

Shillong Welcomes 135th Durand Cup Trophies Ahead Of Football Tournament

Shillong, Jul 11: The trophies of the 135th Durand Cup arrived in Shillong on Saturday, marking the commencement of the tournament's trophy tour in Meghalaya ahead of the competition, which is scheduled to be held from July 25 to August 23 across five states. The three trophies will travel across Shillong, Jowai and Tura, giving football enthusiasts and the public an opportunity to view Asia's oldest football tournament trophies before the tournament begins.

The trophy showcase and flag-off ceremony was held at the State Convention Centre in the presence of Meghalaya Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Wailadmi Shylla, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 101 Area Lieutenant General Mohit Wadhwa, Senior Air Staff Officer of Eastern Air Command Air Marshal Devendra P. Hi-



rani, Director General of Police Idashisha Nongrang, GOC Bengal Sub Area and Vice Chairman of the Durand Cup Organising Committee Major General D.K. Singh, Sports and Youth Affairs Secretary Isawanda Laloo, senior military officers, government officials and representatives of par-

ticipating teams. Speaking at the event, Shylla said football remains an integral part of Meghalaya's identity and thanked the Indian Armed Forces and the Durand Cup Organising Committee for continuing to host the tournament in the state. He also expressed the state's aspiration to host

the Durand Cup final in the future. The minister said the state government has identified sports as a key sector for development, adding that more than 35,000 participants now take part in sporting events across Meghalaya every year. He said Meghalaya has hosted over 14 national

and international sporting events since 2022. He said the government has been investing in sports infrastructure, athlete development programmes and grassroots initiatives to strengthen the sporting ecosystem. Among the major projects are the proposed Mawkhana Football Stadium and the ongoing upgradation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong. Sports and Youth Affairs Secretary Isawanda Laloo said Meghalaya hosting the Durand Cup for the third consecutive year reflects confidence in the state's administrative capabilities and sporting infrastructure. She said preparations for the 39th National Games in 2027 are focused not only on hosting the event but also on creating a sustainable sports ecosystem through infrastructure development, coaching programmes, athlete development and institutional partnerships.

Polo Hotels signs first property in Mizoram

Aizawl, Jul 11: POLO HOTELS & Resorts signed a concession agreement with the government of Mizoram to develop Polo Hotel Aizawl, its first in the Indian state. The project involves redeveloping Chaltlang Tourist Lodge into a 4-star or higher hotel in Mizoram under a Public-Private Partnership model.

The project was initiated by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in collaboration with the state's Planning and Programme Implementation Department, according to PTI. The concession period is set at 30 years, with two possible 10-year extensions. The hotel will have 60 rooms, with scope to add 40 more. It will include dining outlets, a lounge, pool, banquet halls, meeting rooms and a fitness center. Polo Hotels will develop and operate the property, while the land ownership will remain with the state government.



The government will hand over the project site to the company within 45 days of signing. "The signing of Polo Hotel Aizawl marks another important milestone in our journey of building world-class hospitality experiences across Northeast India," Deval Tibrewalla, Polo Hotels' founder and CEO, told PTI. "Aizawl is a destination with immense potential, and we look forward to creating a hotel that contributes meaningfully to tourism, employment generation and the

state's economic growth." The agreement was signed at the Chief Minister's Office by tourism secretary Vandalina Fanai and Prashant Gupta, CFO and whole-time director of Hotel Polo Towers. Polo Hotels is a Shillong-based hospitality group led by Tibrewalla, with a focus on hotels and resorts across Northeast India and other markets. Separately, Summit Hotels & Resorts plans to expand in Northeast India and beyond, targeting 50 hotels by 2030.

Highways blocked by landslides, floods force evacuations in Mizoram

Aizawl, Jul 11: Torrential rains continued to batter several parts of India on Friday, unleashing landslides in the hill states and floods in the Northeast that forced mass evacuations. In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, fresh landslides blocked key highways, cutting off vital road links and disrupting travel. Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall damaged bridges, uprooted trees, and left many areas isolated. Schools across Himachal Pradesh remained closed as authorities worked to clear debris and restore connectivity. Meanwhile,



swollen rivers in Mizoram and Tripura inundated low-lying areas, prompting officials to move residents

to safer locations. Emergency teams were deployed to assist those affected by rising waters. The relent-

less downpour has already claimed at least five more lives in rain-related incidents, adding to the mounting toll of this monsoon season. In contrast, regions such as Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan experienced a rare dry spell after days of incessant showers, offering temporary relief to residents. The widespread impact of the rains underscores the vulnerability of hill states to landslides and the challenges faced by northeastern states in managing floodwaters, as authorities continue to grapple with the unfolding crisis.

NBCC asks Nagaland government to oppose FCRA amendment

Kohima, Jul 11: The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) has urged the Nagaland government to request the Centre to withdraw the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, stating that the proposed changes could adversely affect churches, Christian institutions, charitable organisations and civil society groups engaged in humanitarian and developmental activities. In a representation submitted to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, the NBCC said the proposed amendments could have implications for organisations



involved in social welfare and community development. The council, which represents 21 Baptist Associa-

tions, four associate members, 1,626 congregations and 748,532 baptised members across Nagaland, stated that churches have contributed to

the state's development for more than a century through work in education, health-care, peacebuilding, disaster relief, youth and women's empowerment, de-addiction programmes, and support for poor and marginalised communities. While acknowledging the Government of India's authority to regulate foreign contributions in the interest of national security, transparency and accountability, the NBCC said the proposed amendments impose excessive restrictions on charitable and faith-based organisations that complement government welfare initiatives.

Two Militant Cadres, Including A Juvenile, Held In Separate Operations

Imphal, Jul 11: Security forces arrested an active cadre of the proscribed RPF/PLA and an extortionist juvenile member of PREPAK (PRO) in two separate operations conducted in Thoubal and Bishnupur districts. According to police, an active RPF/PLA cadre identified as Shaikhom Sunil Singh alias Ibohal (45) of Heirok Part-II Bazar was arrested on July 10 from Wangbal near Lamboithong under Thoubal Police Station in Thoubal district. He was reportedly serving as a self-styled corporal of the outfit. An Alto car was also seized during the operation.

In another operation carried out on July 9, securi-



ty forces apprehended an extortionist juvenile active cadre of PREPAK (PRO) from the Sendra Boating Point area under Moirang Police Station in Bishnupur

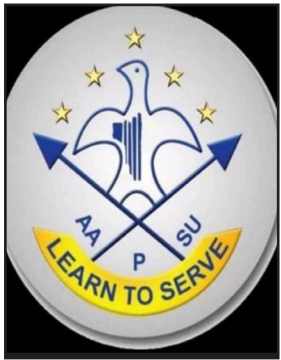
district. Further investigation into both cases is underway.

Both arrests highlight the ongoing efforts of security agencies to dismantle

militant networks and curb extortion rackets that have long troubled communities in Manipur. Officials emphasized that such operations are part of a broader strategy to restore peace and stability in the region, where insurgent groups continue to pose challenges to law and order. Further investigation into both cases is underway, with authorities expected to probe deeper into the cadres' links, operational roles, and possible networks. The arrests are seen as a significant step in tightening the grip on insurgent activities and sending a strong message against recruitment of juveniles by proscribed organizations.

AAPSU slams govt meet, demands withdrawal of Kachari inclusion

Itanagar, Jul 11: The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) has come out strongly against the state government's decision to hold a consultative meeting on 13th July regarding the inclusion of the Kachari tribe in the Scheduled Tribe list, warning that the move will be "challenged at every level" if it is not withdrawn. In a strongly worded statement, AAPSU said the proposed meeting undermines the constitutional safeguards that define Arunachal Pradesh as a tribal state. The union argued that the state's demographic and legal character is not a matter of sentiment but is protected under existing laws, including the Inner Line Permit regime and the Bengal Eastern



Frontier Regulation of 1873. According to AAPSU, these laws were enacted to ensure that land, natural resources, and the political rights of the state remain exclusively with its indigenous communities. "The Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation and the ILP exist for one reason, to protect our identity, our land, and our

future. Any attempt to dilute this framework must be resisted," the union stated. AAPSU further pointed out that the Sonowal Kachari community already enjoys Scheduled Tribe status in the neighboring state of Assam. The students' body questioned the justification for seeking a second recognition in Arunachal Pradesh, calling it legally untenable and politically risky. "There is no rationale-legal, moral, or constitutional-for granting overlapping ST status to a community that is already recognized elsewhere. Such a move sets a dangerous precedent and opens the door for similar demands that could alter the very fabric of our state," AAPSU said.

Tripura minor girl found dead, family alleges murder

Agartala, July 11: Tension gripped Hirachhara ADC Village under Irani Police Station in Tripura's Unakoti district on Saturday after the body of a 16-year-old girl was found hanging from a tree in a forested area. The deceased, identified as Zubaida Begum, a Class X student of Barkhala School and daughter of Barakat Ali and Rujia Begum of East Irani Panchayat, had reportedly left home on Friday, telling her family she was going to school. When she failed to return, her family lodged a missing person complaint with Irani Police Station.

According to police, the body was spotted by a plantation worker around 9 a.m., nearly 700 metres from the main road in Ward No. 3 of Hirachhara ADC Village. A police team led by Second Officer Srikanta Chakraborty recovered the body in the presence of local officials.

The victim's family alleged that Zubaida was murdered and her body was later hung from the tree to make it appear as suicide. They claimed bloodstains were visible on her legs and demanded a thorough investigation. School authorities, meanwhile, said the girl had not attended classes on Friday.

Sikkim, West Bengal sign transport pact to boost interstate connectivity

Gangtok, Jul 11: The Governments of Sikkim and West Bengal on Friday signed a Reciprocal Transport Agreement in Kolkata to strengthen interstate transport connectivity and introduce measures aimed at benefiting transport operators and drivers in Sikkim. The agreement was signed at Paribahan Bhavan by Ravinder Singh, Principal Secretary of the Transport Department, Government of West Bengal; Manish Pradhan, Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Sikkim; and Roshan Pradhan,

ATC-cum-Secretary, State Transport Authority, Government of Sikkim. West Bengal Transport Minister Arjun Singh was present during the signing ceremony. According to the agreement, the quota of counter-signature permits for Sikkim taxi vehicles has been increased from 3,000 to 6,000. Taxi vehicles operating under Special Permits will also be allowed to pick up passengers on their return journey from Siliguri and other areas. The agreement further provides that Sikkim-based transport vehicles travelling



between Rangpo and Melli will no longer require countersignature permits under a newly introduced corridor facility. The measures are intended to improve transport operations and facilitate interstate movement. The agreement follows discussions between the two state governments on enhancing transport connectivity between Sikkim and West Bengal. Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang welcomed the agreement, describing it as a significant development for the state's transport sector. He thanked

the Government of West Bengal for its cooperation in finalising the agreement. The Chief Minister said the agreement is expected to benefit transport operators, improve regional connectivity, and further strengthen co-operation between the neighbouring states of Sikkim and West Bengal. Transport experts also highlight that the agreement could serve as a model for other northeastern states seeking reciprocal arrangements with larger neighbors to ease movement and boost commerce. By addressing long-standing chal-

lenges faced by drivers and operators, the pact reflects a practical approach to cooperative federalism in India's transport sector. The signing of the Reciprocal Transport Agreement marks a new chapter in Sikkim-West Bengal relations, reinforcing the shared commitment to regional development and connectivity. Implementation underway, stakeholders anticipate tangible benefits for thousands of drivers, operators, and commuters who depend on seamless transport links across the two states.

Assam CM Announces Major Revamp of Dr Bhupen Hazarika Memorial

Guwahati, July 11: Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday visited the memorial site of Sudhakantha Dr. Bhupen Hazarika at Jalukbari and announced a series of initiatives to preserve and enhance the iconic cultural landmark. The Chief Minister said new arrangements would be made at the memorial and a modern memorial complex befitting the legacy of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika would be constructed. He added that the site would be developed in a way that visitors could

instantly recognise it as the resting place of the legendary music maestro. Dr. Sarma also announced that digital features would be introduced at Samannay Tirtha, an open-air theatre would be built and a government committee would be constituted for the management and maintenance of the memorial complex. Later in the day, the Chief Minister also inspected the under-construction Paltan Bazar Police Outpost in Guwahati and reviewed the progress of the project

CM Himanta Interacts with Newly Elected BJP MLAs, Expresses Confidence in Their Leadership

Guwahati, July 11: Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said he has held an interactive meeting with the Bharatiya Janata Party's newly elected MLAs and lauded their commitment to public service and the development of Assam. In a social media post, the Chief Minister said the discussion reflected the legislators' dedication, vision and strong resolve to work for the welfare of the people. He expressed confidence that the BJP legislative team, combining youthful energy, experi-



ence and fresh ideas, would make governance more effective, constructive and people-centric.

Dr. Sarma also conveyed his best wishes to the newly elected legislators, expressing hope that they would fulfil the aspirations of the people and contribute significantly towards building a developed.

Assam Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently hosted an interactive session with newly elected MLAs of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He praised their enthusiasm for public service and expressed strong confidence that this diverse

Mizoram and Tripura face the wrath of heavy rainfall families have been relocated to safety

Itanagar, July 11: After heavy floods that were recently reported in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, two Northeast states of Mizoram and Tripura have also been affected by floods and landslides in the last few days.

Over 80 families moved to safer places in Mizoram.

Over 80 families have been evacuated to safer locations after the Khawthlangtuipui river overflowed in Mizoram's Lunglei district bordering Bangladesh following incessant rainfall over the past week, officials said on Friday. Landslides, rockfalls and other rain-related incidents have also been reported at more than 29 locations across the state, though no casualty or loss of life has been reported so far, they said.

In Tlabung town of Lunglei district, located close to the Bangladesh border,



42 families were evacuated after their houses were fully or partially submerged due to the rising water level of the Khawthlangtuipui

river, officials said.

Similarly, around 40 families have been evacuated to safer places from Tipperaghat village under Tlabung sub-division due to floods, they said. Officials also said National Highway 54 has been blocked due to a massive landslide on the outskirts of Bualte village in Lunglei district, where several tourists have been stranded for the past four days. The landslide continues to cut off the southern

districts of Lawngtlai and Siahla from the rest of the state. The Aizawl-Thenzawl-Lunglei highway has also been blocked due to massive rockfall or landslides at Ngaizel on the southern outskirts of Aizawl, officials said. Meanwhile, state Disaster Management and Rehabilitation (DM&R) Minister Lalnilawma urged residents to remain vigilant as continuous rainfall has triggered disasters at several locations across the state. The minister inspected a landslide site near the Ngaizel filing station on Thursday and expressed concern over the difficulties faced by families. He assured that financial assistance and other relief measures for disaster-affected people would be extended promptly and transparently in accordance with prescribed rules and legal provisions.

NEIPF meet resolves to take up demographic issue of NE region to Centre

Imphal, July 11: North East Indigenous People's Forum (NEIPF), in its executive meeting held in Assam's Guwahati on Friday, resolved to urge both the state governments in the northeast region and the Union government to take timely and effective measures to safeguard the demographic, cultural and indigenous interests of the region.

The executive meeting deliberated with deep concern over the emerging challenges confronting the region, particularly the changing demographic profile resulting from the continued illegal influx of people from neighbouring countries, NEIPF said, in a statement after the meeting.

The executive meeting was held today in Guwahati under the chairmanship of Anup Chetia, chairman of the forum, said the statement signed by its general secretary N Ibungochoubi.

The meeting deliberated in detail on the observance of International Day of the

Indigenous People s Forum NEIPF held in Assam's



World's Indigenous Peoples Celebration, which will be hosted by the Nagaland Chapter of the Forum on August 9, 2026.

Members reviewed the preparations and resolved to make the event a meaningful platform to celebrate the rich cultural heritage, identity and aspirations of the indigenous peoples of the North East. The Executive Meeting also expressed deep concern over the prevailing turmoil in different parts of the region, particularly in Manipur and stressed the urgent need

for sustained efforts to restore peace, mutual trust and harmony among all communities. While acknowledging the existence of inter-state boundary disputes among the North Eastern states, the Forum resolved to promote people-to-people contact as an effective means of minimizing human tragedies arising out of such disputes. As part of this initiative, the Forum will organize a series of programmes, including Foothill Drama Festivals, at regular intervals to strengthen friendship,

cultural understanding and dialogue among the people living along border areas. After a threadbare discussion, the Executive Meeting unanimously resolved to continue reaching out to all communities across the region with the objective of fostering peaceful and harmonious coexistence, mutual respect and lasting unity among the indigenous peoples of the North East, the statement added. The NEIPF expressed deep concern over the emerging challenges confronting the region, particularly the changing demographic profile resulting from the continued illegal influx of people from neighbouring countries. The Forum resolved to communicate its concerns to both the State Governments and the Union Government, urging them to take timely and effective measures to address the issue and safeguard the demographic, cultural and indigenous interests of the North East, the statement further said.

PRI leaders, villagers resent govt inaction over restoring road connectivity

Imphal, July 11: PRI leaders and villagers of Giba circle in Upper Subansiri district have expressed strong resentment over the government's alleged inaction to restore road communication. Government PRI leaders, led by ZPM Mayum Dobin, on Friday conducted an on-the-spot assessment of roads damaged by incessant rainfall over the past few months in the circle. Over 22 villages in the circle, with a combined population of over 5,000, have remained cut off from the rest of the district for months due to multiple landslides along the PMGSY road from Giba to Lingdam. Speaking during the visit to Jao Koro Nallah, near Luchi and Lute villages, the ZPM said that he had repeatedly



apprised the government of hardships faced by the residents. However, no concrete action has been taken so far to address the villagers' grievances, he said. He said the prolonged road disruption has resulted in an acute shortage of essential commodities, forcing villagers to carry food and daily necessities on their backs from dis-

tant towns, causing immense hardship. Dobin further informed that the PRI leaders had urged the government to arrange helicopter sorties for air-dropping essential commodities to the affected villages during the emergency, but to no avail. Highlighting another long-pending issue, the ZPM said that several villages in Giba circle

continue to remain without regular electricity despite the implementation of various centrally sponsored rural electrification schemes across the country.

He added that he had proposed the establishment of a mini hydropower project in Giba circle, citing the area's abundant water resources and suitable geographical conditions for generating electricity. However, he alleged that the proposal was rejected by the state government, while hydropower projects were taken up in other areas of Giba circle. They said that continued neglect of the region would further aggravate the hardships faced by thousands of residents living in the remote area.

Minister of Manipur conducts a security review meeting with the Chief of the CRPF

Imphal, July 11: Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konhoujam on Friday said he held a "productive discussion" on the prevailing security situation in the state with a team of senior CRPF officers led by Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh.

The meeting was held on Thursday evening, days after two Assam Rifles personnel were killed in an attack by suspected

militants in Ukhrul district.

In a post on X, Konhoujam said, "It was a pleasure to meet Gyanendra Pratap Singh, DG CRPF, along with Vitul Kumar, SDG (Ops), Raja Shrivastava, SDG (NEZ), R.N. Das, IGP (Manipur & Nagaland Sector), and S.K. Singh, DIG, SSO to DG, CRPF." The minister said they "held a productive discussion on the prevailing security situation in Manipur"

and reaffirmed their "shared commitment to strengthening coordination, enhancing operational preparedness, and ensuring lasting peace and security in the state." He also appreciated the dedication and invaluable service of the CRPF in safeguarding the nation and protecting the people of Manipur. "Together, we remain committed to a secure, stable, and peaceful Manipur," he added.

Assam govt tables tax sops to small tea growers 2.85 lakh cr budget for FY'27

Guwahati, July 11: The Assam government on Friday presented a Rs 2,85,084 crore budget for the 2026-27 financial year, proposing to raise tax exemption limit for small tea growers by four times and cut VAT on piped natural gas by almost 10 percentage points. Presenting his maiden Budget, Assam Finance Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah also announced the continuance of all the major schemes rolled out during the last five years, but said those practising polygamy will not be eligible for any benefits and government staff found guilty of this practice will face dismissal.

Proposing a 'green cess' on polluting sectors, the government announced that two lakh people will be recruited over five years by filling existing vacancies and creating new posts across various departments. With a deficit of Rs 419.26 crore, Baruah tabled a Rs 2,85,084.45 crore budget and aimed a fiscal deficit of 3 per cent of the state's projected GSDPs. I propose to enhance the agricultural income tax exemption threshold from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh of annual agricultural income," he added.

At the same time, the tax will be restored for larger assesseees with effect from April 1, 2026, and the additional revenue generated shall be dedicated exclusively to the welfare of tea garden communities, Baruah said.

He said orthodox tea production has increased from 4.39 crore kg in 2021-22 to nearly 8 crore kg in 2025-26, recording a strong growth of over 80 per cent in four years. "Assam has taken a significant step towards value addition in the tea sector with the successful production of premium Matcha tea. The first lot was sold through the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre at nearly Rs 3,000 per kg," the minister said. To further incentivise value addition and boost Assam Tea exports, Matcha tea shall be included within the eligible category of orthodox and specialty tea, he added. "The production subsidy for orthodox and specialty tea will be enhanced from Rs 10 per kg to Rs 15 per kg," he added. "Further, a new subsidy of Rs 3 per kg will be introduced for export-oriented and premium-quality Assam CTC tea that is exported directly through recognised export channels, contributing to the foreign exchange earnings," Baruah said.

According to the budget document, the government is committed to expand clean and affordable energy



across Assam, as piped natural gas networks are being developed in key areas like Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Darrang, Baksa, Kokrajhar, Nagaon and the Barak Valley. "To reduce household energy costs, promote cleaner fuel and support city gas expansion, I propose to reduce VAT on piped natural gas from 14.5 per cent to 5 per cent," it added. Over 13,500 domestic piped gas connections have already been provided, along with 46 CNG stations across the state, the Budget mentioned. During his budget speech, Baruah said welfare measures should not only reach the deserving but also enforce "inclusivity, integrity and moral thos" in society. "To promote women's empowerment and gender justice, any male practising polygamy shall not be eligible to avail benefits under any government welfare scheme," he added. The budget proposed amending the Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1964, to dismiss from service any government servant practised polygamy. "To promote integrity and responsible citizenship, I propose that any person convicted of an offence under any criminal law shall not be eligible to avail benefits under notified government welfare schemes," Baruah said. Since a regular budget was not available during the election held earlier this year, the government shall resume the basket of welfare schemes from August onwards, he added.

"The august House will appreciate the introduction of unprecedented basket of welfare schemes by our government covering various levels of beneficiaries. I propose to allocate over Rs 6,000 crore under different grants for these welfare schemes," he said. Talking about polluting sectors, the finance minister said guided by the principle that those who contribute to environmental degradation should also contribute towards its mitigation, the government will introduce a

'Green Cess' on identified polluting activities and assets. The 'Green Cess' will be levied on stone crushers, coke-based industries, brick kilns, transfer of second-hand vehicles, commercial extraction of groundwater, and other environmentally sensitive industries and activities as may be notified by the government.

The budget, however, did not mention how much tax will be levied as 'Green Cess'.

"The proceeds from this cess will be utilised for afforestation, pollution control, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, green energy, water resource management and other environmentally sustainable infrastructure," he said. Baruah said that the government had provided over 1.64 lakh appointments in the last five years. "Building on this achievement, we are now entering the next phase of employment generation. Over the next five years, the government will target 2 lakh employment opportunities across the broader public sector ecosystem of the state," he added. These new recruitments will take place in government departments, universities, medical colleges, statutory bodies, societies, Sixth Schedule councils and companies with substantial state government shareholding. "A dedicated task force under the chairmanship of the chief secretary has already been constituted to prepare a comprehensive roadmap. This will also help in timely promotions of existing employees as part of the process to create more vacancies at the base level," he added. Baruah said the government will examine the creation of new posts in the police force, educational institutes, health-care institutions, forest and other departments. "We are determined to create employment opportunities for our younger generation during the tenure of this government as per the promises made in the 'Sankalp Patra' (BJP manifesto)," he added.

Meitei Houses Reportedly Set Ablaze Near Leimakhong Army Camp

Imphal, July 11: Preliminary ground reports from Leimakhong in Imphal West on Saturday indicate that one or more Meitei houses were reportedly set on fire near the Leimakhong Army Camp. Videos circulating from the scene show several individuals, including men and women identifying themselves as local residents, alleging that Kuki individuals were responsible for setting the houses

ablaze. NEWire has not independently verified the allegation, and no official statement attributing responsibility had been issued at the time of publication. The same videos and witness accounts also claim that civilians attempting to move toward the affected area to help extinguish the fire or protect the homes were prevented from crossing by central security personnel stationed nearby. The rea-

son for the reported restrictions could not be independently confirmed. The number of houses affected, the extent of the damage, and whether there were any injuries or casualties remain unconfirmed.

Authorities had not issued an official statement on the reported incident at the time of publication. This report will be updated as additional verified information becomes available.

Seven people have died from flooding in Arunachal after a woman’s body was found

Itanagar, July 11: Taw Ajini, a 43-year-old woman, was found dead by police on Thursday in the Lichi region of Papum Pare district, bringing the total number of flood-related deaths in Arunachal Pradesh to seven. On June 24, Ajini vanished after being carried away by a flash flood in Possa in the Keyi Panyor district. Following the incident, one additional person was still unaccounted for. On Wednesday, a landslide caused by rain at a construction site in the Lohit district also claimed the lives of two laborers from Bihar. Over the previous 24 hours, West Kameng, Upper Subansiri, and Tirap districts experienced fresh floods and landslides that damaged homes, roads, and crops.



The ongoing monsoon has affected 94,201 people in 333 villages across 26 districts, according to the State Emergency Operation Center. Agriculture, forest regions, and public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water supply systems, power facilities, schools, and hospitals, were all harmed by floods and landslides. 252 people were being

housed in four relief camps in Keyi Panyor while rescue and relief efforts proceeded. On Friday, the India Meteorological Department issued an orange notice for East Kameng, warning of thunderstorms, lightning, and heavy rainfall. Meanwhile, yellow alerts were issued for a number of districts due to the anticipated continuation of rainfall activity.

In the Jeevan Suraksha Ponzi scheme case, the ED seizes assets worth Rs 5.54 crore



Guwahati, July 11: In connection with its investigation into the Jeevan Suraksha Group of Companies and its directors regarding an alleged multi-crore Ponzi and money circulation scheme, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Guwahati Zonal Office, has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth approximately Rs 5.54 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The ED claims that 22 real estate properties worth about Rs 4.11 crore and credit amounts of about Rs 1.42 crore spread over 48 bank accounts are covered by the provisional attachment order issued under Section 5(1) of the PMLA. The properties are spread throughout West Bengal, Meghalaya, and Assam. The money laundering investigation was initiated on the basis of multiple FIRs and charge sheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation’s Anti-Corruption Branch (CBI-ACB), Guwahati, under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. The case was also investigated by the Assam CID under PS Case No. 81/2012 and by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Section 212 of the Companies Act, 2013. The ED alleged

that the Jeevan Suraksha Group, primarily operating through M/s Jeevan Suraksha Real Estate Ltd., M/s Jeevan Suraksha Associate Marketing Pvt. Ltd., M/s Jeevan Suraksha Energy and Industries Ltd., along with its sister concerns, ran a Ponzi and money circulation scheme through a pyramidal network comprising around 422 branches across the Northeastern states. Investigators found that the group attracted investors through schemes presented as recurring and fixed deposits, product and plot bookings, monthly income schemes and redeemable preference shares. These schemes allegedly promised unusually high returns despite the companies lacking any licence or statutory authorisation to accept public deposits. According to the ED, the group collected approximately ₹403.63 crore from nearly 6,88,192 investors but repaid only about ₹132.72 crore. The agency alleged that these repayments were primarily made to create an appearance of legitimacy and encourage fresh investments, resulting in proceeds of crime estimated at around ₹270.91 crore. The group had no legitimate commercial or financial activity to sustain the collecting, according to the investigation. Before operations were unexpectedly shut down and the promoters fled, money raised from new investors was purportedly utilized to reimburse previous investors. Additionally, the ED claimed that investor money was transferred from business accounts to the directors’ and their relatives’ personal accounts. The funds were then invested in real estate bought in the names of the corporations, directors, their families, and associates after being stacked through cash withdrawals, insurance policies, fixed deposits, and inter-entity transfers. According to the organization, more research is being done on the matter.

After police are unable to locate Mahakumbh star Monalisa, the Kerala High Court lowers her protection

New Delhi, July 11: After the police said she could not be located, the Kerala High Court on Friday revoked its previous ruling ordering the police to protect the young girl who became well-known during the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela and whose husband is now accused of kidnapping her. According to the girl’s attorney, P S Anishad, the police informed Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas that they were unable to locate the girl when they attempted to carry out the protective order. According to advocate Anishad, the court ordered the police to protect the girl when she came to them asking for it.”The temporary order has been



revoked. The court stated, “Post on July 21.” In response to the girl’s request for instructions to the state government and the SHO of the Ernakulam Central police station to protect her life, the High Court issued an order for police protec-

tion. Based on a complaint filed by the girl’s father, who has said that she is a juvenile, Madhya Pradesh police have filed a case accusing the girl’s husband, Farman, of kidnapping her. The Indore girl, who had stunning eyes and a charm-

PM Modi’s inaction about Ayodhya embezzlement is questioned by Congressman Venugopal

New Delhi, July 11: On Saturday, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal called the purported theft of gifts to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya the “biggest loot of a shrine ever seen in India” and questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s lack of response. Speaking to reporters outside the Guruvayoor temple here, Venugopal stated that the Congress will ask the PM to address the matter at the next session of Parliament. We are bringing up the problem nationwide and will keep doing so. Numerous believers throughout the nation were impacted by this loot. However, neither the Home Minister nor the PM say anything about it. He argued, “Only a SIT of Ut-



tar Pradesh police has been constituted, and the purpose behind it is to save the actual culprits.”

He asserted that only an investigation overseen by the Supreme Court will identify the true thieves. According to Venugopal, for the past 20

to 25 years, Sangh Parivar organizations like the VHP and RSS have accepted donations from devotees in the name of the temple, and it is these funds and gold that have been stolen. He said that the temple trust office bearers, who were nominat-

ed under the PM’s supervision, were aware of it. The BJP and RSS were “not actual believers,” according to the Congress leader. “They simply care about dividing people for votes and plundering in the name of Hindus. “This is an assault on the devotees’ faith, not just a loot,” he argued. In contrast to the BJP and RSS, who “used Gods for their own political purposes,” he added, it was not a political matter for the Congress. Venugopal also questioned Kerala’s BJP’s silence, arguing that it showed a desire to shield the real offenders. Additionally, he asserted that similar claims of looting were being made against the temples at Badrinath and Kedarnath.

Food regulators have warned Swiggy Instamart about selling rotting eggs and expired whey protein

New Delhi, July 11: Nine notifications have been sent to Swiggy Instamart by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in response to several consumer complaints alleging the delivery of damaged, expired, contaminated, and other dangerous food items via the fast commerce platform. The food regulator said in a statement that in addition to purported shortcomings in grievance redressal and food safety compliance, the consumer complaints raised concerns about products such as expired whey protein, rotten eggs, spoiled ready-to-eat food, contaminated infant formula, damaged packaged food items, and milk. Days prior, Swiggy revealed in a regulatory filing that the FSSAI had issued a separate restriction order for its food ordering and delivery service, Toing. Accord-

ing to the corporation, the issue was remedied and solely concerned the updating of license details; it had nothing to do with food safety. Consumer complaints claimed that Swiggy Instamart supplied food items that were tainted, spoiled, rotten, expired, or otherwise dangerous, according to the FSSAI. The regulator flagged multiple serious allegations against food products, including the supply of expired items like ‘Healthify 100% Whey Protein’ and ‘Noise Homestyle Madras Mix-ture,’ and an unfit ‘Akshaya Kalpa Organic Egg’ showing signs of rot and contamination. Complaints also cited spoiled ‘Kakke da Paratha’ and highly deteriorated infant food. The FSSAI addressed issues of contaminated eggs and milk, invalid licence numbers, and discrepancies in business entity names. Additionally, some complain-



ants reported only receiving refunds without satisfactory corrective action. The FSSAI requested a detailed compliance report from the food business operator, warning of potential actions under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Swiggy, involved in the matter, stated it received a prohibition order related to licence updates but claimed no food safety concerns and has since resolved the issues with a modified licence. The company has not publicly addressed the specific allegations made against its subsidiary, Instamart.

In Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, a man who killed his nephew by slamming him to the ground was executed



New Delhi, July 11: On Friday, a court in the Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh condemned a 24-year-old man to death for repeatedly smashing his 1.5-year-old nephew into the ground after the child’s mother rejected his proposal of marriage. Jitendra Pathak,

also known as Viraj, was found guilty in the case by district and sessions judge Babbu Sarang on Thursday. He was given a death sentence and a fine of ₹50,000 the following day. Aditya Langeh, SSP Firozabad, claims that after his sister-in-law Rati allegedly rejected his marriage proposal, Viraj killed his nephew Aarav on May 30 by repeatedly slamming him on the ground in a passage in Shikohabad’s Yadav colony. He later carried the child’s body over his shoulder as well. That following day, he was taken into custody. He admitted to the police during the investigation that he intended to wed his brother’s wife and that their son would prevent him from do-

ing so. The prosecution called thirteen witnesses, while the defense called just one. The only way to eradicate the dread that has grown in society is to punish the accused severely. If not, the judge stated in his ruling, “society will continue to fear that such a brutal killing ends with simple punishment.” The incident not only involves the killing of an innocent kid, but it also leaves a void in the lives of Mother Rati and her father. He said, “The way the accused carried out the incident—slamming the child on the road multiple times and checking to see if the child was dead—is extremely heinous, gruesome, unprovoked, cold-blooded, and a brutal murder.”

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan directs NCERT to look into the vendor case’s delay

New Delhi, July 11: According to Union education ministry officials familiar with the situation on Friday, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has ordered an investigation and requested action against National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) officials for neglecting to appear before the Delhi High Court on June 24 to defend its June 22 order to blacklist a paper supplier for postponing textbook production. The company opposing the council’s order received temporary respite as a result of NCERT’s administrative error. The next hearing on the issue is scheduled for July 20. Pradhan’s involvement in the case is a component of the ministry’s “reinforcement of zero-tolerance approach towards administrative and legal lapses,” a Union education ministry spokesman told. The ministry has requested that NCERT look into a number of aspects of the case, including how the Pune-based Bafna Global Venture Private Limited was given the contract to print Maplitho Paper supply for the academic year 2026–2027 on December 1 despite allegedly failing to meet the requirements of the tender floated on October 28, why it did not follow the agreed-upon supply schedule by March 1, and why no representative appeared before the Delhi High Court to defend the council’s June 22 ruling. Bafna Global Venture Pvt Ltd had approached the Delhi High Court on June 24 challenging NCERT’s June 22 order terminating its contract, debarring it from participating in NCERT procurements for two years and directing invocation of a ₹6.09 crore bank guarantee furnished by the company for getting the contract. However, when the matter came up before Justice Mini Pushkarna, no one appeared on behalf of NCERT despite advance notice. Taking note of the submissions made by the petitioner, the court directed that no coercive action be taken against the company under the June 22 order until the next hearing on July 20. It also restrained NCERT from invoking the ₹6.09 crore bank guarantee in the interim. The company said in its appeal that disturbances related to the US-Iran conflict resulted in the unavailability of hydrogen peroxide, a bleaching agent needed in paper making, which caused delays in paper production. Additionally, it argued that when there is a legitimate disagreement, blacklisting shouldn’t typically follow a contractual dispute.

India and New Zealand establish a strategic alliance worth Rs. 35,000 crore to increase trade

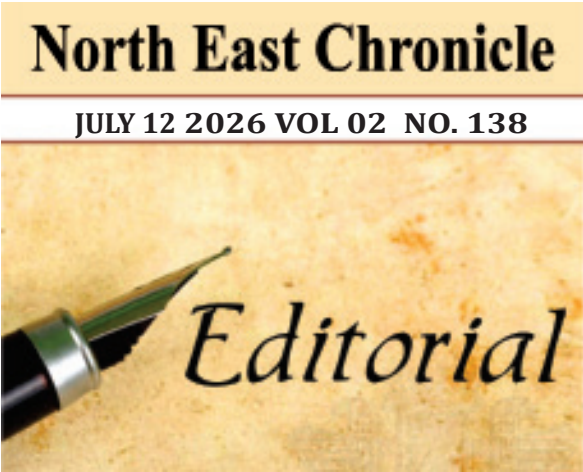
New Delhi, July 11: Following discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon, India and New Zealand on Saturday upgraded their relationship to a strategic alliance and established a five-year goal to quadruple their yearly bilateral trade in products and services to ₹35,000 crore by 2030. Ten agreements were among the eighteen tangible results of the meeting. A framework for improving Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation, a reciprocal logistics assistance agreement between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force, and a plan to deepen ties over the next four years were all crucial. “We’ve made the decision to strengthen our relationship to a strategic partnership. Following the discussions, Modi declared, “We will advance across every sector with clear goals and concrete outcomes.” Modi and Luxon discussed the Indo-Pacific and reaffirmed their shared commitment to a free, open, and prosperous area, according to a joint statement. Additionally, they emphasized how crucial it is to protect territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the rules-based international order. It stated that in compliance with international law, specifically the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the two prime ministers demanded freedom of navigation, overflight, and other legitimate uses of the seas. The two parties also decided to start a maritime security conversation to improve coordination, cooperation, and information sharing in keeping with their goal of strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation. In the third and last phase of his three-nation tour, which mostly focused on enhancing Indo-Pacific cooperation in light of China’s growing aggressiveness in the area, Modi touched down in Auckland Friday night. The visit took place after the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was recently signed. “Deeper cooperation between India and New Zealand, both maritime nations, will inject new strength into the Indo-Pacific,” Modi said during the meetings. The prime minister stated in Hindi, “As two

maritime nations, our close cooperation gives the Indo-Pacific new strength, and our ties can infuse fresh energy into achieving our shared goals of peace.” By 2030, the two prime ministers hope to double bilateral two-way commerce in products and services to 7 billion New Zealand dollars, or roughly ₹35,000 crore. They also decided to cooperate in order to guarantee the FTA’s early implementation. “They called for full restoration of freedom of navigation and the global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, while opposing any constraints on shipping,” it stated. In order to find a peaceful and long-lasting resolution to the issue, the two leaders emphasized the significance of communication, diplomacy, and adherence to international law. Additionally, Modi and Luxon reaffirmed their support for Security Council expansion and advocated for “bold and effective” UN reform. The two presidents acknowledged India’s “important role” in bolstering resilience across global energy networks and talked about the significance of stable, transparent, and robust supply chains. “They expressed deep concern about the impacts of disruptions across the Indo Pacific, noting that the stability of global supply routes is essential to the region,” the joint statement stated. The two sides specifically pointed out that this is especially severe for Pacific Island nations, whose economies are highly vulnerable and where rising oil prices are driving up the expenses of shipping, transportation, electricity production, agriculture, and fishing. Modi and Luxon voiced worry over the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which continues to “cause immense human suffering and global consequences,” according to the statement. Additionally, the two presidents reaffirmed their opposition to terrorism in all of its manifestations, including international terrorism. Both leaders emphasized that those responsible for the terrorist actions should be held accountable and strongly denounced the terrorist assault in Pahalgam and the terror event at Red Fort last year.

Rajnath Singh commissions INS Mahendragiri, a new stealth frigate for the Navy

New Delhi, July 11: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Mahendragiri, an indigenously built stealth frigate and the sixth Project 17A Nilgiri-class warship, at the Visakhapatnam dockyard on Saturday, adding another cutting-edge vessel to the Indian Navy’s fleet. During the commissioning event, the Guard of Honour was also presented to the Defense Minister. The frigate, which takes its name from the Eastern Ghats’ Mahendragiri mountain range, represents tenacity, fortitude, and steadfast determination. Mahendragiri is a true sui generis, being the first Indian Naval warship to have this name. It is anticipated that the battleship would add another chapter to India’s maritime history and leave a distinguished legacy. Mahendragiri, the sixth stealth frigate in the Project 17A series, was designed internally by the Indian Navy’s Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

The ship is an example of India’s increasing proficiency in designing and building its own warships. The ship, which has more than 75% indigenous content, is a testament to the Government of India’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative’s achievement and the expanding capacity of the Indian shipbuilding industry. According to the official statement, many Indian industries, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), were involved in the ship’s construction, bolstering the country’s defense industrial foundation and creating a huge number of jobs. Mahendragiri is equipped with an advanced suite of indigenous and state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, and electronic warfare systems, enabling her to effectively undertake anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations. The ship is also capable of maritime security operations, Search and Rescue missions, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and sustained deployments across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond. INS Mahendragiri’s commissioning represents a key achievement in the Project 17A program, enhancing the Indian Navy’s combat capabilities and affirming India’s standing in indigenous warship construction. Defence Minister Singh, who attended the commissioning ceremony on 11 July 2026 in Visakhapatnam, hailed the event as a proud moment for India, emphasizing the warship’s role as a symbol of self-reliance in defense manufacturing. He asserted that Mahendragiri is fully combat-ready to protect India’s maritime interests and bolster security in the Indo-Pacific region.



The Disappearing Habit of Reading the Fine Print

Whether signing a loan agreement, accepting an app’s terms and conditions, or buying insurance, many people approve documents without reading them carefully. Convenience has replaced caution.

The consequences can range from unexpected charges to misunderstandings over rights and responsibilities. As contracts become increasingly digital, the temptation to click “accept” without reading has only grown.

Consumer awareness is not just about knowing what to buy. It is also about understanding what one is agreeing to.

An informed decision begins with reading before signing.

tion rather than simply allowing guests to repeat prepared talking points. When presenters maintain independence and challenge claims respectfully, public trust in journalism is strengthened. Conversely, if interviews become overly polite or overly confrontational, audiences may question whether the programme is fulfilling its public service role.

Language also influences how audiences judge news programmes. Frequent use of conversational fillers, repeated phrases, or exaggerated expressions may seem natural in everyday speech, but some listeners find them distracting in professional journalism. Clear and precise communication has traditionally been regarded as one of the greatest strengths of radio news because listeners can not rely on visual information. Every sentence must therefore convey meaning efficiently. While modern broadcasting styles often encourage a more relaxed delivery, clarity should remain the highest priority.

Another important issue concerns the increasing pressure on public broadcasters to operate within limited financial resources. Budget reductions can affect the number of reporters, foreign correspondents, investigative projects, and original field reports that a programme can produce. When resources become scarce, broadcasters may rely more heavily on shared material or previously recorded content. Although this approach may reduce costs, audiences often notice the difference between original reporting and recycled news. Maintaining high journalistic standards requires sustained investment in experienced reporters, producers, and technical staff.

At the same time, audience expectations continue to evolve. Modern listeners consume news through multiple platforms, including smartphones, streaming services, podcasts, and social media. Radio programmes must therefore compete not only with other broadcasters but also with countless digital sources offering instant updates throughout the day. To remain relevant, producers increasingly incorporate interactive discussions, expert analysis, and audience engagement. Innovation is essential, but it should never come at the expense of accuracy, impartiality, and thoughtful reporting.

Radio remains one of the most trusted sources of news despite the rapid growth of television, on-line journalism, podcasts, and social media. For decades, morning news programmes have played a vital role in informing the public about politics, economics, international affairs, and everyday events before the working day begins. Their success has always depended on credibility, clarity, and the ability to ask difficult questions on behalf of listeners. However, broadcasting styles inevitably change with time. New presenters introduce different personalities, production techniques evolve, and audience expectations shift alongside broader cultural trends. While these developments can make programmes feel fresh and accessible, they can also disappoint long-time listeners who value the straightforward style that originally made such broadcasts successful. The debate over whether news programmes have improved or declined is therefore less about right or wrong and more about how journalism adapts to changing generations.

Many experienced listeners believe that modern broadcasting places greater emphasis on conversation and personality than on concise reporting. Presenters today often adopt a more informal tone, using conversational expressions and engaging in friendly exchanges with guests. Supporters argue that this approach makes complex topics easier to understand and creates a welcoming atmosphere for audiences. Critics, however, believe that excessive informality risks distracting from the seriousness of important issues. They prefer interviews that are direct, disciplined, and focused primarily on facts rather than personal rapport. Striking the right balance between warmth and professionalism remains one of the biggest challenges facing broadcasters.

Interviewing is one of the defining features of any successful news programme. A skilled interviewer must encourage guests to explain their views while also holding them accountable for their statements. This requires careful preparation, confidence, and the ability to ask follow-up questions without appearing either aggressive or overly sympathetic. Listeners generally appreciate interviews that reveal new information

Beyond the Game: How the FIFA World Cup Inspires Unity, Diversity, and Global Change

Every four years, the FIFA World Cup captures the imagination of billions of people across the globe. It is far more than a sporting tournament; it is a cultural phenomenon that brings together countries with different histories, languages, religions, and political systems. During the competition, football temporarily becomes the world’s common language, allowing people from every continent to celebrate shared emotions of hope, pride, excitement, and disappointment. While governments often seek to use sporting events for political gain and powerful organizations attempt to maximize commercial profits, the spirit of the World Cup continues to belong to ordinary people. The tournament reminds us that talent, determination, teamwork, and passion can overcome economic and political inequalities. In an era marked by conflict, nationalism, and authoritarian politics, the World Cup provides a rare example of international unity and multicultural cooperation.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the World Cup is its ability to challenge the traditional global hierarchy. In politics and economics, powerful nations often dominate international affairs because of their military strength, financial resources, and diplomatic influence. However, football follows a different set of rules. On the pitch, a country’s population size, military capability, or economic wealth cannot guarantee victory. Smaller nations frequently outperform larger and more powerful countries through disciplined teamwork, tactical intelligence, and individual brilliance. This unpredictability is one of the tournament’s greatest strengths. It proves that success depends not on political power but on preparation, skill, and determination.

The participation of smaller countries in the World Cup highlights this unique feature of international football. Nations with relatively small populations have repeatedly demonstrated that they can compete successfully against football giants. Countries such as Belgium, Croatia, Morocco, Uruguay, Ecuador, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown that commitment to player development and effective coaching can overcome demographic disadvantages. Their achievements inspire millions of people around the world because they demonstrate that excellence is not limited to large or wealthy nations. Every victory by an underdog serves as a reminder that determination and unity often outweigh material advantages.

In contrast, some of the world’s most influential countries continue to struggle in international football. China, despite its enormous investment in sports infrastructure and youth development, has repeatedly failed to establish itself as a major footballing nation. India, home to more than a billion people and one of the world’s fastest-growing economies, has yet to become a regular participant in the World Cup. Indonesia and Nigeria, despite their huge populations and passionate football cultures, have also faced challenges in reaching the tournament. These examples demonstrate that success in football cannot simply be purchased through economic investment or guaranteed by demographic strength. Football remains one of the few global arenas where equality of opportunity still exists.

The World Cup also serves as a powerful celebration of multiculturalism. Modern football teams often consist of players with diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds who work together toward a common objective. Their unity demonstrates that diversity strengthens rather than weakens society. Many successful national teams include players whose families migrated from different parts of the world, reflecting the increasingly interconnected nature of modern societies. These teams challenge narratives that portray multiculturalism as a threat to national identity. Instead, they show that shared values, mutual respect, and cooperation create stronger communities and more successful teams.

The tournament offers a direct response to rising nationalism and anti-migrant rhetoric in many countries. Around the world, political movements have increasingly emphasized division, exclusion, and fear of cultural differences. Yet the World Cup presents a very different picture. Fans from dozens of nations gather peacefully in stadiums and public spaces, celebrating football regardless of nationality. Supporters exchange flags, jerseys, songs, and traditions while demonstrating mutual respect despite fierce sporting competition. This atmosphere reflects the possibility of international cooperation and friendship even during periods of political tension. Football reminds people that cultural diversity is not a weakness but one of humanity’s greatest strengths.

Another important contribution of the World Cup is its ability to unite societies during difficult times. The modern world faces numerous challenges, including wars, economic uncertainty, climate change, political polarization, and humanitarian crises. Continuous exposure to negative news often creates feelings of anxiety and hopelessness among people. During the World Cup, however, millions temporarily shift their attention toward positive collective experiences. Families gather to watch matches, communities organize public screenings, and workplaces become filled with conversations about football. For several weeks, sport provides emotional relief from everyday pressures and reminds people of the importance of joy, celebration, and shared experiences.

In many countries, football has even contributed to temporary reductions in social tensions. Major victories can strengthen national morale and create a sense of unity across political, ethnic, and social divisions. Citizens who may disagree on many issues often find common ground in supporting their national team. While these moments of unity may not permanently solve political problems, they demonstrate that shared national experiences remain possible. Football becomes a powerful symbol of collective identity that transcends differences and encourages solidarity among citizens.

The World Cup also highlights the importance of fairness and equal opportunity in international competition. Fans expect that every match will be decided by the performance of players on the field rather than political influence or institutional favoritism. Whenever allegations of bias, controversial refereeing decisions, or administrative interference emerge, public reactions are often intense because football supporters deeply value sporting integrity. Confidence in the fairness of competition forms the foundation of the tournament’s credibility. Without transparent rules and impartial governance, the emotional investment of billions of fans would be seriously undermined.

Unfortunately, football’s governing institutions have often faced criticism regarding transparency, accountability, and commercial priorities. FIFA has frequently been accused of placing financial interests above the welfare of supporters, athletes, and host communities. Expensive ticket prices, costly merchandise, and aggressive commercialization have raised concerns that football is increasingly becoming a business rather than a game for ordinary people. Decisions regarding tournament hosting have also generated debate, particularly when human rights concerns in host countries appear to receive insufficient attention. These controversies remind us that even the world’s most beloved sporting event is not immune from political and economic pressures.

Leadership within international football organizations therefore carries enormous responsibility. Administrators must balance commercial success with ethical principles, competitive fairness, and the long-term development of the sport. Supporters expect governing bodies to protect football’s integrity rather than merely maximize profits. Greater transparency in decision-making, stronger anti-corruption measures, and meaningful engagement with players, fans, and civil society would strengthen public confidence in international football administration.

Another significant feature of recent World Cups has been the growing influence of African, Asian, and Middle Eastern football. For decades, European and South American nations dominated international competitions. However, improvements in youth development, coaching standards, sports science, and infrastructure have allowed many countries from other regions to compete more effectively. Morocco’s historic achievements, the consistent improvement of African national teams, and the increasing competitiveness of Asian football demonstrate that global football is becoming more balanced. This evolution reflects broader changes in international society, where emerging economies and developing nations seek greater representation and influence in global institutions.

The increasing competitiveness of previously overlooked football nations also creates new opportunities for young athletes worldwide. Children growing up in smaller countries can now realistically dream of competing on the world’s biggest stage. Modern scouting networks, international academies, and digital technology have expanded access to professional football regardless of geographic location. Talent can now emerge from villages, small towns, and developing nations, reaching global audiences through determination and opportunity. This democratization of football talent reinforces the tournament’s inspirational power.

The emotional impact of football extends well beyond the ninety minutes played on the field. For millions of people, supporting a national team represents family traditions passed down through generations. Parents introduce children to football, grandparents share memories of legendary tournaments, and communities celebrate together regardless of social background. The World Cup becomes woven into personal and national histories, creating memories that endure long after the final whistle. These emotional connections explain why football inspires such extraordinary passion across different cultures.

At the same time, football increasingly serves as a platform for addressing broader social issues. Players have spoken out against racism, discrimination, inequality, and injustice, using their global visibility to encourage positive social change. Campaigns promoting inclusion, respect, and equality have become more prominent during international tournaments. Although opinions differ regarding the relationship between sport and politics, many athletes believe they have a responsibility to use their influence in support of human dignity and equal opportunity. Their willingness to challenge discrimination demonstrates that football can contribute meaningfully to important public conversations.

Navigating a Post-American Landscape: How Britain’s Next Prime Minister Must Confront the Trump Doctrine

The political landscape of Downing Street is shifting, and with it, the very nature of British foreign policy is undergoing a profound reassessment. As Andy Burnham steps into the role of prime minister-in-waiting, the atmosphere in Westminster has transformed from one of theoretical posturing to sobering reality. The transition from Keir Starmer’s administration to Burnham’s emerging leadership marks more than just a change in personnel; it signifies a fundamental recalculation of how the United Kingdom projects itself on the world stage. For months, the Labour party has discussed its former leader in tones that suggest he is already a figure of the past, allowing Burnham to make swift, definitive breaks from the previous administration’s established doctrines. This shift was made explicitly clear when Burnham issued a direct apology over Starmer’s head regarding the party’s historical handling of the war in Gaza, signalling an immediate departure toward a more responsive, grassroots-aligned foreign policy.

However, apologizing for past diplomatic caution is simple compared to the daunting task of navigating an increasingly volatile global arena. The new prime minister inherits a world where traditional alliances are fraying, and the rules-based international order is under direct assault. While Burnham’s pivot on Gaza satisfies a deeply anxious left wing and addresses domestic voter bleeding to the Green Party, it simultaneously complicates Britain’s most critical transatlantic relationship. The core challenge facing the incoming administration does not lie solely in managing backbench rebellion or satisfying activist demands, but in mastering an art that eluded his predecessor: the complex, high-stakes titration of dealing with an unpredictable and often hostile Donald Trump.

Burnham’s early maneuvers indicate a willingness to listen to the Labour grassroots far more closely than Starmer ever did. By suggesting that the government should have called for a ceasefire much earlier and pushing for increased pressure on Israel, the incoming prime minister is attempting to heal internal party wounds. Yet, experienced diplomats recognize that this change is currently more about domestic tone than a radical transformation of statecraft. The Foreign Office was already quietly considering further sanctions, meaning Burnham is effectively alignment-shifting rather than completely rewriting the playbook.

The true test of this strategy will be how it resonates across the Atlantic. Trump, who famously dismissed Burnham as merely “the mayor of a town,” views international relations through a lens of personal loyalty and raw transactional power. For a British leader to toughen stances on Middle Eastern policy while attempting to maintain a functional relationship with a volatile White House requires extraordinary political agility. Burnham has attempted to anchor his credibility by recommitting to the 3.5% NATO defense spending target, yet he has notably left the question of how to fund this massive commitment unanswered. By maintaining continuity in key intelligence positions, such as keeping Jonathan Powell as national security adviser, Burnham is trying to signal to Washington that while Britain’s rhetoric may change, its foundational security commitments remain intact.

The international community is rapidly coming to terms with the realization that the old United States is not returning. This sentiment is echoing loudly from Ottawa to Rome. Mark Carney, the former Bank of England governor who remains deeply plugged into Burnham’s inner circle via advisor Andy Haldane, has been warning western leaders that the era of dependable American hegemony is over. Even European right-wing figures like Italy’s Giorgia Meloni, who initially enjoyed a warm rapport with the American president, have visibly lost patience with the erratic dictates emanating from Washington.

The frustration among Western allies reached a boiling point at the recent NATO summit in Ankara. The proceedings were dominated not by collective strategy, but by Trump’s unilateral threats to impose severe trade restrictions on Spain over defense spending, his revived, bizarre obsession with purchasing Greenland, and his abrupt decision to resume the bombing of Iran, which instantly shattered a fragile Gulf ceasefire. The resulting spike in global oil prices is merely a symptom of a much deeper malaise. Western allies are now staring down the barrel of a permanent, rolling conflict in the Gulf—a lethal geopolitical equivalent to Trump’s signature trade wars, executed with absolute disregard for established international norms or the economic stability of traditional partners.

The long-term consequences of failing to contain or manage this disruption are laid bare in Tobias Ellwood’s sobering new book, *Ten Steps to Prevent World War Three*. Ellwood, a former Foreign Office minister and military veteran, constructs a harrowing narrative set in the year 2040, looking back at the mid-2020s as the critical window where the West threw away its final chances to avert global catastrophe. In Ellwood’s imagined future, the systematic bulldozing of the rules-based order allows authoritarian superpowers to fill the vacuum. China, through a web of strategic alliances with a resurgent Russia and various proxy states, establishes a alternative global framework built entirely on coercion, economic destabilization, and deniable hybrid warfare.

In this dark projection, a third world war does not manifest as a singular, dramatic clash of superpowers, but rather as an endless, exhausting series of localized and proxy conflicts spanning the globe. This environment of near-permanent insecurity eventually erodes long-standing battlefield taboos, ultimately leading to the routine deployment of tactical nuclear weapons. By 2040, NATO has collapsed, Greenland is permanently detached from the Western sphere, and democratic governments are reduced to merely managing their own systemic decline. Furthermore, because international cooperation has been entirely disintegrated, future climate disasters and global health crises hit societies with double the force. It is a world where the collective capacity to solve shared human problems has been utterly destroyed by the short-sighted transactionalism of the present era.

Ellwood prescribes a radical consolidation of Western strategy: democratic nations must clearly define which elements of the international rules-based order are absolutely non-negotiable and immediately circle the wagons to protect them. For the United Kingdom, this means exploring options to rejoin the European single market, aggressively sharing renewable energy technology with developing nations to preempt climate migration, and significantly expanding European military participation in rapidly deployable joint forces. Most importantly, it requires the formation of a new “stability alliance” composed of middle-ranking global powers—including Canada, India, Brazil, and European partners—dedicated to the early prevention and rapid de-escalation of regional conflicts before they spiral into systemic wars.

North East Growth Lab signals rising investment confidence in regional startup economy

Kohima: The launch of the third cohort of the North East Growth Lab (NEGL) by IIMA Ventures in partnership with SAP highlights growing institutional confidence in Northeast India’s evolving startup economy, with the programme targeting 25 high-potential ventures across the region.

The initiative seeks to accelerate startups from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, climate, biotechnology, livelihoods, financial inclusion and deep technology. Beyond providing mentorship and capacity building, the programme is designed to improve access to catalytic capital, investors, corporates and new markets—key factors for strengthening the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The economic impact of earlier



cohorts points to increasing market traction. More than 40 ventures have already been supported, while the first cohort backed 41 social enterprises. Of these, 31 ventures secured Rs 2.38 crore in grants and investments before raising another Rs 2.29 crore through grants, debt and equity financing. The startups also created over 44 business

opportunities and established 27 commercial engagements, including partnerships, pilot projects, procurement discussions and market access initiatives.

To broaden participation, IIMA Ventures conducted roadshows in Guwahati, Dimapur, Imphal and Agartala between June 15 and June 24 with ecosystem partners

including Assam Startup-NEST, BioNEST, IIT Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (TIDF), Educentre School of Business (ESB) Incubator, Manipur Technology Innovation Hub (MTI-Hub), Startup Tripura and the Directorate of IT & NIT Agartala Incubator. Nearly 175 founders attended the sessions, which also featured value proposition workshops.

Chintan Bakshi, Partner – Incubation at IIMA Ventures, said the Northeast is emerging as a vibrant entrepreneurship hub with locally driven innovations capable of scaling nationally. Applications for the third cohort are now open, with startups to be assessed on innovation, scalability, impact potential and their ability to create sustainable livelihoods and long-term economic opportunities across the region.

Nifty IT index gains 3.5% on Friday as TCS jumps 4% post Q1FY27 results

Mumbai: Information technology (IT) shares price movement LTM, TCS, Infosys, Emphasis, Tech Mahindra, Persistent Systems, HCL Technologies and Coforge surged in the range of 4 per cent to 5 per cent, while Oracle Financial Services and Wipro were up 3 per cent each.

TCS surges 4% on stable Q1 quarter However, discretionary spending continues to remain uneven across sectors, with Consumer Business still under pressure amid geopolitical uncertainties, while management expects Manufacturing and Life Sciences to recover gradually Q2 onwards. On the margins front, management reiterated its intent to restore margins to 25%+ in this FY through operational efficiencies, though the pace of recovery will remain dependent on demand normalization and continued investments in AI capabilities. On year-on-year (YoY), client additions remained healthy across major revenue bands for the second consecutive quarter. BFSI is expected to sustain growth momentum, while other key verticals such as Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Tech Services are likely to improve in Q2. AI is also emerging as a meaningful growth driver, with annualised AI services revenue reaching \$2.6 billion, or 8.5 per cent of revenue, the brokerage firm said.

Analysts believe that TCS is likely to minimize its revenue growth gap with peers in FY27E, supported by net-new large deals, and potential pick-up in developed markets.

Overall, the quarter reflects stable execution with encouraging AI traction, although a broad-based demand recovery is yet to fully materialize for us to remain constructive on the stock, ICICI Securities said.TCS delivered in-line revenue growth, supported by India, Technology & Services, and BFSI. While TCV fell 21 per cent quarter on quarter to \$9.5 billion, the higher share of net-new deals, led by the \$800 million SKF mega deal, improves FY27 visibility, analysts at Systematix Institutional Research said.Share price of TCS gained 4 per cent to ₹2,133.30 on the NSE in intra-day deals. The stock recovered 8 per cent from its 52-week low of ₹1,976.80 touched on July 1, 2026. It hit a 52-week high of ₹3,414 on July 9, 2025. Currently, TCS quotes 2 per cent higher at ₹2,090.90 on the NSE

Shares of information technology (IT) companies were in demand with the Nifty IT index soaring over 3 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Friday’s intra-day trade after sector giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a stable June 2026 quarter (Q1FY27). TCS reported a muted Q1 with flat revenue in constant currency and operating margin decline due to annual wage hikes. The \$9.5 billion total contract value (TCV), despite moderating sequentially, reflects continued large deal activity led by the \$800 million SKF AI-led transformation contract, indicating that enterprise spending on AI, modernization and platform transformation remains intact. AI annualized revenue increased to \$2.6 billion, while strategic partnerships with Anthropic and Mistral further strengthen the company’s AI capabilities. The management also indicated that AI-led productivity gains of 10–15 per cent are increasingly being passed on to clients, although incremental transformation opportunities are helping offset revenue deflation, ICICI Securities said in a note.Nifty IT index was up 3.5 per cent to 28,439.55 in intra-day deals. At 09:38 AM, the Nifty IT index was the top gainer among sectoral indices, up 1.75 per cent, as compared to 1 per cent rise in the Nifty 50. With today’s gain, Nifty IT index recovered 11 per cent from its 52-week low of 25,699.10 touched on July 1, 2026.

MRPL shares jump 9% as ONGC approves strategic oil reserve

Mumbai: MRPL share price today: Shares of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) today gained nearly 9 per cent in an intraday move after parent Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said that its board has approved a plan to add 1.75 million tons of capacity in Mangalore, Karnataka, to national crude reserves. READ MOREAccording to an exchange filing by ONGC, its board has accorded in-principle approval for the development of 1.75 MMT capacity Strategic Petroleum Reserves as a project of national importance along with associated facilities at Mangalore (Phase-I Extension) as per the directives of

the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG). MRPL shares opened higher at ₹150.25 and extended gains to an intraday high of ₹162.30 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). At 1:45 PM, the stock was trading 8.4 per cent higher at ₹162.30, with around 27 million shares changing hands on the exchange. In addition, the board also directed to take up with the government for broadening commercial utilisation opportunity with associated regulatory support. The development assumes significance as it comes at a time when the government is making efforts to expand the country’s strategic oil reserves.

Investors cheer TCS Q1 results stock jumps 4%

Mumbai: Shares of India’s largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), gained 4 per cent in trade on Friday after the company announced its Q1FY27 results. The counter opened with a gain of 2.7 per cent at ₹2,105.20 and touched a high of ₹2,133.30 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).At 9:42 AM, TCS share price was trading 2.11 per cent higher at ₹2,092.80. In comparison, the Nifty 50 index advanced 0.99 per cent to 24,200.reported a 4.61 per cent Y-o-Y increase in its net profit to ₹13,349 crore for the June quarter. TCS had earned a profit of ₹12,760 crore in the year-ago period. From a topline perspective, its Q1 revenues jumped by 13.9 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹72,275 crore, and edged up 2.2 per cent from the March quarter’s ₹70,698 crore. The Tata group company, which does not provide forward revenue guidance, said that its annu-

alised artificial intelligence (AI) revenue stood at \$ 2.6 billion in Q1FY27, up 13.6 per cent Q-o-Q. TCS said that its operating margin stood at 24 per cent and net margin came in at 19.2 per cent. The Q1 Total Contract Value (TCV) was \$ 9.5 billion, the company said in a filing. Along with the result, TCS also declared an interim dividend of ₹12 per equity share of ₹1 each. The company has set July 15 as the record date, and the dividend will be paid on July 31. Nomura has maintained Buy rating on TCS after Q1 results, saying deal bookings give reasonable growth visibility. The brokerage has set a target of ₹2,590 (earlier ₹2,570), implying an upside of 26 per cent from the previous close of ₹2,050.Tech Services. The Consumer business could recover once market sentiment improves with respect to geopolitics. The brokerage also said that AI projects have start-

ed moving from proof of concepts to large projects (AI now forms around 8.5 per cent of TCS’s revenues). Client priorities increasingly align with AI-led transformation, modernisation are driving demand across various services. was largely in line with its modest estimates, with no major surprises. Centrum Broking has reiterated its ‘Buy’ on TCS, citing steady execution with robust deal wins in the June quarter, driven by large AI-led transformation wins and strategic partnerships.The brokerage noted that TCS’ revenue saw a slight uptick of 0.4 per cent Q-o-Q CC growth, while reported Ebit margin of 24 per cent (down 130 bps Q-o-Q) was impacted by wage hikes. Growth was led by India/ APAC, while performance in developed markets remained relatively subdued. Deal wins remained steady at \$ 9.5 bn (including one mega deal), above management’s comfort band.

Indices have reached their highest levels what factors are contributing to this surge Nifty Midcap and Smallcap



Mumbai: Shares of select midcap and smallcap companies were in demand with the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices hitting fresh 52-week highs in Friday’s trade amid a strong rally in equities.

The Nifty Midcap 100 (62,950.05) and Nifty Smallcap 100 (19,414.55) were up 1.26 per cent and 1.53 per cent, respectively. The Nifty Midcap index surpassed its previous high of 62,909.55 recorded on June 23, 2026. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index surpassed its earlier high of 19,360.05 touched on July 7, 2026. In comparison, Nifty 50 was up 1 per cent in intra-day trade.

Besides, Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices, Nifty Midcap 50, Nifty Smallcap 50, Nifty Midcap Select and Nifty Midsmallcap 400 indices also hit their respective 52-week highs in intra-day deals today. Kalyan Jewellers, Adani Total Gas, Paytm, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), KEI Industries, Persistent Systems and Biocon from the Nifty Midcap 100 index

were up in the range of 3 per cent to 6 per cent.

Zensar Technologies, Central Depository Services (India) (CDSL), Bandhan Bank and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) from the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rallied between 5 per cent and 12 per cent.

Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk said that the market sentiment remained supported by continued foreign portfolio investor (FII) inflows and optimism ahead of the Q1 earnings season. However, escalating geopolitical tensions weighed on investor confidence after the US launched fresh

strikes on Iran and Tehran retaliated with attacks targeting US-linked assets in Bahrain and Kuwait, raising concerns over disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and keeping crude oil prices elevated. Investors will now closely monitor corporate earnings, foreign fund flows, crude oil prices, and global geopolitical developments for further market direction, said the analyst. Meanwhile, tensions in West Asia continue without any clarity of a resolution to the geopolitical crisis. However, interestingly, markets are largely ignoring these negative developments. Brent crude declined 3 per cent in a day and global stock markets have completely ignored the renewed tensions. This confident message from the market is significant. But investors have to be cautious, warranting monitoring of the developments,” said Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

From the domestic perspective, there are no major headwinds for the

economy now. Stock markets will reflect this economic resilience and will respond positively to positive news from sectors and companies, said Dr. VK Vijayakumar.

On the technical front, analyst at ICICI Securities believe, ongoing retracement in Nifty is a part of the prevailing uptrend which would make the market healthy. Therefore, any dip from hereon should be used as buying opportunity as strong support is placed in the 23,600-23,400 zone which analyst expect to hold. Further, any ease of in geopolitical tensions would fuel the momentum toward 24,500, being placement of the 200-day exponential moving average (EMA).

The mid-cap index staged a robust rebound from its 50-day EMA, recovering entirely from the previous session’s decline. Similarly, the small-cap index saw a strong bounce after holding its 18-month falling trend line breakout level, reinforcing prevailing uptrend remains intact, ICICI Securities said.

Valuation verdict SBI Funds IPO fare against peers



New Delhi: India’s largest asset management company (AMC) by assets under management (AUM), SBI Funds Management, is set to tap the primary market with an ₹11,692.91-crore initial public offering (IPO), with valuation emerging as a key factor for investors evaluating the issue.

The IPO, which is entirely an offer for sale (OFS), will see promoters State Bank of India (SBI) and Amundi India Holding divest a combined 203.7 million equity shares

SBI Funds Management’s IPO price band of ₹545 to ₹574 implies a price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple of 36 to 38 times FY26 earnings, based on an earnings per share (EPS) of ₹15.08. This places the issue below the listed peer average of approximately 42 times, and specifically below ICICI Prudential AMC at 49 times, Nippon Life India AMC at 51 times, and HDFC AMC at 42 times. With the issue valuation coming below the broader peer average, analysts are assessing whether the discount adequately factors in the company’s scale, profitability, and growth prospects, or leaves room for further upside. The ₹11,692.91-crore SBI Funds Management IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 20.37 crore equity shares by promoters State Bank of India (SBI) and Amundi India Holding. The public issue will open for subscription on July 14, 2026, and close on July 16, 2026. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, Axis Capital, BofA Securities India, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India), ICICI Securities, Jefferies India, JM Financial, Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors, and SBI Capital Markets are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies is the registrar.As the IPO is entirely an OFS, SBI Funds Management will not receive any proceeds from the issue. According to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), the net proceeds, after deducting offer-related expenses and applicable taxes, will accrue to the respective selling shareholders.

At the upper end of the price band, retail investors will have to invest ₹14,924 for one lot of 26 shares. They can bid for up to 13 lots (338 shares), taking the maximum investment to ₹1.94,012

The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on July 17, while the shares are scheduled to list on the BSE and NSE on July 21, 2026, subject to completion of the issue process.The valuation debate, according to Harshal Dasani, business head at INVasset PMS, has shifted from a premium concern to a discount opportunity. “On Return on Net Worth, SBI Funds Management prints 43 per cent, materially above HDFC AMC at 33 per cent, Nippon Life at 35 per cent, ABSL AMC at 26 per cent,

and UTI AMC at 11 per cent, with only ICICI Prudential AMC higher at 86 per cent. That combination of the lowest P/E among the two closest peers by scale, the second-highest RoNW in the cohort, and the largest AUM base at 15.3 per cent market share defines a franchise being offered at a favourable multiple. FY26 revenue at ₹4,389 crore supports the underlying quality. Forward P/E on 18 to 20 per cent PAT compounding brings the multiple below 22 times by FY29, further below the cohort average,” explained Dasani. Dasani added that the pure OFS structure and post-listing supply dynamics remain risk factors, but the entry multiple no longer requires heroic earnings growth to be defensible.

Scale, efficiency underpin investment caseMeanwhile, SBI Securities said the company enters the market with a leadership position in India’s asset management industry and benefits from its parentage.“BIFM is the largest asset manager in India with strong dual parentage of SBI and Amundi, along with a strong position in active mutual fund schemes,” said the brokerage, adding that the company continues to benefit from SBI’s brand and nationwide distribution network. “Further, it derives synergies from the brand name and pan-India distribution reach of State Bank of India, which augurs well for continued growth and deeper penetration,” the brokerage said.

SBI Securities also highlighted that between FY24 and FY26, total QAAUM, mutual fund QAAUM, and equity QA-AUM grew at a CAGR of 14 per cent, 17 per cent, and 22 per cent, respectively. The company commands the lowest operating expense ratio (as a per centage of QA-AUM) among industry peers, showcasing scale benefits and operational efficiency

Looking ahead, the brokerage expects favourable industry tailwinds to support growth.

“The mutual fund industry in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of around 16-17 per cent, while industry-wide SIP AUM is projected to grow at a CAGR of 23-26 per cent during FY26-FY29, aided by rising financialisation of savings, deeper penetration into B30 cities and an increase in demat accounts, which augurs well for the company,” it said.

Nifty IT index gains 3.5% on Friday as TCS jumps 4% post Q1FY27 results

Mumbai: Shares of information technology (IT) companies were in demand with the Nifty IT index soaring over 3 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Friday’s intra-day trade after sector giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a stable June 2026 quarter (Q1FY27). LTM, TCS, Infosys, Emphasis, Tech Mahindra, Persistent Systems, HCL Technologies and Coforge surged in the range of 4 per cent to 5 per cent, while Oracle Financial Services and Wipro were up 3 per cent each. Nifty IT index was up 3.5 per cent to 28,439.55 in intra-day deals. At 09:38 AM, the Nifty IT index was the top gainer among sectoral

Indices, up 1.75 per cent, as compared to 1 per cent rise in the Nifty 50. With today’s gain, Nifty IT index recovered 11 per cent from its 52-week low of 25,699.10 touched on July 1, 2026.

Silver price outlook: Rate hike risks could limit

Mumbai: Silver price outlook: On Thursday, spot silver, trading in line with gold, and inversely to oil prices, found a support around yesterday’s low of \$57.22. At the time of writing this article on Thursday night, the white metal was trading on \$60.23, up 3% for the day. In the week ending July 3, silver surged 5.51% to close at \$62.41.Geopolitics and oil:

US and Iran traded airstrikes overnight stoking fears of a full-blown war. Iran reported strikes on its Bushehr nuclear plant. Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz almost came to a halt on Thursday. IRGC warned that any US interference in determining ship routes in the Strait would jeopardize the process of gradual reopening of the waterway. While Iran wants to impose

a transit fee, Oman said that it doesn’t support charging transit fees in the Strait of Hormuz as the right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation is guaranteed under international law. US data released on July 9 showed that weekly job data were mixed: initial jobless claims (week ending July 4) came in at 215K Vs the forecast of 217K (prior 217K), whereas continuing claims rose from 1806K to 1814K (forecast 1814K). Existing home sales (June) fell from upwardly revised 4.19m to 4.06m (forecast 4.20m) -- two-month low.

China’s June inflation data released on July 9 showed that oil shock-led reflation may be losing its momentum as CPI inflation trailed estimates on both M-o-M and Y-o-Y basis. June headline

CPI, decelerating for the first time since March, came in at 1 per cent Y-o-Y (forecast 1.1 per cent, prior 1.2 per cent), while core CPI at 1 per cent lagged the estimate of 1.1 per cent (prior 1.1 per cent), too. June PPI, matching the estimate, rose 4.1 per cent Y-o-Y from 3.9 per cent in May, while it fell 0.3 per cent M-o-M.Oil prices retreated on July 9 on expectations that the conflict will remain contained as both the countries stand to lose significantly in case of a material escalation. At the time of writing, Brent Oil Futures were down 1.5% to \$77.

Iran foreign ministry and Pakistani Army chief held a phone call on Thursday. Meanwhile Israel’s Defence minister Katz said that Israel can renew its strikes on Iran if threats remerge.

Child’s rape and murder in India sparks mob and police killings

India: The shocking rape and murder of a girl in eastern India has sparked widespread unrest, the mob-killing of an innocent man, and police killing their main suspect in custody.

The grim chain of events lays bare the nation’s problems not only with sexual violence, but also with attempts to bring perpetrators to justice.

On Sunday, the child’s body was pulled from a pond in the city of Baruiপুর in West Bengal state, according to local media reports. She was believed to be either 11 or 12, according to news reports.

Her family had reported her missing the day before, the reports said. Indian media have widely reported she was raped, citing authorities.

Video footage of the body’s recovery spread widely on social media, sparking far-flung anger and a political blame game in the large state.

In the aftermath, an angry mob took to the streets, vandalizing shops and railway lines. A man, reportedly believed to be the perpetrator, was beaten to death by a crowd, according to authorities.

West Bengal’s Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari later told reporters that the man was innocent.

“He too will get justice,” he said. “Around 200 people re-

sponsible for damaging police vehicles and vandalizing railway lines have been identified.”CNN contacted the police in Baruiপুর, but the person who answered the phone said they had no knowledge of the matter. CNN also reached out to the Inspector General of the Presidency range, a senior official within the West Bengal police who oversees the district where the crime took place, but did not receive a response.Adhikari told reporters that the “government and police are doing everything possible” to bring the girl’s family justice.

Several people have been arrested in connection with the girl’s death, authorities said. Early Wednesday, the primary suspect arrested in the rape and murder case was killed during a shootout in police custody, according to state-run broadcaster News on Air.

While the crime scene was being reconstructed as part of the investigation, the man allegedly snatched a service firearm from an officer and shot one round before trying to flee the scene, News on Air reported. A shootout ensued, after which the suspect was severely injured and later declared dead, the state broadcaster said.

In December 2012, the gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old medical student shocked the



nation and drew thousands onto the streets demanding both justice and change.

Justice for Nirbhaya, as she came to be known, was ultimately served when all five individuals responsible for her death were found guilty. In response, India strengthened its laws regarding sexual assault: the definition of rape was broadened to include any form of penetration, and harsher penalties were introduced for crimes such as sexual assault, voyeurism, and stalking.

Despite these changes, rape re-

mains prevalent in the country, with victims and advocates saying the government is still not doing enough to protect women and punish attackers.Activists have been saying for years the problem lies in a deeper set of structural problems that have been tougher to shake.

Indian society can be deeply patriarchal. Despite being illegal, marriage dowries are still commonly demanded and accepted. In some families, there is a strong preference for male children, leading to the abortion

or abandonment of girls.

According to the World Economic Forum’s 2025 Gender Gap Report, India ranks 131st out of 148 countries in terms of the opportunities it provides to women.

Deaths of high-profile suspects at the hands of Indian police, especially in remote and rural areas, are not infrequent, and have previously triggered renewed cycles of public anger at the lack of an effective and transparent justice system.

The latest incident from Barui-

pur comes about two years after the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in West Bengal’s capital, Kolkata, which also sparked widespread protests and anger.

The nationally dominant Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently took control of the local administration in West Bengal, in a state election in May that ended the 15-year rule of the All India Trinamool Congress.

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administration in West Bengal, in a state election in May that ended the 15-year rule of the All India Trinamool Congress.The latest murder of a young girl has sparked an intense political row between the two parties, with the Trinamool Congress accusing the BJP of not doing enough to protect the state’s women and girls. The BJP’s West Bengal government denies the accusations.Deaths of high-profile suspects at the hands of Indian police, especially in remote and rural areas, are not infrequent, and have previously triggered renewed cycles of public anger at the lack of an effective and transparent justice system.The latest murder of a young girl has sparked an intense political row between the two parties, with the Trinamool Congress accusing the BJP of not doing enough to protect the state’s women and girls. The BJP’s West Bengal government denies the accusations.

The latest crime statistics from the government showed India recorded a total of 29,536 rape cases in 2024, though activists say assaults are widely underreported.

India has struggled for years to tackle high rates of violence against women, with numerous rape cases capturing global attention.

Hundreds give hero’s welcome to Egypt after best World Cup run

Cairo: Hundreds of euphoric supporters welcomed home Egypt’s national football team after the country’s best performance at a World Cup, which ended this time with a thrilling last-16 exit to Argentina.A sea of fans dressed in red, white and black filled the grounds outside the airport in el-Alamein on Friday, where the Pharaohs boarded an open-top bus for a parade through the coastal city.“We are very happy with the team,” supporter Mohamed Gehad told the news agency AFP at the airport where he had travelled to welcome the players.

“Their spirit was high, and ours is high as we welcome them.”

Supporters waved Egyptian flags and Palestinian flags in support of nearby Gaza, as well as a poster of coach Hossam Hassan draping both flags over himself during the tournament.

Egypt achieved their first World Cup win at the 2026 edition before later reaching the last 16 teams at the global spectacle for the first time following their victory against Australia on penalties.They were pain-



takingly close to achieving one of the tournament’s great upsets against Argentina, leading 2-0 with just minutes left to play before the defending champions staged an astonishing 3-2 comeback win

But fans remained in high spirits, dancing to the beat of drums, singing patriotic songs and wearing shirts bearing the name of team captain and former Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah.Others held handwrit-

ten banners reading: “You made us proud, men.”They reached a stage they had never reached before, and we are proud of them,” another fan Eyad Ahmed told AFP.The players are expected to meet President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Saturday, who on social media thanked the team for its “honourable performance”.

The Egyptian Football Association has also lodged a complaint against the officiating team from Tuesday’s

match, with coach Hassan accusing officials of injustice, despite FIFA refereeing chief Pierluigi Collina rejecting what he called “unfounded allegations”.

Hassan drew praise in Gaza after waving a Palestinian flag on the pitch following Egypt’s victory over Australia and dedicating the win to the Palestinian people.

At his pre-match news conference on Monday, Hassan said the suffering of

the Palestinian people was a “shame on the world” as he called on football to do more to come to their aid.

During the tournament, thousands of Palestinians gathered in makeshift cafes set up inside tents or built from corrugated metal salvaged from damaged buildings to watch Egypt’s matches.On Wednesday, Palestinians in Gaza turned out in large numbers to pay their respects to a senior member of Egypt’s main aid organisation, who had set up World Cup screenings in the shattered enclave and was killed by an Israeli air strike on a taxi he was in this week. The strike killed Mohammed al-Wahidi, himself a Palestinian, on the eve of the Egypt and Argentina match on Tuesday, along with three other people, including two young passers-by, siblings aged 10 and eight, in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City, medics said.During the funeral, in which hundreds of people rallied, al-Wahidi’s body was wrapped in Palestinian and Egyptian flags before burial. Neighbours and friends visited his house throughout the day to pay their respects.

Powerful Explosions Rock Southern Irans

Tehran: Powerful explosions were reported near Iran’s Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on Thursday, further intensifying tensions in the Gulf region amid the ongoing strategic confrontation between the United States and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz. The United States denied any involvement in the latest strikes in southern Iran. The development comes months after the Bushehr facility was reportedly targeted on March 28, following a joint U.S.-Israeli military operation carried out on February 28.

Bushehr is Iran’s only operational nuclear power plant and is located near the city of Bushehr on the Persian Gulf coast in southern Iran. During the recent hostilities, missiles and projectiles have reportedly landed in areas surrounding the facility. Construction of the plant began in the 1970s with German assistance and was later completed with Russian cooperation. Its first reactor (Unit 1) generates approximately 1,000 megawatts of electricity for Iran’s national grid. The latest explosions have heightened concerns over the potential risk of a radioactive leak.

According to reports by



Al Jazeera and Axios, a series of powerful explosions struck strategic locations across southern Iran, triggering international concern. Local media and Iranian officials said areas close to the Bushehr nuclear facility’s security perimeter, the Choghadakh military base, and nearby coastal locations were among those targeted. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, and Iran has not officially blamed any country.

A U.S. official reiterated that Washington remains committed to pursuing diplomatic engagement with Tehran and confirmed that technical-level discussions with Iran are continuing.

Axios reported that U.S. officials said Washington made efforts on Thursday to de-escalate the situation while technical negotiations aimed at reviving a nuclear

agreement remain underway. Mediators also held telephone discussions with senior Iranian and U.S. officials on Wednesday. Intensive diplomatic efforts are currently focused on reducing tensions and finalising a date for the next round of technical talks between the two sides.

According to Al Jazeera, former U.S. Marine Corps officer Dan Grazier said there is a strong possibility that Israel could have been behind the attack. Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump briefed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on U.S. actions in the Gulf region during a conversation on Thursday, local time. In a post on X, the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office stated that the two leaders agreed to maintain close coordination across various areas of mutual interest.

Trump’s proposed 250ft Washington arch clears key planning hurdle

Washington: Donald Trump’s plans to build a skyline-altering arch in the nation’s capital won initial approval Thursday from a key federal commission, but its members put off a decision on whether a federal law that limits building heights should be applied to this project.

Despite overwhelming public opposition, the National Capital Planning Commission voted to approve preliminary site and building plans for the 250ft (76m) arch the Republican president wants to build on a traffic circle at the Virginia end of the Memorial Bridge from Washington.

The project, one of several being pursued by Trump in his quest to reshape parts of the nation’s capital to his liking, moved a step closer to reality with the vote.

Staff had recommended in its report on

the project that the commission grant such approval and request a series of changes so the arch would comply with the Height of Buildings Act. The suggested changes included redistributing the heights among the main structure of the arch, the habitable roof, where an observation deck is planned, and the statues that would top it.

But commissioners, led by chair Will Scharf, voted to continue deliberations on whether the law indeed applies.

The staff report said the commission has long applied the law in its approval process. Scharf said the applicant, which is the interior department, had, as requested, provided a legal analysis that he said makes a “compelling argument” that the law “is not binding on the federal government”.

The interior department oversees the feder-

al land where the arch would be built.

Eight of the 12 commissioners, including Scharf and two others appointed by Trump, voted for preliminary approval. One was against, and the remaining three commissioners voted present.. One was against, and the remaining three commissioners voted present.

“This is a complex project,” Scharf said before the vote. He said a vote on final approval could come at the agency’s next meeting, in September.

All 12 commissioners listened to a summary of the staff report and its recommendations, and heard from several dozen people who had signed up to testify about the project.

As the commissioners met, construction continued at the White House on a \$400m ballroom Trump is building there and crews

draped tarps over the stone columns at the north entrance to the mansion, where work is being done to scrape off layers of paint.

Some of those who testified against Trump’s project opposed building a celebratory arch so close to Arlington national cemetery. Others suggested it would be more appropriate for a neighborhood near the Capitol and sporting venues.

Opponents say the arch is too big and would disrupt the carefully designed view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington national cemetery that was meant to symbolize the reunification of the north and the south after the civil war.

The arch would be more than twice as tall as the Lincoln Memorial, which is 99ft (30m) tall, and close to half the height of the Washington Monument, at about 555ft (169m) tall.

Concerns about vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety also were expressed on Thursday. Others insisted that Congress must approve the arch – a position Trump disagrees with.

The US Commission of Fine Arts, a separate federal agency, approved the design for the arch in May. The National Capital Planning Commission oversees construction on federal land in the city and began reviewing the arch plan in June.Trump had said last year that the arch could be paid for with unused funds from the hundreds of millions of dollars he said he has raised from corporations, donors and other wealthy people to pay to build a new \$400m ballroom at the White House.But, as it turns out, some public money will be used for the ballroom project, as well as the arch. The White House has not released a cost estimate for the arch.

Seven airy and non-tacky sunscreens that are perfect for the monsoon season



The onset of the monsoon season offers significant relief from the intense heat of summer; however, it also presents a new skincare dilemma: high humidity levels. Many individuals mistakenly believe that sunscreen is not required on overcast or rainy days, yet harmful UV rays can still penetrate through cloud cover and harm the skin. Additionally, thick creams and oily products can become uncomfortable in humid conditions, resulting in clogged pores, breakouts, and an undesirable sticky feeling. Therefore, it is essential to opt for a lightweight sunscreen, which is perfect for overcoming the challenges of the monsoon season. These sunscreens are non-comedogenic, resistant to sweat, and deliver broad-spectrum protection without leaving a greasy finish.

Which sunscreen is best for the monsoon season? UV rays still penetrate clouds, so sunscreen remains important even on rainy days. As humidity can make heavy creams feel greasy, for the monsoon season, the best sunscreen is usually a lightweight, gel-based, non-sticky SPF 50 PA++++ sunscreen. In fact, aqua-gel formulas tend to be more comfortable. Here are seven sunscreens that help protect your skin while keeping monsoon stickiness at bay. 1. The Derma Co 1% Hyaluronic Sunscreen Aqua Gel SPF 50 PA++++: The Derma Co 1% Hyaluronic Sunscreen Aqua Gel is a lightweight In-Vivo certified (ISO 24444:2019) sunscreen designed for daily use. It offers broad-spectrum SPF 50 PA++++ protection against harmful UVA and UVB rays

while keeping the skin hydrated with hyaluronic acid. The gel texture absorbs quickly, feels non-greasy, and leaves no white cast. It also contains Vitamin E for additional antioxidant support. This sunscreen is suitable for oily, combination, and acne-prone skin, works well under makeup, and is comfortable to wear even in humid weather. Customer Reviews Customers often praise this sunscreen for its lightweight texture and quick absorption. Many users with oily and combination skin appreciate that it does not feel greasy and leaves no visible white cast. Several reviewers mention that it works well under makeup and provides a fresh, hydrated finish. Some users, however, feel that reapplication is needed during long outdoor exposure and a few mention issues with the packaging near the end of use.

2. Mamaearth Vitamin C Daily Glow Sunscreen with Vitamin C & Turmeric: Mamaearth Vitamin C Daily Glow Sunscreen combines broad-spectrum SPF 50 PA++++ sun protection with skin-brightening ingredients. Enriched with Vitamin C and turmeric, this In-Vivo certified (ISO 24444:2019) sunscreen helps protect the skin from sun damage while promoting a natural glow. The formula is designed to blend easily without leaving a white cast and is suitable for everyday use. It works well for people looking for sun protection along with mild brightening benefits. The lightweight texture makes it suitable for regular wear throughout the year, especially during the monsoon. Customer Reviews Many customers appreciate the sunscreen's lightweight texture and natural glow effect. Customers frequently mention that it spreads easily and works well as part of a daily skincare routine. Users looking for brightening benefits enjoy the inclusion of Vitamin C. However, some reviewers with oily skin report it can appear slightly shiny in humid weather, while users with sensitive skin occasionally mention fragrance concerns. 3. Beauty of Joseon Relief Sun Rice + Probiotics 50 ml SPF 50+ PA++++ Lightweight Korean Sunscreen for Oily Skin: Beauty of Joseon Relief Sun is a Korean sunscreen known for its moisturising cream-like texture. It contains 30% rice extract and probiotics that help nourish and support the skin barrier while providing SPF 50+ PA++++ protection. The sunscreen blends

effortlessly without leaving a white cast and gives the skin a healthy, natural glow. Its lightweight formula feels more like a moisturiser than a traditional sunscreen, making it ideal for daily use on dry or normal skin. Customer Reviews Customers consistently praise the sunscreen for its elegant texture and invisible finish. Many users describe it as feeling like a lightweight moisturiser rather than sunscreen. Dry and sensitive skin users particularly enjoy the hydration and skin-soothing benefits. Some people with oily skin find the finish a little too dewy in hot, humid weather, especially during the monsoon. 4. Clayco Sunglaze Sunscreen SPF 50 PA++++ | Probiotic & Ceramide Infused Sunscreen: ClayCo. Ultralight Fluid Sunscreen is a lightweight fluid sunscreen formulated with advanced UV filters for broad-spectrum protection. It contains niacinamide, hyaluronic acid, and postbiotics to support hydration, strengthen the skin barrier, and soothe sensitivity. The formula is designed to leave an invisible finish without stickiness or white cast. It is suitable for all skin types and performs well under makeup. The fluid texture spreads easily and provides comfortable wear even during long days outdoors. Customer Reviews Customers frequently appreciate the fluid texture and lightweight feel. Many reviewers mention that the sunscreen absorbs quickly without leaving residue. Customers also like the non-greasy finish and how comfortably it layers under makeup. Some users feel the product is

slightly expensive compared to similar options, while a few mention that fragrance-sensitive individuals may prefer fragrance-free alternatives. 5. UV Doux Tinted Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50 PA+++ | 100% Mineral Broad Spectrum: UV Doux Tinted Mineral Sunscreen is a mineral-based sunscreen designed to provide broad-spectrum protection while helping to even out skin tone. The tinted formula helps reduce white cast and can replace light makeup for everyday wear. It is suitable for sensitive skin and offers a matte finish that helps control excess shine. The sunscreen is often preferred by users seeking mineral protection, cosmetic coverage, and visible-light protection. Customer Reviews Customers appreciate the smooth application and natural-looking tint. Many users enjoy using it as a substitute for light foundation on busy days. Users with sensitive skin often report good tolerance. Some reviewers note that the tint may appear slightly lighter or darker depending on skin tone, and a few find it thicker than gel-based sunscreens. 6. Fixderma Shadow Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50+ & PA++++, Hydrating, Water & Sweat Resistant, UVA/UVB Protection: Fixderma Shadow Mineral Sunscreen is a 100% mineral sunscreen formulated with zinc oxide and titanium dioxide for broad-spectrum UV protection. It is designed for sensitive, acne-prone, and post-procedure skin. The formula is lightweight, non-comedogenic, and includes soothing bisabolol to calm irritation. It provides re-

liable daily protection without clogging pores and is suitable for users who prefer mineral-based sun care products. Customer Reviews Many customers choose this sunscreen because of its mineral formulation and suitability for sensitive skin. Users often mention that it feels gentle and does not trigger breakouts. Several reviewers appreciate the broad-spectrum protection and comfortable finish. Some users note that mineral sunscreens require more blending compared to lightweight gel formulas. 7. Forest Essentials Ayurvedic Mineral Sunscreen with SPF 50 PA++++ | No White Cast, Light Weight Hydrating Formula: Forest Essentials Ayurvedic Mineral Sunscreen combines traditional Ayurvedic ingredients with mineral sun protection. The formula uses mineral UV filters and botanical extracts to protect the skin from sun damage while nourishing it. It offers SPF 50 protection and is designed for users who prefer natural-inspired skincare products. The sunscreen provides hydration and a smooth finish while supporting overall skin health through herbal ingredients. Customer Reviews Customers often praise the luxurious feel and premium ingredients. Many users enjoy the nourishing texture and appreciate the combination of sun protection and skincare benefits. Dry and normal skin users generally report positive experiences. However, some customers feel the product is expensive compared to other SPF 50 options available in the market.

Microbiome-friendly Haircare: The Shift in Haircare to Prioritize Scalp Care



For many years, the focus of haircare has been on the strands — addressing issues such as split ends, frizz, and shine. However, the true narrative begins at the root, quite literally, with the scalp's microbiome: the community of bacteria and fungi residing on the surface of your skin. Much like gut health, scalp health depends on balance, not sterility. A healthy scalp hosts a diverse community of microorganisms that keep inflammation in check, regulate sebum, and protect against pathogenic

overgrowth. Disrupt that balance — through harsh cleansing, over-exfoliation, or product buildup — and you get the downstream effects most people blame on “bad hair days”: flaking, itchiness, excess oil, even accelerated shedding. This is where microbiome-friendly haircare comes in, and it's less a trend than a correction. The industry spent decades formulating for strip-and-shine results, often at the cost of the scalp's protective barrier. We speak to beauty and skincare educator Nipun Kapur Sohail, who

shares some easy tips that can be included in your haircare routine. What to look for in hair care products? When planning your haircare routine, do not chase brands and expensive products. Instead, focus on what your hair needs by first analysing the issues you deal with and then doing research or speaking to a dermatologist. Think in ingredient categories that can be divided into the following: • Prebiotics: Compounds like inulin or oat-derived sugars that feed beneficial microbes rather than killing them indiscriminately. • Postbiotics: Fermented actives — byproducts of probiotic fermentation — that deliver skin-barrier benefits without introducing live cultures that may not survive shelf life. • Mild, pH-balanced surfactants: Formulas closer to the scalp's natural pH (around 4.5–5.5) preserve the acid mantle instead of stripping it, which is often the real trigger behind post-wash dryness or oiliness. • Fermented plant extracts: Ingredients like fermented rice water or

fermented botanicals carry smaller, more bioavailable molecules that support the skin barrier without overwhelming it. • Minimal, targeted preservative systems: Overloaded formulas with aggressive preservatives or sulfates can be as disruptive to the scalp as they are to the strand. Changing the way we treat our hair What's genuinely interesting here is the reframe: hair health is downstream of scalp health, and scalp health is downstream of microbial balance. That means fewer “more is more” routines and more restraint — cleansing effectively without over-cleansing, treating the scalp like the living skin it is, not just real estate for hair follicles. For an environment like India, where climate, humidity swings, and heavy styling habits already stress the scalp barrier, this shift matters more than most trend cycles. Microbiome-friendly haircare isn't about a new ingredient buzzword — it's about finally treating the scalp with the same scientific rigor we've long applied to facial skin.

The jewellery trends anticipated to dominate the fashion landscape in the upcoming years

As we enter the latter half of 2026, a noticeable transformation is occurring in how individuals perceive jewellery. It is no longer merely about adhering to trends or acquiring items for special events. Instead, jewellery has evolved into a profoundly personal expression, with individuals seeking designs that embody their identity, narrate their experiences, and seamlessly integrate into their daily lives. In a recent interview, Leshna Shah, the founder of Irasva Fine Jewellery, discussed the jewellery trends poised to dominate the fashion industry.

Sculptural pieces “There's a growing appreciation for sculptural silhouettes and contemporary forms that feel artistic yet wearable,” highlighted Leshna. Curated ring stacks continue to evolve, with people mixing different shapes, textures and proportions to create combinations that feel uniquely their own. According to Leshna, bold cuffs are making a strong statement again, while mixed-metal styling has become far more intuitive. The old idea of choosing between gold or white metal is fading, and people are embracing com-

binations that feel modern, versatile and individual. Coloured gemstones Colour is another area that's really coming into its own. Leshna highlighted that while diamonds will always remain timeless, coloured gemstones are bringing a fresh sense of vibrancy and personality to fine jewellery. Whether it's rich emerald greens, vivid sapphires or softer pastel tones, people are using colour as another way to express themselves rather than simply following tradition. Multifunctional jewellery According to Leshna,

today's customers value versatility just as much as beauty. Pieces that can transform effortlessly—a necklace that can also be worn as a bracelet, earrings with detachable elements, or designs that can be styled in multiple ways—offer both practicality and creativity. They allow people to build a jewellery wardrobe that adapts to different occasions without compromising on craftsmanship or elegance. Minimal jewellery “I also think we're seeing a broader shift in what luxury means,” said Leshna. It's becoming less about excess

and more about thoughtful design, exceptional craftsmanship and pieces that genuinely become part of your life. People want jewellery that transitions seamlessly from day to night, from work to celebration, and from one milestone to the next. Leshna added that modern luxury has always been about creating jewellery that moves with you. The most meaningful pieces aren't the ones that sit in a locker waiting for an occasion—they're the ones you reach for every morning because they feel like an extension of yourself.

Include These 5 Practices in Your Daily Routine

Achieving healthy skin is not the outcome of one revolutionary product or a fleeting trend; rather, it stems from a series of small, consistent practices that enable the skin to perform optimally each day. Entering any skincare aisle today reveals shelves filled with products that claim to deliver brighter, clearer, and more youthful skin. We have access to an unprecedented array of choices and information at our disposal. From comprehending active ingredients to creating customized routines, skincare has evolved into a more science-driven field compared to a decade ago. Shaily Mehrotra, CEO & Co-Founder of Fixderma & FCL, notes that despite increased awareness, issues like acne, pigmentation, dullness, and premature aging still impact millions. Healthy skin doesn't exist in isolation. As the body's largest organ, it reflects what's happening beneath the surface. The quality of our sleep, the food we eat, how we manage stress, our hydration levels and the time we spend in the sun all influence how effectively the skin repairs itself, maintains its protective barrier and withstands daily environmental stressors. Sleep: Where Skin Recovery Truly Begins In today's always-on culture, sleep is often the first thing people compromise on. Ironically, it is also when the skin performs some of its most important work. During deep sleep, collagen production increases, skin cells regenerate and the skin barrier repairs itself from the cumulative effects of pollution, UV exposure and oxidative stress. Inadequate sleep, however, elevates cortisol levels, which can trigger inflammation, slow recovery and contribute to breakouts as well as premature signs of ageing. Consistently getting seven to eight hours of quality sleep remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to support healthier skin over the long term. Nutrition: Your Skin Reflects What's on Your Plate Skincare products can only work with the skin you nourish. Every skin cell relies on a steady supply of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, proteins and healthy fats to regenerate and function efficiently. Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and omega-3 fatty acids provide the nutrients needed to support collagen production and strengthen the skin barrier. On the other hand, frequent consumption of highly processed foods and excess sugar may promote inflammation and collagen breakdown, gradually affecting the skin's firmness, texture and overall appearance. Healthy eating is therefore not just a wellness goal, it is an essential part of skin health. Stress: The Invisible Factor Behind Many

Skin Concerns Stress may not always be visible, but its effects on the skin often are. Persistent stress increases cortisol production, stimulating excess oil secretion and amplifying inflammation. The result can be acne flare-ups, increased skin sensitivity, delayed healing or worsening of inflammatory conditions such as eczema and psoriasis. While stress cannot always be avoided, managing it through regular exercise, mindfulness, adequate rest or simply taking time to disconnect can positively influence both overall well-being and the skin's natural ability to recover. Hydration: More Than Just Drinking Water Hydration is one of skincare's most misunderstood concepts. While drinking enough water is important, healthy skin also depends on its ability to retain moisture. A compromised skin barrier allows water to escape more easily, leaving the skin dry, tight and more vulnerable to external irritants. Supporting hydration requires both internal and external care, adequate fluid intake, water-rich foods, and moisturisers formulated with ingredients such as hyaluronic acid, ceramides and glycerin that help strengthen the skin barrier and reduce moisture loss. Exercise: An Often-Overlooked Skin Booster Regular physical activity benefits far more than overall fitness, it also supports healthier skin. Exercise improves blood circulation, allowing oxygen and nutrients to reach skin cells more efficiently while helping carry away metabolic waste. This enhanced circulation supports collagen production, promotes a natural glow and aids the skin's repair processes. Physical activity also helps regulate stress hormones, which can reduce stress-related breakouts and inflammation. While sweating itself doesn't “detox” the skin, it is important to cleanse the face after exercise to remove sweat, oil and impurities that may clog pores if left on the skin. Whether it's a brisk walk, strength training, yoga or cycling, staying active consistently contributes to healthier skin from within. Healthy Skin Is Built Through Everyday Choices The skincare conversation is evolving beyond quick fixes. People are seeking science-backed solutions while recognising that healthy skin is closely linked to overall well-being. That shift matters because skincare is most effective when viewed as part of a broader lifestyle rather than an isolated routine. The products we choose certainly play an important role, but they deliver their greatest value when supported by quality sleep, balanced nutrition, regular exercise, effective stress management and proper hydration.

ENTERTAINMENT

Alia Bhatt grooves to 'Maahi Ve' at BFF Akansha Ranjan's pre-wedding festivities



Mumbai : Alia Bhatt stepped into bridesmaid mode as she joined the pre-wedding festivities of her best friend, actress Akansha Ranjan Kapoor. Akansha is all set to tie the knot with filmmaker Sharan Sharma and videos and photos from the celebrations have been making the rounds on social media.

One of the clips shows Alia setting the dance floor ablaze as she performs to

Shah Rukh Khan's Maahi Ve from the film Kal Ho Naa Ho. She is joined by the bride-to-be's sister, Anushka Ranjan Kapoor, and brother-in-law, Aditya Seal. Dressed in a stunning purple saree, Alia looked every bit the perfect bridesmaid as she cheered on her close friend. Several celebrities were also in attendance at the celebrations, including Janhvi Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Arjun Kapoor,

Shaheen Bhatt, Disha Patani and Krishna Shroff.

Akansha and Sharan have reportedly been in a relationship for nearly four years before deciding to tie the knot. Sharan made his directorial debut with Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl and later helmed Mr. & Mrs. Mahi. Before turning director, he worked as an assistant director and creative director on films like Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani and Ae Dil Hai Mushkil. Akansha made her acting debut with Netflix's Guilty, which also starred Kiara Advani and Gurfateh Pirzada. She later appeared in Monica, O My Darling. More recently, she was seen as Dr. Gargi in TVF's Gram Chikitsalay.

Alia and Akansha have been close friends since their school days and have remained inseparable over the years. From celebrating birthdays and holidays together to cheering each other on through personal and professional milestones, the duo often gives fans a glimpse into their long-standing friendship through social media, making Alia's presence at the wedding festivities especially heartwarming.

Deepika Padukone shares rare third-trimester pic ahead of baby's arrival



Mumbai : In April 2026, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone announced their second pregnancy, leaving fans delighted. The sweet surprise received an outpouring of love and congratulatory messages from friends, family, and admirers across the country, as the couple prepared to embrace parenthood once again. However, Deepika recently offered fans a rare glimpse into her second pregnancy. Taking to social media, she shared a candid update, giving a peek into how she is spending her third trimester before welcoming her baby.

On Saturday, July 11, Deepika Padukone took to social media to share a light-hearted update about the realities of her third trimester. The actress posted a humorous reel that perfectly reflected what she has

been experiencing during this stage of pregnancy. The video showed a pregnant woman waddling towards the bathroom, capturing a relatable third-trimester moment. Deepika accompanied the post with nothing more than an upside-down smiley emoji, letting the reel do all the talking. The post quickly caught the attention of fans, who were delighted to get a rare update from the

actress. One fan wrote, "I wish I could be there for my Queen." Another fan wrote, "Deepika Padukone shares a story about waddling to the bathroom in her third trimester." Others were seen dropping red heart emojis for their idol.

Meanwhile, in April, after the massive success of Dhurandhar: The Revenge, Ranveer and Deepika chose to make the second preg-

nancy official. They took to Instagram to share the news in a simple yet emotional way. The picture featured a glimpse of their daughter Dua Singh Padukone, who was seen holding a pregnancy test. They posted the update with evil eye emojis in the caption. In no time, their post was flooded with happy comments from their colleagues and fans. Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone welcomed their first child, daughter Dua, in September 2024. Since then, the couple has chosen to keep her away from the public eye, rarely sharing glimpses of their little one.

On the work front, Deepika is all set to be seen in King with Shah Rukh Khan. It will release in theatres on December 24, 2026. She also has Raaka with Allu Arjun, which is helmed by Atlee.

Kareena Kapoor channels major vacation vibes in white bikini in Greece



Mumbai : Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor seems to be making the most of her summer getaway in Greece. Giving fans a glimpse of her vacation, the actress shared stunning pictures of herself taking a peaceful swim right in the middle of the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea. Taking to her social media account,

Kareena posted a series of pictures from the picturesque location. In one of the pictures, the actress can be seen floating calmly in the middle of the turquoise-blue Aegean Sea, while in another picture, a closer look at her relaxing swim beside a yacht is seen. Along with the picture, she wrote, "Just me and the Ae-

gean Sea." In another story, Kareena shared a scenic picture from aboard the yacht. The picture featured her husband Saif Ali Khan and their son Taimur, seated at the front of the boat. Kareena captured the family moment from behind. She captioned it, "Into the blue."

Though Kareena has not

officially disclosed the exact location, the actress is reportedly vacationing in Greece with husband Saif Ali Khan and their two sons. Over the past few days, she has been sharing glimpses from the European getaway. Earlier, she had also shared a picture of her husband walking straight out of the water after a relaxing swim, as she sat on the shore at the beach.

The actress called him her 'hot husband' in the picture. On the work front, Kareena was last seen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama 'Singham Again', alongside Ajay Devgn, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff. She also received a good response for her performance in Hansal Mehta's mystery thriller 'The Buckingham Murders'. The actress will be next seen in Meghna Gulzar's directorial 'Daayra'.

Game of thrones' stars Jerome Flynn and Sam Spruell board 'Alien: Earth' season 2



Washington : 'Alien: Earth' Season 2 has added three new cast members to its ensemble cast. 'Game of Thrones' stars Tracey Ullman, Sam Spruell, and Jerome Flynn have all joined the second season of the series, reported Variety. They will join other cast members, including Peter Dinklage, as well as returning star Sydney Chandler and fellow cast members Alex Lawther, Timothy Olyphant, Essie Davis, Babou Ceesay, Samuel Blenkin, Adarsh Gourav, Jonathan Ajayi, Erana James, Lily Newmark, Adrian Edmondson, David Rysdahl, Moe Bar-El, Sandra Yi Sencindiver, and more. Production on Season 2 is now underway in London.

According to Variety, Ullman is a seven-time Emmy winner, including two wins for 'The Tracey Ullman Show' and another for outstanding guest actress in a comedy for 'Ally McBeal.' She was most recently nominated for her work in the FX limited series 'Mrs. America.' Ullman has also recently starred in shows like 'Howards End' and 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' as well as films like 'Steve' and 'The Prom.' Ullman is reped by CAA and Hamilton Hodell. According to Variety, Spruell previously worked with "Alien: Earth" creator Noah Hawley on the fifth season of Hawley's critically-acclaimed FX an-

thology series " Fargo."

Spruell also recently starred in 'A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms' in the role of Maekar Targaryen. He has also starred in shows including 'Dear England,' 'The Northwater,' 'Small Axe,' and 'Luther,' while in film he is known for roles in 'H Is for Hawk,' 'Outlaw King,' 'The Martian,' 'The Hurtlocker,' and 'K-19: The Widowmaker.' Flynn is best known for starring in the megahit series 'Game of Thrones' as Bronn. Recently, he was seen opposite Harrison

Ford and Helen Mirren in the "Yellowstone" prequel '1923' at Paramount+. His other credits include shows like "Black Mirror" and "Ripper Street" as well as films like 'John Wick 3.' 'Alien: Earth' is created for television and executive produced by Hawley alongside executive producers Ridley Scott, David W. Zucker, Clayton Krueger, Emilia Serrano, Bob DeLaurentis, Peter Calloway, Monica Macer, John Campisi and Simon Emanuel. The show is produced by FX Productions.

Actor Rohit Chandel arrested under POCSO

Mumbai : Television actor Rohit Chandel, who is best known for his roles in Pandya Store and Kashibai Bajirao Ballal, has been arrested by the Mumbai Police. He has been accused of allegedly stalking, repeatedly calling, harassing and assaulting a 16-year-old girl. A case has been registered against the actor under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Reportedly, the 29-year-old actor was arrested by the Pant Nagar Police from his Dahisar residence on Friday, July 10. He was later produced before a special POC-SO court, which remanded him to police custody. As per the FIR, the accused made repeated phone calls to the minor from his personal number as well as other mobile numbers despite her objections. The complaint also states that on July 5, the actor allegedly stopped the girl near her housing society, followed her, got into a verbal altercation, abused her and allegedly assaulted her. Therefore, along with the POCSO Act, he has also been booked under Sections 78 and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deal with stalking and voluntarily causing hurt.



Hema Malini calls Dharmendra a 'loving husband' after facing her 'biggest challenge'



Mumbai : Hema Malini has opened up about how finding a life partner was one of the biggest challenges in her life. However, everything fell into place after she met Dharmendra. The veteran superstar passed away last year, and now, Hema has opened up about the man beyond the actor. She said that while Dharmendra was a strong man, he had a soft heart.

In an interview with Zoom, Hema Malini said, "The biggest challenge was deciding on your life partner. Very easily, it happened with the grace of the divine. What I wanted happened beautifully, without any problem." Dharmendra and Hema Malini got married on May 2, 1980, in a private ceremony. The actress said about Dharmendra, "Throughout, he

has been a wonderful friend. I would say he was a loving husband, a well-meaning friend, a trusted guide, and a true philosopher. He was always ready to help anybody who was in distress. That kind of nature, you very rarely find a person like that. He looked so strong, yet he had such a soft heart."

Previously, Hema Malini told Hindustan Times, "He

would say 'I am fond of my family', hamesha united rehne ko bolte the. He wanted that all of us should be together. He was fond of all his children, his grandchildren in that house, my house. He enjoyed his life and lived it to the fullest."

"He achieved those things which normal human beings don't get, and became what he wanted to right from the

beginning. A young boy from a small village in Punjab came to Mumbai and achieved so much. Today, the whole country loves him, so many in the world do, and that person loved me. You can understand how proud I feel," she also mentioned.

Dharmendra's death last year sent shockwaves across the nation and left a void in the Indian film industry. Dharmendra died in November 2025 at the age of 89, weeks before his 90th birthday. The actor had spent decades entertaining audiences through films across genres and remained active in public life for years. He was also posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, which Hema Malini collected on his behalf this year.

Dhanush bowls over fans by mimicking MS Dhoni's iconic cricket shots



Chennai : Actor Dhanush enjoyed a relaxed cricket session on a film set. And the same is now a viral thing. The Idli Kadai actor surprised everyone by showcasing his athletic side during a break from shooting of OM.

In the viral clip, the Kara actor is seen walking confidently to the crease, interacting warmly with crew members, and executing eye-catching strokes with great timing. His lofted shots and fluid follow-through bore a striking resemblance to the iconic batting style of former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni. Meanwhile, Dhanush is also gearing up for the shoot of Thamizh Murugan. Marking his fifth collaboration with director Vetri Maaran, the film's First Look was released on

Friday evening. Coming back to OM (also known as Om: Chapter 1 - Udhiram), it is Dhanush's 55th Tamil film. Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, this gritty

action-thriller is set in the forests of Tiruvannamalai and revolves around the illegal red sanders trade. The film will be released in two parts.

ZEE5 pulls Diljit Dosanjh's 'Satluj' globally following India takedown



Mumbai : The controversy around Satluj is no longer limited to India. Days after the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer was removed from ZEE5 India, the film has now also disappeared from the platform's international library, triggering a fresh wave of discussion among viewers overseas.

The film, earlier titled Punjab 95, had premiered on ZEE5 last Friday after nearly four years of delays linked to censorship and certification issues. It was pulled down in India within 48 hours on government directions, but continued to remain available for

international audiences. That window, too, appears to have now closed. When SCREEN reached out to director Honey Trehan about the film's disappearance from ZEE5's international catalogue, he confirmed the development with a brief, "Yes."

The removal was first flagged by users on social media. One X user wrote, "So it's been removed internationally as well." Reddit users also noted that Satluj was no longer visible outside India, with one post saying that the move showed "efforts to censor and remove the film are

still ongoing." The takedown has only intensified curiosity around the film. One user commented that the ban had made the film more popular, adding that even non-Punjabi friends heard about it only

after the controversy. Another user said pirated versions were already circulating, but added that the filmmakers "deserved to earn a dime out of it."

ZEE5 had earlier issued a

short statement after pulling down the film in India. "In light of the current developments, Satluj will be unavailable in India until further notice. We remain committed to exploring every appropriate avenue through due process to bring the film back to our audiences at the earliest opportunity," the statement read. After the takedown, co-producer Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP Movies also confirmed to SCREEN through a spokesperson, "The government has pulled it down," while expressing hope that the film would re-

turn "hopefully soon."

According to PTI, a government official said the film was submitted to the CBFC in 2022 as Punjab 95, but the makers did not agree to the board's proposed 127 cuts. The official claimed the film was later released directly on OTT under a new title without CBFC certification, and ZEE5 was asked to remove it due to security concerns. Satluj is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The film revisits Punjab's militancy years and focuses on disappearances, alleged extrajudicial

killings, illegal detentions and the reported cremation of unidentified bodies during counter-insurgency operations.

Before the film was pulled down, Honey Trehan had said he still did not know who had objected to it. "If somebody asks me who had a problem with the film, I genuinely don't know. I don't have a face. I don't have a name. Everything came through third persons or lawyers," he told Mid-Day. Along with Diljit Dosanjh, Satluj stars Arjun Rampal, Suvinder Vicky and Geetika Vidya Ohlyan.

Argentina Coach Ends Silence on FIFA World Cup ‘Fixing’ Allegations, Responds to Critics

Atlanta: Argentina has had a lot going for them in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, from good refereeing rulings to being drawn on the ‘right side’ of the FIFA World Cup schedule. In fact, a win over Switzerland in the tournament’s quarterfinals would advance the team to the last four without facing a single team ranked among the top ten in the world. Many people believe that FIFA is favouring the reigning champions in the World Cup due to both on-field and off-field considerations. In fact, after Argentina rallied from 2-0 down to defeat Egypt 3-2 in the Round of 16, the opposition team’s camp alleged that the World Cup is ‘rigged’ to benefit Argentina. As La Albiceleste prepares to face Switzerland in the quarterfinals on Saturday, manager Lionel Scaloni broke his silence, acknowledging that the outside buzz has reached the players. Scaloni dismisses the notion as a ‘staged uprising’ by those opposed to Argentina win-



ning two World Cups in a row. The point is, we may have a lot more people who don’t want us to win since we won the previous one, and we take that into account. And indeed, it reaches the players. We rebel by making remarks or criticizing others. Scaloni told reporters on Saturday that the goal was

to spark a mutiny and improve the players’ performance. “It’s been a long time-40 years as you just said, since 1986, right? They were saying we were favoured back then, too. So it’s not something new. As far back as I can remember, Argentina has always been one of the teams that stir up the tournament,

always. And in a way, as you rightfully pointed out, it’s used to show the players that there are people who don’t want Argentina to win. But that’s normal, just like there will be people who don’t want another national team to win,” said Scaloni. The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has also been under the spotlight, especially after Egypt’s second-half strike was chalked off for an incident that took place more than 10 seconds before the goal was scored. Scaloni, however, said that the VAR team is only following the rules that were set before the tournament started. “I think with VAR and all these things, it’s very hard for them to help you. Very hard, very hard. There’s no double interpretation with VAR. Plus, they made it crystal clear to us in that course they gave us before the World Cup started. They showed us all the footage. This is how it’s going to be, it’s going to be like this, like that. And it’s been followed to the letter,” he added.

A Bengal man poses as an IAS officer and dupes a job seeker of Rs 20 lakh. In Odisha

New Delhi, July 11: On Friday, the Commissionerate Police detained a 40-year-old man from West Bengal on accusations of defrauding a job applicant by impersonating a promoted IAS official in the Odisha government. The accused, Rabinarayan Das, a resident of Kendrapada district, is currently residing at the Uttarpara police station in West Bengal’s Hooghly district. Das was seized in connection with a case reported at Lingaraj Police Station based on a complaint filed by the victim, Manoranjan Pradhan. According to police sources, during the course of the investigation, the accused Das falsely introduced himself as a promoted IAS officer of the Odisha Government and, with the assistance of co-accused Manoj Kumar Lenka, lured the complainant by promising him a job as Deputy General Manager in the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). Believing this fraudulent assurance, the complainant Pradhan paid the accused a total of Rs 20 lakh on many times, both online and in cash. The accused then furnished the complainant with forged recruitment and interview letters allegedly issued by the Odisha Mining Corporation. Upon verification, the victim discovered that the documents were falsified and fraudulent. The



cops during the probe examined bank transaction details and other relevant records.

The police also came to know that the accused had cheated the complainant of Rs 20 lakh by falsely impersonating a senior government officer and using forged recruitment-related documents. Acting on reliable information, police conducted a raid in Hooghly district of West Bengal and apprehended the accused from his hideout. The Commissioner-

ate police also stated that verification of his criminal record revealed that accused Das was previously involved in a similar job fraud case registered at Lingaraj Police Station and in a cyber fraud case registered at Jajpur Cyber Police Station in Odisha. In another case, the Commissionerate police arrested a 52-year-old man, who allegedly impersonated as an additional Superintendent of Police and engaged in a fight with a person in Kharavel-nagar police limits of Bhubaneswar.

Jannik Sinner’s Heartfelt Message to Rival Novak Djokovic After Reaching Wimbledon Final

London: Jannik Sinner praised Novak Djokovic as a “true inspiration” after the defending Wimbledon champion admitted he needed to step up his game to terminate his rival’s championship chase on Friday. Sinner put up one of his greatest performances this year, defeating Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a one-sided Centre Court semi-final. The world number one will meet French Open winner Alexander Zverev in Sunday’s final. Sinner’s explosive performance at the Australian Open avenged his last-four setback to Djokovic in January. Djokovic fell short of making history with a record 25th Grand Slam singles victory, breaking his tie with Margaret Court.

The seven-time Wimbledon winner could be nearing the end of his career. However, in his five-hour triumph against third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Thibaut Courtois, Belgium’s goalkeeper, shatters the match against Spain with a late error



California: It is difficult for a rookie goalie to perform at his best against a dominant squad like Spain. Belgium lost the FIFA World Cup 2026 quarterfinal match against Spain on Friday due to a late blunder by goalkeeper Senne Lammens. Mikel Merino was ready to capitalize on Lammens’ error and score the winning goal for Spain, advancing them to the tournament’s semi-finals. Lammens fell down when he realized his howler had put Belgium out of

the competition. But his veteran goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, who had to be replaced in the game due to an injury, didn’t waste any time in comforting the rookie goalie. Courtois backed his replacement Lammens, saying the young goalkeeper will only improve from the experience. Courtois was substituted in the 71st minute of Belgium’s quarter-final clash against Spain, with Lammens replacing him between the posts. The injury proved costly as Lammens was

unable to hold Pau Cubarsi’s long-range effort soon after coming on, allowing substitute Mikel Merino to score the rebound and give Spain a 2-1 victory. Speaking after the match, Courtois revealed that he consoled Lammens after the match, acknowledging the difficult situation faced by a goalkeeper coming on during a high-pressure game. “Senne Lammens, obviously, I gave him a big hug. I know, for goalkeepers, this is a shit feeling, and he’s a great goalkeeper,

and he will only get stronger from this,” Courtois told reporters. The Belgium No. 1 also explained the injury that forced him to leave the field, saying he initially felt discomfort but continued after making some saves before the issue worsened. “I felt something here in my muscle. Then, I did some saves, I felt okay, so I thought, okay, we’ll continue. Then I kicked again long and I felt it a bit more,” Courtois said, as quoted by Reuters. The decision for him to leave the field was made by team manager Rudi Garcia. “Obviously, I wanted to continue, but yeah, the coach wanted someone 100%, so okay, that’s his decision. I wanted to try to play maybe five, 10 more minutes to see, because in goal I was feeling good. I was making the saves, and I was not disturbed to make those saves, and I was only disturbed to kick long. So that’s the decision of the coach, and that’s not a problem.” Spain beat Belgium 2-1 in the FIFA World Cup 2026 quarterfinals, securing a semi-final match against France. Spain’s Fabian Ruiz and substitute Mikel Merino scored, while Belgium’s only goal came from Charles De Ketelaere. Belgium goalkeeper Courtois was forced to leave the game in the second half due to an injury, and Merino scored immediately after his replacement, Senne Lammens, missed a long-range shot. The win extended Spain’s unbeaten streak to 36 games, matching Argentina’s and left La Roja one game short of Italy’s world-record 37-game unbeaten streak.

“J&K Integral Part Of India” Indian Diplomat Flags Wrong Map During Dhaka Event



New Delhi, July 11: During a seminar in Bangladesh, an Indian official protested to the portrayal of an incorrect map of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the union territory is “integral and inalienable” to India. Pooja Kumari Jha, an official at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, raised the issue during a presentation by former Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Ahmed Tariq Karim at a seminar titled “Rebuilding Trust, Renewing Regional Integration: Pathways for Revitalising SAARC” at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) on Monday. As Karim, who served as Bangladesh’s High Commissioner to India from 2009 to 2014, was speaking, Jha, who was in the audience, pointed out that the

map shown in his presentation was incorrect. “The map of India depicted is incorrect. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India,” she said. Karim said the map was “for representational purposes only” and “doesn’t project actual boundaries”. The Indian official acknowledged his clarification but reiterated India’s stand on Jammu and Kashmir. “I understand, Sir, but Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and it is misrepresented here. So I just wanted to point out,” she said. Karim then asked whether she was from India, following which she said she is the second secretary at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. “The point is noted,” he responded. Continuing with his presentation, Karim said that most South Asian states emerge from colonial rule

with legal sovereignty, but also with “congested identities, uneven institutions, and deep anxieties about territorial integrity”. “Colonialism did not just define borders. It restructured political imagination. It encouraged elites to conceive of security exclusively in territorial terms, viewing surrounding governments as weaker partners rather as possible threats,” he added. He stated that South Asia was not a collection of “sealed territorial containers” prior to colonial unification. It was a multilayered territory with empires, princely states, commercial regulations, pilgrimage networks, language continuity, renovations, and ecological zones. Communities traveled, traded, prayed, married, and migrated across places that eventually formed boundaries,” he explained. “It separated families, marketplaces, rivers, trains, ports, memories, and identities. It transformed common areas into disputed regions, and ordinary movement became a question of passports, visas, suspicion, and security clearances. Partition may be thought of as dividing a family home,” he explained. Shama Obaed, Bangladesh’s State Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the ceremony as the principal guest.

BCCI Plans “Course Correction” Following India’s Capitulation Against England

England: Two consecutive T20I series losses in Ireland and England do not look good for a side that won the T20 World Cup just a few months ago. The BCCI has taken notice of recent developments. Following the T20 World Cup, the BCCI selectors and team management began a process of transformation. Suryakumar Yadav was not selected for the Ireland and England trips, although newcomers Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Prince Yadav were chosen. The experimentation has not yet provided the desired results. The BCCI will conduct a review meeting. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has stated that the upcoming review meeting on India men’s recent T20I series defeats, to be held once the tour of the United Kingdom concludes on July 19, will be strictly focused on course correction. He added that the discussions will revolve around identifying shortcomings and charting the way forward. India’s T20I side, under Shreyas Iyer, suffered a shock 2-0 series defeat to Ireland before enduring another series loss in England. The twin setbacks have prompted the BCCI to take stock of the slide, especially after India won the 2026 Men’s T20 World Cup



on home soil in March. “The BCCI is currently observing the performance of the Indian T20 team, which has not been up to the mark in the ongoing series against England. However, this is not something abnormal and can happen in international cricket. We consider it a purely bad phase. Once the ODI series gets over on July 19 and the team comes back, we will have a review meeting with the core members of the team to discuss what went wrong in England. Since there is an ODI series, we are hopeful that the team will return to good form. “The review meeting will be strictly about the performance of the team and how course correction can be done with regard to the shortcomings. Nothing else will be discussed,” said

Saikia in a statement issued to IANS on Friday. The review meeting is expected to involve newly appointed captain Shreyas Iyer and head coach Gautam Gambhir and will examine team selection, tactical approach, and execution in overseas conditions. Batting failures and bowling inconsistencies in T20Is have come under sharp scrutiny, especially with India building towards its T20 World Cup title defence in Australia and New Zealand in 2028, as well as participation in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. It remains to be seen if the conclusions of the BCCI’s comprehensive review meeting will take effect before India embarks on a three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, which begins on July 23 in Harare.

Several people were hurt after a BEST bus rammed with 14 automobiles in Mumbai’s Andheri Paschim



Mumbai, July 11: A significant traffic accident was reported in Maharashtra’s capital city of Mumbai on Friday after a bus lost control and collided with other cars, injuring several persons, officials said. The catastrophe occurred in the Andheri Paschim neighborhood of India’s financial capital. The bus belongs to Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST), when it lost control and collided with at least 14 cars, including eight to ten autorickshaws. The event harmed at least two to three persons, who were transported to a hospital and treated. Later, the BEST bus driver claimed that his vehicle’s brakes failed, causing him to lose control and cause the collision. Meanwhile, police and municipal officials raced to the scene, launching a rescue mission. The police and authorities have initiated an inquiry, and further information will be

provided after a comprehensive examination. Earlier, one person was killed after an electric car rammed into pedestrians and other vehicles after losing control in Navi Mumbai. The accident was reported in Sector 10 of the Talaja area on July 7. The person killed in the accident was identified as 35-year-old Nadeem Khan. The accident also left five persons injured, who were rushed to a private hospital for medical treatment. The locals also rushed to the spot and helped in the rescue operation. According to the police, the driver of the car, which was in high speed, lost control and rammed his electric vehicle (EV) into the people walking on the streets. Several vehicles, including an auto-rickshaw, was damaged in the incident. Several videos and photos had also gone viral on social media that showed the intensity of the accident. Following the accident, the driver had abandoned his vehicle and fled from the spot immediately. Later, the police arrived at the spot and the driver, whose identity was not revealed, was traced. The police also launched an investigation and are ascertaining the facts that led to the accident on July 7 in Navi Mumbai, said officials.

Merino living wildest dreams after Spain's late World Cup winners

Losangeles: Mikel Merino, who smashed in the World Cup quarter-final winner against Belgium in the 88th minute on Friday, said it was “surreal” to have scored a late winner in two straight knockout games for Spain. “I couldn’t have imagined something like this even in my wildest dreams -- another goal in the dying minutes,” said Merino, who had already scored in stoppage time in Spain’s 1-0 win over Portugal on Monday. “I thought it would take a long time to repeat a feat like that... and I managed it in the very next game!” Late in the game and with the score tied 1-1, Spain’s Pau Cubarsi had shot low from range. Belgian substitute ‘keeper Senne Lammens should have held onto the ball. Instead it bounced toward Merino, who had only been on the pitch two minutes



himself. The Arsenal player was first to the rebound and fired it in. Merino said it was not purely a coincidence, attributing his dramatic late success to “going out there with drive” and belief in himself to “contribute wherever you’re needed.” “That’s exactly what I did,” he said. Merino said his team’s run to a semi-final clash with France at the World Cup has so far been “less flashy” than Spain’s victorious campaign

at the European Championships two years ago. It was a struggle today,” he admitted. The win against Belgium sets up a tough test against France, who are the World Cup favorites, but who Spain beat 2-1 at the Euros. “It’s going to be a head-to-head battle. That’s how semifinals always are. We’re going into the match against France hungry and eager,” he said. “It’s an elite-level match, the highest level. We are two

teams playing at the very top of our game. “We’ll try to do our absolute best,” he said. The European champions will face the United States -- the only one of the co-hosts remaining -- or Belgium on Friday in Los Angeles. In front of an expectant crowd of 70,649 at the air-conditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys, a match that on paper promised so much failed to deliver. Extra time looked certain, before fellow substitute Ferran Torres slipped in Merino to settle the contest in the first minute of injury time. It meant a sour final World Cup match for the 41-year-old Ronaldo, who looked like he was choking back tears at the end. Spain captain Rodri praised the “maturity” of his side. “If anyone thinks that we will move forward without suffering, they are mistaken,” he said.

Can Gambhir’s India avoid historic clean sweep on challenging England tour?

Chennai: Never before in their history have India lost four matches or more in a bilateral T20I series. Never before have India finished a bilateral series (3 or more games) without winning a game. Not since 2016 have the Men in Blue lost four or more matches in any white-ball series across formats (1-4 ODI series loss in Australia, 2016). All of this will be in threat as skipper Shreyas Iyer and head coach Gautam Gambhir put their heads together to pick the playing XI for the fifth and final T20I against England in Southampton on Saturday.

Since the time they landed in Belfast in late June for the T20I series in Ireland, India have lost five games, apart from one washed out, and now, the last match provides a chance to get back to winning ways before the old guard — Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli — join them for the ODIs. It seems so simple, but doing so might not be as easy. Through the course of six matches, Indian batters have struggled to adapt to conditions that assist pacers and provide extra bounce. They have also not adjusted their shot selection to the hard lengths from English pacers and it has



cost them dearly. Then there is also the issue of chopping and changing by the team management along with the fitness concerns. Put it all together, Iyer and Gambhir are yet to put a foot in the right direction since coming together. So much so that, as it often happens after every bad series (2024 New Zealand Tests, 2025 Border Gavaskar Trophy,

South Africa Tests etc.) the BCCI is set to review the performance after the series. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia reportedly called it a “bad phase.” Meanwhile, no kneejerk reaction is expected with regards to captain or coach, considering the secretary spoke on similar lines after the Test series loss in Guwahati last year.

England star recalls bizarre London cafe incident involving Virat Kohli’s privacy being invaded



New Delhi : Virat Kohli’s attempt to enjoy a quiet afternoon in London with Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Jordan Cox ended up highlighting the challenges of living life away from the spotlight, with the England batter revealing that the former India captain was unknowingly photographed during their private meeting. Speaking to The Guardian, Cox recalled meeting Kohli at a London cafe on the eve of his Test debut against New Zealand at The Oval last month.

The conversation revolved around cricket, nerves and Kohli’s own experience before making his India debut in 2011. Cox admitted he was concerned by the lack of nerves ahead of the biggest match of his career, only for Kohli to reassure him by saying it was a far better state of mind than his own before his first Test. However, what was meant to be a quiet catch-up between the Royal Challengers Bengaluru

teammates quickly became public after photographs of the meeting surfaced online. “The upsetting thing for him is that people are following him without him knowing,” Cox told The Guardian. “Hundreds of people walked past us, no one stopped, no one did anything. But then about two hours later he’s texting me going, ‘Have you seen all these photos?’ I was like, ‘What the hell?’ “It’s just a shame how many people want a piece of him. He just wants to go under the radar, have fun and live a normal life. Unfortunately, that’s not always possible.” The incident offers a glimpse into Kohli’s life away from cricket. Over the last two years, the former India captain has spent much of his time living in London with wife Anushka Sharma and their children, travelling back to India only for international assignments, the IPL and commercial commitments. Since retiring from Test cricket earlier this

year after already stepping away from T20Is, Kohli has largely kept a low public profile, although his appearances in England continue to attract significant attention.

The 37-year-old is now set to return to international action in India’s three-match ODI series against England, beginning next week. After completing his rehabilitation from the hamstring injury that ruled him out of the Afghanistan series, Kohli has been preparing in Mumbai before flying to England, where India will play in Birmingham, Cardiff and at Lord’s. The series is expected to be one of his key assignments as he builds towards the 2027 ODI World Cup. While the photographs sparked discussion on social media, Cox said his biggest takeaway from spending time with Kohli during Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s title-winning IPL campaign was the Indian great’s willingness to mentor younger players. “The thing that I found the most special during the IPL is how much time he gave me as a player and, for someone that’s achieved so much, how much he gives back generally,” Cox said. “Some guys focus on their own game but he is someone who always wants to help others before he

he Virat Kohli was unintentionally photographed during a private meeting with Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Jordan Cox in London, highlighting the challenges of maintaining privacy away from the spotlight. Ips himself. That is very rare.”

India Women post 285 before late wickets keep England under pressure at Lord’s on Day One

London: India Women endured a frustrating collapse after three half-centuries but finished the opening day of the one-off Test against England on a positive note, dismissing Tammy Beaumont late to leave the hosts at 21 for 1 in reply at stumps at Lord’s on Friday. Having been bowled out for 285 after looking set for a considerably bigger total, India struck through debutant pacer Kranti Goud in the closing stages to ensure England headed back to the dressing room still trailing by 264 runs. India’s innings was built around fluent knocks from Smriti Mandhana (83), captain Harmanpreet Kaur (58) and all-rounder Deepti Sharma (57), but none of the batters managed to convert their starts into a match-defining century. After being asked to bat, India suffered an early setback as Shafali Verma and Yastika Bhatia departed inside the first seven overs, reducing the visitors to 37 for 2. Mandhana steadied the innings in the company of Jemimah Rodrigues, who played an enterprising knock of 35 off 38 deliveries. The pair added 64 runs

for the third wicket, shifting the momentum back in India’s favour with positive strokeplay. Mandhana looked particularly assured against both pace and spin, taking on Lauren Filer with successive boundaries before launching Sophie Ecclestone over midwicket for a six. Rodrigues matched her intent at the other end before her aggressive approach brought about her downfall as an attempted drive off Issy Wong ended with the ball clipping the stumps via the inside edge. With Rodrigues gone, Harmanpreet joined Mandhana to produce India’s most substantial partnership of the innings. Their 89-run stand for the fourth wicket put England under sustained pressure as both batters rotated strike well and punished anything loose. Mandhana appeared well set for another Test century but fell for 83 after edging Wong behind to wicket-keeper Amy Jones. Harmanpreet, who had looked increasingly comfortable as the innings progressed, also missed out on a bigger score when Mady Villiers produced a sharp off-break



to bowl the Indian captain just before tea. India went into the interval at 202 for 5 with the advantage still firmly in their hands, but England fought back strongly in the final session. Deepti once again demonstrated her value in the lower middle order, compiling a composed half-century and sharing a useful 45-run partnership with Sneha Rana to push India beyond the 250-run mark. However, regular wickets prevented India from building the kind of total that had looked possible when they were cruising at 190 for 3. England’s bowlers tightened their lines after tea,

with Ecclestone claiming three wickets to become England Women’s leading wicket-taker in international cricket, overtaking Katherine Sciver-Brunst’s tally of 335 wickets. Wong and Villiers also made timely breakthroughs as India lost their remaining seven wickets for just 95 runs to be dismissed for 285. England’s reply got off to a nervy start as Kranti Goud struck early to remove Beaumont for just two, handing India the ideal finish to the day. Maya Bouchier remained unbeaten on 17 alongside Heather Knight on one at stumps, but England still face a sizeable first-innings deficit.

New Zealand PM Luxon recalls Delhi gully cricket, celebrates stronger sporting ties with India



Auckland: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon highlighted cricket’s enduring role in strengthening ties between India and New Zealand, while underlining the significance of the newly agreed Sports Joint Action Plan between the two countries. Speaking at the ‘Gala Lunch’ event hosted by the Kiwi Prime Minister in honour of his Indian counterpart, PM Modi, in Auckland, PM Luxon reflected on his experience of playing gully cricket with children from the STAIRS Foundation during his official

visit to India in March last year. “Cricket will always be a special connection, and New Zealanders know the passion India brings to the game. I experienced this passion firsthand while playing street cricket in Delhi with the children from STAIRS Foundation. My team included the great Indian Kapil Dev, and we were playing against the New Zealanders, who included Ajaz Patel and Ross Taylor. During that match, I joked with Ross Taylor about the possibility of the great Ross Taylor being

bowled out by a 13-year-old. Lo and behold, on the very next ball, he was bowled out by an 11-year-old Indian bowling at 110 kilometres an hour. It once again demonstrated to me the passion that defines our rivalry in cricket,” Luxon said. Emphasising the importance of sporting collaboration beyond the cricket field, the New Zealand Prime Minister added, “The sports joint action plan we have agreed upon this morning is so important because it will strengthen our connections in coaching, youth sport, women’s and girls’ sports, high performance sports, science, technology, tourism and business. It transforms our shared passion into a much deeper cooperation.” Luxon’s remarks came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Auckland on the final leg of his six-day tour of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. The Kiwi Prime Minister hosted a Gala Lunch in honour of PM Modi, who arrived in Auckland on Friday at Luxon’s invitation. The

visit marks the first by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years and follows the signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement earlier this year, a development both leaders believe will accelerate trade and bilateral cooperation. Earlier during delegation-level talks, PM Modi described the visit as a milestone in bilateral relations and thanked the New Zealand government for its warm hospitality. “It gives me great pleasure that an Indian Prime Minister has visited New Zealand after 40 years.

By organising an event in your economic capital, you have created an opportunity to infuse new strength into the relationship between India and New Zealand. I am deeply grateful,” PM Modi said. The Prime Minister also received a traditional Maori powhiri ceremonial welcome at Government House in Auckland, later describing the ceremony as a moving reflection of New Zealand’s rich cultural heritage.

Spain PM Sanchez celebrates La Roja’s World Cup quarterfinal win, urges continued dream together



Madrid: Spain Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez congratulated the national football team after La Roja secured a place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinals with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Belgium in the quarterfinal. Following Spain’s hard-fought win, Sanchez took to X and wrote, “Continuing to dream together. Come on, Spain!” Coming to the match, Fabian Ruiz, handed a surprise start ahead of Pedri, and substitute Mikel Merino scored for Spain, while Charles De Ketelaere found the net for Belgium in a match that

also saw goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois forced off with an injury. Ruiz opened the scoring after Belgian goalkeeper Courtois parried Dani Olmo’s effort into his path. Spain continued to threaten through Lamine Yamal, whose lively display earned him the Player of the Match award.

Belgium equalised just before halftime when Kevin De Bruyne released Timothy Castagne down the right, and the defender’s pinpoint cross was headed home by De Ketelaere, who timed his run perfectly to stay inside.

The goal also ended Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon’s remarkable run of 560 consecutive World Cup minutes without conceding, surpassing the previous tournament record of 517 minutes set by Italy’s Walter Zenga in 1990. Belgium suffered a major setback in the 71st minute when Courtois was forced off with an apparent injury and replaced by Senne Lammens. The substitute goalkeeper was beaten soon after when he failed to hold Pau Cubarsi’s long-range effort, allowing Merino, who had only recently entered

the game, to pounce on the rebound and score the winner. The victory extended Spain’s unbeaten run to 36 matches since their defeat to Colombia, equalling Argentina’s unbeaten streak between 2019 and 2022 and leaving them just one game short of Italy’s world-record 37-match unbeaten run. Spain will now face France in a highly anticipated semifinal as they continue their bid for another FIFA World Cup title. Merino, who also played a key role as a substitute in Spain’s previous knockout victory over Portugal, said he was thrilled with his contributions but admitted that repeating such moments would be difficult. “It seems like a coincidence, and if you go in prepared, it can happen again. I’m thrilled.

I doubt it will happen again, we’ll see,” Merino said after his match-winning exploits, as quoted by FIFA. The Spanish midfielder has emerged as an unlikely hero during the knockout stages, providing crucial moments after coming off the bench in consecutive matches.