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CM announces relief package, SGAY houses on priority basis for Rimbi landslide victims

PRAKASH ADHIKARI

GANGTOK, OCT 9: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang Golay visited the landslide-affected Rimbi area under Yuksom-Tashiding Constituency in Gyalshing district on Friday and announced a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package for the affected families.

Under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the Chief Minister announced that three families whose houses were completely damaged would receive Rs 5 lakh each, while two families with damaged kitchens would receive Rs 2 lakh each. In addition, every landslide-affected family would get Rs 1 lakh as immediate financial assistance.

Separately under the CM Discretionary Grant, families currently living in rented accommodation after being displaced will receive Rs 50,000 each as immediate relief.

During his interaction with the victims, the Chief Minister also assured that houses under the Sikkim Garib Aawas



Yojana (SGAY) would be constructed on top priority for the victims and that the allotment orders will be issued on the same day itself.

The assistance is aimed at helping the families overcome immediate financial difficulties and rebuild their lives after the devastating landslide.

ATMA Governing Bodies and DFAC meeting held in Pakyong

IPR DEPARTMENT

PAKYONG, OCT 9: A meeting of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Governing Body and Management Committee, along with the District Farmers Advisory Committee (DFAC), was held at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Pakyong, on Friday. The meeting was organised by ATMA Pakyong.

The meeting was chaired by the District Collector, Pakyong, Ms Pari Bishnoi, who also serves as the Chairperson of ATMA. She appreciated the achievements of ATMA Pakyong and shared insights on identifying five high-value agricultural products in the state and

strengthening forward linkages to improve their market reach. She emphasised the importance of connecting these products with wider markets to enhance their value and create better opportunities for farmers.

The District Collector stressed the importance of developing suitable packaging, processing and marketing facilities to enhance the value of local products. She cited the potential of orchids in the gifting industry and highlighted the scope for promoting distinctive local products through value addition.

Additional Director-cum-Project Director, ATMA, Mr Tshering Chopel Bhutia, provided an overview of the structure and functions of ATMA.

Poshan Abhiyaan closing programme held at Singhik AWC

IPR DEPARTMENT

SINGHIK/CHUNGTHANG, OCT 9:

The sector-level closing programme of Poshan Abhiyaan 2026 was organised at Singhik Anganwadi Centre (AWC), Chungthang Zone 3, with the aim of strengthening nutrition awareness and encouraging community participation in promoting healthy dietary practices.

The programme was attended by Supervisor, Chungthang Zone 3; Nutrition Inspectors; Gender Specialist, HUB; Finance Specialist, HUB; Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), mothers and community members.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr Thupden Bhutia, Supervisor, Chungthang Zone

3, who highlighted the importance of Poshan Abhiyaan, this year's theme and the need to incorporate its message into everyday life beyond programme activities. He also emphasised the active participation of community members, AWWs and AWHs in ensuring the successful implementation of nutrition initiatives.

Nutrition Inspector, Mr Sonam Namgyal Bhutia, conducted a session on the nutritional importance of various food groups, balanced diets and dietary diversity. He also highlighted food adulteration, affordable alternatives to expensive nutrient-rich foods, and the importance of developing healthy eating habits for better health outcomes and the proper growth and development of children.

Participants were encouraged to adopt practical, economical and nutritious dietary practices in their daily lives.

Ms Pandamit Lepcha, Gender Specialist, HUB, conducted an awareness session on various gender-related Government schemes, the One Stop Centre and its services, along with schemes and programmes implemented through the Hub for Empowerment of Women (HUB).

The programme concluded with a recipe demonstration by the AWWs and AWHs, highlighting the nutritional value of the prepared recipes. Participants were also given the opportunity to raise queries, which were addressed during the session.

The programme concluded on a



productive note, reinforcing the message that nutrition is a shared responsibility and that small, healthy choices practised every day can contribute to a healthier community and a stronger future generation.

SUJAL PRADHAN

NEW DELHI/GANGTOK, OCT 9: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal held bilateral meetings with Saudi Arabia, Belgium and Bhutan on Day 2 of Sagarmathan: The Great Oceans Dialogue 2026, carrying India's maritime partnerships across the Gulf, Europe and the neighbourhood. He also placed young people and women at the centre of India's maritime journey. With a delegation from the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani), Sarbananda Sonowal discussed Saudi participation in Indian port projects such as Vadhaven and Galathea Bay. The two sides also discussed cooperation in shipbuilding, seafarer training and resilient supply chains. Saudi Arabia expressed their interest to invest in India's port projects and in the Maritime Development Fund (MDF).

With Flemish Minister for Mobility, Public Works, Ports and Sport, Annick De Ridder, Sonowal proposed exploring a green shipping corridor linking Indian ports with Antwerp-Bruges. Both sides discussed green fuels, smart port technology, and dredging. VOC Port has signed an agreement with Port of Antwerp Port for training in capacity building in green shipping, and green fuel.

With Lyonpo Chandra Bahadur Gurung, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Bhutan, Sonowal highlighted National Waterway-2 and the Jogighopa terminal as Bhutan's gateway to global trade. The ministers discussed the potential of the Manas and

Sankosh rivers, and the connectivity with the national waterways for improved cargo movement. Both the ministers discussed about maritime training for Bhutanese youth at the Centre of Excellence in Dibrugarh which is being developed.

"Our talks with Saudi Arabia, Belgium and Bhutan show how India's maritime partnerships are growing across regions," said Sarbananda Sonowal. "With Saudi

their aspirations for the sector. The session had the participation of all women tri-service sailing expedition which inspired the women cadets.

Indian seafarers have grown from 1.27 lakh to 3.23 lakh in twelve years, taking India from fifth place in 2015 to world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, with over 12% of the global workforce. Active women seafarers have risen from 1,599 in 2021 to 7,033 in 2025,

Taminskas, the minister proposed a work plan for the MoU between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and the Port of Klaipeda, and discussed direct shipping links and green port cooperation. With Mozambique's Minister of Transport and Logistics, João Jorge Matlombe, he offered India's expertise in ports, shipbuilding, ship repair and seafarer training. With Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Transport, U Tun Lu, he discussed the next phase of Sittwe Port, cross-border inland water trade and maritime safety in the Bay of Bengal.

"From the Baltic to the Bay of Bengal, India is ready to share its strengths in ports, shipbuilding and seafarer skills so that we grow together with our partners," said Shantanu Thakur. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, India has emerged as a trusted maritime partner for nations across regions. Through cooperation in green shipping, connectivity and capacity building, we are working towards safe, open and prosperous seas for all," added Thakur.

Addressing a press conference at Sagarmathan, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has moved from maritime potential mode to maritime performance. The Union Minister of State Shantanu Thakur along with the Secretary of MoPSW, Vijay Kumar also accompanied the Union Minister during the press conference.

Over the last twelve years, port capacity has risen from 1,561 to 2,817 MTPA, cargo handled from 1,052 to 1,668 million tonnes and inland waterways cargo from 29 to 218 million tonnes, while median container vessel turnaround has fallen from 35 to 23 hours. He noted that Sagarmathan has grown from 1,700+ delegates from 61 countries in 2024 to participation from more than 70 countries this year, including 10 visiting Ministers, and has produced 100+ publications that strengthen India's role as Vishwaguru for the global maritime order. Highlighting India's push to build green hydrogen, ammonia and methanol capacity so that Indian ports become green fuel bunkering hubs, in line with the Net Zero 2070 commitment, he called for turning dialogue into joint research, investment and technology partnerships. "India is ready to work with the world for safer seas, greener shipping and shared prosperity," Sonowal said.

CBC holds regional workshop on Mission Karmayogi in Guwahati to strengthen training institutions in NE

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GUWAHATI/GANGTOK, OCT 9:

The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) organised the second regional workshop under the Sadhana Shrinkhla series on Mission Karmayogi in Guwahati on Friday. The workshop, themed "Strengthening Training Institutions towards a Future-Ready and Connected Ecosystem," was graced by Dr Ravi Kota, Chief Secretary of Assam. Shri Katikithala Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), inaugurated the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, Shri Srinivasan highlighted the importance of Mission Karmayogi and described capacity building as one of the most significant transformations in India's governance architecture. He emphasised that strengthening the capabilities of public servants is essential for enhancing administrative efficiency,

improving public service delivery and ensuring more effective citizen-centric governance. He also underscored the role of digital tools, computing technologies and modern methodologies in building institutional capacity and improving governance outcomes.

Shri Srinivasan stressed the need to strengthen capacity-building initiatives in the Northeast through the Unified New-Age National Training Initiative (UNNATI), taking into account the region's distinct administrative, political and governance culture. Emphasising the importance of localisation, he stated, "To make UNNATI effective, engaging and impactful, we must work in the spirit of the Northeast's unique culture, and that can happen only through localisation." He further called for developing an Ashtalakshmi-specific approach to UNNATI to address the unique needs, priorities and aspirations of the eight North-Eastern States.

The workshop brought

together participants from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura to deliberate on strengthening institutional capacity, fostering collaboration and advancing digital transformation in civil service training.

Assam is implementing Mission Karmayogi through the iGOT Karmayogi digital learning platform, with the Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC), Guwahati, serving as the state's Administrative Training Institute. The state has recorded 5,42,406 officials onboarded on the platform, including 4,14,693 active users, with 4,02,508 course completions. To facilitate learning in the regional language, 59 courses are available in Assamese. These initiatives support continuous professional development, competency enhancement and improved public service delivery across Assam's 59

government departments.

The initiative is aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and the objectives of Mission Karmayogi, which seeks to transform capacity-building practices in government by promoting a competency-driven, citizen-centric and

Operational Excellence and Ecosystem Collaboration; and Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption. These pillars aim to improve institutional governance, enhance operational effectiveness, encourage collaboration among training institutions and promote the adoption of emerging technologies in capacity building.

The workshop also focused on strengthening coordination among training institutions, improving resource sharing, enhancing training planning and addressing gaps in digital readiness. Discussions centred on contextualising the transformation framework to the specific requirements of the North-Eastern States and facilitating the preparation of State-specific action plans.

Another important area of deliberation was the role of digital platforms and

competency-based learning initiatives under Mission Karmayogi. The workshop highlighted the relevance of the UNNATI digital platform in connecting training institutions and facilitating greater collaboration across the capacity-building ecosystem. The platform seeks to connect more than 700 training institutions, supporting knowledge exchange, resource sharing and coordinated institutional development.

The discussions also covered initiatives such as iGOT Karmayogi, the Karmayogi Competency Framework (KQF) and the Karmayogi Knowledge Portal (KKK), with a focus on strengthening competency-based training, improving access to learning resources and supporting the professional development of government personnel.

Through the regional workshop, the Capacity Building Commission seeks to encourage training institutions to move towards a collaborative, technology-enabled and

outcome oriented approach to capacity building. The deliberations are intended to support practical, state-specific roadmaps for institutional transformation, taking into account the distinctive administrative and capacity-building needs of the North-Eastern region.

The Guwahati workshop follows the first regional workshop held in Vijayawada on September 29-30, 2026. The Sadhana Shrinkhla series forms part of the broader effort to strengthen training institutions and advance the objectives of Mission Karmayogi by promoting institutional excellence, collaboration and continuous learning across government. The workshop was attended by Smt S. Radha Chauhan, Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission, and Dr Alka Mittal, Member (Administration), Capacity Building Commission, along representatives of government departments and training institutions from the eight North-Eastern States.





SHG Members of Dzongu Honour Dr. Mahindra Tamang, BDO Passingdang, for His Inspiring Contribution to Environmental Protection and Community Development Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 – “Kabaad Se Jugaad”: Turning Waste into Wealth

IPR DEPARTMENT

PASSINGDANG, DZONGU, OCT 9: The Block Development Society (BDS), Dzongu Block, under the Sikkim Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), organised the “Kabaad Se Jugaad” Creative Reuse Competition for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at Passingdang Block Administrative Centre (BAC) on 9 October 2026 as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign. The programme aimed to promote environmental awareness, innovative waste management, creative reuse of discarded materials, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for SHG members under the inspiring theme “Turn Waste into Wealth.” The event brought together government officials, SHG members, financial literacy representatives, and community stakeholders to strengthen collective efforts towards environmental conservation, women's empowerment, and sustainable rural development in Dzongu. The programme was organised by BDS Dzongu in the presence of the BPM, SRLM Dzongu, the APM, BDS staff, SHG members, and representatives from various institutions. The event was held under the chairpersonship of Smt. Ongkit Lepcha, Chairperson, Horticulture Department. The programme was graced by Dr. Mahindra Tamang, Block Development Officer (BDO), Passingdang, and Shri Suren Mohra, Junior Faculty, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD). Representatives from CRISIL, a Financial Literacy Counsellor, and representatives from the State Bank of India (SBI), Gangtok, also attended the programme. Their participation highlighted the importance of institutional coordination, financial literacy, community participation, and capacity building in strengthening Self-Help Groups and promoting sustainable rural livelihoods. Shri Ramesh Chhetri, Block Project Manager (BPM), SRLM Dzongu, delivered the welcome address, extending a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, departmental representatives, institutional representatives, SHG members, and all participants. In his address, he emphasised the importance of community participation, women's empowerment, environmental conservation, and innovative livelihood activities through Self-Help Groups. He highlighted that discarded materials should not always be considered useless, as creativity and innovation can transform waste into valuable products with economic potential. He encouraged SHG members to explore new ideas, improve product quality, develop attractive designs, and identify market opportunities so that environmental initiatives could also become sustainable sources of income. He further stressed that collective efforts by government departments, financial institutions, BDS, SRLM, and SHGs are essential for building a stronger rural economy and achieving inclusive development in Dzongu. One of the most memorable highlights of the programme was the presentation of a special Appreciation Letter to Dr.

Mahindra Tamang, BDO Passingdang, on behalf of the Self-Help Groups of Dzongu. The appreciation recognised his inspiring commitment to

as a resource for innovation, entrepreneurship, and income generation. The programme aimed to strengthen women's entrepreneurship,



environmental protection, responsible waste management, and community awareness. His personal initiative of carrying waste over a distance of approximately 18 kilometres one way demonstrated the importance of taking practical responsibility for protecting the natural environment. The initiative conveyed a powerful message that keeping our mountains clean is a collective responsibility and that every individual can contribute meaningfully to environmental conservation. The SHG members expressed their heartfelt gratitude and respect for his dedication, humility, and commitment to public service. The appreciation letter highlighted a simple but powerful truth: true leadership is not defined merely by an official designation, but by the positive difference one makes in people's lives and the example one sets for society. The recognition also served as an inspiration to SHG members, particularly rural women, to take an active role in waste management, environmental protection, and sustainable livelihood generation. The letter carried the message: “You lead by action, you protect by example, and you inspire through humility.” It further emphasised that waste need not be the end of a product's journey; through creativity and innovation, it can become the beginning of a new opportunity. “The Mountains Cannot Carry Our Waste” The appreciation highlighted the importance of protecting Dzongu's mountains, forests, rivers, and natural surroundings from irresponsible waste disposal. Dr. Tamang's initiative demonstrated that environmental protection requires more than awareness campaigns; it demands personal commitment, responsible behaviour, and consistent action. The programme also reinforced the connection between environmental conservation and rural livelihoods. By encouraging SHGs to transform discarded materials into useful, decorative, and profitable products, the initiative promotes a practical approach to waste management while creating opportunities for women's entrepreneurship. The SHG members expressed hope that such inspiring examples would encourage more people, especially young people and community institutions, to participate in keeping Dzongu clean and green. The creative reuse competition encouraged SHGs to demonstrate their skills, creativity, and imagination by converting discarded materials into useful and attractive products. The initiative promoted the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, encouraging participants to view waste

promote environmentally responsible practices, and create opportunities for SHGs to develop products with potential market value. Through this initiative, BDS Dzongu and SRLM reaffirmed their commitment to supporting community-led environmental action and strengthening rural livelihoods. The participation of Shri Suren Mohra, Junior Faculty, SIRD, alongside representatives from CRISIL, the Financial Literacy Counsellor, and SBI Gangtok, added an important institutional and financial literacy dimension to the programme. The participation underscored the importance of capacity building, financial awareness, and coordination among development institutions in strengthening SHGs and supporting women-led enterprises. Financial literacy and institutional support can help SHG members improve financial decision-making, understand available banking services, and build stronger foundations for sustainable economic activities. Smt. Pemkit Lepcha, Manager, BDS Dzongu, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to the chairperson, Dr. Mahindra Tamang, Shri Suren Mohra, institutional representatives, CRISIL representatives, the Financial Literacy Counsellor, SBI representatives, SRLM officials, BDS staff, and all participating SHG members. She acknowledged the cooperation and support extended by everyone in making the programme meaningful and successful. She also appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated by SHG members and encouraged them to continue participating in initiatives that promote environmental responsibility, financial awareness, and sustainable livelihoods. She reiterated that collective action, institutional coordination, and community participation are essential for strengthening SHGs and building a more self-reliant and environmentally responsible society. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to promote environmental sustainability, encourage innovation among SHGs, strengthen financial literacy, and create new opportunities for rural women. Through initiatives such as “Kabaad Se Jugaad,” BDS Dzongu and SRLM continue to encourage SHG members to transform challenges into opportunities, waste into wealth, and creativity into sustainable livelihoods. The event reinforced the belief that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility and that the journey towards a cleaner Dzongu begins with individual action and collective commitment. A cleaner environment, empowered women, and self-reliant communities are the foundations of a prosperous Dzongu.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank opens 2 new branches

EOI CORRESPONDENT

SILIGURI, OCT 9: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) announced the opening of 2 new branches across 2 locations in the state West Bengal. The breakup is as follows:

*1 branch in Cooch Behar district at Mathabhanga location

*1 branch in Kolkata district at Dalhousie location

In FY 26-27, the bank plans to open a total of 2 branches in West Bengal, further strengthening its presence and expanding access to formal banking and financial services across the region.

The expansion is expected to generate approximately 20 new employment opportunities and will enable customers across the region to access a comprehensive suite of banking and financial products and services, including Individual Loan & Group Loans.

The new branches will cater to the diverse financial needs of Micro Finance Customers, while strengthening the Bank's reach across West Bengal.

Carol Furtado-Interim CEO and Whole-Time Executive Director, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited said, “Our branch expansion across East reflects our continued focus on taking accessible and customer-centric banking services closer to communities. With 2 new branches, we are strengthening our presence across key markets while creating greater access to our range of financial products and services. We remain committed to supporting the financial needs and aspirations of customers across the region and contributing to its economic growth.”

Through this expansion, Ujjivan SFB aims to bring its financial solutions closer to customers and support their evolving banking and credit requirements, while contributing to greater financial inclusion and economic activity across the region.

Bihar CM directs officials to step up surveillance, act against misleading social media content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, OCT 9 : Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Friday directed officials to step up surveillance on elements creating disturbances in public places and take preventive action in accordance with the law to maintain law and order. He also called for action against the dissemination of misleading or offensive content on social media that could affect law and order.

Choudhary was speaking at a high-level review meeting at his official residence here to assess the law and order situation and strengthen measures to control crime, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

"District magistrates and SPs should provide necessary responses within two hours in sensitive social media-related cases, which will be monitored at the headquarters level," he said.

Action against hate speech and illegal content must be taken in accordance with the relevant laws and prescribed procedures, he added.

In an apparent reference to protests by job aspirants in Patna over the past few months, Choudhary said competitive examinations must be "clean and free from malpractice", and directed officials to take strict action against those involved in irregularities.

Describing law and order as the government's "top priority", he said, "Criminals should be catalogued in district-wise and police station-wise lists, and effective action should be taken against them. Using the provisions of the Crime Control Act (CCA), strict surveillance should be kept on habitual criminals and anti-social elements."

The CM said sensitive areas and locations where unrest or criminal activities were likely to occur should be identified, and regular patrolling, continuous surveillance, alongside active police presence in those areas, should be ensured, the CMO statement read. Choudhary directed that the Dial-112 system be further improved to provide prompt police assistance to ordinary citizens in emergency situations.

IN BRIEF

Bihar Police detain job aspirants in Patna before protest march

PATNA : Police on Friday detained several B Pharm degree holders and candidates for Bihar Police driver recruitment who had gathered at Gandhi Maidan here to press for their respective demands.

The B Pharm graduates are seeking inclusion in the state government's pharmacist recruitment process, while the driver recruitment candidates want over 1,100 vacant posts reserved for women to be allocated to eligible male candidates.

Before the proposed march could begin, police detained several protesters and took them away in police vehicles.

Some protesters were also chased by the police, witnesses said.

However, Gandhi Maidan police rejected the claim.

"Some people had assembled here to protest illegally. They did not have permission to protest. We detained several individuals, though the exact number is not clear yet," Gandhi Maidan SHO Akhilesh Kumar Mishra said.

Jharkhand: Tribal woman alleges assault by police in Latehar, CM orders probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LATEHAR, OCT 9 : Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday ordered an inquiry into allegations by a tribal woman that police personnel in Latehar district assaulted and misbehaved with her while questioning her over suspected involvement in the opium trade and poppy cultivation.

Puniya Devi, a resident of Melam Tola Malhan in Salaiya panchayat under Herhanj block, accused Bariyatu police station in-charge Prabhat Kumar Das and other policemen of assault and misconduct, a senior officer said.

The woman alleged that on October 5, while she was grazing goats near Bagnahi Mahua, Das and other policemen took her to the police station over her suspected involvement in the opium trade and poppy cultivation, he said.

She further alleged that the policemen tied her legs, hung her up and beat her with sticks before releasing her on the night of October 6.

She also claimed that the officers pressured her to record a video statement admitting her involvement in poppy cultivation, the officer said. In a post on X on Friday, Soren directed the Latehar police to take immediate cognisance of the allegations, conduct an inquiry and report back after taking appropriate action. "Take immediate cognizance, investigate, and inform after taking appropriate action," the chief minister said. "The victim, along with

villagers, had submitted an application against the officer in-charge and other policemen on Thursday. We have initiated a detailed inquiry into the matter," Latehar SP Kumar Gaurav told reporters.

Meanwhile, Das denied the allegations, describing them as false.

He said police had received information about the woman's alleged involvement in the opium trade and poppy cultivation, following which the matter was investigated.

"The allegations of assault and others are baseless," Das said.

Monsoon likely to withdraw from Jharkhand in next four days

RANCHI, OCT 9 : The Southwest Monsoon is likely to withdraw from Jharkhand in the next four days as the state suffered a two per cent rainfall deficit, an India Meteorological Department official said on Friday.

The withdrawal began on October 3, two days ahead of its usual date.

It has already withdrawn from the northwestern districts and parts of central Jharkhand, including Garhwa, Chatra, Palamu, Latehar, Lohardaga, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, and Koderma, the official said.

"Conditions are favourable for further withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon from the remaining parts of Jharkhand in the next three to four days," Baburaj PP, the director, Ranchi Meteorological Centre, told PTI.

The normal date for the start of monsoon withdrawal from Jharkhand is around October 5. The withdrawal gets completed by October 10. Jharkhand has received 1,005.7 mm rainfall against a normal 1022.9 mm between June 1 and September 30, considered the monsoon period.

Baburaj said the overall rain deficit during the period was two per cent.

The state recorded 58 per cent deficit rainfall in June and 7 per cent in July. However, it witnessed excess rainfall of 26 per cent in August and 15 per cent in September, the IMD official said.

Out of the 24 districts in the state, West Singhbhum and Saraikela-Kharsawan received excess rainfall, while 15 districts recorded normal rainfall and seven districts deficit rainfall.

Jharkhand experienced several episodes of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall during the season. June recorded eight days and July six days of heavy rainfall, according to the IMD. August recorded one day of extremely heavy rainfall and eight days of very heavy rainfall, while September registered two days of extremely heavy rainfall, it added.

India received 759.4 mm of rainfall during the southwest monsoon period, against a normal of 868.6 mm, a 12.6 per cent deficiency, Baburaj added.

Patna HC questions trial court proceedings against former SP in case pending before higher judiciary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, OCT 9 : The Patna High Court has sought all documents of proceedings initiated against a former Rohtas district police chief by a trial court over alleged non-compliance with its directions in a case whose appeal was pending before the state's top judicial body. "It seems to be a peculiar situation, and an unprecedented one," said a bench of Justices Rajeev Ranjan Prasad and Sunil Dutta Mishra. The division bench, in its order issued on Thursday, observed that the trial court's 2023 judgment and its direction to register an FIR against a person for his false deposition was pending before the high court. Procedural propriety should have been maintained by the lower court, it said, but did not wish to make any further observation at this stage. The high court directed the principal district judge of Rohtas to submit a report along with all documents and orders passed in a case initiated over alleged non-compliance with the trial court's directions. Bihar Advocate General S D Sanjay submitted that the trial court had directed the then Rohtas superintendent of police to register an FIR against a man for allegedly giving a false statement, and subsequently initiated criminal contempt proceedings against the former district police chief and imposed a fine for alleged non-compliance. "Under

statutory rules, a court cannot direct an FIR for false evidence. It can only file a formal written complaint itself," he argued. The state's top law officer said the trial court had continued passing

orders on the matter even after its judgment was challenged before the high court. On his request for an early hearing, the Patna High Court said the appeal be listed among the first five cases on November 25.

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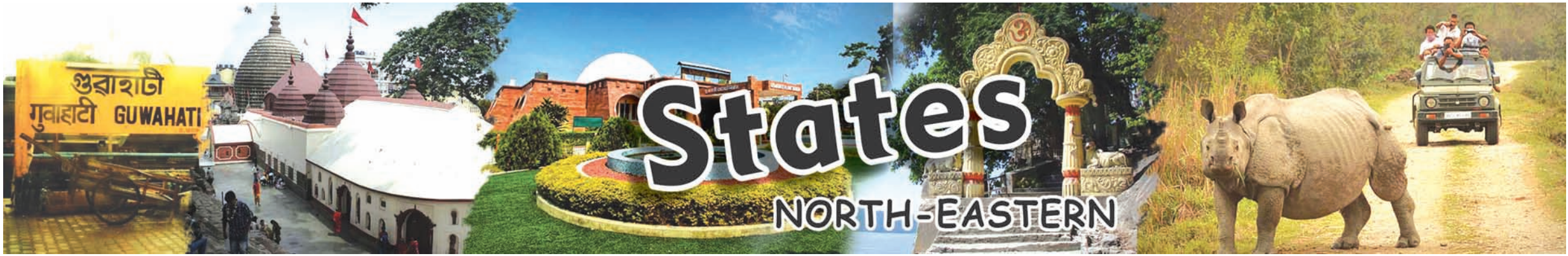
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Ratan Tata gave NE dignity through healthcare, ambition through industry: Himanta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GUWAHATI, OCT 9: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that Ratan Tata gave the Northeast dignity through healthcare and ambition through industry. On the industrialist's death anniversary, Sarma said when cancer was claiming thousands of lives in Assam every year, Ratan Tata helped map 17 hospitals across the state and took Assam Cancer Care Foundation from an "idea to a lifeline".

He also reposed the same trust by setting up the Tata Semiconductor Facility at Jagir Road, which will become operational by the end of this year, and the township around the area has been named as Ratan Tata Electronics City, Sarma said.



-File image

"Today, on the occasion of Ratan Tata's 'punyatithi', I remember not just an industrialist, but a friend who chose Assam as few outsiders ever have," he said in a social media post. "I still recall his visits to

our state -- warm, unhurried, always asking what more could be done for our people, not what more could be built for his company," he said.

When cancer was silently claiming thousands

of lives every year, "he did not send a cheque and walk away; he sat with us, mapped 17 hospitals across the state, took Assam Cancer Care Foundation from an idea to a lifeline". Sarma said that Ratan

Tata once told him that his last years were to healthcare, and "Assam became the state where that promise lived".

"That same trust is why, when we spoke of Assam becoming a technology hub, he did not doubt it for a moment," he said.

Sarma said that by the end of this year, when the Tata semiconductor facility at Jagir Road becomes operational, the first-of-its-kind in India, it will be a realisation of his dreams for Assam and fittingly, the township around it carries his name, Ratan Tata Electronics City. "He gave the Northeast dignity in healthcare and ambition in industry. On this day, Assam does not just mourn a great Indian; we honour a man who believed in us," Sarma added.



Artisans give final touches to idols as Durga Puja is fast approaching – UB Photos

Quality silkworm seed, skill development key for sustainable sericulture sector: Union minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JORHAT, OCT 9: Union minister Pabitra Margherita on Thursday said quality silkworm seed, modern technology and skill development are necessary for a sustainable and growth-oriented sericulture sector.

He highlighted the northeast's potential in the silk production sector and emphasised the need for entrepreneurship and collaboration.

The Union Minister of State for Textiles was talking to reporters after inaugurating a grainage building and cold-storage facility at the CSB-Silkworm Seed Production Centre (SSPC), Jorhat.

The facility is expected to be an important step towards modernising sericulture infrastructure and strengthening rural livelihoods in the northeastern region, an official statement said.

Margherita said quality silkworm seed, modern infrastructure, technology and skill development are essential for building a productive and sustainable sericulture sector.

Underscoring Assam's rich silk heritage and the immense potential of the northeastern region, he said that initiatives such as 'Mission Senehori' can contribute towards transforming Muga (mulberry) silk into a high-value global

product.

'Mission Senehori' is a cluster-based initiative launched in June this year to transform Muga silk into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.

He stressed the importance of entrepreneurship and collaboration among all stakeholders to enhance farmers' productivity, create sustainable rural livelihoods and strengthen the vision of an 'Aatmanirbhar North-East'.

Margherita called for greater coordination among the Central Silk Board, state government, research institutions, farmers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders for a developed

Assam. Established under the North-East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), the state-of-the-art facility has an annual production capacity of 30 lakh Disease-Free Layings (DFLs) of mulberry hybrid seed and a preservation capacity of up to 1 crore DFLs.

The upgraded infrastructure is expected to ensure the timely availability of quality silkworm seed, and enhance the efficiency of seed production in Assam and the wider northeastern region.

As part of the programme, an interactive seri-stakeholder meet was also organised to facilitate dialogue with stakeholders and deliberate on key issues concerning the development of the sericulture sector.



Mukul Sangma rules out joining BJP, says TMC cannot be broken in Meghalaya



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHILLONG, OCT 9: Trinamool Congress leader and Meghalaya Leader of Opposition Mukul Sangma on Thursday ruled out joining the BJP or any other national party, while asserting that the TMC cannot be weakened in the state. Sangma, a former Meghalaya chief minister, was responding to questions about whether the saffron party had approached him amid speculation of possible attempts to weaken the TMC in the state. "BJP can never break TMC in Meghalaya. And as far as I am concerned, Mukul Sangma is not joining the BJP nor any political party, no national party," he said. Asked whether the BJP had approached him, Sangma declined to confirm or deny any such outreach. "You cannot rule out BJP approaching many people. I have given examples of other states. Why do I give these examples? You have to read between the lines," he said.

"I don't have to be specific to this answer because I would like to at least respectfully say that I will not answer that. Even if they approach me, I will not tell you," he added. On reports that the BJP was allegedly trying to engineer a split in the Meghalaya TMC, Sangma declined to comment but maintained that the party could not be broken in the state.

Meghalaya HC sends contempt notices to bar association leaders over abstinence from judicial work

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHILLONG, OCT 9: The Meghalaya High Court has issued criminal contempt notices to office-bearers of two bar associations over their "completely unacceptable" call for a judicial work boycott, demanding the removal of Advocate General Amit Kumar from his post.

A division bench of Chief Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Justice H S Thangkiew took suo motu cognisance of the matter on Thursday, observing that the boycott had disrupted administration of justice and left litigants unrepresented in courts, except for Baghmara.

It issued notices to office-bearers and executive members of the Shillong Bar Association and the High Court of Meghalaya Bar Association, asking them to show cause why criminal contempt action should not be initiated against them.

They have been directed to appear personally before the court on October 13, according to the order.

The two associations called for abstention from work from October 1 until the government removes Kumar, the state's chief legal officer, over remarks allegedly made during High Court proceedings on August 3 concerning the safety of women lawyers and the protection of a woman law intern, who was allegedly molested.



According to the high court, the demand for the advocate general's removal was no justification for abstaining from judicial work, adding that courts could not be used by lawyers to achieve such objectives.

Citing the Supreme Court's judgment in Ex-Capt. Harish Uppal vs Union of India, the bench reiterated that lawyers have no right to strike or call for a boycott of court proceedings, including token strikes.

It warned that contempt notices could be issued to office-bearers of other district bar associations if lawyers did not resume judicial work forthwith, excluding the Baghmara Bar Association, which had declined to support the boycott.

The court also impleaded the Bar Council of India as a respondent and directed the Chairman of the Bar Council of Meghalaya to appear personally on October 13 and inform it of the action taken against lawyers involved in the abstention.

Language diversity, teacher shortages, hurdles in implementing NEP in Meghalaya: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHILLONG, OCT 9: Meghalaya's linguistic diversity, shortage of teachers and gaps in educational infrastructure remain key hurdles in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in the state, Education Minister Lahkmen Rymbui said on Friday.

Addressing a state-level seminar on NEP 2020 in Shillong, Rymbui called for collective efforts and practical solutions to overcome these challenges and ensure the policy's effective implementation. He identified key concerns, including resource-sharing among schools under different management systems, language barriers, teacher shortages, continuous professional development, dependence on private coaching and the effective

integration of technology in education. "Classrooms must become more engaging and enjoyable,

skills development and practical learning. He said students should be encouraged to pursue their

linguistic diversity and the varying availability of teachers across different mediums of instruction required careful consideration.

Meghalaya is home to Khasi, Jaintia, Garos, and Rabhas, who speak a variety of languages of their own.

He also emphasised the need for regular teacher training, saying the knowledge gained through such programmes must translate into improved classroom practices. On the integration of technology, Rymbui called for clear guidelines and appropriate digital resources to help schools and teachers adopt tools that genuinely enhance teaching and learning. Acknowledging constraints related to resources, infrastructure and teacher availability, he urged stakeholders to work together through

meaningful dialogue and practical interventions to strengthen the state's education system.

Commissioner and Secretary of the Education Department Vijay Kumar Mantri highlighted the state's progress in implementing NEP 2020, particularly in foundational-stage education, formative assessment, experiential learning and competency-based education. He emphasised that effective implementation of the policy remained a key priority. The one-day seminar, organised by the Directorate of Educational Research and Training (DERT), Meghalaya, provided a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on implementation challenges and explore practical ways to advance inclusive and quality education in the state.



providing students with opportunities to discover and develop their individual talents," Rymbui said, stressing that education should go beyond academic performance to include

interests and develop skills that would prepare them for future opportunities. Highlighting the challenges of implementing the three-language policy, the minister said Meghalaya's

Small-toothed ferret badger rescued, released in Raimona National Park

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, OCT 9 : A late-night incident in Nepalibasti, a fringe village near Kachugaon Bazar in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), ended in a successful rescue and release of a Small-toothed Ferret Badger.

The animal was spotted hiding among a pile of logs within a household in the late hours of October 7 last. Recognising the need for timely intervention, local resident

Mr. Lokbahadur Chetry promptly alerted forest officials at the Range Office, setting a coordinated rescue operation in motion.

A joint team comprising personnel from the Kachugaon Division, BTC and Assam Forest Department, along with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), rushed to the site and safely rescued the animal.

No visible injuries were observed, and following a preliminary observation at the Range Office, the ferret

badger was released into its natural habitat within Raimona National Park, in accordance with standard protocol and under the guidance of Range Officer Someswar Brahma. The release was conducted under the supervision of

List owing to its wide distribution and relatively stable population. Despite its relatively wide distribution, much about this small, elusive carnivore remains poorly understood. The species is primarily fossorial and



WTI Biologist Hiranmoy Chetia. This rescue highlights the importance of community awareness and prompt coordination between local residents and frontline forest staff in safeguarding wildlife within and around protected areas.

The Small-toothed Ferret Badger, also known as the Chinese Ferret Badger, is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red

typically uses pre-existing shelters rather than excavating new burrows. These include rodent dens, firewood stacks, rock piles, open fields, and crevices around houses. Largely nocturnal, it has an omnivorous diet that includes insects, earthworms, snails, frogs, eggs, fruits, and occasionally the carcasses of small birds and mammals.

“ Every day we do things, we are things that have to do with peace. If we are aware of our life..., our way of looking at things, we will know how to make peace right in the moment, we are alive

—Thich Nhat Hanh

Protests against inviting global port operators to Bangladesh should not be taken at face value

The protest in Dhaka and Chittagong against the decision of the authorities in Bangladesh to hand over the operation of the New Moorings Container Terminal at Chittagong Port to DP World, a company based in the UAE, should not be taken at face value. The contracts for the operation and maintenance of a number of important terminals at Chittagong Port have lately been awarded to global operators in the area of port and shipping, denying Chinese firms the opportunity to operate these terminals. Besides, the deep seaport at Matarbari, the only truly deep seaport in Bangladesh, is coming up with Japanese assistance. These moves by the Bangladesh government clearly undermines any possible Chinese plan to dominate the Indian Ocean region by gaining control of the ports in Bangladesh on the Bay of Bengal. It is all the more significant that the protests against the handing over the operational contract of the New Moorings Container Terminal, the biggest terminal at Chittagong Port, to DP World, have been orchestrated by left-leaning trade unions.

Strategically located on the Bay of Bengal, the Chittagong Port handles most of Bangladesh's exports and imports. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest exporter of readymade garments. Dock workers and left-leaning activists have demanded that the government reconsider the agreement to hand over operation of the major terminal at the main seaport of Bangladesh to a UAE-based company. The protests centred on concerns that the deal with UAE-based DP World could expose Bangladesh to geopolitical risks, reduce government revenue and foreign-exchange earnings, and threaten the jobs of dock workers. Labour unions, economists and political groups have also questioned why the government was handing over a profitable terminal to a foreign operator when the facility had been managed domestically.

The argument of the agitators about the geopolitical risks of handing over the operation of the terminal to a UAE-based company must however be weighed against the counterpoint that had the operation of the terminal been assigned to a Chinese company the geopolitical risks would have been higher.

The government, however, has said the deal would bring modern technology and international operating standards to the port, reduce corruption, cut ship waiting times, attract foreign investment and improve the skills of local workers. Police in riot gear used batons on Thursday to disperse protesters outside the Investment Development Authority office in Dhaka, where the 15-year concession agreement was signed, activists said. Several protesters, including Bangladesh Communist Party's (CPB) president, were injured, they said.

At Chattogram, dock workers staged sit-ins blocking roads around the administrative building of Bangladesh's main seaport. Riot police and port security personnel were deployed to protect port facilities. "The government has already signed the agreement, so there is little left to say. But we want to give the government more time," said Humayun Kabir, coordinator of the Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad (Action Council for Port Protection).

Under the agreement, DP World would operate and maintain Bangladesh's busiest New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and its Overflow Container Yard (OCY).

The government has defended the deal, saying a global operator such as DP World would bring modern technology, reduce corruption at the port, shorten ship waiting times, attract foreign investment and improve the skills of local professionals. "Modern equipment, digital systems, international operating standards and global logistics connections will make NCT more competitive," Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam said.

DP World would make an upfront payment of about USD 49 million for operating the NCT, which handles more than 40 per cent of the port's container traffic. The company would also invest more than USD 81 million over the first 10 years to modernise the terminal. The agreement was signed despite opposition from labour unions and political groups.

During Muhammad Yunus' interim government, Bangladesh signed a 30-year concession in November last year with Danish shipping group APM Terminals to operate another container terminal at Chattogram. The move to lease the NCT was also initiated during the interim administration.

PIX TALKS

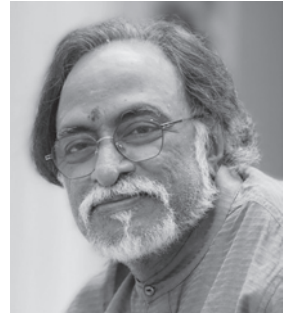


Dolls at display during the inauguration of the Dasara Handmade Doll Fest 2026 at Garuda Mall, in Bengaluru, Friday—PTI



ASHOK NILAKANTAN AYERS

The administration has already moved money in other ways. Nearly one million Americans have begun receiving USD 500 Affordable Care Act-related rebate checks, while Trump has announced plans for payments of roughly USD 90 to more than 20 million Medicare beneficiaries. Critics have questioned the timing of the payments so close to the election.



T N ASHOK

Democrats are betting that voter dissatisfaction with the administration can overcome the structural advantages built into congressional districts and the Senate map. Between now and November 3, the decisive question may therefore be less whether Trump is on the ballot than whether voters decide to treat him as though he is.

Critics see something else: a party increasingly dependent on a president whose national approval has fallen sharply. The numbers are stark. A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed October 5 put Trump's approval at 32%, matching the lowest level recorded in his political career. Registered vot-

The battle lines for America's November 3 midterm elections are now unmistakably drawn. With barely a month remaining, President Donald Trump is turning the contest for control of Congress into a personal referendum on his presidency, urging Americans to vote as though his own name were on the ballot.

For Republicans, the stakes could hardly be higher. The party controls both chambers, but Democrats are mounting an aggressive campaign for the House and see an opening in the Senate as well. Current polling shows Democrats with an advantage in the national House preference and competitive in a number of Senate battlegrounds, although the final result will depend on turnout and the individual contests. Trump knows what is at stake. A Democratic House, or a Democratic-controlled Congress, would dramatically alter the final two years of his presidency, increasing congressional scrutiny and making his legislative agenda considerably harder to advance.

His response has been extraordinary: redistricting battles, efforts to reshape voting rules, federal investigations of voter rolls, government-funded advertising, direct payments to selected Americans and, most dramatically, a promise of a USD 5,000 "Trump dividend" to adult Americans if Republicans retain both chambers.

That distinction matters legally. Federal law prohibits paying people to vote or inducing particular voting behaviour. But legal scholars consulted by several news organizations say Trump's proposal is not necessarily equivalent to buying an individual's vote because the promised payment would go to eligible adults regardless of whether they voted for Republicans, Democrats or did not vote at all. The Supreme Court has also distinguished broad political promises, such as tax reductions, from direct vote-buying.

That does not make the proposal ordinary. It makes it po-

litically and legally unusual. The question is less whether an individual voter is being handed USD 5,000 at a polling station than whether the president is deliberately linking a nationwide financial benefit to the electoral success of his party. Critics have described the proposal as a bribe; Trump and his allies describe it as a dividend arising from the administration's economic policies. The distinction will remain contentious unless Congress actually considers legislation implementing it.

The administration has already moved money in other ways. Nearly one million Americans have begun receiving USD 500 Affordable Care Act-related rebate checks, while Trump has announced plans for payments of roughly USD 90 to more than 20 million Medicare beneficiaries. Critics have questioned the timing of the payments so close to the election, while the administration describes them as legitimate government benefits or refunds. Democrats have responded with their own redistricting efforts in states under their control. The battle over voting rules is equally intense. Trump's administration has attempted to impose new requirements concerning citizenship and voter identification and sought greater federal control over mail ballots. Courts have blocked or limited key provisions, including elements of the citizenship rules, while the Supreme Court stopped the administration from imposing new mail-ballot requirements through the Postal Service for this election.

Federal authorities have also investigated alleged non-citizen registration. Administration officials say these measures are designed to protect election integrity. Democrats and voting-rights groups argue that they risk disenfranchisement and undermine confidence in the electoral system.

Trump has not stopped there. He has repeatedly accused Democrats of cheating, while some of his allies have floated the possibility of de-

playing ICE agents around polling places or invoking emergency powers. Trump himself has declined to rule out declaring a national emergency or invoking the Insurrection Act, although the chairman of the Joint Chiefs has said the military has no plans to deploy troops to polling places.

Yet beneath this extraordinary political machinery lies a much simpler problem: the price of everyday life. Americans may listen to arguments about immigration, tariffs, Iran, election security and political ideology, but the kitchen table remains the most unforgiving political battlefield.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in late September found that only 17% of Americans approved of Trump's handling of the cost of living, while 26% approved of his economic management. About 65% said Trump's policies contributed to persistent inflation.

That is the contradiction confronting the White House. The administration can point to low unemployment and strong headline economic growth. But millions of voters do not experience the economy through GDP figures. They experience it at the supermarket, petrol station, rent counter, mortgage office and utility bill. Reuters reported Monday that unemployment remains around 4.2%, but hiring has slowed, wage gains have been eroded by inflation and real disposable-income growth remains weak.

For younger Americans, the equation is even more complicated. The administration is trying to bring younger voters into the Republican coalition through direct appeals on the economy, jobs, technology and Trump's broader political message. But the Yale Youth Poll found substantial disapproval of Trump among voters under 35, including 68% among those aged 18-22 and 72% among those aged 23-29 in its spring survey. The USD 5,000 promise therefore enters a political environment in which economic anxiety may be more important than ideology. It is also why the

November election could become a referendum on something more fundamental than Trump himself: whether voters believe the administration's promises are translating into improvements in their own lives. Trump has responded by making the election unmistakably personal. His message is effectively that Republican voters must treat the congressional election as another presidential contest. Democrats, meanwhile, are attempting to turn the same dynamic against him, portraying congressional candidates as the means through which voters can check the administration.

The irony is that both parties are now campaigning around Trump. For Republicans, he remains the party's most powerful mobilizer and fundraiser, capable of drawing enormous crowds and dominating the political conversation. For Democrats, he is the central reason they are seeking to turn the midterms into a judgment on the administration.

Thirty days from Election Day, the collision is becoming sharper. There is Trump's promise of money, his fight over congressional maps, his attempts to reshape voting procedures, his attacks on alleged election fraud and his demand that Republican voters turn out as though he himself were standing for election. Opposing that is an electorate increasingly focused on prices, wages, housing, healthcare, fuel and economic security.

The final question may therefore be remarkably old-fashioned. Can political spectacle overcome the cost of living? On November 3, Americans will answer not with television advertisements, presidential rallies or campaign promises, but with ballots. And the result will determine whether Trump's final two years begin with Congress as an ally or as an increasingly powerful check on the White House. (IPA)

REFLEX ACTION

Both Republicans and Democrats are campaigning focusing on the President

FOCUS

Trump to campaign every day for mid-term polls in next four weeks

President Donald Trump is not on the ballot in America's November 3 midterm elections. But if the President has his way, American voters will have little difficulty imagining that he is.

Trump has effectively turned the final month of the 2026 campaign into a personal referendum on his presidency. He has said he intends to campaign virtually every day until Election Day, telling Republicans to behave as though his name were on the ballot. The message is unmistakable: a vote for a Republican candidate, he argues, should be regarded as a vote for his administration.

On Monday, October 5, that strategy took him to Grand Island, Nebraska - a state Trump carried by more than 20 percentage points in 2024. Yet even Nebraska has become part of the political warning signal confronting Republicans. Republican Senator Pete Ricketts is facing independent Dan Osborn in a contest that has attracted national attention.

The choice of Nebraska is revealing. Trump began his October campaign offensive in states such as Oklahoma and Alabama, rather than immediately concentrating on the most fiercely contested battlegrounds. Republicans argue that the President's presence can energize conservative voters, create media attention for candidates and strengthen turnout across the country.

Critics see something else: a party increasingly dependent on a president whose national approval has fallen sharply.

The numbers are stark. A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed October 5 put Trump's approval at 32%, matching the lowest level recorded in his political career. Registered vot-

ers preferred Democratic congressional candidates to Republicans by 44% to 37%, while independents favoured Democrats 37% to 21%.

An AP-NORC poll was even more sobering: Trump's approval stood at 31%, his lowest rating across either of his two presidencies. Only 26% approved of his handling of the economy. That economic number may be more important than Trump's overall approval rating.

America's economy presents a complicated picture. Employment remains relatively strong and the administration continues to advertise investment, manufacturing and economic expansion. Trump describes the country as entering a "Golden Age."

But many voters are experiencing the economy at the supermarket, the gasoline station and the household utility bill. High food and fuel prices have become a political problem for Republicans. The continuing war involving Iran has added to energy costs and intensified voter anxiety. Western agencies report that even in Nebraska, farmers and truckers are complaining about sharply higher diesel prices.

That produces a striking disconnect between Washington's economic statistics and the kitchen-table experience of voters.

The Republican problem is particularly visible among Hispanic voters. The latest Reuters/Ipsos survey found only 24% of Hispanic Americans approving of Trump's performance, while 52% of Hispanic registered voters said they intended to vote Democratic and 26% Republican.

The significance extends well beyond the Hispanic vote itself. Trump's 2024 coalition depended on improving Republican performance among

working-class and non-white voters. If some of those voters now return to Democratic candidates, competitive

Maine offers a different kind of contest. Republican Senator Susan Collins has historically maintained an independent political identity, and the latest CBS polling showed her race tied. Significantly, some voters who disapprove of Trump nevertheless continue to support Collins, demonstrating that a midterm election cannot be reduced entirely to a presidential referendum.

The House requires Democrats to gain only three seats for a majority. Current strength razor thin at Republicans 218 to Democrats 214. That relatively small numerical threshold makes dozens of districts consequential. Democrats are expanding their target list into Republican territory, including districts in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, New York and Arizona.

Redistricting has complicated the picture. Republicans altered congressional maps in several states, attempting to strengthen their position. But some of the newly redrawn districts are proving more competitive than Republicans anticipated. The latest CBS battleground analysis continues to show a Democratic advantage in the House battlefield, while individual districts remain highly fluid.

This is why the House contest could ultimately be decided by a relatively small number of suburban and exurban districts - places where voters may dislike aspects of Trump personally while still supporting their Republican congressman, or where economic concerns may override partisan loyalty.

Trump's decision to spend October almost continuously on the campaign trail is therefore both an opportunity and a

gamble. He can generate enormous media attention. His rallies can energize Republican activists. His endorsement can transform a relatively obscure congressional contest into a national event.

But the same strategy makes Trump himself impossible to separate from the Republican ticket. That is particularly consequential when his approval rating is hovering around one-third.

The President appears determined to solve the problem through visibility: more rallies, more speeches, more economic announcements and more direct appeals to voters. Republicans are simultaneously spending heavily in battleground states; Trump and Republican-aligned political groups have committed tens of millions of dollars to advertising.

The extraordinary feature of 2026 is that the argument is no longer confined to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona, Georgia or Nevada. It has reached Nebraska. It has reached Kansas. It has reached Texas and Alaska. And it has made Republican incumbents in places once considered comfortably red campaign as though the political ground beneath them were shifting.

Whether that produces a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate, continued Republican control, or some combination of the three cannot responsibly be determined from today's polls. What can be said is that the margin for error is becoming exceptionally small.

Trump is betting that personal campaigning can convert presidential visibility into Republican votes. Democrats are betting that voter dissatisfaction with the administration can overcome the structural advantages built into congressional districts and the Senate map. (IPA)



SC to hold two-day national consultation on 10 years of Juvenile Justice Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 9 : The Supreme Court will hold a two-day national consultation on Saturday and Sunday to review the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and identify challenges and priorities for strengthening the child protection system over the next decade.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant will inaugurate the consultation organised by the Supreme Court's Juvenile Justice Committee in association with UNICEF at the apex court's premises here. The event will bring together Supreme Court and high court judges, senior government officials and child rights experts to

deliberate on the progress made in implementing the legislation and ways to improve access to justice for children, the release issued by the apex court said.

A compendium of landmark Supreme Court and high court judgments relating to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, covering the period from 2015 to September 2026, will be released by the CJI during the inaugural session. Justice B V Nagarathna, Supreme Court judge and chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee, will deliver the opening remarks, while UNICEF India Country Representative Cynthia McCaffrey will make the

introductory remarks.

The deliberations will focus on the rights of children in conflict with law, preliminary assessment by Juvenile Justice Boards in heinous offences, adoption procedures, institutional care and rehabilitation of vulnerable children. Technical sessions will examine the implementation of the Act across states and Union Territories, with representatives from several states and regions sharing their experiences and best practices.

The consultation will also discuss ways to improve coordination among institutions, strengthen child-friendly justice mechanisms and promote

the rehabilitation and reintegration of children.

The event will conclude on Sunday with special remarks by UNICEF India's Chief of Child Protection Milen Kidane and an address by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Secretary Anil Malik. Justice J B Pardiwala, Supreme Court judge and member of the Juvenile Justice Committee, will deliver the closing remarks.

The release said the consultation aims to help shape priorities for the next decade, with a focus on protecting children's rights, strengthening institutional accountability and ensuring access to care, protection and justice.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW, OCT 9 : The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved the third phase of the Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya project in Lucknow, including the development of a water body across 6.8 acres, with the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) set to oversee the operation and maintenance of the museum complex.

The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the transfer of the land by the LDA to the Tourism Department for a token amount of Rs 1 lakh.

The proposed facilities include replicas of naval

ships, boating, light and sound shows, exhibitions on aquatic life and marine biodiversity, and a Curation and Experience Centre featuring digital galleries, audio-visual presentations, interactive exhibits and simulations. Briefing reporters, Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said the project would help connect young people with India's maritime heritage and make history, science and technology more engaging for students.

The museum is being developed by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department in collaboration with the Indian Navy to showcase the country's maritime history, naval

capabilities and indigenous defence technology.

The first phase, Nausena Shaurya Vatika, was inaugurated on May 30, 2026, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and CM Adityanath.

It displays components of warships and submarines, along with naval guns, anchors and propellers provided by the Indian Navy. The proposed experience centre will also highlight the Navy's role in maritime security, disaster relief and rescue operations. An aquarium is planned to help students and young visitors learn about marine life, according to an official statement.

So far, around Rs 69.10 crore has been sanctioned for the museum building, the Shaurya Vatika and curation-related works. Launched in 2025, the three-phase project is targeted for completion by 2027, it added. Entry will be ticketed, with concessional rates for students and schoolchildren.

The LDA will manage the operation and maintenance of the Shaurya Vatika and, after their completion, the Curation and Experience Centre and water body, enabling a single agency to oversee maintenance, security, ticketing and visitor facilities, according to the statement.

Relocation of Bareilly monkeys to Pilibhit Tiger Reserve stalled over wildlife concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BAREILLY (UP), OCT 9 : A plan to relocate monkeys captured from residential areas of Bareilly to the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve has hit a roadblock for want of a suitable release site and concerns about the spread of infectious diseases among wildlife, officials said on Friday.

The reserve administration has objected to releasing monkeys from outside the protected forest area, citing potential risks to wildlife and the natural ecosystem.

The Bareilly Municipal Corporation had planned to capture the monkeys, conduct health examinations and release them at a suitable location. It wrote to the chief conservator of forests in Bareilly on September 29 seeking help in identifying an appropriate site.

Chief Conservator of Forests P Singh said monkeys living in urban areas frequently come into contact with humans and depend on garbage or food provided by people.

"Releasing such monkeys into a forest environment can alter their behaviour and feeding habits and affect the natural ecosystem. If they are carrying an infectious disease, there is also a risk of transmission to other wildlife," he said, adding that releasing animals from outside into the protected Pilibhit Tiger Reserve was not appropriate. A senior scientist in the wildlife department at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, A M Pawde, said monkeys could transmit diseases such as tuberculosis to wildlife. Contact with the saliva, faeces, urine or other bodily secretions of infected monkeys could increase infection risk, he said, stressing that health screening and identification of a suitable release site were necessary before relocating them to any forest area.

Pilibhit Divisional Forest Officer Manish Singh also expressed concern that the sudden arrival of urban monkeys could disrupt the natural food cycle.

Unlike monkeys accustomed to forests, those captured from residential areas might struggle to adapt to the new environment, he said. Their presence could also damage bird nests and rare vegetation, he added.

Bareilly Divisional Forest Officer Diksha Bhandari said animals captured in urban areas could not simply be released into forest areas and that a decision on identifying a suitable natural habitat was still pending.

Municipal Commissioner Sanjeev Kumar Maurya said the municipal corporation was responsible for capturing the monkeys, while the animal husbandry department was responsible for examining their health. No permission had so far been received to release them in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, he said, adding that the forest department would have to identify a suitable site.

The municipal corporation will seek the formation of a joint committee at the district magistrate's level, comprising officials from the forest department, municipal corporation and animal husbandry department. The proposed committee will decide on the capture of monkeys, their medical examination, selection of an appropriate location and arrangements for their safe relocation. The plan remains on hold until a suitable site is identified and the concerns regarding wildlife safety are addressed, officials said.

Fmr B'luru police chief seeks verification of Youtuber Dhruv Rathee' citizenship, visa status over anti-SIR protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, OCT 9 : Former Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has sought the Union Home Ministry's intervention to verify YouTuber Dhruv Rathee's citizenship, immigration status and compliance with visa conditions following his participation in an anti-SIR protest here on October 8.

In a letter to the Union Home Secretary, Rao, said Rathee, who is understood to hold German citizenship, participated in the protest along with actor-activist Prakash Raj and others, and criticised the Election Commission of India over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Rao, who unsuccessfully contested

the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections on a BJP ticket from Chamaraajpet, shared his letter on his X handle. "The limited and specific issue requiring examination is whether a foreign national, while present in India on the basis of a particular visa, immigration permission or other status, is legally entitled to participate in, address or otherwise associate himself with an organised political protest concerning the functioning of India's constitutional and statutory institutions," Rao said in the letter. He urged the ministry to verify Rathee's present citizenship and nationality, the passport used to enter India, the category of visa or other permission under which he was staying in the country, the

declared purpose of his visit and the conditions attached to his authorised stay. He also sought an examination on whether Rathee's participation in and address at the protest were permissible under the applicable immigration and visa regulations, and whether prior permission or clearance was required. If any violation of the Foreigners Act, 1946, visa conditions, immigration regulations, OCI rules or other applicable laws was established, appropriate action should be taken in accordance with the law, he said.

Clarifying the basis of his representation, Rao said it was not motivated by disagreement with Rathee's political views or criticism of the government or the Election Commission.

Govt proposes tighter curb on advertising of prescription drugs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 9 : The Union Health Ministry has proposed an amendment to the drugs rules to strengthen regulation of advertisements relating to prescription-only medicines across the pharmaceutical supply chain and reduce risks associated with inappropriate self-medication. The proposed amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945 seeks to extend the existing requirement of prior government sanction for advertising drugs specified under Schedule H, Schedule H1 and Schedule X (all prescription-only medicines) to entities holding licences for the sale and distribution of drugs.

The draft amendment has been notified through a gazette notification on September 28 following consultations with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).

Under the existing regulatory framework, pharmaceutical manufacturers are prohibited from advertising drugs covered under Schedule H, Schedule H1 and Schedule X without prior sanction of the central government, the health ministry said in a statement. However, corresponding provisions have not explicitly covered entities engaged in the retail and wholesale sale and distribution of these medicines, it said.

BNHS to conduct nationwide survey of sarus cranes to map habitats, step up conservation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, OCT 9 : The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will conduct a nationwide survey of sarus cranes on October 10 and 11 to assess the population of the world's tallest flying bird and strengthen conservation efforts.

The exercise, which is being done to commemorate "World Migratory Bird Day" observed on October 10, aims to establish a standardised national population baseline to help track changes in numbers and identify priority areas for conservation, the society said in a statement on Friday.

It has appealed to state forest departments, research institutions, conservation groups, farmers, local communities, educational institutions and citizen scientists to participate in the exercise by visiting sarus crane habitats.

Participants have been asked to record their observations and send their counts to saruscranesurvey@gmail.com.

Launching a synchronised nationwide survey would help track the bird numbers, identify important habitats and generate scientific evidence to protect the species and the landscapes on which it depends, BNHS

director Kishor Rithe said.

Dr P Sathiyaselvem, Deputy Director of BNHS and head of its Central Asian Flyway Programme, said the survey would help identify important breeding, feeding and roosting sites, prioritise wetland restoration, map areas vulnerable to power-line collisions and electrocution, and promote crane-friendly agricultural practices.

The findings could also help strengthen community-based conservation and develop evidence-based plans at the national and state levels, he said.

Sarus crane (Antigone antigone) is India's only resident breeding crane species and is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List. It is also included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and accorded protection under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Standing about 1.5 metres tall, the bird inhabits wetlands, marshes, shallow water bodies, grasslands and agricultural landscapes. Its presence is considered an indicator of the health of wetland and agricultural ecosystems. The BNHS said the species has

disappeared from, or become scarce in, several parts of its historical range and is now found largely in pockets across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, with isolated populations in Maharashtra.

Wetland degradation, changes in agricultural land use, pesticides and other chemicals, power-line collisions, electrocution, human disturbance, poaching and predation by wild and free-ranging dogs are among the major threats to the species.

An earlier international assessment estimated India's sarus crane population at 8,000 to 10,000 birds, with a declining trend. However, these estimates cannot be directly compared with more recent state-level counts because of differences in survey methods, geographical coverage and counting efforts, the society said.

According to the statement, Uttar Pradesh reported nearly 20,000 sarus cranes in its 2024 count, highlighting its importance as a stronghold for the species.

The State of India's Birds report recorded a long-term population decline of 76.84 per cent and an annual decline of 4.33 per cent for the species, it added.

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APPENDIX- IV- A [SEE PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES				
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.				
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS				
Lot. No.	A) Name of the Branch B) Name of the Account C) Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	D) Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagors of property (ies))	E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 F) Outstanding Amount G) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 H) Nature of Possession	A) Reserve Price B) EMD (last date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount D) Date/ Time of E-Auction E) Details of the encumbrances** known to the secured creditors.
1.	A) Gangtok (143020) B) J. M/s Tempo Regency (Prop. Sangay Tenzing Norbu) C) 1. Prop. & Mortgaged: Sh. Sangay Tenzing Norbu S/o Late Tempo Gyamtso. Add: Tathangchen Block, Ward No.06, Gangtok, East Sikkim, PIN- 737101.	All that piece & parcel of Land measuring 0.68 acre and constructed building thereon in the name of Sh Sangay Tenzing Norbu S/o Late Tempo Gyamtso vide Gift deed No. 40328, dated 16/01/2000, Registered in Book No. 1, Vol. No. III, Item No. 2029 for the year 2002, bearing Plot No. 5/315/536, situated at Tathangchen Block, Tathangchen Ellaka, East Sikkim. Butted and bounded as follows:- East: Land of Tempo Gyamtso S/o Late Tempo Lepcha, West: J.N. Road, North: Land of Tempo Gyamtso S/o Late Tempo Lepcha, South: Land of Tempo Gyamtso S/o Late Tempo Lepcha.	E)- 20.05.2025 F)- Rs. 4,97,88,457.06 / - + further interest and charges G)- 28.08.2025 H)- Symbolic	A) Rs. 20,70,90,000/- B) Rs.2,07,09,000/- (26.10.2026) C) Rs. 50,000/- D) 27.10.2026 From 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM E) Not Known to Bank
2.	A) Gangtok Branch(4068) B) Sri Santosh Kumar Prasad Gupta C) A) Near Sbi Atm, Bojoghari, Gangtok, East Sikkim, Distt. East Sikkim, PIN – 737103, And, Smt. Munni Devi at : Near Sbi Atm, Bojoghari, Gangtok, East Sikkim, Distt. - East Sikkim, PIN – 737103	1) All that piece or parcel of part of a residential Flat measuring one 1200 Sq. Ft. at Ground Floor and another 1200 Sq. Ft. at First Floor of the building with proportionate, impartible share standing on the land measuring 0.0159 hectare in the name of Smt. Munni Devi Prasad W/o Sri Santosh Kumar Prasad @ Santosh Kumar Prasad Gupta, vide sale deed No. 343310, registered in Book No. 1 Vol. No. 13, Serial No. 289, Khatian No. 848, Khasra No. 803/1328 dated 02-02-2019 recorded at Office of Registrar East District Gangtok, under Bojoghari Block, Penlong Elaka, Sub Division Gangtok, East Sikkim. Butted and bounded as follows:- E: Zangpo Bhutia, W: Zangpo Bhutia, N: Zangpo Bhutia, S: Zangpo Bhutia.	E)- 23.11.2022 F) Rs. 1,23,03,860.79/- + further intnt. and other charges [amount as mentioned in demand notice 13(2)] G- 21/04/2023 H)- Symbolic	A) Rs. 73,44,000/- B) Rs. 7,34,400/- (26.10.2026) C) Rs. 25,000/- D) 27.10.2026 From 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM E) Not Known to Bank
TERMS AND CONDITIONS				
The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1.The properties are being sold on ‘AS IS WHERE IS BASIS’ and ‘AS IS WHAT IS BASIS’ and ‘WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS’. 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://banknet.in on 27.10.2026 @ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. 4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://banknet.in , & www.pnbindia.in . Date: 06.10.2026 Place: Siliguri				
Sd/- Authorized Officer Punjab National Bank			STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002	



SNIPPETS

US lawmaker Krishnamoorthi honours Indian pilot Smit Machchhar

WASHINGTON: US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi on Friday honoured Indian pilot Smit Machchhar for his extraordinary bravery aboard the flydubai flight that saved 172 lives. "...I rise today to recognise Captain Smit Machchhar of India, a husband, father, and pilot with 17 years of flying experience, including 11 as a captain, whose extraordinary bravery on September 30, 2026, helped save the lives of 172 passengers and his fellow crew members aboard Flydubai Flight 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv, including four United States citizens and 27 children," Krishnamoorthi said. "...I ask my colleagues to join me in honouring Captain Smit Machchhar, whose extraordinary courage helped save hundreds of lives aboard Flight 1073. We extend our warmest wishes to him, his wife Sonal, their two children, and their entire family, and we hope for the captain's full-speed recovery from his injuries at the earliest," he added.

ICE officer shoots man while making arrest in New York

NEW YORK: A federal immigration officer shot and wounded a Dominican man while arresting him in New York City on Thursday, during what the Department of Homeland Security called a targeted enforcement operation. Protesters decried it as an example of the dangers of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. The man survived and is being treated at a hospital, the agency said. It did not describe exactly what led to the shooting, saying only that during the incident, an ICE officer discharged his weapon and that the man was injured. Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Gov. Kathy Hochul said they had received reports the agents fired at the man while he was inside a vehicle with a 5-year-old child, who was apparently unhurt. Mamdani called the shooting unconscionable and incredibly serious and said he aimed to tell President Donald Trump to end all federal immigration enforcement actions in the city.

FBI seizes tools used by Chinese hackers for cyber operations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES, OCT 9: The FBI has seized scanning and phishing tools used by a group of hackers that officials say is associated with the Chinese government and is believed responsible for disruptive cyber operations in the United States and abroad, including against the power industry, academia and critical infrastructure. The seizure of the tools, announced Thursday by the FBI and Justice Department, represents the latest law enforcement effort in recent years to go after a broad-based hacking campaign known to the private sector as Flax Typhoon. The tools at issue, called Microscan and FishHub, were used by the hackers to scan, phish and hack targets that included US and foreign critical infrastructure, officials said.

Microscan was used to target, among other entities, an unnamed power company in the US, Japanese and Polish airports, Taiwanese universities, a multinational, nongovernmental organization and Taiwanese critical infrastructure companies. And FishHub facilitated phishing activity that gave hackers remote access to victim networks, the FBI said. The latest operation has rendered the tools inoperable in what FBI and Justice Department officials said was a blow to the hacking operation.

Pak court extends arrest protection to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM, 27 others of Imran Khan's party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PESHAWAR, OCT 9: The Peshawar High Court on Friday maintained its earlier order restraining the arrest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and 27 other leaders of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. The high court transferred their pre-arrest bail petitions to a division bench for further proceedings and fixed October 20 as the date for the next hearing.

Afridi and the other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders have sought protection from arrest in multiple cases registered in connection with the May 9, 2023, incidents, when protests following Khan's arrest turned violent in several parts of the country. A three-member larger bench had earlier been constituted to hear the petitions and directed the petitioners to appear in person.

India-Cote d'Ivoire partnership anchored in mutual respect: S Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABIDJAN (COTE D'IVOIRE), OCT 9: India-Cote d'Ivoire partnership is anchored in mutual respect and common commitment to development and prosperity, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as he called on President Alassane Ouattara during his visit to the West African nation. Jaishankar arrived in Cote d'Ivoire on Wednesday from Ghana on the second leg of his three-nation tour of African countries, which also includes Ethiopia. "Honoured to call on President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of

C te d'Ivoire. Conveyed personal greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, " Jaishankar posted on social media. "The India-Cote d'Ivoire partnership is anchored in mutual respect and common commitment to development and prosperity," the EAM said. He also thanked President Ouattara for "sharing his vision for a strong, enduring and mutually beneficial partnership."

On Wednesday, the EAM met Cote d'Ivoire's Vice Prime Minister Tene Birahima Ouattara in Abidjan and discussed the growing defence

Two Mumbai-based firms, 5 Indian nationals face US sanctions over Iran oil trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, OCT 9: The US on Thursday imposed sanctions on two Mumbai-based firms and five Indian nationals associated with them over allegations of being involved in the trade of petroleum products from Iran. The US Department of State action targeted SSPL Solutions Private Limited and Samudra Marine Services Private Limited for facilitating the import of petroleum products from Iran. Two persons associated with SSPL Solutions - Dhvani and Nisarg Vora, and three persons related to Samudra

Marine Services - Ketan Kochikar, Bhupendrasingh Sahu and Harishyam Hariharan Chundakattil, have also been blocked from performing any transactions related to their respective firms. The action against the Indian entities and individuals is part of the US crackdown against Iran under Operation Economic Outcast.

The Department of State is sanctioning ten entities, six individuals, and five vessels in connection with trade in Iranian-origin petroleum, petroleum products, and petrochemical products, an official statement said.

The State Department said these entities channelled millions of dollars to the Iranian regime, bolstering one of its most critical revenue streams and enabling its continued illicit conduct. The US government is imposing sanctions on both the buyers and sellers driving this trade in Iranian petrochemical products, the department said. At the same time, the US also authorised wind-down transactions by Samudra Marine Services till October 23. A wind-down of transactions is a temporary, authorised grace period allowing parties to safely finish

existing business and exit operations before new sanctions or liquidations take full effect.

Additionally, the Treasury Department sanctioned 17 entities and their shadow fleet vessels to deprive the Iranian regime of funds. Treasury is starving the tyrannical regime in Tehran of the money it uses to wage war in the region, and we will continue exposing those who enable the regime's oil sales, said Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. "No enabler of Iranian sanctions evasion is safe from the full force of Treasury's authorities," he said.

Japan warns for increased vigilance against rising cyberattacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, OCT 9: Japan's government issued a warning Friday for increased vigilance against cyberattacks, which are rising in number and becoming more sophisticated. The National Cybersecurity Office, which was set up last year to guard against such attacks, sent the instructions to government ministries, which will distribute them to local public bodies and private companies.

The instructions include basics like ensuring updated security protection, using strong passwords and tightening cybersecurity guards throughout supply chains. It also warned that attackers have pretended to be guarding against cyberattacks and said the use of artificial intelligence is making vulnerabilities complex. Major Japanese companies, including the Lawson convenience-store chain, brokerage Daiwa Securities Co and secondhand retailer BookOff Corp, have reported leaks of customer data. Last month, a cyberattack on car-sharing service Times Car leaked information from some 6.6 million member accounts. Such attacks have already topped more than 500 cases this year, according to a study released this week by the Yomiuri newspaper and Trend Micro, a Tokyo-based cybersecurity firm. The cases numbered 473 last year, and 503 in 2024, meaning that this year is almost certain to hit a new record. The leaks have involved passport and driver's license data, contact information and credit cards.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, speaks to Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office Maxim Oreshkin, right, at the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit in Turkmenistan, Friday--PTI

South Korea to recall its ambassador to Ukraine over North Korean POW dispute

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, OCT 9: South Korea said Thursday it will recall its ambassador to Ukraine, stepping up its protest against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent revelation of a supposedly secret transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea. The South Korean announcement came days after its President Lee Jae Myung threatened to take unspecified punitive steps if Ukraine refuses to apologize over the revelation. South Korea's Foreign Ministry didn't say when the ambassador, Park Ki-chang, will be brought back home. A ministry statement said that South Korea will continue consultations with Ukraine, adding it hopes the dispute between the two countries would be resolved smoothly.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhyi said Ukraine remains open to constructive dialogue despite Seoul's decision to recall its ambassador. Diplomacy must prevail over emotions, he said, according to local media outlet RBC-Ukraine. South Korea and Ukraine became embroiled in a diplomatic row after Zelenskyy spoke about the transfer of the North Korean soldiers during his UN speech on September 23.

South Korea has accused Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement on their transfer in mid-September, but Kyiv has denied agreeing to such a deal. The soldiers were among thousands of North Korean troops deployed to support

Russia's war against Ukraine. Since their capture in early 2025, the soldiers had expressed their desires to resettle in South Korea, because they could face persecution if repatriated home. South Korea had said it would accept them, because it legally regards the North as part of its territory and has a policy of accepting and financially supporting North Korean defectors.

South Korean officials said the nondisclosure agreement was made because they were concerned about the safety of the North Korean soldiers and their relatives in the North. But many experts say South Korea's liberal government likely also worries the disclosure of their arrival may hurt its efforts to improve ties with North Korea.

North Korea's state media hasn't commented on the soldiers' transfer. But the North previously reacted with fury to major defections of its citizens, accusing South Korea of kidnapping them. North Korea has shunned any talks with South Korea and the US and focused on bolstering its nuclear program since 2019. It's unclear what other steps South Korea would take.

Experts say maintaining good relations with Ukraine is in South Korean national interests because Kyiv could provide Seoul with intelligence about North Korea's expanding cooperation with Russia and its battlefield experiences. They say cooperation with Ukraine is important for South Korea's partnerships with many Western countries supporting Ukraine over the war.

investment, infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare and people-to-people ties". "Underlined that our people-centric cooperation will be driven by the priorities of Cote d'Ivoire," he said in a social media post on Wednesday. The two sides also discussed deepening their engagement in multilateral fora, he said.

He interacted with ITEC alumni in Cote d'Ivoire on Wednesday, and said India's development partnership has always been central to its engagement with Africa and that India's cooperation should respond to the demands and priorities of

its African partners. He said the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which started in 1964, has evolved into one of India's most important platforms for capacity building and engagement with other countries. Jaishankar also interacted with members of the Indian community in Cote d'Ivoire. The visit comes as India seeks to deepen its partnerships with African countries, strengthen cooperation with the Global South and expand collaboration in areas ranging from trade and investment to capacity building, defence and healthcare.

Israel to honour Indian Capt Smit Machchhar with highest bravery award for civilians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TEL AVIV, OCT 9: Indian Captain Smit Machchhar, who fought off an attack from his co-pilot inside the cockpit of a flydubai plane, will receive Israel's highest bravery award for civilians, President Isaac Herzog has said. President Herzog on Thursday presented the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism to six individuals who were on board the flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv on September 30, 2026. "Alongside the Israeli heroes whom we honour today, we send our heartfelt wishes for the full and speedy recovery of Captain Smit Machchhar of India," Herzog said during the ceremony that took place at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. Machchhar's "sheer courage and bravery and sound professionalism helped avert this catastrophe. Once he regains strength, it will be my honour and privilege to award him, on behalf of the people of Israel, the State of Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism," he said.

The Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism is Israel's highest civilian award for heroism. Established by President Herzog after October 7th, it expresses the State of Israel's recognition of individuals who acted with exceptional heroism, at real risk to their own lives, out of mutual responsibility, and in order to save human life, according to the President's Office. The award was presented to Tali Manes, Zvika Manes, Yaniv Hayoun, Shota Musayev, Asaf Rajuan, and Or Pardilov during the ceremony for their role in preventing the would-be hijacker from crashing the plane, the President's Office said. He went on to praise the heroes of flight 1073 for their simple, human, and profoundly Israeli act: At the moment when a choice had to be made you chose life. For all of this, I award you today the President's Medal for Civilian Bravery, Jerusalem Post reported. On September 30, Machchhar helped save the lives of 172 passengers and his fellow crew members aboard flydubai Flight 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. He was stabbed by his co-pilot, Omani national Hamam al-Hammami, in an apparent attempt to crash the aircraft.

Machchhar, who has been hailed as a "hero" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is making steady progress and is regaining his health at a hospital in the United Arab Emirates. President Herzog said, "There is a profound lesson we must draw from this remarkable story: just as people from different nations joined forces to save that aircraft, so too must the international community stand united against the global threat of terror." "Yesterday we marked the third anniversary of the single most barbaric, murderous attack on the State of Israel and its citizens. October 7, 2023, scarred the Israeli people irrevocably, and the trauma will be palpable for generations. We have learned, through painful sacrifice, what it means to face an existential threat." "And we have learned that confronting it requires foresight, determination, and, above all, international cooperation in fighting terror. I have absolute confidence in the thorough investigation conducted by our dear friends in the United Arab Emirates, whom we greatly respect."

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FORTUNE FORECAST

ARIES



You will have a fantastic day. There are chances of meeting a stranger. It may lead to a rollicking affair. You can also go on outings with family. There are chances of good financial gains. You will be able to impress your superiors and peers at your workplace by your dedication and commitment. You can also meet some influential politicians.

TAURUS

TAURUS



You will have self-belief in your abilities to do greater things in life. Fortune too will favour you. And luck will be on your side. You will remain financially stable and strong. And will be able to complete even difficult tasks. You will earn praise for your work. You plan to go out with family. Relations with your mate will be perfect.

GEMINI

GEMINI



You would be interested in spiritualism and matters of self-realization. And visiting lot of religious places. You might get involved in religious activities too. You could give a large donation to help the needy. Your family will support you fully. You will get full cooperation from your colleagues at your workplace. You could also plan some job changes.

CANCER

CANCER



You could be involved in romantic ties with a very charming and loveable person. You will be drawn in high tide of romance. It will be a very intense affair leading to marriage. Your sources of income too will remain good. You will work with lot of sincerity and dedication. And your popularity will increase. Elders in family will keep supporting.

LEO

LEO



It will be a spectacular day. You will have peaceful mind, and positive thoughts will come to you. You will work with full enthusiasm and complete your tasks. You will also double your income. There could be plans to work on decoration or renovation of your house. You could buy new office/shop. Health will remain perfect.

VIRGO

VIRGO



It is going to be a good day for you. You will realize the importance of maintaining good relations in daily life. You will find a new meaning in your life and family interest will be of utmost importance for you. There will be no difficulty in adjusting the synergy between the office and the household activities. You will also enjoy a day out for shopping and fun.

LIBRA

LIBRA



You will be unable to give your family full time. This will make your mate feel upset. You will be getting busy at work. Now you will think about maintaining a balance between two. You would also like to go to a travel destination with your family. Peace and harmony will prevail at home. New job offers will come.

SCORPIO

SCORPIO



You would be coming into contact with lot of people. This will help you grow professionally. And bring positive changes to your personality. You will become a bit more extrovert and it will help you in judging people. You will also be making lot of friends. Financially you will grow. And your health will remain perfect.

SAGITTARIUS

SAGITTARIUS



Today will be a wonderful day for you. Your efforts made in the right direction would start giving you results. There will be positive vibes at your workplace. Your peers will be in awe of you and respect your caliber. Financially you will make good progress. Your understanding of the general problems in life could get better. Your ties with family will be good.

CAPRICORN

CAPRICORN



Today you will be in high spirits. Your relations with your family members will remain nice. There will be lot of love and respect in family ties. Loved ones will come closer to each other. Your mate will be a lot more accommodative and understanding. Children too will listen to your viewpoint. You will plan a family outing and will have relaxing moments.

AQUARIUS

AQUARIUS



Today you will be involved in religious activities. Your spiritual nature will come to the fore. You will develop compassion and love for people in dire need of help. And will do everything possible from your side to help the deserving ones. This will make you mentally peaceful. You could also be involved in charitable and social activities.

PISCES

PISCES



Those who were looking for jobs for a long period of time will get good placements. It will come up to their caliber and expectations. Monetary conditions will remain stable. Health will pose no big problem. Elders in the family will remain satisfied and happy. You can undertake some short business trips which will prove to be very beneficial.



Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff attends the cremation of veteran actor Nana Patekar at his farmhouse at Donje village, in Pune district, late Thursday—PTI



From left, cast of Nayyi Navelli film, director Aanand L Rai, Bollywood actors Yami Gautam Dhar, Aaditya Kulshreshth, Anurag Thakur pose for photographs, in Mumbai—PTI

Saiyami Kher recalls advice to ‘date an actor/director’ for an easier entry into films

Actress Saiyami Kher has opened up about her journey in cinema as she completed a decade in the film industry.

In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, she recalled the challenges and unsolicited advice she encountered while trying to find her footing in films. Looking back, Saiyami said she was a reserved and introverted young

woman from Nashik with little exposure to the world of cinema and was often judged before she had the opportunity to prove herself.

The ‘Jaat’ actress was even labelled a “villager” and faced unsolicited advice, including suggestions to date an actor or director for an easier entry into the industry and to consider cosmetic procedures. Speaking about completing 10 years in showbiz, Saiyami said, “A decade since I walked onto a film set for the first time. A decade of some of the most



life-altering experiences of my life. I was a reserved, introverted 20-something girl from Nashik with barely any exposure to films. I was written off before I had even begun.”

“I was told I was a ‘villager’, that I didn’t have it in me. I was given advice like, ‘Date an actor/director, that’s the easier way in’ and ‘Get a lip job.’ My upbringing and my parents had given me enough security in myself to find humour in grown adults speaking to me like that. I met a whole lot of people with free advice, and rejection pretty much every day,” she added.

She further mentioned, “Until one morning, Adoor Gopalakrishnan called and said Dilip Shankar would test me. Something was different this time. Dilip ji’s warmth and gentleness made me realise that good people exist. I spent three months workshoping with him and Adil Hussain, and those three months changed me completely. They taught me to be myself, find truth and honesty in my work, and trust that being myself was enough. Six months later, I was locked for Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra’s Mirzya.” Recalling her

experience of working with Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Saiyami said, “Rakeysh sir was everything I had unknowingly been seeking. A beautiful human being and a dream to work with. He and Bharatma ampampered me like I was their own child. Sir completely spoiled me on set. He gave me the freedom to be myself, made me fall in love with acting and taught me little life lessons every day. Every day on Mirzya felt like a day I wished would never end. I found friendships that have lasted 10 years.” Reflecting on her journey, the ‘Ghoomer’ actress said, “I know I have a long way to go as an actor. There is still so much to learn and explore. And that excites me. I still feel the same hunger and nervous excitement I felt on my first day of shoot. I want to keep challenging myself, on and off camera. To be an endurance athlete in both worlds. To keep showing up, one kilometre at a time. Here’s to the road ahead. Here’s to the next 10.”

Saiyami made her acting debut with Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra’s “Mirzya” in 2016, opposite Harshvardhan Kapoor. IANS

Mahhi Vij's Instagram account gets disabled amid Bigg Boss 2.0 controversy

Television star Mahhi Vij has been grabbing attention ever since entering the Bigg Boss 20 house.

The latest development surrounding the actress has taken the buzz outside the reality show as well. Mahhi’s Instagram account has reportedly been disabled amid her ongoing Bigg Boss stint. Even searching for her account or clicking on any of the IDs and links shared on her previous fan pages leads to a blank page.

For the uninitiated, Mahhi entered the show after years of turning down offers and described her decision as a very personal one.

Since the beginning of the season, Mahhi has found herself at the centre of many conversations. Early in the season, she was criticised for allegedly being bossy, including an argument with Aman Gandhi over luggage and her interactions with housemates while asking them to prepare tea.

Outside the house, Mahhi’s equation with longtime friend Nadeem Nadz had also previously been subjected to speculation following her divorce.

Mahhi strongly rejected the rumours and explained that Nadeem has been a close friend and godfather figure in her life for years. She also clarified that her daughter Tara calling him “Abba” was a decision that she and Jay had made together.

Meanwhile, Mahhi’s former husband Jay Bhanushali has been spending more time with their daughter Tara while she is away in the Bigg Boss house. In a recent social



media interaction with fans, Jay was asked how he was managing Tara in Mahhi’s absence. He said he did not see it as something he had to “manage” and instead was enjoying the time with his daughter.

“Well, I don’t manage. I am really enjoying this time with her. I think the father-daughter bonding is more stronger now. And yeah, two reasons, I want Mahhi to be inside the

house. One is, like, you know, I really want her to win the show, and the second thing is I get more time with my daughter,” Jay said. For the uninitiated, Mahhi and Jay announced their separation in January 2026 after 14 years of marriage. The couple married in 2011 and have a daughter, Tara, while they had also taken responsibility as foster parents to Khushi and Rajveer—IANS

Birthday Forecast



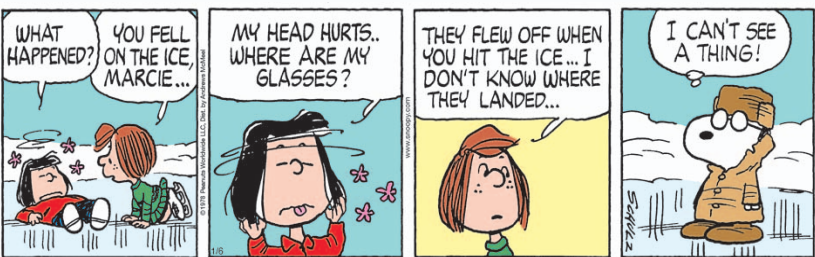
New Moon on your solar return chart and will give exceptional results. You will overcome stiff challenges and move ahead. You will also buy something precious. You will also solve all work-related problems. Your status and prestige in society will rise. You will also get admission in institute/course of your choice. You will also be busy with your work. Your financial condition will be normal. But your mind will be peaceful. You will be praised from all sides, but pride can dominate you. You will be a victim of some conspiracy. The year will end on a happy note. Auspicious functions will take place. You will be determined to carry out the tasks. There will be lot of ups and downs, but you will be able to manage the work. Your mind will be peaceful. You will be praised from all sides, but pride can dominate you.

Lucky dates : 1, 10, 19, 28

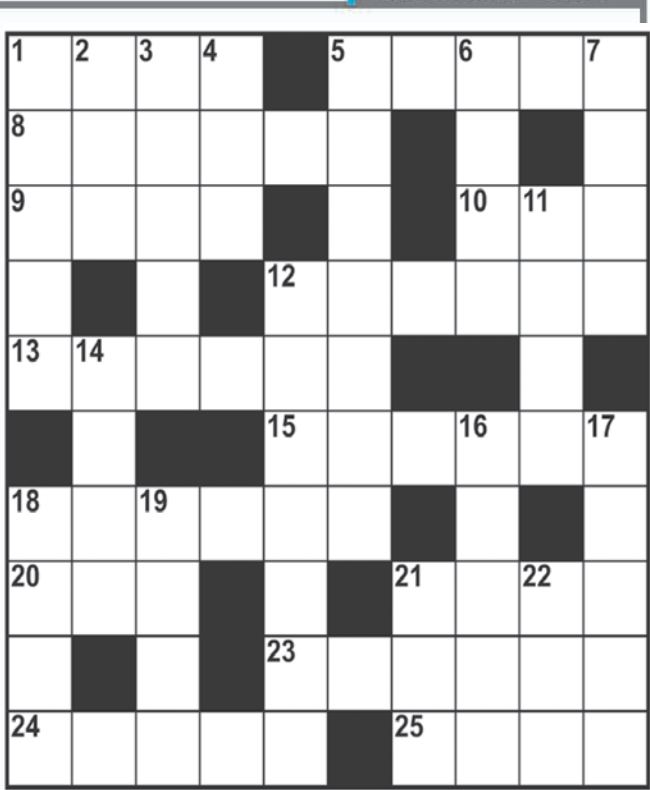
Lucky days : Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Lucky colours : Violet, Yellow, Green

PEANUTS



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Employ
- Stares openmouthed
- Fruit
- Tear
- Metal-bearing rock
- One who owes
- Festive season
- Spectacular dance form
- Economical
- Rowing implement
- Burrowing mammal
- Rubber
- Place
- Twenty quires

DOWN

- Multitude
- Anger
- Lines of soldiers
- Extremity
- Army rank
- Scheme
- Prophet
- Acting part
- Discussed
- Subtle emanation
- Unbound
- Unit of heat
- Enemies
- Advise strongly
- Spoil
- Meadow

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS FOR THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku Puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

		5		4				8
3		1			9		6	
		9	2					
		2			6		8	7
4								3
6	5		3			1		
					7	2		
	7		6			3		5
9				1		8		

SOLUTIONS

L	A	T	H	E		A		
A	C	E		R	E	E	D	S
S	T	A	R	E		T	O	O
H		S	A	M	B	A		F
E		E	M	I	R		S	A
S	O	S		T	I	M	E	R
P		C	E	D	A	R		O
D	A	T	A		G	R	E	E
L	A	R	G	E		N	A	G
P						S	E	E

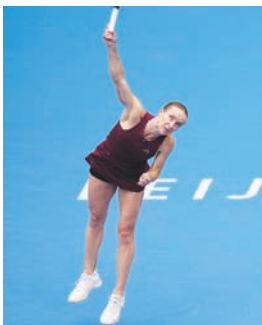
2	9	3	7	1	6	5	4	8
4	5	7	2	8	3	6	9	1
8	1	6	4	9	5	7	2	3
1	2	5	6	3	4	9	8	7
6	7	9	8	5	2	3	1	4
3	8	4	9	7	1	2	6	5
7	6	2	3	4	8	1	5	9
5	3	8	1	6	9	4	7	2
9	4	1	5	2	7	8	3	6



South Africa's Marco Jansen, center, celebrates with his teammates after bowling out Australia's Nic Maddinson on day one of the first cricket test match between South Africa and Australia, in Durban



Nozomi Okuhara of Japan during the badminton Clash of Clans Arctic Open 2026 tournament in Vantaa



Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, serves to Zheng Qinwen, of China, during the quarterfinals of the women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing

ISL 2026-27: League sets off on a new journey with Bengaluru vs Delhi clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, OCT 9 /--/ Relief and joy will waft across the footballing fraternity in equal measure when the much-delayed Indian Super League 2026-27 begins with a potentially thrilling match between Bengaluru FC and SC Delhi here on Saturday. After a controversy-ridden, truncated 2025-26 season, the league will return to the traditional home-and-away format, followed by playoffs. The team that finishes on top of the table at the end of the league stage will be crowned ISL Shield winners, while the top six clubs will compete for the ISL Cup in a playoff format. But apart from that, the 13th edition of the league offers a few other shards of hope. It has signed a Rs 25 crore sponsorship deal with automotive giant MG for two seasons, secured a digital streaming partnership with YouTube. These multi-pronged deals will ensure greater audience penetration and viewership, also offering the league a chance to reach

the heights it once aspired to. This time, the clubs too have a greater say in the running of the league after paying Rs 1.1 crore to the All India Football Federation as a participation fee. The AIFF, which ran the ISL last season after Reliance cut its ties with the league, will look after the administrative aspects. However, all these off-field issues will be pushed behind once the action starts at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here with the match between Bengaluru and Delhi. The other match of the day is between Chennaiyin FC and FC Goa at the latter's home venue. Bengaluru finished fourth last season with 23 points from 13 matches, and the former champions will be eager to do better this year. Their squad for the season is a blend of youth and experience. Spanish forward Borja Martinez, Portuguese defender Sandro Embalo, Argentine midfielder Manuel de Iriondo, Dutch centre-back Menno Koch and

Montenegrin forward Mihailo Perovi have joined the squad. The Blues also secured contract extensions for Soham Varshneya, Vinith Venkatesh and Harsh Palande, retaining young Indian players who have been part of their recent journey. But the focus will be on veteran striker Sunil Chhetri, who has extended his stay with the club for another season. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's outing will also be keenly watched, as the 34-year-old had copped some flak on social media after India went down 0-4 and 1-6 to Brazil and Uruguay, respectively, in the recent international friendlies. But Bengaluru coach Pep Munoz backed Sandhu, saying he still counts among the best in his position, though he did not commit to starting the veteran against Delhi. Apart from Sandhu, Munoz also remained non-committal about Ryan Williams and Ashique Kuruniyan starting against Delhi, considering their

recent international workload. On the other hand, Delhi, who finished 12th in a 14-team league last season, will have their task cut out against a generally organised side. Apart from the four teams involved on the opening day, other teams to watch out for are defending champions East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, FC Goa, Kerala Blasters and Mumbai City. East Bengal, under new manager Antonio Lopez Habas, have shown their preparedness to defend the title, with an impressive campaign in the Durand Cup that culminated in a 4-1 win over Mohun Bagan in the final. The Kolkata side comes into this season with new investors after its previous owners sold their entire stake. But can they translate optimism into performance? And the question also applies to the ISL itself as it makes a fresh start. **TODAY'S MATCHES BENGALURU FC VS SC DELHI, BENGALURU, 5 PM. FC GOA VS CHENNAIYIN FC, GOA, 7 PM.**



India's Sanju Samson plays a shot during the second T20I cricket match of a series between India and West Indies, in Ranchi—PTI Photo

Delhi Golf Club ready to play host to the DP World India Championship

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, OCT 9: The Delhi Golf Club has virtually been the 'Home of Indian golf' for more than six decades, since it hosted its first international event - the Indian Open back in 1965. Little wonder then it is the chosen home for the second time running for the record-setting US\$ 4 million DP World India Championship. The historic venue is ready to welcome the who's who of world golf from October 15 to October 18, as a galaxy of world stars are all set to tee up at the DP World India Championship. Tickets for the prestigious event are on sale now at District by Zomato. The return of Rory McIlroy and defending champion Tommy Fleetwood, alongside multiple Major champions for the 2026 edition with a prize purse of US\$ 4 million, has added to the popularity the Delhi Golf Club enjoys. The field is the strongest ever to have assembled in India and Asia. While many of the players who played in 2025 are back, the addition of Major champions like Aaron Rai, Ryan Fox, Patrick Reed and Justin Rose lend greater strength to the field. Alongside McIlroy, Patrick Reed - the current Race to Dubai Rankings delivered by DP World leader - is a former Masters champion, Fox is the current 2026 Open winner, while Rai grabbed the 2026 PGA Championship. Rose is a former US Open winner and the 2016 Olympic gold medallist. The DGC has hosted a huge number of international events, but none have captured the imagination of golf fans like the DP World India Championship, which returns to the venue with a field of champions seldom seen outside a Major. The driving range, otherwise the 8th hole of the 'B' course where many a junior first picked up the nuances of the game, is getting ready, while the greens are also being spruced up all around. A new café, a re-done short-game area, pathways which will see thousands walking alongside world stars, are being done up and there is a general air of expectation, with the event now only a week away.

GM felicitates 3 women Hockey Players of SER Honored for the Gold Medal triumph at The Asian Games 2026

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, OCT 9/--/ South Eastern Railway organised a special felicitation ceremony on 09.10.2026 at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach to honour the outstanding achievements of its three hockey players. They were part of the



Indian Women's Hockey Team that clinched the Gold Medal at the 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya 2026 by defeating China in the finals. The players are Salima Tete, Captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team, Nikki Pradhan and Deepika Soreng. Anil Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Eastern

Railway, felicitated the players in recognition of their remarkable skill and achievement, which brought immense pride to the Railway fraternity and the nation. Their dedication, teamwork and sporting excellence have brought many laurels to Indian hockey. Additional General Manager, President SERSA

(South Eastern Railway Sports Association), Principal Head of the Departments and other Senior Officers of S E Railway were also present during the felicitation ceremony. South Eastern Railway takes pride in their success and extends its best wishes for their continued achievements in the future.



Zheng Qinwen, of China, reacts during play against Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, during the quarterfinals of the women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing

New Zealand's Chapman, Foulkes ruled out of T20I series against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AUCKLAND, OCT 9 /--/ New Zealand have suffered a double injury blow, with Mark Chapman and Zak Foulkes ruled out of the upcoming five-match T20I series against India, beginning in Christchurch on October 22. Chapman is recovering from a left hamstring tear sustained during the European T20 League last month, while pacer Foulkes injured his right hip flexor during a recent Canterbury training session. The 32-year-old Chapman, a left-handed batter who has played 113 T20Is, is on track to return for the subsequent ODI series against India. Foulkes, however, has no confirmed return-to-play timeline. Allrounder Josh Clarkson and fast bowler Blair Tickner have been drafted into the squad as replacements for the injured duo. **NEW ZEALAND T20I SQUAD:** Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Bevon Jacobs, Kyle Jamieson, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Tim Seifert, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner.

Punjab FC draft in 10 academy graduates to ISL 2026-27 season to support core group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH, OCT 9 /--/ Punjab FC announced a strong 27-member squad for the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season which includes an established core and 10 academy graduates. The Shers start their ISL campaign with a home fixture on October 14 against Odisha FC at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Head Coach Pavlos Dermitzakis, in his first season with the club, has picked a squad that balances continuity with fresh options in every department. Fourteen players from last season's ISL squad have been retained, including national team players Bijoy Varghese, Ricky Shabong, Muhammed Uvais, Nikhil Prabhu and Muhammad Suhail F along with Arshdeep Singh, Khaiminthang Lhungdim and Leon Augustine. Patrick Bhanack, Mickael Malsa, Diego Raposo, Alfred Planas Moya and Raphael Messi Bouli are the foreign players in the squad. The team comprises 10 academy graduates, three more than last season, who

were rewarded with a place in squad for their performances in the age group leagues and the recently concluded IFA Shield where the Shers reached the semifinals. Coach Dermitzakis expressed his confidence in the squad and its readiness for the season. **PUNJAB FC SQUAD: GOALKEEPERS:** Arshdeep Singh, Muheet Shabir, Ayush Deshwal. **DEFENDERS:** Khaiminthang Lhungdim, Ngarin Shaiza, Jephthe Patrick Gerard Bhanack, Mohammed Sohail Khan, Bijoy Varghese, Nongmaikapam Suresh Meitei, Muhammed Uvais Moyikkal, Karish Soram. **MIDFIELDERS:** Naravi Nikhil Jayantha Prabhu, Mickael Ramon Vincent Malsa, Ricky John Shabong, Bishu Sharma, Laishram Rishikanta Meitei, Manglenthang Kipgen, Mohammad Inam. **FORWARDS:** Raphael Eric Messi Bouli, Diego Henrique Oliveira Raposo, Alfred Planas Moya, Leon Augustine, Muhammad Suhail F, Bikash Singh Sagolsem, Konsam Sanathoi Singh, Vishal Yadav, Gurkirat Singh.



Former national coach Prakash Padukone, centre, former India cricketer Nilesh Kulkarni, left, and others during an event to sign MoU between the Padukone School of Badminton and Kulkarni's International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)