

In Brief

Weapons seized

Imphal: Assam Rifles, Indian Army, and Manipur Police conducted an intelligence-based operation in Manipur on October 13. The operation was based on intelligence information suggesting the existence of a weapons cache. The crew successfully retrieved weapons, ammunition, and other war-related supplies, including an INSAS Light Machine Gun (LMG), Single Barrel Breech Loading (SBBL) gun, Chinese Hand Grenade, five rounds of 5.56 mm INSAS live ammunition, five Ballistite cartridges, six 12 Bore cartridges, three.303 rounds chargers, one Tube launching cylinder, one Baofeng Hand Held set, three Bullet Proof (BP) helmets, four BP plates, and one rubber tube. The Moirang Police Station has received the recovered weapons, ammunition, and war-like supplies for further examination.

Assam Rifles Free Two Hostages in Arunachal's Tirap

Itanagar: Two laborers abducted by militants in Arunachal Pradesh were freed on Sunday from the Tirap area. The militants kidnapped the workers in Lahu village, Dadam circle, around 4 p.m. on Saturday. Traps were set at Ngisa K. Nokna and Nginnu K. Nokna in response to intelligence inputs. A search operation was initiated at first light due to no movement during the night, and the insurgents opened fire on one of the security columns at 5:50 a.m.

Grief Over Zubeen Garg Dims Diwali in Dibrugarh

Dibrugarh: The death of legendary vocalist Zubeen Garg in Singapore has caused Dibrugarh and Assam to experience a soggy Diwali spirit. Traditionally, homes and businesses decorate buildings with glittering lights, but this year, the custom has been discontinued, and sales of firecrackers have decreased. Fans lit candles and lights in honor of Garg on his one-month anniversary and planned a program. Dibrugarh's New Market area has seen fewer firework stalls this year, and local residents have been refraining from popping crackers. However, the sale of clay lights has grown as Dibrugarh prepares for a low-key celebration.

KSU Protests Against Mahadev Khola Shops Reopening

Shillong, Oct 20: The Khasi Students' Union (KSU) Laban Circle has strongly opposed the order issued by East Khasi Hills District Magistrate RM Kurbah on October 15 permitting shops at Mahadev Khola to reopen. In a letter addressed to Kurbah, KSU Laban Circle president Reuben Najiar demanded that the order be revoked immediately. He cautioned that failure to do so would compel the Union to disregard the decisions made during the August 20 meeting convened by Kurbah. Najiar reminded that during the August 20 meeting, the Union had raised several concerns regarding the long-pending issues at Mahadev Khola Dham.

By taking law in its own hand, the KSU is trying to undermine the office of the Deputy Commissioner, whose order is legally binding among all pressure groups of Meghalaya. The KSU said that the order to reopen shop must come from KHADC and not DC office, which is self proclaimed by the students' body as the area comes under Cantonment and under purview of Deputy Commissioner's office of East Khasi Hills.

Nagaland's ruling fronts combine under NPF banner

- *The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) has unanimously decided to merge with the Naga People's Front (NPF), a regional political party in India.*
- *The merger was unanimously adopted at the NDPP's sixth general convention, attended by NDPP President Chingwang Konyak, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, and Deputy Chief Minister T R Zeliang.*
- *The NDPP leaders praised the NPF's action as "mature and well-calibrated" and hoped it would result in a more powerful regional force.*

Kohima, Oct 20: A formal decision to unite with the Naga People's Front (NPF) was made on Saturday by the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), which controls the ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA).

The PDA also includes members from the BJP, which has 12 MLAs, and the NPF, which has two lawmakers. The decision to merge with the

NPF was unanimously decided upon at the NDPP's sixth general convention, according to a senior NDPP leader. The significant general convention was held at the Capital Cultural Hall in Kohima and attended by NDPP President Chingwang Konyak, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister T R Zeliang, numerous ministers and lawmakers, and leaders and employees from throughout the state. On October 21, during the NPF General Convention, which also commemorates the party's 63rd foundation day, the unification will formally take place. The idea of combining the two Naga parties under the auspices of the NPF, one of India's oldest regional parties, was the subject of much discussion among the NDPP leaders there. In addition to Nagaland, the NPF is a regional political party with strong organizational ties in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The NPF was the BJP's junior partner in the state and has five MLAs in the 60-member Manipur assembly. Following thorough deliberations, the



resolution was unanimously adopted by the day-long general convention in conformity with the NDPP constitution, according to the party's head. "All the NDPP leaders welcomed and accepted the offer of the NPF to make one regional political party in the greater interest of the Naga cause and the Naga community," said the leader. The NDPP leaders described the NPF's action as "mature and well-calibrated" and said they were

certain that the merger would result in a more powerful and cohesive regional force that would be able to serve the interests and voice of the Naga people. The resolution praised Konyak and Chief Minister Rio's leadership and acknowledged their "absolute dynamism and political presence" in leading the party to its current position. The senior leaders of the NDPP and NPF convened a number of meetings and consultations be-

fore to Saturday's convention in order to complete the transition process and choose the new leadership group. After being suspended from the NPF in 2017, CM Rio founded the NDPP, which split away from the party. Rio is anticipated to lead the united NPF, according to sources. The unification resolution, according to Rio and Konyak, is a "historic step" that will further strengthen the Naga cause and promote regional unity.

NTPC and ACCF sign MoA

Kokrajhar, Oct 20: Under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, NTPC-Bongaigaon, located in Salakati in Kokrajhar district, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) to implement a community-based cancer screening project in Kokrajhar district. This is a significant step towards improving healthcare in the Bodoland region. About 81,000 people in different villages will receive preventative and diagnostic cancer care as part of the Rs 33-lakh project, which will guarantee last-mile outreach through four Block Primary Health Centers (BPHCs) and roughly 80 Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs). The project will provide home-based palliative care for patients in need, run awareness and sensitization campaigns, and concentrate on the early diagnosis of oral, breast, and cervical cancers. By extending the reach of current government programs into distant locations, the effort will help improve the public health system.

Atul Bora Opens Jagannath Community and Skill Development Centre

Atul Bora officially opened the Jagannath Community and Skill Development Center in Rongamati, Assam, at a cost of Rs 1.40 crore.

Bokakhat, Oct 20: Senior Cabinet Minister and Golaghat district MLA for the Bokakhat constituency, Atul Bora, officially opened the recently built Jagannath Community and Skill Development Center in Rongamati on Sunday. The center, which is situated in the Rongamati tea plantation area and was constructed by the Assam government's Public Works Department (PWD) at a cost of Rs 1.40 crore, is anticipated to have positive effects on the neighborhood. Locals, along with PWD official Dibyajyoti Kalita, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Purnima Das, Municipal Chairman Ratneswar Baruah, Rongamati Kaibarta Gaon Panchayat President Bikram Rabidas, AGP Tea Board Central Committee Secretary Bhaskar Kalindi, Babul Baroi, Regional Panchayat President Jayanti Loing, District Secretary Diman Gogoi, Rongamati tea estate manager Konkon Bairagi, AGP and BJP party



officials, and a number of social workers attended the inauguration ceremony. The minister formally launched the institution by cutting the ribbon. Following the center's opening, Minister Bora paid respects and lit a ceremonial lamp in front of a painting of vocalist Zubeen Garg. He spoke to the crowd at a later public meeting and conveyed his satisfaction that the center was finished on schedule, with appropriate planning and quality. He also

greeted the public with Kaati Bihu.

Local AASAA (All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam) leader Suraj Karmakar addressed the minister during the program about the lack of physicians at the health center he had opened in Rongamati two months prior. Minister Bora responded by admitting that he had not been aware of the problem before but promising the public that it would now receive careful consideration.

Assam Rifles Free Two Hostages in Arunachal's Tirap

Itanagar, Oct 20: According to officials, two laborers who had been abducted by militants were freed on Sunday from the Tirap area of Arunachal Pradesh.

They stated that at approximately 4 p.m. on Saturday, seven or eight armed NSCN militants kidnapped the laborers who were working on a road in Lahu village, Dadam circle.

Traps were set at Ngisa K. Nokna and Nginnu K. Nokna in response to intelligence inputs in order to capture the rebels and free the workers who had been kidnapped.

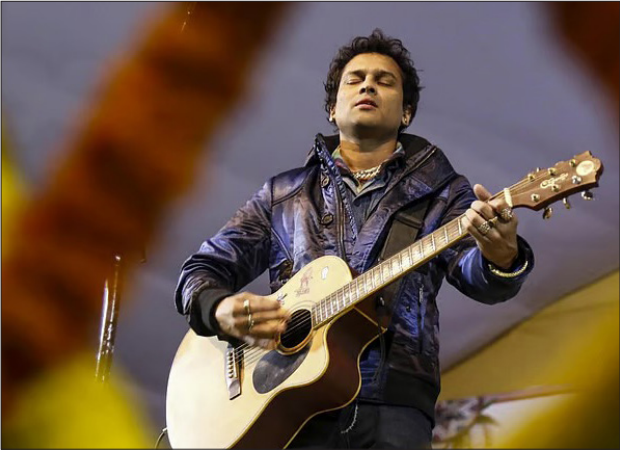
"A search operation was started at first light because there had been no movement during the night. The insurgents opened fire on one of the security columns at approximately 5:50 a.m.

BJP Likely to Win Big in Bihar: Tripura CM

Agartala, Oct 20: Manik Saha, the chief minister of Tripura, said on Saturday that he was optimistic about the BJP's chances in the November 6-11 Bihar Assembly elections, which will be decided on November 14. Speaking at a public gathering in Bihar, Saha claimed that the BJP is the only party capable of providing the progress that the people desire. Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the party's development goal, Saha forecasted great outcomes for the BJP in Bihar. Saha underlined the federal government's programs and initiatives that have helped the state's farmers and citizens, underscoring the significance of Bihar's ongoing progress. People will not tolerate a return to the "jungle raj" era under Lalu Prasad Yadav, the Chief Minister said, drawing a comparison between the current development trajectory and the past.

Memorial Event Held in Bongaigaon for Zubeen Garg

Bongaigaon, Oct 20: The death of Zubeen Garg was one month ago. Several homage programs were held on Sunday at various Bongaigaon locales in this regard. A Hindu-style homage ceremony was arranged by the Bongaigaon-based "Zubeen Garg Smriti Rakkhya Samiti," which has the authority to erect a 15-foot-tall bronze statue of the legend. Numerous prominent individuals, including MP Phani Bhusan Choudhury, MLA Diptimayee Choudhury, ZPC President Mridula Singha, and others, attended the event held at Sanyasi Hill, along with



thousands of people who came to honor the legend. Sanyasi hill has been chosen as the ultimate site for the in-

stallation of Zubeen Garg's statue, according to Phani Bhusan Choudhury. "With its captivating beauty in the

middle of nature, this is a very pleasant location both inside the town and away from the bustle and hubbub of the city!" For the Zubeen Garg memorial, we have a grand concept to create a location akin to Guwahati's Srimanta Sankardev Kalashetra. Thus, this location satisfies our requirements for a sizable plot of land that is roughly six or seven bighas in size. Therefore, on November 18, Zubeen Garg's birthday, we will lay the statue's foundation stone here," he said. On the grounds of the Bagheswari temple, another contingent of Zubeen

■ *Zubeen Garg's death was celebrated with a Hindu-style homage ceremony at Sanyasi Hill, Bongaigaon.*

■ *The statue's foundation stone will be laid on November 18. A Nahor tree sapling was planted, and food distributed.*

Garg's admirers commemorated the day. A "Nahor" tree sapling was planted as part of the program, and food was distributed to those in need.

Zubeen Garg's well-known song "Mayabini Ratir Bukut" was sung by everyone at both locations.

Tripura CM Manik Saha apologises for mistakenly referring to BJP ally IPFT as outlawed group

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha apologized for accidentally referring to the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), the ruling BJP's alliance partner, as an outlawed group during a political rally in Bihar, aiming to prevent misunderstandings ahead of critical elections.

Agartala, Oct 20: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday issued a public apology after inadvertently referring to the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), the ruling BJP's alliance partner, as an outlawed group during a political rally in poll-bound Bihar. The incident occurred on Saturday at a rally in Ramnagar, Bihar, organized to mark the filing of nomination papers by two BJP candidates. While addressing the gathering, Saha men-



tioned that members of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), and IPFT had surrendered to lead normal lives, unintentionally grouping the BJP ally with banned militant outfits. Acknowledging the error, Dr. Saha took to Facebook on Sunday to clarify his statement and apologise. "While addressing in Bihar (on Saturday), I inadvertently referred to IPFT like

NLFT and ATTF. As soon as the matter came to my knowledge, I called up IPFT president Prem Kumar Reang and tendered my apology for an unintentional mistake," he wrote. Political observers noted that the Chief Minister's quick clarification and direct outreach to IPFT leadership were aimed at preventing misunderstandings within the alliance ahead of critical elections.

Weapons seized in Assam Rifle's Joint Op in Manipur

Imphal, Oct 20: During an intelligence-based operation in Manipur, Assam Rifles, along with the Indian Army and Manipur Police, retrieved weapons and war-like supplies, according to a statement. It further stated that on October 13, Assam Rifles, Manipur Police, and the Indian Army conducted a coordinated operation in the general vicinity of Phubala, Bishnupur District, Manipur, based on specific intelligence information suggesting the existence of a weapons cache. Columns strategically moved to the general region to begin the operation in the early hours of the morning. According to the announcement, the crew successfully retrieved weapons, ammunition, and other war-related supplies while conducting the mission. "The recovered items include one INSAS Light Machine Gun (LMG) with magazine (Registered No. 18531137, confirmed as looted), one Single Barrel Breech



Loading (SBBL) gun, one Chinese Hand Grenade, Five rounds of 5.56 mm INSAS live ammunition, Five Ballistite cartridges, Six 12 Bore cartridges, Three .303 rounds chargers, One Tube launching cylinder, one Baofeng Hand Held set, Three Bullet Proof (BP) helmets, Four BP plates, One rubber tube," a press release stated. The Moirang Police Station has received the recovered weapons, ammunition, and war-like supplies for additional examination.

New Delhi envoy expresses concerns

New Delhi, Oct 20: India’s new High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh K Patnaik, has raised concerns over the safety of Indian nationals in Canada. In an interview, Patnaik said that Indian nationals in Canada do not feel safe and that it is unusual for a high commissioner like himself to require security in the country. He also noted that Canada cannot look at this situation as an Indian problem but rather a Canadian problem.

In 2024, 1,997 Indians were subject for forced removals in Canada, an exponential increase from the 625 figure of 2019. The Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) showed that 1,891 Indians were asked to leave the country up until July 2025, suggesting that the total number for this year could well surpass last year’s figure.

Canada is on track with the United States in terms of its anti-immigration push, with Prime Minister Mark Carney recently stating plans to speed up the deportation of foreign criminals. Indians top the country-wise list for “removals in progress,” with 6,837 cases, followed by 5,170 Mexicans and 1,734 US citizens. Indians also make up the largest group among asylum seekers.

Patnaik also spoke about how Mark Carney is playing a “very big role” in restoring normalcy in India-Canada relations. Diplomatic ties had nosedived last year after then PM Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in the killing of Hardeep Nijjar in 2023. In August, India and Canada named senior diplomats Dinesh Patnaik and Christopher Cooter as their respective high commissioners in each other’s capitals.

Kerala districts struggle with rains

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala experienced severe waterlogging and flooding, resulting in the death of a 66-year-old man, Parappallil Thomas, who was killed after his two-wheeler was caught under falling mud near Vellaramkunn. The Northeast Monsoon intensified in the state, forcing the district administration to shut down tourist activities. The Meteorological Department pointed to a low pressure area over the southeast Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep, which is likely to move west and intensify into a depression over the next 24 hours. Heavy rains were reported in Pathanamthitta, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Kannur districts.

Delhi police file chargesheet



New Delhi, Oct 20: Delhi Police have filed a chargesheet of around 400 pages against Sakriya Rajeshbhai Khimjibhai and his friend Syed Tahsin Raza for various offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including attempt to murder, assaulting and obstructing a public servant from discharging his duty, and criminal conspiracy. The charges include the statements of over 40 witnesses. Khimjibhai was angry because the Delhi chief minister supported the Supreme Court’s order directing authorities to relocate stray dogs. The attack occurred during a ‘Jan Sunwai’ program at her Camp Office on August 20, and was considered part of a “well-planned conspiracy to kill her”. The chief minister was attended by doctors and underwent a MLC (medico-legal case) examination.

Supreme Court refers to larger bench on indigenous medical system treatment

New Delhi, Oct 20: The Supreme Court has referred a larger bench to determine the treatment of indigenous medical systems in India, such as Ayurveda, Unani, and homeopathy. The court acknowledged divergence in opinion on whether doctors from these systems can be treated equally for service benefits.

The term “allopathy” was coined by homeopathy founder Samuel Hahnemann to disparage the mainstream medicine system. The court allowed states and authorities to continue AYUSH practitioners beyond their

current age of superannuation, up to the retirement age applicable to allopathic doctors, on a temporary basis, without regular pay and allowances.

If the larger bench ultimately rules in favor of AYUSH doctors, they will be entitled to full pay and allowances for the extended period. If not continued in service, those not continued will still receive arrears if the issue is decided in their favor later. The court directed that AYUSH doctors permitted to continue in service during the interim period be paid half of their pay and allowances, to be adjusted against



pension or regular emoluments depending on the outcome of the reference.

AAP releases its fourth list of 12 candidates for the Bihar assembly elections

Patna, Oct 20: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday released the fourth list of 12 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. With the fourth list, the AAP has announced candidates for 132 seats.

The fourth list of candidates includes Kumar Kunal in Madhuban constituency, Brij Bhushan (Navin) in Sapaul and Anil Kumar in Gaya Town. Earlier, on October 18, the party released the third list with 50 candidates.

Aam Aadmi Party is contesting the Bihar polls independently of an alliance. Polling for all 243 assembly seats in Bihar will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11, with the results set to be declared on November 14.

Meanwhile, signalling confusion



and tussles within the alliance, the opposition Mahagathbandhan, even on Sunday, failed to announce the seat-sharing pact for the Bihar assembly polls. The last date to file nominations for the second phase of the Bihar Assembly Election is Monday (October 20). It also marks the last

date for withdrawal of nominations for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, covering 121 constituencies.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has already announced that the party will go solo in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections. The announce-

RJD fields five candidates for Bihar Elections

Patna, Oct 20: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has fielded five candidates against allies, including the Congress, in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections. The party will contest against the Congress in Vaishali, Lalganj, Kahalgaon, and against former state minister Mukesh Sahni’s Vikasheel Insan Party in Tarapur and Gaura Boram. Despite speculation of a full-blown face-off between allies, the stage seems to be set for a “friendly” contest between the alli-

ance partners, who seem to be caught up in a stalemate over seat-sharing.

The opposition bloc has yet to finalize a concrete seat-sharing plan. Bihar’s Congress chief Rajesh Ram accused RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav of “shifting his stance” and “sabotaging” the alliance. RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari said that the party high command is closely monitoring developments and that concerns within the coalition will be addressed.

IT professional sexually harassed in Kazhakoottam



Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 20: A man was arrested in Tamil Nadu for allegedly sexually harassing an IT professional in her hostel room.

The accused, a driver, was brought to the state capital on Sunday night. The victim was unable to identify the attacker, who fled into the darkness after restraining.

Police formed a special team and began a probe, examining CCTV cameras and tracking vehicle movements. The suspect is believed to be involved in other cases, which are yet to be verified. An identification parade and scientific examination are pending.

The accused has confessed to the crime, but a detailed probe is needed to collect corroborative scientific evidence.

Usha Devi, an RJD worker, protests outside Lalu Yadav’s home after being refused an assembly ticket

Patna, Oct 20: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) worker Usha Devi protested outside party chief Lalu Prasad Yadav’s residence in Patna after being denied a ticket to contest from the Bodh Gaya constituency in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

Devi claimed she was denied a

ticket despite repeated assurances from senior party leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav and Khesari Lal Yadav. The Congress party released its second list of candidates, adding five more names to 53. Former RJD candidate Madan Shah broke down in public, claiming that he was promised a ticket

by the Rashtriya Janata Dal for the upcoming 2025 Bihar assembly polls. He alleged that when he did not pay the ₹2.7 crore demanded for the candidature, his ticket was given to another candidate. Shah was seen tearing his clothes and falling to the ground, weeping after giving chase to RJD

chief Lalu Prasad Yadav’s car at the latter’s residence in Patna. He further claimed that the father-son duo of Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav backtracked on their promise to give him a ticket. The Bihar Assembly elections will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11, with results declared on November 14.

■ *RJD worker Usha Devi protests outside party chief Lalu Prasad Yadav’s residence in Patna after being denied a ticket to contest from the Bodh Gaya constituency in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.*

Mumbai’s cufte parade chawl fire 15-year-old killed

Mumbai, Oct 20: One person was killed and three others were injured after a fire broke out at a chawl in Mumbai’s Cuffe Parade area on Monday, officials said.

The incident was reported around 4.15 am at the single-storey chawl (row tenement) in Shivshakti Nagar on Captain Prakash Pethe Marg, they said. The injured persons were rushed to St George’s Hospital, where Yash Vitthal Khot (15) was declared dead, the officials added.

As per the officials, the fire was confined to electric wiring, installations, three electric vehicle batteries and household articles in an area measuring about 10x10 feet on the first floor of the chawl. A fire engine was rushed to



the spot, and the blaze was doused by 4.35 am, a fire official said.

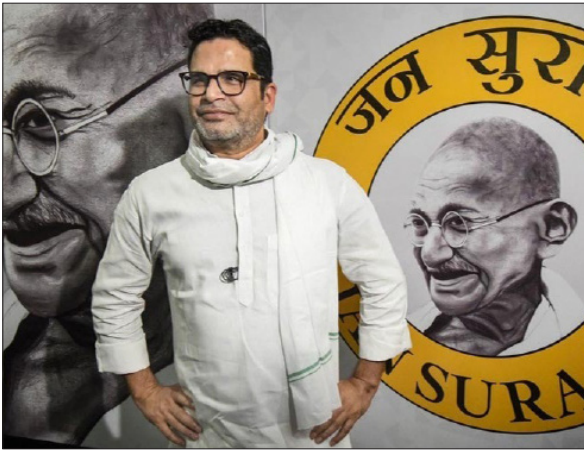
Earlier this morning, a fire broke out at the municipal corporation’s dumping site in Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat. Firefighters have arrived and are working to control the fire. In another incident, a fire erupted at a furniture warehouse in Katni, Madhya Pradesh.

According to SDM Pramod Chaturvedi, the cause of the fire is currently unknown, and goods worth more than ₹4 lakh have been destroyed. “It was a furniture warehouse that caught fire, though the exact reason for the fire is unknown... The owner has said that goods worth more than ₹4 lakh were destroyed. We are constantly trying to control the fire,” Chaturvedi said.

Bihar’s JSP’s Promises and Challenges

Patna, Oct 20: Prashant Kishor, the JSP candidate for the Amnour seat in Bihar, has made numerous promises to improve education and employment in the state and overturn the liquor ban. Despite the high illiteracy rate in Bihar, the people are laborious and have to leave their families to find low-wage jobs in other cities.

The JSP has promised to work extensively towards improving education and jobs, but residents in 35 villages are aware of Kishor’s promises. Key among these promises is the repeal of Bihar’s liquor prohibition within hours of coming to power, an increase in the monthly pension for those aged 60 and above to ₹2,000, a relief package



linking migrant workers and farmers directly to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and free schooling for children under the age of 15.

Dr Amit Kumar Das, a Kayasth by caste and the JSP’s candidate for the

Muzaffarpur seat, believes there is a perceptible change in Bihar and that “new experiments” are needed. He believes that caste and sectionalism should not be at the center of the political agenda. While Kishor is a household name in Bihar, his party faces an uphill

PM Modi jokes from the INS Vikrant deck that “the name BrahMos alone makes some nervous”

New Delhi, Oct 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that home-grown missile systems like the BrahMos and Akash played a decisive role during Operation Sindoor, and that many countries are keen to export these indigenous missiles. “When some people hear the name BrahMos, it strikes fear in their minds,” the Prime Minister said, while addressing Navy personnel on board the INS Vikrant, on the occasion of Diwali.

Asserting that his government aims to make India one of the world’s top defence exporters, Modi said more than 40 warships and submarines have been built by our shipyards since 2014. “The night spent yesterday on INS Vikrant is hard to put into words. I saw the immense energy and enthusiasm you all were filled with. When I saw you singing patriotic songs yesterday, and the way you described Operation Sindoor in your songs, no

words can ever fully convey the experience that a jawan feels standing on a battlefield,” Modi said.

Modi also lauded the valour and determination of security forces and said it was due to that, the nation has achieved a significant milestone by “eliminating Maoist terrorism”. INS Vikrant is not just a warship but is a testimony to 21st-century India’s hard work, talent, impact and commitment, Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Navy personnel on board the INS Vikrant during Diwali.

He said INS Vikrant reflects the capability of India’s armed forces and is a towering symbol of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’. The extraordinary coordination among the three services together compelled Pakistan to surrender during Operation Sindoor, the prime minister said.

RJD Releases Bihar Elections List Fields Tejashwi Yadav from Raghopur

Patna, Oct 20: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has released a list of candidates for the Bihar assembly elections 2025, naming candidates for 143 seats. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has been fielded from the Raghopur assembly seat in Vaishali district. The announcement comes amid a stalemate within the INDIA bloc over seat-sharing for the elections scheduled for November 6 and 11. The



counting and declaration of results will be done on November 14. The Congress also released a list of six candidates for the Bihar Assembly polls, bringing the total number of candidates announced by the

party to 60. The Congress’ list was announced post-midnight, as a formal seat-sharing deal has been elusive between the RJD and the Congress. Sarfaraz Alam, a former MP and four-time MLA, has joined Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraj Party. Nine candidates who secured victories in previous state elections under different party banners are now contesting under new affiliations.

RJD candidate khesari Lal Yadav’s net worth

Patna, Oct 20: Bhojpuri superstar Khesari Lal Yadav, contesting his first election as a Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate in Bihar’s Saran district, has declared total assets worth ₹24.81 crore in his election affidavit. Yadav owns movable assets worth ₹16.89 crore and immovable properties worth ₹7.91 crore, while his wife, Chanda Yadav, owns movable assets of ₹90.02 lakh and immovable properties worth ₹6.49 crore. His declaration includes ₹5 lakh in cash, gold jewellery valued at ₹35 lakh, and several bank accounts. Yadav’s total net worth, combining movable and immovable assets, stands at ₹24.81 crore. His humble beginnings include his father working as a street



vendor and a security guard, and his family moving to Delhi to sell litti-chokha, a traditional Bihari delicacy. The Bihar Assembly Election 2025 will be held in two phases, with results to be declared on November 14.

UPCM Yogi Adityanath aids those affording Diwali



Ayodhya, Oct 20: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has urged people to help those who cannot afford to light lamps or buy sweets on Diwali. He visited a colony of the Nishad community in Ayodhya’s Abhiramdas ward, where he recalled Nishadraj as the first person to offer assistance to Lord Ram and the first person with whom Lord Ram had a friendship. The Nishad community, an Extremely Backward Caste, traces its lineage to Nishadraj, who helped Lord Ram cross the Sarayu river

in the Ramayana. Adityanath said a grand Deepotsav is organized to take forward this “memory of Treta Yug.”

He appealed to people to light lamps in every home and help those unable to light them due to scarcity. Ayodhya witnessed the ninth edition of Deepotsav 2025, with 26,17,215 lamps illuminated across the city. Uttar Pradesh set two new Guinness World Records for lighting 26,17,215 lamps and for 2,128 Vedic scholars, priests, and seekers performing Saryu aarti simultaneously.

Arunachal Governor extends Diwali wishes, urges eco-friendly celebrations

Itanagar, Oct 20: On the occasion of Diwali, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik sent warm congratulations and best wishes to the state's citizens, hoping that the celebration would deepen the ties of fraternity, love, and harmony that bind all facets of society together. "Diwali, the festival of lights, embodies the timeless message of hope and the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and wisdom over ignorance," the governor wrote in his greeting. It is a season of introspection, rebirth, and thankfulness. In addition to lighting lamps in our homes, let's light the lamps of kindness, compassion, and righteousness in our hearts as we commemorate this holy occasion, Parnaik remarked. He asked



people to celebrate Diwali in a safe and environmentally responsible manner by abstaining from noisy and polluting firecrackers, which pose a threat to the environment and public health. "Safeguarding our air, health, and surroundings is the truest way to honour the spirit of this beautiful festival of light," he said. "May the divine light of Diwali illuminate your lives with joy, wisdom, and serenity, and guide us all towards a brighter and more prosperous future," the governor said.

Arunachal MLA Tapi Darang inaugurates 'Sober Society' de-addiction centre at Gobo

Itanagar, Oct 20: In a significant initiative to address the rising challenge of drug abuse in Arunachal Pradesh, Pasighat East MLA Tapi Darang on Saturday inaugurated a De-Addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre set up by 'The Sober Society' at Gobo, approximately 3 km from Tode Village Char-ali near Rani Village. The centre, founded by reformed youth leader Shri Mingat Mibang, who successfully overcame drug addiction, aims to provide a structured and supportive environment for individuals struggling with substance abuse. With a capacity to accommodate 45 inmates, the facility offers comprehensive medical and psychological care, detoxification units, and a 90-day rehabilitation programme tailored to help individuals regain control over their lives. Addressing concerns about privately run de-addiction centres, MLA Darang emphasized the importance of transparency and responsible management. "This centre must stand as a home of transformation for our youth — a place



of trust, not fear," he said. Darang also praised the centre's infrastructure and facilities, assuring full support and cooperation from the government. The inauguration was attended by prominent dignitaries including Shri Pankaj Lamba (IPS), Superintendent of Police, East Siang; Dr. Yagling Perme, District Medical Officer; Smty Mailong Taku Padung, Deputy Director, ICDS; Dr. Tasi Taloh, Principal of JNC; Shri Gagam Ering (P/L); Joya Tasung Moyong, WASE General Secretary; Kennedy Bagra from Mothers' Vision,

Aalo; and Smty Dui Gao, retired Senior Lecturer and wife of MP Tapir Gao. As a non-profit, non-political, and voluntary organization, The Sober Society focuses on evidence-based, holistic treatment combining therapeutic techniques with a supportive residential environment. The centre is equipped with an administrative office, waiting hall, two dormitories, staff and security quarters, a dining hall with 60-seat capacity, a therapeutic hall, and a detoxification room. CCTV surveillance with 15 cameras ensures safety and monitoring for residents.

Grief Over Zubeen Garg Dims Diwali in Dibrugarh

Dibrugarh, Oct 20: The tragic death of legendary vocalist Zubeen Garg in Singapore on September 19 has left Dibrugarh and the rest of Assam feeling a soggy Diwali spirit. Every year on Diwali eve, buildings were decked out with glittering lights. However, this year, homes and businesses have stopped the custom, and everyone is in a state of sadness. Additionally, sales of firecrackers have decreased from the previous year. In honor of Zubeen Garg, fans and leaders lit candles and lights in front of his posters on the one-month anniversary of his passing and planned a program for the late singer. Every year during Diwali, lights and firecracker kiosks are erected throughout Dibrugarh's New Market area. However, there have only been a few firework stalls this year. "Everyone has been refraining from popping crackers," local resident Surajit Das stated. On the other side, as Dibrugarh gets ready for a low-key Diwali celebration, the sale of clay lights has grown this year.



37 villages unite to protect Ntangki National Park in Nagaland

Kohima, Oct 20: In a landmark move for environmental conservation, representatives from 37 villages under Athibung sub-division in Peren district have unanimously resolved to protect Ntangki National Park and its surrounding ecosystems. The resolution was adopted during a General Consultative Meeting held at Athibung Town Hall on October 17, 2025, under the theme "Community Consultation on Conservation around Ntangki National Park." The meeting was organized by the Zeliang-Kuki Public Organisation (ZKPO) and attended by village GBs, chairmen, youth and women representatives, as well as members of civil society organisations including the Kuki Inpi and the Nagaland Zeliang People's Organisation (NZPO). The house resolved to fully support the Forest Department in the conservation of Ntangki National Park and agreed to strictly enforce customary laws against violators. A total ban on timber logging, fishing, and hunting within the park was declared. The use of poison, inverters, and batteries in rivers across Athibung sub-division was also pro-



hibited. Each Village Council has been empowered to enforce these measures within its jurisdiction. Speaking at the meeting, SDO (Civil) of Athibung sub-division urged village councils and organizations to exercise their rights under Article 371(A) to protect both land and people. "It is the right time to focus on conservation; later may be too late," he warned. NZPO president Zandi Domta called for an end to the practice of offering

bush meat to VIPs and urged villages to stop hunting parties from entering forests. He emphasized stronger ownership over village lands, saying they must be nurtured "as a real owner would his own property." Bano Haralu, Project Lead at Wildlife Conservation Society-India (WCS-India), highlighted the connection between biodiversity and indigenous identity. "The disappearance of species leads to a loss of identity, as our culture,

traditions, and habits are intrinsically tied to the landscape," she said. WCS-India has been working with fringe communities around Ntangki since September 2023 under the IUCN/ITHCP Phase-II project to strengthen conservation of critical tiger habitats. Kuki Inpi General Secretary Lulun Khulhou also emphasized collective responsibility to safeguard the park, while participants discussed strategies to strengthen community-led initiatives and partnership with the Forest Department. ZKPO reaffirmed its commitment to further engagement to develop a "partnership in conservation." The 37 villages represented at the meeting included Phanjang, Saijang, Bonkollong, Songngou, Besumpuipulao, Lilen, New Chalkot, New Soget, Bunglen, New Besumpui, L. Lilen, Inbung, Old Soget, New Ngaulong, Besumpuiram, 'B'-Lilen, Chalkot, Sailhem, New Nkio, Old Besumpui, Phaijo, Athibung, Sinjol, Nkio B, Nkio Lodi, Vongkithem, Sangluh, Khelma, Ikiesingram, Besumpui Zangdi, Chamcha New, Pellhang, Gopibung, Nsenlo, and Beisumlwa.

Assam governor and chief minister wish everyone a happy Kali Puja and Deepawali

Agartala, Oct 20: Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma sent warmest greetings to the state's citizens on the auspicious occasions of Kali Puja and Deepawali, encouraging them to observe the holidays with communal peace and environmental responsibility. Governor Acharya emphasized Kali Puja's spiritual significance in his message, calling it a holiday that encourages the emergence of inner strength to face fear and darkness. In addition, he urged everyone to celebrate in a spirit of unity, kindness, and concern. "Deepawali honors the victory of light, hope, and truth. It serves as a reminder of the eternal strength of morality and the fact that we are all endowed with the light of wisdom," the governor stated. The significance of environmen-



tally responsible festivities was also underlined by Acharya, who urged people to embrace sustainable practices, lessen noise and air pollution, and preserve natural resources. A genuinely happy Diwali is one that illuminates the world around us as well as our homes. He went on, "Let's celebrate in ways that honor tradition and our duty to future generations." The governor sent his greetings on social media, writing, "May Maa Kali's fierce energy destroy all evils and illuminate ev-

■ Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated citizens on Kali Puja and Deepawali, urging communal peace and environmental responsibility.

eryone's path with divine power on the sacred occasion of #KaliPuja." In addition, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma sent his warmest regards, urging everyone to celebrate in harmony, joy, and with consideration for the environment.

HITO seeks Amit Shah's intervention over Assam-Meghalaya border dispute

Shillong, Oct 20: The Hynniewtrep Integrated Territorial Organisation (HITO) has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, through the Governor of Meghalaya, for urgent intervention over alleged human rights violations linked to the ongoing Assam-Meghalaya border dispute. In its memorandum, HITO accused the Assam government of repeated encroachments into areas under the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, resulting in "daily hardships, destruction of property, and threats to livelihood" for residents of border villages. The organisation cited past incidents, including the 2009 Langpih massacre and the 2022 Mukroh firing, as evidence of what it termed



"state-sponsored aggression," claiming Assam has ignored historical boundaries and regional agreements.

Most recently, HITO alleged that Assam authorities, "using Karbi tribemen," had prevented Megha-

laya farmers from harvesting paddy crops, describing the action as a "blatant act of territorial encroachment" that caused significant economic distress to local communities. The organisation further claimed that, despite assurances from Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to ease tensions, "armed Karbi militant outfits" continue to intimidate villagers. HITO demanded that all responsible officials and personnel be held accountable. HITO also called on the Centre to uphold commitments made under the Instrument of Accession and Annexed Agreement of the Khasi States, asserting that failure to do so has deprived the Hynniewtrep people of their rights and autonomy for over 75 years.

Assam Rifles Recover Contraband Poppy Seeds and Areca Nuts

Aizawl, Oct 20: According to a statement released on Sunday, the Assam Rifles made a significant accomplishment when they retrieved a sizable shipment that included 120 bags of Areca nuts and 90 bags of poppy seeds from Champhai, Mizoram. Assam Rifles carried out a search operation on October 17, 2025, in the vicinity of Farlui Road, Ruantlang, Champhai, Mizoram, based on particular intelligence. "A significant shipment consisting of 120 bags of Areca nuts and 90 bags of poppy seeds was confiscated by security forces during the operation. The Assam Rifles stated in a statement that the confiscated items were believed to be worth 99 lakh rupees. "This significant recovery underscores Assam Rifles' zero-tolerance approach towards illicit activities in the region and its continued commitment to ensuring the law and order situation is maintained," it said. For additional investigation and legal action

in accordance with applicable legislation, the confiscated shipment has been turned over to the Customs Preventive Force, Champhai. "This operation highlights Assam Rifles' ongoing dedication to securing the North Eastern borders and preventing illegal trade that adversely impacts the socio-economic stability of the region, a release said." Earlier, Assam Rifles conducted an intelligence-based operation in Manipur, working with the Indian Army and Manipur Police to seize weapons and war-like supplies, according to a release. Assam Rifles, Manipur Police, and the Indian Army conducted a coordinated operation in the general vicinity of Phubala, Bishnupur District, Manipur, on October 13 in response to specific intelligence information about the existence of a weapons cache, it further stated. Early in the morning, columns moved strategically to the general region to begin the operation.

134th Raising Day Parade Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviews 134th Raising Day Parade of Manipur Police

Imphal, Oct 20: The 134th Raising Day Parade of the Manipur Police was held today at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground in Imphal, with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla gracing the occasion as the chief guest. The event celebrated the courage, discipline, and dedication of the state's police personnel, highlighting their exemplary service to the community. Governor Bhalla conducted a thorough inspection of the parade contingents, which included Manipur Rifles (Male), India Reserve Battalions (Male), Civil Police (Male and Female), 9th IR (Mahila) Battalion, Traffic Police, Home Guards, and VDF (Male). The parade featured a spectacular march-past led by Dr. Sarangthem Ibomcha Singh, MPS, Commandant of the 6th India Reserve Battalion, showcasing the professionalism and coordination of the force. The ceremony was attended by several MLAs, Chief Secretary Puneet Ku-



mar Goel, Security Advisor Kuldip Singh, Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, and other senior police officers. During the event, Governor Bhalla distributed trophies and awards to outstanding police stations, battalions, and personnel in recognition of their exceptional service, bravery, and dedication. In his address, Governor Bhalla commended the Manipur Police for their courage, professionalism, and selfless

service, describing them as the guardians of peace and harmony in the state. He lauded their efforts in maintaining law and order, combating organized crime and drug trafficking, and ensuring public safety even under challenging circumstances. The Governor reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the police force through modern infrastructure, advanced training, and welfare measures.

Four candidates file nominations for Mizoram's Dampa Assembly bypoll

Aizawl, Oct 20: Four candidates have officially filed their nominations for the upcoming Dampa assembly by-election in Mizoram, election officials confirmed on Sunday. The bypoll follows the untimely demise of MNF MLA Lalrintluanga Sailo on July 21. The contest is shaping up as a four-way battle between Vanlalsailova of the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), R Lalthangliana of the Mizo National Front (MNF), Lalhman-gaiha of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and John Rotluangliana of the Congress. Election authorities have set Tuesday as the final date for filing nominations, with scrutiny scheduled for Wednesday and withdrawal of candidatures by Friday. Polling is scheduled for No-



vember 11, with votes to be counted on November 14. Dampa constituency has 20,790 registered voters spread across 41 polling stations. Silsury-I records the highest number of voters at 1,103, while Zopui has the lowest at just 30. Major parties are fielding strong

candidates, while smaller parties and independents are largely staying out; the People's Conference (PC) has confirmed it will not contest. Among the candidates, R Lalthangliana of the MNF is the wealthiest, declaring assets worth Rs 17.19 crore, including Rs 3.23 crore in

• Four candidates have filed nominations for the upcoming Dampa assembly by-election in Mizoram, following the death of MNF MLA Lalrintluanga Sailo. • The contest is a four-way battle between ruling Zoram People's Movement, MNF, BJP, and Congress candidates. Polling is scheduled for November 11.

movable assets and Rs 13.96 crore in immovable assets. Congress candidate John Rotluangliana follows with declared assets exceeding Rs 15.37 crore. BJP's Lalhman-gaiha is the least wealthy, with total assets of Rs 46.53 lakh, while ZPM's Vanlalsailova has movable assets of Rs 64.85 lakh and no immovable assets.

BUSINESS

Globe Teleservices Partners with Maxis Offer Enhanced Digital Security Its Customers

New Delhi: partnership with leading mobile communications service provider, Maxis Berhad (Maxis) to deploy an integrated AI-powered firewall for messaging and voice traffic across the Maxis network in Malaysia. Under this initiative, Maxis and GTS will define and enforce firewall policies for international messaging and voice traffic terminating on the Maxis network. Powered by advanced AI and machine learning (ML) that leverages aggregated global traffic, GTS's Armour firewall provides rapid fraud mitigation with 24/7 monitoring and continual testing.

It is designed to block spam and international message bypass attempts coming from unofficial channels (grey routes) and large-scale fraudulent operations like SIM farms. "Prateek Pashine, Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Maxis, said, "Customer trust and experience are central to Maxis. This partnership with GTS reinforces our international message and voice defences, deploying AI-powered controls and continuous monitoring to ensure that essential messages reach subscribers quickly and securely. This provides businesses with stronger delivery assurance and our mobile users a safer experience, all on our fast, reliable, and secure network. Through this partnership, Maxis and GTS are reinforcing the foundations of a safer, higher-quality connectivity and digital ecosystem in Malaysia that supports innovation. This is in line with Malaysia's focus on cybersecurity and becoming an AI nation, key priorities outlined in the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP).About Globe Teleservices



Globe Teleservices (GTS) is a Singapore-based telecom conglomerate with a global presence, having offices in the USA, Dubai, Malaysia, Tanzania, Ghana, India, and Hong Kong. GTS provides niche next-gen solutions in A2P monetization, omnichannel messaging, anti-fraud & cloud services. Notable accolades include the Platinum Award from Juniper Research for AI-powered AGT/AIT Fraud Detection solution, Singapore's Fastest Growing Companies for 2024 and 2025 by The Straits Times and Statista and Tier 1 in ROCCO's A2P SMS Messaging Market Impact Report 2024 - MNO and Enterprise edition.

Ujjivan SFB Q2 FY26 profit surges 18%, disbursements hit record ₹7,932 crore

Agartala: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. [BSE: 542904; NSE: UJJIVANSFB] posted robust Q2 FY26 results, with net profit rising 18.2% quarter-on-quarter to ₹122 crore. The bank's secured loan book surged 52.9% year-on-year to ₹16,173 crore, accounting for 46.8% of total loans, while gross disbursements reached a record ₹7,932 crore, up 47.6% YoY. The overall loan book grew 14% YoY to ₹34,588 crore, supported by strong microfinance and retail lending.

Deposits increased 15.1% YoY to ₹39,211 crore, with CASA deposits rising 22.1% to ₹10,783 crore, improving the CASA ratio to 27.5%. Cost of funds declined to 7.3% from 7.6% in the previous quarter. Net interest income climbed 7.7% QoQ to ₹922 crore, while asset quality

remained stable with GNPA at 2.45% and collection efficiency at 99.5%. Capital adequacy ratio stood at 21.4%, with Tier I at 19.9%.

In Agartala, Ujjivan's expanding branch network has enhanced access to credit and banking services for small businesses and retail customers. Local traders and SMEs have benefitted from the bank's higher loan disbursements, while increased CASA mobilization is expected to support liquidity in the regional market, strengthening economic activity and boosting consumer confidence.

MD & CEO Sanjeev Nautiyal emphasized disciplined loan growth, CASA augmentation, and future rollout of MF, forex, and ASBA products to sustain strong performance through FY26.

Godrej's Diwali campaign 'Kanta Didi' drives inclusion, sparks market buzz

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group, through its brand-agnostic media property Godrej L'Affaire, unveiled its Diwali campaign film 'Kanta Didi', reinforcing its #CelebratingAcceptance initiative. The film centers on Kanta Didi, a domestic worker, whose warm, instinctive acceptance of a queer couple highlights how empathy emerges in everyday interactions. Kamil, a newcomer hesitant to share his identity, finds confidence and pride through Kanta Didi's simple words: "Acha, boyfriend hai? Toh mereko ko kya?" The narrative reflects Godrej's philosophy that acceptance and inclusion are practices of humanity, not mere awareness.

Parnesh Shahani, Head of



Godrej DEI Lab, said, "The films celebrate quiet, everyday change, showing that progress happens when acceptance moves from policy to practice." Raz Rehman Ali, Director at Onlyn India, added that the campaign's strength lies in its authenticity, observing life rather than preaching lessons.

In Guwahati, the campaign has resonated strongly with local audiences. Social media chatter and discussions at retail outlets have spiked during the festive season, reflecting heightened engagement with themes of acceptance. The campaign has also encouraged local businesses to align with in-

clusive messaging, while community screenings have driven consumer attention toward Godrej's brand properties. Through Kanta Didi, Godrej reinforces that relationships, not rituals, define celebrations, making this Diwali a platform for unity, empathy, and societal dialogue.

Hindustan Zinc to advance mining leases of silver rich areas record

New Delhi: Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) plans to advance the mining of high-silver ore zones in the second half of FY25 to mine more and capitalise on the ongoing silver price rally and meet its annual guidance of 680 tonnes, chief executive Officer Arun Misra told Moneycontrol in an interview. The latest saleable silver production guidance is lower than 700-710 tonne projected earlier. Silver is primarily recovered as a byproduct of zinc and lead smelting, where it is extracted from ores containing trace amounts of precious metals. Beyond its role as an investment and jewelry metal, silver has extensive industrial applications and finds its use in electronics, solar photovoltaic cells, electrical contacts, and medical devices. Silver prices surged all-time high of \$54.42 per ounce last week driven by safe-haven demand amid global uncertainties. However, prices tumbled from \$54 per ounce to \$51.5 an ounce, this week, as trade tensions between U.S. and China softened. The Vedanta group company capitalised on the ongoing silver



rally, reporting strong results with profit rising 14% year-on-year and 19% sequentially. Silver sales accounted for nearly 40% of its second-quarter profit. In Q2, saleable silver production declined 22% YoY and 4% QoQ to 144kt, in line with lower lead production. "As of now the ore grade is a lean grade we are not getting as much silver in the ore as we should be getting when the prices are high. But nevertheless, we are prioritizing those areas in mind where there are slightly better grades and then using all that concentrate for producing silver currently and hence the new guidance of 680 tonnes we should be able to achieve," said Misra. "We are trying to extract as much of the product from

the residues as possible but most important thing on silver is that we will try to see in H2 if we can prepond those mining areas where there is good silver," he added. The world's largest integrated zinc producer expects silver's contribution to the EBITDA to be more than 45-46 per cent in the near term when the prices are high. Analysts estimate that every \$1 per ounce rise in silver adds nearly ₹1.8 billion to EBITDA, highlighting the leverage inherent in the business. With silver's production cost at just 12 per cent of revenue, it is among the highest-margin segments in the portfolio and a key reason investors see room for earnings expansion and valuation catch-up.

Wealth managers turn overweight on Indian equities after year of consolidation

New Delhi: Indian equities have spent the past year largely on the sidelines, even as gold, silver, and global markets delivered strong returns. Speaking at The Wealth Formula's Diwali roundtable, some of India's top private bankers described FY25 as a year of pause, a natural correction after a few years of rapid gains, with valuations ahead of earnings and foreign investors booking profits. Ashish Gumasta, Founder and CEO of Gumasta Partners, summed up the year as "a year of consolidation... a year of IPOs where corporates raise money." He pointed to the "phenomenal" profits taken out by foreign investors and said the market had also been navigating regulatory adjustments, including the fallout from US actions. Yet, he added, the picture is likely to turn around next year. "So, while traditionally we were recommending

clients into balanced funds and hybrid funds, I think this is going to be a flexi cap," he said. Government reforms and the shift toward discretionary consumption, he noted, would act as a multiplier for earnings growth. Yatin Shah, Co-founder and Joint CEO of 360 ONE Wealth, said the pause reflected both valuation pressures and the absence of incremental capital flowing into secondary markets. "Surely the valuation and earnings led to the markets taking some pause. And of course, the kind of selling which we have seen in FIIs... there was no incremental money which actually went into secondary markets," he said. Domestic investors, including mutual funds and retail clients, had stepped in, but Shah said the net effect left markets largely in wait-and-watch mode. With earnings expected to pick up in the next few quarters, he added, wealth



managers were shifting their stance from neutral to slightly overweight on equities. Rajesh Saluja, Co-founder, CEO and MD of ASK Private Wealth, said domestic fundamentals and policy support were making the case for equities. "Equity from a one year perspective is looking strong. We've

gone overweight as compared to being neutral from a one year standpoint," he said, pointing to measures such as tax incentives, GST rollout, and U.S. and India. Saluja said selective fund management would be key for generating meaningful returns. Behavioral factors, however, also played a role.

Polycab India shares jump 3% after firm

New Delhi: The shares of Polycab India jumped around 3 percent on October 20 after the company released its results for the second quarter of the financial year 2026. The stock has now snapped a two-session losing streak. Polycab India shares rose over 3.5 percent to hit a day's high of Rs 7,700 apiece. The shares then closed at Rs 7,661 apiece. The company had released its Q2 results during the market hours of October 17. The stock had then dropped 2 percent at close on Friday.

The wire and cable-maker reported a net profit of Rs 685.5 crore for July-September quarter of

the financial year 2026. This marks a nearly 56 percent year-on-year rise from the Rs 439.8 crore net profit reported in the corresponding quarter of the financial year 2025. The firm's revenue from operations meanwhile rose nearly 18 percent YoY to Rs. EBITDA rose 62 percent YoY to Rs 1,020.7 crore. Speaking about the company's performance during the quarter, Polycab India Chairman and Managing Director Inder T. Jaisinghani said, "Our performance in Q2 FY26 marks another strong step forward in Polycab's growth journey. We delivered our highest-ever second quarter and half

Polycab India share price: Brokerages issued bullish calls for the stock, saying that the company once again delivered a strong performance in Q2.

yearly revenue and profitability, reflecting the continued strength of our core Wires & Cables business and the improving traction in the FMEG business. "The domestic demand environment remains healthy, supported by government infrastructure spending and improving private capex sentiment.

India's luxury watch market set to grow 11-12% annually as affluence rises

New Delhi: India's luxury watch market is poised for strong expansion, with annual growth estimated at 11-12 per cent, supported by the country's rising affluent base and growing wealth among high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), according to a recent report by SOIC Research. The report noted that India will be among the fastest-growing markets globally for luxury timepieces, driven by increasing affluence, aspiration, and changing cultural preferences. It stated, "India will surely be among the fastest-growing markets... The growth of luxury watches in India will increase steadily by 11-12 per cent a year." The study highlighted that as India's affluent class expands, luxury watch sales are increasing in tandem, fuelled by the growth of HNIs and ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs). This surge is also supported by structural drivers such as rising per capita income, rapid urbanisation, growing consumer aspiration, and the desire to reflect status and prestige through ownership of luxury products. Celebrity endorsements, a growing population of working women, and ambitious young consumers are further accelerating the trend toward premiumisation. The report data pointed out that India's luxury watch market has witnessed a notable shift in recent years as consumers increasingly trade up from entry-level fashion watches to premium, high-end, and ultra-luxury timepieces.

The share of luxury and high-end watch sales has jumped significantly from 48 per cent in FY20 to 70 per cent in FY25, showing that Indian buyers are gravitating toward more exclusive and higher-value brands. The report also revealed a sharp rise in the average selling price (ASP) of luxury watches, which has more than doubled over five years. The ASP climbed from Rs 84,000 in FY20 to Rs 2.04 lakh in FY25, reflecting both strong pricing power and growing consumer preference for premium products. The prices rose steadily each year: Rs 1.10 lakh in FY21, Rs 1.49 lakh in FY22, Rs 1.59 lakh



in FY23, and Rs 1.90 lakh in FY24, indicating consistent momentum in the luxury segment. According to the report, this rapid expansion is being driven not only by rising wealth but also by the increased availability of global luxury brands in India. With both penetration and prices moving upward, the luxury watch market continues to demonstrate strong growth potential. (ANI) (This content is sourced from a syndicated feed and is published as received. The Tribune assumes no responsibility or liability for its accuracy, completeness, or content.) India's luxury watch market is poised for strong expansion, with annual growth estimated at 11-12 per cent, supported by the country's rising affluent base and growing wealth among high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), according to a recent report by SOIC Research. The report noted that India will be among the fastest-growing markets globally for luxury timepieces, driven by increasing affluence, aspiration, and changing cultural preferences. It stated, "India will surely be among the fastest-growing markets... The growth of luxury watches in India will increase steadily by 11-12 per cent a year."

Muhurat trading 2025 Where smart money could flow this Diwali expert on gold, Nifty The annual Muhurat Trading session

New Delhi: As Diwali 2025 lights up homes and trading screens, investors prepare for the annual Muhurat Trading session — a one-hour symbolic window that blends prosperity, faith and finance. Scheduled this year for October 21 from 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., the session marks the start of the new Samvat year and is often treated as an auspicious moment to place the first trade under Goddess Lakshmi's blessings. Market dynamics entering this Muhurat session are mixed. After a volatile Samvat 2081 that saw the Nifty gain 6.2% and the Midcap index 4.3%, high valuations, uneven earnings and global trade tensions have kept volatility firmly in play. Yet domestic buying has remained resilient. Sandeep Rao, a SEBI-registered research analyst, in a recent podcast on YouTube said this year's Muhurat will likely reflect that cautious optimism: "Domestic flows and retail sentiment are strong, but investors should

be mindful of thin liquidity and headline risks," Rao notes. So where should investors look this Diwali? Rao's analysis points to three practical options. > Equities — steady, long-term focus: Backtests on a decade of Diwali SIPs into a Nifty ETF show an annualized IRR near 14% for those who invested ₹1 lakh every Diwali — broadly similar to systematic monthly SIPs. "Investing on Muhurat has symbolic value, but there's no proven timing edge," Rao says. For investors, the takeaway is to treat Muhurat investments as a disciplined entry point rather than a market-timing bet. > Balanced mix — lower volatility, smoother returns: Rao recommends a 50:50 blend of Nifty and Gold ETFs for conservative investors who want exposure to both growth and hedge. In Rao's view, that combination delivers a sensible balance between upside potential and volatility control, aligning cultural intent with financial prudence.



For short-term traders, Rao highlights intriguing but limited historical patterns. A Buy-Today-Sell-Tomorrow (BTST) around Muhurat has shown positive gaps in past years on both Nifty and Gold ETFs, but sample sizes are small. "These anomalies merit further testing, and execution costs matter," Rao warns. He also urges intraday participants to keep positions small during the Muhurat hour because liquidity tends to be lower and institutional participation limited.

Malti exposes Tanya Mittal's hypocrisy



Mumbai: Malti Chahar, who entered as a wild card contestant on Bigg Boss 19 a few weeks ago, was getting along well with Tanya Mittal in the last week. However, looks like their friendship has come to an end. The latest promo of Bigg Boss 19 shows Malti taking a direct dig at Tanya, saying that she portrays an entirely different side of her in the BB house. She said that her 'sati savitri' image inside the house does not match her behaviour outside, and that videos of her in mini skirts have emerged on social media. She was seen describing Tanya's outfit from one of the reels, and it didn't sit well with many netizens who criticized Malti for passing comments on someone else's dressing.

The promo of Bigg Boss 19 shows Malti Chahar sitting with Ahsnoor Kaur and Abhishek Bajaj. She tells them that Tanya Mittal portrays a 'sati savitri' image inside the house, but the reality is very different. She then asks Abhishek to tell what BB housemates think of Tanya. He replies, "Wo saree pehenti hai. She is very sanskaari. Malti then says that the housemates know only one side of her. "The way she portrays herself is entirely different. Mini skirts mein bhi videos hain iske. (There are videos of her in mini skirts)." Abhishek and Ahsnoor look shocked. Neelam Giri, Kunickaa and other housemates were also seen listening to what Malti was saying. She then went on to describe Tanya's outfit in one of the reels. "Samajh aa raha hai? Ki wo meme material kyu hai? Kyunki wo kehti kuch aur hai, hai kuch aur. (Do you get it now? Why she is meme material? Because she says one thing, but is something else entirely). So she is a player," she said. This is wrong on so many levels. How can someone be so low to link a person's character to their clothes." Earlier, when Malti had entered Bigg Boss 19 house, she had told Tanya Mittal about her reels going viral outside. She said that people have seen her videos in mini skirts, and they contradict her 'saree-wearing' image inside BB house.

Amrita Arora Celebrates Son Raya​an's 13th Birthday: Basketball Cake Marks New Teen Era

Mumbai: Actress Amrita Arora celebrated a very special milestone, her son Raya​an Ladak's 13th birthday. Known for sharing cherished family moments with her fans on Instagram, Amrita gave her followers an adorable glimpse into the birthday celebrations. In her Instagram story, she shared a photo of a two-tiered birthday cake with a basketball theme. The top tier was decorated with a black silhouette of a basketball player, a miniature basketball hoop and gold candles shaped in the numbers 1 and 3, signifying Raya​an's entry into teenage life. Capturing her emotions perfectly, Amrita wrote in the caption,

"N just like that my baby is officially a teenager today. My darling Raya​an." Amrita Arora, who is known for her warm and family-oriented personality, often shares special moments from her personal life on social media. She is married to Shakeel Ladak, a businessman in the construction industry and the couple tied the knot in 2009 in an intimate Christian and Nikah ceremony. The couple welcomed their first son, Azaan Ladak, on February 5, 2010, followed by their younger son, Raya​an, born on October 20, 2012. Amrita is also the younger sister of popular Bollywood actress and host Malaika Arora,



further highlighting her connections within the entertainment industry. Apart from celebrating her children, Amrita recently

commemorated her 16th wedding anniversary with her husband, Shakeel Ladak. Sharing a candid and heartfelt post on

Instagram, she expressed her enduring love and admiration for her partner. She wrote: "Sweet 16! How sweet it is to be loved by you Shakeel Ladak! Happy 16 my beloved. Happy anniversary to us." The accompanying image featured the couple sitting together, with Shakeel capturing the moment in a selfie, reflecting their strong bond and cherished family values. Before venturing into Bollywood, Amrita Arora began her career as a VJ, showcasing her charisma and screen presence. She made her acting debut in 2002 with the film Kitne Door Kitne Paas, starring opposite Fardeen Khan. Following her debut,

she appeared in several notable films including Awara Paagal Deewana, Girlfriend, Speed and Red: The Dark Side. In 2009, she was part of Deha and Team: The Force and also appeared in a supporting role in the Kareena Kapoor-starrer Kambakkht Ishq. Despite maintaining a relatively low-profile compared to her sister Malaika Arora, Amrita has consistently made her presence felt in the industry through selective film appearances and television projects. In 2022, she joined her sister Malaika on the OTT debut show Moving In With Malaika on Hotstar, giving fans an insight into her personality and lifestyle.

Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri Wrap Ma Behen with Festive Diwali Celebration



Mumbai: The Diwali celebrations became extra special for Madhuri Dixit, as the actress is all set to return to films with a comedy-drama titled Ma Behen. Joining the iconic Dhak Dhak girl is Bollywood's new 'national crush' Triptii Dimri. Adding to the excitement, the film also features one of Indian cinema's most versatile actors, Ravi Kishan. Directed by Tumhari Sulu and Jalsa fame filmmaker Suresh Triveni, Ma Behen is expected to premiere on OTT in 2026. According to reports, the film has already completed its shooting and what better time to celebrate the wrap than during the festival of lights?

Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri and Ravi Kishan were spotted together at the wrap party of Ma Behen at a luxurious Mumbai restaurant, making their Diwali festivities even more

memorable. In a video shared online, the trio can be seen arriving at the venue, and paparazzi couldn't resist capturing every moment of them together. Madhuri and Ravi opted for traditional ensembles, while Triptii donned a chic, contemporary outfit. Madhuri exuded festive elegance in a white anarkali paired with a red printed dupatta. Ravi Kishan complemented the vibe in an intricately embroidered kurta, while Triptii stunned in a stylish blue one-piece dress. The trio looked radiant and joyful as they posed together for the shutterbugs, flashing bright smiles. With a title as desi as the emotions it seeks to portray, Ma Behen promises to be a character-driven roller coaster of emotions and chaos that blends generations, ideologies and sentiments with a generous dose of humour. The film explores the sweet-and-sour dynamic between a modern young woman and her charming yet traditional mother. Despite their contrasting outlooks, the story beautifully unfolds through their evolving bond, heartfelt moments and plenty of laughter. This marks the second on-screen collaboration between Madhuri and Triptii after Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. The film also stars Ravi Kishan, Shardul Bhardwaj and Dhama Durga in pivotal roles.

First Thamma Review: Ayushmann-Rashmika's Film is Perfect Humour and Horror Blend

Mumbai: Thamma first review: It looks like this Diwali is about to get a dose of horror, humour, and heart. Thamma, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, has already started creating a buzz — and the early reviews are in. As the film gears up for release on October 21, 2025, the first reactions suggest that the latest addition to Maddock Films' horror-comedy universe might just be another winner.

Senior film critic Taran Adarsh shared his first take on X after watching the film, giving it four stars. He wrote on X, "#MaddockFilms delivers yet another winner... A delicious cocktail of humour, supernatural, and romance... Takes a completely uncharted path as far as the plot goes... EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!" Another viewer on X called Thamma "a total entertainer," praising its mix of horror, comedy, and emotion. "A blend of humour, horror, emotion, and desi folklore that keeps you hooked till the last frame. #AyushmannKhurrana delivers a career-best act



— balancing fear & comedy like a pro. #RashmikaMandanna shines bright in a surprisingly powerful role. #NawazuddinSiddiqui is unpredictable and magnetic — pure gem! #PareshRawal adds charm with his impeccable comic timing. Music + background score = Electrifying. Direction by #AdityaSarpotdar proves why Maddock is the master of horror-comedy. Final Verdict: #Thamma is not just a movie, it's an experience full of laughter, thrills, and twists you won't see coming." "A perfect Diwali gift" A third early review was even more enthusiastic, giving the film a full five stars and calling it "a perfect high-energy Diwali gift." "Movie Review-#Thamma Waowww It's a film that leaves you

thoroughly entertained and completely satisfied. The direction is simply superb, showing a masterful understanding of how to captivate the audience and make the picture look good to everyone. Every single character's performance was top-notch. The entire star cast truly shines, with @ayushmannk & @iamRashmika delivering flawless and powerful roles. This is a film where every actor gives their absolute best. You absolutely must watch Thamma with your friends and family!" Thamma has opened to strong advance booking numbers across India. The film has recorded an impressive Rs 3.21 crore gross from the sale of 1.13 lakh tickets on its first day, across 12,357 shows nationwide. In Hindi 2D format alone, it collected Rs 2.99 crore from over 1.07 lakh tickets, while IMAX 2D contributed Rs 11.68 lakh and 4DX brought in Rs 5.38 lakh. The Telugu version added another Rs 3.59 lakh. Including blocked seats, the film's overall advance booking figure stands at a massive Rs 7.14 crore, signalling a strong opening ahead of release.

Sunny Sanskari Actress Mallika Chhabra on Varun Dhawan and 'Ego Clashes'

Mumbai: Sunny Sanskari Ki Tusli Kumari actor Mallika Chhabra was only 11 years old when she decided, "It's very difficult to make friends." As a young kid who switched schools nearly every year, she found it hard to stay connected to people. But quick-witted as she is, she noticed that all her schools around the world had four clubs in common- music, dance, sports and drama. Mallika found her anchor in theatre. In an exclusive conversation with News18, Mallika says, "It was like a roulette that I played with myself. I went for the drama club when I was 11; every school I went to, if you had history doing drama in the previous school, they just accepted you."

Before she could realise, she had been doing theatre for a decade. She says, "It happened to me because I wanted to make friends. It's

a funny thing. Then, before I knew it, I just fell in love with the craft, and here we are." Mallika was seen as Nisha in the Varun Dhawan-Janhvi Kapoor film. One couldn't have guessed this about the Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari actress. She is vivacious and bright- two qualities that were evident even in a 10-minute role in the finale of Karma Calling. This brief appearance soon led to a role in the Dharma film, directed by Shashank Khaitan. Mallika recalls, "Shashank had known of me socially, but he saw Karma Calling and reached out for a meeting at the Dharma office. He said, 'Even though it was a 5-10 minute role, something clicked when I saw you in Karma Calling, and I wanted to figure out a way to work together.'" Although Mallika took up acting to fit in and make friends, on the Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari



set, she found a new "family". Working together while living at a luxury hotel for a month can do that to people. "It's only my first big project, but even experienced actors like Varun (Dhawan) and Janhvi (Kapoor) felt that this was the most wholesome set." The actress even found a therapist in Varun Dhawan. She mentions, "There were moments where it wasn't Varun's scene, but he would just come on set and try to help everybody get the best out of their scenes. I think, more than anything else, Varun was my therapist." Mallika's first scene for the film was a song shoot, and being on a "grand Dharma set" seemed intimidating at first.



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Seema Sajdeh Reacts to Bhumi Pednekar's Diwali Album

Mumbai: The entire B-town is in a Diwali mood celebrating with their family and friends. Many actors have been sharing glimpses from their special festivities at home or the delicacies they have been enjoying. Among others, Bhumi Pednekar shared some candid pictures from her house. While admirers could not take their eyes off her festive look, people were amazed to see the simple yet aesthetic decoration in her home.

Bhumi's house was decorated with numerous yellow and orange marigold flowers. What added to the charm was the flood of rose petals on the side. The actress looked stunning in a pastel pink saree with an off white structured blouse. The pearl jewelry and the subtle makeup look elevated the overall look. In the caption, she wrote, "Happy Diwali... Love and light." Bhumi Pednekar recently opened up about how body



image issues persist. Speaking about the trolls she faced in life for her weight issues, Bhumi told Hindustan Times, "There was a time when I was 96 kg, and there were opinions then. Now, I look different, and there are opinions now," she said. "The point is that I'm in the public eye and it's okay. I am for the audience. Everything that they say I listen to, but by the end of it, I do what's right for me."

Bhumi was last seen in The Royals. The series follows Aviraaj Singh (Ishaan Khatter), a modern-day royal, and Sophia Kanmani Shek-

har (Bhumi Pednekar), the ambitious CEO of a luxury homestay firm. The romantic comedy shows how the two fell in love while renovating Morpur's struggling haveli into a one-of-a-kind luxury bed and breakfast experience. Bhumi has Karan Johar's epic historical drama Takht in the works. Originally announced in 2020 with a star-studded cast featuring Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Vicky Kaushal, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Janhvi Kapoor and Anil Kapoor, the filmmaker recently confirmed that the project has been shelved but not cancelled.

Musician Brandy Explains Mid-Show Stage Walk-Off

Agency: American musician Brandy left her fans shocked when she abruptly left the stage mid-performance and ended her concert with Monica on October 18. While fans started speculating various reasons for her sudden departure from the stage, the singer finally broke her silence on the incident. On October 19, the 46-year-old took to Instagram and revealed she was facing health issues.

In the post the singer showed gratitude to all her fans for supporting her through such low times. "Thank you all for the overwhelming love, support, and—most importantly—your prayers," she began. "I sincerely apologise for the abrupt end to last night's performance in Chicago. After weeks of nonstop rehearsals, last night I experienced dehydration and feelings of wanting to faint. Everyone involved agreed that prioritising my well-being was of the utmost importance," she revealed, explaining that after facing such health issues, she decided to end the show midway. "I still made the decision to try and return and give it my all despite not feeling okay. With having to make some adjustments and the show being very technical, unfortunately, it was impossible to fully connect sonically with the production. I really appreciate everyone's best efforts," she added. The singer was performing at The Boy Is Mine Tour with Monica when she suddenly walked off-stage and did not return, leaving Monica to sing the remainder of the set solo. Videos shared on social media showed Brandy leaving the stage after saying, "Give me one second, y'all. I have to get my..." and made her way out. The audiences were sent home without an explanation or hearing Brandy and Monica's iconic duet The Boy Is Mine.

Kajol Discusses DDLJ Legacy, Says Film Was Adopted by Real-Life Romances

Mumbai: Three decades after Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge first hit theatres, the love story of Raj and Simran continues to define romance for generations of film lovers. As the Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol-starrer celebrates 30 years today, Kajol reflects on the film's timeless legacy — and says the emotion she feels isn't pride, but deep gratitude.

Calling DDLJ a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Kajol said in a chat with Hindustan Times, "It's not pride that comes into me at all. I am truly humbled by it." The actor, who played Simran in Aditya Chopra's directorial debut, adds that no one involved in the film expected it to become what it did. "We never thought hum ye legacy banake chodenge when we made this film. We just thought we were making a good film and I am humbled by the fact that these many



people and fans have made it so much bigger. They even continue to make it bigger than anything will ever be, almost in the sense that they've made it a tradition." Kajol shares that fans across generations have connected to DDLJ in deeply personal ways. "I have had people come up to me and say, 'We fell in love

while watching DDLJ and when we had kids, we made them sit and watch it with us because we wanted to share that experience with them'. So, now they have given it to their kids like a part of their parents' love story. They've intertwined it with their lives. That's not something that I can take credit for and say

that ye meri wajah se hua hai, not at all." Released in 1995, DDLJ became a cultural milestone that redefined Hindi cinema's idea of love. Directed by Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films, it remains one of Bollywood's longest-running films and continues to play daily at Mumbai's Maratha Mandir theatre.

Priyanka welcomes Parineeti, Raghav's new baby boy



Mumbai: Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha were blessed with a baby boy this evening, and as they announced the news, friends and fans started dropping congratulatory messages. Now, new masi Priyanka Chopra has extended congratulations to the new parents. Taking to Instagram, Priyanka shared a story featuring Parineeti and Raghav's announcement post and, while tagging the couple, she simply wrote, "Congratulations."

Along with the message, the global star also attached the sweet song "You Are My Sunshine" in the background. The unique thing about Priyanka's story is that she used the exact same song Parineeti had in her

Instagram story while sharing the news. On Sunday, Parineeti and Raghav took to Instagram to announce the delightful news of their baby boy's birth. They shared a poster featuring the message: "He's finally here! Our baby boy. Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha announced their pregnancy on August 25, 2025. They shared a post on Instagram with the caption, "Our little universe... on its way. Blessed beyond measure." They posted a picture of a cake decorated with the equation and tiny footprints on it. They also shared a video of a pregnant Parineeti holding her husband Raghav Chadha's hand as they took a walk in the park. Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha tied the knot on September 24, 2023, in a grand ceremony at The Leela Palace, Udaipur, following a series of intimate pre-wedding festivities.

Shehnaaz Gill Sparkles In Statement Gold Sequins For A Glam Fashion Moment

Draped in unapologetic glam and oozing confidence, Shehnaaz Gill just served a look that’s not just fashion, it’s a whole moment. Channeling the energy of a modern-day disco queen, Shehnaaz took to Instagram with a series of smouldering shots captioned, “Not just a look... it’s a whole mome” and we couldn’t agree more. The actor wore a dazzling gold mini dress drenched in oversized sequins that caught the light from every angle, creating a mirror-ball effect that screamed main-character energy. The sculpted silhouette hugged her curves just right, with the sleeveless cut and square neckline adding a touch of clean minimalism to an otherwise maximalist moment. The key to pulling off a sequin dress is confidence and Shehnaaz wears it like second skin. Her choice of gold, a universally flattering metallic, adds drama without overwhelming her natural glow. With such a statement piece, Shehnaaz kept her accessories pared back and polished.



Sparkling drop earrings and silver strappy heels brought just the right touch of bling, harmonizing with the dress without stealing the spotlight. Her luscious waves, full of volume and movement, added an element of carefree glamour. Whether she was in motion or holding a power pose, her hair flowed like a mood, untamed, confident, and feminine. With her signature glowing skin, bold brows, and a soft smokey eye, Shehnaaz struck a balance between sultry and sophisticated. The subtle nude lip ensured the focus stayed on her outfit and eyes. Set against a hot pink backdrop, the contrast only amplified her golden goddess aura. Every frame from this shoot feels like a freeze-frame from a pop anthem, electric, fierce, and fabulous. Shehnaaz Gill isn’t just stepping into fashion territory; she’s owning the damn runway with her vibe. So next time you’re dressing for a moment, take a cue from her: be bold, be bright, and never dim your shine.

Urban Sanctuaries: How Organic Cafes Are Redefining Conscious Dining in Mumbai

In a city that never stops, where the rhythm is fast and the noise constant, two thoughtful spaces have emerged to offer Mumbai a breath of calm, one nourishing meal at a time. Café Saar and Paashh are not just cafés—they are sanctuaries that nurture the soul, celebrate sustainability, and honour slow living in the most conscious ways. Tucked amidst the green heart of Bandra, Café Saar feels like an oasis of peace. A place where lush foliage wraps around you and every corner whispers serenity, it redefines vegetarian dining through its focus on nutritious, calming meals served in harmony with nature. Designed to dissolve the boundary between indoors and out, Café Saar invites patrons into open seating under trees, with sunlight filtering through leaves and tables surrounded by flourishing plants. From its coffee menu to its soul-nourishing food, everything at Café Saar is curated with intention. Think: velvety cinnamon-vanilla lattes with oat or almond milk, raw mango rasam soup that tingles your senses, and Truffle Khichdi that comforts like a hug. Every bite and sip is a celebration of balance, health, and joy. Signature offerings like the Overnight Oat Bowl, All About Nuts

Panjiri, and vegan-friendly small plates showcase a dedication to fresh, plant-based ingredients. “At Café Saar, we strive to create soul food that nourishes both the heart and the body,” says Chef Vinit. “Our dishes are crafted with love and care, using the freshest ingredients to provide a wholesome and fulfilling dining experience.” Meanwhile, Paashh, already a beloved name in Pune for its slow living philosophy has opened its tranquil doors

a café; it’s a pause. It’s the long exhale in a world that breathes too fast. At its core lies the vision of founder Vaishali Karad, a wellness-focused marathoner who believes true luxury is living intentionally. “Paashh was born from a personal journey,” shares Vaishali. “I wanted to create a space where slow, conscious living isn’t a luxury; it’s a way of life.” From handcrafted brassware to seasonal, local produce, every element of Paashh is rooted in care.



in Mumbai. This isn’t just Their vegetarian menu is not only organic and predominantly vegan but also

Where Movement Meets Mindfulness

For Shakti Mohan, movement has always been a form of expression, but her recent journey to Queensland, Australia, revealed a new rhythm entirely. Away from the spotlight and studio mirrors, the celebrated dancer and choreographer found herself immersed in something far more elemental: the quiet pulse of the rainforest, the salty breeze of untouched beaches, and the golden hush of a Queensland sunset. “Queensland, Australia offers such a compelling mix, from peaceful coastal retreats and ancient rainforests to vibrant urban energy. This trip allowed me to reconnect with nature and experience Australia in a truly fresh and soulful way,” Shakti shared, reflecting on a journey that blurred the lines between luxury, nature, and inner stillness. Her travels spanned the urban vitality of Brisbane, the golden expanse of the Gold Coast, the laid-back charm of the Sunshine Coast, the marine wonder of the Great Barrier Reef, and the grounding calm of ancient rainfor-



ests. But it wasn’t just the geography that made an impact; it was the emotional texture of each place. With every barefoot walk, silent gaze, and cultural encounter, Shakti’s posts unfolded not as a travel diary but as a personal unravelling. In images and video captured mid-journey, she’s seen with wind-tousled hair by the sea, still beneath the rainforest canopy, or laughing quietly with locals. It’s a softer, more intimate portrait of the artist, one that reveals a side rarely seen on screen. What began as a collaboration with travel company JourneyLabel and Tourism and Events Queensland

soon evolved into something more personal: a chance to pause, breathe, and move at nature’s pace. “At JourneyLabel, we are drawn to destinations that leave a lasting impression. Queensland, Australia’s stunning beauty, diversity, and warm spirit align perfectly with what today’s Indian traveller seeks,” said Sufail Husain, Co-Founder, JourneyLabel. “It’s a privilege to partner with TEQ and collaborate with Shakti Mohan, who brings such grace and sincerity to the storytelling. We believe this journey will inspire others to travel deeper and dream bigger.” As Shakti continues to share her journey on social media, her audience is tuning in not just for the scenic beauty, but for the feeling of presence, of peace, of purposeful travel. Through Shakti’s eyes, Queensland becomes more than a destination. It becomes a mirror, a muse, and a moment of renewal.

Cardiologists Explain The Hidden Cardiac Risk

Heartburn, nausea, or breathlessness is usually associated with an unsettled stomach or a stressful day. Maybe it’s the late-night meal, a skipped breakfast, or just a little anxiety. But cardiologists are sounding a quiet, critical alarm: these symptoms might be telling a different story, one about your heart. “When symptoms like a hyper feeling in the mind, nausea, or breathlessness appear, they should never be brushed off,” says Dr. Sunil Dwivedi, Consultant, Cardiology at Manipal Hospital, Millers Road, Bengaluru. “No matter which part of the body they seem to arise from, they often signal something significant. These symptoms are commonly linked to the digestive system, and sometimes to the heart.” That’s what makes these symptoms particularly tricky. According to experts, cardiac and gastrointestinal symptoms can mimic each other so closely, they’re often mistaken for one another,

especially when the signs are subtle. It’s a common misconception that heart problems always announce themselves with crushing chest pain or dramatic collapses. In reality, the signs can be whisper-soft and dangerously easy to miss. “Light heartburn, nausea, and shortness of breath may be easily overlooked as either a mild digestive issue or stress reaction,” explains Dr. Jajati Keshari Padhi, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist at Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. “Especially when these feelings of discomfort occur soon after eating or during exercise.” But for certain individuals, especially older adults, diabetics, and people with multiple health conditions, heart trouble may not present with textbook symptoms at all. “Heart attacks in these groups often begin with something as subtle as mild heartburn, or sometimes just vomiting. In many elderly or immunocompromised patients, vomiting can be the

only symptom.” adds Dr. Dwivedi. One particularly deceptive symptom? Breathlessness. It’s easy to chalk it up to poor fitness, anxiety, or even the weather, but in the context of heart disease, it can be a serious sign. “Shortness of breath, often attributed to anxiety, can actually indicate congestive heart failure or coronary artery disease,” warns Dr. Padhi. “It may reflect the heart’s reduced ability to pump blood, leading to fluid backup in the lungs.” So, how does one tell the difference between a harmless bout of acidity and a potential cardiac warning? Even experienced professionals can struggle with that,” Dr. Dwivedi admits. “But what patients must understand is that these are not usual symptoms. If the discomfort feels different,

if your regular acidity meds don’t work, or the nausea seems unusual, don’t wait. Seek help immediately.” As Dr. Padhi puts it, “Being famous and fabulous won’t provide answers. Many cardiac patients don’t show any signs until the condition becomes critical. By then, time becomes the enemy.” Early detection is key. Appropriate tests and evaluations can dramatically alter the course of treatment and recovery. While it’s true that not every case of heartburn or nausea is heart-related, the risk of ignoring the early, quieter signs can be life-threatening. “It’s always better to be careful. Getting checked early can help prevent serious heart problems,” Dr. Padhi stresses. The advice is consistent: listen to your body.



Review of Penguin safari trip by Quark Expeditions



differ from mine a lot.

Day 1. Arrival to Ushuaia

Upon arrival in Ushuaia, I stayed at the Albatros hotel as it was included in the price of the trip. Unfortunately, my experience at the Albatros Hotel was not particularly impressive. The room itself but it appeared that the hotel heavily relied on Antarctic expedition guaranteed occupancy, leading to a lack of focus on providing a reliable Wi-Fi connection. Since I did not choose this hotel my not recommend it for early arrivals. However, I did appreciate the attend a pre-expedition meeting, where I was offered a tour of Fuego National Park for an additional fee of \$40, which was not

Day 2. Morning tour and embarking on a ship

You are required to check out of the hotel at 10 a.m., so the tour



Day 6. Arrival to South Georgia and two landings

Grytviken, located in King Edward Cove at the head of Cumberland Bay, was established in 1904 by Carl Anton Larsen as the first permanent whaling station in South Georgia. Initially, the abundance of humpback whales in the bay allowed the whalers to fulfil their catch without venturing further. Over the years, more than 54,000 whales were processed at Grytviken until the whaling operations ceased in 1964 and the station was abandoned. Despite this, visitors can still gain insight into the early days of the Southern Ocean whale industry during their visit to Grytviken. The historic site also houses the original church, resident cemetery, and the South Georgia Museum, which was added in 1992. Additionally, Grytviken holds significance as the final resting place of explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who passed away from a heart attack aboard his ship Quest in Grytviken harbour on January 5, 1922. It is customary for visitors to pay their respects at his grave, with guides leading the group in a toast to 'the Boss'.

Day 7. Hercules Bay and St. Andrews Bay

Due to the avian flu restrictions, we were only able to was quite disappointing for me. Our first cruise took us who emerge from the sea and make their way up the rocky cliffs also provide a suitable habitat for various other bird As it is a fjord, there was no opportunity for us to land Hercules Bay is through a zodiac cruise, where we can On the other hand, St. Andrews Bay is regarded as one of of the restrictions. It boasts a magnificent beach with stun- is that it is home to the largest king penguin colony in the

Day 8. Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

No landings of this day as well. In the morning, a zodiac This location in South Georgia boasts a beach teeming suspended glaciers. Many visitors consider a visit to this day, a zodiac cruise was embarked upon Cooper Bay.

Days 9 and 10. Heading to Antarctica

We embarked on a journey to Antarctica where our sched- as Antarctica's seal population, the art of mobile phone Since this trip was the most expensive one I have ever travels, if I missed something or wasn't satisfied, I always case this time. However, I lacked sufficient information Additionally, I can't compare this trip to others since it not being able to land in South Georgia more frequently lanning your Croatia holidays? Make sure to in- things to do in Zadar to explore its historic heri- begin with some insights into the history of Za- history. It was a part of the Roman Empire until Byzantine rule. From the 15th to the end of the 18th cen- Republic of Venice. Then Zadar was ruled by Austrians

After World War II it was annexed to Croatia in the Federation of Yugoslavia. Following the Republic of Croatia's declaration of independence and subsequent Serbian aggression, Zadar and its surroundings were attacked in 1991 with a destructive force that had never been seen before. The city was repeatedly targeted and the cultural heritage of Zadar was heavily damaged. Today Zadar is a preserved monument of various historical times and cultures. In 2017, the defensive system of Zadar was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List thanks to its three kilometre long defensive walls that the Venetian Republic built in the 16th century for protection against the Turks. So here are things to do in Zadar in a day during your trip to Croatia.

Admire Zadar city walls and city gates

Some sections of the defensive walls were built during the Middle Ages, and some were built by the Venetians much later as a fortification against the Turks, who mounted relentless attacks on the city. Today, only portions of the walls and a few gates remain. The Land Gate, built by Venetian architect Michele Sanmicheli in the 16th century is the best known of all the gates. The gate is known for its ornate renaissance design and comprises three triumphal arches adorned with allegorical statues. It is decorated with Zadar's main patron saint St. Chrysogonus on his horse, and the Shield of St. Mark, the coat of arms of the Republic of Venice. Between the ferry port and the Church of St. Chrysogonus is the Sea Gate, also known as St. Chrysogonus' Gate, because of its proximity to the church of the same name. Above the Roman cornice on the gate's land-facing side, there is a great renaissance panel depicting the naval battle at Lepanto and a fine relief of St. Chrysogonus above it. The gate is adorned with a relief of St. Mark's lion on the side facing the sea.

Travelling to Antarctica is a unique experience due to the challenges posed by its distance, climate, and cost. For many, it is a once-in-a-lifetime journey. When I decided to visit this region, there were many uncertainties. My main motivation was to witness the penguin colonies in South Georgia, which led me to choose the Quark Expeditions tour and their World Explorer ship. It is important to note that every expedition is subject to unpredictable weather conditions. Therefore, I would like to share my personal experience and review of the South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula: Penguin Safari trip offered by Quark Expeditions, to provide a better understanding of what to expect during your Antarctica adventure. Still, your tour might



was average, dition ships for good breakfast self, I would opportunity to the Tierra del an issue.

to Tierra del Fuego National Park was convenient because it al-

lowed us to spend the morning nicely before embarking on the ship in the late afternoon. However, I was surprised that we had to take buses to board the ship, even though the distance was short. They explained this was for security reasons. During the boarding process, you have to scan your luggage and have your picture taken. It is important to note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed to bring on the ship. You receive a personal ship card that you will use throughout the journey. Afterwards, you are invited to enjoy a welcome drink before checking into your cabin. I had a comfortable veranda cabin, which was spacious enough and had a nice bathroom with L'occitane toiletries. Due to the weather conditions, I didn't use the veranda much, but I'm unsure what other cabin options are available. One concern I had was about the food, but I must say that there was no reason to worry. The first dinner, as well as all the other meals in the restaurant, were delicious.

Day 3, 4, 5. Heading to South Georgia

We were heading towards South Georgia, and although the ship is fairly speedy, cruising at around 20 kilometres per hour, the distance of slightly over 2000 kilometres still requires considerable time. During these days, I have been attending informative presentations on various subjects related to Antarctica, delivered by knowledgeable speakers. Topics covered include whales, seabirds specific to Antarctica, the history of Terra del Fuego, photography in Polar Regions, and more. Additionally, I have been enjoying delicious meals throughout the journey.

have zodiac cruises in the morning and afternoon without any landings, which to Hercules Bay, a beautiful protected bay known for its Macaroni Penguins cliffs to their colony on the tussock covered slope overlooking the bay. The high species that breed in the area, such as gulls, Terns, and Light-Mantled Albatross. due to the sheer cliffs along the coastline. Therefore, the best way to experience enjoy the breathtaking sights. the top landing spots in South Georgia. Still, we had not landed there because ning mountains in the background. And what makes it even more remarkable world.

cruise was made to Gold Harbour, which is known for its breathtaking scenery. with king penguins and elephant seals, all enclosed by magnificent cliffs and place during the tranquil dawn hours to be a memorable experience. Later in the

ule was occupied by a series of informative talks covering diverse subjects such photography, the behaviour of penguins, geological discussions, and more. taken, I had high expectations given the amount of money I paid. In my previous had the option to revisit those places. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the and experience to ensure that everything would go perfectly on the first try. was my only one. Overall, I am satisfied with my experience, although I regret not having an extra day to explore Antarctica in greater depth. clude Zadar on the Dalmatian coast in your Croatia itinerary. There are many tag and current developments and of course, watch an awesome sunset. Let's dar. Zadar is one of the oldest cities in Croatia with a three thousand years long the 5th century; later Zadar became the administrative centre of Dalmatia under tury it was an important trading port and the largest city-fortress in the entire until 1918 and became part of Italy between the two World wars.

After World War II it was annexed to Croatia in the Federation of Yugoslavia. Following the Republic of Croatia's declaration of independence and subsequent Serbian aggression, Zadar and its surroundings were attacked in 1991 with a destructive force that had never been seen before. The city was repeatedly targeted and the cultural heritage of Zadar was heavily damaged. Today Zadar is a preserved monument of various historical times and cultures. In 2017, the defensive system of Zadar was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List thanks to its three kilometre long defensive walls that the Venetian Republic built in the 16th century for protection against the Turks. So here are things to do in Zadar in a day during your trip to Croatia.



1st ODI Returning Kohli, Rohit in focus against Australia as Gill steps in as full-time skipper

New Delhi: Even amid the emotional theme of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's return to India fold, Shubman Gill's maiden outing as full-time ODI skipper provides an equally compelling narrative to the first one-dayer against Australia here on Sunday. Kohli and Rohit are coming back to national colours after playing the Champions Trophy in March, and the dynamics of Indian cricket has changed irrevocably in these seven months. The cricketing ecosystem has learned to survive the prolonged absence of Kohli and Rohit — at least in two formats — in this interim period. So, what do these two veteran batters now have to offer to the side?Before delving into that question, let's be clear about it



— Kohli and Rohit will be counted among the greatest one-day batters across the eras and by any yardstick. They have also been training hard for this series. Rohit seemed to have shed a few kilos and moulded himself into a chiselled figure, and Kohli

was sweating it out in London, his new base, with a private trainer. But the challenge for these two giants is to shake off the accumulated rust post the IPL, their last competitive outing. It might just be a blessing for them that their return coincided with

Shubman Gill's maiden outing as full-time ODI skipper provides an equally compelling narrative to the first one-dayer against Australia in Perth on Sunday (October 19, 2025).

a series against Australia, a team that had cathartic influence during the course of their long careers. In that context, the three-match ODI series can be considered as a barometer of their individual drive and willingness to travel still farther in their working lives as one-format players. Rohit's previous T20I and If Kohli can produce those brilliantly calibrated knocks and Rohit his incandescent shot-making up the order, then these two stalwarts can hope to hang on for long.

Australia, Labuschagne takes Green's place India series ODI squad

New Delhi: Marnus Labuschagne replaced injured all-rounder Cameron Green for the three-match ODI series against India, beginning here on Sunday. "Green will complete a short period of rehabilitation and is tracking to return to play round three of the Sheffield Shield to continue his preparation for the Ashes," Cricket Australia said in a statement, confirming the decision was a precautionary step. Labuschagne, was not part of the initial squad but has been drafted in following his 159 in a Sheffield Shield game for Queensland on Thursday, his fourth century of the domestic season. It was the third forced change for Australia ahead of the first ODI against India with Josh Philippe replacing injured Josh Inglis and Matthew Kuhnemann set to play in place of Adam Zampa who missed the game due to personal reasons. Foreign leagues could benefit players by improving their skills and giving them experience in varied

conditions. Such exposure could have a positive ripple effect, strengthening both India's domestic competitions and international performances over time. Ravi Shastri has urged the BCCI to allow Indian players to feature in overseas T20 leagues. He believes such exposure will help young cricketers improve skills and gain experience in different conditions. Australia squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc. Second ODI onwards: Adam Zampa, Alex Carey, Josh Inglis. From India's point of view, the focus of the series was on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma who returned to national duties for the first time since March, having become one format players following their Test retirement.

Shotgun 2025 Sandhu wins men's trap bronze at Athens ISSF World Championship

New Delhi: Zoravar Singh Sandhu won a bronze in the men's trap event to open India's medal account at the ISSF World Championship 2025 Shotgun in Athens, Greece, on Friday. The 48-year-old veteran Indian shooter finished with a score of 31 hits, placing third in the six-man final at the Malakasa Shooting Range. It was only India's third medal in the men's trap shooting events at the Shotgun World Championships. Manavjeet Singh Sandhu won the gold medal in the men's trap at Zagreb 2006 while Karni Singh won a silver in the 1962 championships held in Cairo. Croatia's Josip Glasnovic, the Rio 2016 Olympics trap champion, claimed gold on Friday with 44 hits while Spain's Andres Garcia took silver with 39. Sandhu scored 13 of the first 15 shots and was tied second. It was here that the rain began to fall and that brought about misses across the field. Zoravar Singh Sandhu needed a perfect five again to get into a fight for gold, but missed three of his last five to settle for bronze as Josip powered on for gold and Garcia held on for silver. "It was a great experience. It was a tough range, tough conditions to shoot but that's how it is and here we are," Sandhu said. Indian shooters Vivaan Kapoor and Bhowneesh Mendiratta could not make it to the men's



trap final after finishing 52nd and 76th in the qualifying rounds. Zoravar Singh Sandhu, meanwhile, claimed sixth position with a score of 122. Aashima Ahlawat was the best-placed Indian shooter in the women's trap event with 40th place in the qualifying round ahead of Asian champion Neeru Dhandha (43rd) and Kirti Gupta (62nd). Zoravar Singh Sandhu will team up with Aashima in the mixed trap event, the finals for which are scheduled on Saturday. Asian champion Neeru will team up with Bhowneesh. India failed to medal in the skeet events last Sunday, with the championships set to conclude on Saturday with the trap mixed team competition. All medal winners from Athens earn automatic qualification for the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha, Qatar, in December.



Fleetwood moves into lead as five Indians make cut

New Delhi: The reigning FedExCup champion Tommy Fleetwood moved into a one-shot lead after shooting an 8-under on a tricky day at the Delhi Golf Course at the DP World India Championship. Fleetwood (68-64) is closely followed by the 2019 Open winner Shane Lowry and the 2023 Open winner Brian Harman. Lowry followed his first round 64 with a 3-under 69, while Harman added a 7-under 65 with eight birdies and one bogey to his first round 68. "I played better than yesterday, I think. I wasn't happy with how I hit it towards the end yesterday. I hit some balls afterwards and I felt like today the swing was in a better place," Fleetwood said. "I hit it in the fairway a lot today and from there just gave myself the chance to hit some nice irons in and putted well for the second day in a row. It is easy to talk about how many things you did well when you shot eight-under, but just a really good round of golf," he added. Five-time Major winner Rory McIlroy, who was greeted by cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar after the completion of his second round, finished with four birdies in the last six holes to be tied-17th with 6-under. He is six shots behind his friend Fleetwood. McIlroy's Ryder Cup teammate Viktor Hovland shot a bogey-free 5-under after a 71 on the first day to get to 6-under.

FIFA Rankings Shock India Drops to 136th Position

New Delhi: Indian football's dismal run on the international stage continued as the men's senior national team slumped to 136th in the latest FIFA World Rankings — their lowest position since November 2016. The new ranking, released on Friday, compounds the Blue Tigers' woes as they find themselves out of contention for both the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. Once seen as a team on the rise after their 2023 triumphs in the Intercontinental Cup, SAFF Championship, and Tri-Nation Series, India's fortunes have sharply declined over the past year. That period of promise — which saw them climb into the top 100 of the rankings — was followed by a disastrous AFC Asian Cup campaign in Qatar earlier this year, where they exited in the group stage without scoring a single goal in three defeats. Since then, the national setup has struggled for stability, cycling through



three head coaches in less than two years. Igor Stimac was first shown the door, succeeded by Manolo Márquez, who himself made way for Khalid Jamil earlier this year. Despite flashes of progress under Jamil — particularly during the CAFA Nations Cup, a friendly tournament where India showed tactical improvement — the results in competitive fixtures have remained disappointing. The team's last victory in a competitive match came nearly a year ago, a 1-0 win over Kuwait in November 2023. Globally, Spain retained top spot in the FIFA men's rankings, ahead of World Cup holders Argentina and third-placed France. England, Portugal, the Netherlands, Brazil, and Belgium completed the top eight. Germany climbed two places to 10th after back-to-back qualifying wins over Luxembourg and Northern Ireland, while 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia slipped to 11th after a draw against the Czech Republic.

India storm into final of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 win over Malaysia

New Delhi: The Indian junior men's hockey team produced a fine performance, as they defeated Malaysia 2-1 in their final pool-stage match of the ongoing Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 in Johor, Malaysia, on Friday. The win takes India into the final of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025, where they will face Australia. Playing against Malaysia, India opened the scoring through Gurjot Singh (22'), while Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (48') scored the winner. For Malaysia, Naaevenesh Panicker (43') found the back of the net. With one eye on qualification for the final, the Indian junior men's hockey team started on the front foot against Malaysia. The Indian forwards looked sharp and were attacking in waves, putting the hosts under pressure. Malaysia, however, did not sit back and attack, but India's defence held tight. Neither side, though, could break the deadlock by the end of the first quarter, with the teams going into the breather locked at 0-0. Malaysia got the first attack of the second quarter early on, but right after, India



roared back with a flurry of attacks and hit the crossbar as well. Malaysia were pinned back in their half, and the pressure eventually paid off, as Gurjot Singh (22') found the back of the net from a rebound off a Penalty Corner. From then onwards, India had the lion's share of the possession, and Malaysia continued to play catch-up. India went into halftime with a 1-0 lead. After the break, India came out of the blocks

at a good speed, but hosts Malaysia were starting to fight back. Even though India controlled the tempo of the game for the major part of the quarter, Malaysia's efforts did turn the game on its head, as they found the equaliser. With a little over two minutes to go, Naaevenesh Panicker (43') scored to make it 1-1 and set up a thrilling final quarter. India and Malaysia began the final quarter with a lot of enthusiasm. And it

was India who got their noses out in front again, as Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (48') tapped it home from close range, giving his team a 2-1 lead. After that, the Malaysians threw the kitchen sink as they went in search of an equaliser. And even though there were a couple of good attacks for Malaysia, India, who have traditionally dominated the hosts in this competition, held on to win the contest 2-1.

Day One Finals Australia Picks Up Three Victories Begin Meet World Cup Westmont

New Delhi: Swimmers from Down Under put up big performances to open the middle stop of the World Cup circuit in Westmont, Ill., with Lani Pallister and Sam Short opening the session with wins in their respective 400 freestyle finals before Kaylee McKeown came through for her second consecutive victory in the 50 backstroke. Pallister opened the session in sensational form as she lowered her own Australian and World Cup records in the 400 free. Later in the session, Hubert Kos would continue his dominance of the men's 200 backstroke while Regan Smith clipped her own American and World Cup records in the women's 200 butterfly. Further winners in the session included Noè Ponti, Kate Douglass, Ilya Shymanovich, Kasia Wasick and Ilya Kharun before Americans Gretchen Walsh and Shaine Casas blasted sizzling performances in the 100 IM to wrap up the session. Two weeks, two dominant wins for Lani Pallister in the women's 400 free. One week after she pulled away to win by four seconds at the Carmel stop, Pallister jumped on the pace even earlier against a similar field in Westmont and emerged with a record-setting swim. Pallister arrived for this year's American swing of World Cup meets already the third-fastest performer in history, having gone



3:53.73 for Short Course Worlds silver last year, but Pallister now sits at No. 2. The 23-year-old Australian motored to a time of 3:52.42, a whopping 1.31 seconds quicker than her previous best time from last but still under the World Cup record of 3:52.80 that McIntosh swam in Toronto in 2022, and she jumped ahead of Katie Ledecky (3:52.88) in the all-time rankings. Placing second here was New Zealand's Erika Fairweather, who pulled into second place with a time of 3:57.99. Fairweather was almost a second quicker than she swam last week in Carmel. Bella Sims was the top American and the final swimmer under 4:00 as she came in at 3:58.29 for third.

Rohit Sharma predicts Nitish Reddy will "all-format great" for India

New Delhi: Veteran swashbuckler Rohit Sharma delivered a heart-warming speech for India's ODI debutant Nitish Kumar Reddy and is "110 per cent" assured that with the attitude the 22-year-old possesses, he will turn into an "all-format great" and "travel a long way" with the modern-day giants. Nitish, who burst into the Test fold after earning his debut during last year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, returned to the land down under to earn his first ODI cap. In November 2024, India's batting maestro Virat Kohli handed Nitish his maiden Test cap at Perth's Optus Stadium. Eleven months later, Nitish returned to Optus Stadium and received his first ODI cap from Rohit during the three-match series opener against Australia on Sunday. During the presentation, Rohit had unstinting praise in store for the

fast-bowling all-rounder. He predicted a bright future for the 22-year-old while assuring the entire team will "rally around him." "Cap number 260, Nitish Reddy. You have got a great start to your career, and it's only because of how you want to play the game and your attitude. I am 110 per cent sure that with that attitude, you are going to go a long way in this Indian team," Rohit said in a video posted by the BCCI. "You are going to be an all-format great, which I believe thoroughly, because, like you said in your speech yesterday, you want to be everywhere, and that is where we all want you to be doing that. I am 110 per cent sure that the team will rally around you. Anything you need, anytime you need anything, everyone will be there to support you. Good luck, have a great career," Rohit concluded.

2nd T20I New Zealand win toss opt bowl first against England

New Delhi: New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to bowl first against England in the second T20I of the three-match series, which is being played at Hagley Oval here on Monday. The first T20I of the series between the two sides was called off due to persistent rain. The third and final of the series will be played at Eden Park in Auckland on Thursday, October 23. At the time of toss, England captain Harry Brook said, "I thought we did really to get to 150 from the position we were in. Hopefully, we will get a good score today. England (Playing XI): Philip Salt, Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook (c), Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Jordan Cox, Brydon Carse, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Luke



Wood. New Zealand (Playing XI): Tim Seifert (wk), Tim Robinson, Rachin Ravindra, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, James Neesham, Mitchell Santner (c), Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy. New Zealand: Tim Seifert (wk), Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Michael

Bracewell, Mitchell Santner (c), Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy, Devon Conway, Zakary Foulkes, Bevon Jacobs. England: Philip Salt, Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook (c), Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Jordan Cox, Brydon Carse, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Luke Wood, Jamie Overton, Zak Crawley, Rehan Ahmed, Sonny Baker.