any coercive action against her.

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court Wednesday said it will hear on October 22 All India Students' Association (AISA) President Neha Bora's plea against a Delhi Police notice asking her to execute a "peace" bond before a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM).

Bora, who has been at the forefront of protests against the alleged irregularities in the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has sought quashing of the notice and directions to the police not to take any coercive action against her.

Justice Subramonium Prasad deferred hearing on the plea at the request of Bora's counsel. The case was listed after the student leader sought an urgent hearing in the high court, which is shut this week for Dussehra vacation.

The notice, issued on October 17 under Section 126 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), asked the student leader to appear before the SEM on October 19 and show cause why she should not execute a personal bond of Rs 10,000 with one surety "for keeping peace for a period of enquiry." Section 126 empowers the SEM to enforce such bond signing if there is credible information that a person is likely to breach peace, disturb public tranquillity, or commit a wrongful act that may cause disturbance. Bora was taken into preventive detention on October 16 when she was on her way to join the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)'s 'Lehra Do Tiranga' march. She was released on October 17.

In her petition, settled by lawyer Abhik Chimni, Bora said that the police notice is vague, factually incorrect, and contains no material or information to substantiate the "likelihood" of breach of peace. It does not disclose a "period, occasion or event in relation to which breach is apprehended", the plea argued, and asserted that the proceedings are a "colourable exercise of preventive powers to suppress peaceful dissent, in violation of Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b) and 21 of the Constitution."

Dasara stage has never been used for politics: Jagga Reddy

- **I never speak politics or ask for votes during Dasara celebrations: Senior Cong leader**
- **'However, I will share what is in my heart with the people'**
- **'It is people of Sangareddy who raised me from the level of a councillor to where I am today'**
- **Jagga Reddy makes interesting remarks at Dasara celebrations in Sangareddy**

Hans News Service
Sangareddy

TELANGANA PCC working president T Jagga Reddy has advised his constituents 'if your family members have high BP or diabetes, make sure they take their medication daily and stay protected; before praying to God each day, ensure that these patients take the prescribed medicines'.

Reddy appealed to the public during Dasara celebrations that special attention should be given to the health of people suffering from BP and diabetes to safeguard their well-being. If parents at home are suffering from these conditions, family members must ensure that they take their medication regularly. He said that sons, daughters, and daughters-in-law have a responsibility to take care of their parents' health in old age.

Reddy, along with his family members, participated in the celebrations organised under his leadership at Ambedkar Stadium. He spoke emotionally about family values, the health of elders, and his long-standing bond with the people of Sangareddy.

The Dasara festivities were celebrated on a grand scale. The annual event, organised by Reddy, witnessed a magnificent turnout. Celebrations began with a special bhajan at the Ram Mandir. Reddy joined members of the Ram Mandir Bhajan Mandali and devotees.

Later, following tradition, a procession carrying the sacred "Shami" ritual offering moved from Ram Mandir to Ambedkar Stadium where extensive arrangements were made for the celebrations. Under the guidance of Maheshwara Sharma Siddhanti, Reddy and his family performed the traditional Jammi Puja.

The Ravana Dahanam emerged as a major attraction. Thousands watched the spectacle with enthusiasm. Fireworks illuminated the night sky, while an impressive drone show captivated the audience. A musical concert by renowned playback singers further enthralled the gathering.

Reddy recalled his political journey and association with Sangareddy. "Many people think I have a lot of money. Whatever money I earn, I spend every year on organising festivals for the people of Sangareddy. Forty years ago, when I was young, I participated in Dasara celebrations on this very ground along with my friends. From then until now, my bond with Sangareddy has remained strong. It is the people of Sangareddy who elevated me from the position of a councillor to where I am today," he said.

He went on to say that he had never used the Dasara platform for political purposes. "I have never spoken politics or sought votes from this stage. However, I always share what is in my heart with the people," he remarked.

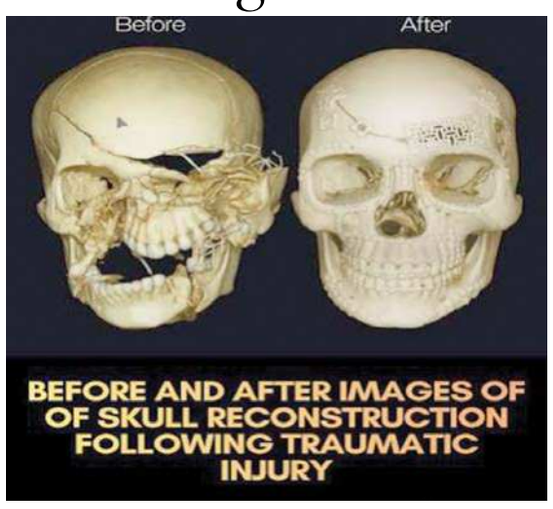
Reddy said, "my family is not limited to my wife and children. I consider all the people of Sangareddy as members of my family. That is why I celebrate festivals with everyone every year."

He stressed that children should pay greater attention to their parents' health as they grow older. Particularly in cases of hypertension and diabetes, elders must be encouraged to follow doctors' advice and take medicines regularly. He warned that spending crores of rupees after serious complications arise would be of little use if preventive care is neglected.

Reddy conveyed that festivals are not merely about entertainment and celebrations but also about strengthening family bonds, affection and togetherness.

Hospital reconstructs accident victim's skull using his bone

Hans News Service
New Delhi



A 27-year-old man who suffered severe brain injuries in a road accident underwent emergency surgery at a Delhi hospital, where doctors removed blood clots, relieved pressure on his brain and later reconstructed his skull using a portion of bone removed during the initial procedure. The patient was brought to Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, with multiple intracranial bleeds, extensive brain swelling and a skull fracture. He had also sustained injuries to his ribs and shoulder, the hospital said in a statement.

The neurosurgery team, led by Dr Anurag Saxena, performed surgery to remove blood clots from both sides of the brain and temporarily removed a portion of the skull to accommodate the swelling and prevent further damage. Following intensive care and a prolonged recovery, the patient underwent a second procedure in which the removed bone flap was placed back to reconstruct the skull and restore its protective covering.

The patient showed steady improvement and was discharged in a stable condition, the hospital said. Explaining the procedure, Saxena said severe brain swelling can cause pressure to build up inside the skull, threatening the brain's blood supply and vital functions. The temporary removal of a portion of the skull gives the swollen brain room to expand, while the same bone can be used for reconstruction once the patient's condition improves, he said.

Mock drill conducted at Samba railway station

Hans News Service
Jammu

A mock drill exercise was successfully conducted at Bari Brahmana Railway station in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Wednesday to assess the preparedness of security forces and emergency response agencies in tackling potential security threats and responding to emergency situations, officials said.

The over half-an-hour-long exercise commenced at 10.15 am, covering the Railway Quarters and Railway Station in Bari Brahmana, the officials said.

They said multiple security and emergency response agencies participated in the drill, including the Special Operations Group of local police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), the Dog Squad, SDRF, Railway Protection Force, and personnel from Government

Man accused of deceiving woman into sexual relationship gets bail

Hans News Service
New Delhi

A Delhi court has granted bail to a married man accused of deceiving a woman into having sexual intercourse with him on a false promise of marriage, saying that he had joined the investigation before his arrest and that the investigating officer could not point out any need for his custodial interrogation.

Additional Sessions Judge Rajinder Kumar was hearing a plea filed by the man who was arrested on September 16 in a case registered under BNS Section 69 at Kirti Nagar police station. The accused had claimed that their relationship was consensual.

Section 69 deals with sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means, including a false promise of marriage made without the intention of fulfilling it. In an order dated October 16, the court said, "The applicant has joined the investigation in this case prior to his arrest. Nothing is to be recovered from/at the instance of the accusedâ€¦. The IO has failed to point out any ground for which custodial interrogation of the applicant is required."

The court directed the man to furnish a personal bond of Rs 25,000 with one surety of the same amount. Opposing the bail plea, the prosecution and the complainant's counsel argued that the allegations were serious and the investigation was underway.

Mathura Road, ORR among 'most' dangerous GT road stretches

Other accident-prone locations along the Grand Trunk Road include Mukarba Chowk, Libas Pur bus stand and Singhu Border, each of which recorded seven fatal crashes

Saumya Shukla
New Delhi

DELHIITES, beware! Some of the capital's busiest roads, including Mathura Road, Outer Ring Road and Grand Trunk Road, are also among those recording the highest number of fatal accidents, with a Delhi Traffic Police assessment identifying 153 accident-prone locations across the city.

The Outer Ring Road, Ring Road and Grand Trunk Road figure among the 10 roads with the highest number of fatal accidents. The other stretches on the list are Urban Extension Road-II, Rohtak Road, Wazirabad Road, Najafgarh Road, NH-24, Mathura Road and NH-8. Swaroop Nagar on the Grand Trunk Road recorded 13 fatal crashes in 2025, the highest among the identified black spots, according to data shared by the traffic police.

Other accident-prone locations along the Grand Trunk Road include Mukarba Chowk, Libas Pur bus stand and Singhu Border, each of which recorded seven fatal crashes. On the Outer Ring Road, Bhalswa Chowk and Haiderpur Metro Station recorded seven fatal crashes each. On the Ring Road, ISBT Kashmere Gate reported eight fatal crashes, while Azadpur Chowk recorded six.

On the Mathura Road, Modi Mill flyover and Tughlaqabad Road Metro Station recorded four fatal crashes each.

The assessment provides a location-wise picture of accident-prone areas across the capital, covering major road junctions, flyovers, bus terminals, stretches near metro stations and other busy corridors.

The list is shared with the concerned government departments and road-owning agencies to help them undertake remedial and corrective measures. Several other locations also figure in the list, including the ITO/IP Flyover, Anand Vihar ISBT, Prem Bari Pull, SGT Nagar, Hanuman Mandir, Barapullah Flyover, VIP College in Pitampura, AIIMS, Punjabi Bagh Chowk, Jahangirpuri EE Block and the stretch near Nizamuddin-Yamuna Bridge.

These locations include major traffic intersections and transport hubs that witness heavy vehicular movement, highlighting the challenge of improving road safety across the city. The traffic police assessment also identifies roads reporting the highest number of pedestrian fatalities between January 1 and September 30, 2026, with 492 pedestrian deaths recorded across the city during the period.

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Bhagwat's Dasara message highlights Hindu undivided family

AHEAD of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual Dasara speech on Tuesday morning, there were speculations among anti-government commentators and analysts that there would be hints of a rift within the saffron brotherhood. The invitation to former vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar and the proprietor-editor of a prominent eight-leaning newspaper, whose ties with the government have recently reportedly been strained, kept the rumour mill churning. Dhankhar's unceremonious removal last year—though it was technically a resignation on health grounds—resulted in his complete marginalisation in the Sangh ecosystem. The newspaper has been publishing donation theft news in Ayodhya very prominently, which was seen as an attempt to annoy the Narendra Modi regime. The speculation, however, seems to be the result of wishful thinking rather than information and intelligence. At least, Bhagwat has not said anything that can be called critical of the government. In fact, he has come to the rescue of the powers that be by trying to link the ongoing violent protests in France and other European countries, and the earlier ones in Bangladesh and Nepal, with the agitation in India, thus validating the government's narrative that the movement against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is politically motivated. "A storm has blown in the west. Look at what transpired in France, Bangladesh and Nepal. Regime change will not happen in India. Such attempts continue in India as well. India has moved forward with steadfast resolve, and the collective vitality (purushartha) of its society has grown," he said. This must be music to the government's ears. "Problems arise and movements take shape; however, these should be directed toward finding solutions. The primary objective must be a resolution. Our actions should not sow animosity, and the boundaries of propriety (maryada) must be respected," he said. RSS functionaries are known not to name persons or groups; in this case, the use of the term maryada must be seen as a rebuke to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). During its successful agitation against the then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan in July, many activists used foul language (amaryadit bhasha, in RSS lingo). Whatever the RSS may be thinking, it doesn't look like regime change. The organisation may have its differences with the government, and its leaders may occasionally be displeased with the way the BJP functions, but such discontent should not be mistaken for a desire to dislodge the regime. The RSS has invested decades in building the political and ideological ecosystem of which the BJP is the principal beneficiary. Besides, Sangh functionaries, their friends and families have also benefited hugely. To expect that it would now seek to destabilise this symbiotic relationship will be unrealistic. The Sangh may want the government to be more attentive to the concerns of Gen Z and even the demands of CJP, but it is unlikely to jeopardise saffron hegemony because of such issues. Indeed, the RSS has little to gain from destabilising a government led by a party that has brought its ideological project closer to the centre of national politics than ever before. Any serious confrontation would risk weakening not merely the BJP but the larger Sangh Parivar, while potentially creating political opportunities for its ideological adversaries. The RSS's preference has traditionally been to settle differences through organisational channels rather than advertise them in public domain.

The agony and ecstasy in the high-stakes journalism career

TALKING OF MANY THINGS

DR MOHAN KANDA

TODAY'S world offers young and qualified people many opportunities for rewarding and productive careers. From medicine or engineering, through law, accountancy, and the civil services or journalism to politics, there are innumerable choices.

Counting out politics, which has been described as the 'last resort of scoundrels' by Dr Samuel Johnson, journalism as a career offers an exhilarating mix of frontline storytelling and profound social impact; paired, however, with severe physical, digital, and psychological risks. Since it is all about uncovering the truth, bringing hidden stories about systemic corruption and unheard voices out into the open, and into the public eye: catalysing societal change, holding power accountable, and giving a platform to the resilient or marginalized. Journalism, thus, offers deep personal fulfilment and excitement through storytelling. The life of a journalist is heady and dynamic and is characterised by an ever-changing daily environment where no two days are identical.

Among the pleasurable things the profession offers is the joy of sharing an unspoken bond and deep solidarity with fellow reporters navigating high-pressure deadlines across the globe.

The flip side, however, can hardly be ignored, as the occupation also comes with low starting pay and intense deadline stress. And those are just trivial concerns. Because exposure to hazards such as possible physical danger and, on occasion, even violence, especially in conflict zones, unstable environments, or targeted crackdowns, is not uncommon. Industry instability often poses issues. And, what with one having to navigate dwindling legacy newsroom budgets, deal with the relentless pressures of a 24x7 algorithmic news cycle, and handle rampant disinformation, especially in the form of fake news, a false, misleading, or fabricated information that is presented to look like a legitimate news report, it can be a severely trying job. Dealing with the chronic stress of tight deadlines, the vicarious trauma that invariably follows the covering of tragedies, and institutional or legal harassment can take their own severe toll on one's psychological reserves.

Meanwhile, despite growing numbers, women journalists often encounter deep-seated patriarchal structures, unequal assignments, a lack of representation in leadership, and the added pressure of balancing demanding news cycles with family expectations. They must balance the demands of reporting with the risks of working on the ground.

A well-known woman reporter says that, when she decided to pursue journalism, leaving behind what was considered a dream job for an engineering graduate, her mother worried that the profession was not safe for a woman. Even years later, the fear had not changed.

The flip side, however, can hardly be ignored, as the occupation also comes with low starting pay and intense deadline stress. And those are just trivial concerns. Because exposure to hazards such as possible physical danger and, on occasion, even violence, especially in conflict zones, unstable environments, or targeted crackdowns, is not uncommon. Industry instability often poses issues.

The mother still had only one question for her daughter after every assignment, "Did you get home safely"?

Studies have shown that a high percentage of female reporters face multiple forms of attacks, leading many to consider leaving the profession. For instance, when reporting from conflict zones, protests, or restrictive regions, such as under Taliban ruled Afghanistan or during volatile local protests, female reporters face heightened risks of assault, detention, and targeted violence.

Other issues they face include marginalization and undervaluation: Non-privileged or rural reporters often lack institutional backing to combat systemic harassment, while others face professional scepticism that forces them to constantly over-prove their competence

To mark this year's International Women's Day celebrations, a seminar themed 'Women in the Media: Pages from the Past', was held in Karachi.

An effective and legally valid informal tool for exposing public corruption, known popularly as a 'sting' operation first appeared on the scene of investigative journalism in 2001.

By conducting 'Operation West End', which is widely regarded as India's first major high-profile sting, journalists from 'Tehelka' posed as arms dealers to expose widespread corruption in defence deals, forcing the resignation of the then-BJP president Bangaru Laxman and several military officials.

In my own experience, I had the privilege and honour of interacting with at least two eminent journalists. One was Anees Jung an Indian author, journalist and columnist, whose most known work, 'Unveiling India' was a chronicle of the lives of women in India, noted especially for the depiction of Muslim women behind the purdah. The other was Olga Tellis, a veteran Indian journalist and social activist best known for leading the landmark constitutional case, whose verdict remains one of the most significant judgments in Indian legal history. After authorities threatened to forcibly evict pavement and slum dwellers in Bombay, Tellis and the affected residents filed a writ petition while disposing of which the Supreme Court ruled that the Right to Livelihood is an essential part of the Right to Life guaranteed by the Constitution. I still cherish the memory of her interviewing me while I was assisting the District Collector of Guntur district in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the aftermath of the cyclone and tidal wave that ravaged the East Coast of the state in 1977. While in service, I experienced the power and inference of the media on many occasions. One was when I was serving as Collector of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh. A newspaper report spurred me into action which, while taken in good faith, created livelihoods for young unemployed people. It also, unfortunately, led to my being transferred as vested interests close to powerful political leaders were hurt by it.

It is time the high and the mighty pause, sit back and reflect upon the damage that can be caused to the fabric of good governance on account of their intolerant attitude towards the media. Like in every other profession, journalism also requires the ability to master the art of extracting information, real value incoming noise. A somewhat similar perception exists about the legal profession. There is a story about a young lawyer who began his career in the office of a senior colleague. The senior warned the new entrant that it would be tough to make both ends meet to begin with, the hours would be long, the clients and the judges sometimes uncooperative and even cantankerous and that even contemplating married life would be a thing of the distant future. Not to be put off, the youngster, with a brave smile, asked, "what next sir?". Oh, by then you will get used to it!" was the reply!

For the usual lighthearted end to my columns, here is a story used earlier, but highly relevant in the context of the present discussion.

An Italian Bishop was travelling to the United States as part of his missionary work. On the eve of his departure, he sought an audience with the Pope for a briefing on the proposed visit. His Holiness advised the bishop to be extremely cautious while dealing with the American media personnel, who were known to be aggressively intrusive and eager to sensationalise matters.

Upon arrival at LaGuardia airport, the bishop was besieged by media persons. Out of the blue a cub reporter asked him,

"Hey, Bishop! Will you be visiting any night clubs in New York?"

Somewhat startled by the unexpected and loaded question but remembering the Pope's counsel, his reply was quite guarded. Innocently he asked, "Are there any night clubs in New York?"

Any relief the bishop felt at avoiding potential embarrassment lasted only till the next morning when he read, with shock and alarm, the headlines that screamed at him in a local newspaper.

"Are there any night clubs in New York"? First question the Italian Bishop asks on arrival!"

Duly chastised by that experience, he started his sermon to a congregation in Boston that afternoon, first seeking to know whether any gentlemen of the press were around. A few hands went up. The bishop fervently pleaded with the reporters not to publish the contents of his address as that would make his messages stale even while he had to speak at several places across the country over the next few weeks. Confident, thereafter, that no further danger lurked ahead, he proceeded to deliver his speech.

And the headlines the next day were, "Italian Bishop tells many stories. All unprintable!"

They are really something else, the Paparazzi! Clearly there is no gaining the upper hand over them!

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

A strategy for nation building that should change the global order of consumption

DR KARNATI KIRAN KUMAR

THE global order of consumption has been changing over the years. New innovations have made some countries economically and politically strong besides changing the consumption patterns of developing and underdeveloped countries.

The wars of the 19th century to recent global conflicts have been intended to control resources and secure their procurement for technological or machine-made products, which are prominent in the process of economic development. Over the centuries, many countries were colonised. In the 18th and 19th centuries, western countries, such as Britain and Portuguese, among others, invaded and conquered various countries. As a result, crapping patterns and consumption habits in colonized countries changed in contrast to their traditional consumption patterns. Changes in people's consumption patterns led to occupational destruction and a sudden surge of unemployment in colonized countries. India was one of the colonized countries that was exploited immensely over the century.

A dominant strategy needed: The growth and development of the nation depend on the dominant perspective of the policymakers. Policymakers should opt for a policy suitable for the nation's progress, rather than simply adopting and imposing other nations' policies and ideologies. Sometimes, the origin of policymakers is a matter of concern. A policymaker from a rural area can understand rural issues and find solutions to resolve the issue Furthermore, those from urban backgrounds can develop effective policies for urban development. Historically, we failed to understand this logic, tried to imbibe another ideology, and failed to implement it. As a result, it has led to the failure of many public welfare programs and caused the persistence of structural unemployment and poverty.

Break the misconceptions:

The thought process in the country should change from importing goods and services to exporting them, so the world should depend on Indian goods and services. The country's innovations should be adopted by other countries rather than confined to the nation's use. India's path-breaking innovations, such as EVM voting machines, came into existence in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process in the largest democracy. Before 2004, the election process was chaotic, with the pouring of ink in the ballot boxes, firing, stealing of them, crimes and physical attacks on officers. Since 2004, the electoral process in the country has undergone drastic changes, resulting in the election being conducted smoothly using indigenous technology. We failed to supply those innovations for introduction in other countries to ensure the smooth conduct of elections. Rather, our politicians are creating misconceptions about EVMs even after they have won elections. Moreover, the UPI digital payment system is another path-breaking innovation that we can use widely within the country, and the central government has also succeeded in introducing it in some countries to enable seamless transactions and benefit our fintech sector. By comparison, we failed to spread it across the world as other developed countries do with their Innovations.

In the world of competition and technological advancements, India happily adopted ATMs, credit cards, debit cards, digital technologies, and social media platforms from other countries without any misconceptions about their use. When it comes to Indian technological innovations, some political leaders create and endorse chaos without fact checking.

Getting into the details:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian companies developed vaccines such as Covishield (Serum Institute of India), Covaxin (Bharat Biotech), and Corbevax (a heter-

ologous booster option) to protect people and prevent the spread of the virus. But again, misconceptions spread and caused many deaths during the second wave. The misconception is whether it is an Indian organ or of foreign origin; it should be cross-checked with the government, and a comment should be made on it. But some people always start a game to make the situation worse and want to make themselves better off at the expense of others. There are many other innovations in the country. We failed to make it a global product rather we confined ourselves to India, and some lost existence.

Lack of vision:

The nation's politics should not come at the expense of the country's growth and development. At the micro level, our politicians are more interested in getting into power and acquiring assets for themselves. At the same time, at the macro level, it lacks responsibility for national growth and development. If one political party says a developed economy can be achieved by following one growth model, and the other political party says the nation should adopt a strategy for growth and development by following another development model. However, it should not undermine the economy's performance on either side. As competition between political parties exists, so too does competition among countries for control and command of markets and resources. Political parties and politicians need to craft their manifestos with national interest in mind rather than seeking power for its own sake. On the other hand, business tycoons in developed countries seek to expand their markets by dominating and controlling politics in developing and underdeveloped countries. Individuals or political parties (ruling and opposition) should not be their mouthpiece at the expense of domestic business and common people's lives.

Time for introspection:

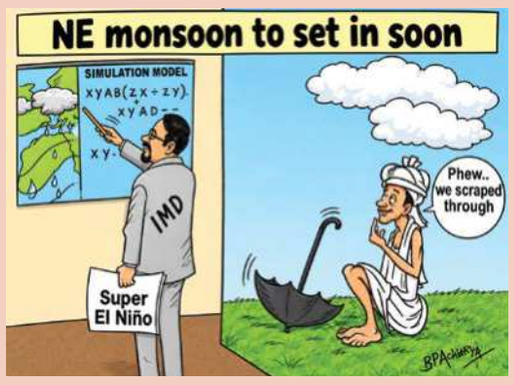
Regime change and deep states are underway in south Asia. In recent times, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal saw a surge in youth protests that created chaos and badly affected their economies. The disruption of a peaceful environment and political unrest will create negative economic consequences, such as low FDI and Investment, unemployment, inflation, and low purchasing power, ultimately leading to poverty. As witnessed in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Bangladesh is the best example for understanding the impact of the political unrest on the economy. As per reports, the Bangladesh economy was about to get middle income status, but it has fallen to lower income status due to the political unrest in the country. Prior to that infrastructure building, the ready-made garment industry drove strong and consistent growth, averaging six to seven per cent, annually. According to a recent RBI report, "South Asia economic update" revealed that Bangladesh's overall GDP increased by an estimated 3.4 percent in FY2026–2027, which is the third year in a row that it has slowed down. Private investment shrank for the second year in a row as difficulties in the energy sector, banking sector weakness, tighter fiscal constraints, high production costs and subdued credit growth. The rate of inflation has continued to be higher than eight to 10 per cent. If anything is wrong in the system that can be corrected through the electoral process. No protest should disturb the smooth progress of economic progress.

India can become Viksit Bhaarat when Indian goods and services flood into the international markets with the absolute trade advantage. The business in the country should target the domestic and international markets. The Indian business community should collaborate with academia. That will bring new innovations to change the world order of consumption. At the same time, India must utilise own demographic dividend for nation-building.

(The writer is Assistant Professor (School of Economics), University of Hyderabad)

MEDLEY



LETTERS

A century of remarkable service

HAVING completed 100 years, the RSS stands at an important milestone in its journey. Its values of discipline, patriotism and selfless service, reflected in its work in education, disaster relief and community welfare, deserve appreciation. As it enters its second century, these contributions offer an opportunity to strengthen public trust further. Greater engagement with different communities, particularly minorities and disadvantaged sections, can broaden its social reach. Its efforts to promote national unity and preserve India's cultural heritage can become more meaningful through respect for diversity and constitutional values. Encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding will also help bridge social differences.

A Myilsami, Sulur (P O), Coimbatore–641402

India-US trade deal brings relief

THIS refers to "US close to finalising trade deal with India" (THI, Oct 21). The indication that the deal is "pretty close" comes as a timely relief. With the US being India's largest trading partner, any reduction in tariff uncertainty will help exporters, especially in textiles, pharma and IT, to plan better. It will also ease pressure on the rupee and support investor confidence. However, a quick deal should not mean a weak deal. India must ensure protection for sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy, and secure clarity on H-1B and data issues.

S D Tejaswani, Bengaluru

EC data exposes Cong hypocrisy

THIS refers to news that the Election Commission has found over 30,000 voters as "ineligible" for final inclusion in the electoral roll. This means, out of the 92.65 lakh, who were issued notices for being ineligible, around 30,407 are 'fit to be removed from the rolls', including voters having no mapping and logical discrepancies. This information by the ECI should help demolish the mischievous campaign against the S I R and 'vote chori' propaganda of the Congress, INDIA block and the CJP. One hopes the rant for the resignation of CEC and the itch for regime change would end for the Congress as there are no takers for their stupid allegations and vicious propaganda.

Sakunthala K R, Hyderabad

Nip political dissent in the bud

APROPOS, "France protest fire singes Europe". Protests are a democratic right, but violence, vandalism and intimidation cannot be justified in the name of political dissent. The unrest spreading across European countries should concern governments and citizens alike. Governments must distinguish peaceful protesters from those who exploit public grievances to promote disorder. At the same time, dismissing every protest as politically motivated would be equally unwise. Authorities should address legitimate concerns about education, employment and the cost of living through dialogue and transparent action. Firm, impartial law enforcement, coupled with responsive governance, is essential to prevent peaceful dissent from becoming organised violence.

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Police department not a servant: Kharge asks RSS to seek permission

BENGALURU: KARNATAKA Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), questioning whether the Police Department was subservient to the organisation.

Reacting to a letter submitted by the RSS informing the police about its proposed march, Kharge said the organisation had provided information rather than formally seeking permission for the event. "The letter says that they are informing the police, not seeking permission. Let them seek permission. Is the Police Department their domestic servant?" he asked.Kharge also questioned RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statements on changing the existing governments and politics, asking who had authorised him to speak about a change of regime and political matters.

"What regime change are they talking about? How can regime change happen? The Chief Election Commissioner is theirs, the EVMs are theirs, and the voter list is theirs. Can these be changed? Form 6 is theirs, and Form 7 is theirs. There is still no answer to the question: Why does the Chief Election Commissioner have judicial immunity?" he said, referring to Forms 6 and 7 associated with electoral rolls.

"There is a conspiracy to ensure that they remain in power permanently. This has already been exposed. Isn't the fact that people are taking to the streets today evidence of this?" he said.

He suggested that this was the reason some people were behaving with such confidence.Keeping up his attack on the organisation, he said: "Which evil force are we talking about? Who is the one developing links with Pakistan?"

He also called for an examination of the organisation's history and questioned what protests it had undertaken in the past.Kharge further said that protests taking place in foreign countries should not be compared with those in India, as the issues involved were different.

Read more at https://epaper.thehansindia.com

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Parishad nominations begin amid widespread violence

- Obstruction, attacks and destruction of nomination papers; 39 ZPTC seats in YSR Kadapa district see no nominations
- Clashes reported in Palnadu, Punganur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kakinada, Nellore and other districts; police impose restrictions and detain leaders
- SEC seeks reports on urban polls as Supreme Court stays final nomination lists for 19 ULBs

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

THE first day of nominations for the second phase of local body elections in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday was marked by widespread clashes, allegations of intimidation, destruction of nomination papers and police restrictions across several districts. The violence, reported from Rayalaseema to coastal Andhra, disrupted the nomination process in multiple constituencies, with the YSRCP alleging that its candidates were being prevented from filing their papers.

TDP activists reportedly obstructing YSRCP leader and former Dy CM K Narayana Swamy's car in Chittoor on Wednesday

The elections cover 10,488 positions, including more than 9,900 Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) seats, Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats, 659 mandal parishad president posts and zilla parishad chairperson positions. These are the first elections following the reorganisation into 28 zilla parishads. MPTC and ZPTC elections are being contested on party symbols, with webcasting introduced as part of the Election Commission's directions. Nominations will continue until October 23.

The situation was particularly tense in Palnadu district. Former YSRCP MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy staged a protest at Macherla, alleging that candidates were being prevented from filing nominations and that papers had been torn up. Several former YSRCP MLAs, including Kasu Mahesh Reddy, Vidadala Rajini and Pindilli Ramakrishna Reddy, were reportedly placed under house arrest.

In Rompicherla, former MLA Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy clashed verbally with police while attempting to accompany YSRCP candidates to the nomination centre.

He staged a road protest for nearly three hours, demanding that his party's candidates be allowed to file nominations.

DSP Hanumantha Rao subsequently assured him that they could file their papers the following day under police protection. In Piduguralla, YSRCP ZPTC candidate Bharati and her husband Lakshma Reddy were allegedly attacked by unidentified persons, leaving Lakshma Reddy seriously injured. Punganur in Annamayya district witnessed some of the most serious violence. TDP and YSRCP supporters exchanged stones and blows near nomination centres, prompting police to resort to a lathicharge. A vehicle belonging to TDP leader Pavan Kumar Reddy was set on fire, while Mohan of Gopi Shetti Palle sustained critical injuries and was shifted to Madanapalle government hospital. Clashes were also reported in Sadum, where a vehicle was set ablaze.

YSR Kadapa district witnessed intense confrontations. YSRCP MP Y S Avinash Reddy and party leader Ravindranath Reddy were intercepted while arriving in a rally at the Zilla Parishad office. Stones were allegedly thrown at the group, triggering retaliation before police brought the situation under control.

Avinash Reddy staged a road protest for around six hours, while YSRCP candidates reportedly faced restrictions and could not reach nomination centres. The party claimed that not a single nomination was filed for any of the district's 39 ZPTC seats on the first day. An unidentified group also allegedly set a lorry on fire in Pulivendula.

In Kakinada district's Thondangi mandal, a confrontation involving former minister Dadisetti Raja and YSRCP candidates escalated into stone-pelting. The YSRCP alleged that its candidate Ganga Bhavani's nomination papers were snatched and torn up and that two supporters were injured.

Clashes were also reported in Railway Kodur, Srikalahasti, Pullalacheruvu, Singarayakonda, Raptadu, Chandragiri, Mantralayam, Gudur and Sullurpeta. CPM leaders in Kurnool alleged that TDP supporters obstructed their nomination for the Ulchala Mandal Parishad president's post and tore up documents.

In Chittoor, former deputy CM Narayana Swamy was allegedly attacked during nomination by party candidates at ZP office.

Meanwhile, the scrutiny of urban local body nominations concluded on Wednesday. The YSRCP approached the Supreme Court, which stayed the announcement of final nomination lists for 19 ULBs. The State Election Commission sought reports from district collectors and SPs and said it would examine the reports and webcasting footage before deciding on the matter. The SEC also held a video conference with collectors, police chiefs and commissioners, directing them to address law-and-order problems promptly.

Control prices of essential commodities, CM tells officials

Calls for faster implementation of PM Surya Ghar scheme, uninterrupted power supply

Hans News Service
Amaravati

CHIEF Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to take effective measures to control the prices of essential commodities and ensure that the impact of El Niño-related conditions does not burden consumers across the country.

During a review meeting on the performance of various government departments through the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) on Wednesday, the Chief Minister stressed the need for close monitoring of the prices of rice, red gram, onions, cooking oil and sugar to prevent unreasonable increases.

Reviewing the sale of rice through Rythu Bazaars, Chandrababu Naidu enquired about the public response to the government's initiative. Officials informed him that the programme had received a good response, with encouraging sales.

The Chief Minister directed officials to explore the possibility of making fine-quality rice available at affordable prices through Rythu Bazaars during festivals such as Deepavali and Sankranti. He also instructed them to increase onion supplies to ensure that common people do not face any difficulties.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviews performence various departments at RTGS at the Secretariat on Wednesday

Emphasising the importance of uninterrupted electricity supply, he directed the officials concerned to take stringent measures to prevent disruptions under all circumstances.

The Chief Minister called for accelerating the installation of rooftop solar panels under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. Observing that Andhra Pradesh was currently ranked fourth nationally in implementation, he said efforts should be intensified to improve the State's position.

He pointed out that another nine lakh connections needed to be installed to achieve the target and instructed officials to prepare and implement an action plan to complete the installations as quickly as possible.

Chandrababu Naidu also directed officials to ensure smooth sand supplies without disruptions. He stressed the need to make full use of technology in governance, identify administrative shortcomings and rectify them immediately.

The Chief Minister called for better coordination among various government departments to improve service delivery and ensure the effective implementation of government programmes.

Chief secretary G Sai Prasad and senior officials from various departments attended the review meeting.

Martyrs' sacrifices inspire police to serve with dedication: SP

Hans News Service
Warangal

THE sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives to protect people and property would remain evergreen, Mahabubabad Superintendent of Police Dr Shabarish said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Police Commemoration Day programme held at the Martyrs' Memorial at the district police office, he and District Collector Sneha Shabarish paid floral tributes to the fallen personnel. Dr Shabarish recalled the sacrifice of 10 policemen killed at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959, while performing national security duties. He said the police played a vital role in maintaining peace, law and order, internal security and crime control. He said 154 police personnel across the country, including four from Telangana, had died in the line of duty between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026. The SP urged personnel to serve with dedication and discipline. Programmes would be held until October 31 to strengthen police-public relations and mutual trust.

NAVARATRI BRAHMOTSAVAMS

TTD distributes 22.60 lakh Anna Prasadam packets

Chairman B R Naidu says a total of 6.46 lakh devotees had Srivari darshan from October 12 to 19

Pradeep Vennelakanti
& Dusi Venkateswara Rao
Tirumala

TTD distributed 22.60 lakh Anna Prasadam packets and sold 34.34 lakh laddus during the Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams, which concluded successfully with sacred Chakrasnanam at Tirumala on Tuesday.

Addressing the media along with Executive Officer M Ravichandra and other officials at Annamayya Bhavan TTD chairman B R Naidu said, the mega event was conducted smoothly through the coordinated efforts of various departments. Devotees from across the world witnessed the Moola Virat and Vahana Sevas comfortably. Despite continuous heavy rain on Garuda Seva day, devotees participated in the sacred event with devotion, while officials and staff performed their duties wearing raincoats.

TTD chairman B R Naidu along with EO M Ravichandra and additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary speaking to the media in Tirumala on Tuesday

According to TTD, 6.46 lakh devotees had Srivari darshan between October 12 and 19, while hundi offerings amounted to Rs 25.79 crore. Around 2.44 lakh devotees offered tonsure during the period. The APSRTC operated 13,608 trips from Tirupati to Tirumala, carrying 4.01 lakh devotees, and 13,667 return trips, transporting five lakh devotees. TTD's transport wing deployed 39 electric buses and carried around seven lakh devotees in 6,900 trips over the ten-day period.

Naidu said the arrangements made for Garuda Seva received positive feedback from pilgrims. About 6,777 artistes from 252 troupes representing 26 states, along with Qatar and Dubai, presented cultural programmes before the Vahana Sevas. On Garuda Seva day, 863 artistes from 31 troupes representing 17 states performed. The TTD EO felicitated four outstanding cultural troupes every day.

He added that floral decorations in Tirumala used around 60 tonnes of flowers, five lakh cut flowers and 80,000 seasonal flowers. Electric illuminations in Tirumala and Tirupati attracted devotees, while 36 large digital screens helped pilgrims watch the Vahana Sevas. SVBC telecast the celebrations worldwide in enhanced quality, with commentary by eminent scholars.

Around 4,500 Srivari Seva volunteers rendered services during the nine-day festival. Medical arrangements included 75 doctors, 10 Srivari Arogya Seva doctors, 60 paramedical staff, 20 ambulances and four mobile clinics. Security was provided by 2,800 police personnel and 2,000 vigilance staff, with an additional 1,000 police personnel deployed on Garuda Seva day.

The chairman said TTD implemented safety measures for elephants, cows, horses and bulls participating in the Vahana Sevas. Devotees were prohibited from directly seeking blessings from elephants to ensure the safety of both pilgrims and animals.

Naidu said that around 600 TTD employees from various departments in Tirupati rendered special services during Garuda Seva. Sectoral and in-charge officers monitored pilgrim facilities round the clock. Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, CVSO KV Murali Krishna and other officials were present at the media conference.

KMM DCCB expands credit reach; backs farmers, rural traders: CEO

PV Satyanarayana
Khammam

THE Khammam District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB) is strengthening its role as a key financial institution for rural development by expanding access to agricultural credit, supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, and offering competitive deposit schemes, while maintaining strong recovery performance and sound asset quality, says its Chief Executive Officer N Venkata Aditya.

In an exclusive interview with The Hans India, Aditya said the bank is committed to meeting the diverse financial needs of farmers, traders, entrepreneurs and rural households through a comprehensive portfolio of credit facilities and banking services.

With a network of 54 branches across the erstwhile Khammam district, the DCCB is seeking to reinforce the cooperative banking system, promote financial inclusion and stimulate sustainable economic activity at the grassroots level.

"Our primary objective is to support farmers, strengthen rural livelihoods and accelerate economic development through cooperative banking," he said.

Comprehensive credit support for farmers

Agriculture remains a major focus of the bank's lending operations. Under tripartite arrangements, eligible farmers cultivating oil palm can avail themselves of loans of up to Rs 5 lakh during the initial cultivation stage and up to Rs 38 lakh during the yield stage, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

The bank also extends loans against agricultural land to eligible borrowers, helping farmers mobilise funds for productive activities and other permitted financial requirements.

Aditya said the agricultural lending initiatives were intended to improve access to institutional finance and provide timely financial support to farmers at different stages of cultivation.

Boost to entrepreneurship and business expansion

Beyond agriculture, the DCCB is extending financial assistance to small traders and established businesses to promote entrepreneurship, facilitate commercial expansion and support employment generation.

Under its cooperative business loan schemes, eligible small traders can obtain loans of up to Rs 5 lakh, while larger businesses can access funding of up to Rs 2 crore under the business development scheme.

The bank also supports allied agricultural activities, including dairy farming, poultry, sheep rearing and fish farming. Eligible borrowers can avail themselves of loans for purchasing tractors and harvesters, enabling farmers to mechanise agricultural operations, improve productivity and strengthen their income-generating capacity.

Strong recovery, zero net NPA underscore financial discipline

Despite its extensive focus on rural lending and agricultural credit, the Khammam DCCB has maintained a strong recovery record, with gross non-performing assets (NPA) at just 0.95 per cent and net NPA at zero, Aditya said. He attributed the performance to the bank's operational procedures, loan monitoring and recovery mechanisms, which he said

were central to maintaining financial discipline and institutional credibility.

The low gross NPA level and zero net NPA, he said, reflected the bank's emphasis on responsible lending, effective credit management and the recovery of outstandAing loans. "Our strong recovery performance, with gross NPA at 0.95 per cent and net NPA at zero, exemplifies our operational discipline and is a key factor behind the credibility we have earned," he said.

Aditya said the bank would continue to balance its developmental role of extending credit to farmers and rural entrepreneurs with prudent lending practices and sound financial management.

Housing, vehicle and education loans

The DCCB has diversified its lending portfolio to address household and individual financial needs. Its offerings include housing loans, vehicle loans for two-wheelers and four-wheelers, and finance for eligible private and commercial vehicles.

The bank also provides loans against eligible properties and plots, besides education loans subject to prescribed conditions. Gold loans offer another avenue for customers to meet financial requirements by pledging eligible gold jewellery, with loan amounts and interest rates determined by the applicable lending terms.

The diversified portfolio is intended to serve customers across different income groups and economic activities, extending the bank's reach beyond agriculture and business finance.

Attractive deposit schemes to promote savings

Alongside its lending operations, the bank is seeking to mobilise savings through deposit products offering competitive advertised interest rates for specified tenures. The Dhanavarsham scheme offers an advertised interest rate of 7.55 per cent for a tenure of 1,000 days, while Kanakavarsham offers 7.45 per cent for 500 days. The Cooperative Savings Recurring Deposit scheme carries an advertised interest rate of 7.30 per cent.

Senior citizens are eligible for an additional 0.5 percentage point in interest, subject to the respective scheme rules and prevailing rates.

Aditya said the deposit schemes were designed to encourage disciplined savings while providing customers with competitive returns in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions.

Digital services to improve customer convenience

The bank is also providing digital and supplementary banking services, including National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), mobile banking and locker facilities at its branches.

These services are intended to make banking transactions more convenient and accessible, enabling customers to meet their financial requirements through formal banking channels.

Aditya urged farmers, entrepreneurs, traders and members of the public to make use of the bank's credit facilities, deposit products and other services according to their financial needs and eligibility.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS (NIQ)

The Sr. DCM/FS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites quotations for Provision of Supply, Installation, Maintenance and Scanning through 04 Parcel Scanner Machines (supplied by the contractor) for scanning of outward parcels i.e. "leased and Railway booked".

Duration of contract:	With effect from 00:00 hours on 07.11.2026 upto 3 months.
For more details and information kindly visit Northern Railway's website: **www.nr.indianrailway.gov.in** or **contact 9717631962**	
Last date for submission of NIQ is	upto 12:00 Hrs on **28.10.2026**

No.C9-Parcel-Quotation-Parcel Scanner ANVT-2026 Date: 21.10.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3664/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work

1.	**Name of work with its location**	Reconditioning of Switches/Tongue Rails, SEJ's over Delhi Division under DEN/Track/DLI. (NIT-17-26-27-WC)
2.	**Approx. Cost of work**	(1) Rs. 1,87,19,390.00 /
3.	**Earnest Money**	(1) Rs. 3,74,400.00 /-
4.	**Date and Starting time for filling e-tender & tender opening time**	Starting time for filling e-tender is Date- **30/10/2026** at 15:00 hrs. & Tender opening time is **Date- 13/11/2026** at 15:00 hrs.
5.	**Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded**	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

No: 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-17-26-27-WC Dated: 21.10.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3666/26

> If he (Sooryavanshi) gets a chance in this series, we've seen what he can do and opponents have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play
> -Mitchell Santner

Gavit leads India's gold-silver finish in men's 100m T47 event

Medal rush continues in para-athletics; Ayush, Praveen, Khilari add to gold tally

NAGOYA: India's Dilip Gavit won the men's 100m T46/47 combined event gold medal at the Asian Para Games while compatriot Mohammed Morssinganakath Basil clinched the silver in the same event here on Wednesday. The 23-year-old Gavit, a T46 athlete, clocked 10.69 seconds to finish on top.Basil, a T47 athlete, clinched the silver with a Games record time of 10.72 seconds.

China's Kangjun Shi (T46) won the bronze, clocking 10.80 seconds. Athletes of two or more classifications can be clubbed together in a combined event to ensure that there are enough number of participants. T46 and T47 categories are for athletes

with upper limb impairment. The primary difference between T46 and T47 comes down to the severity and location of the upper limb impairment.

T46 applies to athletes with a more severe unilateral or bilateral impairment affecting the shoulder or elbow -- roughly equivalent to an above-elbow amputation -- whereas T47 is for athletes with a less severe impairment affecting the wrist or below the elbow -- roughly equivalent to a below-elbow amputation. Gavit had won a 400m gold at the previous Para Asiad in China, besides a 100m gold in the Glasgow Para Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

There was no stopping the Indian juggernaut as 10 more medals, including three gold, were added to the tally on the third day of competitions here on Wednesday. Ayush Verma gave India the first para-athletics gold of the day in the men's shot put F53 event, followed by Praveen Kumar (men's high jump T44/64) and Sachin Khilari (men's shot put F46). India also grabbed four silver medals in the morning session through Banti (men's high jump T44/64), Bhagyashri Jadhav (women's shot put F34), Mohd Yasser (men's shot put F46) and Manjeet (men's javelin F12/13). Anubhav Choudhary (men's 100m T35), Parveen (men's shot put F46) and Rakeshbhai Bhatt (men's 100m T37) won a bronze each.

Simran grabs second gold

NAGOYA: Indian sprinter Simran collected her second gold medal by winning the women's 100m T12 competition with a Games record time of 12.02 seconds here on Wednesday. Simran had also won the 200m gold with a new Games record. On Wednesday, she once again finished ahead of Iran's Hajar Safarzadeh, who clocked 12.30sec. Indonesia's Made Ni Putri finished third with a timing of 12.51sec. T12 classification covers athletes with moderate visual impairment. The 26-year-old Simran, who won a bronze in the 2024 Paris Paralympics, is on a comeback trail with her new guide Shivam after her previous guide Umar Saifi was banned for a doping violation. Simran had won silver medals in both her events in the 2023 Hangzhou edition of the Games.

Sheetal-Payal pair wins silver

NAGOYA: The teenage Indian pair of Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag clinched a silver medal after losing the compound women's doubles final on Wednesday, while Swati Chaudhary and Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari won bronze in the mixed team W1 recurve event Sheetal, who was born without arms, and Payal, a quadruple amputee, went down 141-150 to China's Xu Xueqing and Zhao Jing in the gold-medal match. The 19-year-old Indians struggled to keep pace with their Chinese opponents after the opening end, playing catch-up for the remainder of the contest. Paris Paralympics bronze medallist Sheetal was more consistent, shooting four 10s, but Asian Games debutant Payal could not match her partner's accuracy, managing just 9s and 8s before finishing with a 7 on her final arrow.

SUKHCHAIN BAGS BRONZE

NAGOYA: India's Sukhchain settled for bronze in the men's javelin throw F55 event after managing a modest 29.94m throw in a competition dominated by China's Zhou Feifei. The 32-year-old was well below his best as Zhou clinched gold with a throw of 37.63m, breaking the 22-year-old world record of 35.30m. Zaker Zafar of Iran took silver with a personal best of 36.00m, leaving Sukhchain trailing the top two by a considerable margin. Indian swimmer Himanshu Nandal clinched his second bronze medal, finishing third in the men's 100m breaststroke S11 event. The 22-year-old from Rohtak, Haryana, who has been completely visually impaired since birth due to an optic nerve failure, clocked 1:20.72 seconds. China's Yang Bozun won the gold in a Games-record time of 1:12.69, while Japan's Keiichi Kimura took silver in 1:12.72. Himanshu had opened his medal account on Tuesday, clocking 5:10.91 to

finish third in a four-swimmer field in the men's 400m freestyle S11 event.

India look to beat travel fatigue in T20 opener against Kiwis

Match starts 12.30 PM

CHRISTCHURCH: Unbeaten in their last two T20 series here, the Shreyas Iyer-led India would rely heavily on their batting firepower to outwit New Zealand even though the relatively inexperienced tourists have got barely two days to rest, acclimatise and train for the five-match rubber beginning here on Thursday. Their most recent T20 clash on New Zealand soil was in 2022 in Napier where the rain-interrupted match ended in a tie via the Duckworth-Lewis method.

The series, however, was claimed by India who managed to win the only game that was not wrecked by inclement weather.

In the line-up of batters chosen for the upcoming assignment, only four have previously played T20Is in New Zealand. That includes skipper Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Shivam Dube. Therefore, even though the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi are known marauders, the nippy and seaming conditions in this part of the world would need some adjustment.

For Iyer, the challenge would be to prove himself in a challenging away assignment after his tenure began with back-to-back losses in Ireland and England.

Mitchell Santner's New Zealand would be eager to make it as difficult as possible for Iyer, who is coming here after India's second successive gold-winning run at the Asian Games and a drawn hard-fought home series against the West Indies.

However, if the New Zealand series follows the script that unfolded in the UK earlier this year, pressure will only mount on Iyer, who is expected to lead India in the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand in two years' time. A confident Iyer said his team is used to playing in different conditions, having taken a long flight from India hours after sharing the home series against the West Indies.

We have plans for Sooryavanshi: Santner

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner conceded that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would be "quite hard to stop" if he plays for India in the five-match T20 International series beginning here on Thursday, but his team has some plans to deal with the young batting sensation.

Sooryavanshi has been used sparingly since being picked for the tour of UK earlier this year, largely because regular openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson have done the job quite well.

Santner said should the 15-year-old make the playing XI in the series here, some research has been done to figure out his game. "He (Sooryavanshi) did not play in the last series (against West Indies), but we know how good he is, in IPL. We know other players like Abhishek are doing very well. But he (Sooryavanshi) has a huge part to play for India, whether it's in this series or not, but in future," Santner said "If he does get a crack at this series, we've seen what he can do and guys have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play."

Santner was also asked about the return of veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian T20I team after a nearly four-year absence. The home skipper said he expects Bhuvneshwar to love the conditions here. "I think Bhuvi will love these conditions in New Zealand. If there's anything in the wicket, he finds something out of it. On some flat ones in India, he still managed to nip the ball and swing the ball, so I think with the new ball out here, especially, it'll be a challenge (for New Zealand).

Indian bowling has been lacking experience: Iyer

CHRISTCHURCH: India T20 captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said the team's bowling attack had been lacking experience in recent past and veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return would help address this issue. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar has returned to the Indian T20I setup after four years after being named in squad for the five-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning here on Thursday.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar

"Bhuvi brings a lot of experience to the team. And we were lacking that, especially after the IPL. We had a lot of new bowlers," Iyer said at the pre-match press conference. "But in T20, if you see his career graph, he has won the IPL in each of the last two years.

So, he has a very good idea of how to dominate this format." In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, India's T20I bowling attack featuring fast bowlers Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav, and Gurnoor Brar has faced scrutiny after repeatedly conceding big totals on flat tracks.

Bhuvneshwar, known for his ability to generate swing and seam movement, has collected 90 scalps across 88 T20Is. In the IPL, he played a key role in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's back-to-back titles, taking 17 wickets in the 2025 season and 28 in 2026.

Harmanpreet breaks down after knock against Zim

RAIPUR: Former India captain Harmanpreet Kaur fought back tears after ending a prolonged lean patch with a blistering unbeaten 91 off 41 balls against Zimbabwe in the third and final T20I here but later regained composure to credit her turnaround to the hours she spent practising in the nets. Harmanpreet, who stepped down as India captain across formats earlier this month, had not scored a half-century in her last 10 matches. She did not have much success with the bat in the Women's T20 Asia Cup as well as the Asian Games, despite India winning both titles comfortably. "It feels great. Just wanted to enjoy myself, and great that I got some time in the middle and really enjoyed myself on the field," Harmanpreet told the host broadcaster during the innings break. The 37-year-old was not able to control her tears in a post-innings chat with the on-air commentators. WV Raman, who was also the head coach of the Indian women's team, was speaking with Harmanpreet when the latter broke down and left abruptly tossing the microphone away. "I just wanted to bat as long as possible, and glad that I was able to do that. I think I should give credit to you also (to WV Raman). "The moment we came, you stepped in and you said, 'Now you do what you want to do,' and that's what I want to do, and really want to enjoy myself. Thanks for those words." Harmanpreet said there is no pressure on her anymore, having resigned as captain.

Tiger Shroff firing: 3 accused sent to police custody till Oct 31

MUMBAI

A Mumbai court remanded three accused in the Tiger Shroff firing case to police custody till Oct 31.

Three key accused apprehended in connection with the firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday, police said.

Police brought them by road from Kota to Mumbai and, upon arrival, immediately took them to GT Hospital for a mandatory medical examination, an official said. Following the medical checkup, the accused were escorted to the Mumbai Crime Branch's Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) office for interrogation. The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Sukka, from Sonipat in Haryana; Ritik Kurmi alias Roshan, originally from Begusarai in Bihar and living in Mumbai; and Phool Singh from Haryana, the official said.

The apprehended accused were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday

The Kota city police had handed them over to Mumbai Police, which formally arrested them and produced them before a magistrate there. The court granted transit remand to take them to Mumbai. Meanwhile, advocate Ajinkya Mirgal arrived at the AEC office in Mumbai on Wednesday morning, informing officials that he would represent the accused as their defence counsel in the case. At least two men fired gunshots at Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening before speeding away on a motorcycle. The actor escaped relatively unhurt, while his driver and a bystander were injured. According to Mumbai Police, five to six rounds were fired at the car. A motorcycle, allegedly used by the shooters, was found abandoned in Andheri. The accused fled to Surat and once there, boarded a Jaipur-bound train. The three were supposed to go to Delhi on a bus and then flee to Nepal. The Mumbai Police have registered a case under the provisions of attempt to murder and the Arms Act. According to the police, Rehan was

in touch with Anil Pandit, an alleged associate of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which claimed responsibility for the attack in an unverified social media post.

Suvendu blames Oppn for Durga puja stampede

KOLKATA

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday accused Opposition parties of using the Chorbagan Durga Puja stampede for political gain instead of reaching out to the victims and those injured in the tragedy.

Adhikari made the remarks while visiting the family of Priya Samaddar, one of the 19 people killed in the stampede, at their home in New Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district. He handed over Rs 25 lakh in compensation to the bereaved family on behalf of the state government.

The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19

The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19 lives and left 25 people injured

lives and left 25 people injured.

When asked about criticism regarding the government's response and the police arrangements at the pandal, Adhikari questioned whether opposition leaders had done enough to support the victims.

"Which opposition is there? Only the Leader of the Opposition, Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction exists," he said.

He also questioned whether the Trinamool Congress, the CPI(M) and other opposition parties had visited the families of the victims or those injured in the incident.

"Did any such opposition party go to the Kolkata Medical College morgue or the Medical College Hospital after the stampede?" he asked.

Another book stall vandalised, members assaulted: CPM

KOLKATA: Several books were damaged in an alleged attack on their book stall at Islampur, West Bengal, on Tuesday, the CPM has alleged.

The CPM said that Jayanta Deb, a local party member, was among those who were injured in the incident.

However, the police said the situation was under control.

Every year, several book stalls are installed near Durga Puja pandals in West Bengal by the CPM. These book stalls have been facing attacks in the last few days, while some have been dismantled citing the lack of requisite permission.

BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya has reiterated that his party does not support acts of vandalism by its members.

West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari had earlier directed Durga Puja committees to deny permission to CPI-M book stalls if they used the term "Sharodotsav" (autumn festival) instead of "Durga Puja" on banners and hoardings.

Boat capsizes during idol immersion in Kota; 2 dead

KOTA: The bodies of two young men were recovered after a boat carrying seven people capsized during a Durga idol immersion ceremony in a canal in Rajasthan's Kota, with rescue teams resuming the search operation on Wednesday morning. The bodies of Suraj Singh (22) and Vikas Verma (22), both Kota residents, were recovered during the search operation that resumed at 5.30 am, ASP Kota City Subhash Chandra Mishra and SDRF officials Ekta Mahipal confirmed.

The search is underway for the two remaining missing youths, Rahul Joshi (18) and Ashu Joshi (19), who are cousins and residents of Sanjay Nagar in Kota city. The boat capsized near Steel Bridge under the Borekheda police station limits around 5.30 pm on Tuesday during a Durga idol immersion ceremony.

Of the seven people aboard, three -- Deepak, a woman identified as Maankanwar, and the boatman, Suresh -- managed to swim to safety and were rescued by passersby. The search operation was called off at 11.30 pm on Tuesday in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and resumed at 5.30 am on Wednesday, Mishra said. The two recovered bodies were found close to each other, around 200 to 300 metres from the accident site, he said, adding that they were sent to a mortuary for post-mortem.

Naxal menace ended in MP because of brave soldiers: CM

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday hailed the "vital role" played by the police and armed forces in maintaining national security, and said because of courageous soldiers, the state succeeded in ending the Naxal menace which it endured for over three decades. He also praised the police for enhancing Madhya Pradesh's reputation through their efficiency. "It is a moment of great pride for us that our state has now succeeded in overcoming the scourge of Naxalism, which it had been enduring for nearly 35 years. It was a difficult period, fraught with many challenges. However, our brave and courageous soldiers made the state proud with their indomitable courage, valour, and dedication," Yadav said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the state has successfully tackled and overcome the serious challenge of Naxalism, he said. The country observes the Police Commemoration Day on October 21 to remember the sacrifices of the police personnel, Yadav added. This day reminds us how important the role of our police force and armed forces is in maintaining national security, peace, and social order, according to him. "The police and the armed forces have a special significance in our history. In our eternal culture, bearing arms does not merely mean a display of power, but rather a pledge to protect society and the nation.

THE Hans India

"The vegetable oil and oilseed sector is navigating a changing global environment shaped by biofuel policies, shifting trade flows, price volatility and growing demand. Colombia, the world's fourth-largest palm oil producer, offers promising opportunities for deeper trade engagement," -Angshu Mallick, President, Solvent Extractors' Association of India

Business

BIZ BRIEFS

RUDHRA gets recognition

Lingampalli Himaja, a 20-year-old student at Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, reached the James Dyson Award 2026 global top 20 with RUDHRA, a tool enabling visually impaired people to create Braille documents independently. Winners, announced November 4, receive £30,000 for further development and commercialisation. HimajaLingampalli, creator of RUDHRA, said: "I feel incredibly grateful and proud to have this opportunity through the James Dyson Award. Representing India on an international platform is a meaningful milestone for me."

Organic Creamery opens store in Hyd

Organic Creamery by Iceberg has unveiled Craft House, its flagship store in Khajaguda, here. The store spread across 5,000 sq. ft. was inaugurated by ChinnaJeeyar Swamy and anchor Suma marking the brand's flagship branch opening in Hyderabad. Suhas B Shetty, CEO, Organic Creamery, said, "With Craft House, we wanted to create a space that gave people more reasons to come together over ice cream."

Schneider Electric expands initiative

Schneider Electric has kicked off Services Xpress in South India, bringing its mobile service innovation hub to five states and 20+ cities in over 120 days. Damini Chaudhari, VP – Services, Schneider Electric India., said: "Services Xpress gives us an opportunity to take our services capabilities closer to industry and demonstrate their relevance in real-world operating environments. By bringing together condition-based maintenance, digital monitoring and lifecycle services."

Amazon's festive sale goes live

Amazon's Great Indian Festival Reloaded begins Wednesday midnight, offering deals across smartphones, electronics, fashion, beauty, home and essentials, plus faster festive deliveries and exclusive Prime savings. Shoppers can access bank discounts, 5% Amazon Pay ICICI cashback, 10% Amazon Pay Later cashback, No-Cost EMI and exchange offers. AI tools Rufus and Lens simplify personalized product discovery, visual search and price tracking, while Review Highlights, Quick Learn, Buying Guides and tailored homepages support more informed shopping decisions.

JSW MG Motors announces winners

JSW MG Motor India announced eight winners of the sixth MG Developer Program, its flagship startup initiative promoting automotive innovation and mobility technologies. Selected under the "Innovation in Automotive" theme were Nayan Technologies, Technod8.AI, LiveNSense, LW3, Smaartbrand by Acquink Solutions, Fitsol, Cautio, and Meta Materials Circular Market. Anurag Mehrotra, MD, JSW MG Motor India, said: "We are entering an era where the boundaries between mobility, data, and artificial intelligence are rapidly converging."

Record 100-minute sellout: Jio Platforms IPO subscribed 3x times

DRAWS ₹66,500 CR BIDS AFTER RECORD-FAST START

New Delhi

JIO Platforms Ltd's Rs 30,213-crore initial public offering attracted a combined demand of about Rs 74,610 crore, including its anchor allocation, after becoming India's fastest-ever IPO to achieve full subscription within 100 minutes of opening on Wednesday.

The public issue was subscribed 3.01 times by 5 p.m., with investors bidding for 59.44 crore shares against 19.75 crore shares on offer, according to exchange data.

Public bids were worth approximately Rs 66,500 crore, calculated at the upper end of the Rs 1,119 price band, while the anchor allocation added another Rs 8,110 crore to total demand.

The portion reserved for qualified institutional buyers was subscribed 9.02 times, with bids for 44.22 crore shares against 4.90 crore shares on offer. Domestic financial institutions, including banks and insurers, bid for 25.02 crore shares, while foreign institutional investors sought 15.14 crore shares. Mutual funds bid for 3.19 crore shares.

IPO DRAWS MASSIVE DEMAND

- Jio Platforms IPO subscribed 3.01 times by 5 pm
- Public issue attracts Rs 66,500 cr in bids
- Total demand, including anchor allocation, reaches Rs 74,610 cr
- Non-institutional investor segment subscribed 1.58 times
- Retail investor portion subscribed 0.68 times, remaining undersubscribed

Demand from non-institutional investors reached 1.58 times the shares reserved for them. The retail investor segment remained under-subscribed at 0.68 times, with bids for 5.78 crore shares against 8.50 crore shares on offer. Employee and shareholder reservations were subscribed 1.30 times and 1.38 times, respectively.

The strong institutional response follows an equally robust anchor-investor book. Jio allotted shares worth about Rs 8,110 crore to 212 anchor investors at Rs 1,119 apiece on Monday. Demand for the anchor allocation exceeded Rs 2.5 lakh crore, according to people familiar with the matter.

It took just 100 minutes for shares on offer to be lapped up by investors when the IPO opened for subscription on Wednesday, stock exchange data showed.

The early pace sets Jio apart from other large Indian offerings. Bajaj Housing Finance's IPO was fully subscribed by 2 p.m. on its opening day, while LG Electronics India's offering reached full subscription by the end of Day 1 in 2025. Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore IPO, which held the previous record for India's largest public offering, was subscribed just 18 per cent by the end of its first day in 2024.

Jio's offering is also structurally different from those of Hyundai and LG Electronics, both of which were entirely offers for sale by existing shareholders. Jio is issuing up to 27 crore new shares, meaning the proceeds will go to the company rather than to shareholders selling their holdings.

Priced at Rs 1,065 to Rs 1,119 a share, the IPO would value Jio Platforms at about $108 billion at the upper end of the range. The offering is set to surpass Hyundai Motor India's record and marks a landmark public-market test for the digital and telecom business of Reliance Industries Ltd, controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani.

The IPO is a major test of investor appetite for Jio's ambition to expand beyond telecom connectivity into digital services, cloud computing and artificial intelligence. The company has cited a customer base of 533.3 million as a foundation for these businesses, seeking to convert its scale in connectivity into higher-margin enterprise and technology revenue.

The latest figures show institutional investors continuing to drive the offering, while retail demand is building more gradually. The final subscription figures could change before the offer closes on Friday.

Stock markets extend losses on banking, financial shares sell-off

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices extended their losses for a second straight session, with the Sensex dropping 143 points as selling in power, banking and financial stocks and elevated crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment. Besides, rising US bond yields and persistent FII selling also dampened the trading scenario. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 143.21 points, or 0.19 per cent, to close at 73,709.69. The index opened in the green and surged 829.29 points, or 1.12 per cent, to hit an intraday high of 74,682.19, before paring early gains to hit a low of 73,229.45. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 77.60 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 22,811.35. It had climbed to a high of 23,120.90 in early trade before sliding to an intraday low of 22,702.85.

Among the Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, Trent, Axis Bank, NTPC, Maruti Suzuki India, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Titan and State Bank of India were the major laggards. HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid, Reliance Industries, ITC, ICICI Bank and Sun Pharmaceuticals were among the gainers.

Meanwhile, the Rs 30,213-crore Jio Platforms IPO was subscribed nearly 3 times on the first day of bidding on Wednesday. The largest public offer so far in India became the fastest-ever IPO to achieve full subscription within 100 minutes of opening. "Indian equities gave up strong early gains as elevated crude prices and continued FII selling overshadowed optimism surrounding India-US trade negotiations," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd.

Centre inks ₹770-cr radar deal to help Army fight drone threats

New Delhi

THE Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to procure Improved Low-Level Lightweight Radar (LLLR-I) at a cost of approximately Rs 770 crore to boost the air defence capability of the Indian Army. The LLLR(I) system has the capability of detecting and tracking fighter jet-sized targets as well as mini and micro drones. It has the additional capability of prioritising aerial targets. This will enable the Army to successfully counter the threat of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), the statement said.

The contract with the defence PSU was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Aligning with the government's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the procurement is a significant step towards indigenisation of air defence platforms with a boost to India's Defence manufacturing ecosystem, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and building a resilient, self-reliant and globally competitive defence industry, the statement added.

India's defence sector has undergone a transformational change over the past decade to emerge as a stronger, more self-reliant and globally credible force, with the country's production of military hardware recording an over fourfold increase to touch Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26 compared with a mere Rs 4, 746 crore in FY 2013-14, according to official figures.

While production from public-sector entities accounted for 76 per cent of this output, the private sector contributed the remaining 24 per cent. Defence exports rose from a mere Rs 686 crore in FY2013–14 to Rs 38,424 crore in FY2025–26, with the country's military hardware finding markets in over 80 countries.

SEA eyes Colombia for palm oil supplies

NEW DELHI: Colombia could become an alternative palm oil supplier for India as top producers Indonesia and Malaysia step up biodiesel blending, which threatens to restrict supplies for food use, the edible oil trade body said on Wednesday.

"Colombia, the world's fourth-largest palm oil producer, offers promising opportunities for deeper trade engagement," Angshu Mallick, president of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), said in a statement. Colombia has supplied about 2,00,000 tonnes of palm oil to India in the recent past, Mallick said, adding that the country could help broaden India's sourcing base. India is the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils. SEA plans to send a high-level delegation to Colombia early next year. It also expects to sign a memorandum of understanding with Fedepalma, Colombia's national federation of oil palm growers, to provide a framework for closer engagement.

Rupee settles at six-week high

MUMBAI: The rupee surged 48 paise to close at 94.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, supported by foreign currency inflows linked to Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms IPO and RBI intervention to contain dollar demand.However, forex trade analysts said weak domestic markets and higher crude oil prices were putting pressure on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.78 against the dollar. In intraday trade, it touched a high of 94.41 and a low of 94.82 against the American unit. It eventually settled at 94.43 (provisional) against the greenback, up 48 paise from its previous close.The Indian currency earlier recorded a similar closing level on September 4.

On Monday, the rupee settled lower by 2 paise at 94.91 against the US dollar. Forex markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Dussehra."The rupee rose to a six-week high on IPO-driven foreign inflows and a relatively weak US dollar. However, weak domestic markets and elevated crude oil prices capped sharp gains," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan. He further said that the rupee is expected to trade with a positive bias on overall weakness in the dollar and softening of US treasury yields. "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 94.20 to Rs 94.80." According to analysts, a stronger rupee can ease imported inflation and reduce currency-related costs for companies importing crude, electronics and other raw materials.

vivo unveils four new devices, Origin OS7

Hans Business
Hyderabad

vivo India has launched the V80, X Fold6 and S2 FE, OriginOS 7, and a preview of its Mixed Reality (MR) headset, the Vision Discovery Edition. Together, these launches take vivo beyond individual flagship successes towards a more differentiated portfolio across smartphones, foldables and software. Paigham Danish, CTO, Head of Product & GTM at vivo India, said, "Technology is at its best when it gives people more freedom to create, more ways to express themselves, more possibilities to get things done, and more ways to experience the world around them. That belief sits at the heart of vivo. The V80 is built around the creator and the joy of capturing everyday moments; the X Fold6 brings the power to do more, wherever you are; the S2 FE brings a more expressive and contemporary experience to a new generation; and OriginOS 7 makes technology feel more intuitive and effortless.

Gas fuelled ammonia, urea plant to run on RE fuel

New Delhi

INDIA will convert an existing natural gas fuelled ammonia and urea plant to run on renewable power, creating one of the world's largest green ammonia plants with an annual output target of about 1.1 million tonnes, a new report has said.

The report from Singapore-based Asian Power (AP) said the project will be developed by AM Green Ammonia (India) Private Limited and is backed by financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan.

It marks their first joint investment under the Action for Creating Energy Security for Long-term Resilience (ACCEL).

ACCEL was launched by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Japan in May 2026 as a joint initiative that helps Asia-Pacific nations and businesses handle high energy costs, fuel swings, and supply limits.

The financing includes a $100 million loan from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2, financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and administered by ADB, the report said.

"By using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels, India can produce it with far lower emissions and at a scale that can help reshape this industry," the publication cited ADB President Masato Kanda.

"The initiative has two tracks: short-term support for corporate liquidity, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, and longer-term support for more diversified and sustainable energy systems," the report said.

ACCEL brings together financial support and investment to help countries manage immediate shocks and build stronger energy systems for the future, a statement from ADB said.

India has crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity as of July 2026, with around 55.29 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity during FY26.

Navratri sees sales of 11 lakh automobiles in 10 days: FADA

New Delhi

THE nine days of Navratri saw sales of nearly 11.23 lakh auto units over 10 days, telling a fundamentally healthy story of the Indian automobile market, the data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) showed on Wednesday. The retail sales were up close to 27 per cent over 2024 Navratri — the last truly comparable festive period — with passenger vehicles higher by over 10 per cent and two-wheelers by more than 32 per cent.

"The marginal 6.52 per cent dip versus Navratri 2025 is largely optical: last year Navratri ran 11 days against 10 and coincided with the GST 2.0 roll-out, which pulled a wave of pent-up demand into one extraordinary window," said FADA President Sai Giridhar.

The real standout is electrification — EV retails grew 26.78 per cent and now account for close to 10.5 per cent of festive sales, up from about 7.7 per cent a year ago, showing that India's EV shift has become self-sustaining.

"As we enter the Dhanteras-to-Diwali wave, we remain cautiously optimistic: affordability is strong, aspiration is rising, and auto retail continues to mirror the enduring momentum of the India Growth Story," said Giridhar. Meanwhile, domestic automobile retail sales rose 31.82 per cent year-on-year to a record 25,36,920 units in September helped by festive demand and a low base, according to FADA data.

As per the data, retail sales rose 4.69 per cent from August. However, September marked the industry's best-ever month. The headline annual growth should be viewed with caution as September 2025 sales were impacted by purchase deferments ahead of the implementation of GST 2.0, FADA said. Moreover, the industry recorded its best-ever September across five of the six vehicle categories, while the first half of FY27 also saw record retail sales of 1,55,12,319 units, up 20.77 per cent year-on-year, it added. Segment-wise, two-wheeler sales rose 33.08 per cent year-on-year to 17,90,188 units, while passenger vehicle sales increased 32.10 per cent to 4,27,213 units. Commercial vehicle sales grew 37.62 per cent to 1,03,557 units, crossing the one-lakh mark in September for the first time.

AI boom could add up to $100 bn in market value through IPOs

New Delhi

INDIA'S fast-growing artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem could add between $50 billion and $100 billion to the country's listed market capitalisation over the next two to five years as a growing number of AI startups tap public markets, according to a report.

A report by Goldman Sachs showed that between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of nearly 70 mid-to-late-stage private AI companies in India could pursue initial public offerings over the period with listings potentially occurring at valuations averaging about four times their current estimated worth.

"The listings could broaden India's listed AI universe, bringing several under-represented segments of the AI value chain into the public markets," said Timothy Moe, co-head of Asia macro research and chief Asia-Pacific equity strategist at Goldman Sachs.

Private equity funding for Indian AI startups has tripled since 2024, while AI's share of total private equity allocations has increased fourfold to account for about one-fifth of all private capital invested in the country.

The report highlighted that India is now among the top six destinations globally for private AI funding and among the top four countries for newly funded AI companies. It also identified 84 private firms as 'Private AI Contenders' with a combined estimated value of $55 billion.

These companies have accounted for nearly 40 per cent of all AI-related private capital raised in India since 2025 and represent businesses across the AI value chain, the report added.

The largest opportunity lies in upstream AI enablers which the report values at around $35 billion.

Entertainment

Dasara 2026 brings box-office cheer for Tollywood

Suhas Sistu

Telugu cinema had a pleasant Dasara 2026 as Jailer 2, Ranabaali and Garividi Lakshmi had a decent opening during the festival season. Even though the movies were completely different in terms of genre and target audiences, all of them seem to have performed in the same way. It was Rajinikanth's film Jailer 2 that had a massive success during the holiday season. Rajinikanth's movies are always in demand, but the dubbed Telugu version of Jailer 2 seems to be exceptionally popular for some reason. The film has a considerable audience due to the superstar's vast following, and the holiday season complemented the attraction, making the film one of the highest-grossing.

It was not the first time, however, Vijay Deverakonda'sRanabaali has done better than expected on the first Sunday of the holiday season. Even though the film got mixed reviews, it still has a decent audience that keeps it on the charts in the middle of the festive season. It will be essential to see how Ranabaali performs on weekdays after the holiday season since it will demonstrate the film's true value. The most surprising success of Dasara 2026 appears to be Garividi Lakshmi. Since it did not have any star power, the film's steady increase in ticket sales comes as a pleasant surprise. Word of mouth about Garividi Lakshmi has apparently been growing throughout the holiday season. All three films have shown box-office results comparable to those of first Sunday shows. It will be interesting to see how the money earned compares to the number of viewers throughout the entire length of the holiday season. It seems unlikely that anything would surpass Jailer 2 in terms of Rajinikanth's starrer. However, Ranabaali did well on weekdays when combined with the holiday season. Overall, Garividi Lakshmi is proving to be a pleasant surprise in terms of box-office performance. On the other hand, the true trial awaits these films when the holiday season comes to an end. Since the week will no longer have extended weekends, the number of viewers will play an essential role in films' further fortunes.

New 'Vrushakarma' poster creates curiosity

Yuva Samrat Naga Chaitanya's upcoming mythological thriller Vrushakarma is set to release globally in theatres on 4 th December 2026. Directed by Karthik Dandu, the film that blends mythology, mystery and suspense promises to give a unique cinema experience to the movie buff.

As the film readies for the Diwali Cine Season, the makers have come up with a special poster unveiled ahead of Dussehra. In the poster we see Naga Chaitanya as a fierce persona with a thick beard and red tilak, as he stands in a dark background, while a grand multi-armed goddess idol holding a golden spear is also present.

Reportedly, it will be the biggest budget film for Naga Chaitanya till date. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Sparsh Shrivastava are playing the roles of heroine and antagonist respectively. It has been produced by BVSN Prasad under SVCC in association with Sukumar Writings and presented by Bapineedu and Co-produced by IVY Entertainments. As their shoot concludes, the makers are working on the post-production work which involves technical team comprising of cinematographer Ragul D. Herian, music composer B. AjaneeshLoknath, production designer Sri Nagendra Tangala and editor Naveen Nooli. They are also expected to come up with more promotional material as the release date nears.

- S Suhas

'Yellamma' locks March 2027 release

Music composer Devi Sri Prasad is all set to make his acting debut with an upcoming devotional rustic action drama Yellamma, which will hit the theatres worldwide on March 5, 2027. The makers of the film unveiled the release date.

The National Award-winning filmmaker VenuYeldandi, who recently bagged the coveted Balagam, is directing the film. It is presented by Dil Raju while Shirish is producing the film under Sri Venkateswara Creations.

Apart from playing the lead role, Devi Sri Prasad (DSP) will also be seen composing the music of the film. The music maestro's transition from music to acting has drawn immense attention. The first-look poster of DSP as Parshi was released on his birthday, which went viral as he was seen sporting the character in a humble get-up.

The team is currently busy with the preparations as the film is gearing up for its release on the scheduled date. With Yeldandi and DSP on board, the film promises to give an altogether different experience to the audience. Yellamma will release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada, making it one of the most awaited pan-India films this year.

- S Suhas

Sharwanand's 'Bhogi' unveils heart-warming second single

Charming Star Sharwa's upcoming period action drama Bhogi has released the second single titled "AnnayyaPaanam Lo PoosinaPuvvulu," which highlights the bonding of brother with his five sisters.

The movie directed by Sampath Nandi is set in the early 60s on the Maharashtra-Adilabad border. The latest single also provides a peek into the romance between Sharwa and Anupama Parameswaran, who plays the role of one of the sisters alongside Dimple Hayathi.

The song has been composed by BheemsCeciroleo, who has created an earthy melody, while an Oscar winner Chandra Bose has written beautiful lyrics to depict the bonding between the siblings. Furthermore, the singer Sri Krishna has given a soulful voice to the track, which has been choreographed by Anee Master. The video includes village footages and family moments. While Sharwa looks charming in the rustic avatar, Anupama also fits right into the set-up. Moreover, the single follows "Egilivaranga", which had showcased the music style of the film. The movie has been produced by KK Radhamohan under Sri Sathya Sai Arts and presented by Lakshmi Radhamohan. It has been captured by Kishor Kumar's lens, and the makers have yet to unveil its theatrical release date.

- P Ravi Teja

Yash impresses with 'Ravana Tandav' from 'Ramayana'

Rocking Star Yash stars as Ravana in a special musical reveal from Ramayana: Rise of a Legend unveiled on Dussehra ahead of the film's worldwide theatrical release on November 5, 2026.

Titled Rise of Asura in Hindi, the sequence spotlights the superstar's striking on-screen presence and stature as Ravana, the powerful and pious king, with an intense devotion and larger-than-life aura. The musical unit takes inspiration from the popular folklore of Ravana and Lord Shiva's Tandav, and draws on the character's mythological moorings.

The Hindi version features vocals by Vishal Dadlani, lyrics by Dr Kumar Vishwas, and music direction by A. R. Rahman and HiralViradia while the Telugu version features lyrics by RakenduMouli and vocals by Devi Sri Prasad. The units are titled RavanaTandava in Kannada and RavanaTandavam in Tamil and Telugu. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios, alongside DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations, the two-part epic stars Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman. The sequel is slated to release on Diwali 2027.

- P Ravi Teja

Aadi Saikumar's divine mystery thriller titled'Aadi Rudrra'

Aadi Saikumar's upcoming big-budget mystery thriller has been named as 'Aadi Rudrra' with the film's makers releasing an intriguing title poster and motion video on Dussehra. The movie promises to deliver a blend of spirituality, supernatural forces, and suspense.

Reportedly, the project has been produced by Prashanth G Rudrappa under Trishul Entertainments and is written and directed by Navarrasan. The poster highlights Aadi wielding a trident with Goddess Durga's image towering in the background while crowds bearing flaming torches circle around a ritual ground.

Set in 1960s-1990s, Aadi Rudrra's film wants to create a unique period atmosphere while also delving into themes of faith, divinity, and supernatural forces. Motion video's background music, composed by B. AjaneeshLoknath, heightens its spiritual and suspenseful feel, while cinematography is handled by AJ Shetty.

They intend to start the shoot in January and have more details about the film's star cast and schedule in the coming days. It is expected to be a noteworthy addition to Aadi Saikumar's career.

Aadi Rudrra is set to hit the pan-Indian theatre in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam languages targeting a diverse audience.

-P Ravi Teja

'Donga NaaKoduku' teaser unveiled; promises a comedy ride

Mythri Movie Makers is all set to release the film Donga NaaKoduku, which stars MouliTanuj Prasanth as the lead actor on November 13. Mythri Movie Makers has released the teaser of the comedy entertainer directed by debutant SreenuKambala.

Mouli plays the role of Eeshwar, a B-Tech dropout who prioritizes money over relationships. However, the comical twist of the story is that the elements of robbery and crime get mixed in with romance and suspense. The humorous tiffin incident at the beach between Eeshwar and his girlfriend provides a comic relief to the climax of the teaser. After his successful debut in Little Hearts, Mouli displays his comic skills with a loads of screen energy. Sushmitha Shetty plays the love interest of the protagonist while Ali and Rajitha play the role of his parents. Raghubabu, Priya and Gundu Sudharshan play the other key roles in the film.

Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, the film has been shot by Suriya Balaji and the music has been composed by SinjithYerramilli.

-P Ravi Teja

Sumanth Prabhas' Gen Z entertainer 'Babloo XXL' unveiled

Sumanth Prabhas' yuppy new-age entertainer 'Babloo XXL' created a splash on the social media today with the makers unveiling the title and a vibrant first-look poster of the film which is being produced by SreeVenkateswara Cinemas on Dussehra.

Presented by Puskur Ram Mohan Rao, Bharat N Narang produces and Sonali Narang is the presenter, the film marks writer cum director SaailuKaampati's comeback after a Rs. 200 crore blockbuster 'Raju Weds Rambai'.

In the poster, young star Sumanth Prabhas is seen in a happy mood with a victory symbol on his right hand and a vibrant floral shirt, with Mancherial's clock tower, an ancient stone bridge and the temple as the backdrop, an Instagram Reels like picture with social media icons as the picture frame with the hero and heroine seen in a romantic pose on the ancient stone bridge is the first-look image of the film. Gahazy SK plays the leading lady while the film has the presence of superstar names like Radhika Sarathkumar, Jayalalitha and Sivaji Raja among others. Wajid Baig has been roped in for cinematography, Vijay Bhulganin has scored the music, Naresh Adupa has edited the film while Pawan Kalyan Yellapu has designed the Art. The film is currently in the shooting phase.

- S Suhas