| THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 | DELHI www.thehansindia.com | VOL.9 | NO. 346 | PAGES 8 | ₹8.00

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

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095
Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia

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.