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IN BRIEF

Thorat backs Raj Thackeray, confirms voter list irregularities

Ahilyanagar, Oct 19 (UNI) : Senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat today supported the allegations made by MNS chief Raj Thackeray and other opposition leaders, admitting that there are serious irregularities in the state's voter lists.

Thorat asserted that he had observed large-scale discrepancies, specifically stating that rural voters from Zilla Parishads were being included in Nagar Panchayat lists, and vice versa. Making specific remarks regarding the integrity of the electoral roll, he said, "We are not aware of Raj Thackeray's exact statement, but it is true that names of outsiders are being deliberately added to voter lists. This is a serious issue and poses a threat to democracy. Necessary corrections in the voter lists are essential".

Two motorcyclists killed in truck collision on Gondia-Kohmara highway

Gondia, Oct 19 (UNI) : Two men were killed in a head-on collision this morning when a speeding tipper truck struck their motorcycle on the Gondia-Kohmara National Highway, police said. The incident occurred around 7:30 am between Mundipar and Murdoli villages. The victims were identified as Dinesh Amaralal Pandhare (32) and Devendra Nethulal Uike (35), both residents of Baghorta village in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh.

The men, employed in Nagpur, were returning to their native village for the Diwali holidays on a motorcycle. The tipper truck, reportedly at high speed, struck them from the opposite direction. The impact was so severe that both riders died on the spot. Police reached the scene, conducted a preliminary investigation, and sent the bodies for post-mortem examination.

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan with former president Ram Nath Kovind and his family at the Vice President's Enclave, in New Delhi on Sunday.

Sanjay Raut warns EC: opposition to protest if voter list flaws not fixed

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) MP Sanjay Raut today warned the Election Commission (EC) that the opposition will take to the streets in protest if the Commission fails to act on complaints regarding irregularities in the election process and voter lists. Raut stated that a delegation of leaders from various parties has already submitted evidence of discrepancies in

the voter lists to the EC. "If the Commission continues to act under the ruling alliance's influence, we will protest on the streets," he warned. Responding to Deputy CM Eknath Shinde's criticism of the Thackeray faction, Raut shot back, asserting that the rebels "will be wiped out" in the upcoming Mumbai and Thane civic elections. He alleged that the ruling Mahayuti won the previous

elections not by genuine public support, but through the manipulation of voter lists, misuse of government machinery, and excessive use of money. Raut also revealed that recent discussions have taken place between Raj Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray, as well as between Sharad Pawar and Congress leaders, to prevent any such voter list manipulation in the upcoming polls.

Raj Thackeray's warning to Election Commission: Hold elections only after clearing voter list doubts

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray today issued a stern warning to the State Election Commission, saying that polls in Maharashtra should not be held until all doubts over voter rolls and any irregularities in the election process are resolved.

The MNS chief alleged that with the BJP in power at both the Centre and the state, the party now wants control over municipal corporations as well and is manipulating voter lists by adding fake names to secure victory.

Speaking at a gathering of MNS workers ahead of local body elections, he urged workers of all parties to scrutinize the voter lists carefully.

"Check every voter list minutely. Identify where these manipulations have taken place. This is not just for your own party, but for everyone who values fair

elections. Until this is done, the Election Commission should not conduct elections," Thackeray asserted.

Thackeray also attacked the government, accusing it of favouring industrialists Adani and Ambani. The government wants to gift all major cities to these businessmen, and unfortunately, many Marathi people are acting as middlemen for them. "The fence itself is eating the crop," he remarked.

He further alleged that flight operations at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport are being deliberately reduced to shift traffic to the Adani-owned Navi Mumbai Airport.

Thackeray cautioned Marathi voters who support the BJP, warning that when "the Gujarati steamroller rolls over Maharashtra," even Marathi BJP supporters will face its consequences.

CM Yogi inaugurates Deepotsav 2025, says Ayodhya cleansed ...

The sacred city of Lord Shri Ram, Ayodhya, radiated devotion and divine light this evening as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Deepotsav 2025. The Chief Minister opened the festival by performing the aarti of Maa Saryu on the banks of the Saryu River.

(See on page 4)

Zelensky fails to secure Tomahawk missiles at talks ...

President Volodymyr Zelensky appears to have come away empty-handed from a White House meeting after US President Donald Trump indicated he was not ready to supply sought-after Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

(See on page 5)

Deepti Sharma optimistic India Prepare for must-win clash ...

: India all-rounder Deepti Sharma remains optimistic about her team's chances at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, saying morale within the squad is high despite back-to-back defeats. The hosts now prepare to face England in a crucial group-stage clash on Sunday.

(See on page 7)

Govt opens 99 percent of

Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri today announced that the government has widened the import basket of crude to over 40 countries, up from 27 earlier.

(See on page 8)

Ancient Indian outreach was for knowledge sharing, not conquest: RSS chief, Bhagwat

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat today asserted that ancient Indians travelled across the world—from Mexico to Siberia—to disseminate scientific and cultural knowledge without engaging in conquest or religious conversion.

Addressing a gathering here during the launch of the Arya Yug Vishay Kosh encyclopedia, Bhagwat said India's ancestors shared wisdom with goodwill and unity rather than with motives of domination.

Drawing distinctions between historical invaders, Bhagwat remarked that while many plundered India's wealth and enslaved its people, the last colonisers caused deeper

harm by "looting Indian minds." This psychological plunder, he observed, made Indians forget their inherent strengths and their potential to guide the world through spiritual and scientific knowledge. He said that India, as the land of Aryavrat, still retains its spiritual depth, scientific ability, and moral strength.

The RSS chief strongly criticised what he termed the "Macaulay Knowledge System," asserting that colonial education had distorted Indian thinking and replaced native intellectual confidence with foreign mindsets. He stressed the need for complete liberation from this influence to rediscover India's knowledge traditions, while also

recognising that beneficial global developments should be studied and selectively adopted. In a reflective section of his address, Bhagwat cited modern scientific understanding of perception, explaining that human experience through the five senses is filtered by the mind and may not reveal absolute truth. Referring to his own veterinary background, he illustrated this by noting that humans see seven colours, dogs see two, and chickens see three—demonstrating the relativity of sensory perception.

He concluded that the comprehension of ultimate truth requires transcending physical and mental limits, a notion he said modern science increasingly

acknowledges. The event also marked the formal unveiling of the Arya Yug Vishay Kosh, an extensive encyclopedia on Indian knowledge systems prepared by Ahmedabad's Gitarth Ganga Research Institute.

Conceived by spiritual leaders Munishri Mohitvijayji and Jainacharya Yugbhushansuriji, the work represents over three decades of research. The project plans to publish 30 volumes covering 108 primary subjects and 15,000 sub-topics within the next decade.

The first volume, released in May 2024, covers four major subjects and 159 sub-topics, drawing authentic references from

more than one thousand Jain texts, alongside classical sources such as the Bhagavad Gita, Patanjali Yoga Sutra, and Nyaya Praveshak Sutra.

Each topic is presented through eight categories, including definition, etymology, unique attributes, and conceptual outlines. The initiative aims to counter growing materialism and atheism by preserving and transmitting traditional knowledge to future generations. Bhagwat concluded by asserting that India is capable of guiding a world "headed towards destruction," urging reconnection with indigenous knowledge systems while preserving cultural roots in the midst of modern progress.

Diwali with pride: PM urges nation to embrace 'swadeshi' spirit

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) As the festive season dawns upon India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called upon the nation to celebrate Diwali not just with lights and joy but with a deeper sense of pride in the country's creativity, hard work, and innovation.

In a message posted on X, Mr Modi urged all 140 crore Indians to consciously choose Indian-

made products and proudly proclaim, "Garv Se Kaho Yeh Swadeshi Hai! (Say with pride, this is indigenous)."

The Prime Minister's appeal comes amid a nationwide movement to boost local industries and artisans, reinforcing the message of self-reliance and economic empowerment.

"Let's buy Indian products and say—Garv Se Kaho Yeh Swadeshi Hai! Do also share

what you bought on social media. This way you will inspire others to also do the same," Modi said in his post, encouraging citizens to become ambassadors of the Swadeshi movement through social media.

Supporting this initiative, MyGovIndia launched a special campaign titled "Celebrate Diwali and Empower Swadeshi," inviting citizens to take a

pledge to buy only Swadeshi products this festive season. The campaign emphasised the importance of backing local artisans, whose craftsmanship and livelihoods are vital to India's cultural and economic fabric.

In its message, MyGovIndia highlighted the Prime Minister's vision, stating, "PM

@narendramodi is inspiring the nation to go #VocalForLocal. Share your selfie with your Swadeshi purchase or its maker." This interactive campaign aims to create a ripple effect of awareness and pride among consumers, linking personal choice with national progress.

The Swadeshi movement, rooted deeply in (Contd on page 3)

Judiciary must remain unshaken through fair and impartial justice delivery: Justice Bhuyan

Guwahati, Oct 19 (UNI) : Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Sunday emphasized that the faith of the public in the judicial system must remain unshaken through fair and impartial deliverance of justice. Justice Bhuyan said this while delivering a special lecture on 'Judicial Professionalism, Etiquette and Expectations from Judicial Officers' at the KBR auditorium of the Cotton University in Guwahati. Justice Bhuyan also formally launched the official website of the All Assam Judges Association.

The apex court judge said that the legitimacy of the judiciary in public perception rests on various factors, including how judicial officers are viewed by society. For this, it is essential that judgments are pronounced

in an atmosphere free from any form of external influence.

“The judiciary should never be seen to be bestowing any kind of favour,” he remarked.

Justice Bhuyan further urged judicial officers serving in the districts to act pragmatically and uphold the spirit of the Constitution in their duties.

Stressing the importance of maintaining professional integrity, he cautioned that members of the judiciary should avoid close proximity with members of other services and maintain restraint in both professional and public life. “Aberrations by members of the judiciary often attract undue public attention; therefore, judicial officers must uphold the dignity of their office at all times,” he observed.

Highlighting the vital

role of the district judiciary, Justice Bhuyan said that a strong and robust judicial system at the grassroots is a sine qua non for stability and credibility at the apex level. He appealed to all judicial officers to safeguard the independence of the judiciary despite adversities, and called for bold and courageous judges as the need of the hour.

Justice Bhuyan expressed confidence that the newly launched website would serve as an effective platform to facilitate better communication and foster fraternal bonds among members of the All Assam Judges Association.

Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, also delivered a brief address during the occasion.

HP, CM Sukhu celebrates Diwali with children, announces welfare schemes

Shimla, Oct 19 (UNI) : Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today visited the Tutikandi Bal Ashram here to celebrate the festival of lights with the inmates of the Ashram.

The children and staff welcomed the Chief Minister with traditional earthen lamps and colourful cultural performances. Sukhu interacted with the children, distributed sweets and gifts, and extended Deepawali greetings. “The true spirit of Diwali lies in sharing joy, compassion, and togetherness. These children are our future, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they grow up with love, dignity and opportunities,” Sukhu said. Sukhu stated that the State Government has adopted the orphaned children as “children of the state,” bearing their education expenses and providing Rs 4,000 per month as pocket money.

He announced that residential facilities in the State’s Bal Ashrams would be upgraded, along with enhanced amenities. Sukhu also announced that the

government would soon launch new welfare schemes specifically aimed at orphans and vulnerable children to ensure their holistic development.

He further announced that a Sports Day would be organised for the Ashram children on November 14 every year, with adequate budgetary provision. The Chief Minister also said that students of the Bal Ashrams would be sent on educational tours outside the State to provide them with better exposure and learning experiences. He exhorted the children to focus on their studies and serve the nation in different capacities, bringing laurels to the State. Mayor Surinder Chauhan, Deputy Mayor Uma Kaundal, Director Women and Child Welfare Pankaj Lalit, and Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap were present.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri conveyed their heartfelt greetings and good wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh on Diwali.

The Governor wished

for the good health, prosperity, and well-being of the people. He stated: “Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolises the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness and of knowledge over ignorance.” He added that on this day, “lamps are lit not merely to brighten our homes but also to rekindle the eternal truth and moral values of life.”

The Chief Minister, in his message, said that the festival "not only illuminates our households but also enlightens our hearts and society with the spirit of righteousness and collective goodwill.” He appealed to the people to celebrate the festival with peace, unity, and mutual respect and to contribute towards building a progressive and prosperous Himachal Pradesh. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that Diwali conveys the message of love, compassion and brotherhood. He urged the people to mark the festival with a spirit of togetherness so that the light of joy and hope spreads across every household and every life.

Cop hangs himself in Madhya Pradesh

Khargone (MP), Oct 19 (UNI) : A sub-inspector has committed suicide by hanging himself at a hotel in this district headquarters, police said.

The body of Akshay Singh Kushwaha (30), who was posted at Ashoknagar Police Station, was found in Room Number 202 of Hotel Gopal. He took the extreme step yesterday. Kushwaha hailed from Guna district. He reached the hotel at about 1:00 a.m.

At about 12:30 p.m., when hotel employees knocked on the door, there was no response.

The hotel management informed the law-enforcement authorities. After the arrival of the police, the room was opened and the corpse was found hanging from the fan. He had used a bedsheet as a noose.

The deceased's brother is a forest ranger in Indore. Further action will be taken after the arrival of kin. Kushwaha was a bachelor.

7 state universities get new vice chancellors

Jaipur, Oct 19 (UNI) : Seven state-funded universities in Rajasthan have received new Vice Chancellors (VCs). Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, in his capacity as Chancellor, issued the appointment orders on Saturday after due consultation with the state government.

The new appointees are: Dr Vimla Dunkwal, VC of the Agriculture University Kota; Dr Virendra Singh Jetawat, VC of the Agriculture University Jodhpur; Prof Pushpendra Singh Chauhan, VC of Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University Jobner; Dr Pratap Singh, VC of Maharana Pratap Agriculture and Technology University Udaipur; Prof Pawan Kumar Sharma, VC of Jai Narain Vyas University Jodhpur; Prof Govind Sahai Shukla, VC of Dr S Radhakrishnan Ayurvedic University Jodhpur; and Prof Nimit Ranjan Chowdhary, VC of Rajasthan Technical University Kota.

Mayawati rallies BSP coordinators nationwide, signals leadership transition to Akash Anand

Lucknow, Oct 19 (UNI) : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, convened a high-level meeting in Lucknow today with over 430 party coordinators from across the country.

The two-hour-long session focused on strengthening the party organization and expanding its grassroots presence across the country.

In a significant move during the meeting, Mayawati called upon all BSP leaders and coordinators to extend their full support to her nephew Akash Anand. Drawing a parallel with her own rise, she said, “Just as you have always stood by me and strengthened the party, I urge you to stand firmly with Akash as well.” This statement was seen as a clear signal of Mayawati gradually grooming Akash for a more prominent leadership role within the party.

Mayawati emphasised that the time had come for BSP to reassert itself as a powerful national force, rooted in the vision of social transformation and

economic emancipation enunciated by party founder Kanshi Ram drawing inspiration from the chief architect of the Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar.

She urged party workers to emulate the energy and commitment shown by lakhs of supporters during the October 9 rally in Lucknow commemorating Kanshi Ram’s 19th death anniversary.

Among those present at the meeting were her nephew and party’s vice-president, Akash Anand, his father Anand Kumar, and senior BSP leader Satish Chandra Mishra. As Mayawati entered the hall, Akash Anand touched her feet in a gesture of respect.

The seating arrangement reflected her singular leadership, with a central chair for her and three side chairs for her close aides.

During the meeting, Mayawati reviewed the party’s performance and organisational groundwork in each state (except UP and Uttarakhand, which had their separate review on October 16). She issued specific directives to

coordinators to fill gaps, address emerging political challenges, and connect more deeply with the masses across all communities.

Highlighting the unprecedented success of the October 9 mega-event at the Kanshi Ram Memorial in Lucknow, Mayawati described it as a turning point. “The zeal and determination shown by the people of Uttar Pradesh, from every village, is exemplary and must be emulated in other states. Only then can BSP’s mission be realised and the true intent of the Constitution, as envisioned by Babasaheb Ambedkar, be fulfilled,” she said.

Mayawati expressed deep concern over the current socio-political climate in India. She condemned the increasing poverty, unemployment, inflation, rising caste and communal violence, and widespread corruption. She warned that governments are straying from constitutional duties, driven by narrow political gains, which is harming both the people and the nation’s global reputation.

In a stern message, she referred to recent troubling events such as caste-based discrimination even in the judiciary, including a tragic incident involving a senior police officer in Haryana. “Such incidents are a matter of national shame, and yet, there is a disturbing lack of adequate response from the government and institutions that are supposed to uphold justice and equality,” she stated.

Mayawati made it clear that the BSP is not run with the support of big industrialists or wealthy donors like other parties. “We are a mission-driven party committed to Ambedkarite values, and our loyalty lies with the poor and marginalised—Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, Muslims, and other religious minorities,” she asserted. She recalled how, during her tenure as Chief Minister, BSP governments in Uttar Pradesh ensured safety, dignity, and representation for all, setting an example of good governance. She urged party workers to remain focused and work with dedication to bring back such governance at both the state and national levels.

Akhilesh Yadav slams UP govt over deputy cms' omission from ads

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav today criticised the Uttar Pradesh BJP government for leaving out the names of its two Deputy Chief Ministers, Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, from recent government advertisements. Yadav questioned the significance of officials who were omitted, hinting at internal tensions within the ruling party. He suggested the omission might reflect a "dominant mindset" within the BJP leadership, noting that junior ministers were named, while the Deputy Chief Ministers were absent. "Those who didn't get a place in the advertisement, what importance do they hold in the government?" Yadav asked in a post on his

WhatsApp channel. The Samajwadi leader pointed to an ongoing power struggle, using a lengthy quote to detail his accusation. "On one hand, someone gets historically insulted by being seated aside in an important program, and now they're taking revenge by being shown aside in the advertisement. On the other hand, the Chief Minister doesn't even mention their Deputies in the same advertisement." He added, "It seems that in the BJP, not only are the engines clashing, but the coaches are also hitting each other."

Yadav also criticised the BJP government for excluding Ayodhya's Member of Parliament (MP) from the Deepotsav festival, calling it an affront to the PDA community.

Dr. Abdul Qadeer awarded AMU National Award



(Standard Post Bureau) Bidar, Oct 19 : Dr. Abdul Qadeer, Chairman of Shaheen Group of Educational Institutions in the city, was awarded the Sir Syed National Excellence Award for the year 2025 by Aligarh

Muslim University. The award was presented by Allahabad High Court Justice Abdul Shaheed at the Sir Syed Ahmed Khan birth anniversary celebration held at the university on Friday. The award consists

of Rs. 1 lakh in cash and a citation.

Shaheen Educational Institution, which was started in Bidar by Dr. Abdul Qadeer, a B.E. Civil Engineer, with 17 students, has now grown proudly. It has 110

branches in 16 states of the country.

45 thousand students are studying in the branches of the institution.

“The institution has the distinction of having more than five thousand

students get medical seats under the government quota. There are 300 instances of three children from a family becoming doctors in the institution.

The institution has also played a major role in bringing madrasa children into the mainstream.

For his contribution to the field of education and social service, Abdul Qadeer has been awarded an award by Aligarh Muslim University. Abdul Qadeer has received many awards and honours including an honorary doctorate from Gulbarga University, the Urdu Academy Award, and the Karnataka Rajyotsava for Shaheen Education Institute. The award ceremony was attended by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Naima Khatun, senior officials and dignitaries.

Farmers get Rs 718 cr in 4th installment of the CM Kisan Samman Nidhi

Jaipur, Oct 18 (UNI) : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday lauded various initiatives that have so far been provided as financial support of Rs 8386 crore to 70 lakh farmers of the state in past almost two years under Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Addressing farmers at a congregation of farmers in Nadbai town of the Bharatpur district for releasing the fourth installment of the Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna on the auspicious day of Dhan Teras Saturday afternoon, he said that the BJP double engine government under guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working to empower the farming community.

Sharma said that Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna is the

part of the flagship programme of the Centre government to which the Rajasthan government has also been contributing an additional fund to enhance benefits of our 'Anndata' (food grain producer).

Besides this, Dhan Dhanya Yojna, Kisan crop insurance scheme, Gopalan Cattle insurance scheme and Gopalan Credit card are other initiatives those cater to needs of farmers, he said.

By our efforts under Kisan Samman Nidhi the Centre as well as the state has so far disbursed Rs 8386 crore to 70 lakh farmers of the state.

Under the Dhan Dhanya Yojna that is being implemented in 100 districts in the country for reorganising crop cycle aim at due encouragement to sowing-harvesting high

value cash crops, the CM said. Eight districts of Rajasthan—Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Bikaner and Churu, have also been included in the scheme and the results are encouraging, Sharma said.

Under the Gopalan short term loan schemes the financial needs of the peasants are being catered to. For this purpose interest free loan of Rs 43,000 crore have been provided to around 70 lakh farmers.

"For better working conditions for farmers in the fields, our government is committed to provide power supply to farmers in day time for irrigating crops in all districts of the state by 2027," Sharma said adding "presently we are providing power in day shifts to them in 22 districts".

Market valuation of 7 of top-10 firms surges by Rs 2.16 lakh crore last week

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 2,16,544.29 crore last week.

Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel remained key performers with an optimistic trend in equities. The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 47,363.65 crore to Rs 19,17,483.71 crore while Bharti Airtel added Rs 41,254.73 crore taking its valuation to Rs 11,47,235.08 crore. Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation. In a rank-wise analysis, Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm. It was followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and LIC. The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS declined by Rs 23,807.01 crore to Rs 10,71,894.61 crore. However, the valuation of Infosys dropped by Rs 30,306.35 crore to Rs 5,98,773.87 crore. The mcap of ICICI Bank surged by Rs 40,123.88 crore to Rs 10,26,491.35 crore and that of HDFC Bank rallied Rs 33,185.59 crore to Rs 15,40,210.78 crore.

Diwali with pride: PM urges nation to

(Contd from page 1) India’s freedom struggle, has regained momentum in recent years as a crucial pillar of the government’s ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ (self-reliant India) initiative. By promoting indigenous products, the campaign seeks to boost local economies, create jobs, and reduce dependence on imports.

As Diwali lights adorn homes across the nation, this call to action adds meaningful light to the festivities—one that shines on the strength, talent, and enterprise of Indian hands.

MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES FACILITATION COUNCIL, C.G. (Estd. Under MSMED Act 2006)
Directorate of Industries, Chhattisgarh
Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road, No. 1, Telebandia, Raipur (C.G.)
Email: facilitation-concile@cg.gov.in
Application No. 09/14/S/CGHI CGHI/00201 Raipur, Dated.....
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:: NOTICE ::
Supplier/Applicant: **SHUBHAM ENTERRICES RAZPOR PVT LTD** 105 Walfort ozone fafadia-ha, Raipur Chhattisgarh.

Buyer/Non-Applcant **SAINATH TRADING COMPANY GALA NO.1 SANJAY DEEP SOCIETY NSS ROAD, ASIPHA VILLAGE, GHATICOPAR** Mumbai 400 084

The applicant has supplied/provided material/services to Non-applcant whereas Non-applcant has not paid the balance amount of Rs.1,14,471/- of The applicant has submitted application/reference under section 18(1) of the MSMED Act, 2006 before Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Chhattisgarh. The Case is fixed for 07/11/2025 at 11:00 am, Directorate of Industries, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No. 01, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) for hearing. The Non-applcant is hereby intimated to appear on said date for hearing along with neccesarry documents/reply. If Non-applcant fails to appear before council on said date for hearing, the council may pass ex-parte award/order for winch the Non-applcant would be responsible himself
Assist. Director of Industries MSEFC

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CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)

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AWARD OF SENIOR/JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING PERSONS IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Offline Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Plastic Arts and New Areas related to Culture.

Applications are invited for the year 2025-26 with effect from dated **18th October, 2025**. The number of Junior & Senior Fellowship to be awarded for this year is **200 each**. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/ criteria and Application Form are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture Government of India and CCRT.

www.indiaculture.gov.in

www.ccrtindia.gov.in

ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

The last date for submitting the completely filled application form by post or by-hand etc. to the above mentioned address of CCRT, New Delhi is 01st December, 2025.

cbc 09127/12/0003/2526

Two killed, one critically injured after falling from train near Nashik road station

Nashik, Oct 19 (UNI) : Two persons died and another sustained serious injuries after falling from the Karma Bhoomi Express near Nashik Road railway station. Police confirmed that all three were travelling to Bihar when the tragic incident occurred around 8:45 p.m. The incident occurred yesterday night.

The mishap took place shortly after train number 12546, Karma Bhoomi Express which runs from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai to Raxaul in Bihar had departed from Nashik Road station.

Station Manager Prakash from Awadh railway station alerted Nashik railway officials after receiving information that three passengers had fallen from the moving train in the Dhakle Nagar area near the Jail Road Hanuman Temple.

A police team led by Senior Inspector Jitendra Sapkale of Nashik Road Police Station, along with Sub-Inspector Mali and Police Constable Bhole, immediately rushed to the location. Police recovered two bodies between kilometre markers 190/1 and 190/3 on the Bhusaval-bound track, and found one seriously injured person who was promptly taken to the district hospital by ambulance, where he remains in critical condition.

The deceased are believed to be aged between 30 and 35 years, though their identities have not yet been established. Preliminary investigations suggest that the accident resulted from overcrowding in trains during the festive season, with several passengers standing near compartment doors. Police sources indicated that the victims were possibly returning to their native villages for Diwali celebrations or travelling to Bihar for the upcoming Assembly elections. Nashik Road Police has registered a case of accidental death and initiated a detailed investigation into the incident.

Mahayuti MLAs allege massive voter list irregularities

Navi Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Leaders and MLAs from the ruling "Mahayuti" alliance have started echoing the opposition’s allegations about massive irregularities in the state's voter lists, creating serious embarrassment for the Election Commission (EC). All three major parties in the ruling coalition have now publicly criticised the EC for errors and fake entries in the lists.

In Navi Mumbai, BJP MLA Manda Mhatre today alleged that there is a large number of bogus names in the voter list and

held election officials responsible for the lapse. Similarly, NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) MLA Satish Chavan, speaking in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, claimed there were as many as 36,000 fake voters in the Gangapur constituency, adding that the administration has failed to correct the discrepancies despite repeated warnings.

Earlier, Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) MLA Sanjay Gaikwad had made similar allegations, asserting that there were over one lakh fake or duplicate voters in the

Mumbai Police seizes 700 kgs beef from truck

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) In an early morning action by the Mumbai police, local Bhoiwada police today seized a truck loaded with 700 kilograms of beef in the Dadar area of central Mumbai and arrested a truck driver for illegal beef transportation.

According to the details based upon an information about the movement of illegal meat, the vehicle was intercepted during early morning checks near Dadar.

When officers inspected the truck, they discovered large quantities of meat suspected to be beef, neatly packed and ready for distribution. The consignment was immediately seized and samples have been sent for forensic verification.

The police arrested the truck driver, identified as Javed Nasir Khan (34), while two others suspected to be involved in the supply chain are currently on the run. Police have registered a case under the Maharashtra Animal Protection Act and the Transport of Animals Act.

In Maharashtra, beef possession or sale is a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to Rs 10,000.

Buldhana constituency, a claim the BJP district president agreed with.

The allegations from the ruling alliance lend new strength to the opposition's charges, particularly after Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had stirred national controversy by accusing the government of “vote theft.” Although the Election Commission has repeatedly dismissed such allegations, statements from ruling party leaders now leave both the EC and the government struggling to respond.



Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha during a visit to the Kalmyk Museum, in Elista, Russia. Sinha formally handed over exhibitions from the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the National Museum of India to the Kalmyk Museum.

Farmer’s son transforms from office boy to CEO

Beed, Oct 19 (UNI) : Dadasaheb Bhagat, a farmer's son from Maharashtra’s Beed district, has achieved an extraordinary professional transformation, rising from an Infosys office boy to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of his own creative platform, Design Templates. His success story demonstrates how determination and skill can overcome limited educational opportunities. Born into an economically challenged farming family in Beed, Bhagat witnessed the

hardships of agricultural life, often worsened by recurring droughts. After completing his education up to Class 10, he pursued an ITI course, hoping for factory employment. Circumstances eventually led him to Pune, where he began his career with modestly paying jobs.

His first job in Pune paid Rs 4,000 per month, followed by a role as an office boy at Infosys with a salary of Rs 9,000. His duties included office maintenance and serving refreshments. Observing the computer engineers at

work inspired him to aim beyond his routine responsibilities.

Determined to learn, Bhagat began self-directed computer studies.

A turning point occurred when a colleague introduced him to graphic design, which reignited his creative instincts, reminding him of his childhood talent for temple wall painting.

While continuing his daytime duties, Bhagat spent his nights mastering graphic design through YouTube tutorials on his mobile phone. Within a

year, he became proficient in using free design software. This growing expertise led to the creation of Design Templates, an indigenous design platform modelled on the lines of Canva.

The platform offers user-friendly professional design services and now serves thousands of regular users across India. Bhagat's journey proves that perseverance, self-learning, and determination can drive extraordinary achievements regardless of one’s educational background.

Opposition parties to march on Nov 1 against voter list flaws

MSEDCL contract workers assured of pay, bonus before Diwali

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Opposition parties today announced a joint protest march on November 1 in Mumbai to demand the rectification of flaws in the election process and protest alleged irregularities in voter lists. Party leaders urged citizens who value democracy to participate in the movement.

Leaders present at the briefing included Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) MP Sanjay Raut, MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar, Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant, NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) chief Jayant Patil, and CPI leader Prakash Reddy. All leaders pledged full support and participation in the march, calling it a movement to safeguard democracy. A delegation of opposition leaders recently met with the State Election Commission, submitting a memorandum and presenting evidence of alleged manipulation in the voter rolls. However, the opposition claimed the Commission’s response was unsatisfactory, prompting the decision to mobilise public support through the march.

The opposition leaders further alleged that both the central and state election commissions were acting under the influence of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. They accused the commissions of functioning as “slaves” to those in power. They also stated that even if no major outcome is expected from the Commission, it remains the duty of opposition parties to take to the streets in defence of democracy, following the example of Rahul Gandhi and opposition movements in other states.

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Contract workers of the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) have been assured of receiving their current and pending salaries, wage difference amounts, and bonuses before Diwali.

The assurance was secured during a recent meeting between the Maharashtra Electricity Contract Workers union and the company administration, chaired by Rajendra Pawar, Director (Human Resources) at MSEDCL. Sachin Mengale, State General Secretary of the union, confirmed the positive response.

Director Pawar also assured the union that contractors failing to pay workers’ wages will be blacklisted.

In addition to financial payments, the administration agreed that the list of contract workers protected by court orders will be circulated again to all MSEDCL divisions across the state. The union also secured an agreement that “existing employees will be retained” even if contractors change. In case of workforce reduction, priority will be given to senior workers, with newly appointed ones being relieved first.

The meeting was also attended by Kiran Milgir, Maharashtra State General Secretary of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh; Sharmila Patil; Nilesh Kharat, President of the Maharashtra Electricity Contract Workers Union; Amar Lohar, Working President; and Nikhil Tekawde. Sanjay Dhoke, MSEDCL’s Chief Industrial Relations Officer, was also present.

Pawar further assured that a follow-up meeting will be held in November to discuss and finalize decisions regarding the remaining demands of contract workers.

ITI plan for Vedic priesthood course in Nashik sparks controversy

Nashik, Oct 19 (UNI) : A controversy has erupted in Nashik over the plan to introduce a new course on priesthood, Vedic chanting, and religious rituals at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), a move local priests are strongly opposing.

The ITI plans to launch a short-term, employment-oriented course titled “Vedic Sanskar Junior Assistant” next year. This is intended to address the anticipated high demand for priests to perform various Vedic rituals during the Simhashta Kumbh Mela to be held in Nashik.

However, the Trimbakeshwar Temple Committee and local priests have vehemently opposed the decision. They argue that it is inappropriate for government educational institutions to provide religious training, thus sparking a new controversy in the region.

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Hydraulic Engineer's Department
No. E.E.(M.)/4721/MW. dated: 17-10-2025

e-Tender Notice

The Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation invites online tenders for the following works from the eligible bidders. The bid start date and time and Bid end date and time is specified in detailed tender notice on BMC website under Tender Section and Mahatender Portal.

Sr. No.	Bid No.	Name of Work
1.	2025_MCGM_1230781 dt. of issued dt. 20-10-2025	Supply of 450mm X 10 bar and 600 mm X 10 bar rated Butterfly valves for water supply network of 'P' and 'R' wards.

PRO/1967/ADV/2025-26

Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.

Sd/-
E.E.(Maint.) M.W.

STANDARD POST

Smog wraps Delhi-NCR, air to hit ‘severe’ category day after Diwali

Residents of Delhi-NCR have been waking up to smog-laden mornings in recent days, as stagnant winds, falling temperatures, road dust, and exhaust from bumper-to-bumper traffic choke the city air amid the festival rush.

In the past 24 hours, air quality in the National Capital Region has deteriorated further, with Ghaziabad recording the worst levels in the country. The city’s Air Quality Index (AQI) rose sharply to 324, going deeper into the ‘very poor’ category, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. Noida followed closely, registering values at the upper end of the ‘poor’ category.

While Delhi, Gurugram, and Greater Noida fared only slightly better on Saturday, their AQI values stood at 268, 258, and 248, respectively, all in the ‘poor’ category as of 4 pm. Faridabad, meanwhile, recorded a comparatively better AQI of 190, falling in the ‘moderate’ range.

Experts from the Air Quality Early Warning System have forecast that pollution levels are likely to worsen further after Diwali.

“The air quality is very likely to be in the ‘Poor’ category on October 18, in the upper end of the ‘Poor’ category on October 19, and in the upper end of the ‘Very Poor’ category on October 20. It may reach the ‘Severe’ category on October 21 in case of enhanced emissions from firecrackers,” the statement said.

According to data from the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, the contribution of stubble burning to the capital’s pollution is expected to rise over the next few days, hovering between 2 percent and 5 percent on Monday and Tuesday. Transport emissions remain among the top contributors, accounting for nearly 16 per cent of Delhi’s pollution today, a trend likely to continue in the coming days, the data showed. Meanwhile, the weather department has predicted smog and shallow fog conditions across the capital over the next five days with feeble western disturbances from Tuesday onwards.

Maharashtra's local democracy in limbo: Empty chairs at the grassroots

(By Nisar Ahmed Khan)

After years of democratic paralysis across Maharashtra’s urban and rural governance structures, the prolonged electoral stalemate now appears to be nearing resolution — but only under intense judicial pressure.

Millions of residents in India’s second-most populous state remain without elected local representatives, as the vast majority of Municipal Corporations, Zilla Parishads, and Municipal Councils continue functioning under unelected state-appointed administrators. The Supreme Court’s deadline of January 31, 2026 now represents the final opportunity to restore grassroots democracy before constitutional mandates risk being violated beyond repair.

The Unmatched Scale of Democratic Vacuum

The democratic deficit has reached staggering proportions, creating a governance landscape unprecedented in Maharashtra’s history. As of October 2025, all 29 Municipal Corporations—including Mumbai (BMC), Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, Solapur, Ichalkaranji, and Jalna — function under administrator rule without any elected bodies. The last elected corporation, Dhule, saw its term expire in December 2023, completing the state’s total administrative takeover.

The crisis extends well beyond the cities, reaching deep into the rural heartlands of governance. Of the state’s 34 Zilla Parishads, 32 are under administrators, with only Bhandara and Gondia retaining elected bodies until May 2027. Similarly, 336 of 351 Panchayat Samitis lack elected representatives. Although the State Election Commission (SEC) has held phased elections for more than 100 smaller Municipal Councils since late 2023,

the core institutions that control substantial budgets remain frozen under bureaucratic supervision.

The OBC Reservation Battle: Legal Framework and Political Deadlock

At the heart of this crisis lies the contentious and politically charged issue of Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation. The legal impasse began in March 2021, when the Supreme Court struck down OBC reservations in local body polls, mandating a rigorous “triple test” before such quotas could be reinstated. The test required the state to establish a dedicated commission, collect contemporary empirical data proving backwardness and inadequate political representation of OBCs for each local body, and ensure total reservations for SC, ST, and OBC communities did not breach the 50 percent constitutional ceiling.

In response, Maharashtra constituted the Jayant Kumar Banthia Commission in March 2022 to carry out this data-driven exercise. The commission recommended 27 percent OBC representation within the 50 percent ceiling. However, its report immediately came under legal challenge, plunging the entire electoral process back into uncertainty and leaving the structure of local governance in suspended animation.

Judicial Intervention Forces Action

The breakthrough, when it finally arrived, was driven entirely by judicial intervention. On May 6, 2025, the Supreme Court, emphasizing that “constitutional mandate for democracy at the grassroots level must be respected and ensured,” directed Maharashtra to hold local body elections with OBC reservation fixed at the percentage existing before the Banthia Commission report. The bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh ordered the State Election Commission to notify polls within four weeks and

complete them within four months.

This directive was reinforced on August 4, 2025, when the Supreme Court reaffirmed the 27 percent OBC quota and directed elections under the new ward structure, dismissing petitions challenging the reservation framework. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hailed the order, stating that it had finally paved the way for conducting local body polls with the 27 percent OBC reservation as it existed prior to the 2021 directive.

Despite this clarity, the SEC failed to meet the prescribed timelines, citing non-availability of sufficient Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), staff shortages, festival schedules, and ongoing delimitation work while seeking further extensions.

September 2025: The Supreme Court’s Final Warning

Judicial patience eventually wore thin. On September 16, 2025, a visibly displeased bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued a stern warning, setting an absolute final deadline of January 31, 2026, for completing all local body elections in Maharashtra.

“We are constrained to observe that the SEC has failed to take prompt action for compliance of this Court’s directions,” the bench remarked, making clear that the extension was a “one-time concession” and no further delays would be tolerated.

The Court ordered the delimitation process to be completed by October 31, 2025, and ruled that this exercise could not be used as a pretext for any postponement. The message was unambiguous: January 31, 2026, is the non-negotiable deadline for the return of democratic governance to Maharashtra’s local bodies.

Ward Delimitation: The Race Against Time

As of October 2025, the delimitation process is advancing rapidly across the state in a race to meet

the court’s October 31 cutoff. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has finalized its ward boundaries, retaining 227 electoral wards based on the 2017 structure. The SEC approved BMC’s final plan after reviewing hundreds of public submissions.

Similarly, the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation published its final delimitation map, retaining 128 corporators across 32 wards. Other civic bodies are also nearing completion; though new legal challenges continue to arise. On October 16, 2025, the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court issued notices to the state government and SEC over a petition challenging the delimitation in Nagpur Municipal Corporation, alleging arbitrary boundary formation.

Election Timeline and Logistical Challenge

State Election Commissioner Dinesh Waghmare announced in August 2025 that local body elections would be conducted in phases after Diwali, using the July 1, 2025 voter list. The phased approach aims to manage manpower constraints, with polls to Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samitis, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations held sequentially from October 2025 to January 2026.

The logistical scale is immense. The SEC currently has around 60,000 EVMs, has ordered 50,000 new machines from the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, and is renting 25,000 more from Madhya Pradesh, bringing the total to approximately 135,000–150,000 machines required for the exercise. The SEC has decided against using VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) systems, citing the four-member ward structure’s complexity and time limitations — a decision that opposition parties have criticised.

Mumbai: The Longest Wait in BMC History

Mumbai remains the

most powerful symbol of this democratic crisis. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, which governs India’s financial capital and manages a budget larger than some states, has not held elections since February 21, 2017. The corporators’ term ended on March 7, 2022, and the city has since been under administrator rule for over three and a half years — the longest such period in BMC’s 141-year history.

If the Supreme Court’s schedule holds, BMC elections are expected by mid-January 2026, finally ending this unprecedented hiatus in the city’s political life.

The Cost of Democratic Suspension

The consequences of prolonged administrator rule have been severe. Without elected representatives, accountability has weakened, and citizen engagement has declined. Former corporators report that civic officials routinely ignore their representations, forcing them to file Right to Information (RTI) requests that often receive delayed or incomplete replies.

“Without corporators, the administration took up infrastructure projects in a haphazard way, leading to loss of public trust,” said Rais Shaikh, former corporator and current MLA, highlighting the governance gaps.

The concentration of power poses another major concern. The state government now directly or indirectly controls not only its own expenditure but also the budgets of all 29 municipal corporations through appointed administrators. This unprecedented centralization of financial authority, without elected oversight, has raised fears that local priorities may be overshadowed by political interests.

The Path Forward and Political Stakes

The road to restoration now hinges entirely on the Supreme Court’s strict timeline. The SEC must

complete delimitation by October 31, 2025, resolve all EVM logistics, and conduct elections by January 31, 2026 — a deadline the Court has declared final.

When these elections finally occur, their political impact will be immense. The 2026 BMC polls will mark the first major electoral face-off between the two Shiv Sena factions following the 2022 split. For Uddhav Thackeray’s Shiv Sena (UBT), retaining Mumbai — the city where the party was born — is critical after recent setbacks in state and national elections. For the BJP, which won 82 seats against the undivided Shiv Sena’s 84 in 2017, capturing India’s wealthiest civic body would signal a decisive political triumph.

Across the state, these polls will also advance gender representation, with more than half of the 34 Zilla Parishads to be headed by women under rotational reservation mandates.

Conclusion: A Deadline Unlike Any Other

Until January 31, 2026, Maharashtra’s local governance remains in suspended animation. The vibrant grassroots democracy envisioned by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments has, for now, been replaced by technocratic administration — leaving citizens waiting for the day their votes can once again shape the future of their cities, towns, and villages.

The Supreme Court has drawn a constitutional line in the sand. Whether Maharashtra’s political and electoral machinery can restore democratic governance after years of delay now depends on the next three months of intense preparation.

For millions of residents — from the bustling streets of Mumbai and Pune to the rural heartlands of Marathwada and Vidarbha — the wait has already been too long.

The clock on grassroots democracy is not just ticking; it has nearly run out.

Allahabad HC holds special Sunday sitting, stays lawyer's arrest

Prayagraj, Oct 19 (UNI) : A special bench of the Allahabad High Court held a rare Sunday sitting to stay the arrest of lawyer Awadhesh Mishra.

The special bench was constituted on the orders of Chief Justice Arun Bhasin. The hearing took place before a division bench comprising Justice J J Munir and Justice Sanjiv Kumar.

The bench heard the petition filed by Farrukhabad lawyer Awadhesh Mishra. It stayed his arrest until the next date of hearing and directed the Registrar of Compliance.

The case hearing is scheduled for October 29. The court directed that a copy of the order be sent to the Superintendent of Police (SP) Farrukhabad and Station House Officer (SHO) Kotwali Fatehgarh through the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Farrukhabad.

An FIR was filed against Mishra in Kotwali Fatehgarh on October 11.

It was argued that SP Farrukhabad Aarti Singh filed the FIR maliciously.

The FIR was filed following a court directive issued on October 9 in a habeas corpus petition filed by Preeti Yadav. The FIR accuses Mishra of demanding Rs 5 lakh from a petitioner in a separate case filed in 2020.

Senior Advocates Amarendra Nath Singh and Prashant Singh Rinku argued on behalf of the petitioner.

devotion but also provide livelihood opportunities, which the “Ram-haters” find hard to accept.

Expressing pride, the Chief Minister said he was honoured to light the first lamp at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. He called the magnificent Ram Lalla Temple a tribute to India’s unshakable faith and unity. Aiming at the opposition, he added, “Those who never believed in Ram, who ordered firing on devotees and desecrated Ayodhya, cannot rejoice in this moment. They distanced themselves from Diwali while in power, spent crores on Saifai festivities and cemetery walls, and celebrated birthdays in Buckingham Palace style, pushing society into a mindset of slavery. Today, they are once again trying to

divide people through caste and hatred. How can such Ram-haters appreciate the festival of light?” CM Yogi emphasised that Uttar Pradesh is moving from darkness to light, supported by its people. “The Deepotsav of Ayodhya is now recognised across the world. Our government’s journey of development will continue, without pause, without compromise,” he said. “When India stands united, no one can insult our faith.” The Chief Minister concluded his address by congratulating all citizens, saints, and officials whose tireless efforts made the event a success, and extended his warm greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of Deepotsav and Diwali.

CM Yogi inaugurates Deepotsav 2025, says Ayodhya cleansed of ‘devotees’ blood’

Ayodhya, Oct 19 (UNI) : The sacred city of Lord Shri Ram, Ayodhya, radiated devotion and divine light this evening as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Deepotsav 2025. The Chief Minister opened the festival by performing the aarti of Maa Saryu on the banks of the Saryu River.

Addressing devotees amid millions of glowing lamps, the Chief Minister made a sharp comment on the city’s past: “The city once drenched in the blood of Ram devotees now glows in a sea of lamps. This is the new India, confident in its faith, identity, and progress.” After offering ritual prayers and performing aarti at Saryu Ghat, CM Yogi, accompanied by ministers,

MLAs, and public representatives, proceeded to Ram Katha Park, where he addressed the gathering. He stated that the ninth edition of Deepotsav has become the new identity of Uttar Pradesh. Inviting devotees to switch on their phone lights and chant “Jai Shri Ram”, the entire park was illuminated. CM Yogi said the double-engine government has restored Ayodhya’s dignity. “Those who once mocked faith and stained Ayodhya’s streets with the blood of Ram devotees and kar sevaks are now troubled by the radiance of over 26 lakh lamps,” he remarked. He noted that these lamps, crafted by local Prajapati and potter communities, not only symbolise

Netanyahu says to run for PM again in Israel's 2026 elections

Jerusalem, Oct 19 (UNI) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday announced that he will run for office again in the 2026 parliamentary elections.

He made the announcement during an interview with Israel's Channel 14, where he was asked if he intends to seek another term. "Yes," he replied.

When asked whether he expects to win, Netanyahu said, "Yes."In the last Israeli elections in 2022, Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party won 32 seats and he was recommended by 64 members of the 120-seat Israeli parliament, or Knesset, to be qualified to form a government. Netanyahu was sworn in as the country's prime minister in December of that year, and has been leading an extreme-right coalition ever since. Netanyahu will turn 76 next week. He served as Israel's prime minister from 1996 to 1999 and again from 2009 to 2021, before being ousted in June 2021 by a centrist coalition formed by Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett.

Backed by heavy aerial bombardments, Russian forces edge forward in Ukraine

Kyiv, Oct 19 (UNI) : Russian forces are still edging forward along several parts of the long front line in Ukraine – despite yet another call from US President Donald Trump for a combat freeze along existing lines.

Both sides “should stop where they are,” Trump said on social media Friday, after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington DC.

But the Russians seem intent on locking in gains before the onset of winter. On Friday, they used a record 268 guided aerial bombs, according to the Ukrainian military, compared to an average of 170 to 180 per day in recent weeks. These bombs, which carry a payload of up to 1,500 kilograms (3,307 pounds), largely target Ukrainian forces and infrastructure close to the front lines, reports CNN.

The Russians have also continued nightly barrages of drones and missiles against targets across Ukraine, especially against energy infrastructure. In September, an average of more than 180 drones were launched every night, more than twice the number at the beginning of the year.

In recent days, the Ukrainians have acknowledged that about 20% are not being intercepted.

To some analysts, the Kremlin has no incentive to compromise.“Moscow has developed fresh ways of using drones to find and kill Ukrainian soldiers and to destroy Ukrainian assets, turning what was once an area of weakness into an area of strength,” writes long-time Russia analyst Dara Massicot in Foreign Affairs.“It has built better missiles and created more rugged and capable armoured systems. It is giving junior commanders more freedom to plan,” Massicot added.One town where Ukrainians are under growing pressure is Kupiansk, in the northern region of Kharkiv. Russian troops have advanced to the north and east of the town, which has been under siege for more than a year.

A well-known Russian blogger, War Gonzo, said Saturday on Telegram that there was also fighting in the center of Kupiansk.

About 80 Russian troops had infiltrated the town, the Ukrainian military acknowledged on Thursday, and its defenders were “doing everything possible to clear Kupiansk of Russian invaders and prevent the accumulation of enemy infantry in the city.”

One Ukrainian military blogger – Bohdan Miroshnikov – said this week that the Russian tactic “may lead to control (if reinforcements can arrive and consolidate their positions).” He added that while the situation was very complicated, “full occupation of the city is still a long way off.”

Also in Kharkiv region, closer to the international border, the Russians have claimed advances near the town of Vovchansk, including the capture of a nearby village.

In Donetsk, heavy fighting continues around Pokrovsk, with a Russian military blogger claiming Saturday that Russian troops are advancing to the northwestern outskirts of the city. For its part, the Ukrainian military has claimed to have recovered some 70 square miles of territory in the Pokrovsk area over the past two months, in a series of counterattacks.

Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander-in-chief of Ukrainian forces, insisted Friday that the Russians did not have “the strategic initiative. At the cost of enormous losses, the adversary has achieved only minor advances in certain sections of the front.”

“Ukrainian warriors have ceased the enemy’s spring-summer offensive campaign,” Syrskyi added.

Russia has gained about 120 square miles of territory in the past four weeks, about half of what it seized in the previous four weeks, according to the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University.

And Russian advances come at great cost. As many as 250,000 Russian soldiers have died in Ukraine, with over 950,000 total Russian casualties, according to an estimate in June by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US-based think tank.

Nearly 14,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in the Pokrovsk area alone since late August, according to Ukraine’s military command. CNN cannot verify battlefield figures.

In the face of these losses, the Russian defense ministry appears to be changing the way it recruits additional personnel. In recent weeks, Russian regions have begun paring back the generous sign-on bonuses used to attract recruits.

Hamas says Rafah closure to delay handover of Israeli hostage remains

Gaza/Jerusalem, Oct 19 (UNI) : Hamas on Saturday said that Israel's continued closure of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip will "delay recovery operations and the handover of bodies of Israeli hostages."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to keep the crossing closed until further notice "constitutes a blatant breach of the ceasefire agreement and a repudiation of the commitments he made before mediators and guarantor parties," Hamas said in a press statement.

According to a statement, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that it had received the body of the 10th deceased Israeli hostage held in Gaza from Hamas, apart from all

the remaining 20 living hostages. Last evening, the IDF reported that it received the bodies of two more deceased Israeli hostages.

A ceasefire, mediated by Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States, went into effect on Oct. 10. Its first phase includes the exchange of prisoners and detainees, the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Earlier on Saturday, the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo said the Rafah border crossing will reopen on Monday to allow Palestinians residing in Egypt who wish to return to Gaza to pass. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources told Xinhua that the crossing will reopen in both directions, and that in the

first phase of the ceasefire, Israel should allow around 50 wounded Palestinians and their companions to leave through the crossing d a i l y . H o w e v e r , Netanyahu's office said later in a statement that the crossing will not open until further notice, and that its opening will be under consideration in accordance with how Hamas implements its part in the return of the deceased hostages and the implementation of the agreed framework.Israel's military campaign has killed 68,116 Palestinians and injured 170,200 others since Oct. 7, 2023, according to Gaza's health authorities. Despite the ceasefire, 27 Gazans have been killed and 143 injured since Oct. 11, the authorities said in an update on Saturday.

Merz warns Europe after Zelensky's disappointing WH meeting

Berlin, Oct 19 (UNI) : German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has issued a stark warning to Europe, urging it to “do much more” to end the war in Ukraine, following what he described as a disappointing White House meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump.Merz said Zelensky's meeting with Trump “did not go as hoped.”Speaking at a public event in Meschede, Merz warned,“Ukraine’s potential surrender would only invite new Russian attacks, possibly targeting Moldova or the Baltic states next.” He further accused the Kremlin of waging cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns across Europe. “President Vladimir Putin still dreams of reviving Soviet-era influence,” he said.

His remarks came after a late-night phone call with Zelensky, following the Ukrainian leader's tense meeting with Trump in Washington.

Zelensky’s visit to the White House did not yield any concrete results. Speaking to reporters afterward, the Ukrainian president confirmed that long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles, which Kyiv had urgently requested, were not forthcoming. “The visit was not what Zelenskyy would have wanted. I think I can say that here,” Merz told German broadcaster n-tv on Saturday. President

Trump told Zelensky directly that the US would not currently provide Tomahawk missiles, citing concerns about escalation.

“Hopefully they won’t need it. Hopefully we’ll be able to get the war over without thinking about Tomahawks,” Trump said, calling the weapons “a big deal” and stressing that the US also needs them for its own defense. He cautioned that deploying Tomahawks in Ukraine could significantly escalate the conflict but added that discussions would continue.Trump confirmed that he had recently spoken by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and that the two leaders had agreed to meet in Budapest soon. He described the conversation as “very productive” and claimed Putin “wants to make a deal.”

When asked whether Zelensky would be involved in future talks, Trump acknowledged there was “bad blood” between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents. “We want to make it comfortable for everybody. We’ll be involved in threes, but it may be separated. The three leaders have to get together,” Trump said.

This was Trump's first conversation with Putin since August, when a proposed summit in Alaska failed to produce a breakthrough.

Speaking after the White House meeting, Zelensky admitted Ukraine had not secured the

missiles but remained pragmatic. “We have to stop where we are—he (Trump) is right. The next step is to talk,I am realistic,” Zelensky said, when asked if he was hopeful about receiving the Tomahawks in the future. Zelensky also hinted at a possible weapons trade, offering Ukrainian drones in exchange for US missiles,an idea that reportedly drew smiles from Trump. He later posted on X, saying he had briefed European leaders on the meeting and reiterated his priorities: “To protect as many lives as possible, guarantee security for Ukraine, and strengthen all of us in Europe.”

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed a follow-up call with Zelensky and other European leaders, describing it as “productive.” He reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to continue providing both humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, President Trump appears unwilling to further strain Washington-Moscow ties, a factor Trump referenced during their call. As Trump, during his meeting with Zelensky said, "he (Putin) wants to make a deal". The situation leaves Ukraine in a difficult position, forced to await the outcome of the Trump-Putin meeting in Budapest before deciding on its next move. If the talks fail, Kyiv is expected to renew pressure on Trump to provide more weapons.

Zelensky fails to secure Tomahawk missiles at talks with Trump

Washington, Oct 19 (UNI): President Volodymyr Zelensky appears to have come away empty-handed from a White House meeting after US President Donald Trump indicated he was not ready to supply sought-after Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Zelensky said after the cordial bilateral talks that he and Trump had talked about long-range missiles, but decided not to make statements on the issue "because the United States does not want an

escalation".

Following the meeting, Trump took to social media to call for Kyiv and Moscow to "stop where they are" and end the war.

The Trump-Zelensky meeting came a day after Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone and agreed to meet him in Hungary soon, reports BBC.

Zelensky believes using Tomahawks to strike at Russian oil and energy facilities would severely weaken Putin's war

economy.

While Trump did not rule it out, his tone at the White House on Friday was non-committal.

"Hopefully they won't need it, hopefully we'll be able to get the war over without thinking about Tomahawks," the US president said, adding: "I think we're fairly close to that."

He described the weapons as "a big deal" and said that the US needed them for its own defence.

He also said that



Soldiers patrol a snow-covered mountain at a forward post along the Line of Control (LoC), ahead of Diwali festival, in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

Venezuela launches defence drills amid U.S. military threat

Caracas, Oct 19 (UNI) : Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Saturday announced the launch of military drills codenamed the "Great Corridor of the Venezuelan Plain" under the "Independence 200" operation to strengthen national defence amid perceived US military threats.

The exercises, which started early Saturday, cover the central states of Barinas, Portuguesa, Cojedes and Guarico, as

part of a nationwide mobilization aimed at enhancing the country's preparedness against potential external attacks.

"All the integral defence zones across the country are now active and operational," Maduro said in a message posted on social media. "We have completed all the zones with 27 fundamental defence tasks."

The president highlighted coordination among civilian, police and military sectors, describing

it as a “perfect and organized fusion” to safeguard national sovereignty and internal stability."We want to keep winning along the path of peace," Maduro said, referring to what he called the US military buildup in the Caribbean near Venezuelan waters.

He added that the drills are designed to achieve "the optimal level of readiness" among national defence forces through broad civic participation and territorial coordination.

Egypt to lead International troop contingent to maintain security in Gaza

Moscow, Oct 19 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Egypt is expected to lead the international troop contingent to ensure security in the Gaza Strip, with Azerbaijan, Indonesia, and Turkey also being considered as key troop contributors, The Guardian newspaper reported, citing sources.

The United States and European countries will submit a UN Security Council resolution granting the international stabilization force broad powers to oversee security in the Gaza Strip, the report said on Saturday.

Washington insists that the contingent has a UN mandate without being a fully fledged UN peacekeeping force, the report added.

On Monday, US President Donald Trump, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi, Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a declaration on the Gaza ceasefire. Hamas released all the 20 surviving hostages, who had been held in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023.

In exchange, Israel released 1,718 Palestinian

detainees from Gaza and 250 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. After that, Hamas militants penetrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and civilians, and took more than 200 hostages. According to the authorities, about 1,200 people were killed on the Israeli side. Israel responded by launching an incursion into the Gaza Strip and placing the Palestinian enclave under a complete blockade.

Egyptian, Malaysian leaders discuss Gaza aid, reconstruction amid ceasefire

Cairo, Oct 19 (UNI) : Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim held a telephonic conversation on Saturday to discuss Gaza's reconstruction, as well as developments of the Palestinian issue amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas ceasefire.

According to the statement from the Egyptian presidency, Sisi reviewed the outcomes of the recent Sharm el-Sheikh summit and Egypt's ongoing coordination with mediators to implement the first phase of the ceasefire plan to end the war in Gaza.

The Egyptian president emphasized the alignment of views between Egypt and Malaysia on the need to build on recent

developments to launch "a serious political track that leads to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," in accordance with relevant international references.

Sisi reaffirmed Egypt's intention to host an international conference for Gaza's early recovery and reconstruction, expressing his hope for continued coordination and cooperation with Malaysia in this regard, the statement said.

For his part, Anwar expressed Malaysia's readiness to take part in the reconstruction efforts and provide humanitarian aid to Gaza "in full coordination with Egypt," it added.

Trump in Budapest.

"I don't know," he said, adding that the prospect of Ukraine having Tomahawks had caused Russia to be "afraid because it is a strong weapon".

Asked if he was leaving Washington more optimistic that Ukraine would get the Tomahawks, he said: "I am realistic."

The Ukrainian leader also appeared to suggest he would be amenable to Trump's suggestion of stopping the war along the current front line.

smiles and nodding from Trump.

Zelensky also complimented Trump on his role in securing the first phase of a peace deal in the Middle East, suggesting the US leader could build on that momentum to help end Russia's war in Ukraine.

After the meeting, Zelensky was asked by a reporter outside the White House if he thought Putin wanted a deal or was just buying time with the planned meeting with

Relationships



Find out...

Throwing tantrum

Some children are seen to throw tantrum especially when they want some thing and the parents refuses to give in to it. But sometimes this tantrum can turn out to be a nigh mare for you. Parents should walk away from the situation. Don't scream at them , just stop talking for some time and never give in to their unreasonable demands.

Picking up fights

Aggression in kids is not a good sign. Kids generally pick up fights on the play grounds or in school when parents are not around. aggressive kids are those who are always craving for attention. It is important for parents to figure out the cause for aggression when they get a complain from school or some other parent. Don't start hitting your child . Sit with your child and analyze the situation. If your child is watching violence in movies or cartoons; it is time to intervene. Engage him in some use activity which help your kids in venting out his/her emotions.

Showing disrespect to elders

Behaving badly with grand- parents and house helps is not a good sign. Kids generally pick up this habits from those around them especially parents and elder siblings. Set a good examples and be polite to every one round them. He will pick up the good habits of greeting and thanking from parents.

Back answering

Kids becomes argumentative as they grow old and once they are in their teens, they start developing a mind of their own. Back answering gradually become a habit . Parents should take up the matter early in their kid's life since this can become such a habit which might make them as rude and disobedient kids.



Bad habits in Kids which parents should Correct

5 things to ask yourself Before getting a pet

Pets are companions you can truly count on. From cheering you up to making you feel deeply loved, they will be your long-term companions. Hence, it is extremely important to be fully prepared before you get yourself a pet.



Namrata Jham, who recently adopted a 9-month-old cocker Spaniel says, "You need to be ready to give your pet all the love because it is like your own child. In return, you will receive unconditional love from them. To build that bond, you must ask yourself if you're really ready for this responsibility." According to Jham, it is also important to divide responsibilities amongst family members before getting a pet. "You need to segregate work. Take a call on who will train the dog and who will ensure that he gets his meals on time. If you decide all this beforehand, you will be more organised before you get your pet home." Here are a few questions you need to ask yourself before getting a furry friend



the time to walk your dog three times a day because having a pet means giving it ample amount of attention. You may think that making time will be easy but you need to consider the fact that it's a huge commitment and you don't want to let your pet down.

Can I afford a pet?

The expenses of owning a pet goes beyond basics like food, water and shelter. Regular veterinary care is of utmost importance to a pet. You have to ensure that your pet gets high quality food and exercises regularly. You would also have to invest in toys and treats so your pet feels energised and happy.

How do I choose the right dog?

Take as much time as you want while choosing your pet. You are making a long-term commitment and hence, cannot make decisions in haste. Try and visit adoption events held in your city. If you wish to get one from a breeder, have in-depth conversations with them and see which one seems perfect for you.

Should I get a puppy or an adult dog?

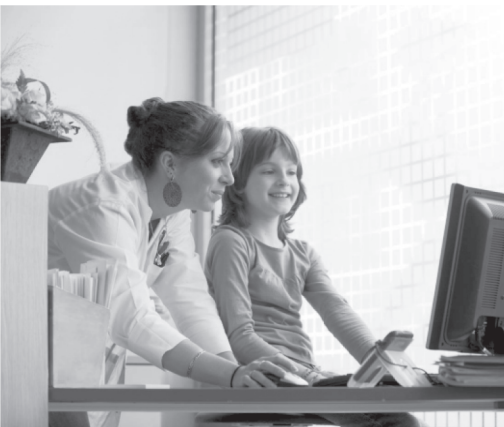
Many would like to bring home a puppy because they want to mould him their way. You need to prepare yourself well in advance before getting a pet. Adult dogs might be better trained and are more developed. But they might come with behavioral issues that you must be ready to deal with.

Is my family ready?

It is imperative to know if your family will be comfortable with the idea of keeping a pet. If they're forced into it just because you want one, they will treat your pet differently. You need to make sure that your decision does not harm anyone. Moreover, you also have to ensure that no one in your family has a pet allergy.

Your kids can teach you negotiation. Here's how

Parents must look at how their kids negotiate and resolve fights so that they do the same to cement the relationship even stronger, says new study.



learn important lessons such as how to settle, negotiate and compromise. They begin to see conflict as a problem they can solve," said lead study author Niyantri Ravindran from University of Illinois.

"This is true even though virtually all siblings have some conflict," said co-author Laurie Kramer, professor of applied family studies.

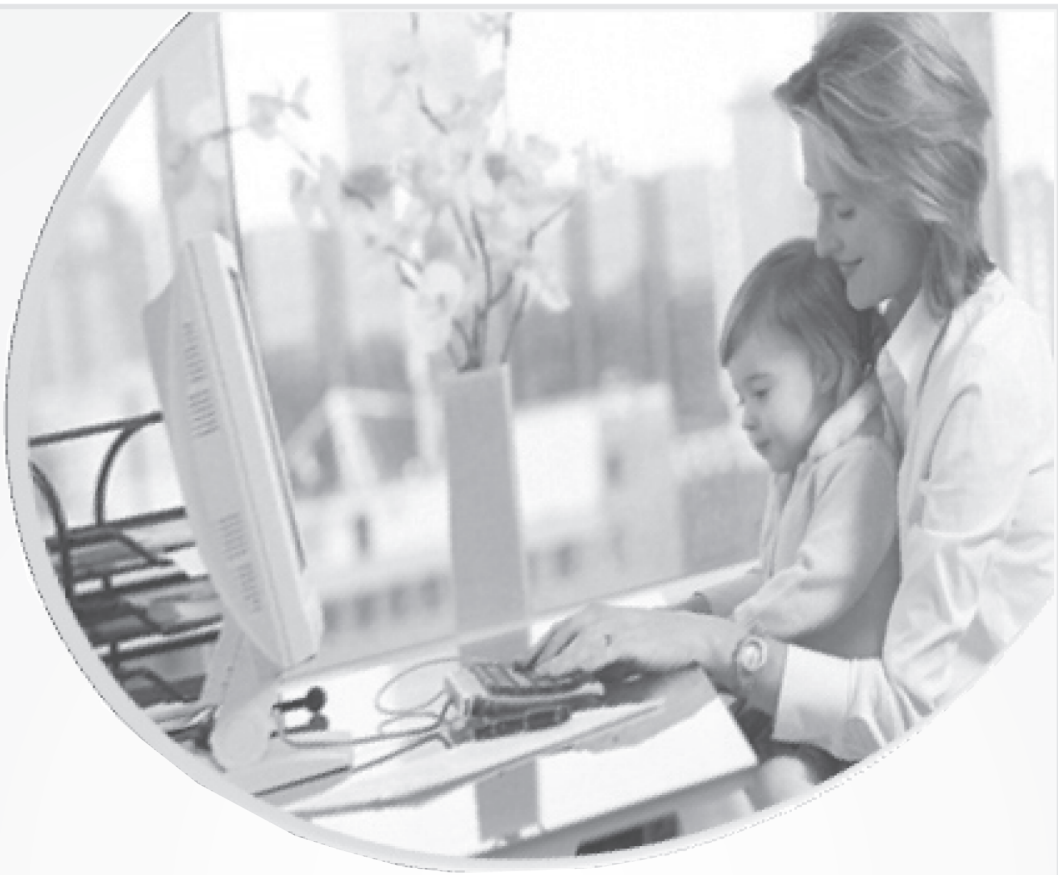
The study compared parents of siblings with a control group composed of parents of non-participants. Parents reported that the intense negative emotions they experience when their children fight were reduced as their children learned to get along better.

"Fathers tend to get more involved with their kids when they are playing whereas mothers tend to coach their children more," Kramer said.

Mothers appear to have incorporated the skills their children were taught into the way they manage their own emotions. In contrast, fathers who noticed more warmth between their children following the program were better able to manage their negative emotions when their children did squabble.



According to a study led by an Indian-origin researcher, several parents, especially mothers, use how their kids are getting along as a barometer for how well they are doing as a parent. "When children fight with their siblings, they



A new study has revealed that leaving kids to go to work may have significant benefits on them later in life.

Working mums raise successful Daughters

It was found that daughters are more likely to have better careers, higher pay and more equal relationships if their mothers worked than those of stay-at-home mothers, the BBC reported. However, it had little impact on a son's employment prospects; but working mothers do tend to have kinder and caring sons. Researchers from Harvard Business School analysed data from the Family and Changing Gender Roles section of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). The survey covered 24 countries, including North and

South America, Australia, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The study concluded that women across the world have increasingly entered the paid workforce, but the parallel increase in men's contributions to unpaid work within households lags behind. Women's entrenched responsibilities for household work constrain their choices in the public sphere. Men also bear costs from the unequal distribution of household responsibilities; gendered practices and norms in public and private spheres act as barriers to men who want to take on bigger roles at home.

Satwik-Chirag exit semis after 3-game battle with Japan

New Delhi/Odense Oct 19 (UNI) : India’s top men’s doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, suffered a narrow semi-final defeat at the Denmark Open 2025, losing 23-21, 18-21,21-16 to Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan at the Jyske Bank Arena in 68 minutes clash.

According to the Olympics.com website, this was the Indian duo’s sixth semi-final defeat on the BWF World Tour this season. SatChi had made top four exits at the China, Singapore, India and Malaysia Opens as well as the BWF World Championships earlier.

Despite this, Satwik-Chirag had reached back to back finals at the Hong Kong Open and the China

Masters last month.

Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi, the 2021 men’s doubles world champions and 2019 silver medallists, started off well and raced to an 11-6 lead in the opening game.

However, Satwik and Chirag, who are currently sixth in the badminton rankings, fought back to level the score at 20-all but couldn’t see the fightback through as the world No. 10 Japanese duo held their nerve to take the lead, the website noted.

Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi, who beat 2025 World Championships silver medallists Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of the People’s Republic of China in the quarter-finals, put on a sterner front after the

restart but couldn’t stop the Indians from drawing level.A sequence of four successive points saw the Indians lead by a solitary point at the break, but it was the Japanese duo who seized the initiative after the restart and ensured their second win over the Indian duo in six meetings.

The Japanese team’s only head-to-head victory over the Indians before Saturday came at the 2019 Hong Kong Open. This was the sixth meeting between the two pairs but the first since the 2023 Korea Open.

The defeat also ended India’s campaign at the tournament. Earlier Lakshya Sen, a Paris 2024 Olympics semi finalist, exited in the quarter finals after losing to France’s Alex Lanier.

Bharat Army creates history

Perth, Oct 19 (UNI) : Bharat Army marks a historic milestone by having a strong presence at both India Women’s ICC ODI World Cup match in India and the Men’s ODI match in Australia on the same day.

This unprecedented moment underscores Bharat Army’s growing global footprint and its unwavering commitment towards supporting Team India – both Women and Men, also showcasing the inclusivity amongst the members across the globe. Ticket allocations for both matches have already sold out.Rakesh Patel, Founder of Bharat Army said, “This is a proud moment for us as a fan community.

Deepti Sharma optimisticas India Prepare for must-win clash against England

New Delhi/Indore Oct 19 (UNI) : India all-rounder Deepti Sharma remains optimistic about her team’s chances at the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025, saying morale within the squad is high despite back-to-back defeats. The hosts now prepare to face England in a crucial group-stage clash on Sunday.According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the tournament hosts made a superb start to the Women's World Cup by collecting back-to-back victories over Sri Lanka and Pakistan, but defeats against South Africa and Australia have brought India back to the pack as the race for semi-final spots intensifies."I think even

though we’ve lost two matches, our morale is still very good," Deepti noted as ICC quoted.

"Our first two matches went quite well, so we always go in with a positive mindset. As a team, we focus more on what we’ve done well. And as you mentioned about bowling — in every match, different players take on different roles.

Bowlers are stepping up, whether it’s in the Powerplay or slog overs. Everyone is contributing," she added.

India’s fixture against England comes after a seven day break, a period Deepti believes helped the team refocus and fine tune strategies specific to upcoming opponents.

"The best part was getting this break," Deepti said.“All our practice sessions were very specific — we practiced against particular bowlers, both left-arm and off-spinners. We worked as much as possible, keeping in mind the conditions and the opponents. As a team and as a bowling unit, we focused on the areas we needed to improve,” she highlighted.

"Even in our last away series against England, we had a lot of positives and takeaways — and we won there too. It’s all about how you perform as a team in each match, and I believe we’re just one good game away from bouncing back stronger."A victory for England against India,

would secure their spot in the semi finals and head coach Charlotte Edwards is looking forward to the match.

"We've been lucky that we've played a lot against India over the last 12 months and obviously in the English summer so we've got lots of experience playing against India," she said. “But this is I guess a one-off game now, isn't it in India in a World Cup. A massive game tomorrow which we're all looking forward to and we'll be preparing like any other game.”"We know the threats of India but equally there's some, we've got some wonderful players within our group so I'm sure it's set up for a fantastic game here tomorrow," she noted.

U Mumba beat Haryana Steelers in tie-breaker to qualify for top eight

New Delhi, Oct 19 (IANS) : U Mumba secured a thrilling 7–4 win in the tie-breaker against the Haryana Steelers, earning a crucial victory that helped them qualify for the top eight in PKL Season 12 at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in Delhi on Sunday. Sandeep’s 9 points was the highlight for the winning team.

The Steelers made a strong start to the match, earning the first point through a successful raid by Vinay. Soon after, a brilliant tackle from Jaideep added another point, giving the Steelers an early 2-1 lead. Shivam Patare then produced a superb two-point raid, helping the team extend their advantage. The Steelers’ defence also looked sharp, putting constant pressure on the U Mumba raiders.

Maintaining their momentum, the Steelers inflicted an early ALL OUT within the first five minutes of the match, taking a commanding 10-3 lead. However, U Mumba fought back through a Super Raid from Sandeep, which helped them reduce the gap to 10-7. Despite that effort, the Steelers continued to dominate both in attack



and defence, maintaining control of the game. By the time the Strategic Time Out was taken in the first half, Haryana Steelers were comfortably ahead at 13-8.

After the game resumed, U Mumba started strongly by earning the first point through a solid tackle from Vijay Kumar. However, the Haryana Steelers quickly responded as Jaideep pulled off another successful tackle to regain momentum for his team.

Both sides traded points over the next few minutes, showing great intensity on the mat. The Steelers then

regained control with a brilliant Super Tackle, adding two more points to take their lead to 18-12.

But U Mumba fought back strongly. Ajit Chouhan led the charge with a successful raid that helped his team inflict an ALL OUT, earning five points and cutting the deficit to 19-17. The momentum shifted firmly towards U Mumba, who kept up the pressure and soon levelled the score at 19-19.

By the time the first half came to an end, both teams were evenly matched, with the scoreboard reading 20-20. When the second half

began, U Mumba struck first with a successful raid from Sandeep, taking an early lead. U Mumba briefly held a two-point advantage before Haryana Steelers hit back with a Super Tackle, levelling the scores at 22-22 as Jaideep completed his High 5.

A few minutes later, the Steelers produced another Super Tackle to move ahead 24-23, but U Mumba quickly fought back to level and then took the lead again, thanks to a brilliant tackle by Rinku. The Steelers responded immediately with a further Super Tackle to regain a one-point lead.

By the time the Strategic Time Out was called, Haryana Steelers were leading 28-25, holding a three-point cushion after a tense and closely fought spell.

When play resumed, Parvesh Bhainswal’s tackle gave U Mumba the first point, cutting the gap to 26-28. The Haryana Steelers hit back immediately as Rahul produced a brilliant tackle to restore momentum. A powerful Super Raid from Sandeep then put U Mumba ahead 31-30, and they followed it by inflicting an ALL OUT to extend the lead to 34-31.

With under a minute left, the Steelers fought back through Sahil Narwal, whose tackle brought the scores level. But U Mumba struck again - a crucial Super Tackle earned them two points and a late lead.

The Steelers refused to give up. Mayank Saini hit a successful raid for a point, and Sahil Narwal produced another brilliant tackle to level the score at 37-37, forcing the match into a tie-breaker.

The Haryana Steelers started the tie-breaker strongly, earning the first point in their opening raid to take an early lead.

Smriti's dismissal was turning point: Harmanpreet after loss

Indore, Oct 19 (UNI) : Smriti Mandhana's wicket proved to be the turning point in the match as India Women narrowly lost to England Women in a tense encounter at the Holkar Cricket Stadium here today, Captain Harmanpreet Kaur said.

"I think Smriti's wicket was something which was a turning point for us," Harmanpreet Kaur said after the match.Harmanpreet stated that the team had put in a strong performance but the final five or six overs did not go according to plan, making the defeat "heartbreaking." She emphasised that the next game is crucial and India remain determined to "cross the final line" to turn good performances into victories.

The India captain noted that while India still had several batters left after Smriti’s dismissal, England’s disciplined bowling and consistent wicket-taking kept the momentum in their favour. "We had Richa, Amanjot, and Deepti, who have won games for us in the past, but unfortunately today we were not able to make it," she said.

Harmanpreet praised the bowlers for keeping key English batters Nat Sciver-Brunt and Heather Knight under control, adding that tactical decisions, such as bowling first on a fast pitch, were executed well. "Our bowlers did a really good job. When Nat and Heather were batting, they looked really good. If we could get them to less than 300, that would be a plus for us because the pitch is fast and we can chase," she explained.

Heartbreak for India as England qualify for WWC semifinals

Indore, Oct 19 (UNI) : In a roller-coaster of an encounter at the Holkar Cricket Stadium here today, England Women eked out a narrow four-run win over India Women in the 20th match of the ICC Women’s World Cup 2025, and it was a contest that will be dissected over and over for its drama, tactical nuances, and individual brilliance.

With this result, England qualified for the semifinals, while India are now left with a couple of tricky games. Everything isn’t lost yet, but it must be a shattering defeat with the game slipping away right at the end.

England, after winning the toss, chose to bat first. From the word go, it was clear that Amy Jones had made up her mind to dominate. Her 56 off 68, studded with eight boundaries, laid the

foundation. She wasn’t alone; Heather Knight’s 109 and Nat Sciver-Brunt’s 38 provided the support needed to post 288 for 8.

Knight’s innings, though slow in pace, was an exhibition in patience, shot selection, and running between the wickets. She also showed aggression at key moments, using her feet smartly against Indian spinners. Deepti Sharma finished with 4 wickets, and Shree Charani chipped in with 2, keeping India in the hunt.India’s reply was nothing short of spectacular. Smriti Mandhana played a textbook innings of 88, timing the ball to perfection and demonstrating the elegance of late-cut and placement.

Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain, stitched a crucial partnership of 125 with Mandhana, showing all the

power and maturity that makes her such a vital cog in this side. Deepti Sharma once again showcased her sweep shot mastery, racing to 50 off 57 balls, but it was a sweep that eventually led to her dismissal by Sophie Ecclestone.

The match came alive in the last ten overs. Richa Ghosh fell at a crucial juncture, and the final overs saw Amanjot Kaur and Sneha Rana trying to orchestrate a dramatic finish with aggressive intent.

Boundaries came thick and fast – Amanjot’s late cut off Linsey Smith and her pull shots were exemplary, while Sneha Rana’s placement through midwicket displayed courage and composure. Yet, England’s fielding and timely bowling interventions ensured that every run was hard-earned.

Early wickets put India on back foot: Gill

Perth, Oct 19 (UNI) : India captain Shubman Gill acknowledged that losing three wickets in the powerplay put his team on the back foot, forcing them into a catch-up game against Australia in a rain-affected first ODI at Perth Stadium.The early setbacks meant that India had to constantly play under pressure, adjusting their batting strategy to stabilise the innings and make the total competitive.Gill reflected on the team’s performance, saying, "There are a lot of learnings from this game and many positives as well. We were defending 130 and took the game pretty deep. We were very satisfied with that. It’s always a challenge to recover from such a start, but the team showed resilience and fought hard until the very end."He also expressed gratitude to the fans, noting, "We are very fortunate. The fans turned up in huge numbers and hopefully they’ll be able to cheer us on at Adelaide as well. Their support gives the players an extra boost, especially in challenging conditions."

India lost the ODI opener by seven wickets.

Australia’s Mitchell Marsh, who was named Player of the Match, praised both the team and spectators for their support during the unpredictable weather. "The weather played its part today. Big thanks to all the fans that stuck around. I know these days can be really frustrating, but it's nice to get a win. It's always nice to win at home. I love playing for Australia," he said.

On the challenges of the run-chase, Marsh added, "It was swinging around a little bit. We knew that was going to be the case for both teams, so it was a little challenge to get through there. Proud of the way our young guys came out and took the game on and got us over."""Josh Philippe came out and made it look very easy, didn't he? It's fun to get these young guys coming in. They just need to have fun and enjoy it. We don't get to play in front of big crowds all the time, so I told them to really enjoy it," he added.

SL seek first victory in ICC WWC faceoff

Mumbai, Oct 19 (UNI) : Both Sri Lanka Women and Bangladesh Women continue to struggle in the ICC Women’s World Cup 2025, languishing in the lower half of the table with semifinal hopes all but over.

Sri Lanka Women have yet to register a win this tournament, making their upcoming clash against Bangladesh Women at Dr DY Patil Sports Academy a crucial opportunity to regain pride here tomorrow.

Chamari Athapaththu, who has scored 122 runs in four games, and Nilakshi de Silva, with 131 runs, remain the backbone of Sri Lanka’s batting lineup. However, the rest of the middle order has struggled to provide consistent support, placing added pressure on the star performers.

Inoka Ranaweera has been the standout in Sri Lanka’s bowling unit, claiming seven wickets in three matches, but the team as a whole has struggled to find rhythm and consistency.Bangladesh, meanwhile, have shown resilience throughout the tournament. Sobhana Mostary has amassed 161 runs in five games, with Rubya Haider contributing 131 runs, providing stability in the batting order. The Bangladeshi bowling attack, led by Fahima Khatun and supported by Rabeya Khan and Marufa Akter, has been disciplined and competitive, often keeping stronger teams under pressure.

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Ashwini Vaishnaw, inspects Crowd Management at Anand Vihar Railway Station, Interacts Directly with Passengers

(Standard Post Bureau)
Mumbai, Oct 19: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, conducted a surprise inspection of Anand Vihar Railway Station today, to ensure passenger safety and convenience during the festive season.

The Minister inspected the Holding area at the station. He also interacted directly with passengers. During the interaction, he took feedback from passengers regarding the cleanliness of the station premises and the facilities being provided.“

Speaking to the media, Shri Vaishnaw stated that the Railways have made comprehensive arrangements to ensure that passengers face no inconvenience despite the huge rush. Passenger convenience and safety are our top priority.

He stated that strict action is initiated against those who circulate fake videos about Railways on Social media. He also appealed that no fake videos shall be circulated about Railways on Social Media. During the inspection, Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman & CEO Railway Board, and Shri



Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager Northern Railway, along with several other senior railway officials, were present.“The

Minister expressed confidence that these comprehensive arrangements for crowd management and passenger

facilities will ensure smooth and safe travel for millions of passengers during the upcoming major festivals like Diwali and Chhath.

Congress sounds alarm over rising foreign takeovers in Indian Banking sector

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : The Congress party today voiced strong concerns over the growing trend of foreign firms acquiring stakes in Indian banks, labeling it “imprudent” and cautioning against the potential risks to the country’s financial stability.Congress General Secretary and Communications In-charge Jairam Ramesh highlighted the recent acquisition of RBL Bank by Emirates NBD Bank, calling attention to the increasing foreign footprint in India’s banking landscape.

“Foreign firms are gradually being allowed to acquire Indian banks. Such imprudent moves pose substantial risks to our financial sovereignty,” Ramesh said in a post on X. He pointed out that this is part of a broader pattern, citing prior takeovers like Singapore’s DBS Group’s acquisition of Laxmi Vilas Bank, Canada’s Fairfax takeover of Catholic Syrian Bank, and Japan’s Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation’s purchase of a significant stake in Yes Bank.The Emirates NBD-RBL Bank deal, valued at Rs 26,853 crore, represents the largest-ever foreign direct investment in India’s financial services sector, raising eyebrows among policymakers and opposition leaders

alike.Sumitomo Mitsui’s Rs 16,333 crore investment for a 24.9 percent stake in Yes Bank further underscores the growing foreign presence in Indian banking. Ramesh also highlighted the ongoing privatization of IDBI Bank, India’s first full privatization of a public sector bank, expected to conclude within the current financial year, signaling further shifts in the banking sector’s ownership structure.

In his post, Ramesh recalled a December 1969 news report where the then-opposition Jan Sangh criticized Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for not nationalizing foreign banks in 1969, drawing parallels to today’s situation and underscoring the long-standing debate over foreign control in India’s banking system.

These concerns come amidst reports that the Reserve Bank of India is considering easing foreign investment rules to bolster mid-sized lenders, a move that the Congress warns must be approached with caution to protect national interests. As India’s banking sector evolves, the debate over foreign participation remains contentious, balancing the need for capital and growth with safeguarding economic sovereignty and financial stability.

Vice-President, LS Speaker greet nation on Diwali

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : Vice-President of India C P Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have extended warm greetings to the nation on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights.

Radhakrishnan, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and Birla conveyed their heartfelt wishes today, emphasising the significance of the festival and its values. Radhakrishnan said, "Deepawali celebrates the triumph of goodness over evil and knowledge over ignorance.As we celebrate Deepawali, we must all shun negativity and Adharma and embrace positivity and Dharma –not only for our individual good but also for the overall progress of the Nation."

Govt opens 99 percent of offshore area for oil & gas exploration, widens crude import basket: Puri

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri today announced that the government has widened the import basket of crude to over 40 countries, up from 27 earlier. Furthermore, the country has opened up 99 percent of India's offshore area for oil and gas exploration.

The Minister said the move is part of a four-pronged approach that is shaping "a future where energy is secure, affordable & sustainable." These four strong pillars for India's energy journey include: diversification of crude imports, innovation, an increase in domestic exploration of oil & gas, and a clean transition reflected in the Green

Hydrogen Mission and the 10.60 crore families who have benefited under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for subsidised LPG as clean cooking fuel.

Taking to social media platform X, Minister Puri said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Bharat is building a cleaner, stronger and self-sufficient energy future." Puri reiterated that India has diversified its sources for buying oil in the global market, previously pointing out that India's oil purchases from Moscow played an important role in stabilising prices in the global market.

The Minister highlighted that crude oil

prices could have skyrocketed to \$130 per barrel in the absence of the India-Russia oil trade when the Ukraine war began in 2022; prior to the conflict, India used to buy a mere 0.2 percent of its crude import requirement from Moscow.

Earlier this week, Puri also held discussions with Geraldo Alckmin, Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services of Brazil, on strengthening the expanding energy partnership between India and Brazil, noting that the meeting focused on the growing energy cooperation between the two nations under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Railways to Attach 1 Third AC Economy Class Coach to Solapur-Hassan Express

(Standard Post Bureau)
Solapur, Oct 19 : Railways have decided to attach 1 Third AC Economy Class Coach to Solapur-Hassan Exp in view of passengers’ demand as per details given below:

- 1 Third AC Economy Class Coach to Train no 11311/11312 Solapur-Hassan Exp
- From Solapur with effect from 25.10.2025.
- From Hassan with effect from 26.10.2025.

Revised composition for Train no 11311/11312: 1 First AC, 2 AC-II Tier, 4 AC-III Tier, 1 AC-III Tier Economy, 8 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 Second Class Cum Luggage & Brake Van with Compartment for Divyangjan, 1 Luggage/Generator/Brake Van and 1 High Capacity Parcel Van. (23 Coaches)
Passengers are requested to note the changes and avail the facility.

Missing watch of a passenger traced in 44 mts using RailMadad App

Chennai, Oct 19 (UNI) Thanks to prompt action by the Chennai Division staff of Southern Railway, the missing wrist watch of a passenger was traced using the RailMadad App.

A Railway release said today that the Chennai Division of Southern Railway once again proved its dedication to passenger welfare through a swift and efficient response made possible by the RailMadad app.

Dr. J. Mariano Anto Bruno, who travelled from Tiruchchirappalli to Chennai Egmore by Train No. 20628 Nagercoil-Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express on October 17 reported his misplaced watch through the RailMadad app at 0028 hrs.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Commercial Department, the watch was traced and recovered within just 44 minutes. Dr. Bruno was informed of the recovery at 0112 hrs and collected his watch from the Deputy Station Master, Commercial, Chennai Egmore, the following day.

The passenger appreciated the prompt action and shared his gratitude on social media, commending the Chennai Division for its professionalism and efficiency

This incident stands as a shining example of how the RailMadad app empowers passengers to receive quick and effective support, even during odd hours.

The Chennai Division encourages all passengers to make use of the RailMadad platform for any assistance during their journey.

Diwali Milan at Mahavitaran Office



Joint Managing Director Dilip Jagdale and distinguished officials while felicitating sanitation workers

(Standard Post Bureau)
Kalyan, Oct 19 : A Diwali Milan program was organized at Mahavitaran's Konkan Regional Office on the occasion of Diwali. Joint Managing Director Dilip Jagdale was present in the program.“In the program, sweets were

distributed to external source sanitation workers and security guards along with class IV employees by greeting them on the occasion of Diwali. The program was attended by General Manager (Finance and Accounts) Alok Gangurde,

Superintendent Engineer Nilkamal Chaudhary, Kailash.

Dudhabarve, Mohan Kalokhe, Deputy General Manager (Information Technology) Yogesh Khairnar. The program was coordinated by Anjali Shinde, Ashwini Shinde.

Special trains to clear extra rush : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Oct 19 : First information report received at 4:00 a.m. that a boulder was fallen before a Goods train coming from Bacheli to Visakhapatnam between Tyada and Chimidipalli section at KM No. 55 due to which the two axles of loco got derailed. The railway authorities immediately rushed to site and the restoration works carried on war footing under the supervision of DRM Waltair Shri Lalit Bohra. Train services restored in record time by 13.30hrs.

Meanwhile, due to this, the Visakhapatnam-Kirandul passenger 58501/58502 is cancelled from both sides today i.e. on 19.10.2025. And 58502 Kirandul - Visakhapatnam Passenger cancelled on 20.10.2025 for want of rake.

SPECIAL TRAINS
B E T W E E N
VISAKHAPATNAM - PARVATHIPURAM - VISAKHAPATNAM (08501/08502)

The train No. 08501 Visakhapatnam - Parvathipuram Special Express will leave Visakhapatnam at 10.00hrs from 18.10.2025 to 27.10.2025 which will reach Vizianagaram at 10.58hrs and departure at 11.00hrs, Bobbili arrival at 11.53hrs and departure at 11.55hrs and will reach Parvathipuram at 12.20hrs.

In return direction the train No. 08502 Parvathipuram - Visakhapatnam Special Express will leave Parvathipuram at 12.45hrs from 18.10.2025 to 27.10.2025 which will reach Bobbili arrival at 13.10hrs and departure at 13.12hrs,

Vizianagaram arrival at 14.10hrs and departure at 14.12hrs and will reach Visakhapatnam at 16.00hrs.

Stoppages :
Simhachalam, Pendurthi, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Gajapathinagaram, Komatipalli, Donkinavalasa, Bobbili and Sitanagaram between Visakhapatnam and Parvathipuram Stations.

ONE WAY SPECIAL TRAIN FROM VISAKHAPATNAM TO SMV BENGALURU

East Coast Railway will run a one-way special train, Train No. 08545, from Visakhapatnam (VSKP) to SMVT Bengaluru (SMVB) on 21st October 2025 to clear extra rush of passengers during Diwali. This special will provide connectivity with important stoppages along its route and ensure a comfortable journey to the passengers during the busy festive season.

The train No. 08545 will leave Visakhapatnam (VSKP) at 08:20 hrs on 21.10.2025 and will reach SMVT Bengaluru (SMVB) at 06:45 hrs on 22.10.2025.

En route this train will have halts at Duvvada (08:50/08:52), Anakapalle, Elamanchili, Samalkot Jn, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada Jn, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Renigunta, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Kuppam, Bangarapet and Krishnarajapuram between Visakhapatnam- SMVT Bengaluru. This train will comprise of 2nd AC-1, 3rd AC-4, Sleeper Class-9, General Second Class-4, and Second class luggage cum brake van-2 in its composition. Running of Special Train Service

between Visakhapatnam and Cherlapalli for Passenger Convenience

Waltair Division, East Coast Railway, is pleased to announce the operation of special train services between Visakhapatnam and Cherlapalli (Train Nos. 08541/08542 VSKP-CHZ-VSKP) to address passenger demand and accommodate extra rush.

1. Train No. 08541 Visakhapatnam-Cherlapalli Special will leave from Visakhapatnam at 17:30 hrs on 21.10.2025 and reach Cherlapalli at 08:00 hrs the following day.

2. In return direction the train No. 08542 Cherlapalli-Visakhapatnam Special will leave from Cherlapalli at 15:30 hrs on 22.10.2025 and arrive at Visakhapatnam at 07:00 hrs the next day.

Both trains will consist of General Second Class coaches, Sleeper coaches, AC-3 Tier coaches, and Second Class Luggage-cum-Sitting coaches.

Stoppages:

The special trains will halt at Duvvada, Anakapalle, Elamanchili, Annavaram, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Nidadavolu, Tanuku, Bhimavaram Town, Akividu, Kaikalur, Gudivada, Vijayawada, Guntur, Sattenapalle, Piduguralla, Nadikude, Miryalaguda and Nalgonda. These services are being operated exclusively to clear extra rush of passengers and cater to travel needs during the festive and busy season. Passengers are advised to avail this opportunity for convenient travel. Advance reservation is available at all PRS centers and online

Govt extends GSTR-3B filing deadline to October 25 amid Diwali

New Delhi, Oct 19 (UNI) : The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has extended the GSTR-3B filing deadline to October 25, 2025, for both monthly filers (September 2025) and quarterly filers.

Earlier, the last date for filing GSTR-3B for September and the July-September quarter was October 20. The extension was on expected lines, with October 20 being the Diwali festival.

GSTR-3B is a monthly self-declared summary return that taxpayers must file under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in India. Form GSTR-3B is a simplified summary return, and the purpose of the return is for taxpayers to declare their summary GST liabilities for a particular tax

period and discharge these liabilities. A normal taxpayer is required to file Form GSTR-3B returns for every tax period.

This extension by CBIC was announced via Notification No. 17/2025 - Central Tax, dated 18.10.2025. The CBIC confirmed the development through an official post on its 'X' (formerly Twitter) account, stating, “@cbic_india extends the GSTR-3B filing deadline.” This move has been welcomed by businesses and professionals who were anticipating an extension due to the festive schedule. With this extension, taxpayers now have until October 25, 2025, to complete their GSTR-3B submissions, a move that ensures both convenience and compliance during the festive season.