

## IN BRIEF

### Armed robbery at Raksha Khadse's petrol pump, Rs 1 lakh looted

Jalgaon, Oct 10 (UNI) Armed robbers targeted a petrol pump owned by union Minister of State Raksha Khadse in Muktinagar, Jalgaon district, assaulting employees and escaping with over Rs one lakh in cash.

The incident occurred last night, at the Raksha Auto Fuels petrol pump situated along the Mumbai-Nagpur highway, where five individuals arrived on two two-wheelers around 11:30 pm.

The assailants, finding staff members Prakash Mali and Deepak Khosa alone at the facility, physically attacked them while brandishing a country-made firearm. After threatening the employees, the robbers seized approximately Rs one lakh before vandalising the petrol pump office equipment, including computers, printers, and the closed-circuit television recording system.

Muktinagar Police Station Inspector Ashish Kumar Adsul and his team promptly responded to the incident, but discovered the perpetrators had already fled toward Bohardi village.

Law enforcement authorities have established cordons throughout the area and initiated comprehensive investigations into the armed robbery.

### WCL employee dies in accident at Kamptee mine near Nagpur

Nagpur, Oct 10 (UNI) : A 35-year-old employee of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) was killed in an industrial accident at the Kamptee Open Cast Mine near Nagpur on Thursday night, officials said today.

The deceased, identified as Shrikant Nitnavare, who worked as a PC operator, was reportedly crushed by the chain of a shovel machine around 8:30 p.m. He died on the spot, sources said.

Following the incident, senior WCL officials and local police rushed to the site and launched an investigation into the cause of the accident. Further details are awaited.



Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar meets Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) workers as part of the Rashtravadi Parivar Milan initiative, in Pune on Friday.

## Ajit Pawar warns against lawbreakers

Pune, Oct 10 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar today said no one will be spared if anyone tries to violate law and order and said the police have been given clear instructions to take strict action in such cases.

Speaking to reporters here on the law and order situation in the state, Pawar said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and I have discussed the situation in detail. No matter how close someone is to

anyone, there will be no compromise when it comes to the law. That is our firm stand."He emphasised that maintaining law and order is everyone's responsibility.

"There will be no leniency and no political interference in such matters. The Chief Minister and we both (Deputy Chief Ministers) have made this stand clear," he said."Police have been instructed to act swiftly and sternly against anyone breaking the law, without considering who they are connected with or whose photo they appear

in."Reacting to reports that Sachin Ghaywal, brother of notorious gangster Nilesh Ghaywal, received a firearm licence through the recommendation of Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam, Pawar said, "Before granting a weapon licence, the police must verify the person's background, any threats to their life, and the necessity of the weapon. If a license is issued despite a police objection, then the responsibility lies squarely with the concerned minister."On allegations made by NCP

(Sharadchandra Pawar faction) MLA Rohit Pawar that BJP and Shiv Sena (Shinde group) leaders helped gangster Nilesh Ghaywal, Pawar said that a detailed inquiry has been ordered."We have instructed officials to investigate who recommended and issued Ghaywal's passport. Just being seen in a photo with someone doesn't make them close associates. A thorough probe is underway, and strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty,"he assured.

## Congress opposes Shiv Sena's alliance with MNS

Mumbai, Oct 10 (UNI) ; After Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) suffered a major setback in the Assembly elections, efforts are now on to form new alliances to counter the Mahayuti government and maintain political relevance.

However, these very moves may end up causing cracks within the MVA itself.

Opposition parties in Maharashtra are struggling to regain their foothold. For the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction), the upcoming local body elections are crucial for their political survival, while Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is also under pressure to reaffirm its presence.

Against this backdrop, Raj Thackeray's MNS and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena have reportedly decided to come together.

However, the Congress has opposed the idea of including the MNS within the MVA. Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) is trying to pull Sharad Pawar's NCP closer to its side, aiming to isolate the Congress.

It is learned that Sanjay Raut, a key leader of the Thackeray group, has established communication with Sharad Pawar to discuss possible coordination.

Efforts are in full swing to form a new alliance between the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction), and the MNS, potentially sidelining the Congress in the upcoming local body elections.

When Pawar had initiated the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, it had revived a nearly defunct Congress in Maharashtra, helping it win an unexpectedly high number of seats in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

However, with these new alliance manoeuvres underway, political observers warn that the MVA may be heading towards disintegration.

## White House irked with Trump not getting Nobel Peace Prize, says Nobel Committee places politics over peace

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) Irked with US President Donald Trump being ignored for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025, a White House spokesman today said the Nobel Committee proved "they place politics over peace."

Steven Cheung,

Earlier the The Assistant to the President and White House Director of Communication, said President Trump has "heart of a humanitarian, and there will never be anyone like him...The Nobel Committee proved they place politics over peace."

Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 to Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela.

"The Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 goes to a brave and committed champion of

peace – to a woman who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness," the Nobel Committee said in a press release.

US President Donald Trump had been demanding Nobel Peace Prize for "stopping seven wars."

## Woman murdered over love affair in Gondia

Gondia, Oct 10 (UNI) : A 20-year-old woman was found dead in Bondrani village under Arjuni taluka of Maharashtra's Gondia district allegedly over a love affair, police said today.

The deceased has been identified as Aachal Prakash Kobale, a resident of Bondrani village situated on the banks of the Wainganga River.According to police, Aachal was in a relationship with a youth from another community in the same village.Both families had opposed their marriage, following which the couple had eloped some days ago but later returned.

After mediation by villagers, Aachal went back to her father's house and her family had reportedly begun preparations for her marriage.Yesterday, while guests were expected to arrive for wedding discussions, Aachal was found lying unconscious a short distance from her house with her throat slit by a sharp weapon.

She was rushed to the Sub-District Hospital in Tiroda, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

Her brother later lodged a complaint with the local police.The Darniwada Police have registered a case of murder and called in a canine squad for investigation. The youth with whom the woman had an affair has been missing since the incident and police suspect his involvement."We are probing all possible angles and efforts are on to trace the accused," said Tiroda Police Inspector Amit Wankhede.

## JD (U) MP Santosh Kushwaha joins RJD

Patna, Oct 10 (UNI) : Former JD (U) MP from Purnea Santosh Kushwaha today joined RJD during ongoing Bihar assembly elections.

Kushwaha was handed over membership slip by senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav at his official residence in Patna where a function was organised to mark the occasion.

Yadav while welcoming Kushwaha in his party, said with his joining, RJD would get new vigour in Seemanchal and Kosi region of Bihar."I had no option but to leave JD (U) as some leaders with feudal mindset were taking political decisions keeping Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in dark," Kushwaha said adding that JD (U) had lost its vision and direction of social justice.

It was not possible for him to fight for social justice while continuing as member of JD(U), he pointed out.

"We will now continue our struggle for social justice with more vigour and energy," Kushwaha said adding that he would discharge whatever responsibility given to him by RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.



## Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement....

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 to Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela. "The Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 goes to a brave and committed champion of peace – to a woman who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness," the Nobel Committee said in a press release.

(See on page 5)

## Deepika Padukone appointed first-ever 'Mental Health .....



Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone has been appointed as the first-ever Mental Health Ambassador by the union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), marking a landmark step towards strengthening India's mental health ecosystem.

( See on page 4)

## Bhavtegh Singh hits perfect 50 on Day 1 of Skeet qualification



India's Bhavtegh Singh Gill, a two-time Junior World Championship medallist, made a perfect start to his campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Shotgun 2025 in Athens, Greece,

(See on page 7)

## SC reserves verdict on pleas seeking permission for ....



The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking permission to manufacture, sell, and use certified "green" firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran indicated that it may consider easing the current restrictions, (See on page 8)



# Passenger-Centric Development Discussed at 55th DRUCC Meeting in Solapur Division of Central Railway

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Solapur, Oct 10 : The 55th meeting of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) of Solapur Division, Central Railway was held on 10th October 2025 at the Sangam Auditorium, DRM Office, Solapur. The meeting was chaired by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Solapur Dr. Sujeet Mishra and attended by 12 representatives of DRUCC members, including representatives of Members of Parliament and various passenger and trade organisations from Solapur, Kalaburagi, Latur, Kurduvadi, Pandharpur and Jeur.

The meeting served as an important platform for meaningful consultation and exchange of ideas between the Railway Administration and railway users, in line with Indian Railways' commitment to participative governance and continuous service

improvement. During the session, DRM Solapur briefed the committee members on the numerous initiatives and passenger-centric developments undertaken by Solapur Division. He highlighted:

- The successful arrangements made for Ashadhi Ekadashi at Pandharpur, ensuring smooth pilgrim movement and passenger facilitation.
- Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming Kartiki Ekadashi to handle the expected surge in passenger traffic efficiently.
- The efficient handling of train operations during the recent floods, ensuring safety and minimal disruption to services.
- Ongoing infrastructure upgrades across the division, focusing on enhancing passenger amenities, operational efficiency, and accessibility.
- The introduction of Divyangjan-friendly

facilities at various stations to ensure inclusivity and ease of travel for all passengers.

- Operation of special trains during the festive season to cater to increased passenger demand.

Members of the DRUCC expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Solapur Division towards improving passenger amenities, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction. They also shared valuable suggestions and feedback to further strengthen passenger comfort and service quality.

The DRUCC, a consultative body at the divisional level, provides a platform for regular dialogue between the Railway Administration and the rail users, represented through various user groups. It plays a vital role in ensuring that user concerns and suggestions

are heard, promoting a collaborative approach to service improvement and passenger satisfaction.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Shri Anshumali Kumar and senior officers including Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr. DCM) Shri Yogesh Patil, Sr. Divisional Operations Manager (Sr. DOM) Shri Brajesh Rai, Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Shri Sachin Ganer, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Shri Abhishek Choudhary, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Sr. DME) Shri Ramlal Pyase, Assistant Commercial Manager (ACM) Shri Sudarshan Deshpande and others were also present during the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a note of mutual appreciation and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening rail services and passenger experience across Solapur Division.

# Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager, IRCTC West Zone, interacted with electronic media



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager, IRCTC West Zone, Mumbai, interacted

with representatives from various electronic media at Bombay Gymkhana on 10th October 2025. The interaction focused on key

issues and developments related to the initiatives of IRCTC West Zone. Mumbai The event was also attended by Dr. A.K. Singh,

Public Relations Officer, IRCTC West Zone; Shri M.M. Raj, PRO, CR; Shri Apurva Bhasagare, Executive HR, IRCTC West Zone; along with several prominent media representatives including Ms. Sarita Sharma (Live Times), Shri Rahul Pande (News 24), Shri Ranjeet Singh (Bureau Head, ANI Maharashtra), Shri Pradeep Sharma, Editor in chief in 24, Shri Rahuldev Sharma (CSR World M.), Shri Yogesh Mane (NDTV Marathi), Shri Sahid Ansari India News, and Shri Shubham Pande (TV9 Bharatvarsh).

# Excise Department Clarifies - Reports of Four Deaths Due to Spurious Liquor Are Baseless

Vijayawada, Oct 10 : The Excise Department has clarified that the reports circulating in certain sections of the media claiming that four persons died after consuming spurious liquor are completely false and misleading. Detailed enquiries conducted jointly by the Excise and Police Departments in the concerned districts have revealed that the liquor consumed was genuine and licensed. The deaths were found to be due to ill health, dehydration, or excessive alcohol consumption — not due to spurious liquor.

**Nellore District:**  
In Velagapadu village of Kaligiri mandal, a mentally unstable person reportedly died after refusing food and water for four consecutive days. In another incident under Nellore Rural limits, an unidentified person was found dead among bushes near Mypadu Road. Police investigations confirmed that both deaths were due to dehydration and starvation, with no evidence of liquor consumption.

**Eluru Incident:**  
At S.R. Wines permit room near GV Mall, Eluru, a person named Meka Anil died while consuming liquor. A case was registered, and the body was sent for postmortem. The Royal Lancer whisky bottle he consumed was verified through HEALS and further tested at the Guntur laboratory, where it was confirmed to be genuine IMFL liquor. Around 1,600 cases of the same brand were distributed across outlets in the district, with no complaints reported. The Excise Department continues to conduct regular checks at manufacturing units, storage

points, and retail outlets to ensure only quality liquor reaches the public.“

**Anantapur District – Guntakal:**  
In Guntakal, one Harijan Vinay (35), a habitual drinker, died on October 5 after excessive liquor consumption. The brandy shop involved holds a valid license, and the inquiry confirmed that the death was not connected to any spurious liquor.

**Annamayya District – Molakalacheruvu:**  
A resident of Tanakal mandal, Sreeramulu (57), reportedly died after consuming alcohol continuously for three days. His family members confirmed that the death was due to overdrinking. However, a false claim circulated on Sakshi Digital by a YSRCP-linked social media activist alleged that spurious liquor was responsible — a claim proven to be baseless.

**Palnadu District:**  
In Narasaraopet, Palepu Koteswara Rao (50), a lorry cleaner known to be addicted to alcohol, was found dead on October 7. Investigations concluded that the death was due to health issues and excessive liquor consumption, not due to spurious liquor. Officials termed the report published in Sakshi newspaper as unfounded and misleading.

**Conclusion:**  
The Excise Department has categorically stated that none of these incidents are related to spurious or adulterated liquor. Certain media reports and social media posts were found to be factually incorrect and intentionally misleading, aimed at creating public confusion and tarnishing the image of the Government.

# Environment Minister pushes for online tracking

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Friday emphasised the need to swiftly set up an online pollution monitoring system for industries across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), as part of ongoing efforts to curb air pollution.

The remarks came during a review meeting

assessing the progress made by various agencies of central and state government in Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR after the previous meeting held nearly a month ago on September 16. Noting that multiple agencies are involved in tackling Delhi's air pollution, Yadav stressed the need for coordinated efforts among

the Central and state governments, district administrations, and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation on the ground. Yadav also reviewed the status of paddy-straw management in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh — noting that stubble burning in these states remains one of the key contributors to

Delhi's winter smog. For ex-situ management of the stubble, such as converting it into pellets for energy use, he directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to assess the availability of storage space for these pellets at thermal power plants and pelletisation units that manufacture the value-added products.

# sKonkan-25's success showcases India-UK Naval Interoperability: Sanjay Seth

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth held a bilateral meeting with the United Kingdom's counterpart Vernon Coaker, in Mumbai, today. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the visit of the UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG) to India. In a statement issued here, the Ministry of Defence said that during the meeting, both sides reviewed the ongoing defence engagements and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation between India and the United Kingdom.

Seth noted that the UK CSG, led by Prince of Wales, successfully completed the sea phase of the bilateral maritime exercise Konkan-25 with the Indian Navy off the western coast of India. The CSG is currently engaged in the harbour phase activities at Mumbai and Goa.

The Minister further emphasized that such operational interactions enhance mutual understanding of operational philosophies and significantly contribute to interoperability between the two navies. During the meeting, both ministers reviewed the various facets of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed about India's growing capabilities in manufacturing equipment and development of indigenous systems bolstering Aatmanirbharta. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the ties in all spheres including collaboration and opportunities in Global Defence Supply Chains. They also reiterated their commitment to strengthen maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region in support of a free, open and rules-based world order to ensure freedom of navigation.

# AAP alleges caste-based harassment for Dalit IPS officer's suicide

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : Launching a sharp attack against the BJP government following the suicide of Haryana's Dalit IPS officer Puran Kumar, the Aam Aadmi Party today claimed the cop was subjected to sustained caste-based harassment.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, citing a purported suicide note, said it revealed the officer's harassment began when he entered a temple. The harassment gradually increased and he was subjected to casteist abuses and a false FIR was slapped on him.

He alleged that when all limits of humiliation were crossed, Puran Kumar chose to end his life.

"Even after 75 years of Independence, Dalits, backward classes, Adivasis, and minorities are

# “Amrit Samvad” held at Gadag Railway Station : SWR



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : As part of the Government of India's Swachhta Abhiyan “Special Swachhta Campaign 5.0” (#SpecialCampaign5.0), Hubballi Division of South Western Railway today organised ‘Amrita Samvad’ at Gadag Railway Station.

Amrit Samvad’ is an initiative designed to create

awareness about cleanliness and hygiene under the broad concept of cleanliness. In this regard, Shri. T.V. Bhushan, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, visited Gadag Railway Station and inspected the premises to check cleanliness and hygiene. He stressed the importance of maintaining a green environment and

encouraged tree plantation in the station premises. He urged people to avoid single-use plastics by creating awareness about plastic-free campaign.

Later, Shri. Bhushan held Interactive session with Passengers and Railway users. Other Senior Railway officials from Hubballi division were also present at the event.

# International conference on Peace and Harmony concludes at MANUU



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Hyderabad, Oct 10 : Prof. Obaidullah Fahd, Chairperson, Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University shed light on prophetic teachings and the principles of interfaith peace and harmony in the modern context, emphasizing the need to implement these principles in view of current global challenges. He was delivering valedictory address yesterday at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU).

The Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU in collaboration with the

Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad organized two days international conference “Peace and Harmony: A Religious Perspective” on October 08 & 09, 2025.

The renowned scientist and historian Prof. Ram Punjiani, in his address, emphasized the importance of interfaith harmony and social dialogue, stating that despite religious and social differences, intellectual and moral unity is essential for the progress of society. He was speaking as the guest of honour.

Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed Registrar, MANUU while delivering presidential

address, acknowledged the academic contributions of the paper presenters, stating that such scholarly gatherings play a vital role in promoting social harmony and academic progress. The chief guest, Prof. P.H. Mohammad, Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences, MANUU highlighted the key points and scholarly impact of the conference in his speech. Prof. Mohammad Habib, Head, Department of Islamic Studies delivered the welcome address. Dr. Mohammad Sirajuddin conducted the programme and Dr. Atif Imran proposed a vote of thanks.

# Om Birla boosts India-Barbados relations

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) 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, 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.



# Navnath Ban slams Sanjay Raut over Metro 3 remarks

Mumbai, Oct 10 (UNI) : Bharatiya Janata Party Media Cell Chief Navnath Ban today criticised the Shiv Sena (UBT), alleging that the inauguration of Metro 3 was delayed due to the incompetence of former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Ban asserted that had Devendra Fadnavis's government continued, Metro 3 would have been operational for Mumbaikars four years ago. He accused Raut of resenting the progress. "The project, stalled for four years, has finally been launched thanks to Devendra Fadnavis. Is Sanjay Raut unable to bear the happiness that Mumbaikars are experiencing because of Metro 3?" he asked.Addressing a press conference at the BJP's state headquarters, Ban challenged Raut to use the new line to witness the city's development. "Raut should travel by Metro 3 from the Saamana office to BKC to see Mumbai's progress. If he wishes, I'll even buy him the ticket," Ban said.Responding to Raut's recent comment calling the Cabinet a "gang of goons," Ban retorted, "The people he is calling goons today are the same Shiv Sainiks of Balasaheb Thackeray. When they were with you, were they saints then?"

He pointed out the hypocrisy, noting that when leaders like Ramdas Kadam and Yogesh Kadam were with Raut's party, they were considered righteous. "Calling those who follow Balasaheb's legacy 'goons' is an insult to the Thackeray family itself," he added.

Ban concluded his attack by stating, "'The era of Nizam-like rule existed when Uddhav Thackeray was Chief Minister under the MVA government."

# CM Fadnavis to inaugurate first health literature conference in Pune

Pune, Oct 10 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will inaugurate the first Health Literature Conference this Sunday at Bal Gandharva Rangmandir, Pune. The event will be chaired by renowned litterateur Dr. Sanjay Oak.

The conference will see the participation of several dignitaries, including union Minister of State Murlidhar Mohol, veteran actor Dr. Mohan Agashe, renowned singer-composer Dr. Salil Kulkarni, Maharashtra Film Development Corporation Chairman Meghraj Rajebhosale, Dr. D.Y. Patil University trustee Yashraj Patil, and MLA Siddharth Shirole.

The event is a collaborative effort organised by numerous bodies, including the Patient Rights Forum, Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Dharamday Hospital Assistance Cell (Mumbai), All India Marathi Film Corporation, All India Marathi Natya Parishad, Bal Gandharva Parivar Trust, Pune Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, and Grand Prithvi Medical Foundation.

Conference convenor Umesh Chavan and Film Development Corporation Chairman Meghraj Rajebhosale informed reporters that the event will also feature the Pune Health Festival. The festival aims to screen and provide health check-ups for 25,000 to 40,000 patients, with experts from leading hospitals assessing the health of Pune residents, artists, writers, and journalists.

# State Information Commissioner Gurav calls for prompt RTI disposal

Nashik, Oct 10 (UNI) : State Information Commissioner Bhupendra Gurav of the State Information Commission, Nashik, today asserted that applications filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, must be disposed of promptly to ensure transparency and accountability in public affairs.He stressed that mutual coordination among authorities is vital for the effective implementation of the law, which grants every citizen the right to seek information from public authorities.urav was speaking at a seminar organised by the District Collectorate on the occasion of Right to Information Week at the Niyaz Bhavan.

Attending the event were Deputy Secretary Chandrakant Katkade, Resident Deputy Collector Rohit Kumar Rajput, and several Sub-Divisional Officers, including Appasaheb Shinde (Dindori), Babasaheb Gadhave (Yevla), and Nitin Sadgir (Malegaon), alongside various Tehsildars and other officials.The Commissioner explained that an RTI application progresses through four official stages: the Public Information Officer, the First Appellate Officer, the Second Appellate Officer, and the Bench. He advised that timely disposal can be achieved if the information sought is properly reviewed and a response is provided within the prescribed period through mutual coordination. To save both time and cost, Gurav suggested that information should be provided to the concerned applicant through e-mail or WhatsApp. He provided detailed information to the officers on the necessary precautions and procedures to be followed while handling applications at every stage.



Union Minister of State for Education and Development Sukanta Majumdar, along with BJP activists, collects relief funds for flood victims of North Bengal, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

# Bombay HC halts minor's POCSO chargesheet

Mumbai, Oct 10 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court has restrained the Mumbai Police from filing a chargesheet against a 15-year-old girl accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly sending sexually suggestive messages to her classmate and the classmate's mother.

The court questioned the registration of the offence under POCSO, as both the victim and the accused are minors.

A bench of Chief Justice

Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad was hearing a petition by the accused girl seeking quashing of the FIR against her contending that she was just playing a prank against her classmate.

The petition was filed by her father.

On July 10, Kandivali police registered a case after a 15-year-old girl complained of receiving obscene messages from an unknown number claiming to be in love with her.

Believing the sender to be a man, she blocked the

number. However, similar messages soon appeared on her social media posts.

Soon even the victim's mother began receiving similar messages. However, when even the mother too blocked the number, the sender created a WhatsApp group with the victim's friends and sent the same sexually suggestive messages. The family lodged a complaint with the police.

During the investigation, the police learnt that the messages were sent by the victim's

classmate. According to police, the accused had played a "prank" on her friend, unaware of the legal consequences.

The accused has approached the HC seeking to quash the FIR.

During the hearing, the court questioned the police's decision to invoke the POCSO Act. "Why has the police registered the case under POCSO? There is no POCSO," the judges remarked.

Additional Public Prosecutor SC Gavand explained that the case was registered based on the initial complaint.

The minor's complaint was about receiving messages from an unknown number. "At that time, it was not known who had sent the messages. Investigation revealed that the message was sent by a girl," Gavand said.

# NDA cadet found dead in Pune

Pune, Oct 10 (UNI) : The National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, said that a first term Cadet Antriksh Kumar Singh was found dead in the early hours today.

The cadet, who was undergoing training at NDA, was found in lifeless condition in his cabin by fellow cadets after he failed to report for the day's training, said a Defence Release today.

He was immediately rushed to the Military Hospital, Khadakwasla, where he was declared dead at 06:30 hrs.The next of kin

and the local police have been informed.A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident, said the release.The NDA fraternity expresses its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief, it added.500 bottles of banned Respifresh TR syrup seized in Beed

Beed, Oct 10 (UNI) : Authorities have seized five hundred bottles of prohibited Respifresh TR cough syrup in Maharashtra's Beed district, prompting a comprehensive investigation by the drug administration, an official said today.The discovery of the substantial stockpile

has created significant concern in the region, with samples dispatched to Ch. Sambhajnagar for detailed laboratory testing.

A s s i s t a n t Commissioner M J Nimse confirmed that samples collected from Gevrai have been sent for analysis, though notably, these represent a different batch than the one linked to child fatalities in Madhya Pradesh. The test results will determine the diethylene glycol content in the seized syrup, providing crucial evidence for potential legal action.Officials indicate that proceedings against local drug suppliers are likely to follow the laboratory findings.

# Thirteen drug peddlers arrested in Kalyan

Thane, Oct 10 (UNI) : Khadakpada police have registered a case against seventeen accused under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act for operating a major drug peddling network in Kalyan, resulting in the arrest of thirteen individuals, while four remain at large.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Atul Zende informed reporters that the investigation commenced when police detained a youth involved in drug consumption, whose disclosures during interrogation led to the exposure of the complete drug supply chain.

A special team comprising DCP Atul Zende, ACP Kalyan Division, Senior Police Inspector Amar Waghmode, and DCP Squad's Anil Gaikwad uncovered

an organised drug trafficking network extending from Kalyan, Mumbai, Thane, Pune, and Nashik to the forest areas of Visakhapatnam. Law enforcement authorities have seized 115 kilograms of narcotics, one pistol, multiple cartridges, vehicles, and walkie-talkies used for communication among the accused.Police arrested thirteen individuals, including gang leader Gufran Hanan Shaikh and residents of Tatwala and Benelli, during operations conducted in Visakhapatnam's forest regions. According to police records, the gang faces more than twenty cases across various police stations in Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nashik, and Telangana. Further arrests are anticipated in the case originally filed by Khadakpada police station under MCOCA provisions.

# AMGM organizes state-level fort building competition

Pune, Oct 10 (UNI) : To commemorate the proud moment for every Marathi of 12 forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj being nominated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites recently, the apex body of all mountaineering organizations in Maharashtra — the Akhil Maharashtra Giryarohan Mahasangh — is organizing a state-level Fort Building Competition.

Participants in this competition are required to build replicas of the 12 forts that have received the UNESCO nomination.

The unique competition will be held in major cities across various districts of Maharashtra through AMGM's district-level organizations between October 17 and 23.

The forts have been nominated under the title "Maratha Military Landscapes of India", and the aim of the competition is to spread awareness about the geographical layout, historical importance, and strategic value of these forts among the public.

The competition will be held in two age groups — junior and senior. Winners will receive attractive and useful prizes, shields, and certificates from the Federation.

Participation is free of cost.

This initiative was announced by Umesh Zirpe, President of the Federation, said a release here today.



**BRIHANMUMBAI**  
**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (E.O.I.)**

Lacquer sealed Expression of Interest (E.O.I.) are invited from **N.G.O.'s** for Housekeeping at P/ South office building. To Provide "Housekeeping service to departments of P/South Ward office building"

Expression of Interest, scrutiny fee along with terms and conditions can be purchased on payment of Rs.3300/- + 18%(GST) from the office of Asstt.Eng.(S.W.M.) P/South Ward office, 4th floor, C.T.S.746, S.V.Road, Goregaon (W), Mumbai-104 on 11/10/2025 to 16/10/2025 between 11.00 am. to 04.00 pm.

Interested sanstha may visit <http://portal.mcgm.gov.in> for details of application form or AE (SWM) P/South ward should be contacted.

The expression of Interest form will be accepted at Asstt.Engineer(SWM)P/South dtd. 11/10/2025 to 17/10/2025 between 11.00 am to 04.00 pm. The form will not be accepted after this hour and date, under any circumstances. The expression of Interest will be opened on 17/10/2025 at 05.00 pm. or as per convenience of this office.

Asstt.Commissioner,P/South Ward reserves the rights.

**PRO/1876/ADV/2025 - 26**  
**Avoid self medication.**

**Sd/-**  
**Assistant Engineer**  
**(S.W.M.) P/South.**



**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION**  
(An autonomous body of GOI under the aegis of M/o Housing & Urban Affairs)  
9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001  
Ph - 23717249/23355408/23322192, E-mail: [cgewho@nic.in](mailto:cgewho@nic.in), Website: [www.cgewho.in](http://www.cgewho.in)

**DEMAND SURVEY FOR HOUSING PROJECT IN VARIOUS CITIES**

The Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) has successfully completed 34 housing projects across India since its inception in 1990. CGEWHO is committed to providing affordable housing exclusively for employees of the Central Government, Central PSUs, State Governments, Union Territories, Autonomous Bodies, Corporations & Nationalised Banks. CGEWHO have shown expression of interest in the following lands and in order to assess demand a survey is being conducted, so that the organisation may take up the housing project in the referred cities .

**Key Details:**

| Sr. No. | Name of the City       | Area        | Location                                                                                         |
|---------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.      | Kolkata, West Bengal   | 11.04 acres | Madhyamgram TE, Mouja-Udayrajpur, J.L. No. 43, PO Barasat, Distt. North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, WB |
| 2.      | Raipur, Chhattisgarh   | 2.2 acres   | Vidhan Sabha Road, Near Jack and Jill School, Khamardih, Raipur, Chhattisgarh                    |
| 3.      | Puducherry             | 2.67 acres  | BSNL Staff Quarters Compound, Jaya Nagar, Reddiyarpalayam, Puducherry                            |
| 4.      | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | 2.28 acres  | Vikas Nagar, Sector II, Ward Lohia Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. - 226022                                 |
| 5.      | Ludhiana, Punjab       | 2.27 acres  | Barewal Road Ludhiana, Punjab 141012                                                             |

- Eligibility:** The survey is open only to employees of the Central Government, Central PSUs, State Government, Union Territories, Autonomous Bodies, Corporation & Nationalised Banks.
- Reservations:** 50% of Dwelling Units (DUs) will be reserved for the respondents of the Demand Survey, allocated based on priority as per CGEWHO rules.

**How to Apply:**

- Visit CGEWHO website [www.cgewho.in](http://www.cgewho.in) for details, terms and conditions and to download the application form.
- Completed forms must be submitted on or before 30/11/2025 through post or e-mail to the following address:

**Dy. Director (Administration), CGEWHO**  
**‘B’ Wing, 9th Floor, Janpath Bhawan**  
**Janpath, New Delhi- 110 001**  
**E-mail: [marketingcgewho@gmail.com](mailto:marketingcgewho@gmail.com)**

*For any queries, you may contact the following individuals:*  
**Sh. Roshan Kishore (M) 9560022232, Sh. Nitish Garg (M) 8826461114**  
*CEO, CGEWHO reserves the right to abandon the scheme or the demand survey without assigning any reason whatsoever:*

**cbc 20105/12/0012/2526**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**CGEWHO**



## STANDARD POST

### PM-JANMAN boosts rural connectivity in Odisha’s tribal areas

Two major rural road projects under the Prime Minister’s Janjati Adibasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) are transforming life in Odisha’s remote tribal areas.

Official sources said the construction of the Telgudutha–Tarabel road in Rayagada district and the Purta–Siarhuli road in Deogarh district has, for the first time, provided local residents with safe, all-weather connectivity, significantly improving their quality of life.

In Rayagada, the 2.5 km Telgudu–Tarabel road has made travel easier for villagers who previously relied on a muddy, unsafe path.

During the rainy season, the old route cut off access to schools, markets, and medical facilities.

Now, vehicles can reach the village year-round. School attendance has improved, pregnant women can safely reach hospitals, and farmers can transport crops and forest produce to nearby markets, boosting their incomes.

Local residents were also employed during construction, earning wages while fostering community engagement. Measures like tree planting and proper water drainage were implemented to ensure durability, safety, and environmental sustainability.

In Deogarh, under the Prime Minister’s Gram Sadak Yojana, a 2.198 km road was built from Purta BLD road to Siarhuli in Barakot block at a cost of Rs. 1.41 crore, primarily benefiting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

The road has become a lifeline for the tribal community, facilitating access to schools, Anganwadi centers, healthcare services, and government welfare schemes. Improved connectivity also allows businesses and service providers to reach the villages, creating livelihood opportunities for local youth.

The PM-JANMAN initiative ensures holistic development in tribal areas and fosters inclusive growth at the grassroots level. These rural connectivity projects demonstrate how better roads can transform communities, not only by providing transport but also by enabling opportunities, empowerment, and progress.

The newly constructed roads in Telgudu and Siarhuli reflect the Odisha government’s commitment to inclusive development. These projects lay a strong foundation for prosperity, turning long-standing aspirations of tribal community.

### Miracle Recovery: Rescues Infant from Life-Threatening Metabolic Crisis



(Standard Post Bureau)

An 18-month-old baby girl from Suddapalle village in Kadapa district, born to a couple in a consanguineous (blood-related) marriage, was recently saved from a life-threatening condition by doctors at KIMS Kurnool. Two days before being brought to the hospital, the child developed a fever and gradually stopped eating, became extremely weak, and started vomiting frequently. Eventually, she began having seizures, which alarmed her parents and led them to rush her to the hospital.

By the time the baby arrived at KIMS Kurnool, she had already slipped into a coma and was experiencing repeated seizures. According to

Dr.Swetha Rampally, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, initial assumptions pointed to common fatigue due to fever and vomiting. However, blood tests revealed dangerously high levels of ammonia and lactic acid in the baby’s body, indicating severe toxicity. In response, the medical team immediately began peritoneal dialysis to remove toxins from the body and placed the child on a ventilator for life support. Along with this, intravenous fluids and medications were administered to reduce fatigue and control the seizures.

The timely intervention and comprehensive treatment helped the baby recover significantly within

just one week. As her condition stabilized, the doctors were able to stop dialysis and remove ventilator support.

While continuing the emergency management, the doctors sought to understand the root cause of her condition. On questioning the parents, they learned about their consanguineous marriage and a history of unexplained infant deaths in the mother's family. This led them to suspect a genetic disorder. Further tests confirmed that the child was suffering from Primary Carnitine Deficiency (PCD), an extremely rare genetic metabolic disorder.

Primary Carnitine Deficiency affects the body’s ability to convert food into energy. It prevents the proper removal of waste products and impairs energy production, especially during times of illness or fasting. As a result, children with this condition may experience symptoms such as poor appetite, fatigue, failure to gain weight, developmental delays, seizures, and excessive sleepiness. In severe cases, like in this baby’s situation, the condition can lead to coma. It is a rare disorder, occurring in about one in 40,000 to 1,20,000 children.

Dr. Shwetha Rampalli highlighted that such

genetic conditions are more commonly seen in children born to parents who are closely related. If there is any known family history of such medical issues or unexplained child deaths, it is important to inform doctors during pregnancy. With timely genetic counseling and prenatal testing, the risk to future children can be assessed. Even after birth, specific genetic tests can help detect such conditions early.

Children diagnosed with Primary Carnitine Deficiency require lifelong care, including a carefully controlled diet. Some types of food must be avoided, while others must be taken in higher amounts. Specialised Protein supplements become essential, and some medications and vaccines must be avoided altogether. In addition, specific supplements need to be taken for life to help the body function normally and prevent life-threatening episodes.

Dr. Swetha emphasized that what may seem like a simple fever or tiredness in a child could, in rare cases, be the sign of a serious metabolic disorder. Early diagnosis, proper genetic counseling, and consistent treatment are the keys to managing such conditions and ensuring the child leads a healthy life.

### BITSoM and Masai partner to Launch Common Entrance Test for Online Management Courses with an AI Edge

(Standard Post Bureau)

BITSoM, in collaboration with Masai, has announced the launch of the All India BITSoM Test for Online Programmes (TOP-2025), a nationwide online examination designed to enable students to qualify for and select from multiple professional programmes in business and technology. Scheduled for October 12, the test will introduce a marks-based course selection model that allows students to choose their preferred programme based on sectional performance. The initiative aims to make management and technology education more accessible and flexible by combining a single-assessment entry with diverse learning pathways. Through this test, students can apply for BITSoM’s six-month online programmes in Product Management, Business Analytics, Fintech, and Digital Marketing. Each programme integrates artificial intelligence at its



core, reflecting the growing demand for professionals skilled in AI-driven tools, analytics, and decision-making. According to a report by Bain & Company, India’s AI sector is projected to create 2.3 million jobs by 2027 underscoring the need for specialised training in technology-led business domains. The four BITSoM programmes being offered reflect this transformation: Digital Marketing is witnessing 30% annual job growth and 65% AI

adoption in personalization and campaign automation; Product Management shows 25% job growth with 65% AI integration in user research and product insights; Business Analytics is seeing 25% job growth with 80% AI adoption in data tasks and predictive analytics; and Fintech records 30% job growth with 60% AI use in fraud detection and risk management according to multiple industry reports — including those by Institute of Product

Leadership and Web Marketing Academy.

Dr Saravanan Kesavan, Dean and Professor - Operations, BITSoM, added, “Our collaboration with Masai stems from a common belief that education must evolve with the pace of industry. At BITSoM, we focus on developing strategic thinkers who can apply knowledge to solve real business challenges, while Masai brings the agility and reach of technology-driven learning. The All India

### Deepika Padukone appointed first-ever 'Mental Health Ambassador' by union Health Ministry

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone has been appointed as the first-ever Mental Health Ambassador by the union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), marking a landmark step towards strengthening India's mental health ecosystem.

Announcing the appointment on World Mental Health Day, union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said the partnership with Padukone would help “widely disseminate awareness about mental health issues in India, normalise discussions to reduce stigma, and highlight mental health as an integral aspect of public health.”

Expressing gratitude, Padukone said, “I am deeply honoured to serve as the first-ever Mental Health Ambassador for the union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has made significant strides in prioritising mental health care. I look forward to working closely with the Ministry to build on this momentum and further strengthen our nation's mental health framework.”

As part of her new role, Padukone will collaborate with the Ministry to raise awareness, promote help-seeking behaviour, and encourage de-stigmatisation of mental illness. She will also support the promotion of Tele-MANAS (Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) and other government-approved mental health initiatives.

The appointment coincides with the 10th anniversary of The Live Love Laugh Foundation, founded by Padukone in 2015 after she spoke publicly about her own battle with depression.

Over the past decade, LLL has reached more than 21,000 persons with mental illness (PWMIs) and their caregivers through its Rural Community Mental Health Programme across 15 districts in eight states.

The foundation has also led several nationwide campaigns, such as “Dobara Poocho” and “#NotAshamed”, along with initiatives like “You Are Not Alone” for adolescent students and the “Doctors Program” for general practitioners. LLL recently launched a corporate mental health and well-being program.

BITSoM Test for Online Programmes brings these strengths together, creating a merit-based pathway for learners to access transformative programmes and build the competencies required to lead in an increasingly dynamic and competitive environment.”

Commenting on the announcement, Prateek Shukla, Co-founder and CEO of Masai said, “This initiative marks a decisive move towards democratising access to quality, AI-driven education in India. As emerging technologies continue to redefine the workforce, our focus is on creating fair and flexible pathways for learners to upskill and stay relevant. The All India BITSoM Test for Online Programmes is designed to identify talent based on merit and potential, not circumstance, allowing students from every part of the country to pursue programmes that align with their aspirations and the needs of a rapidly

transforming digital economy.” To further encourage excellence, the top 20 students from each programme will receive an exclusive opportunity to attend the Dubai AI Conference after the programme concludes, providing exposure to global innovations, networking opportunities, and insights into emerging AI trends. The All India BITSoM Test for Online Programmes (TOP-2025) will be conducted online between 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM on October 12, 2025. Students can register for a nominal fee of ₹99, which includes access to mock tests and practice material. The 60-minute test will assess candidates on quantitative aptitude, verbal ability, logical reasoning, and data interpretation. Based on their scores, students can choose from BITSoM’s AI-oriented online programmes designed with leading academic and industry experts, ensuring relevance to the future of work.

### Centre for Sight Launches Advanced Retina Surgical Services

(Standard Post Bureau)

Centre for Sight, India’s leading network of super-specialty eye hospitals, has announced the launch of its Advanced Retina Surgical Services at its Vijayawada centre, located centrally in Mogalrajpuram.

This development brings globally benchmarked retina care closer to the people of Andhra Pradesh, eliminating the need to travel to metro cities for complex retinal treatment. Founded in 1996 by Padma Shri Awardee Prof. Dr. Mahipal S. Sachdev, a pioneer in modern eye surgery and one of the most respected names in Indian ophthalmology, Centre for Sight has grown into the most trusted eye care network in the country. With over 85 hospitals across 30+ cities, a team of 350+ expert doctors, and nearly three decades of excellence, Centre for Sight stands at the forefront of vision care in India. Its reputation is built on clinical expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a deeply patient-centric approach. The group is widely

recognized for its leadership across a wide spectrum of eye specialties including cataract, refractive surgery (pioneering techniques like SILK and SMILE), cornea, glaucoma, retina, pediatric ophthalmology, oculoplasty, and ocular oncology.

All Centre for Sight hospitals are NABH-accredited, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety. The newly launched retina unit in Vijayawada is equipped with the Appasamy VR surgical system, a state-of-the-art platform that enables high-precision surgeries. The centre now offers complete care for retinal disorders such as retinal detachment, vitrectomy, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration (ARMD), retinal laser treatments, and intravitreal injections.

The facility is also supported by advanced diagnostics including Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), fundus photography, and B-scan ultrasonography, ensuring early and accurate diagnosis. Retinal diseases are among

the most serious and silently progressing causes of vision loss. Conditions like diabetic retinopathy and ARMD often show no symptoms in early stages, making regular screening and timely treatment vital. With India seeing a surge in diabetes-related eye issues, this launch is a timely response to an urgent need.

The retina team at Centre for Sight Vijayawada brings together extensive experience and advanced expertise. Dr. G Sudheer, Consultant in Medical Retina with over 20 years of experience, emphasized the urgency of timely intervention, saying, “Retinal diseases can lead to irreversible blindness if not caught in time. With this launch, we aim to make advanced retina care locally accessible, so patients no longer have to travel long distances for life-changing treatments.”

Leading the Surgical Retina services is Dr. Rachita Sarangi, Senior Consultant with 15 years of experience.



## Hundreds take refuge as powerful typhoon batters Tokyo's Izu islands

Tokyo, Oct 10 (UNI) : Powerful Typhoon Halong passed the Izu island chain south of Tokyo on Thursday, prompting Japan's weather agency to temporarily issue a special heavy rain warning and forcing hundreds of residents in the region to take refuge, local media reported.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) downgraded the heavy rain emergency warning for Hachijo Island in the island chain to a warning at 2:30 p.m. local time, while the weather forced hundreds of residents in the region to take refuge at evacuation centers, Kyodo News reported.

According to the JMA, rainfall on Hachijo in the three hours through 7 a.m. local time reached 207 millimeters, the highest ever for the area, while winds of up to 196.92 km per hour were logged early Thursday morning on Hachijo.

Some building damage caused by strong winds, such as roofs being blown away, was reported, according to the Tokyo metropolitan government and local authorities.

In Oiso, Kanagawa Prefecture, facing the Pacific, three men were swept away by waves while fishing, leaving one dead, the report said, noting that advisories for high waves and strong winds were issued for the town at the time.

The season's 22nd typhoon, which was formed on Sunday, intensified more than weather officials had estimated, possibly because the sea surface temperature along the typhoon's path was around 28 degrees Celsius, one to two degrees higher than average, according to the JMA.

## Magnitude 7.5 earthquake hits southern Philippines

Manila, Oct. 10 (UNI) : An offshore earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 struck Davao Oriental province in the southern Philippines on Friday morning, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to issue a tsunami warning for coastal areas in Mindanao.

In a report, the institute said that the quake, which occurred at 9:43 a.m. local time (0143 GMT), struck at a depth of 20 kilometers, approximately 44 kilometers northeast of the municipality of Manay.

The institute initially reported the earthquake's magnitude as 7.6.

The institute also strongly advised residents in coastal communities to immediately move to higher ground and stay away from the shore, warning that hazardous tsunami waves of more than 1 meter may impact areas near the epicenter within minutes to hours.

"These waves may continue for hours," said the tsunami warning, adding that they may be "more than 1 meter above the normal tides and may be higher on enclosed bays and straits."

Local disaster risk reduction offices across Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, and nearby provinces have been placed on alert status as authorities continue to monitor the situation for possible aftershocks and sea-level changes.

The tremor was felt in the Eastern Visayas region, specifically in the provinces of Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, and Leyte in the central Philippines.

Local officials reported that the powerful quake caused cracks in some buildings in the region, but no deaths have been reported so far.

The Philippines has frequent seismic activities due to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

## Pilot killed in helicopter crash in Australia's far north

Sydney, Oct. 10 (UNI) :A man has died after the helicopter he was piloting crashed in far northern Australia on Thursday night, Queensland Police Service (QPS) said.

Emergency services in the Australian state of Queensland launched a search and rescue operation around 7:30 p.m. on Thursday night after the helicopter, a Robinson R22, failed to return to a homestead in the small remote area of Yagoona, over 1,700 kilometers northwest of Brisbane in the state's far north region.

The wreckage of the helicopter was located by authorities around 8:30 a.m. on Friday, the QPS said in a statement.The pilot and sole occupant, a 27-year-old man, was located deceased.

The circumstances surrounding the crash were being investigated, the QPS said.

## Typhoon Matmo leaves 15 dead

Hanoi, Oct. 10 (UNI) : Heavy rains and floods triggered by Typhoon Matmo have left 15 people dead and eight others injured across northern and north-central Vietnam, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said Friday.

More than 225,000 houses were submerged and over 1,500 others severely damaged, while about 24,000 hectares of rice and other crops were inundated, it said. Nearly 587,000 livestock and poultry were killed or swept away.

The typhoon also caused serious disruptions to transportation, with 27 road sections blocked due to flooding and landslides, it added.

Power outages affected about 181,000 households, while telecommunications networks in several provinces remained partially disrupted, according to the agency.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Thursday directed ministries and agencies to actively support local authorities in overcoming the aftermath of Typhoon Matmo, Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla meets President of the Australian Senate Sue Lines in Bridgetown, Barbados.

## 13 killed in paramilitary strike on mosque in Sudan's El Fasher: Volunteers, eyewitness

Khartoum, Oct 10 (UNI) : At least 13 people were killed and more than 21 injured in shelling by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that targeted a mosque in the city of El Fasher, western Sudan, volunteers and eyewitnesses said on Thursday.

"The Abu Shouk Mosque in El Fasher was shelled late Wednesday, killing at least 13 civilians and injuring more than 21," the Abu Shouk Camp Emergency Room, a volunteer group, said in a statement.The group said

the mosque had been sheltering dozens of families who had fled the Abu Shouk neighborhood after the RSF forces recently advanced into the area.

An eyewitness told Xinhua that, due to security concerns, rescuers could not reach the site until early Thursday, when volunteers cleared the rubble and recovered 13 bodies along with several wounded.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Sudan

condemned the recent attacks in El Fasher.

"OCHA strongly condemns the recent repeated attacks in El Fasher, North Darfur. Artillery shelling reportedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces on Thursday and Wednesday struck the Saudi Hospital and a mosque where displaced families were sheltering, killing at least 20 civilians," the UN agency said in a post on X.

"Civilians must never be attacked," OCHA said.

The RSF has not yet

commented on the shelling of the mosque.

Violent clashes have been ongoing in El Fasher since May 2024 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and allied groups on one side and the RSF on the other, with fighting intensifying in recent days.

Sudan remains gripped by a broader conflict between the SAF and RSF, which erupted in April 2023. The fighting has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions, worsening the country's humanitarian crisis.

## Bangladesh committed to preserving communal harmony, says Home Affairs Advisor Lt Gen Md Chowdhary

Dhaka, Oct 10 (UNI) : Bangladesh Home Affairs Advisor Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (ret'd) has said that the interim administration is committed to preserving the country's secular fabric, and ensuring communal harmony and peaceful religious coexistence nationwide.

"The interim government has taken all necessary steps to ensure that religious communities can observe their traditions with dignity and peace," Alam said while speaking at the Kathin Chibar Dan ceremony organised by the Bodhigyan Kendra (Buddhist Monastery) in Ashulia, reports Business Standard BD.Referring to the month-long Buddhist festival from Ashwini

Purnima to Kartiki Purnima, he said that arrangements have been made in all the monasteries across the nation, guaranteeing full security for the peaceful conduct and observance of the festival.Stating that there is no place for religious divisions in the country, he nonetheless acknowledged the growing problem of sectarian-anti-minority violence by a rising section of Islamists, alongside a section of "fascist-minded intellectuals" who seek to warp Bangladesh's secular fabric for their own agenda.

## Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela, gets Nobel Peace Prize, 2025

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 to Maria Corina Machado, leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela.

"The Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 goes to a brave and committed champion of peace – to a woman who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid growing darkness," the Nobel Committee said in a press release.

US President Donald Trump had been demanding Nobel Peace Prize for "stopping seven wars."

Maria Corina Machado will receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her tireless work

promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy, the release said.

As the leader of the democracy movement in Venezuela, Maria Corina Machado is one of the most extraordinary examples of civilian courage in Latin America in recent times.

She has been a key, unifying figure in a political opposition that was once deeply divided – an opposition that found common ground in the demand for free elections and representative government. This is precisely what lies at the heart of democracy.

As a founder of Súmate, an organisation devoted to democratic development, Ms Machado stood up for free and fair elections more than 20 years ago. In political office and in her service to organisations since then, Ms Machado has spoken out for judicial independence, human rights and popular representation. She has spent years working for the freedom of the Venezuelan people.

Ahead of the election of 2024, Ms Machado was the opposition's presidential candidate, but the regime blocked her candidacy. She then backed the representative of a different party, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, in the election.

## Afghan prosecutors accuse Taliban of crimes against humanity in Madrid based Women's Tribunal

Madrid/Kabul, Oct 10 (UNI) : Afghan prosecutors, addressing the People's Tribunal for Afghan Women in Madrid, drew attention to the systematic repression of women in the country by the Islamic Emirate.

They further accused the Afghan Taliban of committing crimes against humanity, citing the complete dismantling of rights and support systems for women and persons with disabilities since the group's return to power in 2021.

The Madrid tribunal — composed of international legal experts, human rights advocates and former Afghan officials — is not a

formal court, but it aims to document evidence of systemic abuses against Afghan women and girls for submission to UN mechanisms and international legal bodies.

The session stressed particularly the lack of independent institutions for safeguarding women's rights, minorities, and the disabled.

Benafsha Yaqoobi, the tribunal's prosecutor and former Afghan human rights commissioner, said that the Taliban regime has obliterated the country's the support systems for the disabled since their return to power, calling their actions "a form of repression that targets the

most vulnerable."

She noted that due to the Taliban's policies, Afghanistan's education, healthcare and social welfare sectors have all essentially collapsed, leaving people with disabilities "without institutional protection or recourse," reports Afghan International.

Forwarding her claims, Yaqoobi cited a case from the Khost province, where a disabled girl was denied hospital admission because staff claimed "no one was allowed to touch her," an incident she termed a denial of basic medical care.

According to Yaqoobi, the Taliban's Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled

## 30 terrorists killed in military operation in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, Oct. 10 (UNI) : 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 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.

## PTI to resign from all Punjab Assembly standing committees

Islamabad, Oct 10 (UNI) : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former PM Imran Khan has directed all party members to immediately resign from all Punjab Assembly standing committees, a top leader has announced, according to Samaa TV. ,

Addressing reporters outside Adiala Jail, where Khan has been incarcerated since 2023, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Thursday that the decision was made under Khan's direct instructions as part of the party's evolving political strategy. The PTI currently leads 14 standing committees in Punjab.

The move mirrors a similar step taken last month, when PTI lawmakers resigned from standing committees in the National Assembly and Senate, on Khan's orders. The party is reportedly considering a boycott of the upcoming by-elections, signalling a continued protest campaign against the federal government, calling it illegitimate.

Gohar, who met Khan for the first time in several days, described the PTI founder as being in "good health and high spirits." He also provided an update on the Toshakhana Two case, saying final arguments are scheduled on Oct 13, with a verdict expected by mid-next week.Gohar dismissed the case as "bogus and politically motivated," calling it part of a wider effort to keep Khan imprisoned.

On the provincial front, Gohar said Khan would soon finalise the new KPK cabinet after the incoming CM formally assumes office.

He further stressed that the new CM had been personally nominated by Khan and denied reports of internal rifts within the party, amid a heavy controversy following former CM Ali Ameen Gandapur's resignation.

Senator Ali Zafar added that Khan intends to keep the current provincial cabinet intact for the time being, with potential adjustments later "if necessary." He also warned that any attempts to obstruct the transition process would trigger strong protests.

The PTI's recent moves underline its ongoing resistance amidst mounting political and judicial pressures as it seeks to consolidate influence ahead of crucial elections.

Affairs, once responsible for welfare programmes, has been stripped of its mandate, effectively eliminating access to assistance.

"This is not Afghan tradition," she said, "but a deliberate campaign of exclusion and coercion."

Yaqoobi urged the international community to pay closer attention to the plight of persons women and disabled persons in Afghanistan, warning that their indifference to the situation only further emboldens the Taliban's continued structural crimes.

Her comments were echoed by Tribunal prosecutor Mohib

Mudassir, who likewise accused the Afghan Taliban of isolating women from public life and society.

Speaking on the second day of the tribunal's hearings in Madrid, Mudassir said the Taliban's policies have deprived women of access to essential services, education, justice and economic participation, leaving them increasingly isolated.

He noted that the measures have disproportionately targeted young women and girls, calling the restrictions "deliberate and discriminatory" and a direct violation of international laws and conventions.



Relationships



# School kids Growing up too fast?

Life was all rosy for 13-year-old Chitra studying in a reputed school in Mumbai until she laid eyes on a magazine brought in by her senior school-mate Aman who was 15-years-old. Excited and titilated by the explicit visual content - she soon developed a habit to drool over the magazine with her school friend on a daily basis. In no time, this habit took a physical turn and one fine day the two youngsters decided to experiment with sex out of sheer curiosity. Tragedy struck as Chitra got pregnant at the age of 13 and Aman could never come out of the guilt. This real-life instance shared by the principal of a reputed school from Mumbai on conditions of anonymity reveals the grave side effects associated with young school children indulging in reading pornography. Be it the curiosity to watch porn, getting a taste of alcohol or enjoying the ecstacy of drugs - modern school kids are choosing to live life in the fast lane...so unaware of the speed breakers and dead ends that lie ahead. Dr. Samir Parikh, chief psychiatrist, Max Healthcare, who recently conducted a survey in Delhi reveals, "26 percent of the boys surveyed fell in the moderate category and 21 percent fell in the high category when it came to talks about visiting porn sites, being a common conversation in schools. Among girls, 24 percent fell in the



moderate category and 5 percent in the high category." Though figures of drug addiction in schools were comparatively lower, but it was quite prominent as these young party animals often hit night clubs and pubs to enjoy themselves. Moving away from the national Capital the scene was equally disappointing in other parts of the country as well. Pramod

Sharma, Principal of Mayo College, Ajmer reveals, "Being a residential school, Internet access is quite controlled and well monitored at our institution. Also, we have installed special software which blocks certain sites, but still on a number of occasions we have found kids receiving porn stuff on their E-mails." Ritu Nanda, a clinical psychologist and

counselor, Delhi Public School, Bhopal, narrates a different saga of addiction, which is governed by the availability of addictive. "Fortunately, we have not received any complaints of drug addiction, but instances of alcohol addiction have come to our notice, since it is easily available in comparison to drugs." Taking the availability clause further, Ritu adds, "The main aim of school kids is to experience a feeling of high and if they do not get access to drugs and alcohol, a lot of them resort to other readily available options like inhaling petrol and even thinner, which they get along with the white corrective fluid or in the form of nail polish remover. When inhaled in abundance, fumes from petrol or the thinner leaves them hallucinating and in a state of ecstasy." Usha Reddy, principal, Meridian School, Hyderabad shares some confessions made by adolescent kids in a 'Closed Box Session', which is an adolescent counseling session that is held in the school. "One of the kids said, 'I have done it thrice with my friend and now I can't study for my exams'. Another one who came for help expressed his guilt saying, 'I am bad as I watch bad things on my computer, I don't want to see them, but I cannot control my urges,'" reveals Usha. The biggest shock comes from the fact revelation that these honest confessions were from kids who were all under 15 years of age. And the fact that some of them couldn't even put their actions into words was enough to reveal their maturity levels. Even kids studying in government schools are displaying promiscuous behavior. On conditions of anonymity, a teacher from a Delhi-based girl's government school reveals, "It was a shock to find a girl showing a sleazy MMS to her friends, especially when we knew that her parents barely managed a square meal a day for their family. On enquiring we got to know that it was gifted to her by her boyfriend. Not just this, girls as young as 11 and 12 proudly boast about their boyfriends to their classmates." The reasons for this forward behaviour in school children experts say can be blamed on an easy access

to technology like mobile phones as well as the Internet being readily used mainly to complete school projects, untapped access and lack of control over children's' Internet-habits by their busy parents. Also, excess exposure to an overwhelming party culture and availability of easy money opens the door for many bad habits. "They want to try something new, cool and happening and unfortunately these addictions act as magnet to their wants. Then comes peer pressure and the need of social recognition combined with little knowledge that ends up proving dangerous for them," explains Ritu. Meghna Manchanda, mother to a 12-year-old Samir says, "My husband and I are not at all Internet savvy. Even for our requirements we depend upon our son. On one such day when he was opening a site many pornographic pictures started popping up and on being asking, my son told us that he has become an online member to one such site. Though we couldn't stop him from using the Internet, after that they we as parents became extra vigilant." Experts tag such promiscuous behaviour as the 'Gang-age', when doing everything in groups and gangs is considered uber cool! Usha explains, "More than displaying a cool quotient, it is about creating a comfort zone of their own. When one child goes to a porn site accidentally or intentionally, mixed feelings of excitement and guilt start groping their mind. Excitement makes them visit the sites again, while the feeling of guilt makes them spill the beans in their peer group proving that 'it's not just me but every one who's indulging in the same behaviour.'" In today's scenario, trying to shield a child from such addictions seems absolutely impossible to many parents. So what's the way to help them to keep off the porn addiction? 1. The right way is to counsel your child well in advance so that there's a proper time for everything and getting into such habits in their age will only defocus them," advises Reddy. 2. Most children maintain these habits in seclusion which bears testimony to the constant guilt that grows inside them. So inculcate a habit in them of not doing anything in the world that they feel ashamed of telling their parents. Open the doors of communication. "Yelling, scolding and public insult can spoil things further, instead counsel them by telling them the pros and cons of every little step they take in their life," advises Reddy. 3. "Cutting upon their pocket money is not the solution. Instead develop a mutual trust between you and your kid. Make him spend the pocket money as he likes and in return he should give you an account of every single rupee he's splurged," suggests Veena Venugopal, vice principal, Abhayasa Residential Pub School. 4. Keeping a constant check on kids is nearly impossible for parents in a modern context. But they should ensure that the computer is in a common room rather than in kids' room. Also, the time of accessing the Internet should be fixed and surprise visits into the room must be maintained so that the youngster is not indulging in net surfing without the fear of supervision. 5. Software that can bar certain sites (containing adult content) can also be installed on machines at home as well as in schools. The influences that work on a young mind in today's modern context is not easy to monitor, but being cautious as parents helps to keep your child safe from harm.

## Step-parenting tips

**Being a step-parent is a tough ask. But, you can easily work your way around to having a happy family if you follow a few basic rules.**

The first is and the most important rule is to never put your wife/husband in an awkward situation, where they end up having to choose between you or the children. This will bring in immediate dislike from the children towards you, especially if your spouse ends up choosing you over them. Accept your step-children with all their shortcomings. Remember, they are looking for a mentor, a guiding light from you. They are having as tough a chance when it comes to accepting the new surroundings at home as you are. Give them reassurance and reinforcements. In the case of becoming a stepfather, remember that you need to be the strong supportive figure. They need to know that they can trust you. As for stepmothers, you will have to be their emotional anchor.



## Is summer a ‘fur’ nace for your pets?

**The summer sun is brutal for our furry and feathered companions too. Here are some pointers on what to do for your pets as the weather starts hotting up.**

Did you know that dogs and cats don't sweat, but instead pant to release heat? Veterinary surgeon Dr Afzal H Mohamed says, "Dogs and cats have sweat glands, but they are poorly developed and are of no use in thermoregulation." Outdoor vs indoor Contrary to popular opinion, indoor pets don't need to be kept in an air conditioned environment all the time. This actually reduces their tolerance to heat. "Even long-haired breeds don't necessarily need an air conditioner on all the time," says Dr Afzal. "If they have

been bred for generations in a tropical climate, they are probably well-adapted to the heat. It depends on how the individual dog or cat is raised." Moreover, dogs adapted to living outdoors will do fine outside as long as they have shady spots to sleep in and access to water at all times, he adds. **Shedding in summer** We look for thin, comfortable clothes to wear during summer. Imagine having a fur coat on all the time! No wonder our pets want to shed all that hair... "Most breeds have a soft undercoat and a fairly coarse overcoat. The undercoat grows out during the cooler months — this is what is shed during summer," says veterinarian Dr Priyadarshini Govind. "A good 10 to 15 minutes of brushing every day helps to bring the shedding under control."

**An ice cube a day** Dogs and cats go through some minor changes in their eating patterns. "They may prefer to eat during the cooler parts of the day, like in the early morning and late evening," says Dr Priya. "Ensure they have fresh water easily available - especially if you're giving them mainly dry food (kibbles)." But what about pets that are poor water drinkers? "A bowl of chicken soup, chilled butter milk or tender coconut water is an alternative," she says. "You can also freeze these into ice cubes and offer these as a treat during the day."

**Travelling by car** Sure, your dog loves to come along on a

drive! But summers mean you have to be extra careful about taking your pets out on that joyride. Dr Afzal warns, "Under NO circumstances should a dog or cat be left in an exposed parked car for even a short while. If parked in the shade, keep the air conditioner running and roll down the windows a couple of inches." Be a Good Samaritan



If you think summer is hard on your pets, imagine the animals - dogs, cats, birds, cows - who live off our streets. Here are two simple things you could do: 1. Keep a big bowl of fresh water outside your house / shop / office and try to ensure it is filled at all times. Cement water bowls can be put up in street corners for this purpose. 2. Dogs often take shelter from the sun under parked cars. Always look under your vehicle before you start. Warning signs of heat stress "Heat stroke is an emergency!" says Dr Afzal. Watch out for these signs: - Dullness

- Constant panting
  - Dry nose
  - Glazed eyes
  - Vomiting
  - Fast heart rate
  - Weakness progressing to depression
  - Blindness
  - Inco-ordination while walking
  - Collapse
  - Seizures
  - Coma
- If you suspect heat stress/heat stroke:
- Move your pet immediately to a cool environment (air conditioned)
  - Wet it with room-temperature water
  - Place under a fan to increase convective heat loss
  - You may also need to hurry to your veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Summer's also not a good time for you to consider mating your pet. Dr Priya says, "I generally discourage my clients from breeding in the summer due to the stress of the heat that makes it very difficult for both the mother and puppies. Pregnant dogs can go into abortion if they have the slightest of heat stress."
- Tips:**
- Walk your dog in the early morning or late evening, never in the afternoon
  - Never leave your pet unattended in a car
  - Ensure there is always plenty of fresh water available
  - Ensure there is plenty of shade available



# SCR Women's Team Wins the 47<sup>th</sup> All India Railway Kabaddi Championship

SCR team beat South Eastern Railway by 25-19



(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Oct 10 : In the Final match, South Central Railway team beat South Eastern Railway by 25-19 and won the 47<sup>th</sup> All India Kabaddi (Women's) Championship today i.e., 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 at Railway Sports Complex, Secunderabad. Integral Coach Factory, Chennai stood at 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway was the Chief Guest on the occasion and presented the championship trophy to the

SCR women's team and also distributed medals, certificates to the teams. The General Manager congratulated the winners and appreciated the sportsmanship and sincerity of all the teams.

Mr Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR; Shri P. Koteswara Rao, General Secretary, SCRSA & Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer/Stores & Workshop; Shri Santosh Kumar Verma, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad

Division; Principal Heads of the Departments, other senior Railway officials, sports personnel and staff were also present on the occasion and witnessed the enthralling final match.

This year, a total of nine teams— South Eastern Railway, Eastern Railway, Western Railway, Central Railway, Integral Coach Factory, North Eastern Railway, East Coast Railway and host South Central Railway took part in the championship which was conducted on league-cum- Knockout basis from 07<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

## BSF to hold 1st edition of Jammu BSF Marathon

Jammu, Oct 10 (UNI) : The Border Security Force, Jammu Frontier, will host the first edition of the Jammu BSF Marathon, a flagship event, here on November 9. The marathon will feature four race categories comprising 42 Km, 21 Km, 10 Km and 5 Km – commencing and concluding at the BSF Campus, Paloura, Jammu.

“The Jammu BSF Marathon is more than just a sporting event and it is a celebration of fitness, unity, and national spirit,” Shashank Anand, Inspector General, Frontier Headquarters BSF Jammu, here said, addressing a curtain raiser press conference. He said the event aims to promote physical fitness and mental toughness, strengthen the bond between border communities and the mainland, and advance the Government of India's Fit India and Khelo India initiatives, particularly in the bordering areas of Jammu. It also seeks to encourage youth participation in sports and inspire a healthy, disciplined lifestyle, he stated. The marathon is expected to attract participants from the border areas of Jammu, neighbouring states, and across the nation, he said, adding “it provides a unique opportunity for citizens to engage with BSF personnel and witness their dedication and commitment to safeguarding the nation's frontiers.”

## Windies wear black armbands for Bernard Julien

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : West Indies players wore black armbands on the opening day of the second Test against India at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here, as a mark of respect to former allrounder Bernard Julien, who passed away last week. Julien, who was a member of the Clive Lloyd-led team that lifted the inaugural ICC Men's World Cup in 1975, represented the West Indies in 24 Tests and 12 ODIs between 1973 and 1977. The left-arm pacer and middle-order batsman took 50 wickets and scored 866 runs in Tests, besides claiming 18 wickets and scoring 86 runs in ODIs.

In first-class cricket, Julien played 195 matches from 1968 to 1982, amassing 5,790 runs and taking 483 wickets. "The West Indies players are wearing black armbands on Day 1 as a tribute to former player Bernard Julien who passed away last week," Windies Cricket said in a post on X. Meanwhile, West Indies made two changes to their playing XI for the ongoing match, bringing in wicketkeeper Tevin Imlach and fast bowler Anderson Phillip in place of Brandon King and Johann Layne.

## Indian paddlers set for acid test as ATTC serves off

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10 (UNI) : India's campaign at the ITTF-ATTU 28th Asian Team Table Tennis Championships, beginning at the Indoor Athletics Centre of Kalinga Stadium tomorrow, promises both opportunity and peril.

While the women's team will fancy its chances of progressing deep into the tournament, the men's side faces a demanding draw that could see them clash with some of the world's very best before the semifinals.

Seeded No. 4, the Indian men's team, led by Manav Thakkar, the only Indian currently in the top 50 of the ITTF world rankings, will have to be at its sharpest from the outset. They open against Hong Kong (China) in the quarterfinals—a side with players ranked consistently

## PSPB win Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Dept National Championship 2025 Final

Jamshedpur, Oct 10 (UNI) : The 5th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2025 came to a close as Petroleum Sports Promotion Board won the final against Comptroller & Auditor General of India with a commanding scoreline of 3-0 at the Naval Tata Hockey Academy ISWP Ground here in Jharkhand.

In the 3rd/4th place match, Services Sports Control Board defeated

Food Corporation of India, 3-2 in shootout after a thrilling 1-1 draw over the four quarters. In the final, both sides couldn't be separated in the first quarter, however, thanks to field goals from Sumit Kumar (22') and Sudeep Chirmako (28') in the second quarter, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board established a comfortable lead by the end of first half.

Comptroller & Auditor General of India tried to reduce the deficit in the

third quarter but their opposition ensured they were in control of the game.

In the last quarter, Yousuf Affan (54') scored another field goal and sealed the victory and the title for Petroleum Sports Promotion Board.

In the 3rd/4th place match, Services Sports Control Board and Food Corporation of India played out an intense 1-1 draw over the four quarters.

Captain Rajbhar Pawan (15') converted a penalty

corner in the 15th minute for Services Sports Control Board to take the lead, however, Food Corporation of India's Paramvir Singh (30') too scored through a penalty corner to level the tie again. The scores remained the same in the second half and the match headed into a shootout. Anand Lakra, Rahul Kumar Rajbhar and Sukhdev Singh scored for Services Sports Control Board in the shootout to claim the bronze medal for their side.

## Bhavtegh Singh hits perfect 50 on Day 1 of Skeet qualification

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : India's Bhavtegh Singh Gill, a two-time Junior World Championship medallist, made a perfect start to his campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Shotgun 2025 in Athens, Greece, hitting all 50 targets on the opening day of the men's skeet qualification at the Malakasa Shooting Range on Friday (Oct 10).

Bhavtegh's perfect round saw him join elite company alongside four-time Olympic champion and three-time World Champion Vincent Hancock of the United States, 2000 Olympic gold medallist Mikola Milchev of Ukraine, ISSF World Cup medallist Henrik Jansson of Sweden, Kacper Jerzyall Baksalary (Poland), and Emil Kjeldgaard (Denmark), all of whom also registered perfect 50s to share the top of the leaderboard after Day 1.

Among other Indians, Olympian and reigning Asian Champion Anantjeet Singh Naruka hit 48 (24, 24) to sit in 35th place, while two-time Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan

in the world's top 40, known for their compact defence and counter-topspin precision.

A victory there would pit India against Iran, a rapidly improving outfit anchored by Noshed Almiyan, whose aggressive forehand game has made him one of West Asia's most consistent performers. Beyond Iran, the road gets steeper.

The top-seeded Chinese team, powered by world No. 1 Wang Chuqin and Lin Shidong (world No. 2), remains the gold standard in men's table tennis. Japan, led by Tomokazu Harimoto, currently among the world's top three, and the Republic of Korea, featuring top-20 regulars like An Jae-hyun, Jang Woojin, are the other heavyweights expected to

dominate. In such a company, India's youthful line-up of Thakkar, Manush Shah, Payas Jain, Ankur Bhattacharjee, and SFR Snehit will need both precision and poise to make an impact.

In contrast, the draw has been kinder to the Indian women's team, also seeded fourth, who open their campaign against Hong Kong (China) in the Champions Division quarterfinals. Should they prevail, they will meet Chinese Taipei, the second seeds, who bring depth and balance to their line-up with top-30 players such as Lin Yun-Ju and Cheng I-Ching, both among the top-20.

While the draw theoretically paves a smoother path toward the semifinals, the Indians must still overcome the qualifiers in their section

before stepping onto the podium. However, the summit remains guarded by the mighty Chinese, led by the world's top three women — Sun Yingsha (No. 1), Wang Manyu (No. 2), and Chen Xingtong (No. 3) — who together form an almost impenetrable unit.

Japan, the top seed in the women's section, led by Hina Hayata and Mima Ito, both inside the world's top 10, will once again look to challenge China's supremacy. Between these two titans lies a field of hopefuls—and India, with its blend of experience and youthful grit, is determined to seize its moment.

Meanwhile, the Division 1 qualifying rounds begin tomorrow, featuring 16 men's and 14 women's teams battling for promotion into the elite Champions Division.

Among the men's qualifiers, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Singapore are expected to dominate their groups.

However, the women's qualifiers will see the likes of Chinese Taipei, Singapore, and Malaysia contesting fiercely for advancement. Only two teams will make it to the Champions bracket. As Asia's best converge in Bhubaneswar, the atmosphere brims with anticipation.

For India, this is more than just another continental challenge—it's a test of depth, belief, and the ability to stand shoulder to shoulder with the sport's powerhouses. With the home crowd behind them and momentum on their side, the men and women will look to script a performance worthy of their growing reputation.

## N Thangaraja continues hot streak by registering third victory of season at Bengaluru Open

Bengaluru, Oct 10 (UNI) : Sri Lankan N Thangaraja continued his hot streak by bagging his second title in four weeks and third trophy of the season following his resolute final round performance of two-under 69 at the Bengaluru Open 2025 on the concluding day at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) course here today.

Thangaraja (66-65-66-69) came home the champion by a two-shot margin at a total of 18-under 266 to secure his seventh professional win.

The 44-year-old from Colombo picked up the winning cheque worth INR 15 lakh that took his season's earnings to INR 82,22,088.

Thanga as a result consolidated himself in third position in the PGTI Order of Merit as he came within INR 6.45 lakh of the merit list leader Yuvraj

Sandhu. Manu Gandas (70-63-69-66) of Gurugram finished runner-up at 16-under 268 after he posted a 66 on the last day.

Bengaluru-based Rahil Gangjee shot the final day's best score of 64 to claim tied third place at 13-under 271 along with Saptak Talwar who carded a 67 on day four. Seventeen-year-old rookie Manoj S (66) of Bengaluru took fifth place at 12-under 272.

Delhi's Arjun Prasad (70) finished tied 15th at seven-under 277. Arjun continued in second place on PGTI's money list and also closed the gap with PGTI Ranking leader Yuvraj Sandhu to nearly INR 2.5 lakh. Thangaraja, enjoying a commanding five-shot lead heading into the final round, had a mixed front-nine where he made a birdie and bogey each. On the back-nine, Manu Gandas began to pose a serious

challenge to the leader with four birdies till the 15th.

However, Thangaraja rose to the occasion with three straight birdies from the 11th to the 13th courtesy a great approach and an accurate tee shot that kept him ahead of the pack. Thanga's bogey on the 14th couldn't derail his round as the seasoned campaigner closed out the tournament with pars on the last four holes.

Thangaraja, who had recorded a win and a runner-up finish on the PGTI in the past three weeks, said, "I feel my game turned around after I changed the grip on my putter ahead of the Chennai event. Since then, my putting has just taken off. I've been very consistent with my putting over the last four weeks which in turn produced the desired results for me.

"I was focused and

relaxed through the day today despite the likes of Manu making a charge and closing the gap with me on the back-nine. I didn't really feel pressure and just played like I had played in the previous three rounds.

"I'm happy that I have been getting better with every passing week. These are good signs for me in the lead up to the DP World India Championship in Delhi next week, a

tournament where I'm very keen to perform well and make a mark," he said.

Noida's Kanav Chauhan (72), the only amateur to make the cut, took the trophy for the best performing amateur. He finished tied 33rd at even-par 284.

Panchkula's Brijesh Kumar made a hole-in-one on the 15th during his last round of 76. He finished 49th at 12-over 296.

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## Suhail's brace helps India to beat Indonesia 2-1

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : India U23 men's football team edged past Indonesia 2-1 in the first of two U23 international friendlies at the Gelora Bung Karno Madya Stadium in Jakarta today.

All goals came in the first half as Suhail Ahmad Bhat's superb brace (5' and 26') gave Naushad Moosa's side an early two-goal lead, before Dony Tri Pamungkas pulled one back for Indonesia in the 41st minute.

The second half ended goalless as India held firm to secure a hard-fought victory, highlighting both their attacking flair and defensive discipline.

India surged ahead in the fifth minute when Suhail capitalised on a loose pass by Frengky Missa and rifled a right-footed shot into the top corner. Despite Indonesia pressing for an equaliser, India created several opportunities, including Vibin Mohanan's strike that was cleared off the line and a blocked effort from Mohammad Suhail.

Suhail doubled the lead in the 26th minute after captain Ayush Chhetri set him up following a low cross from Vibin. India came close to a third goal in the 29th minute when Korou Singh Thingujam's strike hit the post. Indonesia reduced the deficit in the 41st minute through Dony Tri Pamungkas' curling effort, beating debutant goalkeeper K Mohanraj.

The second half saw India's defence tighten as Indonesia introduced six changes, but the visitors remained resolute. Suhail had a chance to extend the lead in the 57th minute, only to be denied by goalkeeper Cahya Supriadi. Substitute goalkeeper Dipesh Chauhan made a calm debut, and India managed to see out the match.

Suhail was named player of the match. He said, "We came here to win. Scoring feels good, but it's all for the team. My teammates worked hard till the 90th minute." Coach Moosa added, "It was a tough game. Everyone supported each other. There is still a lot to learn, but I am proud of the boys."

The two sides will face off again in the second friendly on October 13 at the same venue with live streaming available on FanCode.

India U23 lineup: Mohanraj K (GK) (Dipesh Chauhan 68'), Ricky Meetei Haobam, Lalrinliana Hnamte (Bekey Oram 46') (Danny Meitei Laishram 88'), Vibin Mohanan, Suhail Ahmad Bhat (Mohammed Aimen 74'), Muhammed Suhail (Parthib Gogoi 68'), Harsh Palande, Ayush Chhetri (C), Muhammed Saheef, Dipendu Biswas, Korou Singh Thingujam (Thoi Singh Huidrom 46').



# Central Railway Vigilance team takes stern action against Offenders

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : Central Railway Vigilance has maintained continuous surveillance on illegal ticketing practices, including transfer of tickets, touting activities, and travel on fake IDs and fake tickets. From January 2025 to May 2025, the Central Railway Traffic Vigilance Team conducted eight preventive checks across various locations to curb such malpractices. The details of these checks are as follows:  
**In February-2025**  
• Ambarnath (03.02.2025): Unauthorized

e-ticketing through software detected; 08 tickets worth ₹12,000/- and 13 IRCTC IDs seized. FIR registered and case closed as per Supreme Court guidelines.  
• Kolhapur (18.02.2025): Four touts apprehended with 04 tickets worth ₹25,557/- . Case registered under relevant Act.  
**In March-2025**  
• Pune (04.03.2025): Three touts caught at Deccan Gymkhana PRS with 03 JCR tickets worth Rs 10,520/- . Handed over to RPF for legal action.  
• System Misuse

(24.03.2025): Reservation clerk issued tickets in system without printing for personal gain. Major charge sheet issued.  
In April-2025  
• Two passengers were found travelling by Train No. 11055 on fake IDs and transferred tickets. Both were penalized as per Railway rules.  
In May-2025  
• Two non-railway employees were detected travelling Train No. 12741 on PRS tickets booked using a privilege pass. Both were penalized with a fine of ₹10,990/- . Further investigation is in progress.  
• Malkapur

(22.05.2025): Major touting racket busted; two persons apprehended with 182 JCR tickets worth Rs10.09 lakh. Illegal links found between touts, Reservation clerk, and IPF. Major and minor charge sheets issued accordingly.  
Central Railway Vigilance remains committed to maintaining transparency, integrity, and fairness in railway ticketing operations. Continuous checks and strict enforcement measures are being taken to eliminate touting and illegal ticketing activities in the interest of genuine passengers.

# Western Railway continues Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 with focus on clean surrounding and food hygyiene



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : Western Railway is observing Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 from 1st to 15th October, 2025 to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental awareness across stations, offices, workshops, and trains. Building on the launch and initial activities, the campaign progressed with focused initiatives on Swachh Parisar and Swachh Aahar during Days 8th and 9th. According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, on the eighth day, 8th October, 2025, intensive cleanliness/ fumigation drives were conducted in Railway offices, colonies, retiring/ waiting rooms, rest houses, and dormitories to improve cleanliness. More than 70 awareness drives on segregation of dry and wet waste was organized for

passengers and residents of railway colonies. Public participation drive was held for cleaning up garbage in Railway colonies in which more than 500 people participated. For beautification of the premises, plantation and landscaping activities were held at about 50 stations/ colonies.  
On the ninth day, the focus was on Swachh Aahar, with intensive inspections carried out across various railway premises to ensure food hygiene, vendor cleanliness and proper waste disposal practices. Around 100 food stalls, food carts, cloud kitchens and storage areas were inspected by officers and Chief Health Inspector to ensure cleanliness and adherence to hygienic food handling practices. To promote health and hygiene among catering staff, medical and hygiene check-ups were conducted

more than 200 canteen bearers, cooks and food vendors. During the activity awareness was also raised on personal hygiene and safe food handling practices. Surprise checks were carried out, including running rooms, rest houses and canteens to assess utensil cleaning procedures, garbage disposal systems, overall hygiene and the medical fitness of the staff. During these drives food samples were collected from stalls and catering units for quality check to ensure food safety and quality compliance.  
As part of the Swachhta Pakhwada initiative, Western Railway conducted extensive cleanliness, hygiene and awareness drives across stations, colonies and catering units. These efforts focused on improving sanitation, promoting safe food practices and encouraging active public participation.

# Railways to run 12 additional Special trains between Mumbai & Varanasi for Chhat Puja / Diwali Festival 2025 : CR

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : Railways will run 12 additional Special Trains between Lokmanya Tilak Terminus and Varanasi for the convenience of passengers during the upcoming Chhat Puja / Diwali festival season. Details as given below:  
LTT-Varanasi Specials  
04225 special will depart Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Mumbai at 16.55 hrs every Tuesday from 14.10.2025 to 18.11.2025 and arrive Varanasi at 02.05 hrs third day.  
04226 special will depart Varanasi at 01.35 hrs every Monday from 13.10.2025 to 17.11.2025 and arrive Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Mumbai at 14.25 hrs next day.  
Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Nashik Road, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Rani Kamalapati(Bhopal), Bina, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Sultanpur and Jaunpur City  
Composition: 4 AC-2-Tier, 9 AC-3- Tier and 2 Generator Cars  
Reservation: Bookings for special Train No 04225 will open on 12.10.2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.irctc.co.in  
For detailed timings at halts of special trains please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App  
Passengers are requested to avail these summer special train services.

# WR implements extensive crowd management arrangements for festive seasons 2025



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : In anticipation of the upcoming festive rush and the expected surge in passenger movement, Western Railway’s Mumbai Central Division has rolled out comprehensive crowd management and passenger facilitation measures to ensure safe, smooth and efficient train operations. Dedicated arrangements have been put in place across major stations including Mumbai Central, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Vapi, Valsad, Udhna and Surat. According to a press release issued by Mr Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, all designated passenger holding areas have been provisioned with essential



amenities such as seating arrangements, drinking water facilities, toilet blocks, adequate illumination, fans and public announcement systems. To streamline passenger entry and ticketing, additional counters have been commissioned at each location, backed by deployment of around 20 extra Ticket Checking staff and RPF personnel per station for queue regulation, assistance and security. Mr Vineet further informed that substantial covered holding capacity has been created across all major stations to comfortably accommodate waiting passengers ahead of train departures. At Bandra Terminus, more than 210 sq metres of sheltered space has been

made available near the east side entry to Platform No. 1, while at Vapi, a covered area exceeding 110 sq metres has been readied close to the FOB landing for passenger assembly. Udhna station has been provided with some of the largest holding capacities across the division, with three earmarked covered spaces together exceeding 3200 sq. metres on both the east and west sides of the station, including one area currently under construction to further expand the holding capacity. Similarly, at Surat, two designated holding areas of over 1,200sq. meters have been prepared, one near the west entrance adjoining the PRS office and another on the east side near the booking office, enabling orderly

dispersal and regulated boarding during peak festive rush. Western Railway appeals to passengers to make use of the designated waiting areas instead of crowding near platforms or entry gates, so that movement can be regulated smoothly during peak hours. Passengers have also been urged to follow the guidance of on-duty staff and security personnel, as these arrangements are intended to prioritise safety and convenience for all travellers.  
With thousands of passengers expected to board trains in a short time window during the festive rush, collective cooperation will play a vital role in maintaining order and ensuring timely departures.

# Mahavitaran Industrial Court against illegal strike

## JAC of seven organizations withdraws from strike

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Date 10 October 2025: While proceedings are underway in the Labour Commissioner's Office on the reconciliation case, a petition was filed by Mahavitaran in the Mumbai Industrial Court against the Joint Action Committee of 7 electricity employee organizations going on an illegal strike for 72 hours. During the hearing on Friday (10th), the Joint Action Committee announced that it is withdrawing from the strike after 24 hours.  
Meanwhile, during the last one and a half days of strike, 62.56 percent of engineers, officers and employees of Mahavitaran, Mahapareshan and Mahanimiti were present in the offices, while 37.44 percent of employees participated in the strike.  
The Joint Action Committee of 7 out of 29 organizations in Mahavitaran had given a notice of a 72-hour strike, mainly regarding the restructuring of Mahavitaran and other demands. To prevent this strike, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Abha Shukla, Chairman and Managing Director of Mahavitaran Shri. Lokesh

Chandra, Director Shri. Sachin Talewar (Operations/Projects), Shri. Rajendra Pawar (Human Resources) held separate meetings and announced a positive and consistent position with the demands. Accordingly, the written minutes of the meeting as well as letters appealing not to go on strike were also given to the Action Committee.  
As per the demand of the employee organizations and to speed up customer service, the work of the subdivisions has been started on a trial basis as per the restructuring. It was also clarified that during this trial period, changes or corrections will be made as necessary and the final order regarding the implementation of the restructuring will be issued only after the agreement of the organization and the management. However, the Joint Action Committee did not appreciate this either.  
Currently, Maharashtra is recovering from the crisis of heavy rains and floods. All government agencies are working on a war footing. Diwali festival is also coming in a few days. Mahavitaran appealed to the citizens to fulfill their duty of providing electricity services by avoiding

strikes during the flood crisis and during the festive season. The Joint Action Committee did not respond to this either.  
Meanwhile, as soon as the strike notice was received, Mahavitaran filed a case for conciliation in the Labor Commissioner's Office in Mumbai under the Industrial Disputes Act. There is a provision in the law that a strike cannot be held while proceedings are underway on a conciliation case. Also, since electricity is an essential service and the Maharashtra Essential Services Protection Act (MESMA) is in force in the state, the Mahavitaran management had appealed not to hold this strike.  
However, while proceedings were underway on the conciliation case, the Joint Action Committee started the strike on Thursday (9th). Therefore, Mahavitaran filed a petition in the Hon'ble Industrial Court against this illegal strike. After filing this petition, the Hon'ble Court issued a notice to the Action Committee. The next day, on Friday (10th) morning, after the hearing of the petition began in the court, the Joint Action Committee announced that it was calling off the strike after 24 hours.

# Mega Block on Harbour Line of Central Railway on Sunday

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, Oct 10 : Central Railway, Mumbai Division will operate Mega Block on UP and Down Harbour line between Kurla and Vashi stations for carrying out various engineering and maintenance works on Sunday, 12.10.2025. “Details are as under:  
UP and DOWN Harbour Lines between Kurla and Vashi stations from 11.10 hrs to 16.10 hrs  
DOWN Harbour line services to Vashi/ Belapur/Panvel leaving CSMT Mumbai from 10.34 hrs to 15.36 hrs and UP HARBOUR line services towards CSMT Mumbai leaving Panvel/ Belapur/Vashi from 10.17 hrs to 15.47 hrs will remain cancelled.  
Special suburban trains will run on CSMT Mumbai – Kurla & Panvel – Vashi sections during the block period.  
Harbour line passengers are permitted to travel between Thane-Vashi/Nerul stations from 10.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs during the block period.  
THERE WILL BE NO MEGA BLOCK ON MAIN LINE BETWEEN CSMT & KALYAN  
These maintenance mega blocks are essential for infrastructure upkeep and safety.  
Passengers are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for the inconvenience caused.

# SC reserves verdict on pleas seeking permission for ‘Green’ firecrackers in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi, Oct 10 (UNI) : The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking permission to manufacture, sell, and use certified “green” firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran indicated that it may consider easing the current restrictions, observing that a “complete ban on bursting of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR is neither practical nor ideal.” Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the union Government, submitted that Delhi is home to people of diverse

communities who celebrate different festivals at various times of the day. He urged the Court to allow the bursting of green firecrackers on occasions such as Diwali, Guru Purab, and Christmas, without rigid time restrictions. Senior Advocate J. Sai Deepak requested that the permissible hours for bursting firecrackers during Diwali be extended to include two hours in the morning as well. “If there is a two-hour timing, one hour goes in persuading parents only! We all were children,” he remarked, drawing a light moment in the courtroom.  
Responding to a query from the CJI on whether pollution levels were lower in 2018 compared to 2024, SG Mehta said,

“During the COVID period, it came down, but otherwise it has remained the same. There is nothing on record to show that the pollution increase is due to firecrackers.” The discussion comes amid Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta’s recent statement that the city government would approach the Supreme Court seeking permission to allow the use of certified green firecrackers this Diwali. “Diwali is the most important festival in Indian culture. Considering crores of people who celebrate it in Delhi, the government will move the Supreme Court to seek permission for certified green crackers,” she said.