

6 WORLD

8 NATION

- Rare Israeli strike in central Beirut kills 7 as troops battle Hezbollah
- New NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte visits Ukraine
- Withdrawal of prohibitory order 'victory' of Hindus: AAP
- BJP's Ashok Tanwar joins Cong at Rahul Gandhi's rally

DENGUE SPREADS THROUGH AEDES MOSQUITOES

Prevent incubation of mosquitoes inside and outside your home. Save yourself from Dengue

SYMPTOMS OF DENGUE

- High Fever
- Muscular Pain
- Redness of the Eyes
- Headache
- Joint Pain
- Bleeding from Nose & Gums
- Pain Behind Eyes
- Rash on Skin

PREVENTIVE METHODS

- Avoid water stagnation in and around the house, in open containers, unused tyres, flower pots etc.
- Use mosquito net while sleeping even during the day and use age appropriate mosquito repellents.
- Wear long sleeve clothing and trousers.
- If you feel any dengue like symptoms, consult a doctor immediately.

Treatment of Dengue is available in all Government Hospitals. Laboratory facilities for testing Dengue is available free of cost in all District Hospitals and Medical Colleges.

Gadkari assures to remove Majuli bridge roadblocks Fresh tender likely to be floated shortly: CM

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 3: Following union minister Nitin Gadkari's assurance, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated on Thursday that the roadblock on a crucial bridge over the Brahmaputra River, which is intended to link Majuli River island with the mainland in Assam's Jorhat district, will be sorted out soon.

Sarma, who met Gadkari in the airport in Delhi on the sidelines of the campaign in poll-bound Haryana, said that a fresh tender might be floated by the Central ministry as the previous contractor expressed unwillingness to work on that bridge.

The chief minister wrote on X, "Had a brief interaction with Hon'ble Union Surface Transport Minister Shri @nitin_gadkari Ji at



Delhi Airport. He assured me that he is personally looking into the Majuli Bridge issue. With the previous contractor unwilling to proceed, a fresh tender might be issued. A decision on this will be taken soon." The Assam chief minister has

been extensively campaigning in Haryana for the BJP. To recall, earlier, Sarma had said that the state administration noticed that work on the Jorhat-Majuli bridge over the Brahmaputra came to a standstill since September 5.

He said, "I have written to Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @nitin_gadkari Ji requesting his immediate intervention to ensure that we don't miss the Dec 2025 completion date."

The chief minister mentioned in the letter that the construction of the new two-lane major bridge, including approaches over the river Brahmaputra, between Majuli on the North Bank and Jorhat on the South Bank was awarded by the ministry of road transport and highways in August 2021 on EPC mode to the UP State Bridge Corporation Limited. He further mentioned that the project holds immense significance for the region, with a total contract value of approximately ₹ 650 crore and an expected completion date of December 2025. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

India sign tripartite agreement with neighbours

KATHMANDU, Oct 3: Nepal, India and Bangladesh on Thursday signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade, officials here said.

As per the agreement, Nepal will export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India from June 15 to November 15 every year. India will make arrangements to supply electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh. In the first phase, Nepal will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory. The rate per unit of electricity has been fixed at 6.4 cents. From the export of electricity, Nepal will make an annual income of around USD 9.2 million, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) officials said. The MoU was signed in Kathmandu between NEA executive director Kulman Ghising, NTPC viidyut byapar nigram CEO Deino (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BJP spreads hatred, oust it from Haryana: Rahul

NUH, Oct 3: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said his party will not let the "hatred" being spread by the BJP on the basis of religion, language, and caste, and appealed to the people of Haryana to oust the ruling party in the Assembly polls.

Gandhi was addressing a public meeting in Nuh that had witnessed incidents of violence last year after a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession was attacked by a mob, leading to the death of six people, including two home guards and a cleric.

The fight is between 'mohabbat' (love) and 'nafrat' (hatred). The Congress spreads love while the BJP spreads "hatred", Gandhi said

on the last day of campaigning for the October 5 assembly polls.

"The most important thing is brotherhood. Wherever the BJP and RSS people go, they spread hatred. In whichever state they go, somewhere they talk about language, somewhere they talk about religion and somewhere they speak about caste."

"Hatred has to be ended. India is not a country of hatred, it is the country of 'mohabbat'. And you have shown this to the entire country," Gandhi added.

India is the country of 'mohabbat ki dukan', not 'nafrat ka bazaar', he said "We will not let this hatred win in the country. Love, brotherhood (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Mizoram Police arrest Jharkhand couple linked to 2017 murder case

AIZAWL, Oct 3: Mizoram Police arrested a couple from Jharkhand, seven years after they allegedly killed their friend in Aizawl, a senior officer said on Thursday.

The accused, Manik Das (44) and his wife Anjali Devi (40), were apprehended at their residence at Aamdhari village in Dumka district on September 29 and brought here on Wednesday. Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Lalbiakthanga Khiangete said.

The couple, both labourers, allegedly murdered their friend Mangra and buried his body inside a rented house in the Falkland area here in March 2017. Mangra, who was also (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assam to launch co-districts today, says Himanta

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 3: At least 39 co-districts are coming up in Assam beginning Friday which is the first-of-its-kind approach in the country, said Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday.

In the next two days, the state administration will initiate these 39 co-districts across various places in the state. According to the chief minister, this will be the first leg of launching co-districts in Assam and several others will come up in the second phase. He asserted that this initiative would take the entire government machinery to the doorstep of the people.

Sarma, in a post made to X, said, "Taking Governance one step

closer to people! Tomorrow, we begin launching 'Co-Districts'. This unique initiative, the first in the country, will decentralise district administration. Co-Districts will ensure implementation of our vision of Minimum Govt, Maximum Governance."

One of the important features of these co-districts is the smaller administrative units below the district level and timely access to essential government services by citizens.

Sarma claimed that this significant step will improve efficiency bringing governance to the grassroots and it will also streamline citizen-centric services.

A slew of essential services will be provided under this co-district

initiative that will include issuing certificates like next of Kin/Caste/Non-Creamy Layer/PRC, magisterial powers etc. Moreover, government permission for events, functions, fairs, etc will also be provided by the co-district office and the people will not have to visit the district headquarters for the majority of official matters.

Sarma said, "Issue of ration cards, distribution of rice under government scheme, sale and buying permission of lands etc. will be done at co-district level. This will take government machinery to the doorstep of people."

The chief minister had earlier declared that the state government intended to (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Assamese among five other languages awarded classical language status

Himanta showers praise on PM Modi

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Oct 3: The central government has awarded Assamese along with four other languages as classical language status on Thursday.

The decision was taken in a union cabinet meeting presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier today.

Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese are the five additional languages that have been acknowledged as classical languages,

said the union minister of information and broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnav in the national capital.

Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Oriya have previously achieved the coveted title, bringing the total number of classical Indian languages to eleven.

Meanwhile, following the Union cabinet's pronouncement of awarding Assamese a classical language status, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma heaped praises on

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the centre's decision.

Taking to X handle, Sarma wrote, "Assamese is now a classical language. On behalf of the people of Assam, I extend my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and the entire Union Cabinet for the historic decision to accord Assamese the status of Classical Language."

According to him, the Assamese language now enjoys the status of culturally (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Efficient execution of schemes key to welfare: Nandita

HT Bureau
DIPHU, Oct 3: Guardian minister Nandita Garlosa on Thursday stressed the need for efficient execution of schemes under several departments such as health and family welfare, panchayat and rural development, cooperation, sports, and social welfare, among others.

Garlosa expressed her concerns while participating in a meeting which was held in Karbi Anglong's Kajir Ronghangpi Guest House.

The minister also reviewed the implementation of central and state-sponsored schemes in the Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong Districts under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC). While speaking during the meeting, the



minister highlighted the success of these schemes is essential for furthering the welfare and development of the people of Karbi Anglong.

Later, she also urged department heads to ad-

dress the needs of the local population and work towards achieving tangible outcomes.

The meeting also served as a platform to discuss the challenges in implementing these schemes. The minister sought feedback from the officials and assured them of the necessary support and resources to ensure their effective execution. MLAs Dorsing Ronghang, and Rupsing Teron; executive member of KAAC, Kangbura Killing; principal secretary of KAAC Mukul Kumar Saikia, and district commissioner, Nirola Phangchopia (Karbi Anglong) and Saranga Pani Sharma (West Karbi Anglong), along with KAAC secretaries, department heads, and other officials were present at the meeting.

Wife of victim in Gurudwara case deposes against Jagdish Tytler

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: The wife of a victim in north Delhi's Pul Bangash Gurudwara case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots on Thursday deposed before a Delhi court against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler.

Special Judge Rakesh Syal recorded the statement of Lakhwinder Kaur, the wife of Badal Singh who was one of the three men killed by a mob that torched the Gurudwara during the riots.

In her statement, Kaur said an eyewitness told her that Tytler had come to the place of the incident in a vehicle and incited a mob. Kaur told the court that she met Surrender Singh Granthi, who worked as a Granthi in the Gurudwara in 2008, who described the incident to her.

"Surrender Singh told me that he saw the incident from the roof of the Gurudwara. He told me that he saw my husband Badal Singh exiting from the Gurudwara and saw him being attacked by a mob who took

out the kirpan of my husband and stabbed him to death using the same. He also told me that Tytler had come to the place of the incident in a vehicle and that he had gathered everyone," she told the court.

She added that Surrender Singh told her that the mob engaged in violence upon the incitement of Tytler and her husband's body was put in a cart after he was killed and burnt by placing burning tyres on top of him. She, thereafter, approached the court for investigation.

Tytler's counsel opposed the deposition stating that the account of Granthi was hearsay and not admissible as evidence.

The court rejected this claim and adjourned the matter for October 15. The judge had on August 30 ordered the framing of charges against Tytler (80) under sections 302 (murder), 109 (abetment), 147 (rioting), 153A (promoting enmity between groups) and 143 (unlawful assembly) of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

'Brand India' strengthening in global market India becomes affiliate member of IMDRF

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), which will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide, the Union health ministry said on Thursday.

The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence.

Its members include national regulatory authorities of the US, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the UK, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"To achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system, enhance the competitiveness of the domestic industry and boost transnational prominence, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health and Family Wel-



fare, applied for Affiliate Membership in the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) in 2024," the health ministry said in a statement.

"After review of India's application for affiliate membership and meeting discussions by the IMDRF Management Committee (MC) with the senior officers of CDSCO during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in September 2024 at Seattle, Washington, USA, the CDSCO has

received approval from IMDRF as an affiliate member of the forum," it said.

Becoming an affiliate member of the IMDRF will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide, it said.

The membership helps to harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces complexities for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations and promoting convergence.

As an affiliate member, India will participate in IMDRF open sessions for information exchange on technical topics with other regulators, to discuss the latest medical device regulatory strategies and trends, provide feedback on its experience and perspectives and use IMDRF documents in part or in whole as the basis for its regulatory framework for medical devices.

This will strengthen the CDSCO's medical device regulatory system, helping meet emerging technical challenges that are increasingly diverse, ensuring the protection of public health and safety, and continuing to maintain the goal of international recognition for its medical device regulation, the statement said.

This membership will also enable Indian medical device manufacturers to meet the regulatory requirements of IMDRF member countries, thereby strengthening the "Brand India" in the global market, it said. (PTI)

HT BRIEFS Residential Schools

GUWAHATI: In a significant boost to education in tribal areas, a total number of 17 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are set to be established across the state, education minister Ranaj Pegu announced on Thursday. These schools, funded by the ministry of tribal affairs, Government of India, will provide quality education and infrastructure in blocks with more than 50% Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. Minister Pegu shared the announcement on the micro-blogging site X, detailing the locations selected for the new schools. Pegu wrote, "A total 17 (Seventeen) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are coming up in Assam under GoI Ministry of @TribalAffairsIn. Blocks having more than 50% ST population are selected for establishing EMRS." These include districts such as Baksa, Barpeta, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Dima Hasao, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Kamrup, West Karbi Anglong, and Udalguri.

Abhinandan Subsidy
GUWAHATI: The Assam government has launched the Abhinandan Education Loan Subsidy Scheme 2.0, a financial relief initiative for students pursuing higher education, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced on Thursday. The scheme, introduced under the leadership of chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, will provide a subsidy of up to ₹ 50,000 on education loans, helping to ease the financial burden on both students and their families. Taking to the micro-blogging site X, the CMO stated, "The Government of Assam, under the leadership of HCM Dr. @himantabiswa, is launching the Abhinandan Education Loan Subsidy Scheme 2.0, offering up to ₹50,000 in subsidy to ease the financial burden on students and parents."

Samantha, Chaitanya say divorce was 'mutual' decision after T'gana min links KTR with their split

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Former actor couple Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya hit back at Telangana minister Konda Surekha after her remarks that senior BRS leader KT Ramarao was responsible for their divorce, saying her claims are "false" and their decision to part ways was "mutual".

On her Instagram Story, Samantha wrote there was "no political conspiracy" behind her split with Chaitanya, which was announced in 2021. In his note shared on X, Chaitanya said the divorce was one of the "most painful and unfortunate" of his life's decisions, and that Surekha's claims were "ridiculous".

Samantha, known for web series "The Family Man 2" and films "Theri", and "Eega", implored Surekha to be responsible and respectful of individuals' privacy. "My divorce is a personal matter, and I request that you refrain from speculating about it. Our choice to keep things private doesn't invite misrepresentation."

"To clarify: my divorce was mutual consent and amicable, with no political conspiracy involved. Could you please keep my name out of political battles? I have always remained non-political and wish to continue doing so," she wrote on Wednesday night.

Talking to reporters here, Con-

gress leader Surekha, the minister for environment, forests and endowments, alleged that "KTR (Rama Rao) was the reason behind the divorce of Naga Chaitanya and Samantha."

KTR sent a legal notice to Surekha, demanding an apology from her.

In her post, Samantha asked Surekha to understand the "significant weight" her words carry as a minister.

"To be a woman, To come out and work, To survive in a glamorous industry where women are more often than not treated as props, To fall in love & to fall out of love, To still stand up and fight... It takes a lot of courage and strength. Konda Surekha Garu, I am proud of what this journey turned me into — please don't trivialise it," she added.

Chaitanya, in the note on X, recalled that a mutual decision was made by him and Samantha "after a lot of thought".

"It was a decision made in peace, owing to our different life goals and in the interest of moving forward with respect and dignity as two mature adults. However, there have been various baseless and completely ridiculous gossips on the matter so far," he wrote on Wednesday night.

The "Majili" actor said he has remained silent all this while out of deep respect for her former

spouse as well as his family. He recently announced engagement to actor Sobhita Dhulipala.

"Today, the claim made by Minister Konda Surekha garu is not only false, it is absolutely ridiculous and unacceptable. Women deserve to be supported and respected. Taking advantage and exploiting the personal life decisions of celebrities for the sake of media headlines is shameful," he added.

Earlier, Chaitanya's father and top Telugu actor Nagarjuna strongly condemned the minister's remarks asking her "not to use lives of movie stars who stay away from politics to criticise your opponents".

The former couple also received support from fellow Telugu film industry colleagues, including Allu Arjun, Jr NTR, Chinmayi Sripada, and Nani.

Arjun condemned Surekha's remarks, terming them "baseless" and "derogatory".

"This behaviour is deeply disrespectful and goes against the



values of our Telugu culture. Such irresponsible actions should not be accepted as normal. I urge the parties involved to act more responsibly and respect individual privacy, especially towards women. We must promote respect and dignity in society as a whole," the "Pushpa: The Rise" star said in a statement on X.

Dragging personal lives into politics is a new low, said Jr NTR.

"It's disheartening to see baseless statements thrown around carelessly, especially about the film industry. We will not sit quietly while others make

baseless allegations against us. Let's ensure our society does not normalize such reckless behavior in democratic India," the "Devara: Part 1" star said on X.

Chinmayi said it's unfortunate to watch how multiple individuals, Telugu YouTube channels and media persons have been using Samantha's name to gain mileage.

"End of the day all it proves is that they need her or her name to get the attention. Not the other way round. She will always be higher than anyone could even dream of touching with a barge pole," the singer wrote on the microblogging site.

Nani, Samantha's co-star on

films such as "Eega" and "Yeto Vellipoyindhi Manasu", said it's not okay for anyone in a respectable position to talk "utter baseless rubbish" in front of the media.

"Disgusting to see politicians thinking that they can get away talking any kind of nonsense. When your words can be so irresponsible it's stupid of us to expect that you will have any responsibility for your people. It's not just about actors or cinema. This is not abt any political party... We all should condemn such practice which will reflect poorly on our society (sic)" he said. (PTI)

AHAN SHETTY JOINS CAST OF 'BORDER 2'



MUMBAI, Oct 3: Ahan Shetty has joined the star-studded cast of war drama "Border 2", the actor announced on Thursday.

Ahan Shetty is the son of Suneil Shetty, who featured in filmmaker JP Dutta's 1997 blockbuster "Border".

The actor, who made his acting debut with 2021's "Tadap", will feature in the follow-up alongside the original movie's star Sunny Deol as well as Varun Dhawan and Diljit Dosanjh.

In an Instagram post, Shetty said "Border" is a "legacy, an emotion, and a dream come true" for him.

"Ironic how life works—my journey with 'Border' started 29 years ago, when mom visited dad on set while pregnant with me. I grew up hearing OP Dutta's legendary stories, holding JP uncle's hand, and sitting by @nidhiduttaofficial side.

"I never realized how much those moments would shape my love for cinema and the Indian Armed Forces. Now, being part of Border 2 is an absolute honour," he wrote.

The sequel, to be directed by Anurag Singh, is backed by Dutta alongside Bhushan Kumar.

"Working with @iamsunnydeol sir is a blessing, and I can't wait to share the screen with @varundvn who I look up to as an older brother. As a huge @diljitdosanjh fan, sharing the screen with him is surreal.

"And to you, Papa—everything I am is because of you, and I'll do my best to honor the legacy you've worked so hard to create," Shetty said.

Besides "Border 2", Shetty will feature in "Sanki", co-starring Pooja Hegde. (PTI)

PAYAL KAPADIA PART OF TIME100 NEXT 2024 LIST, AYUSHMANN KHURRANA PENS NOTE



NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Payal Kapadia, director of the Cannes Grand Prix award winner "All We Imagine As Light", is part of the TIME100 Next 2024 list, created by the US-based publication to recognise most influential personalities from different walks of life. In May, Kapadia's film also charted history by becoming the first movie from India to be selected in competition in 30 years at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

For TIME magazine, actor-singer Ayushmann Khurrana penned a note for the filmmaker, praising her talent and ability to translate the human experience for the big screen.

"Payal Kapadia is nothing short of a trailblazer. Her 2024 film, 'All We Imagine as Light', made history this year as the first from India to win Cannes' Grand Prix.

"The movie is a master class of emotions—deeply reflective, philosophical, and meditative in its approach. There is a powerful believability to how she portrays the human experience onscreen. Her authenticity and her lens on reality are part of what makes her work so rare," Khurrana wrote.

What Kapadia, also known for the acclaimed documentary "A Night of Knowing Nothing" and short film "Afternoon Clouds", achieved at Cannes is a milestone for Indian cinema, he said.

"I'm proud to be living in an era where I could witness a talent like Payal showing the world that Indian stories resonate universally, transcending geographies and languages. Her win will inspire other filmmakers and artists to follow in her footsteps and think big. India is a young country of more than 1.4 billion people. We have 1.4 billion stories to tell, and Payal has boldly, loudly, and brilliantly told everyone to pursue their dreams. It would be an honor to work with her, and to engage with her mind," wrote the actor, who was the only Indian to be chosen for the 2023 edition of the TIME100 Impact Awards. (PTI)

Working out issues with CBFC over certificate for 'Emergency' film: Zee Entertainment tells HC

MUMBAI, Oct 3: Zee Entertainment Enterprises, a co-producer of Kangana Ranaut's "Emergency" film, on Thursday told the Bombay High Court it was working out with the Censor Board issues over issuance of certificate for the movie.

The movie, which was initially slated for a September 6 release, has been embroiled in a battle with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), popularly known as the censor board for non-issuance of certificate for release of the movie.

Last week, the CBFC told the high court that the movie could be released if certain cuts were made as decided by the board's revising committee.

On Thursday, senior counsel Sharan Jagtiani told a division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla the issues are being worked out.

"I believe it is working out between the CBFC and respondent 2 (Ranaut's Manikarnika Films, co-producer)," Jagtiani said.

The bench posted the matter for hearing on Fri-

day. Earlier this week, the bench was informed by the censor board that Ranaut's production company Manikarnika had agreed to the cuts.

The movie's co-producer Zee Entertainment Enterprises had moved HC seeking a direction to the CBFC to issue a certificate for the film "Emergency", helmed by Kangana Ranaut.

The biographical drama is caught up in controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, objected, accusing it of misrepresenting

the community and getting historical facts wrong. Zee Entertainment had in its plea claimed that the CBFC had already made the certificate for the movie but was not issuing it.

Ranaut, who has directed and co-produced the film besides playing the lead role of former prime minister late Indira Gandhi, earlier this week accused the CBFC of stalling certification to delay the release.

Zee Entertainment had also alleged that the certificate was being withheld due to political reasons and due to the upcoming elections in Haryana. The bench had then wondered as to why the ruling party (BJP) would act against Ranaut, who was herself a BJP MP. (PTI)



