



NIFTY 50	BSE SENSEX	Bitcoin INR	NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES	NIFTY BANK
25,285.35 ▲	82,500.82 ▲	10,553,188.77 ▼	26,842.25 ▲	56,609.75 ▲
+103.55 (+0.41%)	+328.72 (+0.40%)	-262,182.08 (-2.42%)	+117.95 (+0.44%)	+417.70 (+0.74%)

\$1 (USD)	€1 (EURO)	Gold (24k) 10gm	Silver (1 Kg)	Petrol/L	Diesel/L	LPG/14.2Kg
₹88.75 ▲	₹103.08 ▼	₹121,151.00 ▲	₹146,535.00 ▲	₹94.77	₹87.67	₹853.00
-0.10 (-0.12%)	+0.31 (+0.31%)	+658.80 (+0.55%)	+211.00 (+0.16%)			

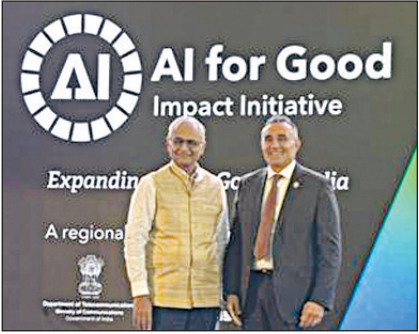
# We have to be very vigilant about what the telecom network will look like with AI: Neeraj

New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)

Telecom Secretary Dr. Neeraj Mittal today said that as India moves from 5G to 6G, there is tremendous role for AI to improve the intelligence in networks, make them self-healing and move from generative AI to agentic AI to make customer service better. He was speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication

Union's (ITU) "AI for Good – Impact India" Conference 2025 at IMC 2025 here. "While the title of the summit is AI for Good, there is equally AI for Bad — and risks come along naturally, because AI is truly horizontal and sits atop all verticals. ....and we are able to see how artificial intelligence (AI) tools are leading to deep fakes, voice cloning, financial frauds, bypassing voice signatures and even videos to establish false identities.

Therefore, we have to be very vigilant about what the telecom

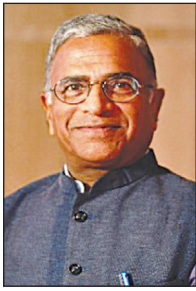


network will look like with artificial intelligence" said Mittal. India is advancing a trusted, inclusive and human-centric AI ecosystem through the USD 1.25 billion IndiaAI Mission, in close collaboration with global partners such as ITU, to ensure that technology remains a force for trust, inclusion and progress, Mittal added. Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy Director of TSB and Chief of Study Groups & Policy Department (SPD) at

ITU commended India's proactive leadership in promoting responsible AI and digital inclusion. Jamoussi also emphasized the importance of forging global partnerships to address critical issues such as AI misuse, data privacy and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. This summit brought together leading voices from across the globe to deliberate on AI's role in achieving equitable and sustainable digital growth. Moreover, key discussions ► **Cont. to Page-2**

# India's Federal structure a model for equitable regional development and democratic cooperation: Harivansh

New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Reporter)



Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh today highlighted India's federal system as a valuable example for other nations aiming to promote balanced regional growth within a democratic framework. Speaking at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados, during a session on "National Parliaments vs Provincial, Territorial, Devolved Legislatures," he outlined the distinctive features of India's federalism. Harivansh emphasized the pivotal role of successive Finance Commissions in managing fiscal transfers between the central and state governments, ensuring financial equity. He stressed that protecting the separation of powers is both a constitutional imperative and a means to foster a political culture grounded in respect, dialogue, and accommodation. The Deputy Chairman also pointed to institutions like the NITI Aayog Governing Council as vital platforms that encourage vibrant discussions on inter-sectoral, inter-departmental, and federal matters, thereby accelerating national development. Concluding his remarks, Harivansh noted that India's experience demonstrates that unity in diversity can be achieved while upholding federal principles. The conference, themed "The Commonwealth: A Global Partner," convened parliamentary leaders worldwide to advance cooperation, dialogue, and shared democratic values. The Indian delegation, led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, actively participated in workshops and bilateral meetings, reaffirming India's dedication to democratic governance and cooperative federalism.

## ■ NITI Aayog releases working paper on India's tax transformation

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Agency) NITI Aayog today released the second working paper under the NITI Tax Policy Working Series-II titled "Towards India's Tax Transformation: Decriminalisation and Trust-Based Governance", an official statement said. It follows the first paper in the series 'Enhancing Certainty, Transparency, and Uniformity in Permanent Establishment and Profit Attribution for Foreign Investors in India' released earlier. While releasing the working paper, BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, noted that India's tax reforms are entering a decisive phase marked by simplification, modernisation and the integration of trust into tax administration. He said, "As India transitions from enforcement-driven compliance to trust-based governance, the focus must shift to proportionate, fair, and transparent enforcement ► **Cont. to Page-2**

## ■ Om Birla boosts India-Barbados relations

New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Representative) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados, where he met several world leaders and strengthened bilateral ties with Barbados and other nations, a release said today. During his visit, Birla emphasised the deep historical and cultural ties between India and Barbados, highlighting the gift of a historic Speaker's chair from India to Barbados in 1966. He also noted that the democratic traditions, parliamentary systems, and shared values of the two nations serve to bring them closer. Birla held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Australia, Jamaica, and Zambia, focusing on enhancing parliamentary cooperation and sharing best practices. He highlighted India's experience in leveraging technology and artificial intelligence to promote transparency, efficiency. ► **Cont. to Page-2**

## ■ PM Modi urges collective effort to prioritize mental health

New Delhi, 10 Oct (FN Reporter) On World Mental Health Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today emphasized the importance of mental well-being, saying it is a crucial part of our overall health. "World Mental Health Day serves as a powerful reminder that mental health is a fundamental part of our overall well-being," Modi tweeted. In a world where life is moving at a rapid pace, the Prime Minister stressed the need for reflection and compassion towards others. "In a fast-paced world, this day underscores the importance of reflecting and extending compassion to others," PM Modi said in a post on X. The Prime Minister called for a collective effort to create an environment where mental health conversations become more mainstream. "Let us also work collectively to create environments where ► **Cont. to Page-2**

## ■ ED arrests 4 in Rs 100 crore cyber scam

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Reporter) The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Surat Sub-Zonal Office announced today the arrest of four individuals in connection with a multi-faceted cybercrime investigation involving Proceeds of Crime (POC) exceeding Rs 100 crore. The arrested accused have been identified as Makbul Abdul Rehman Doctor, Kaashif Makbul Doctor, Mahesh Mafatlal Desai, and Om Rajendra Pandya. They were produced before a special PMLA court in Ahmedabad, which has granted the ED five days of custody for further investigation. The ED initiated its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) based on a case filed by the Special Operation Group of Surat police under various sections of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita. According to the ED, Makbul Doctor, his sons Kaashif Makbul Doctor and Bassam Makbul Doctor, along with Mahesh Desai, Om Rajendra Pandya, ► **Cont. to Page-2**

## ■ Rajeev Juneja becomes new president of PHDCCI

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative) Rajeev Juneja has assumed charge as President of PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), succeeding Hemant Jain, who now serves as the immediate former president of PHDCCI, an official statement said. Moreover, Anil Gupta has taken over as Senior Vice President, and Sanjay Singhania has been appointed as the Vice President of PHDCCI. On his appointment, Rajeev Juneja, President of PHDCCI said, "It's a privilege to lead PHDCCI at this important juncture. My focus will be on building stronger industry linkages, promoting innovation, and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat in 2047 through collaborative growth and self-reliance." Reflecting on his tenure, Hemant Jain, Immediate Former President of PHDCCI, said, "Serving as the President of PHDCCI has been a deeply fulfilling experience, and I am confident that the chamber will continue to ► **Cont. to Page-2**

# Indian life insurance industry witnessed double-digit growth in Sep'25

Kolkata / New Delhi, Oct 10 (Mayank Nigam)

Indian life insurance industry in September, witnessed double-digit growth, with new business premiums rising by 14.8 percent year-on-year to Rs 40,206.7 crore, reversing the 5.2 pc decline seen in August 2025. This uptick was slightly higher than the 14.0 pc growth seen in September 2024. The group was driven by strong momentum in the group business, particularly in the single premium segment, which more than offset the decline in individual premiums. A favourable base effect and the impact

of GST reductions aided this. According to Sanjay Agarwal, senior director, CareEdge Ratings, "The Indian life insurance industry's APE growth moderated to 5.2 pc in September 2025, lower than the 6.6 pc rise seen in August and well below the base of September 2024." However, the implementation of the GST waiver on individual life and health insurance premiums has had some impact, driving improved sales momentum towards the month-end. "The industry is now showing signs of



recovery, with underlying business growth returning to double digits. Over the medium term, CareEdge expects the sector to sustain a better growth trajectory, supported by favourable regulatory reforms, evolving product innovation, deepening digital reach, and expanding distribution efficiency," he said. "New business premiums in the Indian life insurance industry touched Rs 40,206.7 in September 2025, growing by 14.8 pc, slightly above the growth of 14.0% reported in ► **Cont. to Page-2**

# India, Australia can co-create secure, prosperous Indo-Pacific: Rajnath

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Agency)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while addressing the maiden India-Australia Defence Industry Business Round Table in Sydney today, said that under the banner of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2020, both countries stand at a pivotal juncture to re-position defence relations as co-creators of a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Reaffirming the growing synergy between the two nations across strategic, industrial and technological domains, Rajnath Singh said the Round Table is not merely a dialogue, it is a declaration of intent to make India and Australia natural allies in business, industry and innovation, a Defence Ministry statement said. He recalled the series of high-level



engagements that have strengthened bilateral relations including the India-Australia Summit in November 2024, the 2:2 Ministerial Dialogue in October 2024, the visit of Deputy Prime

Minister and Defence Minister of Australia to India in June 2025 and his ongoing visit to Australia. The Minister underlined that the foundation of the bilateral relationship lies in shared democratic values and institutional similarities. "Both India and Australia are part of the Commonwealth of Nations. Our shared history is built on democracy, diversity, liberty, and similar governance structures," he added. Rajnath ► **Cont. to Page-2**

# Delhi govt accelerates GST refund process, disburses Rs 694 Cr

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today said her government has accelerated the GST refund process for traders and entrepreneurs, and so far, disbursed Rs 694 crore in this regard ahead of the upcoming Diwali festival. Calling it a record achievement, the CM said that the Delhi Government is committed to ensuring that every trader, big or small, receives GST refund within the stipulated time frame. She lauded the performance of the GST team and noted that officials from the department concerned are using modern technology to expedite refunds, ensuring that the pending amounts are directly credited to

traders' bank accounts swiftly. Gupta stated that the Delhi Government, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, is working earnestly to promote policies that ensure ease of doing business. She added that redevelopment plans for major markets in the national capital are being prepared, and the Delhi Vyapari Kalyan Board has been established to address the issues faced by the traders' community, to ensure smooth business operations. The CM emphasised that the easier it becomes for traders in the capital to conduct their business, the faster the dream of a 'Viksit Delhi' will be realised, and therefore, efforts to expedite trader refunds are being pursued with utmost seriousness. Gupta alleged ► **Cont. to Page-2**

# More than half of the world's winged friends face decline: IUCN

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Bureau)

More than half of the world's bird species — our cherished winged friends — are witnessing a worrying decline, according to the latest global assessment released by the International union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The report attributes the 61% decline in the bird population chiefly to habitat loss and degradation, driven by agricultural expansion, intensification, and logging. The update, which is the eighth comprehensive evaluation of all bird species worldwide conducted by BirdLife International, reassessed 1,360 species as part of a nine-year collaborative effort

involving thousands of experts globally. The IUCN is a global union of governments, civil society organisations, and scientific experts. The warning about the health of bird population has come amid ongoing IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. Out of 11,185 bird species assessed, 1,256 — or 11.5 per cent — are now classified as globally threatened. The study further reveals that 61 per cent of bird populations are in decline, a sharp rise from 44 per cent in 2016, underscoring a deepening biodiversity crisis. "The most prevalent cause of the bird population decline is habitat loss and degradation, driven especially by agricultural expansion and

intensification and logging — the foremost threats to birds at risk of extinction," stated the IUCN in a statement here. The report draws



attention to tropical forest loss in regions such as Madagascar, West Africa, and Central America, where the fate of many iconic bird species hangs in the balance. In Madagascar, for instance, 14 endemic forest bird species have been uplisted to near threatened, and three to vulnerable.

Among them is the striking Schlegel's asity (Philepitta schlegeli), whose males are adorned with vibrant blue and green face wattles, a vivid reminder of nature's fragile beauty. In West Africa, the black-casqued hornbill (Ceratogymna atrata), known not only for its distinctive casque but also its ecological role, is now near threatened, due to hunting and illegal trade. In Central America, the tail-bobbing northern nightingale-wren (Microcerculus philomela) has been pushed to near threatened status due to continued forest loss. Dr. Ian Burfield, BirdLife's Global Science Coordinator, emphasised the urgency of the situation, saying, "That three in five of the world's bird species have declining populations shows ► **Cont. to Page-2**

## Business Pg-2

Telangana Govt's pro-growth, pro-partnership approach with real estate sector

## Rajasthan Spl Pg-3

'Private Equity in Indian RE down 15 pc over H1 FY25, deal sizes holding'

## Editorial Pg-4

Fake Mineral Water Bust Sends Powerful Warning

## Nation Pg-5

Akash Anand steps into leadership role as Maya indicates return to prominence

## World Pg-6

Trump suggests expelling Spain from NATO

## Sports Pg-7

Jaiswal's artistry, Sudharsan's elegance put India on top at 318/2

## Regional Pg-8

SC issues notice to Centre, ECI on plea seeking voting rights for undertrial prisoners



# Telangana Govt’s pro-growth, pro-partnership approach with real estate sector: Dy CM Bhatti

Hyderabad, Oct 10 (FN Representative)

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka today emphasised the state government’s pro-growth and

pro-partnership approach with the real estate sector, assuring developers of transparency, simplified digital approvals, and time-bound clearances. “Regulation should guide, not grind. The government must be a facilitator, not a spectator or dictator,” he said after inaugurating the three-day 15th NAREDCO Telangana Property Show at HiteX Exhibition Centre, Madhapur. Bhatti appreciated NAREDCO’s contribution to Hyderabad’s real estate growth and urged developers to prioritise affordable housing for middle-class and lower-income families, while channeling CSR funds toward education and

health infrastructure. Describing Hyderabad as “a city where directions are given not by landmass, but by projects,” the Deputy Chief Minister said this reflected the city’s dynamic growth and continuous renewal. He highlighted that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the government is investing heavily in urban infrastructure and sustainable development. “For the second consecutive year, we are spending not less than Rs 10,000 crore annually for Hyderabad’s development. This investment is visible in roads, drainage, green cover, and overall quality of life,” he noted. Bhatti said the government is determined to make Hyderabad a future-ready, resilient, and sustainable city, citing major initiatives such as the revitalisation of the Musi River,



the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, and the new master plan integrating housing, mobility, and environment. “When a city restores its river, it restores its self-respect,” he said. He added that the government is working to ensure 24x7 water and power supply, expand sewage treatment capacity with 39 new STPs, promote battery-operated buses for a pollution-free city, and protect lakes, parks, and rock formations. Reaffirming Hyderabad’s economic strength, Bhatti said recent land auctions fetching up to Rs 177 crore per acre reflect strong investor confidence in the city’s growth story. “Nowhere in the country has land value appreciated like in Hyderabad. This is the result of committed governance and sustained investment,” he stated. Tourism, Culture and Archaeology

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said Telangana is the fastest-growing state in the country, with the real estate sector playing a key role in Hyderabad’s expansion. He said progressive policies and world-class infrastructure under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s leadership have put Hyderabad at the top, adding that Rs 15,000 crore worth of investments in tourism have boosted investor confidence. Earlier, NAREDCO Telangana President Vijaya Sai Meka urged the Deputy Chief Minister to remove the 10 per cent mortgage system and reduce power tariffs for the construction industry. He said Hyderabad’s real estate sector is thriving due to the government’s focus on infrastructure, industry expansion, and new initiatives such as satellite city development, the metro network, and the Regional Ring Road project. Several builders, developers, and NAREDCO office-bearers participated in the event.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref: i) Tender Notice No.47/2025-26 dated 18.09.2025 (S.No.1)  
ii) Tender No.08251502 due on 13.10.2025  
In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 13.10.2025 to **28.11.2025** and tender DP schedule has been changed.  
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.  
The corrigendum has been published on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

  
3142/2025

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref: i) Tender Notice No. 47/2025-26 dated 17.09.2025  
ii) Tender No. 15245170A due on 04.11.2025.  
01. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 13.10.2025 to **04.11.2025**.  
All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.  
The Corrigendum has been published on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

  
3143/2025

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through **e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in)** for contract of Parking cum Management and Stacking of Parcel at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side, NE-1) (Area 2191.87 Sq. Mtrs.) for 2 (Two) Years. as per detail and Schedule given below  

Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
23.10.2025 at 12:00 hrs.	The contract of Parking cum Management and Stacking of Parcel at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side, NE-1) (Area 2191.87 Sq. Mtrs.) for 2 (Two) Years.

**Important notes:** **4.** For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit [https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning\\_centre.html](https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html). (E-Auction leasing section). **5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** 10% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. **6.** Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situations.  
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3126/2025

**REGULARISATION OF NEW SUPERFAST EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN PATNA JN.-ANAND VIHAR (T.)**  
It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to regularize Train no. 03255/03256 Patna Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.)-Patna Jn. Express Special service as regular scheduled service. This train service will run with a New Train no. 13251/13252 Patna Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.)-Patna Jn. Bi-Weekly Express as per following dates and timings :-

Train No. 13251/13252 Patna Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.)-Patna Jn. Superfast Express Train (Bi-Weekly)					
Train No. 13251		STATIONS	Train No. 13252		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
----	22.20	Patna Jn.	18.35	----	
22:43	22:45	Danapur	17:28	17:30	
23.15	23:17	Ara Jn.	16:40	16:42	
00.15	00:17	Buxar	15:56	15:58	
02.10	02:20	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	14:40	14:50	
04.40	04:45	Prayagraj Jn.	09:30	09:35	
07.30	07:40	Govindpur	06:00	06:10	
18.35	----	Anand Vihar (T.)	----	23:30	

**Note:** The service of Train no. 03255 Special will be withdrawn Ex Patna Jn. from 07.12.2025 and Train no. 03256 Special from Anand Vihar (T.) from 08.12.2025  
**Date of regularisation of this train service with New Numbers :-** 13251 Ex Patna Jn. on every Sunday & Thursday from 07.12.2025 till further advice and 13252 Ex Anand Vihar (T.) on every Monday & Friday from 08.12.2025 till further advice  
**Accommodation:** 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General  
**For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.**


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4003/2025

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION**  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022 and Railway Board's letter no. 2024/RS(G)/779/7(E3471089) dated: 13.08.2024, invites bids through e-Auction ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and VPs (on round trip basis) for a period of three years as per detail and schedule given below: -

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	22.10.2025 at 10:30 am	12045(F1), 12050 (F1), 12066(F1), 12330 (F1), 12644 (F1), 12820 (F1), 13698 (F1), 14016 (F1), 14303 (F1, R1), 14212 (F1), 15026(F1), 15280(F1), 20508 (F1), 22450 (F1), 22463 (F1), 22542 (F1), 54076 (F1, R1)
2.	23.10.2025 at 10:30 am	12034(F1), 12457 (F1, F2, R1), 12524 (R1), 12802(F1, R1), 12874 (F1), 14014 (F1), 14521(F1, F2, R1), 20488 (F1, R1), 20946 (F1), 22168 (F1), 22210 (F1, R1), 22222 (F1), 22438 (F1)
3.	24.10.2025 at 10:30 am	12005 (F1), 12011(F1), 12013 (F1), 12017(F1), 12382 (F1), 12392 (F1), 12398 (F1), 12445(F1), 12554 (F1), 12618 (F1), 12963 (F1), 14164 (F1), 14507(F1, F2, R1), 14679 (F1), 14681 (F1), 15706 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22582 (F1)
4.	27.10.2025 at 10:30 am	12040 (F1), 12057 (F1), 12191 (F1, F2, R1), 12265 (F1), 12455(F1), 12481(F1), 12582(F1), 12986(F1), 14053 (F2, R1), 14305(F1, F2, R1), 22421(F1, F2, R1)
5.	28.10.2025 at 10:30 am	02570(F1), 12015(F1), 12055(F1), 12215(F1), 12428(F1), 12448(F1), 14087(F1, F2, R1), 14303 (F2), 14331(F1, F2, R1), 14731 (F1), 20473(F1), 22434 (F1), 22454(F1, F2, R1)
6.	29.10.2025 at 10:30 am	12226(F1), 12584(F1), 14041(F1, F2, R1), 14316(F2), 15035(F1, F2, R1), 20452(F1), 20473(F2, R1), 22168(R1), 22472(F1, F2, R1), 22540(F1)
7.	31.10.2025 at 10:30 am	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train 12454/12453, 20408/20407

**Important notes:** 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit [https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning\\_centre.html](https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html). (e-Auction leasing section). 2. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

  
3125/2025

## Continued from Page-1

### We have to be very vigilant...

emphasized on AI safety, ethical frameworks, risk management, digital inclusion and standardisation efforts for international cooperation to ensure responsible deployment of AI technologies. As part of the summit ‘Innovation Factory’ initiative was also unveiled, which is a collaborative platform, developed by DoT and ITU under the AI for Good framework, showcasing the contributions of numerous AI startups. The event is co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication union (ITU). It was intended to leverage AI technologies to address national priorities such as healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, digital inclusion, and public service delivery. ITU is a specialised agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), established in 1865 to develop global technical standards for seamless network interconnection.

### Indian life insurance industry...

September 2024,” Ratings associate director Saurabh Bhalerao said. The group business drove growth, particularly in the single premium segment, which more than offset the decline in individual premiums. Individual non-single policies continued to fall due to the base effect and surrender value regulations This decline is expected to normalise next month onwards. “Private players have been able to offset the decline in policies by increasing the premiums received per policy. Meanwhile, the industry reported a 7.6% increase for the first half of the fiscal year, with premiums rising from Rs 1.89 lakh crore in H1FY25 to Rs 2.03 lakh crore in H1FY26,” Bhalerao said. A gradual recovery is expected in FY26, supported by private insurers expanding their reach through deeper geographical penetration and the launch of the Bima Trinity, including the Bima Sugam digital marketplace. Together, these initiatives and regulatory changes are expected to enhance penetration and drive medium to long-term industry growth.

### India, Australia can co-create...

also highlighted that strong bilateral ties rest on three essential pillars -- a forward-looking government-to-government collaboration, people-to-people connect and convergence of business interests. “Our governmental frameworks are robust and getting further strengthened. On the people’s front, we have a large Indian diaspora in Australia, complemented by an increasing Australian presence in India. However, our defence industrial partnership, based on joint R&D, innovation, co-creation and co-production, still has untapped potential,” he stated. He highlighted the details of India’s recent economic and industrial achievements, stating that India is on a transformative journey of structural reforms, particularly in manufacturing. “Today, India is globally the fourth-largest economy and the fastest-growing large economy in the world. Our defence production touched Rs 1.51 lakh crore (approximately USD 18 billion) last financial year, the highest ever with an 18 percent increase from the previous year. Our defence exports reached Rs 23,622 crore (USD 2.76 billion), with Indian companies now exporting to nearly 100 countries,” he added. Calling for closer industrial collaboration, the Defence Minister stated, “I see this forum as an important instrument to make India and Australia natural allies in business and industry too. This alliance has compelling economic reasons to be successful and mutually beneficial.” He underscored that Australia excels in niche technologies such as quantum systems, autonomous underwater vehicles and advanced maritime surveillance, while India offers vast manufacturing scale, software capabilities, and indigenous strength in shipbuilding, missile technology and space. “This Round Table can be a great catalyst to tap the unrealised potential in our defence industry collaboration,”

he added. He pointed out that initiatives such as Make in India, Production Linked Incentive schemes and digital transformation have created an enabling environment for innovation and investment. He stated that government has liberalised the FDI policy up to 74 per cent under the automatic route and beyond that with government approval, especially when modern technology is introduced. Rajnath Singh added that the defence production ecosystem is being continuously liberalised through policy interventions and simplification of compliance mechanisms. “To accelerate defence R&D in the private sector, we have opened avenues for free-of-cost

technology transfer through DRDO. There are attractive schemes for development of cutting-edge technologies and they are giving excellent results,” highlighted the Minister while underscoring the steps taken to promote research and innovation. He added that the DRDO and Australia’s Defence Science and Technology Group are already collaborating on towed array sensors, and discussions are advancing in quantum technology, AI, cyber security, information warfare, and advanced science and technology. He also brought light to the fact that India welcomes Australian companies to co-develop and co-produce high-end systems, including propulsion technologies, autonomous underwater vehicles, flight simulators, and advanced materials. He underlined that the ventures can help build interoperable platforms aligned with the strategic objectives of both nations. Highlighting specific areas for partnership, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that India with its robust shipbuilding capabilities, diverse manufacturing base and a growing ecosystem of private sector innovators and start-ups, stands ready to be a trusted partner. “Our shipyards have a proven track record in building and maintaining a wide range of naval platforms. Indian yards can offer refit, mid-life upgrades, and maintenance services to the Royal Australian Navy and vessels under Australia’s Pacific Maritime Security Program,” he added. He cited examples of active industrial partnerships such as Indo-MIM Pvt. Ltd. with Thales Australia, Tata Advanced Systems with W&E Platt Pty Ltd, and Munitions India Ltd. with Aquasport. “These examples show how our industrial ecosystems complement each other and how businesses can become the driving force behind our governments’ strategic intent.” He exuded confidence that this list can grow much bigger in the near future, allowing both sides to fully benefit from the existing potential. Rajnath Singh also welcomed Australia’s proposal for a reciprocal provision of defence articles and services MoU. “We welcome this initiative. Importantly, Australia has identified India as a Top Tier Partner, removing certain regulatory barriers to enable easier technology sharing. This is a testament to the trust and confidence that bind us,” he added. He underlined the vast opportunities that lie ahead for the two nations. “There are huge opportunities for co-production of naval vessels and sub-systems, ship repair, refits and MRO support in India for Australian and partner nation vessels, joint R&D in autonomous systems and green shipbuilding technologies,” he highlighted. Rajnath Singh stated that by diversifying supply chains, building joint capacities and investing in innovation, the two nations can contribute to a resilient, secure, and self-reliant Indo-Pacific. “I invite the Australian business community to invest, collaborate, and innovate with India. Together, we can develop cutting-edge technologies, build advanced platforms, and ensure that our industries are not just suppliers, but strategic enablers of peace and security in the region,” emphasized Rajnath Singh. He urged them to seize this moment to build a partnership that is not only economically beneficial but also strategically transformative. Rajnath Singh highlighted that the India-Australia defence partnership is at a defining moment and the convergence of the strategic interests, combined with the energy of the industries and the vision of the leaderships, gives the nations a unique opportunity to shape the future together. The Round Table was jointly organised by the Ministry of Defence, the Australian Department of Defence, the Newland Global Group and the Australia-India Business Council.

### Delhi govt accelerates GST...

that the previous government had failed to take the issue of GST refunds seriously, leading to a significant backlog. However, the present government has taken up the matter with due urgency, and to make the refund settlement process faster and more transparent, the GST department, in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad has developed an advanced IT module based on data analytics, data automation, and rapid verification mechanisms, the CM added. The CM stated, “Our effort is to ensure that by Diwali, substantial refund amounts reach the business community, further strengthening their faith in the government and making their festive celebrations even more joyous.” The CM highlighted that since the beginning of this financial year, her government has been working systematically to streamline the GST refund process for traders. According to her, the Department of Trade and Taxes has so far (from April to the present, FY 2025–26) resolved a total of 7,375 refund applications and transferred a record of Rs 694 crore to traders for their rightful dues. The government also achieved another milestone by releasing Rs 227 crore in refunds in September alone, the highest monthly figure in Delhi’s refund history, she claimed. She has issued clear instructions to officials to expedite the settlement of all pending, undisputed, and genuine refund claims. According to the CM, the prioritised and time-bound refunds will ensure adequate liquidity for traders, reduce the stress caused by litigation, and in turn, accelerate national capital’s economic growth.

### NITI Aayog releases working...

mechanisms that empower taxpayers while protecting fiscal integrity.” This working paper undertakes a comprehensive assessment of criminal provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025, evaluating their necessity, proportionality and alignment with the Government’s broader reform agenda. It proposes a principle-based framework to rationalise punishments, decriminalise minor and procedural non-compliances and reinforce judicial discretion. This paper also highlights that while the 2025 Act omits several archaic offences,

it continues to criminalise 35 actions and provisions across 13 provisions, most of which prescribe mandatory imprisonment. The study recommends a calibrated decriminalisation roadmap-removing imprisonment for minor procedural defaults, restricting criminal sanctions to cases involving fraud or wilful evasion, and enhancing the role of civil and administrative penalties, the statement added. NITI Aayog also underscored that such reforms will reduce litigation, improve investor confidence, and further India’s commitment to a fair and predictable tax regime that aligns with global best practices. This working paper concluded that embedding trust at the core of tax governance will strengthen voluntary compliance and optimise enforcement resources. It will also support India’s vision of becoming a globally competitive, high-trust economy. Representatives of CBDT, CBIC, ICAI, DPIIT and leading tax experts from Vidhi Legal Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Deloitte, EY and others, who have worked in close coordination with the NITI Aayog Consultative Group on Tax Policy (CGTP) led by Dr. P. S. Puniha, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog, and Sanjeet Singh, Programme Director, NITI Aayog were present at the launch event.

### Om Birla boosts India-Barbados...

and accountability in parliamentary processes. Birla extended invitations to the Speakers of Australia, Barbados, Jamaica, and Zambia to attend the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi in January 2026. During his visit to Barbados, Birla interacted with the Indian diaspora, underscoring the importance of cultural exchange and shared values. He encouraged the younger generation to learn Indian languages and culture to maintain their heritage. The visit marked a significant step towards strengthening bilateral relations between India and Barbados, with both sides agreeing to explore opportunities for collaboration in education, culture, renewable energy, and parliamentary cooperation.

### PM Modi urges collective...

conversations around mental health become more mainstream,” he urged. He also praised those working in the field of mental health, saying, “My compliments to all those working in this field and helping others heal and find happiness.” PM Modi’s message comes at a time when mental health is increasingly becoming a priority globally. With growing awareness about mental health issues, there is a need for more open conversations and support systems. By acknowledging the importance of mental health, the Prime Minister’s message aims to encourage people to prioritize their mental well-being and seek help when needed. As the country observes World Mental Health Day, Modi’s words serve as a reminder of the need for collective action to support mental health initiatives.

### ED arrests 4 in Rs 100 crore...

and other accomplices, defrauded individuals through various cyber fraud schemes. These included “digital arrests,” forex trading scams, and threatening innocent people with fake notices from law enforcement agencies such as the Supreme Court and the ED itself. The investigation has revealed that the accused laundered the POC by opening bank accounts in the names of employees, associates, and other hired individuals. To operate these accounts, they obtained pre-activated SIM cards using similar methods. The ED found that the accused laundered the illicit funds by converting them into cryptocurrency (USDT), routing cash through various hawala operators to evade regulatory scrutiny. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

### Rajeev Juneja becomes new...

expand its impact under the new leadership." Welcoming the new team, Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General, PHDCCI, said, "We are privileged to have such accomplished leaders at the helm. Their combined vision, strategic insight, and commitment to excellence will help PHDCCI further strengthen its role as a catalyst for national growth and global competitiveness."

### More than half of the world's...

how deep the biodiversity crisis has become and how urgent it is that governments take the actions they have committed to under multiple conventions and agreements." Yet, the report offers a beacon of hope. The restoration of native forest habitat on Rodrigues Island facilitated the recovery of the endemic Rodrigues warbler (*Acrocephalus rodericanus*), which improved from Critically Endangered in 1996 to Least Concern today — a testament to what can be achieved through concerted partnership and perseverance. Birds, often regarded as the poets of the skies and indispensable stewards of the environment, play vital roles in ecosystems and human life. They act as pollinators, seed dispersers, pest controllers, scavengers, and ecosystem engineers. Hornbills alone, for example, can disperse up to 12,700 large seeds per square kilometre each day, sustaining tropical forest ecosystems and supporting carbon storage essential in the fight against climate change. As agriculture, logging, invasive species, hunting, trapping, and climate change remain formidable challenges, the report serves as a clarion call for immediate, collective action to safeguard future of these feathered friends.



# Private Equity in Indian RE down 15 pc over H1 FY25, deal sizes holding: ANAROCK

Kolkata, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)

Amid a declining trend of private equity investments in Indian real estate, overall, PE activity in the sector continued to remain soft on an aggregate basis in H1 FY16, finds ANAROCK Capital’s latest edition of FLUX. Company CEO Shobhit Agarwal said, “A stronger deal showing in Q1 FY26 appeared to present a glimmer of hope, though it was short-lived as activity subsided again going into the second quarter. When viewed on a full year basis, PE activity has been on a steady decline from the high of USD 6.4 Bn seen in FY21 to USD 3.7 Bn in FY25.” “While it is tempting to look at the H1 FY26 tally of USD 2.2 Bn with positivity, it bears keeping in mind that overall activity for H1 FY26 is down 15% on a Y-o-Y basis, compared to H1 FY25,” adds Agarwal. While average deal values have remained range bound at lower levels of USD 60 Mn - USD 100 Mn, lower numbers of

transactions have been the key drag on the overall deal values. “The share of top 10 deals in H1 FY26 has declined to 77 pc compared to 93 pc witnessed in H1 FY25,” says Aashiesh Agarwal, senior vice president – Research & Investment Advisory – ANAROCK Capital. “While we do witness an outsized transaction each year, FY25 had a particularly large transaction involving Reliance Group & ADIA-KKR.” FY24 & FY25 witnessed an outsized deal each accounting for 37 pc & 42 pc of the total deal value, compared to 15 pc-17 pc witnessed in FY23 & FY22. Unless we see another outsized transaction in FY26, this fiscal year might see a more evenly distributed deal table compared to witnessed in the recent few years. MMR and Kolkata, followed by Chennai, witnessed a sharp rise in activity, while pan-India / multi-city transactions took a back seat in H1 FY26. MMR deal tables were boosted by the Kanakia-Hines-Mitsubishi-



Sumitomo deal, while Kolkata saw a prominent deal in the sale of the South City Mall to Blackstone, where ANAROCK was the transaction advisor. Favored segments in H1 FY26 looked dramatically different from those seen in the previous year. Industrial & Logistics was conspicuous by its absence, while the Retail, Mixed-use & Commercial asset classes registered a strong presence. Hotels and Data Centres also made an impact in the current half-year. Equity deals comprised 78% of all deals in H1 FY26. This is in line with the usual mix witnessed in the past, barring FY25 which witnessed an outsized hybrid transaction. The share of foreign capital in total investments bounced back to 73 pc for H1 FY26, after declining to 65 pc in FY25. Residential real estate continued its phase of consolidation into the period, with launches and new sales declining. Investor interest and activity remained buoyant in the sector, with appetite for equity deals - which was

missing until recently – also seen. India’s position as the world’s fastest growing large economy, shifting lifestyle preferences, and the increasing formalization of its residential real estate sector will keep investor interest in this space high. Leasing momentum remained robust, led by GCCs and co-working places. Expectedly, deal activity also picked up, with USD 869 Mn of offices being transacted in H1 FY26, compared to an average of USD 417 Mn transacted in the three preceding half-year periods. H1 FY26 saw no institutional transactions in the segment, but interest amongst institutional buyers remains high for quality assets, driven by India’s consumption story, 3PL, and e-commerce boom. Several transactions are currently under discussion, and some are likely to be closed in the coming months. Retail real estate continued its strong run. Robust operating financial performance drove 2 large retail transactions in this half-year period – one by Nexus Select, and the other by Blackstone. India’s consumption boom will keep investors excited about its retail real estate prospects.

# Rajasthan ATS busts racket employing fake ex-servicemen as guards

Jaipur, Oct 10 (FN Representative)

The Rajasthan Police Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has busted a major racket involving the recruitment of "fake ex-servicemen" as security guards in various government and public sector enterprises using forged documents and identity cards. ATS Inspector General Vikas Kumar today announced the breakthrough, detailing the two-month-long operation code-named 'Square Pyramid'. The investigation focused on 31 offices and installations of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operation led to the arrest of 28 individuals who were found to be operating under the guise of ex-servicemen. Kumar stated that these impostors were recruited through private agencies based on fabricated identity cards and certificates. Kumar described the racket as a nexus between undeserving

candidates, private recruitment agencies, brokers, and certain FCI personnel, all conspiring to secure appointments meant for genuine ex-servicemen. According to the ATS, 90 percent of the 490 guard and related posts at various FCI locations are reserved for ex-servicemen. The impostors reportedly received salaries of around Rs 21,000 per month, of which Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000 was allegedly paid as commission to recruitment agents or middlemen. Kumar cautioned that the findings so far could be "just the tip of the iceberg," adding that similar fraudulent appointments may exist in other government, state, or defence-linked establishments. Kumar further noted that "there may be a larger conspiracy involving the corrupt recruitment of impostors and other ineligible candidates through such unscrupulous practices." Operation Square Pyramid is still ongoing, he added.

# TCS to create 5,000 new jobs in UK over next three years

New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Reporter)

Indian tech giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) today announced the launch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experience Zone and Design Studio in London, an official statement said. This decision reaffirms TCS’ continued strategic investment across the United Kingdom (UK) and upholds its long-standing partnership with the UK economy. In addition to this, the IT giant will also create 5,000 new jobs across the UK over the next three years. Jason Stockwood, Minister for Investment, United Kingdom, said, “I was delighted to visit the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) campus in Mumbai to see their technological innovation first-hand. For nearly 150 years, Tata Group has reflected its leadership in entrepreneurship and

philanthropy.” “Now, as we celebrate a landmark Prime Ministerial visit to India, we have reaffirmed the pledge between our two economies to maximise on the trade deal we signed in July. As a valued investor for the UK, Tata Group and its companies like TCS are central to this mission, which ultimately will create jobs, put money in people’s pockets, and deliver economic growth across both countries.” Stockwood added. Moreover, the business delegation accompanying UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited the TCS Banyan Park campus in Mumbai on Thursday. At this event, Minister Jason Stockwood, along with the TCS leadership team, launched a report by Oxford Economics detailing TCS’s contribution to the UK economy. The key highlights of the report showed that in FY2024, TCS contributed 3.3 billion Pounds GBP to the UK economy

and supported a total tax contribution to the UK Exchequer of over 780 million Pounds in FY2024, equivalent to the salaries of over 20,400 teachers. Moreover, it also showed that TCS supported 42,700 jobs either directly or through its supply chain across 19 sites in the UK, with 15,300 employees working in technology positions such as engineering and data analytics. “The UK is TCS’s second-largest market globally, making it central to our investment strategy around the world. The AI Experience Zone will further help to foster innovation in collaboration with businesses throughout the UK, helping to maintain an edge in artificial intelligence and new technologies. Additionally, we are continuing to expand our footprint across the UK, with investment into innovation, people, and skills in all four nations,” said Vinay Singhvi, Head-UK

& Ireland at TCS. TCS serves a diverse portfolio of clients across critical sectors, including financial services, retail, manufacturing, life sciences and public services in the UK. The company’s ongoing investment strategy in the country focuses on several key areas: expanding its delivery capabilities, fostering innovation through research and development, and enhancing its talent ecosystem. Sharing his industrial insight, Nick Mayes, Principal Analyst at industry analyst firm PAC, said, “This latest investment from TCS reinforces its position as the leading provider of critical digital services in the UK. It plays a vital role in supporting complex, transformational programmes across many industry sectors, and this enhanced capability will put it in a strong position to help its clients harness the full potential of AI.”

# Paradip Port recognized as Green Hydrogen Hub

Paradip, Oct 10 (Representative)

The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has been officially recognized as a Green Hydrogen Hub under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) of the Government of India. With this recognition, Paradip Port is now positioned at the forefront of the country’s clean energy and decarbonization initiatives. The designation, granted under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) guidelines, enables projects within the hub to access incentives and benefits from both Central and State Government schemes. Green Hydrogen Hubs act as integrated centers for hydrogen production, storage, transportation, and end-use applications. Paradip’s strategic coastal location and robust infrastructure make it an ideal site for large-scale hydrogen production and potential export. This development aligns with the NGHM’s vision to make India a global hub for Green Hydrogen production, utilization, and export, thereby promoting sustainable growth and clean energy adoption. PPA Chairman P. L. Haranadh said, “We are honored to be recognized as a Green Hydrogen Hub. Paradip Port will leverage its infrastructure and strategic location to support the nation’s clean energy transition and contribute to India’s decarbonization journey.”

# Cisco unveils 8223 routing system for securely connecting with data centres

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

US-based digital communications giant Cisco unveiled ‘Cisco 8223’ industry’s most optimized routing system for efficiently and securely connecting data centres and powering the next-generation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) workloads, an official statement said. A ‘routing system’ refers to a method that determines the best path for data packets, requests, or tasks to travel from a source to a destination across a network or application. The ‘Cisco 8223’ rises to the challenge as the only 51.2 terabits per second (Tbps) Ethernet fixed router built for the intense traffic of AI workloads between data centers. Cisco also announced its latest Silicon One innovation—the P200 chip—which sits at the core of Cisco

8223. Together, these innovations empower organizations to shatter bottlenecks and future-proof their infrastructure for the AI era, the statement said. Martin Lund, EVP, Cisco’s Common Hardware Group, said, “AI Compute is outgrowing the capacity of even the largest data center, driving the need for a reliable, secure connection of data centers hundreds of miles apart. With the Cisco 8223, powered by the new Cisco Silicon One P200, we’re delivering the massive bandwidth, scale, and security needed for distributed data center architectures.” The ‘Cisco 8223’ provides customers with the capacity to handle surging workloads, necessary flexibility and full



programmability, and the power efficiency to directly address the power consumption challenges. It’s the most power-efficient routing-system for scale-across networking, also offers industry-leading bandwidth, and the highest density of any fixed routing system in the industry. ‘Cisco 8223’ can intelligently adapt to real-time network conditions. Moreover, with the help of smart and programmable P200 Silicon, it can easily support new, emerging network protocols and standards without requiring costly hardware upgrades. Fortunately, it also offers protection at all levels: (i) Hardware, (ii) Software, (iii) Across Entire Networks. It becomes possible with functions like line-rate encryption using post-quantum resilient algorithms, integrated security standards, and continuous monitoring tools.

# Google introduces ‘Gemini Enterprise’ to promote workplace automation with AI

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

Google introduced ‘Gemini Enterprise’, which is the new front door for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the workplace, an official blog said. ‘Google Gemini’ refers to the family of advanced AI models that power a generative AI chatbot, integrated tools across Google Workspace offering different functionalities like text generation, information retrieval, image creation, and hands-free assistants via voice commands. The blog said, “True transformation requires a comprehensive platform that connects to your context, your workflows, and your people. That’s why today, we’re proud to announce Gemini Enterprise: the new front door for AI in the workplace.” Gemini Enterprise brings the best of Google AI to every employee through an intuitive chat interface that acts as a single front door for AI in the workplace. Behind that simple interface, Gemini Enterprise

unifies six core components. Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, posted on X, “Today, we introduce Gemini



Enterprise, built with our advanced Gemini Models. It allows you to chat with your company’s documents, data, and apps as well as build and deploy AI agents, all grounded in your information and context.” Gemini Enterprise is a comprehensive, AI-optimized platform – from our purpose-built Tensor Processing Units to our World-class Gemini models, all the way to the platform and agents that transform workflows. This is what it takes to deliver truly unified AI fabric for your business, and it’s why customers are already putting Gemini Enterprise to

work. “Gemini Enterprise also highlights our commitment to an open platform—working seamlessly in Microsoft 365 and SharePoint environments. And when you use Gemini Enterprise with Google Workspace, you get further benefits. Today, we are announcing the first of many multi-modal agents harnessing the power of Gemini to understand and create text, image, video, and speech, built right in the workplace apps you already use: (i) Video: With Google Vids, you can now transform one type of information, like a presentation, into a completely different format—an engaging video, complete with an AI-generated script and voiceover. (ii) Voice: In Google Meet, we are bringing real-time speech translation to all business customers. It goes beyond just words, capturing your natural tone and expressions to make conversations seamless, no matter what language you speak,” it said. Moreover, a new Data Science Agent is in preview to automate data wrangling and ingestion. It accelerates detailed data exploration,

instantly finding patterns and streamlining complex model development by generating multi-step plans for training and inferencing, eliminating manual and iterative fine-tuning, the blog said. “Customer engagement is one of the most critical use cases for AI adoption, and our Customer Engagement Suite – our Conversational AI solution for web, mobile apps, call centers, and point of sale – works alongside your customer service reps to answer questions via chat and voice and take actions,” the blog added. As AI transforms, organizations around the world, Google is the only partner with a full set of offerings that you can tailor to your organization’s needs. And most importantly, we are delivering real business value to help you drive Return on Investments (ROI) from your AI investments. This is the power of Gemini Enterprise: the new front door for AI in the workplace. We’re bringing the best of Google AI to every employee, for every workflow. And, we’re excited to support you every step of the way.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank  Branch:- Ajmer M G Marg (0167)

**GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **17.10.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower in **online mode (www.gepergov.com/canarabank)** from **2.00 PM to 3.00 PM on 18.10.2025** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

S. No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of Borrower	Outstanding Amount (incl. other loans of borrower)
1	29-07-2025	180270048298 & 164040644067	PRINCE JIROTA S/O TRILOK CHAND 175/35 SHANKAR NAGAR AJMER-305001	Rs. 424794.9/-

Date: 10.10.2025 Authorised Officer, Canara Bank


केनरा बैंक Canara Bank  Jaisalmer Branch (3598)

**GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **16.10.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower in **online mode (www.gepergov.com/canarabank)** from **2.00 PM to 3.00 PM on 17.10.2025** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

S. No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of Borrower	Outstanding Amount (incl. other loans of borrower)
1	14-08-2025	164009543449	AMRIT SINGH C/O GOPAL SINGH VTC-SULTANA DIST-JAISALMER-345001	Rs. 2,25,920.00/-

Date: 10.10.2025 Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank  Canara Bank, RO: BIKANER Auction-Sale of Gold Jewellery

It is notified to the general public that gold ornaments pledged with Canara Bank are to be auctioned on 'as is where is' basis for recovery of bank's dues. The details are as follows:-

Branch & DP Code	A/c No.	Name of Borrower	Weight in gm	Date of NPA	Present liability (Rs.) as on date
Suratgarh (5574)	180171793690	AMANDEEP C/O SHYAM LAL	Gross: 2.95 Net: 2.50	07/07/25	13030/-

**Date & Time of Auction: 24.10.2025, 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM; Online Mode: <https://egold.auctiontiger.net>**  
**Future Interest & Other Charges Additional Terms & Conditions:-** 1. The jewellery will be available for inspection by the interested bidders on the auction date **24.10.2025 from 12:00 noon to 01:00 pm**. 2. The above borrower is permitted to pay all the above mentioned dues plus interest by **as above table till 12:00 pm** so that the auction may be postponed. 3. The above borrower may participate in the auction and may also bring other bidders along with him to get the best price at the auction. 4. The auction will be at the sole risk and responsibility of the borrower and the dues, if any, shall be paid along with interest and expenses. 5. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason. 6. The Bank does not guarantee the weight, purity and gold content of the jewellery. 7. Bidders for the auction should appear at our **Suratgarh branch** office on dated **24.10.2025 at 11:00 am** with photo identity card, address proof and copy of PAN card along with original certificate. 8. The successful bidder is hereby given to the least bid next working day of the auction. Otherwise, bid shall be forfeited and EMD amount shall not be returned. **Date: 11.10.2025** Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Bank of India  Branch: Chittorgarh Jodhpur Zone

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD JEWELLERY/ORNAMENTS/COINS**

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold jewellery/ornaments/coins and general public that inspite of repeated reminders/ notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/ expenses) by **14.11.2025**, then from **03 pm on 14.11.2025**, their pledged gold jewellery/ ornaments/ coins will be put up for public auction in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any Inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Persons interested to take part in the bidding should contact Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only) with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time/ date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the Bank within 48 hours, failing which their earnest money deposited with the Bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

Name & Address of Borrower	Outstanding Dues	Account No. & Gross / Net Weight of Gold	Reserve Price	Date, Time & Place of Auction
Mrs. Rita Rani (Cust ID-309531477) Address: 125 Pratap Nagar Chittorgarh 312001	Rs. 22859/- uncharged interest	A/c No. 66657761000933 Nath (Nose Pin) : 1 PC Gross Weight- 06.000 Grams Net Weight- 04.250 Grams	Rs. 38330/-	14.11.2025 from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., Bank of India, Chittorgarh Branch

Date: 11.10.2025 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

 बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Branch- Kishangarh (Main Branch), 298/6, 305, Ajmer Road, Madanganj, Kishangarh, Distt.- Ajmer- 305801 Email ID- kisajm@bankofbaroda.com., Ph.- 6094007043

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property/ies)**

(As per appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **12-06-2025** calling on the **M/S NK FABRICCS Prop: Mr. Dinesh Kumar Garg S/o Shri Nemi Chand Garg (Borrower), Smt Krishna Devi Garg W/o Shri Nemi Chand Garg (Guarantor) And Shri Sanjay Kumar Garg S/o Shri Nemi Chand Garg (Guarantor)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,00,16,439.95** (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirtly Nine and Ninety Five paise only) + interest w.e.f. 01-06-2025 (inclusive of interest upto 31.05.2025) + other charges & miscellaneous expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this **07th day of October of the year 2025**. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and Day dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda, Kishangarh Main Branch, Ajmer Road, Madanganj, Kishangarh, Distt.-Ajmer for an amount of **Rs.1,00,16,439.95 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirtly Nine and Ninety Five paise only)** + interest w.e.f. 01.06.2025 (inclusive of interest upto 31.05.2025) + other charges & miscellaneous expenses, etc, thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

The Equitable Mortgage of Residential House situated at IOCI Bank Ki Gali, Arogya Marg, Ajmer Road, Madanganj Kishangarh, District Ajmer (Area is 177.70 sq. yards as per bank record) in the name of Mrs. Krishna Devi Garg W/o Shri Nemi Chand Garg, Bounded by:- On the North by- House of Gopal Saini and Brothers, On the South by- House of Jagdish Narayan Bansal, On the East by- Road, On the West by- Road.

Date: 07.10.2025 Place: Kishangarh, Ajmer (Raj.) Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



EDITORIAL

Fake Mineral Water Bust  
Sends Powerful Warning



Today, under a direct order from Delhi’s Karakarduma Court, Barabanki authorities raided S.M. Hightech City Private Limited at Agro Park, UPSIDC. The company had been pumping out bottles of “CLEAR FRESH”, a sham version of the legitimate CLEAR brand, deceiving customers with fake mineral water. Officials recovered massive quantities of bottled water and stickers, collectively estimated in crores of rupees. All production material and bottles were seized in the presence of the Umra Chowki police from Kursi Thana. Court-appointed commissioner and company lawyers present: Authorised company lawyer Rajan Dwivedi and court-appointed local commissioner advocate Nimish Goyal oversaw the seizure, ensuring every step stayed within legal bounds. The Karakarduma Court’s order was crystal clear: investigate the allegations thoroughly. The local commissioner documented every seized item, prepared inventories, and ensured all paperwork was court-ready. No corners were cut. Authorities say S.M. Hightech City Private Limited sold fake CLEAR bottles in the market, a case that touches both consumer safety and brand protection. In India, fake product scandals aren’t rare, but courts cracking down like this? That sends a serious message. Authorities are urging citizens: always stick to certified mineral water brands. Drinking fake water is not just shady; it’s dangerous. Experts warn that counterfeit water can trigger severe health issues. “Fake mineral water doesn’t just harm consumers. It shakes trust in the market and affects the economy,” said one official. This raid proves that proactive action matters. Delays and more consumers suffer. This isn’t a slap on the wrist. Police and judiciary are signalling: fake and substandard products won’t be tolerated. Officials emphasised that the raid reassures citizens that their health and safety are a priority. Authorities are warning: any company caught producing counterfeit mineral water will face immediate, strict action. Citizens are asked to report suspicious products without delay. India has a growing mineral water market, and consumer trust is everything. Fake mineral water isn’t just a health hazard; it erodes confidence in brands, disrupts local businesses, and tarnishes India’s emerging consumer economy. Barabanki’s raid serves as a precedent-setting action, signalling that even small industrial areas aren’t immune from law enforcement scrutiny. Companies cutting corners, beware. What Authorities Seized Bottles branded “CLEAR FRESH” Packaging materials and stickers Production equipment Estimated market value: several crores. The seized items are under police custody, pending lab analysis. Officials clarified that all actions were documented, and evidence will support court proceedings to hold the culprits accountable. The Barabanki operation might be one factory, but the principle is bigger: India needs enforcement-first policies for consumer protection. Authorities’ Advice to Citizens Buy mineral water only from certified brands. Avoid suspicious sources. Report any dubious products immediately.

ONLY Autumn/Winter 25: Denim First, Always

ONLY India’s Autumn/Winter 2025 collection is here, and denim takes centre stage, right where it belongs. The new drop pairs wardrobe staples with playful, versatile pieces that transition effortlessly from AM coffee runs to PM plans. Denim leads the story, but cozy knits, easy layers, and statement dresses make sure every outfit is ready for whatever the day throws. Denim Done RightONLY’s AW ‘25 denim lineup is all about fits for every mood: straight, wide-leg, bootcut, boyfriend, slim, skinny, jeggings, ripped, cropped, and right-fit classics. New washes from deep indigo to vintage fade, along with clean solids, subtle prints, and distressed details, keep denim fresh, flexible, and totally wearable. Each piece pairs seamlessly with cozy knits, oversized jackets, or with one’s favourite sneakers, proving once again why ONLY is a denim-first brand that gets it right every season.Beyond DenimThe collection goes beyond denim with pieces made to layer, lounge, and

elevate everyday style: ONLY Studio: A contemporary, elevated edit featuring shimmer-flecked tops and dresses, lace textures, embroidered co-ords, and sequined accents. Studio pieces are designed for seamless day-to-night wear, adding a polished yet effortless touch to any wardrobe. Knits & Cozy Fits: Soft, breathable knits in relaxed silhouettes that offer comfort without compromising on style. Perfect for layering or wearing solo. The Dress Drop: Ribbed midis, printed shirt dresses, and slinky bodycons in earthy tones and muted lilac deliver versatile mix-and-match options for



the season.The Palette - Warm rust, moss green, icy grey, deep charcoal, soft oat, with a hint of muted lilac. These tones are designed to be versatile and easy to mix, match, and layer, providing a cohesive foundation for the season’s denim and contemporary pieces. About ONLY: ONLY is an international fashion brand for young women. Today, we are one of the leading denim brands in Europe. ONLY has turned its success into know-how and in-depth experience in both retail and wholesale and is sold in more than 4500 stores worldwide. The ONLY girl always looks amazing in an effortless way! Fashion is her passion – a creative space where she can experiment with different attitudes, feels, and looks. She’s not defined by a certain style, but by her playful attitude, take on life and fashion and by her love for denim. ONLY India currently has 70 exclusive brand outlets & and 333 shop-

in-shops spread across the country. ONLY is available online with www.only.in and present with leading online partners. About BESTSELLER India: BESTSELLER India is part of BESTSELLER, a family-owned fashion company founded in Denmark, Europe in 1975. Worldwide, BESTSELLER is present in 44 countries through more than 2,800 chain stores and 16,000 external multi-brand stores. Read more about BESTSELLER at www.bestseller.com. Today, we provide fast affordable fashion for women, men, teenagers, and children. Our products are available online, in branded chain stores and in multi-brand and department stores across the world. BESTSELLER India markets and sells the BESTSELLER brands JACK&JONES, VERO MODA, ONLY, SELECTED, JACK&JONES JUNIOR & VERO MODA GIRL. BESTSELLER India currently has 256 exclusive brand outlets and is present in over 1519 shop-in-shops in external multi-brand stores throughout India.

VERO MODA Unveils Autumn/Winter 2025

VERO MODA launches its Autumn/Winter 2025 collection, taking style to new heights with a thoughtfully curated range that perfectly balances sophistication, quality, and originality. Continuing its evolution, the brand offers designs that elevate everyday dressing through impeccable tailoring, rich textures, and carefully selected fabrics. Anchored in a deep, evocative palette and crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the collection strikes a harmony between timeless elegance and modern sensibility. It exudes quiet confidence and refined presence, ideal for those who seek style beyond fleeting trends, delivering a lasting impact. Not to be missed, VERO MODA’s Marquee collection, dedicated to occasion wear with super-premium pieces designed for memorable moments. Alongside, the Edit collection offers highly elevated styles that push creative boundaries, bringing avant-garde sophistication to the wardrobe. Available now across VERO MODA stores, leading online marketplaces, department stores,



and at www.veromoda.in, Autumn/Winter 2025 invites shoppers to experience premium and at the right price. VERO MODA’s healthy and successful start provided a solid foundation for the continuing expansion and success of the brand. Since its commencement, VERO MODA has become synonymous with contemporary fashion and designs, which young women across the world desire. VERO MODA India currently has 71 exclusive brand outlets and 318 shop-in shops spread across the country. VERO MODA is available online with www.veromoda.in and present with leading online partners.About BESTSELLER India:India is part of BESTSELLER, a family-owned fashion company founded in Denmark, Europe in 1975. Worldwide, BESTSELLER is present in 44 countries through more than 2,800 chain stores and 16,000 external multi-brand stores. Read more about BESTSELLER at www.bestseller.com. Today, we provide fast affordable fashion for women, men, teenagers, and children. Our products are available online, in branded chain stores and in multi-brand and department stores across the world. BESTSELLER India markets and sells the BESTSELLER brands JACK&JONES, VERO MODA, ONLY, SELECTED, JACK&JONES JUNIOR & VERO MODA GIRL. BESTSELLER India currently has 256 exclusive brand outlets and is present in over 1519 shop-in-shops in external multi-brand stores throughout India.

ABS Secures INR 27 Cr Offshore Vessel Charter from Larsen & Toubro

ABS Marine Services Limited (NSE: ABSMARINE), is one of the leading maritime companies offering comprehensive services in Ship Management, Vessel Ownership, Marine and Port Services, announced that it has signed a Charter Party Agreement with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), one of India’s foremost engineering and infrastructure conglomerates. Contract Highlights: Awarding Authority: Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), India Contract Value: 26.70 Cr (inclusive of GST and extensions) Nature of Contract: Charter hire of DP-2 Platform Supply Vessel Contract Tenure: 120 days firm + 56 days optional extension Scope of Work: Chartering, operation, and management of an Offshore Supply Vessel to support L&T’s offshore energy and infrastructure projects This new charter engagement with Larsen

& Toubro Limited further strengthens ABS Marine’s diversified portfolio of offshore and port service operations.



ABS Marine Services Ltd

Recently, the company has secured several high-value contracts, including long-term charters with ONGC and Schlumberger Asia Services, and multi-year port service agreements with the Chennai and Visakhapatnam Port Authorities. These developments collectively reflect ABS Marine’s expanding presence in India’s offshore energy, marine logistics, and port infrastructure ecosystem, underscoring its strong technical capabilities, operational excellence, and reliability as a preferred partner for complex maritime projects.

Grand Cinemaz Expands Footprint with the Launch of its 2 Multiplexes in a Single Day - Ghaziabad & Saharanpur - A Vision to Redefine Cinema Across India

Grand Cinemaz, one of India’s fastest-growing cinema chains, has achieved a significant milestone by inaugurating two new multiplexes in Ghaziabad and Saharanpur on the same day. This dual launch marks a major step in the company’s vision to redefine the movie-going experience across India. Backed by the leadership of Mr. Rajinder Vashista, Chairman of the Dev Bhoomi Group Companies, Grand Cinemaz continues to strengthen its presence nationwide. His vision and commitment to creating businesses that positively impact communities have guided the brand’s expansion into becoming a household name in the Indian entertainment landscape. With successful operations already in Una (Himachal Pradesh) and Pathankot (Punjab), the addition of Ghaziabad and Saharanpur

marks the opening of the brand’s third and fourth multiplexes. This expansion reinforces Grand Cinemaz’s commitment to bringing world-class cinema experiences to audiences across both metropolitan and emerging markets. Under the leadership of Mr. Rajkumar Gautam, Vice President – Operations and Business Development, the chain has an impressive pipeline of upcoming properties across North, West, and South India, including Srinagar, Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore, among others. The rapid pace of development positions Grand Cinemaz as one of the most ambitious players in India’s exhibition sector. Speaking about the expansion, Mr. Rajkumar Gautam, shared, “At Grand Cinemaz, the mission is to transform the way India experi-

ences cinema. Each property is designed to create emotional connections and lasting memories through immersive storytelling, superior



comfort, and cutting-edge technology. Whether in a metro or a tier-3 city, the goal is to ensure every guest enjoys a truly world-class experience.”

Each Grand Cinemaz property is built around the philosophy of comfort, technology, and community. The multiplexes feature luxurious

seating, advanced projection and sound systems, and vibrant F&B offerings that rival global standards. The brand aims to make every visit not just a movie screening,

but a complete entertainment experience. The simultaneous launch of Ghaziabad and Saharanpur highlights the brand’s dedication to providing consistent quality and innovation across all its locations. Each new cinema is envisioned as a cultural hub — a place where families bond, friends connect, and communities come together to celebrate storytelling. Grand Cinemaz continues to strengthen its identity through consistency, innovation, and community engagement, with a focus on creating memorable experiences that extend beyond the screen. With an ambitious expansion roadmap, the brand is poised to become synonymous with cinema excellence and cultural connection across India. With an ambitious growth trajectory, Grand Cinemaz is on track to become a name synonymous with cinema excellence

in India. As the brand continues to expand across regions, its focus remains clear: to celebrate the magic of movies, to create memories for families and individuals alike, and to bring the joy of cinema to every corner of the country.About Grand Cinemaz:Grand Cinemaz is a premium multiplex cinema chain redefining the movie-watching experience across North India. With state-of-the-art facilities, luxurious recliner seating, and Dolby surround sound, Grand Cinemaz offers an immersive environment for movie enthusiasts. Grand Cinemaz offers a curated selection of the latest Bollywood, Hollywood, Punjabi, and South Indian films, ensuring a diverse cinematic journey. Whether it’s a weekend outing or a corporate event, Grand Cinemaz provides a memorable and comfortable experience for all.



# AIADMK-led alliance will emerge stronger in 2026 polls, accuses CM Stalin of building castles in air : EPS

Chennai, Oct 10 (Representative)

AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami today said the alliance headed by him would emerge stronger in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and claimed that ‘Pillayar Suzhi’(Lord Ganesha's curl) has been drawn for the ruling DMK which he vowed to oust it. Addressing a massive rally at Kumarapalayam in Namakkal district as part of his state wide tour under "Save People Retrieve TN" campaign ahead of the Assembly polls, he described the DMK alliance as a “paper tiger” and that Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin was “building castles in the air” about retaining power with a fragile, opportunistic coalition. Mr. Palaniswami asserted that the AIADMK-led alliance will emerge super-strong and secure a sweeping victory in the coming elections. “Look there! Look at those flags

flying, the Pillayar suzhi hasbeen drawn!” he said, pointing to flags of the Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) of actor-turned -neta vijay seen in the crowd. (Pillayar Suzhi literally translates to "Ganesha's curl" or "Ganesha's circle" in English and is a sacred symbol used by Tamil Hindus to signify an auspicious beginning to any new initiative. The symbol, which invokes the deity Ganesha (Pillaiyar), is dedicated to him as the remover of obstacles, ensuring success and good fortune for the endeavor that follows). Mr Palaniswami said “Mr. Stalin, listen to the roar of the people of Kumarapalayam, it will pierce through your ears... All your pipe dreams will be shattered.” Referring to the Karur stampede tragedy, Mr. Palaniswami condemned the Chief Minister for

politicizing the incident. “Having appointed a one-man inquiry commission, officials should not have behaved like party spokesmen. The ADGP himself made public statements even as his subordinates are



probing the case, how can such an inquiry be impartial?” he asked. Reiterating the AIADMK’s demand for a CBI inquiry into thetragey that claimed 41 lives during the political rally of Vijay, Mr Palaniswami said “When the police themselves are under suspicion, they cannot

probe their own failures.” Mr EPS said the people were waiting for the full truth to come out and expressed the hope that the Supreme Court hearing on October 10 in the TVK’s petition would ensure justice. As a number of TVK flags were visible at the rally, EPS said “The meeting was third time lucky,” noting that it had been postponed twice due to rain and the Karur tragedy. “Today’s overwhelming response reflects the people’s faith in AIADMK’s strength and in Tamil Nadu’s future.” On the law and order front during the four years of DMK rule, he alleged that people were living in constant fear in contrast to the AIADMK’s “golden era” from 2011 to 2021. “Under the AIADMK, people lived in safety and dignity.” Under the DMK regime, from girls to grandmothers, no one feels secure. Murders, robberies and mo-

lestations have become the new normal,” he claimed and accused the state government of allowing the drug mafia to flourish, ignoring repeated warnings from the AIADMK. "When the AIADMK returns to power, it will deal with the drug mafia with an iron fist," EPS declared. Expressing deep concern over the loss of livelihoods among farmers, handloom weavers, and powerloom workers in Kumarapalayam and across the state, Mr Palaniswami said the situation has become so dire that people have been driven to sell their organs. The DMK functionaries are exploiting this helplessness," he said referring to alleged illegal organ transplant racket involving a hospital owned by a DMK MLA, Mr. Palaniswami condemned the government for shielding the guilty despite the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court's directions for strict action. “The guilty are protected only because they belong to the ruling party,” he added.

## Slipway Cradle to boost vessel maintenance, Blue Economy initiatives

Kochi, Oct 10 (Agency)



The newly inaugurated Slipway Cradle at the Fishery Survey of India - Marine Engineering Division (FSI-MED), a Rs 1.78-crore facility capable of hauling vessels up to 250 tonnes, is set to significantly enhance the country’s capacity for vessel maintenance, repair, and marine research, advancing India’s Blue Economy goals. In a major boost to India’s marine infrastructure, the state-of-the-art Slipway Cradle at FSI-MED was inaugurated here, marking a key milestone in the nation’s efforts to strengthen marine research and operational efficiency. The new facility will enhance the performance and up-keep of vessels operated by the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and other allied agencies, including the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), and the Lakshadweep Fisheries Department. Officials described the new cradle as “a milestone in India’s journey towards realizing the vision of a sustainable Blue Economy.” The facility is expected to benefit fishers, government departments, and private operators alike by ensuring uninterrupted research, surveys, and ecosystem monitoring. The initiative is part of the government’s continuing efforts under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to modernize the fisheries sector, improve livelihoods, and boost seafood exports. Noting the sector’s rapid growth, officials said India would explore new international markets for seafood exports amid emerging global trade challenges. They also highlighted that transponders are being installed on fishing vessels in collaboration with ISRO to improve real-time communication and safety at sea. These systems will integrate FSI’s Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) forecasts, enabling fishermen to access accurate information on fish-rich zones directly through their onboard devices. According to FSI Director General Dr. Sreenath K. R., the cradle marks a key step toward achieving the fleet modernization goals under PMMSY. “As fishers invest in modern vessels, world-class maintenance infrastructure is essential to keep them operational and safe. This slipway cradle will ensure long-term sustainability and enhance the lifespan of these assets,” he said. Equipped with an electric winch system and designed for balanced hull support, the cradle can dock up to six vessels simultaneously for repair and maintenance. It will cater to a diverse range of crafts, including those operated by the Coast Guard, Customs, Water Metro, tourism operators, and private deep-sea fishing enterprises.

## ECoR posts significant growth in freight loading in H1 of FY 2025–26

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)



The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has registered impressive performance in both freight and passenger transportation during the first half (April–September) of the current financial year 2025–26, achieving notable growth over the corresponding period of the previous year. During April–September 2025, ECoR loaded 137.6 million tonnes of freight, compared to 123.6 million tonnes during the same period last year, registering a growth of 11.33 percent. Freight operations also contributed to substantial revenue growth. ECoR earned Rs. 14,162.58 crore

from freight traffic, up from Rs. 12,808.30 crore during the same period last year, marking a 10.57 percent increase. The Zone’s gross revenue stood at Rs. 15,571.08 crore, compared to Rs. 14,227.18 crore last year, reflecting a 9.45 percent rise. In the passenger segment, ECoR carried 48.21 million passengers during April–September 2025, against 45.56 million passengers in the same period of the previous fiscal, showing an increase of 5.81 percent. ECoR sources said this sustained growth across freight and passenger sectors is the result of efficient planning, enhanced operational management, and proactive coordination with freight customers across key industries such as coal, iron ore, cement, and fertilizers.



Artists dressed as animals take part in celebrations during the 'Wildlife Week', in Chikkamagaluru.

## TN ranks on top in startup segment: Stalin



Chennai, Oct 10 (Agency) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin today said that the state has reached the top in the country in the startup segment in the last four years. He also said in the next ten years, Tamil Nadu will be the first state of choice for the startups. Inaugurating the Global Start-up Summit 2025 in Coimbatore, he said many women are heading the startups in the state. He said out of about 12,000 startups in the state nearly 50% of them are headed by women. In the last four years, the number of startups in the state has gone up to 12,000 from 2,032. Mr Stalin said the government will set up a Rs.100 crore fund to invest in the startups setting operations in the state. Speaking about the summit, MR Stalin said the event has participants from over 40 countries and over 250 delegates are participating. The Chief Minister said if industries in a state are growing, it means the state’s economy is also growing and industries choose a state to invest where the law and order is peaceful. Stating that the government is implementing several schemes so that they reach the people at all sections of the society, the Chief Minister said the government has started linking the startups in the state with several overseas companies.

## WAAREE Expands Footprint in Odisha with the Launch of Its New Experience Centre

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10 (Reporter)

WAAREE Energies, India’s largest solar panel manufacturer and one of the country’s leading renewable energy companies, proudly announces the inauguration of its new WAAREE Experience Centre under the franchise of VHN Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd. The new Experience Centre marks another milestone in WAAREE’s vision of making clean, reliable, and affordable solar energy accessible to every household and business in India. Through this initiative, the company aims to further strengthen its presence in Odisha, a region fast emerging as a hub for renewable energy adoption. It will serve as a hub for innovation, consultation, and customer engagement, where individuals and businesses can explore how solar energy can truly power their future. The goal is to simplify the transition to clean energy through hands-on experiences, reliable support, and trusted solutions.

The WAAREE Experience Center will feature the brand’s complete portfolio of solar products and solutions - from solar panels and inverters to complete rooftop and commercial installations. Visitors can explore solar-powered systems in action, get expert



advice, and access comprehensive installation and maintenance support. At the heart of this initiative is VHN Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd., the new franchise partner driving WAAREE’s mission in Odisha. Founded in 2018 by Mr. Pratyush Kumar Samantaray and Late Mr. Bibhu Prasad Samantaray, VHN Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd. has been committed to

helping individuals, businesses, and institutions make a seamless shift to renewable energy. With a strong focus on quality, transparency, and customer trust, VHN Solar Energy has quickly established itself as a reliable solar energy provider in the

region. Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Samantaray, Managing Director, VHN Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd., said: We collaborated with WAAREE, rooted in a shared vision to make sustainable energy truly accessible to everyone. This Experience Centre will bridge the gap between awareness and adoption. Customers can now walk in, understand how solar

specifically works for them, and get comprehensive, end-to-end solutions—from consultation to installation—all under one roof.” VHN Solar Energy, in collaboration with WAAREE, will also actively promote the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and cater to the growing solar needs of industrial and commercial sectors across Odisha, driving large-scale adoption of sustainable energy solutions. With the launch of this new franchise, WAAREE continues to expand its retail and service footprint, making clean energy a practical reality for communities across India. The company’s growing network of franchise partners reflects its deep commitment to driving India’s renewable energy transition and empowering local entrepreneurs to lead the change. As WAAREE and VHN Solar Energy join hands in Bhubaneswar, they illuminate a shared vision to power a greener tomorrow, one rooftop at a time. Location: Plot No. 2956, 2nd Floor, Cuttack-Puri Bypass Road, Pandra, Bhubaneswar.

# Akash Anand steps into leadership role as Maya indicates return to prominence

Lucknow, Oct 10 (Representative)

Signalling a renewed bid to be a serious contender for power in Uttar Pradesh, the Mayawati-led BSP today officially elevated Akash Anand, nephew of the party chief, to the position of the party's National Vice President, marking a generational shift in the party’s leadership and strategy. The announcement came during a massive rally in Lucknow, held on the death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram. Mayawati declared from the stage, “Just as Kanshi Ram ji mentored me, I have now decided to mentor Akash Anand. He is fully committed to the mission and will work under my guidance to strengthen the party across the country.” Akash Anand, in his address to the lakhs-strong crowd, said, “Looking at the enthusiasm and unity among you all, it’s clear that BSP is set to form its

fifth government in Uttar Pradesh in 2027. The state needs Behenji’s leadership now more than ever.” His speech energized the gathering and signaled a fresh push toward youth leadership in the BSP’s traditionally disciplined structure. Meanwhile, in a massive show of strength after nearly nine years, Mayawati addressed a huge rally in Lucknow, signaling the party’s renewed political momentum ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Addressing lakhs of supporters from Uttar Pradesh and five other states, including Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana, Mayawati declared that the time has come for the BSP to once again form a government on its own, as it did in 2007. In a surpris-

ing move, Mayawati praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for not misusing funds and lauded his efforts in maintaining Ambedkar Park. However, she launched a scathing



attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP), calling it "double-faced and opportunistic". She alleged that SP only remembers the backward and Dalit communities when out of power and

accused it of changing the names of institutions started under Kanshi Ram’s legacy. She also accused opposition parties including SP, BJP, and Congress of conspiring to divide the Dalit vote by creating or backing smaller, “sell-out” outfits that aim to weaken BSP electorally. Without naming Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad, Mayawati accused certain individuals of working as tools of rival parties to split BSP’s vote bank. “Many selfish and sell-out types have been propped up to mislead our voters. These parties not only field candidates tactically but also secretly transfer votes to help one or two of their own win.

This is nothing but an organized conspiracy,” she charged. The BSP chief also criticized Congress for historical neglect of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Dalit rights. “Congress didn’t even declare national mourning when Kanshi Ram ji passed away,” she noted. Similarly, she accused BJP and SP of doing little to advance Dalit rights despite being in power. She also blamed both the parties for failing to support reservation in promotions for SC/ST employees and called out SP MPs for allegedly tearing the bill in Parliament. Mayawati has also responded for the first time to rumors of Azam Khan joining the BSP. She said, "Since last month, rumours are afloat that leaders from other parties are joining the party. They've even met in Delhi. I'm not aware of anything like that yet. I don't meet anyone secretly; whenever I do, I meet openly." She said her rivals spread such rumors in

2007 as well. "People weren't misled then, so we won. If we're not misled this time, we'll win again. I hope you'll bring us back to power and make Behenji the CM for the fifth time," she said. Calling for Dalit unity and vigilance against conspiracies, Mayawati reiterated Kanshi Ram’s vision of political empowerment. “Power is the key to development,” she said. “Until we control power, our people cannot live with dignity.” Mayawati made it clear that future elections will be fought solo, asserting that alliances have only hurt BSP’s prospects in the past. “Our votes transfer fully, but we don’t get anything in return,” she said. She said even when such alliances win, the governments often collapse due to differences. She emphasized that only a full majority government led by BSP can truly safeguard the Constitution and ensure justice for Dalits, backwards, and minorities.



Israeli military to begin phased withdrawal from Gaza post parliament ratification



Jerusalem, Oct 10 (Agency) The Israeli military is set to begin a phased withdrawal from the Gaza Strip after the Knesset officially ratifies the ceasefire agreement reached with Hamas later this evening, as per Israeli officials. Within 24 hours of the ratification, the IDF is expected to pull back to pre-agreed deployment lines - retaining control over approximately 53% of Gaza's territory — primarily in less densely populated zones, reports Jerusalem Post. This partial withdrawal will lead to the creation of a security buffer zone for Jerusalem, leaving the IDF troops along the entire Gaza border in possession of the Philadelphi Corridor on the Egypt-Gaza frontier, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya in the north, an eastern ridge overlooking Gaza City, along with substantial parts of Rafah and Khan Younis in the south. Following the repositioning, Hamas will have 72 hours to fulfil its commitments under the ceasefire by releasing the 48 hostages it is currently holding. The IDF said that it is prepared for the simultaneous release of all 20 living hostages, though mediators have cautioned that the prisoner exchange could face several delays amid the uncertainty of their precise locations due to the heavy destruction of the Strip. Under the terms of the arrangement, Hamas will transfer the living hostages directly to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), without any formal ceremony. The ICRC will then escort them to IDF troops stationed inside Gaza, who will oversee their safe passage to Israel's Re'im military base, near the border where they will undergo physical and psychological evaluations, with family members expected to be present for reunions. Those requiring urgent care will be airlifted directly to Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba, bypassing the base. From there, others will be transported to hospitals in central Israel for further treatment and family reunification. For the bodies of slain hostages, the IDF will conduct a brief military ceremony inside Gaza, led by a military rabbi. Before repatriation, all caskets will be examined by sappers "for security purposes," confirmed IDF officials. The caskets with civilian hostages will then be taken to the Abu Kabir forensic institute for identification, which may take up to two days. The bodies of slain soldiers will be taken to the IDF's Shura Camp for identification.

Jerusalem, Oct 10 (Representative)

Far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has refused to support the Gaza ceasefire deal, announcing on Thursday morning that his Religious Zionism party will not vote in support of the deal, which sees a mutual prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas to halt the fighting in the Strip. Expressing misgivings over the deal's 'short-sightedness', Smotrich issuing a statement expressed "mixed emotions," about the deal, remarking that while he felt "immense joy" at the pending return of the hostages, he is also experiencing "tremendous

# Far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich cites misgivings over Gaza peace deal, urges IDF to continue fighting

Jerusalem, Oct 10 (Representative)

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# US clarifies no new missiles for Pakistan under recent defence deal

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

The United States clarified today that reports suggesting Pakistan would receive new Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) under a recently amended contract were incorrect. The US Embassy explained that the contract modification pertains only to sustainment and spare parts support, and does not involve any new weapons deliveries. In a statement, the Department confirmed that the Department of War's announcement on September 30 referred to "an amendment to an existing Foreign Military Sales contract for sustainment and spares for several countries, including Pakistan." It emphasized

that "contrary to false media reports, no part of this referenced contract modification is for deliveries of new AMRAAMs to Pakistan" and clarified that the sustainment work "does not include an upgrade to any of Pakistan's current capabilities." The clarification came after media reports claimed that the US was providing new missile systems to Pakistan. The Department emphasized that these reports were false and stressed that the changes were part of routine support work, not a new weapons sale. This clarification comes in response to media reports, including one from Pakistan's Dawn

newspaper, which misinterpreted the US Department of Defense's Sep-



tember 30 update as indicating a new missile sale to Pakistan. The official announcement disclosed that Raytheon Co., based in Tuc-

son, Arizona, received a USD 41 million modification to an existing AMRAAM production contract, raising its total value to over USD 2.5 billion. According to the initial statement from the Department of Defense, the contract involves foreign military sales to various countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Australia, Qatar, Oman, Singapore, Japan, Canada, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Kuwait, Turkey, and Pakistan, and is expected to be completed by May 2030. Although Pakistan was listed among the countries in the an-

nouncement, the US Embassy has confirmed that Pakistan's inclusion pertains only to ongoing sustainment support, not to new missile deliveries. In 2007, Pakistan had purchased approximately 700 AMRAAMs for its F-16 fleet, which at the time represented the largest international order of the air-to-air missile system. Reports of a new supply deal surfaced shortly after Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Asim Munir met with US President Donald Trump in September. The AMRAAM is a long-range air-to-air missile used by many US allies. US officials stated that the administration remains committed to transparency in defense deals and to ensuring that such agreements do not disturb the regional military balance.



A general view of Ford's Electric Vehicle and Battery complex outside of Memphis, Tennessee, U.S

## 30 terrorists killed in military operation in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, Oct. 10 (Bureau)

Pakistani security forces killed 30 militants during a large-scale operation in the Orakzai district of the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, days after an attack that left several soldiers dead, the military said on Friday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement that the operation was launched in the Jamal Maya area of Orakzai following credible intelligence about the presence of militants involved in the Oct. 7 terrorist attack. After an intense exchange of fire, all 30 militants were killed, the statement said, adding that the group was in-



involved in orchestrating the "heinous incident" earlier in the week. According to military sources, terrorists attacked a group of soldiers in the district during a search operation on Tuesday in which 11 soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel and a major-ranked officer, were killed. "These successful operations have avenged the attack and brought the main perpetrators to justice," said the ISPR. The ISPR added that clearance operations are continuing in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining militants. Pakistani President Asif Zardari paid tribute to the security forces for their brave action against militants, stating that Pakistan's continued success in the fight against terrorism reflects its unwavering resolve.

New York Attorney General Letitia James indicted in U.S. state of Virginia

Washington, Oct.10 (Agency)

New York Attorney General Letitia James was indicted by a grand jury in the U.S. state of Virginia on Thursday. U.S. media noted that the charges against James are not yet clear. The Justice Department previously launched a criminal probe into James around alleged mortgage fraud and later expanded its investigation. In a statement, James called the indictment "a continuation of the president's desperate weaponization of our justice system." "These charges are

baseless, and the president's own public statements make clear that his only goal is political retribution at any cost," said the prominent Democrat. The indictment came two weeks after a grand jury in the same court -- the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia -- indicted former FBI Director James Comey for allegedly making a false statement and obstruction of a congressional proceeding. On Wednesday, Comey pleaded not guilty to the two charges. The indictments of Comey and James came after U.S. President Donald Trump publicly urged Attorney General Pam Bondi to investigate them, along with Senator Adam Schiff, a

California Democrat and longtime Trump critic. During the Biden administration, James' office sued Trump -- who was then a former president -- and the Trump Organization for fraud in 2022. In her statement on Thursday, James defended her lawsuit. "I stand strongly behind my office's litigation against the Trump Organization. We conducted a two-year investigation based on the facts and evidence -- not politics. Judges have upheld the trial court's finding that Donald Trump, his company, and his two sons are liable for fraud," she said. In a recent Truth Social post, Trump referred to James as "scum" and "corrupt," demanding her removal from office. Enditem



He also spoke out against a political

process aiming at Palestinian statehood or the use of an international force to secure Gaza, both key tenets of the 20-point US plan for Gaza. "It is a huge obligation to ensure that we do not return to the Oslo path, God forbid, and that we do not abandon our security to the hands of foreigners," he insisted, boasting that his opposition to previous deals "led to progress in the occupation of Gaza and the application of military pressure that brought Hamas to its knees." After a briefing to the security cabinet, the deal is set to be formally ratified at the Knesset, where a substantial majority is reportedly noted to be in favour of the initiative. An

anonymous Hamas commander said that Jerusalem — under the deal — is set to release nearly 2,000 Palestinian security prisoners in exchange for around 20 living hostages as part of the deal. The figure includes 250 terror convicts serving life sentences and 1,700 others detained since the start of the war. The prisoner swap is expected to take place within 72 hours of the deal's implementation, with both sides having given it the greenlight. IDF troops will nonetheless, continue to be in possession of over 53% of the Strip until all the hostages are released, and gradually retreat from various areas of the enclave, with an international security force coming in to handle security.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz instructs IDF to retaliate with 'great force' against any Hamas attacks

Jerusalem, Oct 10 (Bureau)



Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said that he has instructed the IDF to "respond with great force" against any attempt by Hamas to harm Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, as the government is set to vote on the Trump deal for reaching a ceasefire in the war-ravaged territory. Katz had held an assessment with IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir and other top officers, ahead of the security cabinet vote and full cabinet meetings in the evening, with both expected to approve the ceasefire deal due to wide support among Knesset officials, reports Times of Israel. "The defence minister instructed the IDF to respond with great force to any threat and any attack by the Hamas terror organisation against our forces during the interim stage before the government's decision and until the implementation of the agreement," Katz's office stated. Katz was quoted by his office as saying: "Safeguarding the security of IDF soldiers is our foremost obligation in the current situation."

Lt Gen Eyal Zamir had praised the deal during his visit to Gaza, calling it a "ray of light" while meeting with the IDF troops on ground and praised their conduct, stating that the ceasefire deal which will release the hostages was made possible through their actions. "The signing of the agreement to return the hostages this morning is a ray of light for all of us and further evidence of the achievements of the ground manoeuvre. "Thanks to significant military pressure and a powerful, high-quality ground manoeuvre, you, the troops, created the conditions for the hostages to be returned home," he remarked, according to the official statement released by the IDF. "The military action brought about a political achievement; the achievement is first and foremost yours," Zamir added. Amid the ongoing vote, IDF officials said that Lt Gen Zamir was briefed on the military's preparations for the deal, which includes a phased withdrawal of troops along the pre-deployment lines, and handling the release of the hostages. The IDF commander also echoed the military's operational readiness in any scenario, stressing that as per the arrangements of the deal "the IDF is committed to maintaining a high level of readiness in all arenas, both in defence and in offense."



Captain Godoy rallies Panama for qualifier



Panama City, Oct. 10(Agency)

Panama national team captain Anibal Godoy has vowed his team will be ready and motivated for Friday's away FIFA World Cup qualifier against El Salvador. Thomas Christiansen's side is currently third in Group A - a point behind El Salvador - in the CONCACAF region's final qualifying round, which features 12 teams divided into three groups of four. The top team from each group will automatically qualify for the 2026 tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The two best-ranked runners-up will advance to the inter-confederation playoffs. "We're aware of the importance of this game," Godoy told reporters. "The group is motivated and has come with a different kind of energy," added the 35-year-old, who will miss the match due to an accumulation of yellow cards. The San Diego FC midfielder urged his teammates to stay composed and withstand the pressure of an equally-focused El Salvador outfit. "We need to have the patience to move the ball and the presence of mind not to get desperate from the first minute trying to score," he said. "We need mental calmness and strength, we have to be ready. El Salvador will have its moments because that's football." Panama's only appearance at football's showpiece tournament came at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, where it was eliminated after losing each of its three group matches. Godoy expressed confidence that his team would not be overawed by an expected hostile environment at Cuscatlan stadium. "We have players who have played under much more pressure, in much tougher stadiums, and I think we know how to handle that," he said. "But the message has been clear: we have to maintain the conviction that.

Sabalenka, Gauff advance to Wuhan Open quarterfinals

Wuhan, Oct 10 (Representative)

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka powered into the quarterfinals of the Wuhan Open, defeating Russia's Liudmila Samsonova 6-3, 6-2 to extend her unbeaten record in the central Chinese city, while third seed Coco Gauff downed Chinese veteran Zhang Shuai in straight sets. The top-seeded Belarusian needed just an hour and 15 minutes to secure the victory on Thursday, maintaining her bid for a record fourth Wuhan title. "I'm super happy," Sabalenka said after the match. "Happy with the level of it, happy to close this match in straight sets, and just really pleased with the performance." When asked whether she thinks about her legacy and the possibility of chasing all-time re-

cords, Sabalenka said she focuses more on self-improvement than on comparisons with past greats. "I think almost all of us want to beat all the records," she said. "But the right thing to do is focus on yourself, on your game, on developing yourself as a player and a person. If you deserve these big titles or to break some records, you'll do it anyway." "Of course, I want to beat some records, but it's going to be really tough to compete with the Grand Slam titles that Serena has. For me, the goal is to go as far as I can in this sport, and dedicate my life to the sport. I really hope that by the end of my career, I'll sit back, I'll look at my results, and I'll be really proud of myself." Sabalenka will next face eighth-seeded Elena Rybakina,

who progressed to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Czech player Linda Noskova. Meanwhile, seventh seed Jasmine Paolini of Italy advanced after



Denmark's Clara Tauson retired due to a right thigh injury while trailing 3-6, 6-1, 3-1. The victory marked Paolini's 40th WTA main-draw win of the season, matching her career-best total from 2024

and securing her a place in the Wuhan Open quarterfinals for the first time. Gauff cruised past Zhang 6-3, 6-2 in just an hour. "It was a little bit up and down,

but I'm happy to be into the next round. It wasn't my best like level at some points, but I'm happy that I got there," Gauff said after the match. "Today's result is a very normal outcome. Coco played very well, and I'm also happy to see her back in good form," noted Zhang. "For myself, I'm very pleased with my performance in Wuhan. After four consecutive days of competing in doubles and three singles matches, I was able to maintain a very good physical and competitive condition. At my age, I see unlimited possibilities for myself," the 36-year-old added.

Parthsarathi, Shreeniti, Mannan & Tavish reach U-16 finals at Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship



New Delhi, Oct 10 (Agency) Top seed Parthsarathi Arun Mundhe and Shreeniti Chowdhury stormed into the finals of the Girls' U-16 Singles category, while Mannan Agarwal and Tavish Pahwa advanced to the Boys' U-16 Singles final after hard-fought victories at the ongoing Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship at the DLTA Complex here today. Parthsarathi continued her excellent run in the tournament, defeating fourth seed Snigdha Kanta 6-3, 6-1 in straight sets. The top seed began both sets with early service breaks, setting the tone with aggressive returns and an unbreakable serve. She broke Snigdha five times across two sets to reach the final. Meanwhile, Shreeniti delivered an excellent performance, defeating Harsha Oruganti 6-2, 6-2 in 1 hour and 28 minutes. She broke Harsha's serve six times and maintained complete control throughout the match. Supported by DCM Shriram Ltd., and held under the aegis of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), the Fenesta Open continues to highlight India's brightest young tennis talents. In the Boys' U-16 semifinal, Mannan Agarwal edged past Shivtej B. Shirfule 7-6(5), 6-4 in 1 hour and 54 minutes. After taking a tight first-set tiebreak, Mannan rallied from 2-4 down in the second, winning four straight games to complete a brilliant comeback and reach the final. Tavish Pahwa will join him in the finals after a 6-3, 6-3 win over Om Ramesh Patel in a 1-hour and 28-minute semifinal contest. After the first set was tied 3-3, Tavish won three consecutive games to take the lead in the match. He then broke early in the second set and maintained his rhythm to close out the match in straight sets. Meanwhile, in the Girls' U-14 Singles semifinals, top seed Padma Rameshkumar defeated Deepthi Venkatesan 6-1, 6-3, while second seed Jensi Kanabar breezed past Jahnvi Tammineedi 6-2, 6-0 to set up an exciting final. Fifth seed Aarav Mulay outlasted Heet Kandoriya (13) 6-1, 7-6, while Harsh Marwaha caused an upset by beating 15th seed Puneeth M 6-3, 6-4 to reach the title clash in the Boys' U-14 Singles category. Besides the prestigious titles, the winners will receive kit allowances in the junior categories, while the champions and runners-up in the U-16 and U-14 singles events will also be awarded a tennis scholarship of Rs 25,000 each.

Djokovic reaches Shanghai Masters semis

Shanghai, Oct 10 (Bureau)

Novak Djokovic defeated Zizou Bergs of Belgium 6-3, 7-5 to advance to the men's singles semifinals of the 2025 Shanghai Masters here. This marks Djokovic's 10th career appearance in the Shanghai Masters men's singles semifinals and his 80th semifinal appearance at an ATP Masters 1000 event. The Serbian has previously won four Shanghai Masters titles. "Thanks for everyone's love and support. I don't want to go into the details right now. I'm still in the tournament, so I prefer to focus on recovery and doing what I need to do.

All the quarterfinalists are doing the same, and I'm still in the tournament semifinals, so I hope I can keep it going," Djokovic said after the match on Thursday. Meanwhile, Monaco qualifier Valentin Vacherot fought for nearly three hours to defeat 10th seed Holger Rune 2-6, 7-6(4), 6-4, securing his first-ever ATP



Tour semifinal appearance. "I didn't come as a qualifier, I came as an alternate. I wasn't even sure I was going to play the qualifiers. This is just unbelievable," Vacherot said. "It was tough not to think about it on match point, especially breaking into the Top 100." "I can't wait for the semifinal. I'm just so happy and living the dream," he added.

Oviedo sacks coach Paunovic despite promotion success

Madrid, Oct 10 (Agency)

La Liga outfit Oviedo sacked coach Veljko Paunovic after eight games of the new campaign, despite him having led the club to promotion last season following a 25-year absence from Spain's top flight. "The coach, who had a contract until June 30, 2026, has from this moment stopped being coach in the club from the Principality," confirmed the club on Thursday, adding that Paunovic's technical staff were also leaving the club. Paunovic, 48, becomes the first coach in La Liga to lose their job



this season. A former Oviedo player, the Serbian took over as head coach in March with the club's promotion bid failing, and ultimately led the northern side back to La Liga after a tense playoff win against Mirandes. The club currently sits 17th in the table, with a 2-0 defeat at home to fellow promoted side Levante last Saturday representing a big setback to Oviedo's survival hopes. "We wish him the best in his future prospects, both personal and professional," concluded Oviedo's statement. Oviedo's next game is against Espanyol on October 17.

Jaiswal's artistry, Sudharsan's elegance put India on top at 318/2

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Reporter)

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium, where the morning sun bakes the pitch and the afternoon breeze carries the hum of anticipation, India's batting showcase on Day 1 of the second Test against the West Indies was nothing short of a masterclass. Yashasvi Jaiswal (173 not out) and B Sai Sudharsan (87) combined patience, precision, and timing to shepherd India to 318 for 2 in 90 overs, leaving the visitors searching for answers and fans in rapt attention. From the outset, Jaiswal displayed the temperament of a batsman who has matured beyond his years. His seventh Test century came with all the hallmarks of a craftsman at work: the early session tempered with tight defense, the gentle nudges for singles, the calculated expansion of strokeplay

as the innings progressed. When he reached his fifty with three crisply timed fours off Jayden Seales, the confidence was evident. By the time he raised his bat for 150, the innings had evolved into a symphony: drives through cover, precise cuts off Anderson Phillip, and deft placement past the fielders. Each boundary was measured, each run a statement. Beside him, Sai Sudharsan provided the perfect foil. The Tamil Nadu left-hander approached the crease with elegance and calm. His innings was defined by intelligent strike rotation, selective aggression, and the occasional flourish—a crisp on-drive off Roston Chase, deft flicks through midwicket, and an ability to read the spin with unflinching composure. His dismissal for 87 LBW off Jomel Warrican,

narrowly missing a maiden Test century, was a moment of heartbreak but also underscored the difficulty of the wicket and the quality of West Indies' bowling. Shubman



Gill, at the other end, offered stability with occasional flourish, contributing quick runs and finding the boundary when needed. Earlier, KL Rahul had laid the foun-

dation with a patient 38, allowing the left-handers to dictate terms thereafter. The innings was peppered with moments that would make any commentator smile. Jaiswal's drive through extra cover off Seales in the 87th over, his back-cut past extra cover, the uppish drive off Phillip—all of it radiated timing, precision, and intent. Sudharsan's elegant cover drives and on-drives punctuated the innings with grace. Each run, each shot was not merely about accumulating numbers—it was cricket played with intelligence and intent. The Indian batsmen's command extended to handling the new ball at 82.1 overs. Even as the West Indies tested with swing and pace, India's partnership remained unbro-

ken. The pair punished any loose deliveries while leaving the good ones alone, showcasing a blend of technique and temperament. Review systems were actively used, with Sudharsan succumbing to an LBW review and Jaiswal surviving a bowling review earlier, reflecting the high stakes and fine margins. By the close of Day 1, India had not only posted a formidable total but had also made a statement. The confidence of Jaiswal, the poise of Sudharsan, and the support of Gill illustrated a team that is nurturing the next generation while maintaining the standards of Test cricket excellence. The visitors are left with work to do, and the home fans leaves the stadium knowing they've witnessed an innings of artistry and composure. Scorecard highlights: India 318/2 (90 overs) – Yashasvi Jaiswal 173 not out, B Sai Sudharsan 87, KL Rahul 38

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla Inaugurates Manipur Global Buyers and Sellers Summit

Imphal, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)

Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, today inaugurated the Manipur Global Buyers and Sellers Summit 2025 at the City Convention Centre, Imphal. The two-day event, held under the theme "Bridging Business Sans Borders," is part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. The Summit is jointly organised by the Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Manipur Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (MANIDCO) and the Manipur Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI). As part of the inaugural programme, the Governor visited stalls set up by local entrepreneurs and industries, which showcased Manipur's diverse range of indigenous products and innovations. The Summit witnessed participation from neighbouring countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh and Thailand, along with representatives from Japan and

several North Eastern states. The event aims to promote Manipur as a potential hub for regional and international trade. In his address, Governor Bhalla said that Manipur embodies natural abundance, creativity and resilience, describing it as a "dream destination for those seeking diverse opportunities."

He highlighted the State's distinctive products such as black rice



(Chak-Hao), organic produce, handloom and handicrafts, and praised the skill, adaptability and enterprise of its human resource base. The Governor lauded the resilience of communities in the State, including those recently displaced, for re-engaging in economic activities and creating value-driven products

reaching both national and international markets. Emphasising the growing entrepreneurial spirit in Manipur, Governor Bhalla stated that the Summit is "more than an event — it is a statement of confidence in Manipur's potential as a strategic gateway for global trade in the Northeast." He commended the coordinated efforts of the Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries, MANIDCO and MCCI, in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME's RAMP initiative, for strengthening women-led enterprises and promoting local entrepreneurship. With improved logistics, digital platforms and proximity to Southeast Asia, the Governor expressed optimism that Manipur is poised for rapid growth through global partnerships, sustainable production, and inclusive innovation. The inaugural session was also attended by Anurag Bajpai, Additional Chief Secretary (Textiles, Commerce & Industries and Transport), and Dr. Basudev Singh, President, Manipur Chamber of Commerce & Industry, among other dignitaries.

IIIT Raipur student held for creating AI generated obscene images of female batchmates

Raipur, Oct 10 (Reporter)

A third year student of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Naya Raipur has been arrested for allegedly using artificial intelligence tools to create obscene and morphed images and videos of several female students. The accused, identified as Syed Rahim Adnan Ali (21), a B.Tech student in the Electronics and Communication Engineering department, is accused of digitally generating explicit content of nearly 36 female students studying at the institute. The incident came to light when some students discovered the manipulated material and lodged a complaint with the institute's management. Following the complaint, the IIIT administration immediately searched the student's hostel room and seized his mobile phone, laptop, and pen drives. A preliminary inquiry reportedly confirmed the allegations, after which the student was suspended and ordered to vacate the

campus. The institute subsequently formed an internal inquiry committee comprising female staff members to investigate the technical and behavioural aspects of the case. Based on its findings, the administration lodged a written complaint at the Rakhi police station.



Acting on the complaint filed by Dr. Srinivas K.G., Registrar (In-Charge) of IIIT Raipur, the police registered FIR No. 164/25 under Section 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 66(G) and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act against the accused. A joint team of the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and Rakhi police swiftly arrested the student on Thursday.

During interrogation, he reportedly confessed to creating the AI-generated images using digital tools. Police officials said the act had caused serious mental and social distress to the victims and tarnished the institution's reputation. "The accused used AI based image generation and editing tools to create false and obscene visuals of female students. We have taken prompt action and arrested him," said Vivek Shukla, additional SP, Raipur. In an official statement, the IIIT Raipur administration said it follows a zero tolerance policy towards any form of misconduct and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe and dignified academic environment on campus. Meanwhile, Raipur Police urged citizens to exercise caution and responsibility while using digital and AI based tools. The police warned that any misuse of such technology for defamation, harassment, or the creation of obscene content would invite strict legal action under the relevant provisions of law.



# SC issues notice to Centre, ECI on plea seeking voting rights for undertrial prisoners

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

The Supreme Court today issued notice to the union Government and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking to extend voting rights to undertrial and pre-trial prisoners across the country. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran sought responses on the PIL filed by Sunita Sharma, represented by Advocate Prashant Bhushan. The petition challenges Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which imposes a blanket ban on voting by individuals confined in prisons, irrespective of whether they are convicted or

merely awaiting trial. The provision states that "no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison or in lawful custody of the police," except for those under preventive detention. The petitioner argues that such a sweeping disqualification violates the principles of democracy and the presumption of innocence, as nearly 75 percent of India's prison population comprises undertrial prisoners. She contends that the restriction should not apply uniformly but should be based on individualised judicial consideration, particularly excluding only those convicted for electoral or corrupt practices. Filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the plea seeks di-

rections to the ECI to set up polling stations within prisons and to make provision for postal ballots for prisoners lodged outside their home constituencies or states.



It also urges the Court to fill the legal vacuum left by Section 62(5) by framing guidelines that limit disenfranchisement only in cases involving final conviction or specific ju-

dicial determinations. Citing global practices, the plea notes that most democracies restrict voting rights of prisoners only after final conviction or through individualised judicial determinations. It highlights that even in Pakistan, undertrial and pre-trial prisoners retain their right to vote, making India's blanket ban an exception among democracies. The petitioner further argues that India's current approach contradicts its international obligations under treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which recognises every citizen's right to participate in public affairs and vote in genuine periodic elections. Raising a constitutional ques-

tion, the plea asks, "If convicted persons can contest elections, why can't undertrials vote?" and points out that even individuals serving prison terms are allowed to contest elections, thereby influencing governance. The petition also distinguishes the current case from the 1997 Supreme Court judgment in Anukul Chandra Pradhan v. union of India, which upheld Section 62(5) on the ground that the right to vote was merely statutory. Referring to the 2023 Constitution Bench judgment in Anoop Baranwal, which recognised the right to vote as a constitutional right, the petitioner submits that the earlier view no longer holds good. The matter will now be listed for further hearing after the Centre and the ECI file their responses.

Cough syrup deaths: CDSCO orders crack-down on manufacturers  
New Delhi, Oct 10 (Bureau)



The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's top drug regulator, has directed all state governments to submit a comprehensive list of cough syrup manufacturers as it launches a joint audit of these companies. The move follows the tragic deaths of over 20 children in the past month, allegedly linked to contaminated cough syrups, a senior Health Ministry official said today. The CDSCO has informed the World Health Organization (WHO) that it has identified three contaminated cough syrup brands—Coldrif, Respifresh, and ReLife—containing toxic levels of Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a harmful substance linked to the recent child fatalities. Importantly, none of these products were exported from India, the regulator clarified. The implicated products have been recalled, and the manufacturers have been ordered to cease production of all medical products immediately, said the official. Taking serious note of the tragic incidents, the WHO had reached out to the CDSCO on October 1, seeking clarification and details about the potential contamination and whether these products had been exported internationally. The UN health agency noted that CDSCO's investigations revealed DEG concentrations of 48.6% in Coldrif (manufactured by Sresan Pharma, Tamil Nadu), 1.342% in Respifresh TR (Rednex Pharmaceuticals, Gujarat), and 0.616% in ReLife (Shape Pharma, Gujarat). Symptoms reported among the affected children—acute renal failure and acute encephalitis syndrome—are consistent with exposure to toxic oral syrups, WHO said. The agency added it is ready to assist Indian authorities in investigating and responding to the tragic events but has yet to receive official information regarding the source of the DEG contamination or the presence of any contaminated pharmaceutical materials. WHO also highlighted a critical regulatory gap: India currently lacks mandatory DEG/ethylene glycol screening for domestically marketed medicines. It emphasized the urgent need to identify the contamination source and remove any potentially tainted pharmaceutical materials in circulation.

ECI allows 12 alternative photo IDs for voting, EPIC not mandatory  
New Delhi, Oct 10 (Agency)



The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced today that voters can cast their ballots using one of 12 alternative photo identification documents, in addition to the Electors' Photo Identity Card (EPIC). The list of acceptable alternative IDs includes the Aadhaar Card, MN-REGA Job Card, passbooks with photographs issued by banks or post offices, health insurance smart cards issued under the Ministry of Labour or the Ayushman Bharat Health Card, driving licenses, PAN cards, smart cards issued by the Registrar General of India under the National Population Register (NPR), Indian passports, pension documents with photographs, service identity cards with photographs issued to employees by the central or state governments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), or public limited companies, as well as official identity cards issued to Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), or Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs). Additionally, the Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is also acceptable. The ECI clarified that possessing an EPIC is not mandatory for voting; however, the voter's name must be present on the electoral roll. The commission has also made special provisions for women who wear burqas or purdahs, ensuring their dignified identification at polling stations.

WB municipality recruitment scam: ED raids Minister Sujit Bose's property among 11 locations  
New Delhi Oct 10 (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting extensive searches at 11 locations across West Bengal in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Municipality Recruitment Scam. The investigation stems from a CBI FIR, which was triggered after the Calcutta High Court ordered a probe into the alleged scam. The raids include the official and residential premises linked to Sujit Bose, the sitting MLA and Minister of Fire and Emergency Services for the state. This marks the second time the Minister's properties have been searched by the central agency in this case. The ED is also targeting the office premises of companies owned by Sujit Bose. The ED has argued that the recruitment irregularities extend beyond the school teacher recruitment scandal, involving various posts within municipalities across the state. Further details are awaited.



The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat graced the inauguration of exhibition on "Sushaasan aur Abhilekh 2025" organized by National Archives of India under Ministry of Culture at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, in New Delhi.

Jairam Ramesh slams PM Modi's diplomatic engagements, questions PM's priorities  
New Delhi, Oct 10 (Reporter)

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh today took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent diplomatic efforts, questioning the priorities behind his engagements. PM Modi held a series of high-profile conversations with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while also reportedly sending messages of praise to US President Donald Trump. "PM Modi spent all day yesterday talking to UK PM Keir Starmer and sending



message after message of praise and admiration to President Trump," Ramesh said in a post on X. "He did not, of course, forget to speak to the man who had unleashed the genocide on Gaza - the Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu," he added. Ramesh also mocked Trump's claims about stopping Operation Sindoor, saying, "President Trump has been consistent, insistent, and persistent... It won't be long before he scores a century," Ramesh said. Ramesh's comments come amid scrutiny of Modi's diplomatic efforts and Trump's claims. issues.

Kerala CM meets PM Modi, discusses state development  
New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)

New Delhi, Oct 10 (FN Bureau)



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi today, a government release said. The leaders talked about various development projects and issues related to the state of Kerala. During the meeting, the Chief Minister raised the issue of providing more central assistance for the rehabilitation of Wayanad, which was affected by a recent natural disaster. Vijayan is learnt to have also discussed

the long-pending demand for an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kerala. The meeting touched on the development of national highways in Kerala, with the Chief Minister seeking central assistance for the projects. The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen center-state relations and accelerate the completion of various projects in the state. The meeting comes as part of the Chief Minister's efforts to engage with the central government and secure support for Kerala's development projects.

Odisha Poet Sushri Sangita Mishra attends the international poets' conference organised by UNESCO  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 9 (FN Bureau)

Eminent Odia poetess Dr. Sushri Sangita Mishra attended the prestigious five-day World Congress of Poets organized by the UNESCO 'World Academy of Arts and Culture' of the UNESCO. In was held in Monterrey, Mexico. Dr. Mishra was the only poet from India to be invited to deliver her speech in

a session on 'Philosophy behind the Poetry of Great Poets' that took place in the Department of Philosophy and Letters, Nuovo Leon University. Apart from Dr. Sushri, Sonia Garza Rapport (Monterey), DanielGraglia (Chile) and DocDrumheller (New Zealand) were also present on the stage on the occasion. A press release issued by the



organizing body UNESCO, WAAC and WCP, said that 120 poets from 19 countries participated in the huge conference held at the Gran Hotel Ancirain Monterrey, Mexico under the presidency of Dr. Maria Eugenia Soberanis and Maria Del Pilar Martinez. Dr.Sushri Sangita

Mishra writes poetry mainly in English. Her poetry collection 'Line of Illumination' was recently released and has been well received by the readers. Earlier, her two Odia poetry collections, 'NirabataShabda' and 'NistabddhaAkash' have also been published. She has also been selected for a fellowship by the Union Ministry of Culture for research on 'Literature and Society'. She currently lives in Chennai.

# India to upgrade Indian technical mission in Kabul to normal embassy status: EAM to Afghan Taliban FM Muttaqi

New Delhi, Oct 10 (Representative)

Signalling the resumption of normal diplomatic ties with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, India today announced the upgradation of its technical mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India, two years after the Afghan Taliban overran Kabul. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in his address to visiting Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, conveyed India's decision on upgradation of the Indian technical mission to full embassy status today. In his address, EAM Jaishankar said that the visit of the Afghan Taliban FM "marks an important step" in the advancement of India's ties with Kabul and is an affirmation of the enduring friendship between the two nations. He said the two ministers have spoken to each other, once after the Pahalgam terrorist at-

tack in April this year, and the second time, after the Kunar and Nangarhar earthquake in September. "However, a meeting between us in person has a special value in allowing us to exchange perspectives, identify common interests and forge closer cooperation." He said as a contiguous neighbour and a well-wisher of the Afghan people, India has a deep interest in Afghanistan's development and progress. "Today, I reaffirm that our longstanding partnership that has seen so many Indian projects in Afghanistan stands renewed," he said. He said the two sides can discuss the maintenance and repairs of finished projects as well as steps to complete others to which India has already committed. The two sides can also discuss other development priorities of Afghanistan. As part of India's support for the health security of Afghani-

stan, the EAM today said that six new projects would be announced. India is to also gift 20 ambulances as a gesture of good will, with five of them to be handed over by him as a symbolic step. India will also



provide MRI and CT scan machines to Afghan hospitals and deliver vaccines for immunization and cancer medicines. He said that India has also supplied drug rehabilitation materials through UNODC and is

open to doing more. He pointed out that as a first responder, Indian relief materials were delivered to the earthquake sites within hours of the disaster in September. India also offered to contribute for the reconstruction of residences in the affected areas. India has also been a significant provider of food assistance to the Afghan people, he said, in reference to the 500,000 tonnes of wheat sent by India earlier, and added that New Delhi is delivering a further consignment in Kabul today. Pointing to the forcible repatriation of thousands of Afghan refugees, mostly by Pakistan and Iran, the EAM termed it a matter of deep concern. "Their dignity and livelihood is important. India agrees to help construct residences for them and continue providing material aid to rebuild their lives," the EAM said. On water management, he said that

India is ready to collaborate on the sustainable management of its water resources. "Your invitation to Indian companies to explore mining opportunities in Afghanistan is also deeply appreciated. This can be discussed further," he added. On trade, he said the two sides have a shared interest in boosting trade and commerce, and added that he is glad to note the commencement of additional flights between Kabul and New Delhi. He said that India will expand the avenues for Afghan students to pursue studies at Indian universities. "Sports is another longstanding connection. The emergence of Afghan cricket talent has been truly impressive. India is glad to deepen its support for Afghan cricket." He said that India has introduced a new visa module for Afghan people in April 2025, and as a result New Delhi is now issuing greater number of visas, including in medical, business and student categories. Raising the

issue of terrorism, especially cross-border terrorism, he said while the two nations have a common commitment towards growth and prosperity, it is endangered by the shared threat of cross-border terrorism that both our nations face, in reference to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terror group. "We must coordinate efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We appreciate your sensitivity towards India's security concerns. Your solidarity with us in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack was noteworthy," the EAM said. "India is fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Closer cooperation between us contributes to your national development, as well as regional stability and resilience. To enhance that, I am pleased to announce today the upgrading of India's Technical Mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India."