JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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RASHMIKA MANDANNA SHARES WHY 'TUM MERE NA HUYE' FROM THAMMA WAS ONE OF THE MOST... : PAGE-10

Jamshedpur glitters in Durgotsav splendour

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The steel city wore a vibrant, resplendent hue today as devotees and revelers thronged the city's puja pandals to celebrate Maha Saptami, the seventh day of the Durga Puja festival.

From the early hours, the air was filled with the harmonious confluence of devotional chants, the rhythmic beat of dhak, and the melodious sound of conch shells, creating an atmosphere that resonated with devotion and jubilation.

Major puja venues across the city, including Beldih Kalibari, Circuit House, Aambagan Ground, Manimela (Ramdas Bhatta) and Ram Krishna Mission, Bistupur were abuzz with activity.

Each pandal reflected its unique cultural essence, blending traditional artistry with contemporary grandeur. At Beldih Kalibari, the magnificently adorned idol of Goddess Durga stood in regal splendor, drawing devotees who eagerly offered their prayers and sought blessings. The intricate decorations, dazzling lights, and thematic artistry at the pandal added an ethereal charm, transforming the venue into a visual spectacle that enthralled visitors of all ages.

The Circuit House Puja Committee, renowned for its meticulous arrangements and cultural programs, witnessed a continuous flow of devotees.

Enthusiasts marveled at the thematic displays that combined mythology with artistic expression, making it a treat not just for the devout but also for those seeking cultural immersion.

The Aambagan Ground, with its sprawling layout, provided a perfect canvas for elaborate decorations, lighting installations, and open-air cultural events, where families and friends gathered to revel in the festive spirit.

Meanwhile, Manimela (Ramdas Bhatta), with its community-centric approach, offered a warm and welcoming ambience that resonated with traditional values and contemporary enthusiasm alike.

No celebration of Maha Saptami is complete without the sumptuous bhog offered to the Goddess, and Jamshedpur's puja committees ensured that devotees were treated to an array of delicious offerings.

From piping hot khichdi and puris to seasonal sweets and fresh fruits, the Maha Saptami bhog was a gastronomic delight that captivated the palates of devotees.

Many families and individuals lined up patiently to partake in this sacred feast, reflecting the deep-rooted tradition of communal harmony and devotion. People made a beeline at various puja pandals to collect bhog.

Several puja organisers, including the P N K Type Puja Committee in Telco, made arrangements for devotees to enjoy their bhog at the puja pandal while remaining seated in one place.

The city's district administration left no stone unturned in ensuring smooth crowd and traffic management during the festivities.

With strategic roadblocks, dedicated parking zones, and the deployment of traffic police at key intersections, vehicular movement around major pandals was efficiently regulated.

People appreciated the meticulous planning that minimized congestion, allowing both devotees and casual visitors to enjoy the celebrations without undue stress.

Volunteers and local authorities worked in tandem to ensure safety protocols were observed, highlighting a commendable commitment to public convenience amid the bustling revelry.

As the day progressed, the city echoed with the energy of processions, cultural performances, and the laughter of children enjoying the festival. The collective devotion, artistic brilliance, and culinary delights created an enchanting mosaic, reflecting the essence of Durga Puja in Jamshedpur.

Maha Saptami, thus, was not just a ritualistic observance but a celebration of community, culture, and tradition-a true testament to the city's vibrant spirit.

With the city glowing under the lights of beautifully decorated pandals and the air filled with joyous fervor, Jamshedpur once again reaffirmed its status as a cultural hub where tradition meets modernity, and devotion is celebrated with unmatched grandeur. (w/pm)

Kalpana Soren listens to people's woes, offers prayers



Ranchi, Sep 29 : Gandey MLA Kalpana Soren arrived in Gandey on Monday, where she participated in various programs and met with local people.

MLA Kalpana Soren first visited various puja pandals in the Gandey area and sought the blessings of Goddess Durga. On this occasion, she wished happiness, peace, and prosperity for all the residents of the region and the state. She also extended her best wishes for Durga Puja. After visiting the puja pandals, Kalpana Soren arrived at the Giridih Parishad, where she met with local residents. A large number of people met with her and shared their problems. Following this, the MLA immediately addressed the concerns and complaints and issued necessary guidelines to the concerned officials to ensure their resolution.

ACB action: Vinay Singh's car showroom sealed

Ranchi, Sep 29 : In a major action in Hazaribagh, the ACB has temporarily sealed the car showroom of Vinay Singh, owner of Nexgen Automobiles, located in Demotand. He is currently lodged in Hazaribagh jail.

It is noteworthy that the ACB is conducting raids at Vinay Singh's locations for the second day. The ACB team is searching Vinay Singh's showrooms in Lohardaga and Gumla. This raid is also part of the investigation into allegations related to the Jharkhand liquor scam. Jharkhand Tourism Package Earlier, on Sunday, the ACB raided four locations of Nexgen owner Vinay Singh. Four teams raided Third Street in Anantpur, Chutia, the Tata Motors showroom in Dibdih, the office of Nexgen Solution Technology Private Limited, and an apartment on Peace Road in Lalpur. During the raids, the teams seized documents and digital evidence related to the liquor scam.

MLA Dashrath Gagrai accused of using fake identity in polling, J'khand CEO orders probe

Ranchi, Sep 29: Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer K Ravikumar has asked the Seraikela-Kharsawan deputy commissioner to probe into an allegation that JMM MLA Dashrath Gagrai used a fake identity during the elections.

The CEO said that a formal complaint had been lodged by one Lalji Ram Tiu, questioning the identity of Gagrai, the three-term Kharsawan MLA.

The legislator dismissed the charge, claiming that the complainant has the habit of making such allegations against those in power.

"I have forwarded the complaint, which is supported by an affidavit of the complainant, to the Seraikela-Kharsawan Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh to look into it," the CEO said.He also stated that controversies involving MLAs, after the elections are over and the results are declared, will have to be addressed by the state governor concerned, while those involving MPs will have to be dealt with by the President.



The complaint, was initially filed on July 28, questioning the very identity of the sitting MLA.

Lalji Ram Tiu, who claims to be an ex-serviceman, alleged that the "person currently serving as MLA in the name of Dashrath Gagrai is, in fact, Ramkrishna Gagrai, the elder brother of real Dashrath Gagrai".

In a signed affidavit dated September 18, the complainant reaffirmed his claims, citing personal knowledge, documents, and official records, giving legal weight to the inquiry.

When contacted, the MLA dismissed the allegations as baseless.

Dashrath Gagrai said, "I have submitted affidavits and documents, which have undergone scrutiny for three terms in the assembly polls. The charges are baseless. In fact, the complainant, an accused of raping a minor, is now out on bail and has the habit of making such allegations against those in power."

Feels good when PM bats on front foot: SKY on Modi's Op Sindoor post

New Delhi, Sep 29 (IANS) India captain Suryakumar Yadav has reacted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's post, following the team's win over Pakistan in a high-octane Asia Cup final on Sunday. PM Modi hailed India's win over arch-rivals Pakistan, calling it 'Operation Sindoor' on the cricket field. "Operation Sindoor on the games field. Outcome is the same - India wins! Congrats to our cricketers," PM Modi wrote in a post on X, after India beat Pakistan by five wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Smiles on people's faces as our trophy is back home : Surya



Suryakumar Yadav thanked PM Modi for his support and enthusiasm. "It feels good when the country's leader himself bats on the front foot; it felt like he took the strike and scored runs," he said.

He expressed his admiration for PM Modi's leadership, saying the players felt motivated and played freely with the country's leader supporting them.

He emphasised that whether they received the trophy or not was unimportant, adding that seeing smiling faces back home is the real reward for the team.

"Operation Sindoor on the games field. It feels good when the country's leader himself bats on the front foot; it felt like he took the strike and scored runs. It was great to see, and when the sir is standing in front, then definitely the players will play freely," said the skipper.

"The most important thing is that the whole country is celebrating. When we go back (to India), it will feel good, and we will get more inspiration and motivation to do well," he added.

Ashwini Vaishnaw flags off 7 new trains from Bihar

Patna, Sep 29 (IANS) Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday inaugurated seven new train services from Bihar, including three Amrit Bharat Express trains aimed at providing affordable long-distance travel options for lower and middle-income passengers. Vaishnaw flagged off the new services virtually from New Delhi, while Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary symbolically inaugurated them at Patna Junction.

Interview for OSD and ACF in MNREGA on October 13

Ranchi, Sep 29 : Interviews will be held on October 13 for two positions in the MNREGA Cell of the State Rural Development Department. The government published an advertisement in 2025 for the posts of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and Assistant Conservator of Forests.

The government has constituted a committee headed by the MNREGA Commissioner to conduct interviews for these two positions. The committee includes a technical officer nominated by the Information Technology Department, an Under Secretary-level ST/SC representative from the Personnel Department, and an Under Secretary-level officer nominated by the Finance Department.In addition, the Head of the Department of Economics at Ranchi University and the State Information Science Officer from the NIC have also been included as members.In light of the government's advertisement for the appointments, interview information has been sent to successful applicants.

Canada declares Lawrence Bishnoi gang as terrorist entity

Ottawa, Sep 29 (IANS) The Canadian government on Monday officially designated the Bishnoi gang led by dreaded gangster Lawrence Bishnoi as a terrorist organisation while citing its involvement in murder, shootings, arson, and spreading terror through extortion and intimidation. "Acts of violence and terror have no place in Canada, especially those that target specific communities to create a climate of fear and intimidation. That is why Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety, announced today that the Government of Canada has listed the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code," read a statement issued by the Canadian Ministry of Public Safety.

According to the statement, a terrorist listing means anything owned by that group in Canada, property, vehicles, money can be frozen or seized and gives Canadian law enforcement more tools to prosecute terrorist offences, including those related to financing, travel and recruitment. For example, it is a criminal offence for anyone in Canada and Canadians abroad to knowingly deal with property owned or controlled by a terrorist group.

PM Modi inaugurates Delhi BJP office, hails party workers' role in countering Emergency

New Delhi, Sep 29 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday formally inaugurated the Delhi BJP's new office in central Delhi and recalled the role played by the party's city workers in helping Partition refugees, fighting for public rights during the Emergency and protecting Sikhs in the 1984 riots.

Highlighting the Delhi BJP government's efforts to fulfil expectations of the public after coming to power following a gap of 27 years, he said the dream of "Viksit Bharat, Viksit Delhi" can be achieved only if the government and the party move ahead together.

PM Modi praised the Rekha Gupta government's efforts to build houses for slum-dwellers, improve hospitals, introduce e-buses and clean the Yamuna.

Tasking Delhi BJP workers to ensure that every citizen gets the benefit of the GST cut, PM Modi also asked city BJP leaders to celebrate all festivals so that the city thrives as 'Mini-India' and reflects the cultural diversity. "It is very important for unity that patriotism is fuelled by the celebration of festivals from all states in Delhi," he said.

He said the BJP workers need to strive to make a world-class Capital, and this will be a matter of pride for citizens from every corner of the country. He also hailed the contributions of early founders and leaders of the Delhi unit of Jansangh and BJP, including L.K. Advani, V.K. Malhotra, Kedarnath Sahani, Sahib Singh, Madan Lal Khurana, Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj.



Her 'Mann Ki Baat': PM Modi writes foreword to Giorgia Meloni's memoir

New Delhi, Sep 29 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written the foreword to the Indian edition of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's memoir, "I Am Giorgia - My Roots, My Principles", praising her as a "patriot and outstanding contemporary leader" whose personal and political journey resonates deeply with Indians.

Taking a cue from his own radio address, Modi described Meloni's autobiography as her "Mann Ki Baat." He wrote that it was a "great honour" to contribute to the book, which is set to be launched in India soon by Rupa Publications. "I do so with respect, admiration and friendship for Prime Minister Meloni," Modi said, adding that her "inspiring and historic" journey would be "well received in India as a refreshing story of an outstanding contemporary political leader."

Ma Durga through the lens



Praveen Singh Seva Sansthan (Malkhan Singh), Adityapur



Agrico Puja Committee



Beldih Kalibari



Jamshedpur Puja Committee, Q Road, Bistupur



G Town, Bistupur



Thakur Pyara Singh, Dhurandar Singh, Kashidih



Mango Dimna Chowk, Hill View Colony



Rajasthan Sarvajanik Durga Puja Samity Food Plaza, Golmuri



S Type, Adityapur



Sidhgora Cinema Maidan



Sri Sri Durga Puja Gandhi Maidan Samiti Mango



Sri Sri Sarvajanik Durga Puja Committee, Tuiladungri



East Bengal Colony Shiv Durga Kali Mandir



Sri Sri Sarvajanik Durga Puja Committee, Garabasa, Bagbera.



Lal Building, Railway Colony, Bagbera

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Integrated police stations in 8 dists of Jharkhand including Jsr to be built at a cost of Rs 155.31 cr

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Sept 29: Four police stations will be built in a single building in eight districts of Jharkhand at a cost of ?155.31 crore.

The first floor of the building will house a cyber police station, the second a women's police station, the third an SC/ST police station, and the fourth an HTU police station. It will be built in a total of eight districts: Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Deoghar, Chatra, Palamu, Garhwa, and Dhanbad.

It will be constructed by Jharkhand Police Housing. The Home, Prison, and Disaster Management Department has approved the project. The construction of the building will cost Rs 19.46 crore in Deoghar. Rs 19.25 crore will be spent in Chatra, Rs 19.46 crore in Dhanbad, Rs 19.36 crore in Jamshedpur, Rs 19.37 crore in Palamu, Rs 19.55 crore in Hazaribagh, Rs 19.42 crore in Giridih, and Rs 19.44 crore in Garhwa.

The plan for the construction of the integrated police station building was prepared by DGP Anurag Gupta. He has assigned IG Provision Pankaj Kamboj the responsibility for its implementation. To implement this plan, Police Headquarters held a video conference with the Superintendents of Police (SPs) of various districts in December 2024. In this meeting, the SPs were instructed to prepare a proposal for the construction of a police station based on the availability of land and submit it to Police Headquarters.

The new police station building will include separate barracks for female police officers. Additionally, there will be separate facilities for female police officers and police personnel. While this building will require more land and cost more, having all police stations in one location will also provide convenience to the public. (W-rg)

JNAC promotes waste-free Durga Puja celebrations

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC) conducted inspections of Durga Puja pandals across the city under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. Deputy Municipal Commissioner, along with the city management team, reviewed cleanliness measures, waste management systems and compliance with the ban on single-use plastic. Special emphasis was placed on proper segregation of flower and organic waste and promoting the concept of Zero Waste Pandals. Organizers were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly decoration materials and sustainable puja practices. Citizens were also urged to follow hygiene protocols by separating wet and dry waste at home and during festivities. JNAC emphasized that the campaign aimed to spread awareness about "Clean Pandal - Clean City - Clean India," ensuring that the festival was celebrated in an environmentally responsible and waste-free manner. (w/gsd)

Clean Pandal, Clean City



Murder suspected after youth's body found in pond

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The body of 22-year-old Bisu Murmu, a resident of Haludbani Dungri Tola under Parsudih police station , was recovered from Joda pond in Turamdih, Sundernagar, three days after he went missing. Police suspect foul play and have sent the body for post-mortem.

Bisu had gone to a local fair on the evening of September 27 with his friends - Durga Soren, Dashmat Tudu and Rajesh Mahali - but never returned home. His family lodged a missing complaint the same night. After an extensive search, police found his body in the pond on Sunday. The three friends have been detained for questioning. Initial probe suggests the group went to the pond for a swim, but since Bisu was a good swimmer, accidental drowning is being doubted.

Family members allege that his friends concealed details of the incident and delayed informing them. Police are investigating whether personal enmity or a dispute led to his death. Sundernagar police said the post-mortem report and interrogation findings will help crack the case soon. (w/pm)

Thundershowers, rain likely during Mahashtami, Mahanavami & Dussehra in Jharkhand

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: As Jharkhand gears up for the grand celebrations of Durga Puja, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a detailed weather advisory for the festive period. Residents and visitors are advised to stay updated, as intermittent rainfall and gusty winds are likely to accompany the festivities.

Weather Forecast:

September 30 (Mahashtami): Thunderstorm and lightning with gusty wind, reaching speeds of 30-40 Kmph, are likely at isolated places across the state.

Light to moderate rainfall is expected in pockets, creating a breezy but festive atmosphere.

October 1 (Mahanavami): Similar conditions of isolated thunderstorms and lightning with gusty winds (30-40 Kmph) are expected throughout the day.

Localized heavy rainfall may occur over north-eastern and adjoining central parts of Jharkhand.

October 2 (Dussehra): Thunderstorm activity accompanied by gusty winds will continue at isolated locations across the state. Heavy rainfall is expected at isolated places in north-eastern and adjoining north-central regions, potentially affecting some outdoor celebrations.

October 3- 4 : Scattered heavy rainfall is likely in parts of the state, with thunderstorms persisting in isolated locations.

Synoptic Summary: Currently, no significant synoptic system is present over Jharkhand.

An upper air cyclonic circulation persists over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, extending between 1.5 Km and 5.8 Km above the mean sea level, tilting southwards with height.

Another cyclonic circulation is likely to emerge over the north Andaman Sea on September 30.

This may lead to the formation of a low-pressure area over the north and adjoining central Bay of Bengal around October 1, influencing rainfall activity in Jharkhand.

Festive Advisory: While mild showers may enhance the festive vibe, devotees are advised to carry umbrellas and raincoats.

Safety precautions should be observed during outdoor rituals, processions, and pandal visits due to occasional gusty winds.

Celebrate the festivities safely, and don't let a little rain dampen the joy of Mahashtami, Mahanavami, and Dussehra. (w/pm)

Tomato laden truck's brake failure sparks panic on Mango Bridge

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Panic broke out on Monday morning at the Mango bridge when a tomato-laden truck suddenly suffered a brake failure.

With heavy festive crowds on the roads due to Durga Puja, the situation could have turned catastrophic. However, the driver's quick thinking averted a major tragedy.

Eyewitnesses said the truck's brakes stopped working abruptly while it was approaching a congested stretch, with dense traffic and crowds ahead.

Realizing the potential danger, the driver immediately steered the vehicle to the wrong side and rammed it into a hydra machine stationed for bridge construction work.

The impact was loud and alarming, but fortunately, no one was injured.

As the incident unfolded, chaos gripped the area. Before police could intervene, an enraged mob caught hold of the driver and began assaulting him.

Traffic police personnel and officers on duty quickly rushed to the spot, rescued the driver from the crowd, and handed him over to Mango police station.

Police officials confirmed that the driver's alertness prevented a major accident. Given the festive rush, with thousands of people on the roads, the runaway truck could have caused severe casualties.



2,55,823 electors to vote in Ghatshila By-Poll

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: In view of the upcoming by-election in the 45-Ghatshila (ST) Assembly Constituency, the final electoral roll was published today after the completion of the special summary revision process.

District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Karn Satyarthi announced the figures at a press conference held in the Collectorate auditorium. Deputy Election Officer Priyanka Singh was also present.

As per the Election Commission's schedule, the draft roll was published on September 2 and claims and objections were accepted till September 17.

Their disposal was completed by September 25, paving the way for the final list's release. A total of 5,325 applications were received under Form 6 for new enrolment, of which 5,171 were accepted. Similarly, 750 applications under Form 7 for deletions and 3,677 under Form 8 for corrections were processed, with 715 and 3,645 accepted respectively. The final roll now records 2,55,823 electors — an increase of 4,456 voters compared to the draft. This includes 1,24,899 male, 1,30,921 female, and 3 third-gender voters.

The gender ratio has improved to 1,048 from 1,038, while the EP ratio has risen to 63.84. Notably, the number of young voters aged 18–19 years has surged to 16,178, reflecting a growth of over 21%. The constituency also has 2,735 PwD voters, 368 service voters, and one overseas elector.

In age distribution, the largest segment is the 30–39 age group with 69,650 voters, followed by 61,378 in the 20–29 category. At the other end, 629 voters are aged above 85, including three centenarians.

The District Election Officer said the rise in youth enrolment demonstrates growing democratic participation, while accurate identification of PwD and service voters highlights inclusivity. He urged all citizens to check their names and details in the roll and exercise their franchise in the upcoming by-election, stressing that the updated list reflects transparency and credibility in the electoral process. (w/pb)

JD (U) slams Jusco over dirty water supply in Burmamines



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Janata Dal (United) Burmamines Police Station unit President Bablu Kumar issued a strong statement against TSUISL (Jusco) for supplying dirty water in the Burmamines area for over a week. He alleged that residents of Vinoba Ashram, Vinoba Basti and Sidhu Kanu Basti were being forced to consume contaminated water as public hydrants released waste water for the first 15 minutes of supply.

Kumar said this negligence had affected thousands of families, creating a potential health hazard.

He demanded that Jusco management took immediate corrective action to provide safe and clean drinking water. The JDU leader warned that if the issue persisted, the party would intensify its protest to safeguard the health of the people. (w/gsd)

Rs 70,000 syphoned off in Ulidih ATM fraud

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: In a fresh case of cyber fraud, scammers duped a man of Rs 70,000 at an ATM kiosk in Ulidih by offering "help" to withdraw cash.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. The incident took place on the night of September 27. Moti Singh, a resident of Dimna Road, had gone to the Canara Bank ATM on Dimna Road to withdraw money. After several unsuccessful attempts to withdraw cash, a young man standing behind him stepped in, pretending to help. The fraudster took Singh's ATM card, pretended to insert it into the machine, and cleverly swapped it with another card. He then deliberately jammed the machine and fled the spot. Moments later, Singh received SMS alerts on his phone informing him that Rs 70,000 had been withdrawn from his account.

Realizing he had been duped, he immediately rushed to Ulidih police station and lodged a written complaint.

Based on his statement, the police have registered a case of cheating against the holder of mobile number 8409036059. Preliminary investigations suggest that the case involves ATM card swapping.

The police are reviewing CCTV footage from the bank and ATM kiosk to identify the suspect. (w/pm)

Congress files complaint against BJP Spokesperson for threatening Rahul Gandhi



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Senior Congress leaders of East Singhbhum district staged a protest at the Bistupur police station against BJP Spokesperson and former ABVP president Printu Mahadev, who threatened to "shoot Rahul Gandhi in the chest" during a live TV debate.

Led by District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey, the delegation submitted an application demanding that a case be registered against Mahadev. Dubey said such inflammatory and unconstitutional remarks not only threatened the personal security of the Leader of the Opposition but also undermined democratic values and law and order in the country. He added that strict legal action was necessary to send a strong message against attempts to disrupt democratic dignity. Several Congress leaders, including Rajkishore Yadav, Awadhesh Singh, Yogendra Singh Yadav, Brajendra Tiwari, Shafi Ahmed Khan, Rajneesh Singh, Sanjay Singh Azad and others accompanied the protest delegation. The Congress urged the police to act immediately and punish those guilty of using violent rhetoric against political opponents. (w/gsd)

YC alleges conspiracy against Rahul Gandhi after BJP leader's threat



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Rakesh Sahu, State General Secretary of the Jharkhand Pradesh Youth Congress (YC), condemned the remarks of BJP spokesperson Printu Mahadev, who allegedly threatened to shoot Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi during a live debate on a Malayalam TV channel.

In a press release, Sahu said, "Before you touch Rahul Gandhi, you will have to shoot millions of Congress workers like us." Calling the statement a reflection of the BJP's "true mindset," he alleged that the ruling party, shaken by exposure of vote theft, was now resorting to intimidation.

Sahu further said that this was not the first time BJP leaders had issued such controversial remarks and alleged a larger conspiracy to attack Rahul Gandhi. Calling the threat a direct assault on the Constitution and democracy, he demanded immediate legal action and an apology from the BJP leadership. (w/gsd)

IWC brings festive joy to underprivileged kids

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur East organized a cloth distribution program at UFHE to spread festive cheer ahead of Durga Puja. A total of 50 underprivileged children benefited, with 15 boys receiving pants and shirts, and 35 girls given new dresses. The initiative was supported by donors Madhumita Roy, MadhumitaSanyal, Dr.Meena Mukherjee, and PoonamVerma. The program highlighted the Club's ongoing commitment to community service, ensuring that every child could celebrate Durga Puja with happiness, dignity, and a sense of belonging. The event brought smiles and joy to all participants. (w/mb)

Bharat Singh inaugurates Bhalubasa Durga Puja pandal

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The Durga Puja pandal constructed by the Bhalubasa Mukhi Samaj was inaugurated on Maha Shashthi with traditional fervor and celebration. BJP State Executive Committee member Bharat Singh performed the inauguration by cutting the ribbon and was later felicitated by the committee with a bouquet and shawl.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh highlighted that Durga Puja was not only a religious festival but also a representation of social harmony and cultural heritage.

He added that such events played a vital role in strengthening unity and connecting the younger generation with tradition. Pandal Committee Chairman Poresh Mukhi, General Secretary Mujim Mukhi, Chamber of Commerce Vice President Abhishek Agarwal and several members of the Mukhi community, including Vishwanath Mukhi, Badal Mukhi and Babita Mukhi, were present in large numbers to mark the grand celebration. (w/gsd)

Two from Bihar killed, one injured after motorcycle hits road divider

Godda, Sept 29: Two persons from Bihar were killed, and one was injured after their motorcycle hit a divider on National Highway 133 in Jharkhand's Godda district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred in an area near Gorsanda under the Pathargama Police Station limits on Sunday evening when the two-wheeler dashed against the divider, a senior officer said.

"Three persons were travelling on a motorcycle when the two-wheeler hit the divider. All three were sent to Sadar Hospital, where two of them died," Pathargama Police Station officer-in-charge Manohar said. The deceased were identified as Amit Kumar (25) and Mahendra Kumar (24), both hailed from Banka in Bihar. Rishi Kumar, who was injured in the accident, was referred to Mayaganj Hospital in Bihar's Bhagalpur, he said. "No FIR has been registered so far, and we have seized the motorcycle," the officer added. (w/mb)

Private firm employee found dead in house

Koderma, Sept 29: The body of a 34-year-old assistant manager at a private firm was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his house in Jharkhand's Koderma district, police said on Monday. The incident took place late on Sunday evening in Naresnagar in Tilaiya police station area. The deceased was identified as VishwaRanjan Das, a resident of Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

"Das is suspected to have hanged himself from the ceiling fan of the house. During preliminary investigation, it was found that the deceased was troubled by family disputes. "However, police are conducting a thorough probe into all other aspects as well. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination," Tilaiya police station officer-in-charge Vinay Kumar said.

The deceased's family has been informed of the incident and they are expected to arrive in Koderma on Monday night. Police have registered a case and initiated further proceedings, he added. (w/mb)

Man stabbed to death in Dhanbad

Dhanbad, Sept 29: A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death and another sustained injuries by an attacker in connection with a dispute in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday in Bhootgadhiya under the Borragarh police station limits. None was arrested in this connection till the filing of this report. The victims and the attacker were known to each other, Borragarh police station in-charge Niranjan Kumar Singh said. "On the basis of our preliminary investigations, we can say that there was a dispute among them over some issues. An FIR has been registered in this regard under various sections of the BharatiyaNyayaSanhita. An investigation is underway," Singh said. The deceased has been identified as Ganesh Bhuiyan (22), a resident of BastacolaChandmari under the Dhansar police station. (w/mb)

Kunal Shadangi Inaugurates Durga Puja at Chhota Govindpur



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: The Sharadiya Durga Puja celebrations began at the Udayan Bangiya Sanskriti Samiti (Durgabari), Chhota Govindpur, with the inauguration of the idol on Maha Shashthi. The puja, which has been celebrated for the past 53 years, was inaugurated by former MLA Kunal Shadangi as chief guest.

Known for its rich Bengali traditions, the Durgabari Puja continued to uphold cultural authenticity. Goddess Durga here is adorned with the traditional Daaker Saaj-an intricate decoration of white and silver-which attracts thousands of devotees. Uniquely, the committee still uses traditional earthen pots (Bhand) for distributing offerings, preserving the essence of Bengal's heritage even in modern times.

The inaugural evening also featured cultural performances, including dance presentations by local artistes, enthralling the gathered devotees.

The entire complex wore a festive look with lights, decorations and devotional fervor.

The event was attended by Durgabari Executive President Uttam Guha, General Secretary KC Jana and several committee members including Samir Das, Paritosh Mahato and Ashish Kar, who worked tirelessly to make the festival a success. (w/gsd)

Free cholesterol testing camp at Baradwari Old Age Home on World Heart Day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29:A free cholesterol testing camp was organized on the occasion of World Heart Day at the Baradwari Old Age Home under the initiative of IHMO District President SRK Kamlesh. Blood samples of 22 elderly residents were collected and tested for cholesterol levels. The camp was graced by chief guests Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta, Cardiologist at Brahmanand Narayana Multi-Specialist Hospital, Dr. Jyoti Kumar Singh of Magadh Samrat Hospital, Pritpal Singh Biji, Director of News Iron City and social worker Purabi Ghosh. During the camp, Dr. Santosh Gupta provided medical advice and counseling on heart disease prevention, emphasizing awareness and lifestyle control for better health. Program coordinator SRK Kamlesh, along with Parameshwar Kumar Das of Anjali Kumari Old Age Home and others, contributed to the smooth conduct of the camp. The initiative was well-received by the elderly, who expressed gratitude for the health awareness effort. (w/gsd)



Vijaya Heritage, Kadma marks 27th year of grand Durga Puja celebrations

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, September 29: The 27th year of Durga Puja celebrations at Vijaya Heritage, Phase I-V, Kadma, commenced with grandeur and devotion on Mahasashthi, setting the tone for a week-long festivity filled with cultural vibrance and community spirit.

The Puja Pandal was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Deepak Kumar Sinha, Ex-Director General of Police, Jharkhand, who also lit the ceremonial lamp. He was joined by the Guest of Honour, Balakrishnan, a respected veteran of Vijaya Heritage society, along with Gokul Kumar, President, and PrasantaBiswas, General Secretary, of the Vijaya Heritage Durga Puja Committee, as well as representatives of the Vijaya Heritage Welfare Society.

On this occasion, the Annual Souvenir was unveiled by the Chief Guest. As a gesture of respect, Deepak Kumar Sinha was felicitated with a planter and shawl by PrasantaBiswas, while Balakrishnan received similar honours from Gokul Kumar.

A large gathering of residents witnessed the event with great enthusiasm. In his address, the Chief Guest spoke on the empowering spirit of Goddess Durga, emphasizing her positive influence on life, especially in inspiring women with strength, resilience, and compassion.

Expressing his gratitude, President Gokul Kumar thanked the Chief Guest for his gracious presence and appreciated the tireless efforts of the organizing committee, cultural committee members, and the spirited youth of the society for ensuring a vibrant start to the celebrations.

Guest of Honour Balakrishnan shared nostalgic memories of 27 glorious years of Durga Puja at Vijaya Heritage, evoking a sense of pride and unity among the residents.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by General Secretary PrasantaBiswas, followed by delightful dance performances by the children of the society, which filled the atmosphere with joy and festive energy.

The inaugural day truly set the stage for a memorable week of devotion, culture, and togetherness at Vijaya Heritage. (w/mb)

Centuries-old fire-walking ritual reflects devotion to Goddess Durga

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Sept 29: In Murup village, devotion to Goddess Durga takes a unique and awe-inspiring form. On Ekadashi, the day after Vijaya Dashami, devotees expose their steadfast faith by performing extraordinary rituals, the most notable being walking barefoot over burning embers without suffering blisters. This centuries-old tradition had become the spiritual identity of the village.

According to local devotee Hemsagar Pradhan, rituals begin 16 days before Dashami with Jiutiya, culminating in a grand puja on Ekadashi. Devotees first worship the Water Goddess at the local reservoir before proceeding to the Durga temple while reciting sacred verses. They also perform prayers at their homes for family peace and prosperity before taking part in feats of devotion.



A 20-foot-long and 2-foot-wide fire pit is dug in front of Ma Pauri at the temple complex, where Goddess Agni Kumari is worshipped. After the puja, devotees run barefoot over the burning embers, attributing their protection from injury to the blessings of Goddess Durga. Some even lie on thorny bushes as an act of penance and devotion.

Thousands of devotees from nearby districts gather every year to witness these rituals, which are coordinated by the Shri Shubhnath Youth Club, Murup. Club President Ajit Pradhan confirmed that preparations were in full swing, with volunteers ready to serve devotees.

Priests RamnathHota, YadunandanHota, Gaur Das and Dehuri Kuthlu Pradhan emphasized that the Goddess blessed her devotees by fulfilling their wishes when sought with true faith. While some came with grievances, others returned to express gratitude for answered prayers. The organizing committee, led by Ajit Pradhan, Vice President Gorachand Ho, Secretary Manoj Pradhan and other youth members, were overseeing arrangements to ensure the puja's success. This festival of devotion continued to reaffirm Murup's place as a center of faith and tradition. (w/gsd)

Devotees worship Ma Kaalratri on Mahasaptami, Maha Ashtami puja preparations underway

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Sept 29: Mahasaptami was observed on Monday with great devotion as part of the Sharadiya Navratri celebrations.

Along with Ma Durga, the fierce form of Ma Kaalratri was worshipped with full rituals. Large numbers of devotees thronged various pandals in Seraikela to offer prayers for happiness, peace and prosperity.

Many devotees observing Navratri fasts continued their eighth day of devotion, performing special pujas dedicated to Ma Kaalratri. Prominent pujas were organized at Sri-Sri Public Durga Puja Mandap, Sri-Sri Sanatani Durga Puja Pandal (Guest House), Om Sarvjanik Durga Puja Pandal (Hansauri), Indratandi and the Bus Stand Durga Puja Mandap.

On Maha Ashtami, devotees will worship Ma Mahagauri, the eighth form of Goddess Durga.

Traditionally, married women and girls observe special fasts on this day. Anticipating heavy crowds, the organizing committees have made elaborate arrangements to ensure that devotees can participate in the rituals without inconvenience. (w/gsd)

Zila Parishad member inaugurates Durga Puja pandal in Kolabira



Seraikela, Sept 29: Zila Parishad member Shambhu Mandal, along with Mangilal Mahato, inaugurated the Durga Puja pandal organized by the Shri-Shri Sarvjanik Maa Durga Puja Committee in Kolabira. Paying obeisance to the Mother Goddess, he prayed for peace, prosperity and world harmony.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that such religious gatherings inspired people to walk on the path of truth and goodness.

Those present included Santosh Mahato, Sadhan Mahato, Manohar Mahato, Prem Chand Mahato, Madhusudan Sardar and Akshay Panda. (w/gsd)

DC inaugurates Sri-Sri Sanatani Durga Puja pandal

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Sept 29: Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh inaugurated the Sri-Sri Sanatani Durga Puja pandal at the Seraikela Guest House on Sunday. Accompanied by Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat, he paid obeisance to Goddess Durga and prayed for the prosperity of the district and state. The organizing committee welcomed the dignitaries with traditional Sanatani rituals. After interacting with children and devotees at the pandal, the DC and SP conveyed greetings to the people for a joyful Durga Puja.

The event was attended by Police Station in-charge Vinay Kumar, Committee Chairman Ajay Kumar Mishra, Vice Chairman Naveen Kumar, and several other officials and members. Renowned priest Shandilya Pawan Shastri from Ayodhya conducted the Mahasaptami Puja with Vedic chants, followed by a grand aarti joined by devotees. (w/gsd)

Executive Magistrate inspects puja pandals in Jadugora



Mail News Service

Jadugora, Sept 29: To ensure a peaceful Durga Puja celebration, Executive Magistrate Manoj Kumar Sinha inspected six pandals in Jadugora and Rakha Copy areas. He reviewed compliance with district guidelines, including CCTV cameras, volunteer ID cards, separate exits for men and women, and fire safety measures.

While congratulating committees that followed rules, he also reprimanded some for lapses and instructed them to rectify immediately. Jadugora Police Station in-charge Rajesh Kumar Mandal and his team accompanied the inspection. (w/pb)

Kalash Yatra in Chainpur Village



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Sept 29: The Durga Puja Committee of Chainpur village in Chandil block organized a grand Kalash Yatra to mark the beginning of the Durga Puja festivities.

Around 132 young women, dressed in traditional attire, carried sacred Kalash on their heads in a devotional procession through the village streets, filling the air with chants of "Jai Mata Di." Members of the Durga Puja Committee, along with dignitaries including Sanjeet Mahato, Kiriti Pramanik, Ajay Dubey, Raj Hansda, Arjun Mahato, Kritivas Pramanik, Vishwanath Pramanik, Rasbihari Mahato, and Manoj Mahato, participated.

The village priest performed rituals, and arrangements were smoothly managed to ensure the event's success. (w/pb)

501 girls lead Kalash Yatra on Mahasaptami in Kolabira

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Sept 29: A vibrant display of devotion marked the Mahasaptami celebrations in Kolabira as the Shri-Shri Sarvjanik Durga Puja Committee organized a grand Kalash Yatra. A total of 501 unmarried girls participated in the ritual, carrying water-filled pots (kalash) from a local pond to the Durga temple.

The procession moved through the village with chants of "Jai Mata Di", accompanied by traditional music and dance, filling the air with festive fervor.

At the temple, priests consecrated the sacred water with Vedic chants and installed the kalash before Goddess Jagadamba. Devotees then offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the region.

The successful organization of the yatra was credited to the efforts of the committee's leaders - Chief Patron Sadhan Mahato, Patron Santosh Mahato, President Manohar Mahato, Treasurer Premchand Mahato along with Prabhakar Mahato, Rajesh Mahato and other members of the Puja Committee. (w/gsd)

Durga Puja celebrations in Gua





Mail News Service

Gua, Sept 29: The Iron City of Gua is witnessing vibrant Durga Puja celebrations this year. Worship of Goddess Durga is being performed at eight major locations — Vivek Nagar, Kalyan Nagar, Ram Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Hirjihating, Birsa Nagar 1, Rungta Colony Nuiya, and Power One Devi Temple.

The temple doors were opened at an auspicious time on Sunday evening, and since Monday, long queues of devotees have been seen. Women in traditional attire and enthusiastic youths participated in rituals, bhajans, and cultural programs. Puja committees have ensured facilities like electricity, water, and seating arrangements. The Gua police are closely monitoring security, making the celebrations peaceful and devotional. (w/pb)

Puja pandals inspected in RIT police station area



Seraikela, Sept 29: In preparation for Durga Puja, district officials inspected pandals under the RIT police station area. Police in-charge Sanjeev Kumar Singh and District Education Officer Kailash Mishra, acting as magistrate, checked pandals on Road No. 7, Sahara Syndicate, Road No. 31-32, and the Transport area. Arrangements for crowd management, vehicle parking, and idol immersion ghats were reviewed. Issues related to cleanliness and lighting were flagged, angering some committee members. Magistrate Mishra instructed proper arrangements for devotees and assured administrative support. CCTV cameras, emergency services, and additional police deployment have been arranged to ensure security.(w/pb)

District-level disability check-up camp at Sadar Hospital

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Sept 29: A district-level monthly disability check-up camp was organized at Sadar Hospital under the chairmanship of Civil Surgeon Dr Saryu Prasad Singh and the supervision of Deputy Superintendent Dr Nakul Prasad Chaudhary. A total of 14 persons with disabilities underwent assessment by specialist doctors.

Orthopedic specialist Dr Ajit Tudu examined 6 orthopedic cases, ENT specialist Dr Pradeep Kumar checked 4 ENT disability cases, ophthalmologist Dr PM Bara examined 3 eye-related cases, and psychiatrist Dr Shalini Kumari assessed 2 mental disability cases. The camp was conducted by assistant Mewalal Honhaga. Hospital manager Sanjeet Rai and other staff were also present.(w/pb)

Sanjib Sardar inaugurates multiple Durga Puja pandals

Emphasizes respect for women as true devotion

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, Potka MLA Sanjib Sardar inaugurated more than a dozen Durga Puja pandals across the Potka Assembly constituency, delivering the message that true worship of Goddess Durga lay in respecting women and fostering positivity.

In Hata, under Potka block, Sardar inaugurated the puja pandal of Sri-Sri Sarvjanik Durga Puja Committee. He also inaugurated the Durga Puja pandal at Kalikapur amidst enthusiastic devotees.

Addressing the gathering, he urged people to relinquish negativity and embrace the divine energy of Goddess Durga. "Goddess Durga resides in every woman. Respecting women is the greatest respect for the Goddess of Power," he said. At Sundarnagar, Jamshedpur block, Sardar attended the celebrations organized by the Sri-Sri Sarvjanik Durga Puja and Kali Puja Committee as chief guest.

He lit the ceremonial lamp and praised the committee members for their dedication. Later, at Kitadih, he unveiled the idol of Goddess Durga and joined devotees in prayers.

In Harharguttu, the MLA inaugurated the pandal organized by the Sri-Sri Sarvjanik Kali Mandir Committee. He prayed for the prosperity, peace and well-being of the people of Potka.

Sardar also inaugurated pandals in several other locations. At each event, he highlighted that Durga Puja was not just a festival but a symbol of unity, brotherhood and positive change. He reminded people that worship was meaningful only when it inspired respect for women and spread goodness in society. (w/gsd)

India's firm response to Pakistan's anti-India rhetoric at the UN

In recent days, Pakistan once again attempted to use the United Nations as a platform to malign India. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, accompanied by Army Chief General Asim Munir, spewed venomous rhetoric against India in his address. However, this time, India's representative at the UN firmly countered Pakistan's falsehoods, responding in a language that Islamabad understands well.

It was important to remind the world that Pakistan cannot camouflage its bloodstained history under the guise of peace. For decades, it has harbored and nurtured terrorist groups, many of which are proscribed by the United Nations itself. The list of Pakistan-based terrorists under UN sanctions is long, and the world has not forgotten that al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was given shelter in Abbottabad. India's statement further underlined that Pakistan continues to shield terrorist organizations, including The Resistance Front (TRF), which carried out the brutal attack in Pahalgam.

The TRF is nothing more than a proxy for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-sponsored group responsible for multiple acts of terror against India. At the United Nations, when questions were raised about the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan worked tirelessly to shield TRF from being officially blamed. Though it temporarily succeeded in deflecting responsibility, the United States eventually recognized TRF's hand in the attack, proving once again that Islamabad's duplicity is an open secret.

What adds to India's concerns is the political-military equation in Pakistan and its evolving relationship with Washington. US President Donald Trump, prioritizing his own strategic interests, has shown undue leniency toward Pakistan. After Operation Sindoor, he invited Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir to the United States, and has now hosted him again, this time alongside Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. These moves indicate Washington's willingness to accommodate Pakistan despite its continued sponsorship of terror.

There is little doubt about who controls Pakistan's reins of power. General Asim Munir is the real authority, while Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif plays the role of deputy. Even Pakistan's Defense Minister has acknowledged that the country runs under a "hybrid government" - a euphemism for military dominance. This was evident at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China, where Sharif appeared more as Munir's subordinate than as an independent head of government. The same dynamic was visible during their joint appearance in the United States.

Adding to the unease are the US President's remarks about Pakistan's oil and rare mineral reserves. Such statements, intended to flatter Islamabad, are strategically aimed at counterbalancing India's rise in the region. They also raise concerns that Pakistan, emboldened by American indulgence, may escalate its anti-India activities in the coming months.

For India, the lesson is clear. While diplomatic responses at global platforms are necessary to expose Pakistan's duplicity, vigilance on the ground remains paramount. India must continue to strengthen its defense preparedness, enhance intelligence networks, and remain alert to the possibility of escalated hostility from across the border. Pakistan's track record leaves little doubt that it will continue to rely on terrorism as an instrument of state policy, and India must be ready to counter it with both strength and strategy.

From the Editorial Desk

Rahul Gandhi's 'bomb' talks - political agenda or alarm?



Political rhetoric is a powerful tool, but when it crosses the line from persuasion to sensationalism, it risks creating fear and confusion among the public.

Rahul Gandhi's repeated use of "bomb" metaphors in his political statements raises eyebrows. Is this a strategic political agenda or simply alarmist posturing?

Gandhi first used the "atom bomb" analogy to create suspense for his August 7 press briefing, where he alleged vote theft by the BJP and criticised the Election Commission of India.

The intention was to generate nationwide attention; however, it failed to produce the desired impact. Later, Gandhi undertook his Bihar march to create momentum, but the results remained underwhelming.

He then escalated his rhetoric, claiming to "unleash a Hydrogen bomb" that would reveal "open-and-shut proof" of systematic electoral manipulation.

Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh, close to Rahul Gandhi, went further, claiming Gandhi might release "mini-hydrogen, plutonium, uranium, and other bombs" as part of his campaign against alleged vote theft. Ramesh said this during the CWC meeting at Congress headquarters, 'Sadaqat Bhavan', in Patna.

Incidentally, while Ramesh was making these statements, Ladakh was experiencing unprecedented violence on September 24. Ramesh linked this unrest, including the burning of a BJP office, to the issue of vote theft.

Both Gandhi's and Ramesh's use of "bomb" metaphors carries dangerous connotations, invoking destruction and fear. It raises the question: why should the Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition employ such language in political discourse?

As the leader of the Opposition INDIA bloc, the Congress party has the right to hold press conferences and question government policies. However, using terms like "hydrogen bomb" or "atom bomb" risks spreading fear and confusion among citizens.

Adding another layer, Gandhi referenced Gen Z in his social media posts, positioning the youth as defenders of democracy and voters against alleged malpractices.

He posted on X, writing in Hindi (loosely translated): "The youth of the nation, the students of the nation, the Gen Z of the nation, will protect the Constitution, defend democracy, and prevent vote theft. I will always stand with them. Hail India!"

The timing of this reference to Gen Z -- after his second press conference on alleged vote theft -- is significant. Gandhi aimed to mobilise young people who, he believes, can create a wave against Prime Minister Modi.

But, as Rahul Gandhi was trying to woo Gen Z, his party colleague Manish Tewari said Gen Z criticise dynasts, entitlement, and nepotism.

"The toppling of - President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka in July 2023, Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh in July 2024, KP Sharma Oli in Nepal in September 2025 and now the protests against Ferdinand Marcos Jr in Philippines have one word written over them - ENTITLEMENT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO GEN X, Y, Z."

Perhaps Tewari, who was part of the G-23, understands the real cause that led to the situation in these countries -- public reaction against nepotism and corruption. The G-23 was formed in August 2020, when 23 senior Congress leaders wrote a letter to then-interim party chief Sonia Gandhi, demanding an "organisational overhaul" and reforms within the party, including a more active and visible leadership after the party's electoral setbacks. Its members included prominent leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Anand Sharma, and Shashi Tharoor.

While the G-23 failed in its mission, the voters in India do not fail in their verdict. The people pronounce their decision through their vote. They have kept Congress out of power at the Centre since 2014 and limited its influence in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Yet, the same electorate checked the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, signalling that arrogance in power is unacceptable.

History shows that Indians respond to governance and accountability, not hyperbolic rhetoric. The people punished Rahul Gandhi's grandmother, Indira Gandhi, for the Emergency from 1975 to 1977.

Using sensational rhetoric, such as "bombs", exposes Gandhi's own mindset rather than influencing the electorate. In January, he stated that Congress was not only fighting the BJP and its ideological mentor, RSS, but the "Indian state" as well. In this light, Gandhi's "bomb" metaphors may reveal more about his strategic desperation than the electoral realities.

While Rahul Gandhi resorts to such tactics in a bid to challenge PM Modi, others have sought to incite religious discord and violent incidents.

Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, a politician and Islamic cleric whose party supports Congress, used religious rhetoric to whip up passions, resulting in violence in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Similar unrest was reported in Uttar Pradesh's Mau, Unnao, Kaushambi, Gujarat's Gandhinagar, and Karnataka's Davangere. These religion-based protests have the potential to create large-scale havoc, comparable in metaphorical terms to atomic or hydrogen bombs. And surely, Rahul Gandhi is aware of the dangerous implications of such rhetoric.

His repeated references to "bombs" in political discourse raise critical questions: is this rhetoric a calculated strategy to mobilise voters, or does it risk creating unnecessary alarm among citizens? Either way, the use of such extreme metaphors highlights the fine line between political discourse and public intimidation.

(Deepika Bhan can be contacted at deepika.b@ians.in)

Cricket, Kalashnikovs and Pakistan's radicalised psyche



Cricket has been described as a gentleman's game where grace, patience, and fair play come together to create a spectacle for the masses. Like any sport, its traditions have long dissuaded political sloganeering or any form of disposition to violence. Yet, when Pakistani batter Sahibzada Farhan mimicked firing an AK-47 rifle with his bat during a recent Asia Cup T20 match against India, it was a moment of dragging this celebrated sport into a darker terrain.

Though India won the game fairly and squarely, as has been become an established norm now, and reinforce its dominance in the subcontinental rivalry, Farhan's transgression and gesture eclipsed the cricket sport in itself. The image of a Pakistani cricketer enacting a Kalashnikov firing on the field became symbolic of something far larger, which is the militarised, radicalised psyche of a nation where violence is not seen as aberrant but as cultural expression.

This was not just a tasteless celebration. It was an act that revealed how, in Pakistan, the language of jihadist symbolism, perpetuated by military establishment since 1980s during Ziaul Haq's regime, has permeated every level of society from politicians to artists, doctors, and even sportsmen.

The AK-47 has long been more than just a weapon in Pakistan. Since the 1980s, when the Pakistan became a frontline state to arm Afghan mujahideen against the Soviets with the help of Americans, the Kalashnikov has symbolized an "identity" of first "resistance" and afterwards extremism.

The so-called "Kalashnikov culture" spread far beyond the tribal frontiers with guns becoming part of weddings, political rallies, and every other social function.

This militarisation and Islamisation seeped into Pakistan's cultural DNA. While military generals often boast of "bleeding India with a thousand cuts", its politicians employ martial rhetoric to prove loyalty to the armed forces.

Similarly, while television dramas, most often sponsored by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), glorifies military martyrs, religious clerics fuse jihad with national pride. And now, on the cricket field, a batsman celebrates his milestone not with raised arms or bowed heads, but with the gesture of a terrorist's weapon.

Can one then dismiss this as youthful exuberance? No, as doing so would be akin to ignoring decades of deliberate social engineering that Pakistan as a country witnessed. The Pakistani military, which is inarguably the country's most powerful institution, has long cultivated a narrative where militancy and nationalism are fused. Its public discourse often equates dissent with treachery and as such, violence is not only normalised but valorised.

However, Sahibzada Farhan is not an isolated case. There have been countless incidents where Pakistan's popular figures from actors to doctors have publicly aligned with radical groups with celebrated musicians often singing paeans to jihad and military. Pakistan's history is awash with educated young men having joined extremist groups, viewing violence as a higher calling.

Nevertheless, such things do not happen in a vacuum and have structural reasons underneath. In a country where the military dominates both politics and culture, the state has relied on radical Islam as glue to hold the multi-ethnic society together. Since 1980s, the country's military establishment has amplified jihadist narratives to perpetuate its own supremacy.

The consequence is a society where a Kalashnikov celebration on an international cricket field, and broadcast to millions globally, does not feel out of place but resonates as patriotic bravado.

Sports are often used to project national soft power. For Pakistan, cricket has been one of the last domains where it could claim parity with India not so long ago. These cricket matches have often been treated as proxy wars and the cricket pitch as an extension of the battlefield. In this environment, it is unsurprising that players internalise militarised codes of behaviour where they perceive their bats as guns. Even smaller milestones like a half-century by an individual then becomes an opportunity to mimic the tools of violence that dominate Pakistan's national imagination.

But unlike in other nations where such behaviour would spark outrage and disciplinary action, in Pakistan it finds tacit acceptance. While social media platforms brimmed with applause for Farhan's gesture, hardly anyone from within the Pakistan Cricket Board seemed willing to condemn the act. This silence is telling in itself.

To understand why a cricketer would mimic an AK-47, one must trace Pakistan's long descent into extremism. For decades, the military has funded and trained jihadist proxies, first against the Soviets in Afghanistan and then against India in Kashmir. These extremist groups have become extensions of its regional foreign policy.

It goes without saying that Pakistan has itself endured a catastrophic social cost of this normalisation of extremism. While universities and madrassas became recruiting grounds, generations grew up idolizing "militants" as heroes. Consequently, no province has escaped violent sectarian undercurrents, with the culture of dialogue, compromise, or peaceful coexistence being systematically eroded. What has remained of Pakistan is a polity where violence is not a last resort but a first instinct.

Despite enduring the blowback of the militancy with the rise of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Islamic State with hundreds of terrorist attacks across the length and breadth of country, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the state has never fully disavowed its decades old jihadist project. Instead, it rebranded militancy under softer guises, while preserving its central role in strategic thinking. And now, a cricketer's on-field gesture has ensured that cricket, too, could not escape this shadow.

For decades, the international community has sought to engage Pakistan in dialogue, urging moderation and reform. Consequently, the United States led Western bloc beside Gulf countries have poured billions in development aid, military assistance, and diplomatic overtures, hoping to cultivate Pakistan as a "normal" state.

New Delhi, too, on its part, for long chose to pursue peace talks, cricket diplomacy, and back-channel negotiations, to get Islamabad end its terror sponsorship against India.

However, the pattern has been clear as each moment of India's engagement was followed by Pakistan's betrayal, with each handshake undercut by violence. The radicalised foundation of the Pakistani state ensures that such moderation is not sustained in any form. So, when even a cricketer's celebration echoes jihadist imagery, it becomes naïve to expect transformation through dialogue.

As a norm of International Relations, there is a consensus that diplomacy works with only those states which are committed to civility, law, and accountability. Pakistan, by contrast, has been conditioned to respect only coercion. It is not polite words or cricket matches that alter its behaviour, but international censure, be it through sanctions and exposure of its complicity in extremism.

Sahibzada Farhan's Kalashnikov gesture should not be trivialised as a sporting quirk as it is a symptom of a society where violence is embedded so deeply that even celebrations of personal success cannot escape its shadow.

It is a reminder that Pakistan's problems are not simply of governance or economy but of a collective psyche shaped by decades of militarism and radicalisation. For India, and for the world, the message is sobering as it is a wishful thinking to expect Pakistan to reform through charm offensives or cricketing goodwill gestures.

The beauty of cricket lies in its civility of raising bats, shaking hands, and the acknowledgement of the crowd. But, when those rituals are replaced by gestures of killing, the sport itself becomes hostage to politics.

As such, Sahibzada Farhan's mimicry of an AK-47 was not just poor sportsmanship, it was a window into a society where militarism trumps civility, and violence masquerades as pride.

Until Pakistan confronts this culture head-on, the world will continue to see Kalashnikovs, be it real or mimed, in its public life. The cricket field merely made visible what has long existed beneath the surface.

Jaishankar's appearance at UNGA replete with symbolism



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's appearance on the General Assembly's podium was replete with subtle political symbolism.

He started his speech on Saturday with "Namaskar from the people of Bharat". And he referred to the country as Bharat seven times in his speech, even though he also interspersed it with India.

In the two references to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he made it a point to use Bharat: "Bharat, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" realising its duties, and "The last decade in Bharat has also seen transformative changes due to the vision of Prime Minister Modi".

A saffron kerchief was prominent on the pocket of the gray bandhgalla with a black lining around the neck that Jaishankar wore.

He said, Bharat is guided by three key concepts in its approach to the world: Atmanirbharta or self-reliance, Atmaraksha or securing oneself, and Atmavishwas or self-confidence.

What he left unsaid was also significant: The names of three countries.

He laid a trap for Pakistan by not mentioning its name when he spoke about "a neighbour that is an epicentre of global terrorism".

Pakistan walked into the trap.

By looking to pour venom on India with a right of reply, Pakistan admitted that it was the country that Jaishankar said is the epicentre of terrorism. India had the last laugh.

"It is telling that a neighbor who was not named chose to nevertheless respond and admit their long-standing practice of cross-border terrorism", Second Secretary Rentala Srinivas said.

"No arguments or untruths can ever whitewash the crimes of Terroristan", he said.

Pakistan got entangled a second time when it admitted that it was "Terroristan".

Pakistan Mission's Second Secretary Muhammad Rashid took the floor again to object to what he said was India distorting the name of a country. India staged a walk-out.

Jaishankar also avoided naming the US or President Donald Trump when he spoke about tariffs and restrictions on H-1B professional visas.

"We now see tariff volatility and uncertain market access", he said. He referred to the H-1B issue saying, "Restricting the evolution of a global workplace is an issue".

And there was a mention of "double standards" -- the imposition of a punitive tariff on India for buying Russian oil, but not others.

Not naming Trump or the US helps cool the rhetoric and keep a diplomatic tone at a time when trade talks are at a delicate stage.

There was also a swipe at China, which is weaponising critical minerals, without mentioning Beijing.

"The grip on supply chains and critical minerals is another. The shaping of connectivity is no less sensitive", Jaishankar said.

India's real GDP growth projected to grow at 6.7 pc this fiscal

New Delhi, Sept. 29 (IANS) Global professional services firm EY on Monday raised India's real GDP growth projection to 6.7 per cent -- up from its earlier estimate of 6.5 per cent, owing to robust GST 2.0 reforms.

The upward revision reflects expectations of monetary easing and stronger domestic demand from GST rate rationalisation amid global uncertainties, according to EY's Economy Watch September edition.



"With Q1 FY26 real GDP growth at 7.8 per cent and stimulation of demand through GST reforms on the one hand, constrained by global headwinds affecting India's export prospects, both in goods and services, we expect India to still show an annual real GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in FY26," according to the global professional services firm.

"With GST 2.0 reforms boosting disposable incomes and domestic demand, and trade diversification efforts opening new opportunities, India is well positioned to sustain its growth momentum in FY26. Strategic investments in technology and targeted policy measures will be key to translating reforms into long-term economic gains," said DK Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY India.

In August 2025, manufacturing PMI increased to 59.3, its highest level since February 2008. Services PMI also increased to 62.9, its highest level since June 2010.

Overall IIP growth improved to 3.5 per cent in July 2025 from 1.5 per cent in June 2025, led by significant improvement in the growth of manufacturing output.

"Led by fading base effects and a moderation in the pace of contraction in food prices, CPI inflation increased from 1.6 per cent in July 2025 to 2.1 per cent in August 2025 whereas core CPI inflation rose from 4.2 per cent to 4.3 per cent during the same period," the report mentioned.

TPEVCSL joins hands with VECV to accelerate electric mobility

Jamshedpur, Sept. 29: Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Limited (TPEVCSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Limited), and VE Commercial Vehicles Limited (VECV) today announced a landmark collaboration to accelerate the adoption of electric commercial vehicles in India, with a focus on the recently launched Eicher Pro X range of Small Commercial Vehicle. Under this MoU, both companies will collaborate on multiple fronts to support truck and bus operators looking to introduce electric vehicles in their operations. While The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) will leverage its extensive EV charging infrastructure and expertise in providing customized charging solutions, VECV will contribute its domain expertise in energy efficiency to optimize energy usage in electric trucks, ensuring that the vehicles meet the specific needs of end-users and their applications. Together, they will actively engage with Eicher Trucks and Buses customers to promote the transition to electric mobility, enabling a cleaner, more sustainable future for India's transport sector.

Ultraviolette inaugurates state-of-the-art Experience Centre in Howrah



Howrah: Following its recent global launch across Europe, Ultraviolette has furthered its expansion in India with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art Experience Centre in Howrah. This milestone highlights Ultraviolette's ongoing growth in India and reinforces its commitment to offering performance-oriented and sustainable electric two-wheelers across the country. The newly established UV Space Station, in partnership with dealer Ultraa Speed Auto, will provide customers a comprehensive experience to explore Ultraviolette's motorcycles-the X-47, F77 MACH 2, and the F77 SuperStreet. The UV Space Station is a 3S facility and is designed to offer an immersive experience, starting with test ride experience, sales, service, and a range of motorcycle accessories- all under one roof. Ultraviolette's latest launch, the X-47 Crossover is the World's first camera and radar integrated commercially launched motorcycle.

It also introduces the World's most power dense onboard charger that is air cooled - completely developed, designed, and engineered in-house by Ultraviolette.

Key banking, pension and service rule changes coming into effect from October 1

New Delhi, Sept. 29 (IANS) Bank customers, pension subscribers, train passengers, and postal service users will all be impacted by several regulatory, banking, and service-related changes that take effect on October 1.

RBI cheque clearing: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will shift cheque processing from batch clearing to a continuous clearing method. The new system will be rolled out in two phases, with the first starting on October 4, 2025, and the second from January 3, 2026.

Railway ticketing rules: New guidelines for purchasing general tickets online via the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) website and mobile app will be put into effect. Updated booking policies will be implemented for Aadhaar-authenticated users on October 1 in an effort to curb ticket reservation system abuse.



India Post speed post service: With effect from October 1, India Post has updated its Speed Post rates. GST will now be shown separately on charges, and for added security, customers can choose OTP-based delivery. According to the postal service, these steps are intended to improve the service's security, transparency, and usability.

National Pension System (NPS) and reforms: The Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) fees for members of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), NPS, NPS Lite, NPS Vatsalya, and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have been updated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Starting on October 1, the new fee schedule will be in effect.

NPS equity: In a major change, non-government NPS subscribers will be allowed to invest up to 100 per cent of their contributions in equities from October 1. They will also be able to hold multiple schemes under a single PRAN across different recordkeeping agencies.

Additionally, eligible Central Government workers have until September 30 to transfer from the NPS to the UPS. Employees will no longer be able to choose UPS after this date, and those who are currently employed by UPS must return to NPS prior to retirement deadlines if they so choose.

CyberPeace, Haryana police launch 'Cyber First Responder Program'

Ranchi, Sept 29 : CyberPeace Foundation, in collaboration with Haryana Police, launched the 'Cyber First Responder Program' at Indradhanush Auditorium on Monday, aiming to strengthen AI safety and cyber awareness among citizens and law enforcement. The initiative seeks to equip participants with practical skills to tackle cyber threats, including phishing, identity theft, ransomware, and AI-driven impersonation.

Smt. Rekha Sharma, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and former Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, was the Guest of Honour. Senior IPS officers Dr. Veerendra Kr Mishra and Shibas Kaviraj, Commissioner of Police, Panchkula, were also present, along with other senior officials.

Sharma described the initiative as 'more than a training-it is a movement that unites students, citizens, and law enforcement in cyber solidarity. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, and the government is committed to empowering citizens to prevent, not just respond to, cybercrime.'



Dr. Mishra highlighted that India's youth, comprising 65% of the population, are most connected and most vulnerable, stressing that programs like this build a digitally resilient generation.

Vineet Kumar, Founder of CyberPeace, added, 'AI is amplifying cyber threats. This program enables citizens and police to act as first responders in the digital space, promoting safer cyberspace for all.'

The event was part of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 pre-summit and included sessions on cyber hygiene for citizens and technical workshops for law enforcement. It is part of the CyberPeace Corps, a Google.org-supported volunteer initiative.

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow reveals 20 finalist teams

Gurugram/Patna, Sept 29: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the Top 20 finalist teams of the 4th edition of its pan-India innovation competition, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2025.

The finalists include bright young minds from rural India, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across 12 states, reflecting the programme's vision ofencouraging young changemakers to use technology to solve wide-ranging issues in their communities. This year, a 14-year-old qualified as a finalist, an all-girls team entered the final round, and two teams from the North East made it to the Top20.

They are working on innovations such as AI-powered solution to enable people with visual impairment to play chess independently, imaging sensors mounted drones to collect pollution data and create Voxel maps. Besides, ideas include a drone-enabled AI monitoring system for alerting infiltration and security breaches on international borders.

The selected teams presented ideas across four key themes: AI for Safer, Smarter and Inclusive Bharat; Future of Health, Hygiene and Wellbeing in India; Environmental Sustainability via Technology; and Social Change through Sport and Tech: For Education & Better Futures.

Over dozen sweet shops fined Rs 30,000 in Dhanbad for substandard items

Dhanbad, Sept 29: District Food Safety team on Monday conducted test in over dozen sweets shops and slapped fine of Rs 30,000 on them under Food Safety and Standard Act (FSSA) 2006 after some items were found substandard and adulterated.

This was first time Food Safety of district conducted sweets items testing drive during pick time of Dussehara Puja in district.

Food Safety Officer (FSO) Raja Kumar himself led the team in campaign in the evening and inspected sweets shops in baliapur block of the district. The team tested Rasagulla, Ladoo, paneer, Khowa, sauce and other items.

Karmatand based famous Arvind Sweets was fined Rs 15,000 as adulterated spices in Samosa and coloured in Ladoo were found injurious.

The FSO slapped of Rs 10,00 to Ganipati Sweets restaurant for unhygienic condition in the premises while Asani Sweets was fined Rs 2000 for using uneatable colour.

Raja Kumar said a dead cockroach was found in Rassagulla in a outlet (Madan Wseets).Item was destroyed on spot and shop was fined Rs 2000 for not maintaining hygienic condition.

" The team collected 40 kg of samples of different sweets items from different establishments to get them tested at State Food Testing Lab Namkum Ranchi. The action would be taken against shops for selling substandard and adulterated item in festival on basis of lab reports", said FSO Raja Kumar.

Official said that operator of sweets outlets have been warned to maintain hygienic condition and do not keep adulterated as well as su7bstandard food items., otherwise action would be taken under FSSA 2006.

IIT ISM TEXMIN Dhanbad receives recognition for NCMM

Dhanbad, Sept 29 : TEXMIN of IIT ISM Dhanbad has received a letter of recognition as part of launch of National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) by Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

The event was launched in Hyderabad, by Gangapuram Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal & Mines.

The official said this recognition officially designates institute as one of the seven Centres of Excellence (CoEs) tasked with driving cutting-edge research, technology translation, and innovation across India's critical minerals sector.

Shakil Alam, economic adviser, Ministry of Mines and Dr. Ashish Saxena, Deputy Secretary, addressed the function.

Representatives from Curtin University, University of Cambridge, IIT (BHU) Varanasi, IIT Gandhinagar, Hindustan Copper Limited, MMPL Pvt. Ltd., Novasensa, also participated in discussion and emphasized the importance of collaborative innovation, translational research, and resilient supply chains in the critical minerals ecosystem, essential for sectors such as clean energy, electronics, e-mobility, defence, and space.



IIT ISM director and chairman of TEXMIN Prof Sukumar Mishra said that receiving the Letter of recognition under the National Critical Mineral Mission is a landmark moment for IIT(ISM) Dhanbad and TEXMiN.

" This acknowledgment strengthens our mandate to lead transformative research and translational initiatives that will position India as a global leader in critical minerals. Through close collaboration with national and international partners, we aim to address the entire value chain, from exploration and processing to traceability and recycling, ensuring that India achieves strategic self-reliance in this vital sector, " he said. Deputy director of IIT ISM and project director of TEXMIN said it is honoured to serve as the translational backbone of this CoE. Our focus is on high-impact, moonshot projects that combine cutting-edge technologies such as AI, machine learning, robotics, blockchain, and digital twins with practical applications in mineral exploration.

" By enabling real-time traceability of critical minerals and establishing pilot-scale solutions, we aim to strengthen India's supply chains and reduce dependency on imports", he said.

Ranchi docs assault : JSHSA urges HM, CM for implementation of MPA

Dhanbad Sept 29: In wake of Ranchi sadar hospital's doctors assault, Jharkhand State Health Services Association (JSHSA) has urged health minister and chief minister to implement Medical Protection Act (MPA) for in state so that medicos can give their services smoothly. JSHSA state secretary Dr Thakur Mritunjay Kumar Singh said that Ranchi sadar hospital incident has created panic among doctors and only MPA can give them sense of security. So, JSHSA urged health minister and chief minister to implement MPA in the interest of health services of Jharkhand.

On Sunday afternoon Dr Rajiv Ranjan and Dr Palak jayswal were assaulted by rowdy attendants of a road accident patient in emergency of sadar hospital.

Accused arrested

Ranchi police took immediate action and arrested all four accused immediately. " JSHSA thanks Ranchi administration and police officials for taking action so that accused were nabbed on the spot but there is need of such type of steps in other districts of state too ", said Dr Mritunjay Kumar Singh.

President Dr Bilesh Kumar and secretary Dr Thakur Mritunjay Kumar Singh said JSHSA in its previous meeting had already advised to all district unit members to meet such rowdy element on the spot. " Strike is not solution as attendant of one patient create problem and majority of admitted patients suffer. So, JSHSA has asked to meet the situation till MPA is implemented", they said.

RIMS JDA expresses concern

Junior Doctors Association (JDA) of Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Ranchi has expressed concern over assault of doctors in emergency at Ranchi sadar hospital.

" JDA RIMS strongly condemns the action of patient's kin who abused and physically assaulted doctors. Suchactof aggression against medical professional who dedicate their life to serve patients are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at any cost", said JDA president Dr Ankit Kumar.

With installation of Kola Bou, Durga Puja ritual begins in Dhanbad

Dhanbad, Sept 29 : With installation of Kola Bou, a banana plant symbolizing the goddess, on Monday morning on auspicious Maha Saptami the traditional Durga Puja ritual began in Dhanbad Puja Pandals.

While Bengali community Puja committees performed Kola Bou Snan (bride bath) In rivers, pound and lakes. The organizing committees of Bihari Puja Pandal executed 'Belnoti' ceremony to kick start Puja ritual.

Pt Hara Bannerjee said Kola Bou dressed as a bride , adorned with nine sacred plants (Navapatrika) was bathed in water body and installed in Pundal making starting of Durga Puja festival.



Today dozen Puja committees of Bengali community especially Hirapur Durga Mandir, Nepal Kali Mandir Puja committee, Devipara Puja committee, Harimandir Puja committee, Bengal Kalyan SamitiPuja committee, Bengali Welfare Society Puja committee, JC Mallick Road Puja committee took out impressive procession of Kola Bou Snan ceremony. They took away Kola Bou in Palki at Khokhan Talab, Pumpu Talab Bekarbandh Sarovar, Rani Talab and other water bodies for Snan.

The Puja committees carried their respective Kola Bou in Palki in procession with traditional Bengal music party to nearby water body and performed holy bath ritual.

The women devotees dressed in white Sari while men in Dhoti Kurta participated in large number. Those women who could not join in procession in early morning , they waited for arrival at Pundal and performed 'Aarti'.

Significance of Kola Bou

Pt Hara Banerjee of Nepal Kali Mandir said that It is believed Maa Durga arrives sat her father's house from her marital home (Himalaya) on Saptami. Since idol of Durga can't be taken to water body for her holy bath, Kola Bou is formed as symbol of Maa Durga to get her bathed in river/pond.

" Kola Bou is also known as Navapatrika comprising nine sacred plants include turmeric, clover, pomegranate, aurm, colocasia, paddy, ashok, and Sal tree. These items are drapped in white Sari with red border.

PM Modi's "Nari Shakti" mention in foreword to Giorgia Meloni's autobiography

New Delhi, Sept 29: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's autobiography gives readers a candid glimpse into her heart and mind, and tells her Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written in the foreword to the Indian edition of the Italian leader's autobiography. The autobiography, I Am Giorgia: My Roots, My Principles, is set to be launched in India by Rupa Publications.



In the foreword to the autobiography, Prime Minister Modi has said Prime Minister Meloni's life has "never been about politics or power". "It is about her courage, conviction, and commitment to public service and the people of Italy," he has written.

"Over the last 11 years, I have had the privilege of engaging with many world leaders, each with a different life journey. At times, their journeys transcend personal stories and speak to something larger. They remind us of ideals that have endured across cultures and centuries. Prime Minister Meloni has several such instances in her accomplished life, making this book very special. Her journey is inspiring and historic," Prime Minister Modi wrote.

He wrote that sections of the press and political analysts were sceptical about how Meloni would fare when she took over. "However, being the remarkable leader that she is, Giorgia Meloni has provided strength and stability to her nation. She has always been pragmatic and committed to furthering global good. She has consistently voiced the interests of Italy with remarkable clarity. At the same time, she has also been deeply attuned to the challenges of our interconnected world, engaging with a clear sense of responsibility and purpose on the global stage," Prime Minister Modi wrote.

"There are various ways to understand as well as appreciate Prime Minister Meloni's rise and leadership. Among those, I can see a strong connection between her story and the concept of Nari Shakti, the divine feminine energy that has been venerated in Indic traditions for thousands of years in many forms," he added.

Prime Minister Meloni, he wrote, has held firm to her roots while leading her nation with confidence on the global stage. "That is why her journey resonates so deeply with us in India. This autobiography, I Am Giorgia, gives readers a candid and rare glimpse into the heart and mind of one of Europe's and the world's most dynamic and vibrant leaders. It is also deeply personal."

"Her journey from a modest neighbourhood in Rome to Italy's highest political office highlights the power of purpose over narrow partisan politics. Her purpose of defending motherhood, national identity and tradition will resonate with readers in India. Her belief in defending one's cultural heritage, while engaging with the world on equal terms, mirrors our own values. Her compassion for her people and her ideas to take them on the path of peace and prosperity echo throughout the book," the Prime Minister wrote.

India and Italy, he said, are bound by much more than treaties or trade. "We are bound by shared civilizational instincts like the defence of heritage, the strength of community and the celebration of womanhood as a guiding force. Our nations are joined in spirit by a respect for tradition and an embrace of modernity. This is the bedrock of my own personal friendship with Prime Minister Meloni," he wrote.

Zoho's Sridhar Vembu reveals why company won't go public: The Reality...

New Delhi, Sept 29: 'Zoho co-founder Sridhar Vembu revealed that projects like Arattai would not exist if the company had gone public.

Zoho co-founder Sridhar Vembu has revealed that the company will not go public despite the push in recent months amid the new wave of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign. Describing Zoho as an 'industrial research lab', Mr Vembu stated that products like Arattai developed by the company would not exist if the company had launched an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

"We understand the push for Zoho to go public. But let me state the reality: Arattai would very likely not have been built by a public company that faces quarter-to-quarter financial pressure," wrote Mr Vembu in a X (formerly Twitter) post.

"It was a "hopelessly foolish" project, and even our employees had expressed scepticism that Arattai would ever gain any traction. We built it because we felt we need that kind of engineering capability in Bharat. We need a lot lot more of such capabilities in Bharat and we are on it."



Mr Vembu detailed that the Chennai-headquartered company was currently investing in ambitious, long-range R&D projects spanning compilers, databases, operating systems, security, hardware, chip design, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

"In addition, we have invested in many R&D intensive companies that we know won't make money soon," he said, adding that Zoho ignored short-term profits as long as the company did not lose money -- a proposition that would be hard to sell to Wall Street or Dalal Street, if an IPO were to be released.

"We have a culture of founders and senior executives living frugally, like how good scientists and engineers in ISRO would live. To us that is the essence of Bharat. Japan operated that way when it was developing."

Rare and refreshing'

As the post went viral, social media users applauded Mr Vembu's clarity of thought regarding the future of his company. "Even though it's an underdog and superficially a late entrant, Arattai will win. Zoho can be India's most important software company," said one user, while another added: "When you open the doors for capital, eventually capitalism walks in."

This ancient temple in Bihar practices rare bloodless sacrifice

Patna, Sept 29: The ancient Maa Mundeshwari Temple in Kaimur district of Bihar is known for its unique tradition of bloodless sacrifice. The octagonal temple is located on Pawara Hill in Bhagwanpur block and is dedicated to the Mahamandaleshwar Shiva family.

Devotees whose wishes are fulfilled bring goats to the temple. During the ritual, the goat is laid before the Goddess and faints. Priests then sprinkle rice grains and flowers on the animal, after which it regains consciousness and is returned to the devotee.

Devotees from across India and abroad visit the temple, especially during Navratri when lakhs gather for darshan. Gaurav and Varsha from Uttar Pradesh told NDTV, "We have been coming here for a long time... So far, we have come with our family twice, and we have found great peace."

In a video obtained by NDTV, a priest was seen holding a black goat that struggled and bleated. He placed the goat at the feet of the idol and put a flower garland on it. The goat, which was restless and moving moments ago, suddenly lay still on the floor, as if asleep or dead.



The priest then sprinkled rice grains on the goat and chanted hymns. Moments later, the goat jumped up and the priest handed it back to the devotees.

Temple priest Munna Dwivedi claimed, "This temple dates back to 625 BC... A unique tradition is followed, when wishes are fulfilled, devotees offer a bloodless sacrifice of a goat using rice grains and flowers."

A devotee from Ramgarh added, "I had prayed for something at Maa's darbar, and today it has been fulfilled. That's why I brought the goat. I will continue to come for Maa's darshan in the future too."

During Navratri, the district administration deploys police forces and monitors the temple with 25 CCTV cameras. Temple accountant Krishna Gopal and BDO Ankita Shekhar confirmed the arrangements.

A bloodless sacrifice is a religious offering in which the usual ritual of killing an animal or spilling blood is avoided. Instead, devotees use symbolic substitutes like rice grains, flowers, milk, fruits, or other items to represent the sacrifice.

Flying with alcohol? The rules in India and abroad explained

New Delhi, Sept 29: Want to bring some alcohol back from your vacation? Follow this guide to know the dos and don'ts of flights when it comes to carrying alcohol on flights.

It happens more often than you think. Someone packs a bottle of cashew feni from Goa or a bottle of Scotch from duty-free, only to freeze at the security gate, wondering if they will have to hand it over. Indian airports are full of travellers whispering the same question: Can you carry alcohol on a plane? The answer is not as simple as yes or no. Rules differ depending on whether you are flying within India, carrying it in cabin baggage, or connecting internationally. Throw in airline-specific policies and state restrictions, and things can get confusing. Here is a traveller's guide that clears the air, so the only thing fizzing is the drink in your bag.

If you are flying from one Indian city to another, the good news is that alcohol is allowed in your checked luggage. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation permits up to five litres per passenger. This covers whisky, vodka, rum, gin, and wine. The key rule is alcohol content — it must be between 24 per cent and 70 per cent ABV. Anything above 70 per cent is considered a fire hazard and banned outright.

Bottles must be sealed, unopened, and in retail packaging.



Opened or half-finished bottles are not permitted.

Packing matters. If bottles leak, you may be stopped at boarding until the problem is fixed.

There is one more layer to consider: state laws. Some states in India, such as Gujarat or Bihar, restrict the transport of alcohol altogether. Even if the airline clears your bottles, you may still run into trouble when you land.

Cabin Baggage And Alcohol: Stricter Rules Apply

Most passengers assume what works in checked bags works in cabin bags too. That is where the surprises begin. The DGCA discourages carrying alcohol in hand luggage, and airlines interpret this differently. And no matter what, drinking your own alcohol onboard is strictly prohibited.

Airline Policies In India

Air India: No alcohol is allowed in cabin baggage.

IndiGo and Akasa Air: Allow up to 1 litre in cabin bags, but only if bought after security and in original packaging.

SpiceJet: Permits duty-free alcohol in tamper-proof bags of approved sizes.

The rules may seem inconsistent, but they have one common thread: safety. Cabin baggage alcohol rules are enforced more strictly than checked baggage rules, and staff may insist on seeing receipts or packaging before you board.

International Rules For Carrying Alcohol On Flights

If you are heading abroad or returning to India, the rules shift again. The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) provides a useful comparison point.

Carry-On: Only 100 ml bottles are allowed in hand luggage, unless the alcohol is purchased duty-free in sealed packaging.

Checked Bags: Up to 5 litres per passenger is allowed, provided it falls between 24 per cent and 70 per cent ABV. Over 70 per cent ABV is banned entirely.

Like in India, you are not allowed to drink your own alcohol onboard, even if it is legally carried. That duty-free single malt from Heathrow is fine to take home, but you will need to wait until you land to open it.

How To Pack Alcohol Without Accidents

The rules let you bring alcohol, but what ensures it actually makes it home is how you pack it. Nothing spoils a trip faster than a suitcase dripping whisky.

Cushion Bottles: Wrap them in bubble wrap or soft clothes.

Leak-Proofing: Place bottles in sealed plastic bags to avoid spillage.

Smart Placement: Keep bottles in the middle of the suitcase, surrounded by clothes.

Receipts: Keep proof of purchase handy, especially for duty-free.

Do Not Overpack: Pressure on glass bottles increases the risk of cracks.

Festive oily foods can spike acidity, gallbladder emergencies: Doctor warns

New Delhi, Sept 29: Fried snacks, ghee-laden sweets, and heavy gravies are festive favourites, but Dr Shubham Vatsya, Senior Consultant, Gastroenterology, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj cautions against them.

Navratri is a time of devotion, dance, and delicious food. But even those who fasting for nine days and then indulge in celebrations on Dussehra or Vijaya Dashami tend to eat fried foods and sweets more than anything else. Think sabudana vada and kuttu puri for example. And then follows the build-up to Diwali, Bhai Dooj and more. From fried pakoras and jalebis to ghee-rich sweets and butter-heavy gravies, festival plates are often loaded with indulgent items. But doctors warn that these oily foods, if consumed in excess, could spell trouble for the digestive system.

"Fatty and greasy foods not only trigger acid reflux but also put immense stress on the gallbladder. During festive seasons, we often see a surge in patients reporting with acidity, indigestion, and even gallbladder emergencies," says Dr Shubham Vatsya, Senior Consultant, Gastroenterology, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj.



Here's why fatty foods pose such risks, and when you should seek medical help.

Why Fatty And Oily Foods Are Risky

While you might be consuming them because they are sattvic, the fact is that most people tend to pick the right ingredients and wrong cooking methods during Navratri. The result is fatty and oily food, which pose the following risks.

Increased Acid Production And Reflux

When you eat fried or greasy food, your stomach takes longer to empty. This means food and acid linger inside for longer, raising the risk of reflux. "Fatty foods can relax the lower oesophageal sphincter (LES), the valve between the stomach and oesophagus. When this happens, acid can flow back into the food pipe, causing heartburn and acidity," explains Dr Vatsya. This is why many people complain of burning chest pain or regurgitation after heavy festive meals.

Overlap Of Symptoms And Complications

The tricky part is that symptoms of acidity and gallbladder attacks often overlap. "After a heavy oily meal, people may assume chest or stomach pain is due to simple acidity. But in some cases, it could indicate a gallbladder attack or even pancreatitis if the ducts are obstructed," cautions Dr Vatsya.

Festive meals during Navratri and beyond often include:

- **Deep-fried snacks like pakoras and jalebis**
- **Ghee-laden sweets in sugar syrup**
- **Creamy gravies with butter or oil**
- **Large portions eaten late at night or once a day**

"These kinds of feasts overwhelm the digestive system, especially for those not accustomed to high-fat meals daily," says Dr Vatsya.

When Oily Foods Could Lead To Emergencies

For people with pre-existing gallstones or gallbladder disease, a single greasy meal can be dangerous. Risks include:

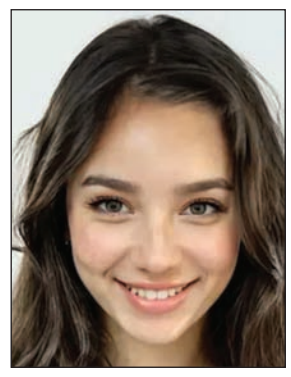
Who is Tilly Norwood? AI-Generated actress that Hollywood agents want to sign

Zurich, Sept 29: Eline Van der Velde stated that her AI talent studio, Xicoia, was close to completing the deal for Tilly Norwood's representation.

A studio that developed an artificial intelligence (AI) actress named Tilly Norwood is in talks with Hollywood executives and agents who are willing to represent her. At the Zurich Summit last weekend, actress and technologist Eline Van der Velde stated that her AI talent studio, Xicoia, was close to completing the deal about Norwood's representation.

If an agent manages to successfully sign her, Norwood would be among the first AI-generated performers to secure professional representation, traditionally reserved for human actors.

"When we first launched Tilly, people were like, 'What's that?' Now we're going to be announcing which agency is going to be representing her in the next few months," Ms Van der Velde was quoted as saying by Variety.



Norwood appeared in her first role in a comedy sketch titled "AI Commissioner" which explores the future of TV development.

"Can't believe it...my first ever role is live! I star in 'AI Commissioner,'" Norwood posted on her Facebook page.

Hollywood stars protest

As Norwood attracted agency interest, Hollywood stars have come out in protest against the move. In the Heights star Melissa Barrera took to Instagram Stories to post: "Hope all actors repped by the agent that does this, drop their a$$. How gross, read the room."

Meanwhile, Matilda star Mara Wilson asked: "And what about the hundreds of living young women whose faces were composited together to make her? You couldn't hire any of them?"

Amid the sharp negative rebuke, Ms Van der Velde clarified that Norwood was not a 'replacement' for humans but a 'piece of art'.

"To those who have expressed anger over the creation of my AI character, Tilly Norwood, she is not a replacement for a human being, but a creative work - a piece of art. Like many forms of art before her, she sparks conversation, and that in itself shows the power of creativity," she said. "I see AI not as a replacement for people, but as a new tool, a new paintbrush. Just as animation, puppetry, or CGI opened fresh possibilities without taking away from live acting, AI offers another way to imagine and build stories. I'm an actor myself, and nothing - certainly not an AI character, can take away the craft or joy of human performance."

PM Modi slams Congress-led Himachal govt for undoing GST cut by raising cement price

New Delhi, Sept 29 (IANS) Prime Minister NarendraModi on Monday lashed out at the Congress-led government in Himachal Pradesh for hiking cement price to blunt the benefit of the recent GST cut, saying they are busy "filling their own pockets".

Speaking at the inauguration of Delhi BJP's new building, PM Modi said, "The day we cut the GST on cement, the Himachal Pradesh government increased its price. They immediately raised the price and got down to filling their pockets."

PM Modi asked each BJP worker to ensure that the benefits of the next-generation GST reforms percolate down to the common people.

"You also have to promote Swadeshi products and ensure that boards are put up at every shop and people take pride in selling Swadeshi products in their establishments," he said.

PM Modi said, "Swadeshi products need to be promoted to make India self-reliant."

Highlighting the government's priority to give attention to public security and ridding the nation of corruption, the PM said the recently introduced GST reforms and the increase in limit of taxable income have resulted in annual, nationwide public savings of Rs 2.50 lakh crore.

"Before 2014, when a family spent Rs 1 lakh, an amount of Rs 25,000 was lost to various taxes. Today, after the GST 2.0 reform, an expenditure of Rs 1 lakh results in payment of a tax of only Rs 5,000," he added.

PM Modi said that across the country, BJP governments are working on models inspired by 'Sushasan', focusing on the delivery of services.

New railway projects connecting India, Bhutan to boost connectivity and trade



New Delhi/Guwahati, Sep 29 (IANS) Union Railways Minister AshwiniVaishnaw, on Monday, announced new railway projects connecting India and Bhutan to further strengthen connectivity and trade.

The Union Minister while talking to the media in New Delhi on new railway connectivity projects between India and Bhutan, stressed upon the shared commitment of the two countries to strengthen regional connectivity, sustainability and economic cooperation.

The announcement detailed key cross-border railway initiatives set to transform bilateral ties.

Foreign Secretary VikramMisri, who was also present during the Union Railway Minister's media briefing, also jointly outlined the vision, implementation strategy and significance of the upcoming projects.

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Kapinjal Kishore Sharma, said that two major links have been identified under the plan -- the 69-km Kokrajhar- Gelephu line, connecting Assam with Bhutan's Gelephu, and the 20 km Banarhat-Samtse line, linking West Bengal with Bhutan.

He added that together, these projects estimated at Rs 4,033 crore will provide a significant boost to trade, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Samtse and Gelephu are the major export import hubs in Bhutan and serve 700-km-long India-Bhutan border.

Gelephu is being developed as a mindfulness city and Samtse is being developed as an industrial town by the Bhutan government.

The CPRO said that to expedite implementation, the Kokrajhar-Gelephu line has been declared a special railway project, enabling fast-tracked clearances and land acquisition.

On the financial side, the Ministry of Railways will bear investments for works on the Indian side, while the indian government, through the Ministry of External Affairs, will support the Bhutanese portion as part of Bhutan's 13th five-year plan, he added.

This model ensures that the maximum share of infrastructure lies on the Indian side, while extending full support to Bhutan's development needs.

India is Bhutan's top trading partner and these railway projects will further cement economic ties while supporting balanced regional development.

Shailendra Nath Gupta, Director General Defence Estates, retires



New Delhi, Sept 29 : Shri Shailendra Nath Gupta, a 1990 batch officer of the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), assumed charge as Director General Defence Estates on 01 June 2025. He superannuates today, 30 September 2025, after rendering nearly 35 years of distinguished service to the Government of India.Although his tenure as DG spanned just 120 days, its impact has been profound and historic. Under his leadership, the Defence Estates Organisation witnessed significant strides in digitisation, integration of social welfare schemes in cantonments, land management reforms, and infrastructure development.In close coordination with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, he initiated measures to implement flagship schemes in cantonments, including the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem), and Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana. Another landmark achievement was the submission of the Special Land Audit Report of the North Eastern region to the Defence Secretary, assessing the utilisation of nearly 50,000 acres of Army-occupied land across eight states including Sikkim. He also undertook constructive steps in cadre management, such as initiating amendments to recruitment rules, cadre restructuring, and conducting three Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) to ensure promotion of eligible officers to higher management positions.

Burmamines police recover lost valuables worth Rs 15 lakh

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Jamshedpur police achieved a remarkable success by recovering valuables worth nearly Rs 15 lakh belonging to Birsanagar resident Gurucharan Gorai. The recovery operation was carried out under the leadership of Burmamines police station in-charge, Dilip Kumar Yadav.

How the Bag Was Lost: On September 26, Gurucharan Gorai was returning home to Birsanagar from Tatanagar railway station by auto-rickshaw. During the journey, his bag accidentally fell near Tube Company Gate. The bag contained gold and diamond jewellery, electronic gadgets, and several important documents. He immediately lodged a written complaint at Burma mines police station, providing full details of the incident.

Police Team's Persistent Effort: Acting swiftly on the complaint, station in-charge Dilip Kumar Yadav formed a special investigation team.For three consecutive days, the team carried out an intensive search, examining every possible lead. Their persistence paid off when the police successfully recovered the entire lost property intact.

Recovered items include

- HP Laptop – 1
- Nikon Camera – 1
- Gold Necklace – 1
- Diamond Rings – 2
- Gold Rings – 5
- Gold Earrings – 4 pieces
- Gold Ear Buttons – 1 piece
- Diamond Earrings – 2
- Gold Pendant – 1

Important household documents and bank passbooks: The total estimated value of the recovered items is approximately Rs 15 lakh.

Timely Success Ahead of Festive Rush: This recovery comes at a crucial time, just before the Durga Puja festivities, when the police force is already under heightened responsibilities.Despite the busy schedule, the Burmamines team set a commendable example through their dedication and teamwork.

Sub-Inspectors Krishna Mahato and Vinay Kumar Pandey played key roles in the operation alongside station In-charge Yadav.

Public Trust Strengthened: The recovery not only brought immense relief to Gurucharan Gorai but also strengthened public faith in Jamshedpur police.

This successful operation highlights the department's commitment and capability to protect citizens and their property efficiently, even during challenging times. (w/ pm)

Somesh Soren seeks blessings of Ma Durga at Jadugoda Puja pandals



Jadugoda, Sept 29: Somesh Soren, son of former Jharkhand Education Minister late Ramdas Soren, visited Jadugoda late Sunday night to offer prayers to Ma Durga. Bowing before the Goddess, he prayed for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the region. During his visit, Narayan Chatterjee, an active member of the UCIL Colony Jadugoda Community Centre, honored him by presenting a Chunri of Ma Durga.

Somesh Soren also toured six Durga Puja pandals in and around Jadugoda, where he offered his respects and had darshan of the Goddess.

He was accompanied by JMM District Chief Coordinator Bagh Rai Mardi, Pradhan Soren, Harish Bhakat, Somay Kisku and a large number of party workers, who joined him in the festive celebrations.

Banna Gupta visits Durga Puja pandals in Mango

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Sept 29: Former Minister Banna Gupta, accompanied by his wife Sudha Gupta, paid visits to several Durga Puja pandals on the occasion of Mahasaptami. Their stops included the pandals at Mango Sankosai Road No. 3, Dimna Road Divider Park and Mango Baliguma NH-33 Gayatri Homes Welfare Society. At each pandal, the couple bowed before the Mother Goddess and sought Her blessings. Speaking on the occasion, Banna Gupta emphasized that worshipping Goddess Durga purified both body and mind. He added that Durga Puja was not merely a ritualistic celebration but a festival symbolizing the triumph of truth over falsehood and resistance against social oppression.

He further expressed prayers to the Mother Goddess for the happiness, peace and prosperity of the people of Jharkhand and the entire nation. (w/gsd)

Tata Motors' outlook cut to 'negative' by Moody's after cyber-attack halts JLR production

New Delhi, Sep 29 (IANS) Moody's Ratings on Monday downgraded Tata Motors' outlook to negative from positive after a cyber-attack at its British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) forced a complete production halt.

The rating agency, however, affirmed Tata Motors' Ba1 corporate family rating (CFR).

"The outlook change to negative from positive reflects our view that a full recovery in credit metrics will likely take several months," said SwetaPatodia, Assistant Vice President and Analyst at Moody's Ratings.

The cyber incident at JLR has highlighted customer relations risk under social considerations in the ESG framework, which Moody's said was the main reason for its rating action.

After the demerger of Tata Motors' commercial vehicle business on October 1, JLR will account for more than 90 per cent of its consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), showing the strong link between the two companies' credit profiles.

Chaibasa: Deepak Birua Inaugurates Gandhi Tola Durga Puja Pandal





The Gandhi Tola Durga Puja pandal was inaugurated by Jharkhand Minister Deepak Birua. The event witnessed the presence of prominent citizens and community leaders from Chaibasa. Minister Birua extended his warm wishes to the people of Chaibasa on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and Dussehra praying for their well-being and prosperity. (w/gsd)

Navaratri inspires moral strength and social harmony: Kale



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, Jharkhand BJP state spokesperson, Amarpreet Singh Kale, participated in the inauguration ceremonies of Durga Puja pandals at multiple locations, including Kadma Kamdhenu Apartments and Bhuiyadiha Neetibagh Colony. He offered his prayers and shared in the festive spirit with devotees.

Addressing the gathering, Kale said," Durga Puja is not merely a festival; it represents the eternal cycle of life, the triumph of strength and dharma, and the journey of self-transformation. Navaratri teaches us that goodness always triumphs over evil. This festival reinforces unity, resilience, and moral values within society." The events saw participation from local residents, members of the puja committees, and several dignitaries. The BJP leader extended his greetings to all devotees, emphasizing collective devotion and the message of social harmony. (w/pm)

KGP Division intensifies cleanliness efforts under Swachhata Hi Seva 2025

Mail News Service



Kharagpur, Sept 29: The Kharagpur Division of Indian Railways launched a large-scale cleanliness and hygiene drive on Monday under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2025. The special initiative focused on ensuring hygienic food services and safe catering practices for passengers.

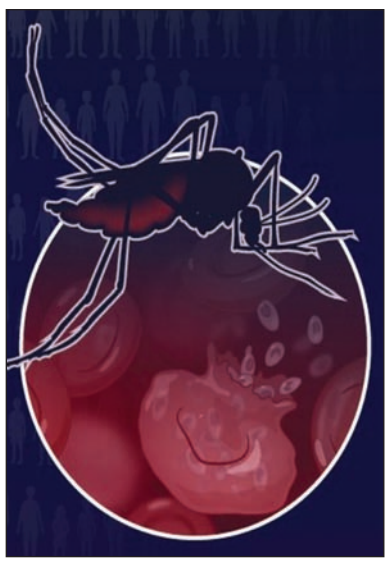
Cleanliness activities were carried out across major stations, including Baleshwar, Kharagpur, Shalimar, Santragachi, Mecheda, Panskura and Baripada. Base kitchens, food plazas, multi-purpose stalls and catering units underwent deep cleaning, sanitization and waste clearance. Catering staff were educated on food safety and maintaining hygienic conditions.

Pantry cars of prominent trains - Train No. 22641, Train No. 12841 and Train No. 12073 - were also inspected. Commercial and Health Inspectors reviewed cooking and storage areas, checked water quality, examined waste management and verified compliance with food licenses, staff medical certificates and product expiry dates.

Staff across catering units received hands-on training in waste segregation, disposal and sanitation practices. The campaign reflected Indian Railways' ongoing commitment to the national "Swachh Rail - Swachh Bharat" mission, with Kharagpur Division pledging to sustain these efforts throughout SHS 2025 and beyond, ensuring passengers a safe and healthy dining experience while traveling. (w/gsd)

Health

Alert in Kerala's Malappuram after 3 of a migrant worker family test positive for malaria



Malappuram, Sep 29 (IANS) Three members of a family of migrant workers, belonging to Uttar Pradesh and residing in Malappuram district of north Kerala, have tested positive for malaria on Monday, prompting the state health department to intensify preventative and surveillance measures in the area.

The individuals, including a child and a woman, who reportedly arrived in Wandoor's Ambalapadi area from UP just four days ago, tested positive for the vector-borne disease, the officials confirmed. They have been admitted to an isolated ward in the Wandoor hospital following the detection.

The detection has led to immediate action by the local health authorities to contain any possible spread of the disease. Joint teams of health department officials, including health inspectors and junior health inspectors, alongside ASHA workers, launched house-to-house visits in the Wandoor area to conduct awareness campaigns and distribute informational pamphlets on malaria prevention. The teams are identifying potential mosquito breeding grounds, particularly stagnant water in discarded plastic items and plant pots, and advising residents on source reduction methods.

"We have launched immediate, comprehensive anti-malarial activities and awareness drives in the region," said Sreejith G, junior health inspector, emphasising that the cases are currently being treated as 'imported' due to the patients' recent travel history from an endemic state.

The medical department is also undertaking fever surveillance and blood sample collection drives, especially among the resident migrant worker population, to detect and isolate any further cases swiftly.

The focus remains on controlling the mosquito breeding and preventing localised transmission in the highly sensitive area. Kerala has achieved a sustained, steep decline in its malaria caseload over the last decade, transitioning from a state that effectively eradicated the disease in 1965 to one battling re-introduction primarily via external sources, according to health department data.

Malaria cases in the state have shown a consistent downward trend, dropping significantly from 2,299 cases in 2010 to 656 in 2019, before further reducing to 309 cases in 2021, according to official reports from the Directorate of Health Services.

Jaya Bachchan gives Kajol a tight hug on Saptami celebrations



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) Actress-politician Jaya Bachchan was seen warmly embracing Kajol during the latter's family's annual Durga Puja celebrations in Mumbai on Saptami.

The festive spirit was in full swing on Monday as Jaya arrived at the Mukherjee family pandal in North Mumbai, looking elegant in an ivory-hued saree with a drizzle of gold, paired with a neat bun.

After offering pushpanjali, Jaya was joined by Kajol, who looked every-inch stunning in a yellow ombre shaded saree, near the idol of Goddess Durga. The two shared a warm hug before happily posing for the shutterbugs.

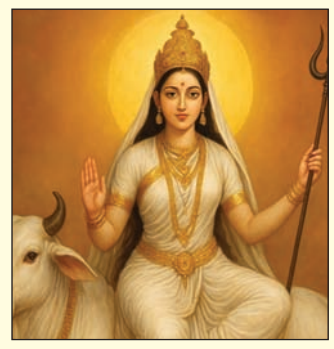
Kajol, who has worked with Jaya Bachchan in the 2001 blockbuster "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham", was later spotted posing with police officials at the pandal. She was also seen spending time with her close friends, actor Vatsal Sheth, his wife Ishita Dutta, and their son Vaayu. Kajol was first seen playing with the little one before lovingly holding him in her arms.

On September 28, Kajol admitted that this year she found it difficult to visit the Durga Puja pandal after the loss of uncle Deb Mukherjee, father of filmmaker Ayan Mukherjee.

She took to her official Insta handle and dropped a string of photographs from the festivities, where she was seen posing with her sister Tanishaa Mukerji and cousins, Rani and Ayan Mukerji.

She expressed her feeling of how the pandal visit this year felt both tough and dearer at the same time.

Navratri Day 8: Goddess Mahagauri symbolises serenity, purity and victory



Shardiya Navratri, the nine-day celebration of devotion and festivity, has entered its eighth day. The eighth day of the festival is dedicated to Maa Mahagauri, the embodiment of purity, serenity, and compassion. On Day 8 of Navratri, devotees observe rituals, follow the puja vidhi, and dress in the auspicious colour for the day, seeking blessings of Maa Mahagauri.

Her name, "Mahagauri," means "extremely white," symbolising purity, peace, and serenity. She is believed to have a fair complexion like the moon or conch and is often depicted wearing white clothes and riding a bull (Nandi).

Maa Mahagauri is revered as the eighth manifestation of Goddess Durga. According to Hindu mythology, her story is deeply rooted in devotion, penance, and the divine union of Shiva and Shakti.

Goddess Parvati, the reincarnation of Adi Shakti, wished to marry Lord Shiva, the supreme ascetic dwelling in the Himalayas. However, Lord Shiva, lost in deep meditation, was detached from worldly matters.

Parvati resolved to win his heart through severe penance (tapasya). For years, she performed the hardest austerities in the Himalayas, meditating on Shiva, enduring storms, heat, and cold. She survived on leaves and eventually gave up even that, sustaining herself only on air. Her penance continued for thousands of years, and due to these extreme conditions, her skin became dark and rough.

Moved by her unwavering devotion, Lord Shiva finally appeared before her. He accepted her as his consort and granted her the name Mahagauri, which means "the extremely fair one." It is believed that Lord Shiva blessed her so that she would regain her original, radiant, golden-white complexion.

After bathing in the holy Ganga, her dark complexion vanished, and she emerged as Maa Mahagauri, resplendent in pure white attire, embodying serenity, purity, and compassion.

The popular mantra for Maa Mahagauri is: "Om Devi Mahagauryai Namah"

Varun Dhawan asks 'BB 19' contestants to take a dig at each other using shayari



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) This weekend, host Salman Khan was joined by the entertaining cast of the much-awaited movie, "Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari," including Janhvi Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, and Maniesh Paul during the 'Weekend Ka Vaar' episode of "Bigg Boss 19".

Having a one-on-one with the contestants, Varun asked the housemates to take a dig at one another, but using shayari.

The recently released promo showed contestant Amaal Malik saying, "Baatie karte hain ye sab mere aggression ki, magar karte khud peeche se vaar hain, itna sochne ki zarurat nahi hain janab, naam inka Nehal, Praneet, aur Awez Darbar hain."

Fellow contestant, Mridul Tiwari, was also heard saying, "Main to hari hu, bechari hu, sabse badi dukhyari hu, idhar roungi, udhar roungi, aur raat main chugli karke mast soungi," taking a dig at Amaal.

Sharing the latest promo of the 'Weekend Ka Vaar' episode, the makers captioned the post, "Gharwaalon ne dikhaayi apni shayari skills, teekhe jawaabon se dediye sabko chills! Dekhiye #BiggBoss19 ka naya episode, har roz raat 9 baje #JioHotstar par aur 10:30 baje @colorstv par. (sic)"

During the episode, Salman was also seen taking a subtle jibe at his past girlfriends.

When Salman asked what "Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari" is all about, Varun informed him that their film deals with the topic of "relationships," and he ends up getting dumped several times in the movie. Pitching in, Janhvi, Sanya, and Rohit also reveal that they face the same fate in the drama.

Reacting to this, Salman says hilariously, "Are you guys making a film on my film?", referring to his former lovers.

Salman's most discussed relationships include Katrina Kaif, Aishwarya Rai, Somy Ali, and Sangeeta Bijlani. Although the list of his alleged girlfriends is believed to be longer.

"Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari" is scheduled for a theatrical release on October 2, during Dussehra.

Rakul Preet Singh reveals the mom-approved recipe for a rainy weather



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) While Mumbai rains are a sight for the sore eyes, the weather also makes one prone to several illnesses, such as fever, sore throat, and other infections.

In order to keep her immunity in check, actress Rakul Preet Singh shared a mother-approved recipe she swears by.

The 'Doctor G' actress shared a picture of a glass full of the Haldi Besan milk, along with the caption, "Perfect for this weather". It is well-known that Haldi helps boost immunity, improve digestion, and detoxify the body, making it a perfect choice for the changing weather.

Last week, Rakul's filmmaker husband, Jackky Bhagnani, celebrated the 'Wife Appreciation Day' by sharing a heartfelt post for his "safe space", wife Rakul.

"I love you to the moon & back," Jackky penned on his official Instagram handle.

He dropped a video montage of some candid moments of Rakul over the years on social media, along with an emotional note that read, "On Wife Appreciation Day...Today, I just want to pause and say how truly grateful I am for you. Thank you for being my best friend, my partner in crime, and the one who makes sure my healthy food somehow finds me, no matter where I am."

Calling Rakul this "safe space", Jackky added, "But beyond all that, thank you for being my safe place, the person who knows me better than I know myself, and the one who makes even ordinary days feel extraordinary."

"I love you to the moon and back — and then some. @rakulpreet (red heart emoji) #wifeappreciationday," the post concluded.

Work-wise, Rakul will reprise her role as Ayesha Khurana in the highly anticipated sequel, "De De Pyaar De 2". She will be accompanied by Ajay Devgn, who will be seen as Ashish Mehra yet again in the second instalment of the franchise.

The core cast of the drama will also feature R. Madhavan as Dev Khurana, Ayesha's father.

Zareen Khan: I got to play myself in 'Phir Se Restart'



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) Zareen Khan is all set to make her debut in the short drama platform with the show "Phir Se Restart". The actress says that the shoot was quick, the concept was refreshing, and that she got to play herself.

Commenting on her journey with Pocket TV's 'Phir Se Restart', Zareen shares, "This was my first time working in a vertical short drama format. The whole experience was really fun."

Zareen takes on the role of a celebrated actress in the short drama, Phir Se Restart. The show traces the life of a renowned celebrity, Zareen, who is dissatisfied with her costume designer's creation and turns the moment into an opportunity to find raw talent. She comes up with a one-of-a-kind contest, offering aspiring designers a chance to showcase their talent.The actress added: "The shoot was quick, the concept was refreshing, and I got to play myself in Phir Se Restart, Zareen Khan the actress. It was new, fresh, and something I really enjoyed doing. Short dramas have finally made their mark in India."

Zareen added: "Almost everybody owns a phone today and Pocket TV is bringing content directly to the palms of their hand, which I believe, is the best way to connect with your audience."

She said that as an artist she doesn't want to stay in a comfort zone.

"I debuted in a short drama series with Pocket TV, so, I would definitely want to have a long association with them, especially because the experience of working together was great. I would love to keep the doors open for any future collaborations with them." Zareen made her acting debut in 2010 with the action film Veer starring Bollywood superstar Salman Khan and then appeared in the popular item number titled Character Dheela in the 2011 action comedy film Ready and in the 2012 comedy Housefull 2, that ranks her highest-grossing release.

Rashmika Mandanna shares why 'Tum Mere Na Huye' from Thamma was one of the most fun songs to shoot



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) The makers of "Thamma" have released the first track from the film, "Tum Mere Na Huye, Na Sahi" on social media.

On Monday, the Universal Music India took to Instagram to share the track and captioned it, "Some love stories never die… they keep burning within. Feel the voice, feel the ache with #TumMereNaHuye.Song Out Now. On 21st October, the universe brings us a bloody love story in cinemas worldwide with #Thamma!."

Rashmika Mandanna, who stars in the song, shared why this particular number was one of the most fun moments for her on set. Speaking about the track, she shared, "Definitely one of the most fun songs I've shot for. The choreography, the music, the beats, the set… everything is just full heart! I hope you all like it & enjoy as much as I did while shooting for it."

Ayushmann Khuranna added, "Dancing with Rashmika on this track has been an absolute joy. She is such a fine dancer - truly expressive and effortless. Watching Rashmika be her true self in Tum Mere Na Huye has been a delight - her energy and grace elevate the track and is something to watch for. This song is one that will grab you and immerse you in the world of Thamma - the costumes, look and feel, and even the composition and lyrics of the song - blend the emotions of Thamma so well to make it an addictive and alluring love number. I can't wait for audiences to experience the chemistry between the two characters."

Vedam World School students watch 'Ajey'



Lucknow: Students of Vedam World School, BKT Branch and Barabanki Branch, enjoyed a special movie outing on Monday as they watched the film Ajey at PVR Wave Cinemas, Gomtinagar.

The screening proved to be an enriching experience, leaving the young audience inspired and delighted. After the show, students shared their excitement, with many describing the movie as highly motivating and carrying a strong social message. Some students highlighted how watching it together with friends made the day even more memorable. The school management said such initiatives not only provide entertainment but also help in imparting values and life lessons in an engaging manner. The outing turned into a day of learning, inspiration, and joy for all participants.

Sonakshi Sinha says send help after hubby Zaheer Iqbal goes 'crazy'



Mumbai, Sep 29 (IANS) Bollywood power couple Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are known for their goofy videos and strong camaraderie on social media.

Keeping up with this trajectory, the duo posted a fun video on Sunday in which Zaheer is seen playfully teasing Sonakshi with his funny antics. In the clip, the couple is sitting at a restaurant, with Zaheer trying to place his hand on her face while she attempts to drink water. Laughing, Sonakshi tells Zaheer, "You are crazy." Sharing this video, the 'Akira' actress wrote, "Send help." In the video, the 'Notebook' actor, dressed in a blue T-shirt, records the moment while looking into the camera. Judging by Sonakshi's expressions, it seems like she's both amused and slightly exasperated by his antics.

Just keep swimming

by Aakanksha Gupta.

Sometimes I feel so lost ,
When I see my boat in the flood.
And I'm covered upon my fortune's mud .
Trying to measure my existence's cost.
I feel too lost, nowhere to be found,
In this sea where I live in,
I feel like, I should drown.
Bargaining with each of my breaths like a final bound.
I give up, I dive in,
With me , my boat sunken into the sea.
I waddle, i swim in,
Absorbing the water in me .
But it's waves are engulfing me ,
I'm unable to wade.
I feel myself to dawdle,
Just pretending to swim .
It's too much I feel,
When I exclaim that I don't want to live.
I assure myself to believe,
But my conscience speaks proudly," Dear, Just keep swimming

Women's ODI WC: India's quest for maiden ICC title set to begin with opener against Sri Lanka

Guwahati, Sept 29 (IANS) 2025 has belonged to those sporting teams that previously missed out on winning trophies and have transformed into title winners in their respective competitive leagues. For India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, it's more or less the same - a chance to shed the weight of history and live up to the hope of a nation yearning for its first senior women's global championship glory. That quest begins again when India open their 2025 Women's ODI World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka at the ACA Stadium here on Tuesday.



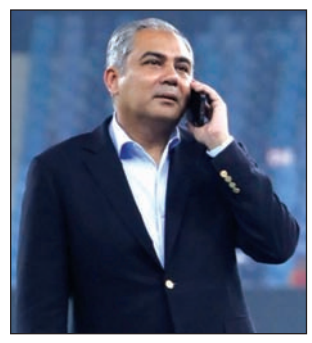
India enter the tournament as a formidable contender for the glittering trophy, with the competition returning to the country for the first time since 2013. The hosts possess a batting arsenal headlined by the explosive Smriti Mandhana, fresh off a stunning 50-ball century against Australia in New Delhi, alongside players like Harmanpreet, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, and Jemimah Rodrigues, who complement her very well.

The questions, however, remain about India's bowling attack and ground fielding, with lapses surfacing during the recent 2-1 bilateral series loss to Australia. India will be aiming to address these vulnerabilities as soon as possible in their pursuit of glory on home soil.

A home World Cup triumph for India could transform women's cricket in the country forever. It might lead to increased grassroots investment, strengthen the case for pay parity with male cricketers across all levels and make a strong case for premier venues to regularly host women's matches.

More importantly, winning this World Cup would give millions of young girls a historic moment of national pride on home soil. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, led by veteran skipper Chamari Athapaththu, who is likely playing in her final ODI World Cup, arrive as formidable underdogs.

Pakistan faces sanctions over Asia Cup fuss, refusing to give trophy to India: Report



Mumbai, Sept 29 (IANS) From objecting to the match referee Andy Pycroft over the no handshake controversy, threatening to withdraw from the tournament, and not handing the trophy to the winners, Pakistan faces a possible sanction at the international level for their shenanigans in the just-concluded Men's T20 Asia Cup, according to a news report.

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sources told Telecom Asia Sport that the issue is likely to figure prominently during the upcoming ICC Board meeting next week.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will raise the issue in the ICC Board meeting next week after a series of controversies in which Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) took a confrontational stance, from objecting to the match referee to taking the trophy without handing it to the winners," sources told www.telecomasia.net.

On Sunday, the Indian players refused to take the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, who, besides being the president of the Asian Cricket Council and PCB, is also the interior minister of Pakistan and has a role to play in the military conflict with India following the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor. The ACC vice president, Aminul Islam of Bangladesh, and Mubashir Usmani of ICC Associates, representative (former CEO of the Emirates Board), also tried to convince Naqvi to budge from his stance, but he did not relent.

JFC extend contracts of Pratik Chaudhari, Amrit Gope





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, September 29: Jamshedpur FC have announced the contract extensions of defender Pratik Chaudhari and goalkeeper Amrit Gope, with both players signing fresh two-year deals that will see them remain with the Men of Steel until 2027.

Pratik, who rejoined Jamshedpur FC in 2022 after his earlier stint in the 2018-19 season, has been a defensive mainstay for the club. Last season, he forged a strong partnership with Stephen Eze at the back, playing a vital role in guiding Jamshedpur FC to the semifinals of the Indian Super League and the final of the Super Cup. Speaking after signing the extension, Pratik expressed his delight at continuing his journey in Jamshedpur. "This club has always been close to my heart. Coming back to the Furnace in 2022 felt like returning home, and the past few seasons have been incredibly special." Goalkeeper Amrit Gope, a Jamshedpur-born lad who rose through the ranks from the JSA Premier Division to the club's reserves, also committed his future to the Men of Steel. After gaining experience with TRAU FC and Bengaluru FC, Amrit returned to his hometown club two years ago. His recent performances in the Durand Cup, where he was entrusted as the first-choice goalkeeper, earned him praise for his confident displays between the sticks.

Jamshedpur FC's Head Coach Steve Dias, welcomed the extensions, highlighting the value both players bring to the squad. "Pratik has been a pillar of strength for our defense and his leadership on the pitch is vital for us. Amrit, on the other hand, has shown tremendous promise and confidence, especially in the Durand Cup. Keeping them both ensures we strike the right balance of experience and local talent as we build for the future."

Jr World Cup Shooting: Clean sweep for India in women's air rifle as hosts dominate Day 5

New Delhi, Sept 29 (IANS) India produced a stunning display of dominance in the 10m air rifle junior women's event at the ISSF Junior World Cup New Delhi 2025, at Dr.Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Monday, registering a clean sweep of the podium. Ojasvi Thakur emerged as the champion with a score of 252.7, firing two brilliant 10.9s on her 8th and 16th shots to seal the gold medal. Teammate Hrudya Shri Kondur secured the silver with 250.2, while qualification leader Shambhavi S. Kshirsagar completed the all-India podium with 229.4.

The Indian trio had already stamped their authority in qualification, finishing as the top three with Shambhavi leading on 632.0, Ojasvi following with 631.9, and Hrudya third on 629.8. Croatia's Anamarija Turk, who had qualified eighth, was the closest challenger but placed fourth in the final with 206.6.

5th Hockey India Sr Men National C'ship to begin in Jsr today

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, September 29: The city of Jamshedpur is set to become the heartbeat of Indian hockey as the Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA) proudly announces its hosting of the 5th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2025, scheduled from 30th September to 10th October 2025. The championship will be held at Naval Tata Hockey Academy Ground, ISWP, Jamshedpur. Quarter Finals will be held on 7th October, Semi Finals on 9th October, and the Final on 10th October 2025.

This premier national-level tournament will bring together the powerhouses of Indian hockey representing India's top departments and institutions. A total of 18 elite teams has been divided into four pools:



Pool A: Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, Punjab National Bank, All India Police Sports Control Board, Tamil Nadu Police, Union Bank of India

Pool B: Railway Sports Promotion Board, Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Punjab & Sind Bank

Pool C: Services Sports Control Board, Steel Plants Sports Board, Central Civil Services Cultural & Sports, Central Industrial Security Force

Pool D: Food Corporation of India, Sports Authority of India, ITBP Central Hockey Team, Central Board of Direct Taxes

The tournament will kick off on 30th September with thrilling opening encounters. Over the following days, hockey enthusiasts will witness high-voltage matches leading up to the grand finale on 10th October 2025 at the NTHA ground, Jamshedpur.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurmeet Singh Rao expressed immense pride in hosting this national event: "At Naval Tata Hockey Academy, our mission has always been to nurture talent and provide a world-class platform for the game. Hosting the Senior Men Inter-Department Nationals is not just an honour, but a celebration of hockey's legacy and future in India."

Chirchi FC, Cobra FC, Sona Group, United Eleven shine in ADBBJS Memorial Football Tournament



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Sept 29: The five-day ADBBJS Memorial Football Competition, organized by Navayuvak Sangh at Kamarhatu in Sadar Block, concluded with thrilling finals that witnessed spirited participation across categories.

In the Revenue Village Level final, Chirchi FC emerged as the champions by defeating Hathimanda in a well-contested match. In the Open category, Cobra FC clinched the title by defeating Painter Babu Shishu Mandir in a nail-biting tiebreaker. The Forty Plus category saw Sona Group outclassing Police Team Jamshedpur in another tiebreaker. Among the women's teams, United Eleven Tungri B triumphed with a 1-0 victory over United Club A. The winners and runner-up teams of the revenue village level competition received prize money of Rs 18,000 and Rs 14,000 respectively, while the teams securing third to sixth positions were awarded Rs 10,000 and Rs 8,000 each. In the open category, the champions received Rs 30,000 and the runner-up team was given Rs 20,000. For the Forty Plus and women's categories, the winners and runner-up teams were awarded a goat each, adding a unique cultural flavor to the event.

The matches were officiated by referees Singrai Devgam, Jeevan Bari, Saurabh Gop, Bablu Tiu and Shubham Tanti.

At the prize distribution ceremony, the winning and runner-up teams were felicitated by prominent guests including social worker and advocate Surendra Purti, Neemdih Mukhiya Sumitra Devgam, Matkamahatu Mukhiya Juliana Devgam, Ho Mahasabha representative Naresh Devgam, former Mukhiya Ladu Devgam, sports enthusiast and social worker Sudhir Mahato, former police inspector Purnachandra Devgam, social worker Simon Laguri, Munda Birsa Devgam, Vimal Biruwa, Lopo Purti and Baigo Banra.

On the occasion, Organizing Committee Chairman Sona Ram Devgam along with Surja Devgam, Sona Singh Devgam, Somay Devgam, Panchayat Samiti member Deenbandhu Devgam, teacher Krishna Devgam, Chhotu Krishna Devgam, Nistar Devgam, Abhay Chandra Devgam, Soma Devgam, Captain Bhim Singh Devgam, Ramesh Devgam and a large number of enthusiastic sports lovers, both men and women were present.

Jamshedpur FC players visit Sonari Central Durga Puja pandal



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, September 29: The festive spirit in the city got a special touch on the eve of Ashtami as Jamshedpur FC players Sarthak Golui and Sreekuttan paid a visit to the Sonari Central Durga Puja Samittee pandal.

The two footballers offered prayers, clicked photographs of the beautifully decorated pandal, and also posed for selfies with excited fans who had gathered in numbers. Their presence added to the celebratory atmosphere, with supporters warmly welcoming the Men of Steel stars.

Sharing his experience, winger Sreekuttan said, "It was a new experience for me. I am from Kerala and I really liked being part of this celebration. The energy and devotion here are very special."

The players expressed their gratitude for the lov shown by the fans and wished everyone a joyous Durga Puja.

Tata Steel's Chero Archers gear up for APL

Inaugural Archery Premier League to run from Oct 2-12

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Sept 29: After the grand team launch, the excitement continues as Chero Archers, Tata Steel's franchise in the inaugural Archery Premier League (APL), announce their full squad, match schedule, kit launch, and preparations for the season ahead.

At Tata Steel, archery is more than just a sport - it's part of who we are. Through the Tata Archery Academy, we've been nurturing talent for decades. We've produced 9 Olympians, 3 Dronacharya awardees, 1 Lifetime Dronacharya awardee and over 150 international archers. Our athletes have won medals at major events, including a bronze at the Asian Games. One of our own, Ankita, made history by reaching the semi-finals at the Paris Olympics - the best performance by an Indian archer so far. This journey reflects our deep and continued commitment to building sporting excellence in India.

Team Line-up

The Chero Archers, Tata Steel's franchise in the inaugural Archery Premier League (APL), have announced a strong eight-member squad comprising both international and Indian talent. Leading the line-up is World No. 1 compound archer Mathias Fullerton of Denmark, along with Germany's Katharina Bauer, currently ranked World No. 9 in recurve archery. Representing India are Olympian Atanu Das and Rahul, ranked No. 3 in recurve by the Archery Association of India (AAI). The compound category features Prithika Pradeep, also ranked No. 3, alongside Sahil Rajesh and Madala Hamsini, both ranked No. 6, while Kumkum Mohod brings her strength as AAI's No. 7 in recurve.



The Archers' campaign begins on October 2 at 8:45 pm with a high-voltage clash against Chola Chiefs, followed by a match against Kakatiya Knights on October 3 at 8:22 pm. On October 4 at 8:59 pm, they face Mighty Marathas, and the next evening at 8:22 pm, they take on Prithviraj Yodhas. The league stage continues with a meeting against Rajputana Royals on October 6 at 8:59 pm, a rematch with Mighty Marathas on October 7 at 7:45 pm and a return clash against Chola Chiefs on October 8 at 8:22 pm. Further matches include Kakatiya Knights on October 9, Prithviraj Yodhas on October 10, and Rajputana Royals on October 11, with semi-finals and finals scheduled for October 12 from 7:45 pm onwards.

To mark this historic season, Tata Steel has placed hoardings and banners at multiple locations across its plants and offices in India. This ensures that every employee, family, and community member stands behind the team with pride.

Tata Steel family has a message for the team: "Dear Chero Archers, as you step into the APL arena, know that the entire Tata Steel family-across all our locations in India and around the world-is standing firmly behind you with pride and hope. You carry with you not just your skill, but the spirit of all of us. Stay focused, give it your best. Everyone in our organisation sends you their best wishes."

The Archery Premier League is a new milestone for Indian sports. With Chero Archers representing Jharkhand, Tata Steel once again reaffirms its commitment to nurturing talent, inspiring youth, and shaping India's sporting future.

On 2nd October at Fortune Park, East Delhi, Chero Archers will host their official kit launch. All athletes and coaches will be present along with the senior leadership of Tata Steel. This event will mark the beginning of the team's journey into the Archery Premier League.

Shuffling through Puja Pandals



Praveen Singh Seva Sansthan (Malkhan Singh), Adityapur



Agrico Puja Committee



S Type, Adityapur



Burmamines Puja Pandal



Golmuri Circus Maidan Pandal



Hind Club, Rani Kudar



Mango Dimna Chowk, Hill View Colony



Milani Club Puja Pandal



Rankini Mandir Puja Pandal, Kadma



Sidhgora Cinema Maidan



Rajasthan Sarvajanik Durga Puja Samity, Food Plaza, Golmuri



Sitaramdera Amarjyoti Durga Puja Committee



Sri Sri Durga Puja Gandhi Maidan Samiti, Mango



Sri Sri Sarvajanik Durga Puja Committee, Tuiladungri



Thakur Pyara Singh, Dhurandar Singh Club, Kashidih