

IN BRIEF

Major fire in Mumbai residential building injures two

Mumbai, Oct 15 (UNI) Two persons were injured in a major fire that broke out in the early hours today at a residential building in Goregaon area of city suburb.

According to fire officials, the incident occurred at Atul CHS Ltd., Siddharth Nagar, near Vivek College, and was reported at 3:53 am to the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB).

The fire was confined to room No. 203 on the second floor of a stilt plus seven-storey building, and was brought under control within half an hour.

Injured individuals, identified as Rameela Shah (65) and Kunal Shah (35) were taken to the emergency ward in a hospital and are reported to be in stable condition.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

Income Tax Department raids Shraddha AI office in Nagpur

Nagpur, Oct 15 (UNI) The Income Tax Department carried out a raid at the Shraddha AI office, a unit of the Raisoni Group, located in 'Shraddha House' near Kasturchand Park in Nagpur, sources confirmed today.

The action was part of an ongoing investigation into alleged financial irregularities and tax evasion.

According to departmental sources, a team of five to six officials arrived early yesterday morning and conducted an extensive search of documents and digital records for nearly 12 hours.

Several files and electronic devices were seized for further examination.

Shraddha AI, an Information Technology company under the Raisoni Group, had reportedly shown inconsistencies in its turnover and accounting records, which prompted the department's intervention.

During the operation, the company's auditors and accounts staff were also questioned.

Amit Gandhare, Public Relations Officer of the Raisoni Group, confirmed the visit, describing it as a routine inspection by the authorities.

Top Naxals surrender before Fadnavis as CM announces Rs 3 lakh crore investment in Gadchiroli

Mumbai, Oct 15 (UNI) Sixty-one Maoist insurgents, including Communist Party of India (Maoist) politburo member Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Sonu alias Bhupathi, formally laid down arms and surrendered before Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today at the Gadchiroli district police headquarters.

The 61 Maoists who surrendered and laid down arms at Gadchiroli police headquarters include CPI (Maoist) politburo member Mallojula Venugopal Rao (70) two Maoist state zonal committee members, 10 divisional committee members and cadres from Maharashtra as well as Chhattisgarh. They handed over 54 weapons, including seven AK-47s, six self-loading rifles (SLRs) and six INSAS rifles. A few months ago, Mallojula Venugopal Rao's wife Vimala Sidam alias Tarakka, who was also a Maoist leader, had surrendered to the police.

Congratulating the Gadchiroli police for its success, CM Fadnavis said, "For a month, our forces were involved in negotiations and talks on one hand, while anti-Maoist operations were on.



Consistent efforts were being put in to convince him to surrender. It was also made clear that the operations will not end. He was convinced. He even made a public declaration that Maoism is already over and that there is no alternative except to surrender".

"The spinal cord of Maoism is now broken. The battle against Maoism is in its last stage now. We believe that other cadres in Chhattisgarh will also surrender in the coming days. The next challenge is

that of urban Naxalism," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in Gadchiroli, announcing an award of Rs 1 crore for the Gadchiroli police and C60 commandos.

Fadnavis said that Mallojula Venugopal Rao has expressed his wish to surrender before the Chief Minister.

"Even if he would have called me to the jungle, I would have gone. But this has been done in the Gadchiroli police headquarters. So I postponed all my programmes to come here

(Gadchiroli) immediately. The police had given him word that the CM himself would come to witness the surrender. So I came," Fadnavis said.

Fadnavis handed over copies of the Constitution of India to the surrendered Maoists and said that the surrender could happen because of the confidence of the Maoists in the government.

He said that many surrendered Maoists were doing jobs in Gadchiroli in infrastructure projects, earning Rs 50,000 per month.

Fadnavis said that investments worth Rs 3 lakh crore are expected in the twin districts of Gadchiroli and Chandrapur.

"The Gadchiroli district is being developed as a steel city. In fact Gadchiroli and neighbouring Chandrapur will receive investments to the tune of Rs 3 lakh crore and several lakhs jobs will be created. In fact, Lloyds Steel has assured training to those who have surrendered and help them to secure jobs as per their qualifications and skills," the Chief Minister said at the Maoist surrender ceremony.

Fadnavis said that Gondwana University, Lloyds Metals & Energy as well as Curtin University of Western Australia have set up an institute to teach mining technology in Gadchiroli.

Fadnavis said that when he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, he informed the PM that Gadchiroli will be transformed into a green steel hub. "We will take care of the biodiversity and 5 crore trees are being planted in Gadchiroli. So far, we have already planted 40 lakh trees and we will plant one lakh trees by the end of the year," Fadnavis added.

Further, the bench observed that the survivor had spent several days with the accused without attempting to escape or alert others, despite having multiple opportunities.

"This prolonged stay, in the absence of any effort to flee or raise alarm, casts serious doubt on the prosecution's claim of coercion," the court said.

Additionally, the prosecution failed to conclusively establish the survivor's age, weakening the applicability of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the case.

The High Court concluded that the prosecution had not proven the case beyond reasonable doubt and ordered the immediate acquittal of the accused.



Prashant Kishor not contest Bihar assembly elections

In a surprising move, the senior political strategist and Jan Suraj leader Prashant Kishor today announced that he will not contest elections from any constituency in Bihar, choosing instead to focus on party strategy and organizational work. Amid speculations doing rounds in the political corridors regarding Kishor contesting from Raghapur Assembly Constituency, Kishor toured Raghapur to get the feedback of the local people for taking a final call on the issue, but later decided not to enter into the electoral battle.

(See on page 4)

It is our right to ensure nothing is taken away from anyone's ...



Prominent OBC leader and former Maharashtra minister Dhananjay Munde today announced that he will attend the 'Maha Yalghar Sabha' scheduled to take place in Beed city on October 17.

(See on page 2)

Gurbux Singh salutes Roop Singh's legacy



Roop Singh, a two-time Olympic gold medallist and one of the finest forwards of Indian hockey's golden era, remains an enduring symbol of India's dominance that defined the sport in its early decades. A member of India's victorious teams at the 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Olympics,

(See on page 7)

NSA Ajit Doval in Bishkek for India-Central Asia security



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is visiting the Kyrgyz Republic, today held talks with his Kyrgyz counterpart Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov during which both sides agreed to enhance collaboration on countering terrorism and extremism.

(See on page 8)

Opposition parties demand ECI rectify errors in voters' list

Mumbai, Oct 15 (UNI) The opposition parties in Maharashtra after a second meeting with the top election officials today unanimously demanded that the elections to the local and civic bodies should not be held until the Election Commission of India (ECI) rectifies errors in the voters' list.

The opposition leaders, including former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, veteran NCP(SP) leader Jayant Patil, senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena founder Raj Thackeray, Samajwadi Party legislator Rais Shaikh among others, today jointly met the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S. Chickalingam and State Election Commissioner (SEC) Dinesh Wagmare and insisted that the ensuing local and civic body elections should be held in free, fair and transparent manner.

Later while talking to media, Uddhav Thackeray said the elections should be fair and that they should not be "selected".

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Congress leader Vijay Wadetiwar said that they met the Election Commission officials to discuss the need to ensure that the upcoming local body elections in the state are completely transparent, fair and uphold democratic values.

Medical evidence alone can't prove rape without resistance signs, says HC

Nagpur, Oct 15 (UNI) The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has ruled that medical evidence alone, in the absence of signs of physical resistance or corroborative testimony, is insufficient to establish the offence of rape under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code.

Justice Nivedita Mehta delivered the ruling while acquitting a man previously convicted by a special POCSO court in Hingna.

The lower court had sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for allegedly raping a minor girl.

The High Court noted that while the medical examination of the survivor confirmed recent sexual activity and minor injuries, there was no clear indication that the injuries resulted from

non-consensual intercourse.

The court observed that such medical findings, including abrasions and redness, could not conclusively prove the use of force or resistance without supporting evidence.

"The medical officer did not state that the injuries were necessarily caused by force. Without concrete medical indicators of resistance, conviction solely on that basis would be unsafe," the bench stated.

The court also expressed doubts over the reliability of the survivor's testimony, noting several contradictions between her statement in court and the version provided in the First Information Report (FIR).

PM gives tips to BJP workers on Bihar polls, hiccups end on seat sharing of NDA

Patna, Oct 15 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today exhorted BJP workers to propagate achievement of government among the people to ensure victory of NDA in Bihar assembly elections, even as NDA succeeded to a great extent in settling the issues relating to seat sharing while Grand Alliance is still struggling to break deadlock over seat sharing among its constituents for polls.

PM Modi while addressing BJP workers of Bihar through video

conferencing from New Delhi, organised with theme "Mera booth sabse majboot", said that there was great responsibility on workers to ensure victory of NDA in ongoing Bihar Assembly elections. It was essential for BJP workers to propagate achievements of government among people of Bihar to ensure victory of NDA in assembly elections, he added. "A number of schemes have been launched for the people by the Centre and Nitish led NDA government, which

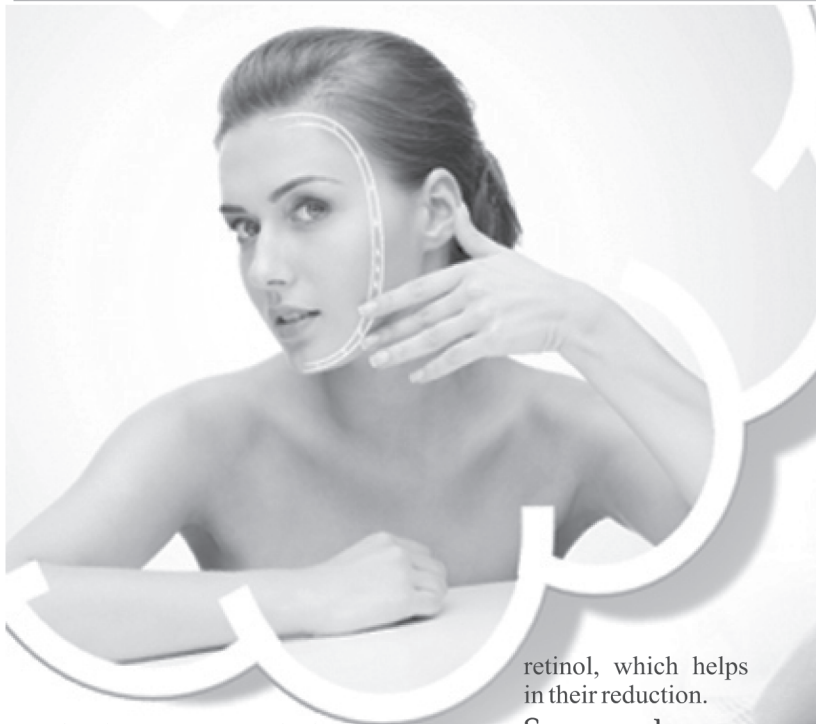
have proved to be immensely beneficial to them", Modi said adding that there was an urgent need for BJP workers and also workers of other constituent parties of NDA to propagate achievement of the government among the people so that they could make decision wisely before exercising their franchise in ongoing assembly elections. Free ration to people living below poverty line, dwelling units to them and other benefits under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna

were such schemes which should be propagated among the people by BJP workers, he added. "Slashing GST on consumer goods and commodities to be used by a large section of people have been reduced, which would help them in saving money," PM said adding that workers should also ensure maximum participation of people in exercising franchise on day of polling.

Election was the greatest festival of democracy and it should be celebrated with

much fan fare by the people, so that democratic structure could be made strong and vibrant in the country, he added. While PM addressed the BJP workers and gave them tips on how to work to achieve the target of winning elections by NDA, its constituents also succeeded to a great extent in settling issues relating to details of seat sharing for Bihar polls. Hiccups over specific seats to be contested by constituents of NDA have ended, giving much relief to them.

Beauty



You can reverse the years if you start taking care of your skin early. We get beauty experts to tell you how

By the time you've reached your late 20s, you've already settled down in life — professionally and personally —and the glow is visible on your face. But this is not enough. After the age of 25, the skin starts showing signs of ageing — dark circles, visible pores, fine lines, wrinkles, uneven skin tone and dullness. Says dermatologist Dr Farida Modi, "It is crucial to take care of your skin once you are in your mid 20s. So, follow a proper skincare routine with a well-balanced diet."

Signs of skin-ageing

Says Dr Kalpana Sarangi, a consulting dermatologist, "In their mid 20s, women start experiencing dryness of the skin, followed by freckles, fine lines, wrinkles and puffiness around the eyes. To treat these symptoms, you need a good anti-ageing moisturising cream. This cream is specially designed to treat all the signs of ageing." Some of the warning signs of skin-ageing are:

Dark circles

Dark circles result from stress, lack of sleep or prolonged exposure to sunlight. As you age, the skin around your eyes gets thinner, resulting in dark patches around your eyes. To avoid this, make it a point to use a good under-eye gel during bedtime. Fine lines and wrinkles Collagen and elastin fibres are present beneath the skin's surface around your mouth and eyes. They begin to gradually break down as you age — this leads to fine lines and wrinkles. Use a cream with vitamin A or

retinol, which helps in their reduction.

Sagging skin

As you get older, the skin starts to lose its elasticity which in turn leads to sagging. To treat sagging skin, use an age-diffusing serum for firmness.

Visible pores

Those with oily or combination skin suffer from visible pores. Use a good anti-ageing foaming cleanser and a toner daily to reduce the enlarged pores.

Uneven skin tone

Age spots or uneven skin tone can happen due to hormonal disorder, exposure to sunlight etc. Use an anti-ageing cream that corrects the skin tone and a firming serum to treat uneven skin.

Causes of skin-ageing

Says dermatologist Dr Jamuna Pai, "The skin ages due to external and internal factors. Among internal factors, decrease in elastin production, less turnover of new skin cells and the inability of the skin to retain moisture are the main reasons. The external factors include lifestyle change and environmental damage like constant exposure to sunlight, poor diet, too much stress and lack of exercise." In your mid 20s, your skin is in its prime. Ageing does not happen overnight, it happens over a period of time. Though you can't evade it, you can delay it if you take good care of

your skin well in advance.

How to care for mature skin

Says beauty expert, Aakriti Kochar, "Trying to hide mature skin with make-up is not the solution. The make-up will stay for only two hours or so and then your skin will come back to its normal state. To treat mature skin, you need to regularly cleanse, tone and moisturise your skin." - Opt for creams rich in vitamins C and E, which help counter the effect of sun exposure and reduce wrinkles. - Wear a sunscreen with SPF 15 and above. - Says Dr Mohan Thomas, senior cosmetic surgeon, "Use an alpha-hydroxyl cleanser or lotion on the areas of the skin that have age spots. This will help to fade them."

Anti-ageing facials

Gold Caviar Riche face therapy This facial is done using real gold and the goodness of caviar extracts that keep your skin looking younger, brighter and healthier. The massage creams contain Omega 3, Omega 6 fatty acids, and vitamins A & E which repair the damage done to your skin. Duration - 90 minutes

Look Beautiful at any age

Pumpkin peel facial

This treatment uses natural pumpkin extracts which help in the regeneration of cells. Suitable for all skin types, it prevents dryness, acne and removes dead cells. It also helps in cell renewal and treats hyper-pigmentation. Duration - 60 minutes

Telomere facial

This treatment uses creams and serums specially designed for mature skin. The skin is massaged with a skin replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption into the deeper layers of the skin. Specialised masks are used and a face lift is given which irons out the lines and wrinkles, making the skin firm and youthful. Later, a day cream and a serum are applied to restore firmness — making your skin tighter and compact.

Duration - 60 minutes

Homemade remedies to treat mature skin - Massage your face with almond or coconut oil once in a week before going to bed. These oils are known to be best for ageing skin as they help improve your complexion, reduce fine lines and wrinkles. - Says skin expert, Punit Saraogi, "The application of aloe vera juice and honey is said to visibly reduce the signs of ageing." Apply a face pack of aloe vera juice and honey to treat wrinkles and fine lines. - Basil and tulsi has effective anti-ageing and anti-oxidant properties. Boil fresh tulsi leaves and basil and drink the water after it cools down. - Switch to drinking green tea. Green tea is said to have anti-inflammatory and anti-ageing properties which help in skin rejuvenation.

How to apply anti-ageing cream

- Wash your face well with an anti-ageing foaming cleanser. Rinse it off with cool water and pat dry. Make sure moisture does not remain on your skin. - Start by applying the cream using long strokes towards your temple in soft, circular motions. - For the delicate area around your eyes, pat the cream onto the skin till it is absorbed.

Choosing an anti-ageing cream

Says Dr Pai, "The first thing to do when choosing an anti-ageing cream is to determine its ingredients. The selection of the cream depends on your skin type. For example, as the skin ages, it tends to become drier — so a person with dry skin should opt for a cream-based solution, while those with oily or combination skin should go in for a lotion or gel-based anti-ageing beauty blend.

Retinol: Retinol is an anti-oxidant which increases skin cell production and collagen and thickens your dermis (skin layer). If you have dry skin or combination skin, it is advisable for you to choose a product with retinol.

Ubiquinone: If you have normal to dry skin, pick an anti-ageing cream with ubiquinone. It is an anti-oxidant which prevents free radicals produced due to pollution. It helps in building collagen and elastin, therefore reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles on the skin.

Vitamin C: Those with sensitive or oily skin should opt for a lotion with vitamin C. Creams rich in vitamin C helps reduce the free radical damage caused to the skin.

Isoflavones: Great for those with dry and flaky skin, isoflavones are a class of phytoestrogens — plant-derived compounds with oestrogenic activity. Creams with isoflavones claim to firm and re-densify skin, increasing collagen production and skin's tensile strength.

It's time to go 'Marsala'!

The jewel hue Marsala is all the rage this year. Here's how to incorporate it in your everyday beauty regimen **Oxblood red or marsala** — call it by whatever name you like, this subtle and sultry hue is a great go-to colour for beauty. You may have seen Bollywood divas like Deepika Padukone and Sonam Kapoor sporting the colour on the red carpet pretty often. So if you wish to wear it, but don't know how to do it the right way without your make-up looking OTT, here are a few easy tricks. **GO MAD ABOUT MARSALA** Marsala is a colour that suits almost all skin complexions. "It goes best with a warm skin tone and at the same time provides the right pop of colour to fair-complexioned women. The best part about this colour is that despite being an earthy shade, it adds just the right amount of glamour required for both a day or night look. It has the ability to impart oomph without taking away the naturalness," says beauty expert Divya Thukral. **FOR YOUR HAIR** If you're in for hair makeover, take some inspiration from Katy Perry whose latest dye job is a must-try. "To get Marsala as a hair color, you need to go for a red-brown with a cool blue undertone. It's a great colour for brunettes with fair and olive skin tones, as it's a great complement to their complexion. If you want to change your full head of hair, you can

go for an all-over Marsala hue, while others can try subtle Marsala high or lowlights if a high-impact red isn't your thing. To satisfy your quirky soul, complement it with similar hued lashes," says Shailesh Moolya, national creative director - hair of a leading national salon. Since auburn tones are more prone to fading, use shade-saving products for your routine and choose a hue close to your own natural hair color, so that when it does fade, the shift isn't as obvious. "Keeping the color rich and vibrant requires a color-safe shampoo that has a low PH. Good quality shampoos can keep the color vibrant and glossy for nine weeks. Make sure you condition your hair everytime you wash them. And before heat styling, always work a protective oil onto your mid-lengths and ends," adds Moolya.

FOR YOUR NAILS

By far the simplest way to get in on any colour trend is to paint your nails. The colour marsala

oozes a lot of confidence and sex appeal. Start by sporting the colour on your nails. Stand out in the crowd by wearing marsala nails with any evening outfit. There are several ways you can get creative with the colour. Shape and file your nails well and go for marsala French manicure. Your nails will look stunning. Marsala nail polishes are available in different shades; cream and metallic finishes. So pick the one you love the most.

FOR YOUR POUT

Lipsticks in the 'marsala' range provide both intensity and a pop of color, but they lean a bit more toward neutral, due to marsala's earthy brown characteristic. Remember those popular 1990s, dark-neutral lips? "A beautiful way to update this look is with a more pigmented matte finish. Use a lip liner for a clean, stark outline. For a less bold look, wear this color in a sheer gloss, and keep the rest of the look plain. Skip the eyeliner and the eyeshadow and let your lips be the centre of attraction," says make-up and beauty expert Aakriti Kochchar. A huge plus point of marsala colour is that it pairs well with a range of cheek and eye colors. Try a pink pop of color on cheeks, gray tones on eyes, or olive and khaki eye shadows.

WHY MARSALA?

Surat-based make-up artist and Femina Miss Style Diva 2012, Malvika Mehta says, "I love experimenting with colours and make-up, but since its monsoons I am always worried about my mascara and eyeliner running down. Eye shadows are also likely to smudge during rainy season. Marsala works best for rains. Apply this colour on your lips and you're ready to go. You don't really need anything else on the face to enhance the look."

Natural scrubs for your skin

Facial scrubs help get rid of the dead outer layer of skin in a gentle manner.

This exfoliation, when done once a week, can help make the skin smoother, brighter and younger. The best time to use a scrub is generally after sundown, when you are ready to call it a day.

Papaya and pineapple

The enzymes from these fruits help get rid of dead and dull skin and can make your skin look brighter. Scrubs with these key ingredients

are ideal for normal skin.

Nourishing almond and olive oil

When your skin is parched, scrubs with almond and olive oil can replenish lost nourishment. These ingredients help maintain the skin's natural oils, thereby making it soft and smooth. If you have dry skin, you must use these scrubs once or twice a week.

Hydrating glycerine

If you have an oily T-zone and

dry cheeks, you need ingredients in your scrub that can help lock in the moisture and maintain a non-greasy effect on your oily zone. Scrubs with glycerine and hyaluronic acid help combination skin types, if used twice a week.

Berry scrubs

Scrubs made with fresh berries - strawberry and blueberry - are rich in antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. These have minute particles that are great exfoliants and can nourish the skin.



How to keep your hair tools clean

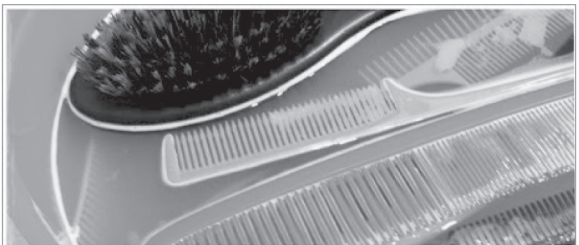
If you style your hair regularly, you need to maintain your hair tools well. Here are a few tips.

Learn to store your tools properly. Instead of leaving them strewn around in your bedroom, store them atop your bathroom sink. This way they won't get exposed to dust, water etc. Keep them away when you are not using them.

Use a damp cloth to wipe your hair tools clean. Once a week is good enough. Don't do this when the tool is hot. Though this will take only a few minutes, it will really extend the life of your hair tools.

When styling your hair, if you are using a hair iron, use the lowest heat setting on the tool. This will not just prevent your hair from damage but also protect the tool.

If a damp cloth doesn't help in cleaning the tool, you use a stronger cleaning agent, like alcohol, rub it on a cotton pad and scrub the hair tool. This will help removing any dirt or residue that has built up on the device.



STANDARD POST

Loneliness, social isolation may raise risk of death in people with cancer

Loneliness and social isolation can raise the risk of death from cancer as well as from all causes among those with the disease, according to a study.

In a pooled data analysis of 13 studies involving over 15 lakh patients, a team of Canadian researchers led by those from the University of Toronto found that loneliness is relatively common among people with cancer.

The potential impact of loneliness on death from cancer was reported for 2,142,338 patients in nine studies, and pooled data analysis showed that it was associated with an 11 per cent heightened risk of death from the disease, after adjusting for small study sizes.

"These findings collectively suggest that loneliness and social isolation may influence cancer outcomes beyond traditional biological and treatment-related factors," said the researchers in the paper published online in the open-access journal BMJ Oncology.

Exploring the reasons, the team found that social isolation and loneliness increase mortality risk in patients with cancer through interconnected biological, psychological, and behavioural mechanisms.

"Biologically, the stress response triggered by loneliness may lead to immune dysregulation and heightened inflammatory activity, ultimately contributing to disease progression," the researchers explained.

At the same time, the unique burden of cancer survivorship often includes forms of isolation stemming directly from disease and treatment experiences. This includes the inability of loved ones to fully understand cancer-associated fears, stigma around visible treatment effects, and survivorship-related anxieties, affecting the oncology patients psychosocially.

Further, cancer treatment can also induce physical changes such as fatigue, cognitive impairments, which may further limit social participation, while prolonged medicalisation of life can erode pre-illness identity and community connections.

If the findings are confirmed in further methodologically sound studies, it would indicate the need to routinely incorporate psychosocial assessments and targeted interventions into cancer care to improve outcomes, the researchers said.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2025 With the theme ‘Future-Ready Railways’ in New Delhi

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated the 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2025, Asia’s largest and the world’s second-largest railway exhibition at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today.

The Union Minister announced plans to develop dedicated passenger corridors, engineered for maximum speeds of up to 350 kmph with an operating speed of 320 kmph. He said that many such corridors will be constructed across the country, forming part of the Government’s Viksit Bharat vision, which targets the development of around 7,000 km of dedicated routes by 2047. These corridors will be equipped with indigenously developed signalling systems and modern Operations Control Centres (OCCs). The Minister said that Vande Bharat is a huge success. On technical parameters, it matches with the best in the world. India is working on the next generation of high-speed trains, with a strong focus on the export market. He stated that India is currently operating Vande Bharat 3.0, which represents a significant improvement over its earlier versions. The Minister highlighted that Vande Bharat 3.0 already meets international benchmarks, capable of accelerating from 0 to 100 kmph in just 52 seconds—faster than many trains in Japan and Europe—while maintaining lower noise and vibration levels. He added that Vande Bharat 4.0 is expected to be launched within the next 18 months, aiming to set global benchmarks in every aspect of performance and



passenger experience. The new version will focus on enhancing toilets, improving seats, and elevating the overall workmanship of the coaches. He said the goal is to establish Vande Bharat 4.0 as the global standard, a train so advanced in quality and comfort that countries around the world would aspire to adopt it.

The Minister also discussed the progress of Amrit Bharat trains. He noted that Amrit Bharat 2.0 is operational, while version 3.0 is under development based on push-pull technology—

suitable for long-distance journeys. The Minister stated that Amrit Bharat 4.0 will feature next-generation trainsets and locomotives. He added that within the next 36 months, the new-generation passenger locomotives are expected to be designed, manufactured, and ready for testing.

The Union Minister said that in the last 11 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, special focus has been given to the modernization and expansion of Indian Railways. For this, the Railway budget has been

continuously increased. In the last 11 years, more than 35,000 kilometres of new tracks have been laid and 46,000 kilometres of electrification has been completed. He informed that on the world stage, Indian Railways is now also emerging as a major exporter. Rail engines manufactured in India are being exported to Africa, Australia, and many other countries.

The Union Minister informed that 156 Vande Bharat services, 30 Amrit Bharat services, and 4 Namo Bharat services are now running across India. He stated that in the year 2024-25, a record more than

completed. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, more than 1,300 railway stations across the country are being redeveloped.

Indian Railways has constructed several remarkable infrastructure projects, including the Chenab Bridge, 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower, India’s first vertical lift Sea Bridge at Pamban, and the Bairabi Sairang bridge, 42 metres taller than Qutub Minar. Priority is being given to safety and technological innovation in railways. For this, a budget of ₹1.16 lakh crore has been allocated for the current financial year, which also includes the indigenous

7,000 coaches, approximately 42,000 wagons, and 1,681 locomotives were produced. Along with this, the country’s first 9,000 HP electric locomotive was inaugurated, while 12,000 HP locomotives are already in operation. Hri Vaishnaw also said that Indian Railways, which serves more than 20 million passengers daily, has now become the world’s second-largest network in freight transport, surpassing the US. He said the bullet train project is progressing rapidly and the Dedicated Freight Corridor work has been 99%

safety system KAVACH.

During the event, Railway Board Chairman and CEO, Mr. Satish Kumar and Vice-Chancellor of Gati Shakti University, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Choudhary, were among the dignitaries present. The exhibition, based on the theme ‘Future-Ready Railways’, is being organized at Bharat Mandapam from 15th to 17th October 2025. The event features participation from over 450 exhibitors representing more than 15 countries displaying modern rail and metro products, innovations, and sustainable solutions.

UNESCO, Royal Enfield celebrates International ICH Day with Great Himalayan Exploration showcase

In the lead up to International Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Day on October 17, UN India, UNESCO and Royal Enfield came together to celebrate the living heritage of the Indian Himalayan region through the screening of ‘The Great Himalayan Exploration’ - a collaborative project dedicated to documenting and safeguarding the region’s rich cultural practices.

As defined by UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) encompasses the practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

Launched in 2022, The Great Himalayan Exploration has traversed 11 geographies - including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Assam, North Bengal - documenting over 100 ICH practices and

engaging with over 250 communities.

The initiative aims to create awareness around living heritage practices through immersive, community-led explorations and showcase it through exhibitions, photo stories, programming and immersive experiences. Recently, the documentation has been captured in a four-part docuseries by National Geographic, streaming on JioHotstar, spotlighting the immersive engagements between riders and local communities, said a release here today.

The evening featured screening from The Great Himalayan Exploration, including a short film on the revival of Mon-Shugu paper-making in Arunachal Pradesh - a centuries-old craft being brought back to life by local artisans; followed by an episode highlighting traditional wool spinning and weaving, and other living heritage practices from Ladakh.

India’s Himalayan communities remind us that

sustainable development begins with respect for people, culture and nature. The Great Himalayan Exploration is an important initiative that brings these connections to life, linking cultural heritage, environmental stewardship and local livelihoods.

“As we mark International Intangible Cultural Heritage Day on 17 October, we are reminded that safeguarding living heritage is essential to advancing the SDGs and building a more inclusive future for all,” said Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India.

Highlighting the importance of preserving living heritage, Tim Curtis, Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia said, “The Great Himalayan Exploration is an example of how communities, explorers and storytellers come together to safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage in its living form. In order to keep these practices alive across generations, rather than

trying to freeze them in time, living heritage needed to be understood as dynamic, rather than static. The 2003 Convention’s definition of ICH therefore recognized that ICH is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history. UNESCO is proud to partner with Royal Enfield in an initiative that honours the voices of Himalayan communities and helps ensure their living heritage continues to inspire generations to come. As vehicles of identity and social cohesion, these traditions need to be valued and safeguarded in all their diversity.” Speaking at the opening, Bidisha Dey, Executive Director, Eicher Group Foundation, the CSR arm of Royal Enfield said “The Great Himalayan Exploration brings together rider-researchers, creative practitioners, storytellers, and experts under the UNESCO–Royal Enfield partnership to celebrate the living heritage of the Himalayas.

Prashant Kishor not contest Bihar assembly elections

Patna, Oct 15 (UNI) In a surprising move, the senior political strategist and Jan Suraj leader Prashant Kishor today announced that he will not contest elections from any constituency in Bihar, choosing instead to focus on party strategy and organizational work.

Amid speculations doing rounds in the political corridors regarding Kishor contesting from Raghapur Assembly Constituency, Kishor toured Raghapur to get the feedback of the local people for taking a final call on the issue, but later decided not to enter into the electoral battle.

In a statement to the media, Kishor, however, said that the decision regarding his candidacy was to be taken by the party. The Jan Suraj think tank decided that, due to his continuous engagements and the need to devote time to all constituencies, he would not contest from any seat personally, pleaded Kishor. He emphasised that this decision was made in the "larger interest of the party," allowing him to focus on strengthening its organizational framework and outreach efforts.

Meanwhile, a party spokesperson added that Kishor was prepared to contest and had even conducted trial runs in the Raghapur Assembly constituency, but ultimately accepted the party’s decision. The party has fielded Chanchal Singh from Raghapur seat, traditionally held by the RJD. As it is, Kishor had previously indicated possible candidacies from either Raghapur or Kargahar. Commenting on the ongoing disputes over seat-sharing in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Kishor criticised the scramble for power, saying, “All parties are fighting for more seats to secure a larger share of power and greater opportunities for corruption.”

Sanjay-Vijay-Lalan ruined JD(U), says Tejashw

Patna, Oct 15 (UNI) After filing his nomination on Wednesday from Raghapur for the Bihar Assembly Election 2025, former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav launched a sharp attack on JD(U) leaders Sanjay Jha, Vijay Chaudhary, and Lalan Singh.

He alleged that these leaders have sold out the party to the BJP and have destroyed Nitish Kumar’s political identity.

Making these remarks, Tejashwi stressed on the surnames of the three leaders, who come from the upper castes. With this, he made an attempt to convey the message that the JD(U) is no longer the same party that was led by Nitish Kumar, who comes from the Kurmi OBC community. It has been hijacked by upper caste leaders.

The JD(U) has traditionally been considered as a party largely supported by the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) and economically deprived OBC communities.

The RJD leader also said that the people of Bihar want change this time and promised that the change will happen.

He asserted, "People are tired of the same old, worn-out government of the past 20 years. Now the people want change, and change will happen. In the double-engine government, one engine is involved in corruption and the other in crime." Earlier, Tejashwi Yadav filed nomination to contest the Assembly elections from this seat for the third time. He was accompanied by his father and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, mother Rabri Devi, and sister Misa Bharti. Raghapur has been a traditional stronghold of the RJD. Former Bihar Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi have both represented this constituency in the past. An Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor had earlier indicated that he would contest from Raghapur, drawing everyone’s attention to this high-profile seat, where an intense contest was expected. However, Prashant Kishor withdrew from the contest. Instead, Jan Suraj has fielded Chanchal Kumar Singh as its candidate from Raghapur.

Career

How to set up your YouTube Video show



Setting up a personal internet video channel can be a fun project for shameless self promotion, or even something you can do with your kids this summer. Ashutosh Desai helps you with a quick primer to...

Create a YouTube channel

Go to http://www.youtube.com/create_channel. You can either use your existing Gmail login ID and password, or create a new Google account for your channel.

After signing in, a Use YouTube as...pop-up will appear. Here, click "To use a business or other name, click here" to give your channel a name. Select a category whether Arts and Entertainment, Sports, How-Tos, Music, News and Politics, Comedy, etc; agree to the terms and click 'Finished.'

Get acquainted with the YouTube interface

1. The left pane lets to switch between My Channel (your content), My Subscriptions (other channels that you subscribe to), History (log of the videos you watched), Watch Later (where you can create a list of videos for future viewing by hovering and clicking on the clock icon at the bottom right corner of any clip.)
2. The centre panel has a link to the Video Manager (which allows you to edit your clips, add audio, make your videos private or public, etc), your channel profile, uploaded videos, playlists...
3. The top right hand corner of the page is where you will find the Upload button. This gives you multiple options to publish content to your channel. Clicking your profile photo will give you access to Creator Studio, where you can organize and maintain your videos.

Pre-shoot planning

If you want people to visit and revisit your

video channel, you will need to plan each shoot diligently. Before you start shooting, work on a script with dialogues; try a couple of practise sessions. Get used to talking to the camera (try and maintain eye contact with the lens.)

If there are two or more people in the video, work on the interactions and dialogue delivery so that it seems natural and not scripted (even though it is.) And importantly , make sure you have a good microphone (preferably out of view) that captures sound clearly; lighting that's focused on your subject, and a backdrop that's clutterand distraction-free.

Lights, camera, action! Wait!

Not so fast! You'll need video shooting software. Download and install the free Debut software from <http://www.nchsoftware.comcapture>.

To start recording, launch the software and select a capture mode: Device (webcam), Network (network camera) or Screen (to record actions on your PC screen). In this case, choose Device. In the panel below the video screen, there are options that let you set the file format. Choose either MP4 or AVI. You don't need to change the encoder (video compression technique) setting because Debut uses H.264 by default, which is recommended by YouTube.

Click the Video Options button if you want to change the video resolution of your recording (higher resolution videos will result in larger

uploads.)

The panel also includes options to add a title, adjust the brightness contrast levels, apply a colour filter or add a watermark to your footage.

Click on the Record button when you are ready to shoot.

When you click the Stop button, Debut saves the video automatically to its own folder within My Videos.

Click on the Recordings button to view and play all the work you have done, connect to and share the video to your YouTube account.

Manage videos from your smartphone

You can use the YouTube app to upload videos on your handset to your channel. Just make sure you do it over a Wi-Fi connection to avoid data charges. To manage what you have already uploaded, view comments and statistics, install YouTube Creator Studio. This app also lets you edit video description, switch from public to private view, flag comments and more. Both apps are available for Android and iOS devices.

Promotion

Once you've uploaded your videos, promote your home production on your blog, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and any communication or social networking platform you can find. Make it a point to engage with your YouTube audience to maintain their interest.

Upload and edit

Go back to your YouTube page. Click on the Upload button (in the third panel in the YouTube screenshot), select your file to upload, and choose whether you want your file to be

Public (accessible to all), Unlisted (won't be visible in your video channel or show up in search results), or Private (viewable only to people you share the link with).

Once uploaded, your clip will get processed by YouTube.

You can edit your video once it appears in your Video Manager (second panel in the YouTube screenshot).

From here you can enhance the footage by using YouTube's autofix feature; you can adjust contrast, brightness, saturation, colour temperature, and even add filters.

At the bottom right of the screen, you will find controls that let you trim your video, flip it, and even slow it down. Here, you will also find the Try the YouTube Video Editor button. Clicking this will let you cut, edit, add transitions to your clip for a more professional production.

YouTube has a whole host of features that even lets you record a video and create a photo slideshow, but this will require you to be online all the time through the process.

With sufficient amount of experimenting with Debut and YouTube — both of which boast of an intuitive user interface - you will soon be recording, uploading and editing videos like a pro video producer.

NDA ministers likely to be more active on FB following PM, FM



After Twitter, ministers could soon be nudged in to posting regularly on Facebook. With the Modi government's continued focus on social media as the preferred medium of communication the government is brushing up its skills to that end.

In a meeting with a Facebook official and the information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry it was suggested that more ministers follow the example of PM Modi and Union finance and I&B minister Arun Jaitley to use Facebook to communicate their point. Modi for instance sought suggestions on Facebook before his Australia visit, while Jaitley prefers to blog to make a succinct political point. The posts tend to have a multiplier effect generating interest and participation.

Facebook's lead for politics and government engagement Katie Harbath met with I&B secretary Bimal Julka and social media cell officials on Friday. "We had a good interaction where we discussed ideas on how to upgrade our presence on social media. We are also likely to involve Facebook for capacity building for our officials," Julka said.

According to him Facebook was using Jaitley's posts as a case study to illustrate how the medium could be used to the hilt. Harbath, who focuses on political outreach, suggested that information nuggets be kept short and crisp to keep people's attention. "Instead of heavy doses of information she suggested we give small nuggets of image, text, visual content with an eye on story telling rather than a talk-down approach," a source said.

Putting a human face and story to the outreach initiative also helps engage people better. Harbath also pointed out that the social networking site's citizen engagement in India was high. For instance UK polls had garnered about 78 million views while Indian elections had generated 228 million views.

Sources said that there were likely to be more such interactions. The ministry is also likely to organize another social media workshop along the lines of the one done some months ago.

Soon, smartphones that could charge themselves



Imagine charging your smartphone without reaching out to a power source or even a portable charger! Scientists claim to have developed a new technology that converts radio frequencies into power that can charge devices.

The technology consists of a case that converts the wasted 90% of energy your phone produces trying to pump out a cell phone signal, and puts it back into the phone, thus powering it for up to 30% longer, 'Tech Crunch' reported.

US-based Nikola Labs aims to bring the product to market within one year, in partnership with Ohio State University, where the technology was originally developed.

The technology could be put into many different devices, such as wearable technology, embedded sensors and medical devices which do not require massive amounts of electricity.

Micromax in talks to sell 20% stake to Alibaba



China's Alibaba Group Holding is in talks with India's Micromax Informatics to buy a share of about 20% in the smartphone maker, helping the e-commerce giant roll out services and expand its presence in India, several sources with direct knowledge said.

The deal, if completed, would see Alibaba investing as much as \$1.2 billion, valuing Micromax, the second-biggest smartphone brand in India by sales, at \$5 billion to \$6 billion, two of the sources said. Micromax has also been in talks with investors led by Japan's SoftBank Corp (9984.T) to sell a stake of roughly 20 percent, raising up to \$1 billion, Reuters reported in March. Those discussions have hit a roadblock over differences in valuation expectations, sources told Reuters this week.

All the sources involved in the process declined to be named as they were not authorized to speak to the media about ongoing deal negotiations. Micromax, SoftBank and Alibaba declined to comment.

Send funds directly to social media contacts

Axis Bank has launched a mobile application 'Pingpay' that enables customers to make payments to any contact across social media platforms in seconds. What this means is that in addition to sending text messages and images to contacts, customers can use an additional option to either send money or ask for funds.

The unique selling proposition of the application is that it enables the phone-owner to send or to ask for money from social media contacts without having their bank details. The recipient has to only enter his bank account details for an instant credit using the National Payments Corporation of India's Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) network.

Pingpay has been launched in conjunction with the bank's revamped mobile banking application which now allows immediate registration of a beneficiary for fund transfers. According to Rajiv Anand, group executive, retail banking, Axis Bank was expecting that users will be able to build a whole ecosystem around Pingpay and soon customers are likely to use them for commercial transactions.



India's biggest e-commerce firm Flipkart will remain private for the next three years at least, its chief financial officer said, nixing speculation that it would launch this year an IPO that some bankers had expected to raise a record \$5 billion.

Flipkart, an online marketplace that analysts estimate to be worth \$11 billion, has benefited from the foreign funds that have sloshed into India's rapidly growing online retail sector.

The industry attracted \$5 billion in 2014 alone, according to Morgan Stanley, from investors including Japan's SoftBank and the Qatar Investment Authority. This has eased the pressure on firms like Flipkart to go public. Chief financial officer Sanjay Baweja told Reuters the company founded in 2007 by

former Amazon.com employees had enough money to last it three to four years, if it maintained the same rate of investment.

He also said Flipkart wasn't ready yet for the stock market and that an initial public offering was not part of its current three-to-five year business plan. The company expects to double the value of goods its sells to \$8 billion by the end of this year from March.

"I don't think we're at a stage in our life cycle that we would want to stand scrutiny on a quarterly basis," said Baweja, who was hired from telecoms firm Tata Communications last year.

"Therefore going to the public market is not something that we're actively considering," he said at



the company's offices.

Local media had over the past months quoted unnamed investors as saying Flipkart was poised to follow in the footsteps of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and list in New York after raising up to

raised at least \$1.7 billion last year, according to public statements.

Flipkart does not disclose its financials, but like its rivals it has yet to turn a profit, largely due to the steep discounts it offers customers

E-commerce giant Flipkart in no rush to go public

\$5 billion, the most for an Indian company, in an initial public offering.

Flipkart sells everything from cellphones to suitcases and cosmetics, competing with home grown rival Snapdeal and Amazon's India unit. Current investors include Tiger Global Management and Accel Partners and the company

and heavy spending on marketing, technology and a delivery network.

Baweja said the discounting, key in the e-commerce "land grab," would ease and that Flipkart would turn a profit within the three-to-five year plan.

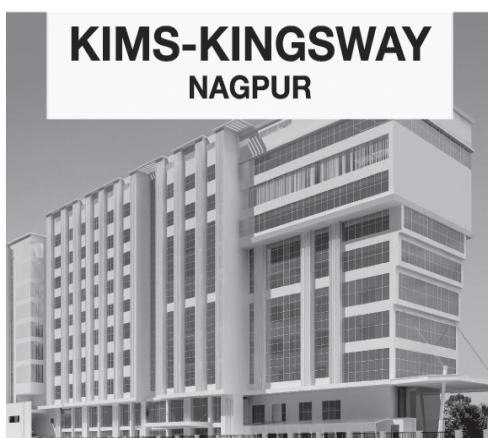
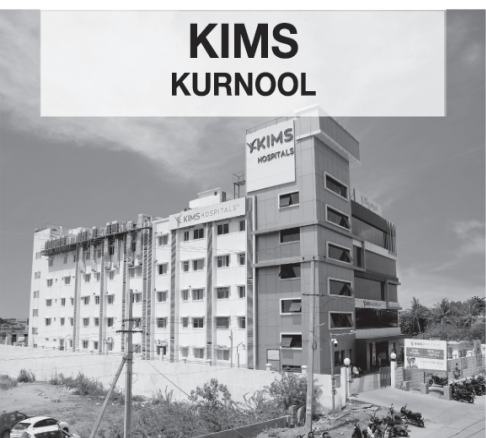
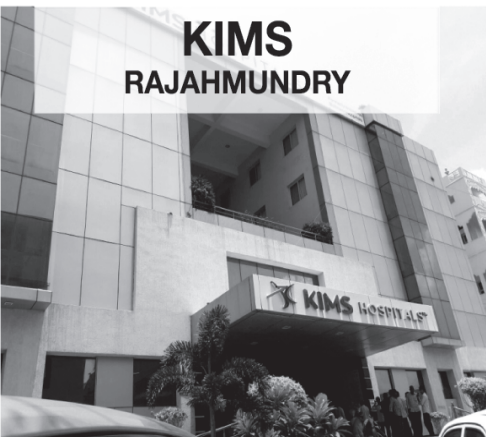
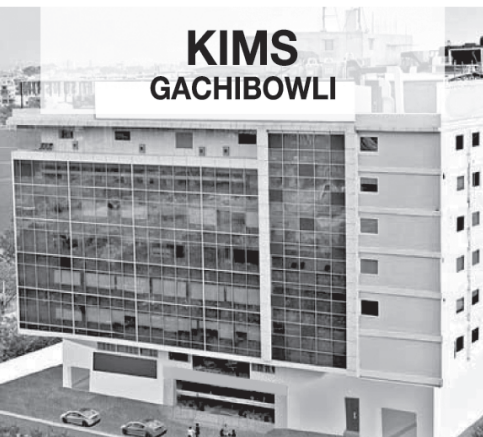
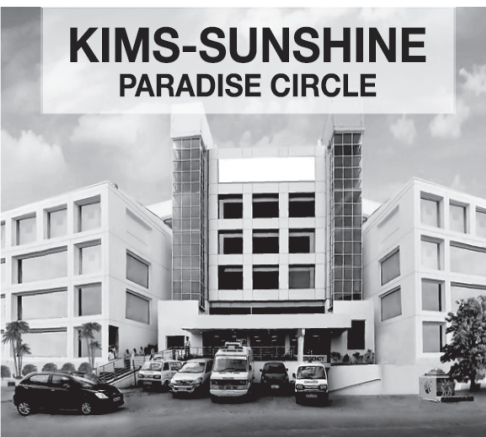
He said Flipkart would soon start selling furniture and, once it works out logistics, packaged goods and groceries, items which account for the bulk of most consumers' daily spending. The company is also betting on the hundreds of millions of Indians living in smaller towns who are unable to buy all their needs at local retailers.

"We believe the growth, the next wave of growth will come not from the tier one or tier two... but the real chunky growth will happen from tier 3, 4, 5, 6 cities and towns," he added.

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Lewandowski's hamstring injury adds to Barca woes

Madrid, Oct 15 (UNI) FC Barcelona's injury concerns deepened as striker Robert Lewandowski became the latest player sidelined with a muscle injury. The Polish forward sustained a hamstring problem in his left thigh while on international duty, Barcelona confirmed in a medical report.

The club did not specify a recovery time, but Spanish daily Diario AS estimated an absence of around four weeks.

Lewandowski is the third Barca player to return injured during the international break. Midfielder Dani Olmo picked up a calf injury in training with Spain and is expected to miss three weeks, while Ferran Torres left Spain's squad with a slight muscle strain but should be fit for Saturday's La Liga home match against Girona.

Both Lewandowski and Olmo are likely to miss the season's first Clasico away to Real Madrid on October 26.

Meanwhile, Raphinha and Lamine Yamal are expected to be available, though coach Hansi Flick will manage Yamal's minutes carefully due to his recurring pelvic issue.

Chess launches new World Championship, approved by FIDE, to crown combined winner in Fast Classic, Rapid, Blitz



Mumbai, Oct 15 (IANS) : The organisers of Norway Chess on Thursday announced the launch of a new World Championship, which will crown a champion across all time controls -- the Fast Classic, Rapid and Blitz, which has been approved and endorsed by the sport's world governing body, FIDE. The new championship, titled the Total Chess World Championship Tour, will consist of four events each year and crown a combined champion

across three disciplines -- Fast Classic, Rapid, and Blitz chess. "We expect this to become one of the most prestigious events in the entire chess Calendar," Kjell Madland, CEO of Norway Chess and of the new championship, said in a release on Wednesday.

The Total Chess World Championship Tour will crown an overall champion across three disciplines - Fast Classic, Rapid, and Blitz, and the winner will be crowned FIDE World Combined Champion. The

overall championship, comprising four tournaments held in various global cities, will have a minimum \$2.7mn annual prize pool across the Tour -- \$750,000 per event for the first three events and: \$450,000 for the finals -- plus performance bonuses. A pilot tournament is planned for fall 2026, with the first full championship season in 2027. The initiative comes from the organisers of the prestigious Norway Chess tournament, and the official World

Championship status agreement was signed with the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in early October. The vision of the Total Chess World Championship Tour is to find the player who best masters the disciplines Fast Classic, Rapid, and Blitz combined. Fast Classic is an innovation of classical chess, featuring a time limit as short as 45 minutes plus a 30-second increment per move. This will receive a rating as classical chess.

UIPM chief hails Beijing Obstacle Worlds as key step toward Olympics

Geneva, Oct 15 (UNI) : Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) president Rob Stull said he is looking forward to the UIPM Obstacle World Championships in Beijing, calling it an important opportunity for the sport's growth as it moves toward the Olympic stage. The championships will take place from October 21 to 25. China is set to host four consecutive editions of the event from 2025 to 2028. "I think China's a great place to kick this off. Why China? Because of the population base. You're able to reach so many people," Stull said on Tuesday.

"Municipalities realize that this is a good investment. It's a good train to get on. That's a great opportunity."

The obstacle course was officially added to modern pentathlon at the 72nd UIPM Congress in Monaco on November 12, 2022, replacing horse riding as one of the five disciplines.

The 141st International Olympic Committee Session later approved the inclusion of modern pentathlon in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, marking Paris 2024 as the last Olympics to feature horse riding.

The head-to-head, ninja-style obstacle race will make its Olympic debut at LA28 in a 90-minute format alongside fencing, swimming, laser shooting and running.

"We need to modernize one of the oldest sports on the Olympic program created by the founder Pierre de Coubertin. We need an event that would attract the youth. It cannot be long, it has to be accessible and be able to reach everyone," Stull said.

According to the UIPM website, it is "the only recognized governing body of obstacle sport in the Olympic movement."

"Obstacle racing doesn't have an IOC-recognized federation," Stull said. "We're in the process of integrating with the obstacle community, which is very loosely organized. We want to bring them into the family and give them a place to be tied with a recognized Olympic federation."

England-Pak WWC clash ends in no-result after rains

Colombo, Oct 15 (UNI) : The ICC Women's World Cup 2025 clash between England Women and Pakistan Women at the R Premadasa Stadium here today ended in a no-result after rain once again disrupted play, marking the third match of the tournament washed out at the venue.

England had managed to post 133 for 9 in their 31-over innings after rain earlier reduced the contest to a 31-over per side match.

Hether Knight and Em Arlott scored 18 runs each, while Charlie Dean top-scored with 33 runs. Pakistan bowlers were exceptional, with Fatima Sana claiming four wickets, including dismissals of Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Nat Sciver-Brunt, and Charlie Dean.

Diana Baig also made early inroads, removing Tammy Beaumont in a superb comeback spell. Other notable dismissals included Sophia Dunkley lbw to Sadia Iqbal and Alice Capsey falling to Rameen Shamim. Pakistan also benefited from two run-outs, including Em Arlott run out by a sharp throw from Syeda Aroob Shah and Sidra Nawaz.

England's innings saw late aggression with Charlie Dean and Em Arlott hitting several boundaries off Omaidha Sohail and Rameen Shamim, but wickets fell at

regular intervals, leaving them nine down at 133 in 31 overs. Key moments included Dean's fourth-wicket dismissal to Fatima Sana and Arlott's run-out from a sharp throw at short third.

Pakistan Women began their reply confidently, reaching 34 without loss in 6.4 overs. Muneeba Ali and Omaidha Sohail anchored the innings, with both making an immediate impact. Muneeba began with a stylish cut shot for four off Nat Sciver-Brunt, while Omaidha dominated with successive boundaries, including elegant drives and cuts off Em Arlott and Linsey Smith. Her quickfire hitting included four consecutive fours between the 3rd and 5th overs, highlighting Pakistan's intent to chase down the target.

However, the heavens opened once more, forcing the umpires to call off the match. With the points shared, Pakistan were left frustrated at not being able to complete a promising chase. The match showcased disciplined bowling, aggressive batting, and sharp fielding, underlining the competitive intensity of the Women's World Cup. Fans will be hoping for clearer skies as the tournament continues, with the next fixture promising more excitement and crucial points on the line.

Gurbux Singh salutes Roop Singh's legacy

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI) : Roop Singh, a two-time Olympic gold medallist and one of the finest forwards of Indian hockey's golden era, remains an enduring symbol of India's dominance that defined the sport in its early decades.

A member of India's victorious teams at the 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Olympics, and the younger brother of the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, Roop Singh's name occupies a proud place in the game's history.

For Gurbux Singh, Olympic gold medallist at Tokyo 1964, bronze medallist at Mexico City 1968, and recipient of the Arjuna Award, the connection is deeply personal. One of India's most respected figures in hockey, Gurbux was coached by Roop Singh

early in his career, an experience that left a lasting impression on him.

"I was in college in Delhi when I was called for the Madhya Bharat trials in 1955," he said. "The trials were in Gwalior, and that was where I met Roop Singh for the first time. He was the coach and manager of our team. I was just a university boy then, and it was a revelation to see a legend like him and spend time with him."

Gurbux remembered him as a man of warmth. "He was a thorough gentleman, very simple and friendly. Despite all his achievements, he was approachable and kind. It was my first national championship, and to be coached by him was a great fortune," he expressed.

The 1955 Nationals in Madras marked the

beginning of a journey that shaped Gurbux Singh's legendary career. Roop Singh, who had won Olympic gold in 1932 and 1936, brought with him

a sense of purpose that deeply inspired those around him.

"He belonged to a generation we looked up to," Gurbux said. "I was born before Independence, and for us, they were icons. I did not see Roop Singh or Dhyan Chand play at their peak, but I knew of their greatness. Had there been no World War II, India would certainly have won two more Olympic golds in 1940 and 1944. They were good enough. Roop Singh would have played, and he would have added to that legacy."

He also recalled how Dhyan Chand himself once said that his younger

brother was the better player, a testament to Roop Singh's quiet brilliance.

"It also shows the greatness of Dhyan Chand that he considered his younger brother even greater than himself," Gurbux said.

But beneath the glory, Gurbux added that the challenges faced by Roop Singh, later in his life is a testament to how much Indian Hockey has changed. "It hurt me deeply to see that we did not value their greatness enough," he said. "I still remember an exhibition match held in Bombay in the late 1950s to collect money for Roop Singh. Only a small amount, perhaps a hundred rupees, was collected and handed over. They were men who never played for money, only for the nation. They achieved everything for

India, but life was not easy for them later."

However, he added with optimism, "That has changed now. Our players are being looked after much better, and that is one of the reasons hockey is improving again. Things have taken a turn for the better, and that is how it should be."

As Indian hockey celebrates 100 years, Gurbux Singh's words carried a reminder for the next generation.

"Legends like Roop Singh started the journey," he said. "For forty years we were in the wilderness, but now we have returned with two Olympic bronze medals. The next step is to go for gold again. The inspiration is there, as these men laid the foundation. It is up to today's players to keep the flag flying."

Padikkal, Nair shine as Karnataka post 295/5 vs Saurashtra

Rajkot, Oct 15 (UNI) : Karun Nair and Devdutt Padikkal struck fluent half-centuries to guide Karnataka to a strong position on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match against Saurashtra here today .

After early setbacks with both openers Nikin Jose and skipper Mayank Agarwal dismissed cheaply for just 26 runs, Padikkal (96 off 141 balls, 11 fours) and Nair (73 off 126 balls, 9 fours) steadied the innings with a vital 146-run partnership for the third wicket.

Padikkal fell just four short of a century, bowled by left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, who was the pick of

Saurashtra's bowlers, finishing the day with 4 for 100. Nair, returning to Karnataka after a stint with Vidarbha, showed composure and timing on both sides of the wicket before being trapped leg-before by Jadeja.

At stumps, Karnataka were comfortably placed at 295 for 5, thanks to an unbeaten 81-run stand between R Smaran (66 not out) and Shreyas Gopal (38 not out).

Earlier, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja's double strike had given Saurashtra a bright start, but Karnataka's middle order rallied strongly. Padikkal dominated the off-side with crisp cuts and drives, while Nair preferred the leg-side

boundaries to release pressure. In other Group B matches, Maharashtra were reeling at 179 for 7 in Thiruvananthapuram despite Ruturaj Gaikwad's 91, as MD Nidhish claimed 4 for 42. In Porvorim, Goa rode on unbeaten knocks from Abhinav Tejrana (130*) and Lalit Yadav (80*) to post 291 for 3 against Chandigarh.

Meanwhile, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh bundled out Punjab for 232, with Saransh Jain returning impressive figures of 6 for 75.

The second day's play will be crucial for Karnataka as they aim to cross the 400-run mark and build early pressure on Saurashtra's batting lineup.

A huge moment for Indian sports, ' says Dr Mandaviya as Ahmedabad recommended to host 2030 CWG

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI) : Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said "a huge moment for Indian sports" after Ahmedabad was recommended by the executive board of Commonwealth Sport as the host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games. The recommendation shall be now placed to the General Assembly of Commonwealth Sport to be held on November 26, 2025.

In a social media post from his official handle, union Sports Minister said: "A huge moment for Indian sports! Grateful to Commonwealth

Sport's Executive Board for recommending Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for the Centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030, a proud milestone for our nation. "This decision reflects India's growing dominance in global sport, made possible by the visionary leadership of PM Shri ?@narendramodi ji, whose commitment has put India firmly on the world sporting map." Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that this development will give significant boost to India's ambitions of hosting the Summer Olympic Games in 2036. "It is a big boost to the union Government's vision of hosting the 2036 Olympic

Games. We successfully staged the World Para Athletics Championship recently in New Delhi with the participation of over 2200 athletes and support staff from 100-plus nations, drawing praise from International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons and top international athletes. In the last decade, the country has not only developed world-class sports infrastructure but through policy changes, sports science and financial support we are on a fast-paced road to transforming India into a nation of champions," Dr Mandaviya said.

Printed, Published and Owned by
Mohammed Shafi
Printed at Modi Print & Co.,
Gala No. : MFL-IF, Devidayal Industrial Estate,
Near Brittanias Factory, Darukhana, Reay Road (E),
Mumbai - 400 010. Maharashtra and
Published from # Room No:106, Ground Floor,
Flat No.40, Malvani Gate, Near Collector Compound,
Near Quadri Masjid, Malad (W), Mumbai-400 095

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GM, Central Railway, inspects key development and passenger infrastructure works in Pune Division

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 15 : General Manager, Central Railway, Shri Vijay Kumar, conducted an extensive inspection of Pune Division today, reviewing ongoing development projects, passenger amenities, and operational facilities across major stations and terminals. Shri Vijay Kumar reviewed the redevelopment and modernization works, including circulating area improvements, yard remodeling, and passenger facility enhancements at Pune Railway Station. He also inspected the station concourse, foot overbridges, platforms, and passenger information systems. General Manager appreciated the staff for their efforts in maintaining cleanliness, punctuality and passenger satisfaction.“

The General Manager then inspected the upcoming Khadki terminal, which is being developed to ease congestion at Pune



station and enhance terminal capacity for originating trains. He reviewed the progress of platform extension works, stabling facilities, and passenger amenities under development, and instructed officials to ensure timely completion with due focus on quality and safety. Following this, the General Manager inspected the Chinchwad Railway Station and Chinchwad Automobile

Loading Terminal. Further, the General Manager visited the Hadapsar terminal, where he inspected the ongoing works related to terminal development, yard remodeling, aimed at improving operational flexibility and originating train capacity. He emphasized on maintaining quality, safety, and adherence to timelines. He also reviewed the work of Alandi Coaching Depot Terminal.

Shri Vijay Kumar, General Manager and Smt. Kiran Badhan, President, Central Railway Women’s Welfare Organisation (CRWWO), inspected the Divisional Railway Hospital, Pune. Smt. Kiran Badhan appreciated the new Baby Breastfeeding Room, newly installed fowler beds in the Male General Ward and an Advanced Operation Theatre Table, for strengthening healthcare facilities for railway staff and their families. Smt.

Kiran Badhan also visited the Little Angels school at Railway Colony Ghorpadi where she interacted with students and teachers.

The day’s inspection concluded with a Divisional Presentation by Divisional Railway Manager Shri Rajesh Kumar Verma and had interaction with officers at the Divisional Office, Pune. Shri Vijay Kumar emphasized for continued focus on safety, passenger convenience, infrastructure expansion, and modernization, in line with the vision of Indian Railways.

During inspection Shri Avinash Kumar Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction); Shri Arvind Malkhede, Principal Chief Commercial Manager; Shri S. K. Sagar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer; Shri Rajesh Kumar Verma, Divisional Railway Manager and other senior officers of headquarter and Pune Division were present.

Water recycling plant at mechanized Laundry in Surat



(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 15 Western Railways’, Mumbai Central Division has transformed its existing 60 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at the Surat Mechanized Laundry into a Water Recycling Plant (WRP). This new upgrade is part of Indian Railways’ efforts to protect the environment. It focuses on using treated wastewater again and reduce harm to nature. By leveraging advanced treatment technologies, the initiative exemplifies how infrastructure can be optimized to promote resource efficiency, cost

savings and long term sustainability in railway operations. According to a press release issued by Public Relations Department of Western Railway, in a major step towards sustainable water management, Western Railways’ Mumbai Central Division has successfully converted it’s 60 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant into a Water Recycling Plant at the Mechanized Laundry, Surat. This initiative taken by Railways shows their ongoing efforts to conserve water and reduce environmental impact through advanced

treatment and reuse technologies. The Water Recycling Plant is designed to treat and recycle waste water generated from laundry operations. The system processes effluent and converts it into high quality recycled water for non-potable uses, primarily washing of coaches. The treatment process begins with effluent collection, where wastewater generated from laundry operations is first collected in a holding tank. It then enters the Effluent Treatment Plant, where it undergoes a series of treatments including pre-

treatment, chemical and biological treatment and tertiary disinfection using either UV or chlorine to eliminate contaminants. After this, the water is sent to the Water Recycling Plant, where it is further refined through sand and membrane filtration, followed by a final disinfection and then stored for reuse. The key benefits of the treatment process include water conservation, as the water is treated and reused daily to reduce dependence on fresh water. It also leads to cost reduction through lower expenditure in water procurement and sewage

disposal. Environmental sustainability is supported by reducing effluent discharge to meet environmental standards. The process ensures regulatory compliance, as the wastewater treatment and reuse meet the required norms. Additionally, it enhances operational efficiency by enabling cost-effective and sustainable laundry operations. The treated water is mostly used for washing of coaches, a high water consuming process. This reuse of water cuts down the demand for fresh water while maintaining cleaning efficiency through advanced filtration and disinfection system. Water Recycling Plants conversion from the Effluent Treatment Plant marks a major milestone in Western Railways environment sustainability drive. This initiative not only conserves valuable water resources but also aligns commitment of Railways green and efficient operations across its network.

Selection test of joint team of Mahavitaran Union Office and Bhandup Circle for sports competition concluded



(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 15 :The selection test for the joint team of Mahavitaran Union Office and Bhandup Circle for the inter-zonal sports competition to be held in Amravati was successfully concluded today on 15th October 2025 at Navi Mumbai Sports Association, Vashi. The chief guests of the event were Executive Director (Distribution), Mr. Dhananjay Aundhekar, Program Chairman and Chief Engineer of Bhandup Circle Mr. Sanjay Patil, General Manager (HR) Mr. Rajendra Pandey along with other senior officers, employees and enthusiastic players. he selection test for the inter-zonal sports competition to be held in Amravati was successfully concluded today at Navi Mumbai Sports Association, Vashi. This selection test includes Kabaddi, Kho Kho, Chess, Carrom, Volleyball, Cricket,

Badminton, Table Tennis, Bridge, Wrestling, Power Lifting, Body Building, 100m Running, 200m Running, 400m Running, 800m Running, 1500m Running, 5000m Running, 4x100 Relay, High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, Javelin Throw, Plate Throw, Tinnicott. The players selected in this test will represent the joint team of the Union Office and Bhandup Circle for the Inter-Circular Sports Competition to be held in Amravati. Speaking to boost the morale of the players in the program, Hon. Executive Director (Distribution) Shri. Dhananjay Aundhekar said that if the players play the game with team spirit, they will definitely win. Playing games gives a person new energy in the stressful life of every day. Playing games increases the qualities of d e t e r m i n a t i o n , perseverance, cooperation, team spirit etc. in our mind.

Therefore, MSEDCL always encourages its employees in such activities. Chief Engineer, Bhandup Circle, Shri Sanjay Patil said, 'While playing sports, we forget our position, our age and play sports so that a team spirit is created among us. The Bhandup and headquarters team has always been superior in everything. So we have to maintain that this year also and play better than last time and win more games.' Shri Patil appreciated the special efforts of the Vashi Circle and especially the Deputy Chief Industrial Relations Officer Shri Mahendra Bagul and his department for the successful conduct of this selection test program. We have provided very good facilities for the practice of the mine. I am sure that we will play very well and the Bhandup Circle and headquarters team will achieve success in the inter-zone competition.

Western Railway to run a weekly special train between Valsad - Hisar

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 15 : For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, Western Railway will run a Special Train on Special fare between Valsad - Hisar stations. According to a press release issued by Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the details of this train is as under:
1. Train No. 04728/04727 Valsad – Hisar Weekly Special [08 Trips]
Train No. 04728 Valsad – Hisar Special will depart from Valsad every Thursday at 14:50 hrs and will reach Hisar at 14:05 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 16th October to 06th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 04727 Hisar – Valsad Special will depart from Hisar every Wednesday at 12:05 hrs and will reach Valsad at 11.30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 15th October to 05th November, 2025.
Enroute, this train will halt at Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Mandso, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwar, Bijai Nagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Phulera, Ringas, Nim Ka Thana, Narnaul, Rewari, Charkhi Dadri, Bhiwani and Hansi stations in both directions.
This train comprises of First AC, AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

NSA Ajit Doval in Bishkek for India-Central Asia security meet; holds talks with Kyrgyz counterpart

Bishkek/New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI) National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is visiting the Kyrgyz Republic, today held talks with his Kyrgyz counterpart Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov during which both sides agreed to enhance collaboration on countering terrorism and extremism. NSA Doval is to participate in the 3rd India-Central Asia National Security Advisers / Secretaries of the Security Councils meeting in Bishkek. Earlier, NSA Ajit Doval was warmly welcomed by First Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Melis Satybaldiev on arrival at Bishkek. NSA Ajit Doval met Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic Lt. Gen. Baktybek Bekbolotov today at Bishkek. Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation and agreed to enhance existing collaboration on countering terrorism, radicalisation, extremism and drug trafficking. They reviewed bilateral defence cooperation and discussed regional security issues. Both sides also

emphasized the need to coordinate positions on issues of common concern at regional and multilateral fora, the Indian embassy said on X. The first meeting of the India-Central Asian NSAs was held in New Delhi in December 2022. The key outcomes included a joint communique on combating terrorism, prioritizing connectivity projects like the Chabahan Port, and discussing the situation in Afghanistan – just over a year after the Taliban overran Kabul. The second meeting was held in 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan, during which India emphasized the importance of connectivity projects but stressed that they must respect the sovereignty of a country. These meetings have focused on Afghanistan, cross-border terrorism, terror financing, and improved regional connectivity. Notably, India’s relations with the Kabul government have improved considerably, with the Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi paying a five-day visit to India, during which he held talks with the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

IRCTC announces ‘BHAVYA GUJARAT’ Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train from Telugu States

(Standard Post Bureau)
Hyderabad, Oct 15 : IRCTC has announced the tour of “BHAVYA GUJARAT” Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train starting from Renigunta Railway Station on 26th October, 2025 at 15.00 hrs. The train will cover Dwarkadhish Temple, Nageshwar Temple, Bet Dwarka, Somnath Temple, Sabarmati Ashram, Modhera Sun Temple, Rani Ki V av and Statue of Unity. The boarding / de-boarding facility provided at important enroute stations like Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh State, Khammam, Kazipet, Secunderabad and



Nizamabad in Telangana State, Hazur Sahib Nanded and Purna in Maharashtra State. The whole trip will be covered over a period of 09 nights / 10 days. It includes all travel facilities (including both rail as well as road transport), accommodation facility,

catering arrangements (Morning Tea, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner – both On-Board and Off-Board). Security on train (CCTV in all Coaches), public announcement facility in all coaches, travel insurance and IRCTC staff available in every coach throughout the travel.