



Shubh Navratri

Day 1: Shailputri

Navratri begins with Goddess Shailputri, which means Daughter of Mountains. She is the daughter of Hemavana, the king of Himalayas. Shailputri is considered as purest embodiment of Durga.

BRIEF NEWS

Prevent infant mortality; Make the state baby-friendly: Dr. R.N. Singh



Gorakhpur: Renowned pediatrician of Purvanchal and patron of Mission Save in India, Dr. R.N. Singh has expressed concern over the infant mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh. In a statement issued here, Dr. R.N. Singh said that the infant mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh is very high and controlling it is the need of the hour. He said that making Uttar Pradesh a baby-friendly state has become extremely important today. The worsening of the infant mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh is serious. He said that it is true that infant mortality rate has improved to a great extent in the last few decades but there is still a dire need to make more serious efforts.

GST 2.0 implementation a 'festival of savings', first step towards economic self-reliance, PM says in address to nation

Agency

New Delhi: Hours before the new two-slab Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is about to be rolled out at midnight on Sunday (September 21, 2025), Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed it a "bachat utsav", a festival of savings, and the first step towards "aatmanirbharta" or economic self-reliance for Indians.

In a televised broadcast to the nation, Mr. Modi drew connections between the simplification of the GST regime from a four-slab to two-slab system, ease in compliance, and the reduction in prices resulting from it to a larger point about the need for Indians to weed out foreign-made products from their everyday life, and adopt products made in India, boosting the country's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

"Garv se kaho yeh swadeshi hai aur main swadeshi khareedta aur bechta hoon (be proud to say you are swadeshi, and buy and sell swadeshi goods)," Mr. Modi said, adding that,



in the past, when India was a prosperous nation, it was on the strength of the world-class commodities produced and traded by it. The address to the nation by the Prime Minister also comes in the backdrop of punitive trade tariffs by the U.S., and a troubled trade outlook. Mr. Modi described the next generation GST reforms, along with with Income Tax exemption of up to ₹12 lakh per annum for individuals, as a double bonanza for the middle and

neo-middle class of India, stating that it would lead to savings of nearly ₹2.5 lakh crore in households because of cheaper goods. He termed it his government's "nagarik devo bhava" (citizen is akin to god) attitude in public policy.

"On the first day of Navratri itself, the country is taking its first steps towards aatmanirbharta," the PM said. He went on to describe the decision to adopt a GST regime in 2017 after considerable discussions with stakeholders, and with all State governments on board. He appealed to State governments, too, to adopt the policy of encouraging the manufacture of Indian goods. He provided details of how four slabs in GST had been reduced to two, with many daily use goods, which earlier attracted a tax of 12%, now in the 5% slab.

"I am happy that our traders and the MSME sector has welcomed the GST next generation reforms. My expectation from the MSME sector is to recall that the basis of India's past prosperity has been the excellence of its manufac-

turing, especially of the MSME sector, and adopt the attitude to regain that space and reputation for world-class goods," Mr. Modi said. An appeal to boost domestic consumption was also made by the Prime Minister, who said that his government had, over the last 11 years, lifted 25 crore people from below the poverty line. "This neo-middle class and the middle class that has been given Income Tax exemption will be saving ₹2.5 lakh crore through these reforms, but everyone has to remember that the goal of Viksit Bharat (developed India) can only be reached via self-reliance. Over the last few decades, foreign products have crept into many of our everyday objects of use, and we need to replace these with our own products," Mr. Modi said.

Prime Minister Modi had first announced the Union government's intention to undertake a reform of the GST regime during his customary Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi. In September, the GST Council cleared the two-slab regime.

CM arrives in McCluskieganj, will pave the way for promoting tourism and improving connectivity

DB Reporter

Ranchi: Chief Minister Hemant Soren reached McCluskieganj, famous as Anglo-Indian colony, on Sunday along with his wife Kalpana Soren. This visit is being considered important in terms of the possibilities of promoting tourism, improving connectivity and infrastructural development.

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Manju Nath Bhajantri and Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Ranjan were also present with the Chief Minister. During this time, JMM workers from Khalari Block, near Magazine More in Chama, gave the Chief Minister a warm welcome.

Upon reaching McCluskieganj,



the Chief Minister stayed for a while at the Dak Bungalow and had lunch. He then visited the naturally beautiful Nakata Mountains. The beauty of this densely forested area captivated the Chief Minister.

According to officials, Chief Minister is committed to promoting the area on the tourism

map and developing infrastructure. The state government will soon launch new projects to develop tourism and improve connectivity in McCluskieganj. On this occasion, Khalari Circle Officer and Block Development Officer Pranav Ambastha, Khalari DSP RN Chaudhary, Khalari Police

Station Inspector cum Station Incharge Jaideep Toppo, McCluskieganj police station in-charge Dhananjay Baitha, SI Birju Prasad, Delan Mahato, Ravi Soni, Shankar Mahato, Mukesh Kumar and ASI Sahadev Mahato and a large number of police personnel were present.

BJP-Congress spar over alleged tender scam in Jharkhand Health Department



DB Reporter

Ranchi: The political temperature in Jharkhand rose sharply on Sunday after the state BJP accused Health Minister Dr Irfan Ansari of sheltering a multi-crore tender scam and practicing "appeasement" in contract allocations. The Congress rejected the charges as baseless and politically motivated.

BJP state spokesperson Ajay Sah alleged in a press conference that over the past year, 11 tenders floated in Ranchi, Dumka, Jamtara, Seraikela, Bokaro, and Deoghar were all awarded to companies linked to a single family in Ranchi. He said the family registered three firms, Hind Infratech, Bharat Suppliers, and Global Suppliers, at the same address with common directors. Despite this overlap, each firm was declared eligible and granted work orders. "This is not coincidence but a carefully planned loot under the protection of the health minister," Sah said. He added that under GEM portal rules, multiple companies floated by the same individual should

have been disqualified at the technical stage.

Instead, they were awarded tenders and even received payments. He demanded cancellation of all such tenders and an independent inquiry into what he termed both financial corruption and religious favoritism.

Sah also alleged that the minister was using his position to benefit vendors from his own community. He said that even the proposal for RIMS-2 was designed only for profiteering and not to improve healthcare services in the state.

The Congress dismissed the allegations as laughable, half-baked, and factually incorrect. State Congress media in-charge Rakesh Sinha said the BJP was attempting to target Dr. Ansari because he comes from the minority community. He also said that the BJP, whose national president has been convicted in a defence scam, had no moral authority to raise questions on corruption. According to the Congress, the tenders cited by the BJP were already in process before Dr. Ansari assumed charge.

Bank of Maharashtra celebrates Foundation Day



DB Reporter

Ranchi: Bank of Maharashtra, Ranchi Zonal Office, celebrated its 91st Foundation Day with great enthusiasm on Saturday at BNR Chanakya, Ranchi. The program was inaugurated by Radhakrishna Kishore, Finance Minister, Government of Jharkhand. The function was presided over by

Shikha Kumari Choudhary, Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra, Ranchi Zonal Office and was attended by senior officials of the bank and eminent customers. The function showcased the key achievements of the Bank such as business performance, deposit growth, financial inclusion, financing etc.

Namo Yuva Run: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said - aim to make a fit, prosperous and developed India

Agency

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, while participating in the 'Namo Yuva Run' campaign on Sunday, said that its aim is to create a fit, prosperous and developed India, which is drug-free. He said that every person should devote at least one hour daily to health and fitness. He said that inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this event has been organised to promote national participation. The pledge of this marathon is a drug-free

India. Thousands of participants from different age groups and regions came together and took a pledge for a healthy and drug-free India. The Namo Yuva Run is being organised in several cities across the country. The campaign was launched by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on September 7. Fitness icon and super-model Milind Soman has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the campaign. On September 21, 100 runs were organised simultaneously across the country, each

involving at least 10,000 youth participants. The event is part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Seva Pakhwada programme, which is being celebrated to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and will continue till October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Milind Soman flagged off the Namo Yuva Run at the Coastal Road Promenade in Worli, Mumbai this morning. BJP MP and Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha National President Tejasvi Surya also participated in the event. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Namo Yuva Run in Lucknow and highlighted the vision of a developed India and health-focused initiatives under the Seva Pakhwada programme. Yogi Adityanath said that Seva Pakhwada, which is being organised from Prime Minister Modi's birthday to Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, lays special emphasis on active participation of youth and health.

EAST TECH 2025- SHOWCASE OF CUTTING-EDGE INDIGENOUS DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES EXHIBITION CONCLUDES

DB Reporter

Ranchi: The fourth edition of East Tech 2025, a one-of-its-kind defence technology exposition hosted by Eastern Command of the Indian Army, concluded with resounding success at Khelgaon stadium, Ranchi. The three-day mega event, held from 19 to 21 September, showcased India's growing capabilities in indigenous defence technology and marked a major step forward in the Army's vision for operational self-reliance



in the Eastern theatre.

The exhibition witnessed overwhelming participation from across the Indian defence ecosystem, including Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), DRDO, MSMEs, private industry players and start-

ups, all united under the common vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Raksha Atmanirbharta'. Organised in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the event

served as a dynamic platform to demonstrate cutting-edge solutions tailored to the evolving needs of the Indian Army.

The event was inaugurated by Governor of Jharkhand, Santosh Gangwar, Hemant Soren, Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Sanjay Seth, Raksha Rajya Mantri, General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General RC Tiwari, UYSM, AVSM, SM, General

Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Air Marshal Surat Singh, AVSM, VM, VSM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command and senior military leadership and distinguished dignitaries from the military, paramilitary, and civil administration from the state of Jharkhand. Attendees were treated to a diverse range of technologies on display, spanning domains such as advanced communications systems, mobility and logistics solutions, armour

protection and survivability platforms, AI-based warfare systems, drone and counter-drone technologies, robotics and autonomous systems, and next-generation firepower solutions.

These demonstrations underscored the practical applicability of showcased solutions and offered valuable real-time insights to users in the field.

During his tour of the exhibition, Minister Sanjay Seth lauded the efforts of the defence manufacturers and

the organising teams of SIDM, CII and the civil administration for their seamless coordination. Mementos were presented to recognise the contributions of key organisers and industry partners. The closing ceremony on 21 September featured a valedictory address by Lieutenant General Yashpal Singh Ahlawat, AVSM, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, Brahmastra Corps with a special address by Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri.



Trendy Kidswear Store 'Kapda Latta Ghar' Inaugurated in Ranchi

Participants expressed heartfelt thanks to the CyberPeace Foundation for providing a professional platform that motivates youth to pursue e-sports with dedication. With the grand success of League 4.0, CyberPeace Jharkhand reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing digital talent and promised even bigger, better editions in the future.

Store owner Mobeen Khan shared that Kapda Latta Ghar offers a wide range of branded, fashionable, and trendy ready-made garments for children-from newborns to teenagers up to 15 years old. He emphasized that the store aims to bring unique collections at affordable prices, offering products that stand out from regular market offerings. Highlighting the

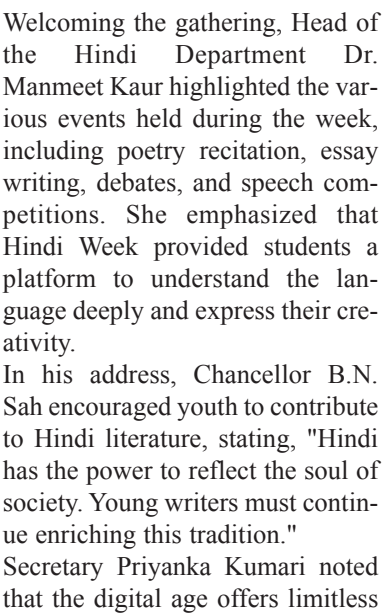


Grand Conclusion of Hindi Week 2025
Celebrated at Radha Govind University

Interrogation is ongoing, and police are also pursuing other accomplices involved in the thefts. While the SDPO refrained from commenting in detail, he confirmed that further arrests are expected. A press conference is scheduled for Monday, where full details of the case and recovery will be officially shared. The breakthrough brings relief to local residents and boosts security ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festivities.

Ramgarh: The Department of Hindi at Radha Govind University organized the grand closing and award distribution ceremony of Hindi Week 2025 with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor. The event marked the culmination of a week-long celebration held in honour of Hindi Diwas, featuring a series of literary competitions and cultural activities.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome song performed by students for the university's dignitaries - Chancellor B.N. Sah, Secretary Priyanka Kumari, Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) Nirmal Kumar Mandal, Finance Officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Controller of Examinations Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar, and Management Committee member Ajay Kumar. The guests were honoured with saplings as a symbol of respect and sustainability.



opportunities for Hindi and urged students to embrace it on global platforms.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Rashmi described Hindi as the heartbeat of our identity and culture, while Registrar Dr. Mandal emphasized its potential as a language of science and research. Prof. Ashok Kumar added that Hindi Week should serve as a pledge for language promotion beyond formality. Winners were awarded mementos and certificates. The event also featured a signature campaign and selfie board that drew enthusiastic student participation, reflecting growing pride in the Hindi language.

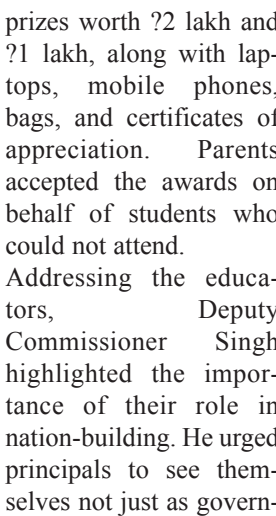
Orientation Program Held for High School Principals; Top Students in CBSE and JAC Exams Honored

sole goal. Our commitment lies in being among the people and fighting for their rights on the ground."

He also announced that such Janata Darbars will continue to be held weekly, allowing for direct public interaction and timely resolution of community concerns.

The event once again reaffirmed Dhananjay Kumar Putus's proactive approach and his resolve to stand with the people in addressing their everyday challenges.

Hazaribagh: Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Shashi Prakash Singh, a one-day orientation program and meeting was held at the Chief Minister's Model School premises, bringing together principals and in-charge heads of high schools across the district. The event was organized by the Jharkhand Education Project, featuring a detailed presentation on curriculum coverage for secondary and higher secondary exams conducted by the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC). During the program, nine students who topped the district-level CBSE and JAC examinations were felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner. The awardees received cash



ment teachers but as administrative heads responsible for the overall management and improvement of their schools. Singh emphasized the need for collective efforts to enhance education quality and student outcomes.

Key guidelines shared during the meeting included:

Conducting daily extra meetings after school hours to monitor class

progress and attendance. Ensuring timely completion of the syllabus with continuous supervision. Implementing phased teaching plans for better learning outcomes. Maintaining a minimum student attendance of 75%. Promoting student participation in the 'Project REEL' initiative. Encouraging students to practice previous five years' question papers.

Completing the syllabus by November, reserving December and January for revision.

Providing students with current affairs updates during morning assemblies to build awareness for competitive exams.

The Deputy Commissioner concluded by stressing that education quality improvement is a shared responsibility, urging educators to treat their roles as critical to nation-building and student success.

Top Students Awarded:

JAC Board: Ritu Kumari, Amrita Gupta, Pooja Kumari, Shivani Kumari (Class 10); Prerna Kumari (Class 12 Arts); Kishor Kumar (Class 12); Himanshu Kumar (Class 12 Science)

CBSE Board: Divya Prakash (Class 10); Tanya Mahto (Class 12)

Sharadiya Navratri Celebrations Begin Today at Mata Vaishno Devi Temple

He expressed concern over the continued open sale of meat and

fish in areas such as the Bus Stand, Nai Sarai, and Shani Bazaar which he claimed hurts the religious sentiments of devotees. "During Navratri, many devotees visit the markets to purchase fruits and other items for fasting. The open display and sale of meat along these deeply disrespectful to their faith," he

said. Chaudhary has formally appealed to the local administration to take appropriate measures and temporarily restrict open meat and fish sales during the Navratri period, ensuring a respectful and spiritually conducive environment for worshippers. The demand echoes similar calls made in various parts of the country during major Hindu festivals and is likely to spark discussion between religious groups and local authorities regarding regulation during religious observances.

Ramgarh : The sacred festivities of Sharadiya Navratri will commence today at the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple located at Jhanda Chowk, Ramgarh, with the Kalash Sthapana (sacred pot installation) ceremony scheduled for 9 AM.

Informing about the celebrations, Mahesh Marwah, Secretary of the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple Trust, shared that the chief yajmans (ritual hosts) for the Navratri puja will be Harsh Anand and his wife Nishu Anand.

A series of devotional events are planned throughout the nine days. On September 29, a special Mata ki Chowki will be organized in the temple premises from 3 PM, featuring a grand darbar setup and lighting of the holy



Grand Inauguration of NAMO Football Tournament at Kushwaha Playground, Shivadiha, Badkagaon Block

DB Reporter
Badkagaon: The NAMO Football Tournament was grandly inaugurated at the Kushwaha playground in Shivadiha under the MP Sports Festival. The event was graced by the chief guest MP Manish Jaiswal, special guest MLA Roshan Lal Chaudhary, and former MLA Loknath Mahto. The dignitaries interacted with the players and kicked off the tournament. Before the inauguration, a traditional Jhummar dance troupe welcomed the guests with music and dance, leading them to the football field. The event began with lighting of the ceremonial



lamp, introduction of the players, and a pledge for a drug-free India, followed by the national anthem. MP Manish Jaiswal addressed the gathering, sharing that the NAMO Football Tournament started in 2016 in Sadar and has now expanded to cover all 22 blocks of the Lok Sabha constituency, involving thousands of players. He emphasized the need for youth to move away from mobile gaming and participate more actively in outdoor sports. Responding to villagers' demand for a boundary wall around the playground, Jaiswal assured that funds from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) will

be utilized for its construction. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) and estimates are in progress, with the foundation stone expected to be laid soon. The opening matches saw Dream Merchant Club Guruchatti face Yuva Club Tilhwa, with Tilhwa winning 2-0. In the second match, Janta Yuva Club Plandu defeated Mahavir Yuva Club Chorka 1-0. Thousands of workers, sports enthusiasts, and players attended the event, including Lok Sabha MP Manish Jaiswal, Badkagaon MLA Roshan Lal Chaudhary, former MLA Loknath Mahto, and other dignitaries.

Ravindranath Mahto Flags Off 3-Day Football Tournament in Nodihah, Champions Rural Sports

DB Reporter
Nodihah (Nala Block) : The village of Nodihah echoed with energy and excitement as a three-day football tournament kicked off with great fanfare. The event witnessed the esteemed presence of Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Ravindranath Mahto as the chief guest, who boosted the morale of the participating players and inspired the local youth. The tournament, organized by the village committee, was attended by a large number of locals, including JMM Block President Ujjwal Bhattacharya, Janardan



Bhandari, and several community leaders and party workers. The disciplined and well-managed event turned into a festive celebration for the entire region. Speaker Mahto, known for his focus on grassroots development, emphasized the importance of sports in building a healthy, disciplined, and united society. He highlighted the government's commitment to

promoting sports in rural areas, ensuring youth have the opportunities and resources to excel. "Today's youth are tomorrow's future. Sports not only build fitness but also instill discipline and life lessons in both victory and defeat," Mahto said, addressing the gathering. He encouraged players to uphold the spirit of fair play and strive to make their village and state proud.

Health Services in Tundi's Pipratand Remain in Crisis Amid Poor Road Conditions

DB Reporter
Tundi/ Dhanbad : The deteriorating healthcare situation in Tundi's rural areas has once again come to light, this time in Pipratand village under Barwatand Panchayat. Residents are grappling with inadequate medical facilities and inaccessible roads, raising serious concerns about governance and infrastructure development in the region. Over the past two weeks, more than two dozen people in Pipratand have been affected by a severe diarrheal outbreak. In a recent distressing incident, 10-year-old Nami Soren's condition worsened due to diarrhea. Her family called for an ambulance through the emergency 108 service; however, the vehicle could not reach their home because of the poor road



conditions. The ambulance stopped at Ramnagar main road, forcing family members and a woman carrying a saline drip to carry the girl on a cot for over a kilometer through muddy and broken pathways before reaching the vehicle. Nami was then rushed to the Community Health Centre in

Dubrajpur, Tundi. The absence of a proper road connecting Pipratand's tribal hamlets to the main areas has worsened the situation. The existing dirt track is in a dilapidated state, further damaged by recent heavy rains, leaving it muddy and filled with potholes. This makes travel extremely difficult and prevents ambulances and vehicles from reaching the village. Frustrated by the inaction of local authorities, villagers have taken it upon themselves to repair the road by collecting funds and manually laying stones and bricks. Despite repeated pleas to block and district administrations for road development, no effective action has been taken. As a result, residents are forced to maintain the road themselves every year to keep it passable.

Equinox Sunrise to be Visible at Pakri Barwadih Megalith Site Tomorrow

DB Reporter
Badkagaon: On September 23, the rare astronomical event of the equinox will be visible from the Pakri Barwadih Megalith site in Badkagaon, Hazaribagh district. Early morning at around 6:10 AM, skywatchers can witness the beautiful sight of the sun's rays passing perfectly between two ancient stones, marking the sun's shift during the equinox when day and night are of equal length. On this day, the sun will be at zero degrees declination, resulting in almost equal durations of daylight and darkness. Enthusiasts hope for clear skies to witness this mesmerizing phenomenon, where the sun appears to change direction between the two "V"-shaped megalithic stones positioned at a specific point.



Starting September 24, the sun will begin its southward journey toward the Tropic of Capricorn, marking the onset of the southern hemisphere's autumn. The Pakri Barwadih site is among the few equinox observation points in the world and is unique in India. Comparable sites include the famous Newgrange and Herne sites in England, which attract vis-

itors globally during equinox events. Discovered in 2000 by megalith researcher and local resident Shubhashish Das, this ancient site holds significant historical and spiritual importance. It reflects the advanced astronomical knowledge and spiritual traditions of ancient tribal communities who constructed these precise structures.

Police Conduct Raids Against Illegal Liquor in Markacho, Nawalsahi, and Chandwara



DB Reporter
Koderma : In a continued crackdown on illegal liquor trade, police teams from Markacho, Nawalsahi, and Chandwara conducted coordinated raids across their respective jurisdictions as per the directives of the district administration. The operation targeted the manufacturing, storage, and sale of illicit Mahua liquor, which has been a persistent concern in the region. In Nawalsahi, raids were conducted at multiple shops, leading to the

seizure and on-the-spot destruction of approximately 40 liters of Mahua liquor. Investigations into the involved shops are ongoing, and legal proceedings are being initiated against the offenders. In Chandwara, the police carried out checks at several local hotels suspected of engaging in illegal liquor activities. Evidence was collected from various locations, with special attention paid to suspicious behavior and hidden storage areas.

Kalwar Vaishya Jagriti Manch Organizes Grand Dandiya Night in Dhanbad



DB Reporter
Dhanbad: A grand Dandiya celebration was organized by the women's wing of Kalwar Vaishya Jagriti Manch at Hotel Coal Capital, Bank More, Dhanbad, marking the occasion of Mahalaya with cultural fervor and devotion. The event began with the traditional worship of Goddess Durga, where a large number of men, women, and children prayed for peace, harmony, prosperity, and human welfare. The program was inaugurated by the President of the Manch, Mahesh Chandra Bhagat, and Patron & industrialist

Krishna Murari Chaudhary by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Bhagat emphasized that such celebrations deepen our connection with Indian culture and values. Chaudhary highlighted how festivals like Navratri empower women and inspire society to break free from regressive customs. Director Sushant Kumar noted that Dandiya is not only a cultural tradition but also a source of mental and physical energy. The event saw vibrant participation as women danced joyfully to traditional beats like Nagara, Dhol Baja, Chho Gaada, and Dholi La.

Hygiene Fortnight Organized on the Occasion of Adolescence Day at Community Health Center, Ichak



DB Reporter
Ichak: To mark Adolescence Day, a special hygiene fortnight dedicated to girls' health was organized at the Community Health Center in Ichak block. The event was inaugurated by Gautam Kumar and Dr. Irfan Ansari. Hundreds of adolescent girls from across the block participated enthusiastically in the program. During the event, various health services were provided including hemoglobin testing, TD (Tetanus-Diphtheria) injections, blood pressure

checks, and distribution of sanitary pads. A painting competition on health awareness was also held, where the girls creatively expressed their understanding of health and hygiene. Youth leader Gautam Kumar urged the girls to take full advantage of the government health schemes and benefits available to them. Dr. Irfan Ansari offered valuable advice on pandemic-related precautions and general health awareness. The winners of the painting competition - Priyanka Kumari and Ruksan Bano - were honored with awards.

Food Safety Officer Conducts Surprise Inspections of Food Establishments in Kodarma



DB Reporter
Kodarma: Following directives from the Deputy Commissioner, Food Safety Officer Abhishek Anand led a surprise inspection drive on Sunday across various food establishments in Jhumri Tilaiya, including Bandana Sweets, Happy Birthday Restaurant, One Bite, Shiv Shankar Dhaba, The Fast Food, and several roadside food stalls. During the inspection, authorities seized 40 bottles of expired cold drinks from Happy Birthday Restaurant. Additionally, One Bite

Restaurant was found selling three packets of expired chicken patties and three packets of expired sauce. All expired items were immediately destroyed on-site. Both establishments are facing fines for violating food safety regulations. Further inspection revealed that Shiv Shankar Dhaba and The Fast Food were operating without valid food licenses. Notices have been issued to these establishments, instructing them to obtain the necessary licenses within the stipulated time.

Dhanbad Police Bust Major Bike Theft Gang, Recover 16 Stolen Motorcycles

DB Reporter
Dhanbad - In a significant breakthrough, Dhanbad police have dismantled an inter-district bike theft gang and recovered 16 stolen motorcycles from various locations across the district. Addressing the media at Barora Police Station, Rural SP Kapil Chaudhary revealed that three adult suspects and two minors have been apprehended in connection with the case, while search operations are ongoing to locate the remaining members of



the gang. The crackdown was carried out under the anti-crime checking campaign initiated by the Senior Superintendent of Police. The operation

gained momentum when police stopped a suspicious motorcycle near the Muraiyadih Colony gate on Hirak Road during routine vehicle checks. The riders failed

to produce valid documents and confessed during interrogation that the motorcycle was stolen. The arrested individuals have been identified as: 1. Rohit Kumar Barnwal alias Vivek Barnwal alias Cartridge (27), resident of Dumra, Baghmara. He has prior criminal records under IPC Sections 392, 397, 412, and 379. 2. Raj Chauhan alias Guddu Chauhan, resident of Dumra, Baghmara. 3. Ranjit Yadav

(37), originally from Kanousi village, Harsai police station, Lakhisarai district, Bihar, currently residing near CISF Camp, Baghmara. The gang, according to police, was involved in stealing bikes from crowded markets in Dhanbad and Bokaro and reselling them. They have confessed to stealing over 40 motorcycles so far. Acting swiftly, police conducted raids in areas including Katras, Barora, Sonardi, Madhuban, Baghmara, Hariharpur,

and Tetuulmari and recovered 16 bikes including models like Passion Pro, Honda Shine, Hero Honda CD Deluxe, and Glamour. A case has been registered at Barora Police Station (Case No. 35/2025) dated 21.09.2025). The crackdown has dealt a major blow to organized bike theft operations in the region, and further raids are underway to recover remaining stolen vehicles and arrest absconding gang members.

Best Safety Employee Award at KTPS



DB Reporter
Koderma : Nikhilesh Yadav, JE (Mech.), PWS, has been honored and awarded by Manoj Kumar Thakur, CGM & HOP, for his outstanding contribution as the Best Safety Employee of KTPS. The occasion was graced in the presence

of Sri Tapas Mirdha, GM (AMS), Aman Jyoti, GM (O&M), along with Senior Executives and the Safety Team of KTPS. The recognition was presented during the ORT meeting, marking a proud moment for the safety fraternity of KTPS.

Editorial

Saudi-Pakistan war agreement

Recently, Egypt proposed the creation of a joint army of the 22 Arab League countries, modeled after NATO. Pakistan was not included in this proposal. This idea also emerged in the wake of Israel's attack on Qatar. If the Arab League's joint army formally takes shape, a combined force of 3.778 million soldiers would fight against Israel. A final decision or agreement is currently pending, but Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed a NATO-like agreement. The agreement was signed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince (Prime Minister) Muhammad bin Salman. Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, was also present during the signing. The agreement is called NATO-like because an attack on one country will be considered an attack on both, and the Saudi-Pakistani armies will jointly respond. Experts do not consider this agreement a formal treaty, but regional countries, including India, have taken it seriously. According to our Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, "The government was already aware of this. It was a long-awaited agreement. This agreement formalizes the existing relationship between the two countries. The impact on India's national security, regional and global stability will be assessed. India is fully committed to protecting its national security and interests." However, the agreement also includes Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Zalmay Khalilzad, former US ambassador to Afghanistan and Iraq, believes that this agreement is a major strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. It may also contain some "secret clauses" that are yet to be revealed.

In fact, not only Saudi Arabia, but most Gulf countries no longer want to rely solely on US security guarantees. They cannot prevent Israeli attacks solely on the basis of these guarantees. However, the US and Israel are allies. Their attacks are driven by a shared strategy. Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons. With China's cooperation, it is developing missile systems capable of striking the entire Middle East and Israel. The question is crucial for India: will Saudi Arabia fight a war against India during the war against terrorism? Saudi Arabia is a key ally of India. Among its population of 35 million, approximately 2.65 million Indians are actively contributing to the growth and strengthening of its economy.

Scientific and spiritual identity of Navratri

The history of Adi Shakti in historical and mythological contexts is eternal, where he is described as the supreme consciousness, the original creator, seer and destroyer of the universe. Therefore, in the Durga Saptashati passage of the Markandeya Purana, it is said , "Ya Devi Sarvabhuteshu Shaktirupana Sansthita, Namastasyai Namastasyai , Namastasyai Namomamah .: That is, I am the power that binds and gives wealth to the nation, and I am the one who offers Pratyacha on the bow of Rudra. The above statement of our philosopher Rishi Manisha is in fact a symbol of the immensity of female power.

Dr. Anand Singh Rana

The best explanation of female power is found in Indian archaeological contexts which are based on scientific thought. The Oxford Dictionary has chosen "woman power " as the best word of the year In the context of Navratri worship in India, under Om Aim Hrim Klim, there is a scientific explanation of creation, position and destruction through Aim = Vagbeej (knowledge power), Klin = Kamaraj (action power), Hrim = Mayabeej (matter). These have developed the psychological and scientific view of explaining the Sattvic, Rajasic and Tamasic tendencies. The word night is considered to be the symbol of perfection, hence the special significance of night in India.The core of Indian festivals with spiritual consciousness lies at its core. The scientific fact is that sound waves are interfered with by other waves during the day, so worship at night has been emphasized by Indian sages in particular. Most of the festivals like Navratri, Diwali, Mahashivratri and Holi are celebrated at night, so that the sound waves are properly expanded. For this purpose, by playing various instruments and conches along with mantras, tantra and yantra, the atmosphere is not only disinfected but also the demonic tendencies are well suppressed along with the harmful forces. With regard to Navratri, it is well known that there are four

Sandhi periods in a year and therefore four Navratris are celebrated in Chaitra, Ashaadh, Ashwin and Magh respectively. There are 51 Shakti Peeths of special importance in India and many of these Shakti Peeths are worshiped and preserved by the tribes. The basic basis of Navratri is to establish proper harmony between the Sattva, Tamo and Rajas in the four Sandhi periods. Navratri is the ritual of keeping the body and mind pure and completely healthy.

In fact, the nine nights of Navratri are manifestations of Durga, the life-force residing within the body. The Upanishads mention Uma or Hemavati. In Indian philosophy, Hiranyagarbha, which Western science understands as the Big Bang, explains the animate and inanimate in the light of Shakti or energy. Shiva and Shakti are non-duality.

The Yajurveda clearly states, "Yad Pinde, Tad Brahmande." In this context, Albert Einstein, in physics, confirmed this non-duality through his matter-energy equation (E=mc2). Energy is the driving force behind everything. This same concept applies to the relationship between non-energy and non-matter. The study of energy in science is, in fact, an exploration of the Primordial Power.

The Primordial Power is trine. Through its three forms: knowledge power, will power, and action power, it gives rise to

the qualities of Satva, Raja, and Tama. The interaction of the dynamic forces of these three qualities results in the compound of 9, the first womb of creation. This confirms Brahma (B = 23, R = 27, H = 33, M = 25, 23 + 27 + 33 + 25 = 108, 1 + 0 + 8 = 9), which pervades all being.

Our sages have accepted women as Shakti and have attempted to express their qualities and actions through the human forms of Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Durga. It is also clear that idol worship is symbolic in our society. The Yajurveda states, "Na Tasya Pratima Asti."

Before the Buddhists, idol worship was not a practice of head worship; instead, idols were created and worshipped, such as the Shivalinga, Shaligram, and the Pindi. The Pindi is worshipped for the Goddess because it symbolizes the womb.

The Shanti Paath of the Ishvasyopanishad clearly states, "Om Purnamada? Purnamida? Purnat Purnamudachyate... Purnasya Purnamadaaya Purnamevaavaishyate."

Meaning, He is complete and this world is also complete. The complete emerges from the complete, and yet the complete remains. Even if the complete disappears from the complete, the complete remains; that is God. It is clear that a female conceives and gives birth to a child who is complete, and the

mother also remains complete, therefore, the mother is a form of God.

All females in the world are forms of God. This same maternal power pervades the entire universe in the form of Mother Durga.

Physics mentions nine energies: potential energy, kinetic energy, sound energy, nuclear energy, magnetic energy, atomic energy, thermal energy, electrical energy, and chemical energy, which create nine types of shapes. These are the scientific facts at the core of Navratri.

From a geographical and geological perspective, Navratri holds great significance. The specific position of the Equinox on Earth undergoes significant changes.

Therefore, during Navratri, the chakras and nadis are purified through fasting, abstinence, and meditation. From a biological perspective, this is a time when hormonal and internal changes impact biological cycles, leading to a surge in diseases. For the purification of these nine forms, the divine cosmic primordial power, Mother Durga, is invoked.From a linguistic perspective, the word Durga is derived from the words "durg" and the suffix "aa," meaning "the power that protects the fort is Durga." Here, "durg" refers to the body and consciousness of the practitioner. The power that protects the fort is Durga. The fort is the practitioner's body, and his consciousness is Durga.

-Rahul Gandhi's statement absolves him of the responsibility of Leader of the Opposition in a democracy

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's recent statement regarding Indian democracy, "Saving democracy is not my job," has stirred up political discourse. This statement isn't limited to accusations and counter-accusations between the opposition and the ruling party; it also raises deep questions in the minds of ordinary citizens. Democracy isn't simply a process of contesting elections and forming governments; it's a continuous responsibility in which both the ruling party and the opposition are equal partners. If the biggest face of the opposition says that saving democracy is not its job, it not only questions its role but also casts doubt on the seriousness of the entire democratic structure.

Dr. Mayank Chaturvedi

It must be said that the opposition's job isn't merely to criticize the government or protest. Behind this lies the constitutional responsibility to be the voice of the people, to remain vigilant against democratic institutions, and to engage in substantial debate on government decisions in Parliament. When Rahul Gandhi, in the context of the recent Karnataka Assembly elections, alleged that the Election Commission was full of "spies" and that democracy was in danger, it was expected that he would raise the issue through legal and constitutional means. However, instead of approaching the court or the Election Commission, he shrugged it off, saying that it was not his job to protect democracy but only to pressure the government. Is this approach correct? If not him, don't other Congress

party leaders also believe that Rahul's thinking not only reveals political narrow-mindedness but also a lack of constitutional awareness?

Consider the Emergency period of Indian democracy; the struggle of Jayaprakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and other opposition leaders against Indira Gandhi's rule to protect democracy further deepened public faith in the democratic system. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sushma Swaraj were in the opposition, they were known for their sharp criticism and serious debates. Despite disagreeing with the government, they never undermined the dignity of democracy. But what is Rahul Gandhi doing today? In fact, the Leader of the Opposition is expected to strengthen democracy not only through his speeches but also through his conduct.

Rahul Gandhi's political style

has often shown him to be more active on the streets than in Parliament. He repeatedly raises issues of unemployment, inflation, farmers, and youth, but fails to offer an alternative perspective or concrete policy on these issues. However, the position of Leader of the Opposition demands the responsibility not only to criticize but also to present alternatives. Against this backdrop, his statement that saving democracy is not his job further undermines his political seriousness.

Shouldn't he realize that democracy isn't a self-sustaining system? It relies on constant vigilance, struggle, and institutional strength. The opposition, along with the judiciary, the media, and the public, is an integral part of it. When the opposition's most senior leader abdicates this responsibility and places it on the youth or the public, the position of the guardian of democracy becomes

vacant. Rahul Gandhi stated in his statement that the country's youth and Generation Z will save democracy. Undoubtedly, youth are the backbone of any democracy, but can the Leader of the Opposition absolve himself by simply placing this responsibility on the youth? A leader's job is to lead the youth and show them direction, not to shirk his responsibility and leave them to fight the ruling party.

Following his statement, if the Bharatiya Janata Party and the ruling party claim that the Congress wants to destabilize the country and lead India into a situation like Nepal or Bangladesh, are they wrong? These accusations are not merely part of political rhetoric. Today, the question is arising in the minds of even the general public: if the biggest face of the opposition does not consider it their duty to protect democracy, then who is responsible for maintaining the democratic bal-

ance?

It is true that in a democracy, the ruling party has the responsibility to formulate and implement policy, but the opposition also has the responsibility to scrutinize the government's performance, point out mistakes, and provide accurate information to the public. If the opposition is limited to the politics of accusations and counter-accusations and does not play a constructive role, the balance of democracy is disrupted. Rahul Gandhi's recent statement today further deepens the concern about this deteriorating balance.Rahul Gandhi should understand that as the leader of the opposition, he must not only criticize the government but, more importantly, offer concrete solutions for the country's development. Because protecting democracy is not just about political slogans; it is a constitutional and moral obligation that cannot be ignored.

Changing face of banking mobilise India's financial markets: Report

New Delhi, Agency: India's financial system is undergoing a major shift as the ways in which borrowers raise funds have expanded far beyond traditional bank loans.

According to a Bank of Baroda press release, total resources raised in the economy have more than doubled in the last five years, reflecting the changing face of resource mobilisation.

The data shows that the total flow of funds increased from Rs 13.58 lakh crore in 2019-20, the year before the pandemic, to Rs 30.08 lakh crore in 2024-25. This represents a compound annual growth rate of 20.9 per cent during the period. Borrowers now range from large corporates to farmers, households, and small enterprises, and the channels they tap into are

becoming increasingly diverse.

Traditionally, banks dominated the lending space. But the growth of capital markets has opened up opportunities for raising equity and debt directly from investors. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), with their deep reach and last-mile connectivity, have also emerged as a strong alternative.

Government-backed institutions targeting infrastructure and vehicles like Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) have added more depth to the system. On the global front, external commercial borrowings and foreign listings, such as GDRs and ADRs, continue to serve as options, although their growth has been uneven. Growth in the domestic



segment under non-bank rate of 43 per cent, with equity sources has grown at a higher registering a very smart

increase of 27 per cent. Corporate bonds growth has been 8 per cent, which is understandable due to the market being one mainly for highly rated companies, which leads to exclusion of others. NBFCs have become a major cornerstone of lending, as can be seen by the sharp increase of 43 per cent during this period. Foreign sources have registered negative growth with both ECBs and FDI being lower in FY25 relative to FY20," the release said.

The share of banks in total resources has moved in line with economic growth cycles. During the pandemic year of 2020-21, their share fell below 50 per cent. It later peaked at 67 per cent in 2022-23, a year when India's GDP grew 7.6 per cent. In 2024-25, the share came down to 51 per cent, though the overall flow of

resources remained robust.

Trends in non-bank domestic sources have varied within segments. Equity financing has been closely linked to stock market conditions, peaking in 2024-25 as companies tapped into buoyant markets. Corporate bonds saw a spike during the pandemic but later stabilised at lower levels. NBFCs, after facing challenges before 2020, have shown steady performance over the past three years, becoming the second-largest source of finance in 2024-25.

Foreign capital sources now account for a smaller share. External borrowings saw rising approvals, but higher repayments kept net additions modest. FDI flows also slowed, with their share dropping from 29.2 per cent in 2019-20 to 7 per cent in 2024-25.

Piyush Goyal calls agriculture the "soul of Indian civilization" ahead of BIRC 2025 in Delhi

New Delhi, Agency: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday described agriculture as the "soul of Indian civilization" as he announced that New Delhi will host the Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC 2025) at Bharat Mandapam on October 30 and 31.

In a video message, Goyal said the event would be the world's largest rice industry gathering, bringing together farmers, exporters, global buyers, policymakers and other stakeholders. "Agriculture



has always been the soul of our civilisation, with rice as the pride of our farmers. The BIRC 2025, Bharat International Rice Conference, the world's

largest rice event with farmers, global buyers and stakeholders brought together under one roof, is being held at the Bharat Mandapam on October 30th and 31st, this

year. This will be a symbol of India's Rice diversity, quality standards and also strengthen business-to-business linkages," he said.

Organised by the Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, the two-day conference is being described as the biggest global platform for the rice sector. It will bring together farmers, exporters, buyers, policymakers and industry leaders on a single platform. Goyal said the conference would also support India's goal of doubling agricultural and agri-based exports in the next five years.

National Consumer Helpline launches dedicated category for GST complaints

New Delhi, Agency: The Centre has created a dedicated category on National Consumer Helpline's INGRAM portal for registering complaints related to revised GST rates and their redressal.

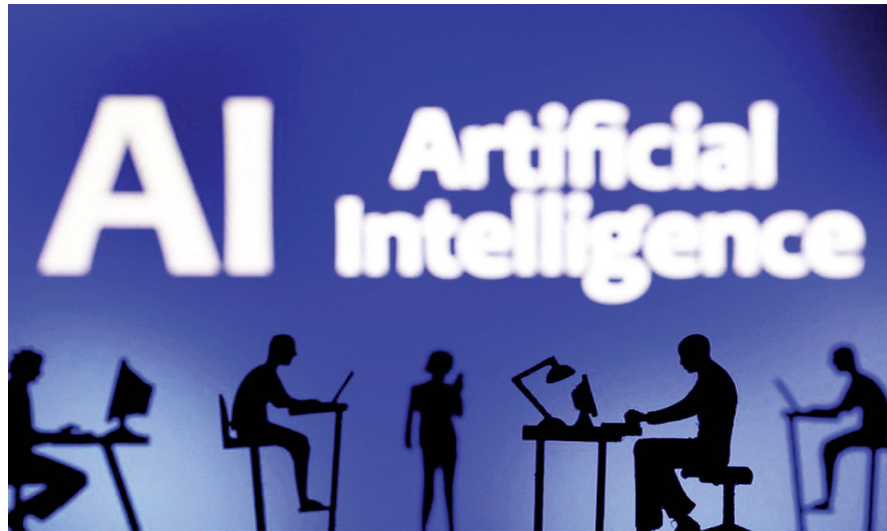
The GST Council has reduced the tax rates on various goods and services with effect from September 22.

According to an official statement on Saturday, Department of Consumer Affairs has taken steps to align the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) with the 'Next-Gen GST Reforms 2025' approved during the 56th meeting of the GST Council. "To address the expected consumer queries and complaints on NCH following the implementation of revised GST charges, rates



and exemptions effective from September 22, a dedicated category has been enabled on the INGRAM (Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism) portal," it added. This category features major sub-categories including automobiles, banking, consumer durables, e-commerce, FMCG and others wherein GST related complaints will be registered.

AI boom, upcoming IPOs to drive Indian investors toward US markets: Neev Finance founders



New Delhi, Agency: As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to reshape global markets and more high-value AI firms gear up for IPOs, Indian investors -- particularly the mass affluent -- are increasingly eyeing the US for the next wave of generational wealth creation, according to the Co-founders of Neev Finance.

"There will be a lot more hunger for US-based markets. There is a lot more money made here, like just in the last 10 years, the likes of Tesla, Nvidia, Netflix, Twilio, all the big companies came, even Amazon, Microsoft, all these doubled. The Meta and blue chip like four or five times it (returns) happened. And now with the AI wave coming in, you will see a lot more AI IPOs coming in. The whole AI is being played out of San Francisco. So the Anthropic of the world, OpenAI, all this will go public IPO. So a lot more value generation will happen, and it will attract Indian investors to the US markets," said Nirav Kamdar, Co-Founder of US-based alternative investments platform Neev Finance.

The company, founded by former tech and analytics professionals, is positioning itself as a bridge for Indian-origin investors -- both in the US and abroad -- to access high-growth US-based investment opportunities in public equities, private markets, and tokenised assets.

Executives said that the depreciation of exchange rates is prompting many affluent Indians to allocate 10-20 per cent of their portfolios in US dollar-denominated assets. "People want to hold part of their wealth in a stronger currency. It's not just about returns anymore -- it's also about preserving global purchasing power," they added.

Beyond investing, lifestyle trends are also influencing portfolio decisions. "Many Indian professionals are planning global travel, higher education abroad, or even overseas retirement. They're starting to budget in dollars -- and that's where platforms like ours come in," said Soumyadeep Roy, Co-Founder and CIO, Neev Finance.

Investment preferences in India have always been influenced by various factors. Many platforms have emerged that allow investors to invest even in foreign stock markets, making it accessible to a broader audience.

According to a report by industry body PHDCCI, before the pandemic, many Indian investors favoured traditional investment options, such as fixed deposits, real estate, and gold, as stock markets were considered relatively risky by these investors; thus, they often adopted a long-term perspective when investing in stocks.

States' salary, pension, interest expenses rise 2.5 times since FY14: CAG

New Delhi, Agency: The committed expenditure on salaries, pensions, and interest payments increased by 2.49 times to Rs 15,63,649 crore in fiscal 2022-23 across all states from Rs 6,26,849 crore in 2013-14, said a CAG report on state finances.

A large share of the revenue expenditure is either committed or tied up.

Salaries, pensions, and interest payments on public debt and liabilities are treated as 'committed expenditure'.

During the 10-year period from 2013-14 to 2022-23, revenue expenditure by the states constituted 80-87 per cent of the total expenditure



and as percentage of combined GSDP, it was about 13-15 per cent. In FY 2022-23, revenue expenditure was 84.73 per cent of total expenditure and 13.85 per cent of combined GSDP, said the publication on State

Finances 2022-23, the first of its kind by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

In FY 2022-23, out of the total revenue expenditure of Rs 35,95,736 crore, the committed expenditure was Rs

15,63,649 crore; Rs 3,09,625 crore on subsidies and Rs 11,26,486 crore on grants-in-aid. These three components totalling Rs 29,99,760 crore together constituted more than 83 per cent of total revenue expenditure, according to the report which provides an overview of finances of 28 states for the financial year 2022-23, together with fiscal data and analysis relating to the ten-year period from FY 2013-14. According to the report, committed expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest payment was Rs 6,26,849 crore in FY 2013-14 for all the states, which went up to Rs 15,63,649 crore in FY 2022-23.

Navaratri bonanza for buyers as car, bike makers roll out price cuts

New Delhi, Agency: Buyers are in for a bonanza with leading automakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Hyundai Motor India set to cut prices from Monday, coinciding with the first day of the auspicious Navaratri period.

Luxury carmakers Mercedes-Benz and BMW as well as two-wheeler makers are set to reduce prices with new GST coming into force from September 22. Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, has cut vehicle prices by up to Rs 1.29 lakh to pass on the GST rate cut benefit to customers.

The company has also decided to cut prices of its small cars over and above the GST benefit of 8.5 per cent to make vehicles attractive for two-wheeler users to switch to four-wheelers.

The prices of entry-level model S Presso will go down by up to Rs 1,29,600; Alto K10 by up to Rs 1,07,600; Celerio by Rs 94,100; Wagon-R by up to Rs 79,600 and Ignis by up to Rs 71,300. Price of premium hatch-



back Swift is reduced by up to Rs 84,600; Baleno by up to Rs 86,100; Tour S by up to Rs 67,200; Dzire by up to Rs 87,700; Fronx by up to Rs 1,12,600; Brezza by up to Rs 1,12,700; Grand Vitara by up to Rs 1.07 lakh; Jimny by up to Rs 51,900; Ertiga by up to Rs 46,400 and XL6 by up to Rs 52,000. Similarly, prices of Invicto will reduce by up to Rs 61,700; Eco by up to Rs 68,000 and Super Carry LCV by up to Rs

52,100. "There can't be any better time than to really go for the motorisation in the Indian market. As the car penetration in India is so low, at 34 per 1,000 people, it makes it all the more compelling reason that, being a market leader, we are taking this initiative to put India on wheels," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee said.

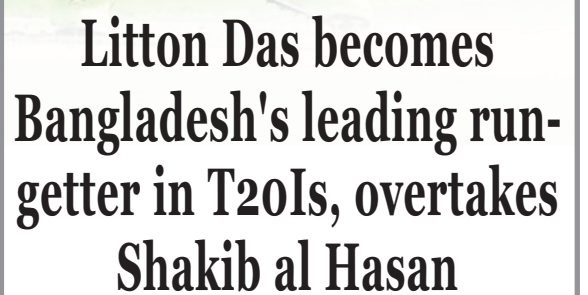


The sizzling performance was Mandhana's fourth ton in the ongoing calendar year, and this is the second time she has orchestrated it after her exploits last year. Mandhana has 13 ODI centuries, the joint second-highest alongside New Zealand's Suzie Bates and two shy of Lanning's tally of 15. In the second ODI, she clobbered 117 in 91 deliveries, which laid the platform for India's imposing 102-run win. It is the second time she has thwacked back-to-back centuries, with the first instance occurring in 2024. She is the first Indian to achieve the feat twice.

Sharing a photo on the social media platform Instagram on Sunday, Yastika wrote, "I've faced some difficult circumstances over the past few days following my knee injury. I'm still recovering from it all, but I'm happy to report that the surgery went well."



India began the second half determined to claw their way back. A golden opportunity arrived in the 24th minute when K. Roluahpuia pounced on a loose ball. With the Kuwait keeper advancing to close the angle, Roluahpuia rounded him smartly but agonisingly placed his shot wide of the target. Kuwait capitalised soon after. In the 27th minute, quick interplay between Al Aban and Al Abasi carved open the Indian defence and set up Mohammad Al Ajmi, who made no mistake in front of goal.



Coming to the match, Bangladesh opted to bowl first after winning the toss. A quick-fire 44-run stand started things off for SL, with Pathum Nissanka scoring 22 in 15 balls, with three fours and a six. Mendis fell soon, for 34 in 25 balls, with a four and three sixes. SL was reduced to 97/4 in 13.4 overs, with Kamil Mishara and Kusal Perera back in the hut. From there, Dasun Shanaka took charge with the skipper Charith Asalanka (21 in 12 balls, with a four and a six), taking SL to 168/7 in their 20 overs. Besides Mustafizur Rahman (3/20 in four overs), Mahedi Hasan (two wickets) and Taskin Ahmed (one wicket) were also among the wickets.

Mumbai, Agency: Dhakshineswar Suresh sealed his Davis Cup debut win for India against Switzerland last week with an ace. An ace was also how he would seal Wake Forest University's 2025 NCAA Division I men's team championship in May. That big serve from the 6'5" frame, to go with an aggressive game that complemented the indoor hard courts of Biel, was the key to India captain Rohit Rajpal bumping him up to be the team's first roll of the dice as the sixth-highest ranked singles player. It was also key to the 626th-ranked debutant delivering a stunning upset of the 155th-ranked Jerome Kym, which gave India a 1-0 headstart and laid the foundation for their rare away Davis Cup win in Europe.

It is understood that Saikia, who replaced Jay as BCCI secretary this January, will continue in the post, while Shukla, too, will stay on as the vice-president. Prabhtej Bhatia, of the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh, who was elected treas-

