

‘Green Bud’ Project launched by Indian Oil for Wildlife in Digboi

Digboi, Oct 22: The “IndianOil – Green Bud Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project” was recently formally launched here at the Lakhipather Forest Range Office, which is part of the Digboi Forest Division, Tinsukia District, marking a significant step towards bolstering wildlife conservation and community-driven ecological restoration in Upper Assam. In close coordination with the Assam Forest Department and the environmental non-governmental organization We For You, the project is being carried out under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division Unit, Digboi Refinery). Amar Borgohain, GM (HR), IOCL – AOD Unit; Montu Chetia, Range Officer, Lakhipather Range; representatives from the Assam Oil Corporation Labour Union (AOCLU) and Indian Oil Officers’ Association (IOOA); Digboi Refinery officials; We For You members; local forest staff; and community representatives from the Dihing Patkai Landscape, which is frequently referred to as the “Amazon of the East,” graced the inauguration ceremony.

Following the ceremonial lamp lighting, a plantation drive was held in honor of the late Zubeen Garg, honoring the cherished artist’s lifetime love of the outdoors and envi-

ronmental consciousness.

The flagging off of a fully furnished Wildlife Rescue Vehicle, which was made possible by the Green Bud project to improve quick wildlife response and rehabilitation throughout the Digboi Forest Division, was one of the day’s major highlights. Additionally, the Forest Department and trained community volunteers received an official handover of a full suite of wildlife rescue and safety equipment, including stretchers, protective gear, snake-handling kits, and first-aid supplies. “With Green Bud, IndianOil continues its commitment to protect the environment that sustains us,” said Amar Borgohain, GM (HR), IOCL (AOD Unit), who spoke at the event and reiterated IndianOil’s longstanding commitment to sustainable progress.

This project reflects our conviction that ecological preservation and industrial progress must coexist. Range Officer Montu Chetia of the Lakhipather Range echoed this sentiment, saying, “The IndianOil–Green Bud project represents an important turning point in our conservation efforts. The equipment and rescue vehicle will significantly improve our ability to react quickly to wildlife emergencies and improve human-animal cooperation in this delicate environment.



“Dihing Patkai is not just a forest, it is a living spirit,” remarked Trinayan Gogoi, secretary of We For You, who also expressed sincere gratitude to IndianOil and the Forest Department. Green Bud is our commitment to upholding that spirit via deeds, consciousness, and empathy.

The goal of the IndianOil–Green Bud Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project is to tackle conservation holistically by:

putting in place a specific system for the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, replacing damaged forest areas with native species, lowering human-animal conflict through education and mitigation efforts, and including local communities, SHGs, and young people in livelihood initiatives related to conservation.

Every saved animal, every replanted sapling, and every motivated young mind will stand as a living ex-

■ *The IndianOil–Green Bud Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Project was launched at the Lakhipather Forest Range Office in Upper Assam, focusing on wildlife conservation and community-driven ecological restoration.*

ample of what can be accomplished when people decide to preserve the life they share with the world in the verdant canopy of Dihing Patkai.

Cross-Border Infiltration Foiled in Manipur

Imphal, Oct 22: In a significant security operation, Assam Rifles personnel apprehended two militants from Myanmar who were attempting to infiltrate India through Manipur’s Chandel district. The operation, conducted on October 18 near Sajik Tampak, prevented a potentially organised cross-border militant incursion into Indian territory. Authorities identified the detained individuals as members of the United Tribal Volunteers Group, an armed outfit reportedly operating from Myanmar. Intelligence inputs enabled security forces to intercept the suspects before they could penetrate further into Indian territory, averting any immediate threat to local communities. Following their capture, the two militants were handed over to Chakpikarong Police Station for questioning and further legal proceedings. Security agencies are investigating their links, intentions, and potential networks to ensure the region remains safe. Chandel district, located along the India-Myanmar border, is considered a sensitive area due to recurring cross-border insurgent activity. Security forces have maintained heightened vigilance in recent months to prevent the infiltration of armed groups, which could exacerbate existing tensions in the region.

Arunachal CM Khandu Studies Japan’s Development Models



Itanagar, Oct 22: Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, is now on an official tour of Japan. While there, he visited Sophia University in Tokyo and the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park, stressing potential areas of cooperation in disaster management, technology, and higher education. Khandu shared on social media that his visit to Sophia University provided him with a valuable opportunity to interact with the university’s president, Prof. Milki Sugimura, and its chancellor, Sali Augustine SJ, as well as representatives from the Indian Embassy. In a post on X, Khandu stated, “I’m encouraged

to hear that Japanese universities are increasingly offering English-medium courses and that the Japanese education sector is opening up for greater global collaboration.” The chief minister also mentioned how happy he was to get back in touch with Prof. Sali Augustine SJ, the current chancellor of Sophia University and a former employee of Arunachal Pradesh. “Meeting Prof. Augustine, who was formerly employed in Arunachal Pradesh and continues to honor the state with his contributions to international academia, was a pleasure,” Khandu remarked. Khandu visited a number of Indian academics

who were successful at other Japanese colleges when he was there. He also strolled around the picturesque campus of Sophia University, one of Japan’s most prominent universities, which is situated in the center of Tokyo. He also visited the laboratory of the mechanical engineering department, where he spoke with academics and students and gained an appreciation for Japan’s dedication to innovation and research. In a different post, the chief minister said, “Very impressed by Japan’s unwavering passion for technological advancement and continuous innovation.” Khandu went to the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park later that day, where he was able to observe firsthand Japan’s well-known disaster management and preparedness systems. “Japan is incredibly well-prepared to deal with natural disasters, with effective planning, awareness campaigns, and public information systems,” he said.

Massive fire Fire Destroys 13 Shops in Dhubri Hawker Market



Dhubri, Oct 22: Around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, a terrible fire destroyed 13 stores at the Dhubri Hawker Market in Ward No. 5. Police Reserve firefighters raced to the scene, however because of the fire’s quick spread, another firefighter from Golokganj was called in. The fire department crews were able to contain the fire after more than three hours of ferocious work. Thirteen stores selling clothing, electronics, and other commodities had been totally destroyed by that point. It is still unknown what caused the fire. However, a fire department official told The Sentinel that given it happened on Diwali night, it is

believed that firecrackers or clay lamps may have started the fire. Many residents who helped firefighters at the site praised their valiant attempts to keep the fire from spreading throughout the entire Hawker Market, which is home to more than 100 stores.

With so many stores, Ward No. 5 is a crowded place. At least seven fire accidents have been reported there in the last 15 years. Shop owners have called on the government to immediately put in place a thorough fire safety plan. Some of the impacted store owners stated that none of their products were insured and that they had lost more than ₹2 crore.

Ri-Bhoi arrests: HNLC Blames Meghalaya Govt for targeted harassment

Shillong, Oct 22: The Hynniewtre National Liberation Council (HNLC), a banned outfit in Meghalaya, has strongly criticised the state government following the arrest of six youths linked to the seizure of an improvised explosive device (IED) at Umsning market in Ri-Bhoi district on October 12. In a statement, the HNLC described the arrests as acts of “state-sponsored harassment” and claimed that the youths had no connection with the organisation.

The group accused authorities of using the arrests to create fear, justify government inaction on pressing issues, and suppress the Hynniewtre community. The outfit also expressed concern over the re-arrest of recently released individuals, calling it a sign of political opportunism and a lack of transparency.

“Those who speak of peace are creating war,” the HNLC said, accusing authorities of employing the police as a tool to control dissent and undermine local communities. Highlighting long-standing grievances, the HNLC urged the government to address unresolved inter-state and international border disputes, which they said continue to cause suffering and displacement.

The group cited the Them Meteor issue as an example of repeated government delays despite promises and scheduled deadlines, describing it as evidence of insufficient political will. The HNLC warned the government to halt harassment of youth, stop propaganda, and avoid using “peace” as a cover for political control.

The organisation reiterated its commitment to defending the dignity, rights, and land of the Hynniewtre people, asserting that it would persist in safeguarding their interests regardless of government assurances or dialogue offers.

Tributes paid to Jamini Kr. Narzary in Dhemaji on death anniversary

Kokrajhar, Oct 22: The undivided Lakhimpur district ex-BLT Welfare Society and the Dhemaji district United Bodo People’s Organization (UBPO) jointly observed the fourth anniversary of the death of “Thulungani Funkha”—Jamini Kr Narzary, a teacher and social worker who was also the father of CEM of BKCWAC—at Sanjari Nwgrw in Dhemaji district on Tuesday.

The program started with wreath-laying ceremonies and floral tributes led by former UBPO advisor Lalit Chandra Brahma and Biswas Basumatary, a retired assistant headmaster of S.B. Boro High School. This was followed by floral tributes from Manuranjon Basumatary, president of UBPF; Birendra Kumar Brahma, advisor; representatives from ABSU, ABWF, and the former BLT Welfare Society; and Mihiniswar Basumatary, chief executive member of BKCWS, Anil Basumatary, chairman of BKCWAC, and vice-president Srijan Basumatary. The late Jamini Kr Narzary’s achievements were also the subject of a memorial lecture. Speakers during the memorial lecture commended Jamini Kr. Narzary for his work in social work and education. In addition to highlighting Nar-



zary’s contributions to the advancement of Bodo language and culture, UBPO president Manuranjon Basumatary declared that the organization would present a prize in his honor to a forward-thinking social worker and farmer at its next conference. Advisor Birendra Kumar Brahma cited Narzary’s altruistic contribution as an example of why it is important to contribute to community and nation-building. As a

mentor and father figure, BKCWAC Chief Mihiniswar Basumatary described how he personally benefited from Narzary’s advice and assistance. Cultural performances and the attendance of several dignitaries, including Dilip Basumatary, president of the Jonai district committee of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, as well as other notable figures from other organizations, marked the event’s conclusion.

In Brief

Ri-Bhoi arrests

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Cross-Border Infiltration Foiled

Imphal: Assam Rifles personnel apprehended two Myanmar militants attempting to infiltrate India through Manipur’s Chandel district. The operation, conducted on October 18, prevented a potential cross-border militant incursion into Indian territory. The detained individuals were identified as members of the United Tribal Volunteers Group, an armed outfit operating from Myanmar. Intelligence inputs enabled security forces to intercept the suspects before they could penetrate further into Indian territory, avoiding immediate threats to local communities. The two militants were handed over to Chakpikarong Police Station for questioning and legal proceedings. The Chandel district, along the India-Myanmar border, is considered a sensitive area due to recurring cross-border insurgent activity.

Massive fire

Dhubri: A fire destroyed 13 stores at the Dhubri Hawker Market in Ward No. 5 in Mumbai, causing a massive loss of over ₹2 crore. The fire was sparked by a quick spread of the fire, which was fueled by firecrackers or clay lamps. The fire department’s crews worked for over three hours to contain the fire, which had destroyed 13 stores selling clothing, electronics, and other commodities. The cause of the fire remains unknown, but it is believed to have started on Diwali night. The crowded area has experienced at least seven fire accidents in the last 15 years, prompting shop owners to call for a comprehensive fire safety plan.

Fires Destroy 9 Shops, 2 Houses

Itanagar: Two fire events occurred in the districts of Tirap and Siang in Arunachal Pradesh, causing the destruction of at least nine shops and two houses. The first fire occurred at Khonsa market in Tirap, where firecrackers used during Diwali festivities were likely the source. The fire destroyed nine stores and partially damaged twelve others. No casualties have been reported. Khonsa Fire Station firefighters put out the fire before it spread, with assistance from the Central Reserve Police Force, State Disaster Response Force, Assam Rifles, and local volunteers. Tirap Deputy Commissioner Techu Aran and other officials visited the Khonsa Bazaar to evaluate the damage. The district administration has instructed the district disaster management authority to carry out an accurate assessment and provide assistance to the impacted store owners. Wanglam Sawin, the Khonsa West MLA, apologized for the incident and instructed the district administration to accurately determine the damages.

Four criminals arrested in Nagaon

Nagaon: Four Kachua residents, Amir Uddin, Merajul Islam, Kudus Ali, and Sarif Uddin, have been apprehended by the Nagaon Police after a comprehensive investigation. The suspects were involved in illegal actions, including robbery, kidnapping, and assault on a journalist.

Cyclone alert issued

Heavy rain batters Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Oct 22: Heavy rainfall has hit several areas of Tamil Nadu, with trees in Chennai's Choolaimedu area uprooted and Thoothukudi city experiencing waterlogging. In Sivaganga district, heavy rain lashed agricultural fields and low-lying areas, leaving passengers stranded due to severe waterlogging at the city's bus stand. Schools in many cities across the state, including Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Mayiladuthurai, will remain closed on Wednesday due

to the possibility of more heavy rain.

In Puducherry, several areas were waterlogged, and all government and private schools and colleges in Puducherry and Karaikal will remain closed. A low pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday could intensify into a potential cyclone by Wednesday. The IMD bulletin issued on Tuesday suggests that the system may strengthen into a depression off the coasts of north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh.

Tamil Nadu's Thiruvallur,

Chennai, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai, Ranipettai, and Kancheepuram are on orange alert, with moderate rain of 5-15 mm/hour and thunderstorms. Chennai's Marina Beach is experiencing rough sea conditions amid ongoing Northeast monsoon activity. Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin conducted an advisory meeting via video conference to discuss ways to tackle heavy rains, instructing immediate action on public complaints and ensuring rice procurement operations are carried out without lapses.

Profits from halal-certified goods are utilized to finance “love jihad” and terrorism

Yogi Adityanath

● *Yogi Adityanath claimed that ₹25,000 crore are generated through halal certification, despite the government's lack of official recognition for the system.*

Lucknow, Oct 22: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has warned against buying ‘halal-certified’ products, claiming that the state has banned their sale and that profits from such sales are used to fund terrorism, forced conversion, and love jihad.

Adityanath warned that products like soaps, clothes, and matchsticks now fall under halal certification, and claimed that ₹25,000 crore are gener-

ated using this certification despite no official recognition to the system. He urged people to ensure they buy products without the halal certification tag. “All this money is misused into terrorism, love jihad and conversion in India,” Adityanath said. During the same event, Adityanath also highlighted how “political Islam” inflicted the greatest blow on the Sanatan Dharma, and yet there was little discussion on the subject.

Naming warriors like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Guru Gobind Singh, Maharana Pratap, and Maharana Sangha, Adityanath said: “Our ancestors waged major struggles against politi-

cal Islam, yet this aspect of history remains largely overlooked”. Adityanath said that while the nation often discusses resistance to colonial powers, it tends to overlook this ideological challenge. “Our ancestors fought not only against the British and the French but also against political Islam. Heroes like Veer Shivaji and Maharana Pratap stand testimony to this.

There is much talk of British and French colonialism, but rarely of political Islam, which undermined the faith,” he said. He also heaped praise on the RSS for its pivotal role in the construction of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, and lauded how the organ-

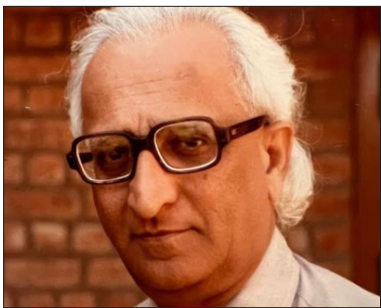


isation completed 100 years despite challenges. “While members of the Samajwadi Party, the Congress, and the INDIA bloc questioned the Ram Temple, RSS volunteers remained steadfast in their resolve that the temple would be built,” he said.

At the age of 100, renowned Indian space scientist Eknath Vasant Chitnis dies in Pune

Pune, Oct 22: Dr. Eknath Vasant Chitnis, a renowned Indian space scientist, passed away at the age of 100 following a heart attack. Born on July 25, 1925, Chitnis was among the first generation of Indian scientists who laid the foundation for India's early space programme. He worked closely with Vikram Sarabhai and played a crucial role in selecting the site for India's first rocket launch at Thumba in Kerala.

Dr. Chitnis was a key figure in the evolution of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (IN-COSPAR) into the present-day Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He was instrumental in launching the Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) programme and establishing re-



mote sensing applications and space-based communication projects that brought television and telecommunications to rural India. From 1981 to 1985, he served as the second director of ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad. In 1985, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour.

In 1962, Chitnis reviewed scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's résumé and recommended his inclusion in a NASA training program, which changed the course of India's aerospace journey. After retirement, Chitnis moved to Pune, where he continued to inspire students and academics by helping establish the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SSPU).

On his 100th birthday, the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune and the National Centre for Science Communicators (NCSC) Mumbai hosted the Professor E.V. Chitnis Centenary Conference on ‘Pioneering Space, Science, Policy & Innovation’.

Detained for wife murder in Tennessee

Chennai, Oct 22: A 30-year-old man, Silambarasan, has been arrested for allegedly murdering his wife, Priya, who was found stuffed in a drum and buried near a burial ground in Tiruvallur district.

Silambarasan confessed to strangling her to death on August 14 and disposing of her body about 3 km from their house. The couple used to fight often due to their numerous affairs. Priya's father, Srinivasan, filed a missing complaint with Arambakkam Police, suspecting something was amiss when he could not

get in touch with his daughter. Priya had gone to her parents' house in Pudupalayam near Arani and had told them she wanted to separate from her husband.

However, her family convinced her to return to her husband. When Priya's two sons reported missing her mother for nearly two months, Srinivasan went to the police. Silambarasan has been remanded for 15 days, and a murder case has been filed. The body has gone for a post-mortem, and the police are also looking at other possibilities.

Tejashwi pledges jobs for women



Patna, Oct 22: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has pledged permanent government jobs to community mobilisers under Bihar's Jeevika self-help groups and regularized services of over 150,000 contractual employees. Yadav called the pledge historic and accused the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of exploiting Jeevika Didis, rural women volunteers under the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (Jeevika), and contractual workers. He claimed that the NDA denied them dignity and stability despite their pivotal role in implementing village-level social welfare schemes.

Yadav promised Jeevika community mobilisers a monthly salary of ₹30,000, interest waivers on existing loans, two years of interest-free credit, an additional ₹2,000 monthly incentive for inter-departmental work, and ₹5 lakh life insurance coverage. He also promised financial aid of ₹1,000 monthly to school-going girls and pregnant/lactating mothers for gender empowerment in Bihar, where female workforce participation is around 20%.

Bihar deputy chief minister and BJP leader Samrat Chaudhary called Yadav's announcements “desperate electoral sops” designed to mask internal discord. Chaudhary said that the NDA had delivered concrete benefits to Jeevika Didis, including doubling their monthly honorarium and slashing bank loan interest rates by 3% for self-help groups this year.

Yadav did not respond to queries about friction within the RJD-led alliance, saying he would address the media on Thursday. Congress candidates are contesting against RJD and Left parties in nine constituencies.

Man suicides in Muzaffarnagar



Lucknow, Oct 22: A 30-year-old man, Arif, died by suicide in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar after being harassed by his wife and in-laws. Arif consumed poison and recorded a video claiming responsibility for his death. He was rushed to Muzaffarnagar Medical College where he was declared dead by doctors. The deceased's body has been sent for post-mortem examination and a further probe is underway.

On Monday, a 34-year-old man, Sagar, died by *Arif, who consumed poison, was promptly taken to Muzaffarnagar Medical College where doctors declared him dead.*

jumping from the third floor of GT Mall in Bengaluru. Sagar was an engineering dropout and was not married or employed. On October 18, a 45-year-old property dealer died by jumping from the 14th floor of a residential building in Faridabad's Sikri village. A note was recovered from the spot in which he accused his business partners of embezzling ₹8 crore. A complaint was received from his son, who said he tried to reach out to his father multiple times before he committed suicide.

Yamuna Bank permits Chhath Puja, and previous cases can be withdrawn

Delhi CM's big announcement

New Delhi, Oct 22: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday announced that her government will develop 17 model Chhath ghats along the Yamuna across Delhi and withdraw all cases registered against devotees for celebrating the festival on the banks of the river.

Addressing a press conference here, she said her government aims to ensure that Chhath Puja is celebrated in Delhi with the same grandeur as Diwali. Chhath Puja, a four-day festival dedicated to the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya, will be celebrated from October 25 to October 28 this year.

The festival holds special significance for the Purvanchali commu-



nity, which constitutes a large part of Delhi's population. “In the past, Chhath Puja was not allowed on the banks of the Yamuna but we have allowed it for the devotees this year. We will nullify all the complaints of the past years and

withdraw all such cases from our side,” Gupta said.

She said the government has received more than 1,000 applications from various puja samitis to organise the festival at various locations in the national capital.”

In every district, a model Chhath ghat will be made and cultural programmes in Maithili and Bhojpuri will be organised at each site,” she said. All necessary facilities such as clean drinking water, tea, lighting and washrooms will be provided at these ghats, she added.

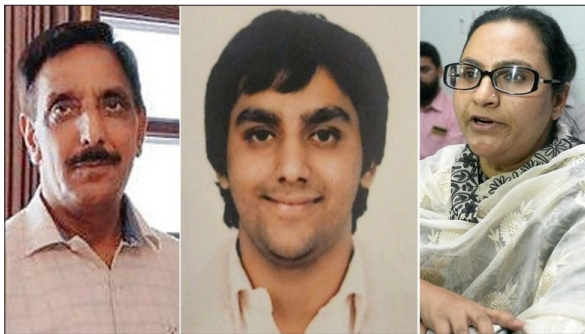
The Delhi government on Wednesday also launched a special cleanliness drive to prepare the sites ahead of the festival. “All our MPs, MLAs and councillors will participate in cleaning the ghats in their respective areas,” the chief minister said. “We will ensure every facility for our devotees so that Chhath Puja is celebrated the same way as Diwali,” Gupta said.

According to the SIT probe, the former Punjab DGP denies any involvement in his son's death

Saharanpur, Oct 22: Former Punjab Police chief Mohammad Mustafa has dismissed allegations against him and his family regarding the death of their son, Aqil Akhter. Mustafa and his wife, Razia Sultana, have been booked in connection with the death of their 35-year-old son on October 16.

The family initially claimed that he died due to drug overdose, but later buried his body in their ancestral village. Mustafa said his son was suffering from a psychotic disorder for nearly 18 years and struggled with substance abuse. He said his son often became violent due to his illness and that his family endured mental suffering for years.

Mustafa also claimed that his son's video was posted



on social media on August 27 and deleted two hours later, but some people downloaded it and are now “misusing it to malign the family.” He fully supported the formation of a special investigation team to investigate the case and would cooperate fully to bring the truth to light.

Mustafa also rejected the allegations leveled by Shamshuddin, a resident of Punjab's Malerkotla, on

whose complaint the FIR in the case has been registered. He alleged that certain individuals were trying to damage his political reputation. The former DGP said his son's post-mortem was conducted at his request, but the report has not yet been released. In the purported video, Akhter expressed stress and alleged that his family members often told him he was delusional and hallucinating.

After the US President reiterates Russian oil claims, Congress says, “Trump reveals what Modi conceals”

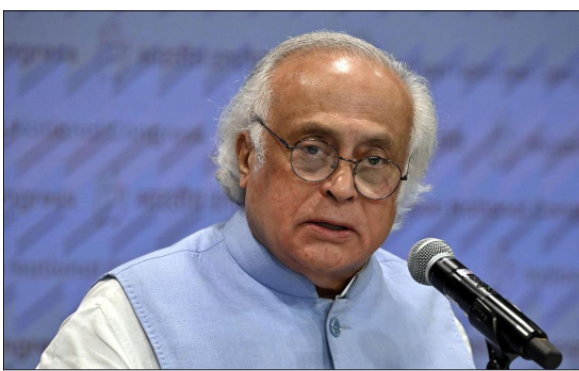
New Delhi, Oct 22: Congress criticized the Indian government after US President Donald Trump reiterated India's stance against Russia's oil purchases, marking the fourth time in six days that the American leader has announced India's policy. The opposition party also criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that Trump reveals what he conceals, following a meeting with Modi on Diwali.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, “The PM has finally acknowledged publicly that President Trump called him up and that the two spoke to each other. But all that the PM has said is that the US President extended Diwali greetings. But while Mr. Modi conceals, Mr. Trump reveals.”

“On his part, the US President has said that in addition to extending Diwali greetings, he spoke of India's oil imports from Russia and that he had been assured that these imports will be stopped. This is the 4th time in 6 days that the US President has announced India's policy,” Ramesh said on X. Earlier, President Trump had first announced the stoppage of Operation Sindoor on the evening of May 10 before Prime Minister Modi did, he said.

In a post on X on Wednesday morning, Modi said, “Thank you, President Trump, for your phone call and warm Diwali greetings.”

“On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all



its forms,” the prime minister said. The phone call between the two leaders comes at a time when the US-India relationship has hit a rough patch over trade tariffs and other issues.

Earlier, Trump in his remarks at the White House said, “I love the people of India. We're working on some great deals between our countries. I spoke to Prime

Minister Modi today and we just have a very good relationship.” He's not going to buy much oil from Russia. He wants to see that war end as much as I do. He wants to see the war between Russia and Ukraine to end.” They're not going to be buying too much oil. So they've cut it way back, and they're continuing to cut it way back,” Trump said.

India now ranks ninth in terms of forest area, up from tenth place

Agency: India's total forest area ranking has improved from 10th to ninth, while maintaining its third position worldwide in terms of annual forest gain, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025. Russia has the highest forest area globally, followed by Brazil, Canada, and the US. India defines forest area

as all land over one hectare with a tree canopy density of more than 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status.

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav praised India's commitment to sustainable forest management and ecological balance, highlighting the success of government policies and programs for forest protection, afforestation, and com-

munity-led environmental action under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He referred to the “Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam” campaign launched on World Environment Day last year to encourage people to plant trees as a mark of love, respect, and honor for their mothers. Yadav said Modi's emphasis on environmental consciousness inspired people across the nation to participate ac-

● *Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav emphasized India's commitment to sustainable forest management, citing the country's annual forest area gain as a positive indicator.*

tively in tree plantation and protection. The country's green cover has increased despite the degradation of large tracts of forests and an increase in plantations.

Prathiba M. Singh, a Delhi High Court judge, was named chair of the advisory board for WIPO

New Delhi, Oct 22: India has appointed Prathiba M. Singh as Chair of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Advisory Board of Judges for its 2025-27 term, marking a historic first for the country.

WIPO is a United Nations agency that works to protect intellectual property globally. The advisory board comprises judges from around the world with deep expertise in IP law and plays a crucial role in shaping WIPO's engagement with judiciaries globally.

The appointment has drawn wide appreciation from key Indian institutions and leaders, including Union Finance



Prathiba M. Singh

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Singh, a member of the Bar since 1991, has regularly appeared before the Supreme Court of India, Delhi High Court, the IP Appellate Board, and the

Indian Patent Office. Her advisory contributions include reforms to streamline the Copyright Office and patent examination processes, as well as assisting Parliamentary Committees on legislative amendments in the field of intellectual property.

Singh is also Co-Chair of the World Health Organisation's Working Group on Regulatory Considerations on AI in Health. She has worked on IP matters and authored a peer-reviewed two-volume book on Patent Law earlier. The appointment is seen as a moment of great pride for Bharat, reflecting the nation's growing global stature in the field of Intellectual Property.

Nagaland JCC protests ‘Backdoor’ IAS inductions

Kohima, Oct 22: The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), an umbrella body comprising major student and youth organisations including CANS-SEA, FONSESA, NSSA, NIDA, and NF&ASA, has voiced strong objections to the recent induction of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers under the Non-State Civil Service (Non-SCS) quota in Nagaland. In a detailed statement issued on Monday, the committee clarified that it does not oppose the induction of Non-SCS officers per se. However, it strongly objects to officers entering the IAS through irregular or “backdoor” appointments, bypassing open and competitive recruitment processes. The concern is specific to officers from other state services—outside the State Civil Services—being considered for IAS induction without proper selection procedures. “Inducting officers appointed through irregular means violates the principles of meritocracy and equality of opportunity, erodes public trust, and demoralises deserving officers,” the JCC said, urging the State Government to maintain transparency and fairness in administrative appointments. The committee cited the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) Office Memorandum No. 49014/7/2020-Estt. (C) dated October 7, 2020, which specifies that appointments made without open competitive selection are considered irregular and cannot be regularised for IAS induction. The JCC called upon citizens, student groups, intellectuals, and civil society organisations to defend meritocracy, justice, and the rule of law in public service recruitment and career progression. The statement comes amid rising concerns about the integrity of administrative appointments and the IAS induction process in Nagaland.



Encounter in Namsai: ULFA (I) Cadre Shot Dead

Namsai, Oct 22: A cadre of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) (ULFA-I) was killed in an armed confrontation with security forces in Arunachal Pradesh’s Namsai district on Monday night, officials confirmed. The gunfight erupted around 10 pm on October 21 near the 6 Mile area, prompting a swift response from Assam Rifles personnel deployed in the region. According to security sources, the militant group involved was believed to be connected to a recent assault on the Kakopathar Army camp in Assam. The deceased militant has been identified as Iwan Axom, also known by aliases Konti Axom and Abhikeshwar Moran. During the encounter, troops recovered an HK rifle, a hand grenade, and a bag from the deceased militant. Authorities said these items would be examined for further intelligence on ULFA (I) operations in the region.

Aizawl, Oct 22: Mizoram Police, in coordination with the Excise and Narcotics Department and the Young Mizo Association (VMA), have arrested at least 71 individuals, including 15 foreigners, in connection with alleged drug smuggling since September 1, officials confirmed on Tuesday. The crackdown is part of an ongoing anti-drug smuggling operation aimed at dismantling narcotics networks across the state. Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) H. Ramthiengliana said the drive, which began in early September, is scheduled to continue until December, with authorities maintaining intensive monitoring of suspicious activities. During the operation, police seized drugs and narcotics worth approximately Rs 16.10 crore. Ramthiengliana highlighted the operation’s im-

Assam Opposition Slams CM Over Zubeen Probe

Guwahati, Oct 22: Assam’s Congress Legislature Party leader and Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Debabrata Saikia, has raised serious concerns over the investigation into the death of popular singer Zubeen Garg, accusing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of controlling and influencing the probe. Saikia has demanded a fully independent and transparent investigation to ensure justice is delivered. Addressing the media, Saikia claimed that the Chief Minister’s remarks on the case have “created confusion” among the public and cast doubt on the authenticity of the ongoing investigation. “From his statements, it appears the investigation may not be entirely transparent,” he said, suggesting that Sarma is receiving “inside information” from the Special Investigation Team (SIT). Saikia pointed out that Sarma initially described the incident as a “murder,” but later hinted that the facts, once revealed, would be “hard for the people of Assam to digest.” The LoP questioned the rationale behind the Chief Minister’s public disclosures, asking, “What exactly has the Chief Minister learnt from the SIT that he is revealing through the media?” The opposition leader also criticized the government for failing to ensure proper security for Garg



during his Singapore trip, despite prior concerns raised about the singer’s safety. “If he already knew about the risks, why were adequate safety measures not taken before the artist travelled?” Saikia asked. Highlighting administrative lapses, Saikia questioned the involvement of the Chief Minister’s direct officers in the investigation. “The Assam CID has capable officers. Why was the Superintendent of CM Vigilance—under the Chief Minister—assigned to the CID?” he asked. He further demanded accountability from Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and expressed disappointment that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had not contacted Garg’s family.

■ *Debabrata Saikia, leader of the Opposition in Assam, has raised concerns over the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg, accusing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of controlling and influencing the process.*

Saikia also raised doubts about the search operation at event organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta’s residence, questioning whether any magistrate or official witness was present, and how Mahanta’s family re-entered the sealed property. He noted that the Chief Minister had promised shocking revelations on September 10, inviting journalists from Delhi, but the information has not yet been made public.

Fires Destroy 9 Shops, 2 Houses in Arunachal



Itanagar, Oct 22: According to officials, two separate fire events that occurred in the districts of Tirap and Siang in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday reduced at least nine shops and two houses to ashes. At least nine stores were totally destroyed when a huge fire broke out at Khonsa market in the Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh, according to a district official. Emily Tingkhatra, the Tirap District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO), stated that firecrackers used during Monday night’s Diwali festivities were probably the origin of the fire. According to her, the fire started at approximately 11.30 p.m. and destroyed nine stores entirely while partially damaging twelve others. But according to the authority, no casualties have been reported. Khonsa Fire Station firefighters put out the fire before it could spread. According to the official, the firefighters received assistance from members of the Central Reserve Police Force, State Disaster Response Force, Assam Rifles, and local volunteers. To evaluate the damage, Tirap Deputy Commissioner Techu Aran and other officials went to the Khonsa Bazaar on Tuesday.

The DC expressed worry that the majority of shopkeepers have not complied with the district administration’s repeated directives requiring all shops to maintain fire extinguishers. He gave the district disaster management authority instructions to carry out an accurate assessment and provide the impacted store owners with the assistance they require. Wanglam Sawin, the Khonsa West MLA, apologized for the event and instructed the district administration to accurately determine the damages.

Around 10:30 am on Tuesday, a fire broke out in Koreng village, which is in the state’s Siang district, completely destroying two kutchha dwellings.

Drug smuggling cases Mizoram Police arrest 71 in drug smuggling cases, 15 foreign nationals among them



pact on the local drug trade, noting a significant reduction in supply. “The

market price of 13-14 grams of heroin has risen from Rs 25,000 to Rs 40,000 due to reduced availability,” he said, indicating that enforcement measures are successfully curbing the circulation of narcotics in the state. The arrests include both local and foreign nationals, pointing to cross-border involvement in Mizoram’s drug trade. Authorities are investigating the networks behind these smuggling operations to ensure all individuals involved face strict legal action. Police officials emphasized that the operation demonstrates a strong commitment to safeguarding public health and security in Mizoram. “We will continue to implement coordinated and intensive measures to dismantle drug trafficking networks and prevent narcotics from entering communities,” said Ramthiengliana.

Tripura’s Bishalgarh sub-divisional hospital achieves prestigious national quality certification

■ *Bishalgarh Sub-Divisional Hospital in Tripura has been awarded the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification by the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recognizing its commitment to providing safe, efficient, and patient-centric healthcare services.*



hospital earned the distinction after a comprehensive evaluation by State and National assessment teams, which assessed compliance with rigorous benchmarks in healthcare delivery, quality management, and patient safety. Sepahijala District Magistrate Siddharth Shiv Jaiswal lauded the achievement, stating, “A major Sub-Divisional Hospital – Bishalgarh – has been NQAS-certified after rigorous scrutiny by Central and State teams. This is a big boost to quality

health service delivery in the Bishalgarh Subdivision.

A proud moment for all.” Hospital management expressed gratitude to doctors, nurses, health workers, and support staff for their dedication and commitment to high standards of care. Officials emphasized that the certification reflects the collective vision of enhancing healthcare infrastructure and ensuring accessible, high-quality medical services for residents of Bishalgarh and surrounding areas.

ASSEB releases 2026 HS Final Exam schedule; online form fill-up starts October 22

Agency: The Higher Secondary (HS) Final Examination 2026 will take place in February or March of 2026, according to an official announcement made by the Assam State School Education Board (ASSEB), formerly known as AHSEC. The Board announced that the online application procedure for qualified applicants would open on October 22 and run through November 25, 2025. All junior colleges and higher secondary schools under Division-II of the Board have been instructed to make sure that no eligible student is left out of the online application process, per an official announcement released on October 13. The Board made it clear that no offline submissions will ever be permitted; only applications submitted via the official web portal will be considered. Additionally, according to the Board, a student’s registration number is good for five years after the year of registration. Students will not be allowed to take the HS Final Examination in 2026, though, if they do not finish the online form by the deadline. Furthermore, only



students from accredited schools will be considered as regular applicants. ASSEB has announced that students studying in non-recognized institutions will be classified as Institutional Private (IP) candidates, requiring additional fees. Students from government, provincialized, and recognized venture institutions with parents’ annual income below ₹2 lakh will be exempt from examination fees. Students can apply for improvement examinations, with a maximum of four subjects and no subject or scheme changes allowed. ASSEB has directed schools to supervise the online application process and held principals accountable for inadvertently leaving eligible students out.

Four criminals arrested in Nagaon



Nagaon, Oct 22: Four infamous offenders from the Kachua area have been apprehended by the Nagaon Police, marking a major breakthrough. After a comprehensive investigation and operation by a team of Nagaon Police near the Borghat bypass, the arrests were made on the evening of October 18. Amir Uddin, Merajul Islam, Kuddus Ali, and Sarif Uddin—all Kachua residents—have been identified as the criminals that were detained. The police confiscated a significant quantity of cash and multiple ATM cards from the suspects during the operation. According to reports, the quartet was involved in a number of illegal actions in the Kachua area, including as the robbery of Mobarak Husian, an e-rickshaw driver, and an alleged attempt to kidnap a student named Adil Parvez. In addition, they were charged with attacking a Kachua journalist bodily. Many members of the local community have expressed gratitude to the Nagaon police for their efforts in apprehending these criminals, and the arrests have been warmly received. For their misdeeds, the public has called for the accused to receive exemplary punishment. The Nagaon Police’s dedication to upholding peace and order in the area is demonstrated by the success of their operation. According to sources, more research is being done to find any possible connections between the accused and other illegal activity in the region.

Assam Rifles Nab Two Militants in Manipur

Imphal, Oct 22: Assam Rifles personnel have detained two members of an armed group operating from Myanmar whilst they attempted to cross into India through Manipur’s Chandel district, the paramilitary force announced on October 22. The operation, conducted on October 18 near Sajik Tampak in the border district, prevented what authorities describe as an organised militant infiltration across the India-Myanmar frontier. Both individuals have been identified as cadres of the United Tribal Volunteers Group. Indian security forces intercepted suspects in Chandel district, near Myanmar border, preventing entry into Indian territory. Detained men are now in Chakpikarong Police Station for questioning and legal proceedings.



Harvest resumes in Lapangap amid Assam-Meghalaya border tensions

Shillong, Oct 22: The stand-off over paddy harvesting at Lapangap village along the Assam-Meghalaya border in West Jaintia Hills district has been resolved, with farmers resuming work on Tuesday under tight security, officials said. The breakthrough was achieved under the joint initiative of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), and traditional leaders, who intervened to defuse tensions between the two communities, they said. In a display of solidarity, villagers from Lakaroi, predominantly Karbis, came forward on Tuesday to assist the Pnar villagers of Lapangap in harvesting paddy, which had been stalled since violence erupted on October 9. Tensions had escalated on October 9 when residents of Tapat in Assam’s Karbi Anglong district allegedly prevented Lapangap farmers from harvesting in a contested field. The unrest had led to the death of one person from Tapat, and a night curfew from 6 pm to 10 am remains in force in Lapangap. Authorities said the temporary halt in harvesting had adversely affected farmers’ livelihoods and appreciated the cooperation shown by both communities in resolving the conflict. Security personnel remain deployed in and around the agricultural fields to prevent any untoward incidents as major harvesting resumes under careful supervision.

Shillong records cleanest air in India post-Diwali with AQI of 17

Shillong, Oct 22: Shillong has once again distinguished itself as India’s cleanest air city, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of just 17 after Diwali a level categorised as “good” and posing almost no health risk. National data placed the Meghalaya capital at the top of the list of cities with the lowest pollution levels, followed by Yadgir in Karnataka (24), Tirumala and Madikeri (25 each), Davanagere (29), Karwar (30), Gangtok (34), and Raipur (40). In stark contrast, India’s major metros continued to choke under thick post-Diwali smog. Delhi’s average AQI soared to 346, falling under the “very poor” category, with some areas like Bawana and Wazirpur exceeding 400.

Despite the Supreme Court permitting only green firecrackers, the national capital region remained engulfed in haze and poor visibility. Mumbai also faced its worst air quality since the retreat of the monsoon, registering an AQI of 214 (‘‘atcepoor’’) as visuals of the city showed grey skies and smog-covered skylines. Other urban centres across northern and western India reported similar deteriorations, with particulate levels far above safe limits. Against this backdrop, Shillong’s pristine air stands out as a rare exception. Experts attribute the city’s clean environment to its dense forest cover, high altitude, limited industrial activity, and relatively low population density factors that continue to shield it from the pollution crisis gripping much of urban India.

BUSINESS

Cochin Shipyard launches three advanced vessels, boost India’s maritime prowess

Guwahati: Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) marked a landmark achievement in Indian shipbuilding with the simultaneous launch of three state-of-the-art vessels – the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), the Hybrid Electric Methanol-Ready Commissioning Service Operation Vessel (CSOV), and India’s largest Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger, DCI Dredge Godavari. The launches underscore India’s growing self-reliance in maritime technology under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Maritime India Vision 2030 initiatives.

The ASW SWC, the sixth in a series of eight for the Indian Navy, will be commissioned as INS Magdala. Measuring 78 meters and weighing 896 tonnes, it features advanced sensors, torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mine-laying capability. The



CSOV, a 93-meter hybrid-electric vessel, will support offshore wind farm operations with cutting-edge propulsion and accommodation for technicians. The DCI Dredge Godavari, India’s largest dredger, boasts a 12,000-cubic-meter hopper, 127-meter length, and a 36-meter dredging depth, enhancing port shaping and waterway management. In Guwahati, these launches are expected to strengthen regional maritime and logistics sectors, with potential ripple effects in trade, port operations, and related industrial services. Local suppliers and ancillary businesses may benefit from increased demand for marine engineering, equipment, and technology solutions, supporting economic growth in northeastern India. With these milestones, CSL reinforces India’s position as a global hub for advanced and sustainable shipbuilding.

Airbus opens second A320neo assembly line

Mumbai: Airbus said on Wednesday it had opened a second assembly line in China, increasing manufacturing capacity for its best-selling A320neo family of single-aisle jets. The new line completes a jigsaw of 10 global final assembly lines that Airbus says will be involved in a production drive, including two each in the U.S. and China. The second Chinese line in the port city of Tianjin near Beijing is set to be fully operational in early 2026, the European planemaker said in a statement. Its inauguration comes just over a week after Airbus opened a second final assembly line in Mobile, Alabama. Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury said the second Tianjin production line would give the plane-maker the “flexibility and capacity we need to reach our target of 75 A320-family aircraft per month by 2027,” as he reiterated a global production goal. Analysts estimate Airbus is currently producing about 60 of the single-aisle planes per month. The A320neo family competes against Boeing’s 737 MAX and Chinese planemaker COMAC’s C919 models, which have lower production rates. Faury attended an opening ceremony at the Tianjin factory that featured giant European Union and Chinese flags behind the speakers. A day earlier, Faury met with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, the ministry said in a statement. During the meeting, Wang stressed that rising economic fragmentation and unilateral, protectionist moves were unsettling global trade and adding instability and uncertainty, the ministry said on Wednesday. Airbus committed to expanding its presence in China and contributing to China-France and China-Europe trade ties, the ministry added. Airbus declined to comment on details of the meeting.

India hosts CCSCH8, sets global standards for vanilla, coriander and large cardamom

Guwahati: India successfully hosted the 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) in Guwahati, finalizing global standards for large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander. The recommendations are now set for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, strengthening India’s role in shaping international spice quality benchmarks.

Established in 2013, the CCSCH operates under the joint auspices of the FAO and WHO, with India’s Spices Board acting as the Secretariat. Over 30 countries and observers participated in the session, underscoring growing global emphasis on quality, safety, and traceability in spice trade. The vanilla standard, which required extensive discussion due to its complex flavor profile, was successfully finalized, reflecting collaborative scientific and regulatory efforts.

Smt. P. Hemalatha, Secretary of the Spices Board, noted that these standards provide farmers, processors, and exporters with globally recognized reference points, enabling



smoother trade and enhancing consumer confidence. India, a leading exporter of large cardamom and coriander, is expected to benefit from improved market access and competitiveness. On the local front, Guwahati is poised to benefit from these developments. Traders and processors in the region anticipate more transpar-

ent pricing and increased demand for high-quality, Codex-compliant spices, strengthening the city’s position as a hub for both domestic and international spice trade.

By hosting CCSCH8, India has reinforced its leadership in global spice standards, promoting safe, fair, and high-quality trade worldwide.

Sensex, Nifty begin Samvat 2082 on firm

New Delhi: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rose in the opening session of special Muhurat trading on Tuesday, driven by buying in bank and IT shares amid a positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 186.07 or 0.22 per cent to 84,549.44 points, marking a firm start of the new Samvat Year 2082. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange advanced 53.40 points or 0.21 per cent to 25,896.55. Among the Sensex shares, Infosys, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, BEL and Power Grid were the lead gainers. Kotak Mahindra Bank,



ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, and Titan were the among the laggards. Broader markets also advanced with the BSE MidCap gaining 162.73 points or 0.35 per cent and BSE SmallCap by 511.25 points or 0.96 per cent. All the sectoral indices were trading in positive territory led by Industrials, Information Technology, and Services indices. Muhurat trading is a one-hour, symbolic trading session conducted by Indian stock exchanges on Diwali, a Hindu festival considered auspicious for new beginnings, including investments. Asian markets closed higher. Shanghai’s Composite benchmark increased by 1.36 per cent, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index climbed 0.77 per cent, South Korea’s Kospi went up 0.24 per cent, and Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.15 per cent. The US markets ended on a strong note in overnight deals on Monday.

Mumbai to become leading global urban economy

New Delhi: The Mumbai metropolitan region is poised to emerge as one of the world’s leading urban economies by 2047, with its gross domestic product (GDP) projected at USD 1.2–1.5 trillion and population expected to reach 3.6 to 3.8 crore, officials of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) said.

The MMR, comprising

Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad districts, spans 6,328 square kilometres and is set for major economic and infrastructural transformation through a long-term plan focusing on sustainable and inclusive urban growth, they said. Chief Town and Country Planning Officer, Rs 33 lakh annually — equivalent to current levels in Japan and Italy.

Airbus opens second A320neo assembly line in China global production ramps up

New Delhi: Airbus said on Wednesday it had opened a second assembly line in China, increasing manufacturing capacity for its best-selling A320neo family of single-aisle jets. The new line completes a jigsaw of 10 global final assembly lines that Airbus says will be involved in a production drive, including two each in the U.S. and China. The second Chinese line in the port city of Tianjin near Beijing is set to be fully operational in early 2026, the European planemaker said in a statement. Its inauguration comes just over a week after Airbus opened a second final assembly line in Mobile, Alabama. Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury said the second Tianjin production line would give the plane-maker the “flexibility and capacity we need to reach our target of 75 A320-family aircraft per month by 2027,” as he reiterated a global production goal. Analysts estimate Airbus is currently producing about 60 of the single-aisle planes per month. The A320neo family competes against Boeing’s 737 MAX and Chi-

nese planemaker COMAC’s C919 models, which have lower production rates. Faury attended an opening ceremony at the Tianjin factory that featured giant European Union and Chinese flags behind the speakers. During the meeting, Wang stressed that rising economic fragmentation and unilateral, protectionist moves were unsettling global trade and adding instability and uncertainty, the ministry said on Wednesday. Airbus committed to expanding its presence in China and contributing to China-France and China-Europe trade ties, the ministry added. Airbus declined to comment on details of the meeting. Industry sources said this month that the back-to-back line-opening ceremonies in Mobile and Tianjin were being designed to avoid falling foul of a tricky trade climate between China and the United States. Since Airbus first announced the overseas expansion plans in 2022 and 2023, Washington and Beijing have plunged into a months-long trade war.

Ola Electric shares fall 3% after company clarifies on FIR involving executives

Mumbai: After Ola Electric Mobility Ltd. clarified media allegations about a formal complaint against some of its executives, including founder Bhavish Aggarwal, in relation to an employee’s death, the company’s shares dropped by almost 3% on Tuesday. “We are deeply saddened by the unfortunate demise of our colleague, Mr. Aravind, and our thoughts remain with his family during this difficult time,” the business stated in its statement.

Mr. Aravind never complained or voiced any grievances about his job during his time there. Additionally, he had no direct contact with the promoter or other members of the company’s upper management. Ola Electric added that an FIR was recently registered in the matter but clarified that the company has challenged it before the Karnataka High Court, which has passed protective orders in favour of Ola Electric and its officials. “It is clarified that no chargesheet has been filed against the Company or its officials,” the statement said. The company further noted that it had facilitated the full and final settlement of dues to the employee’s family and was cooperating with authorities in the ongoing investigation.

Ola Electric reiterated its commitment to maintaining “a safe, respectful and supportive workplace for all



employees.” Addressing investor concerns, the company said that since no chargesheet has been filed, there is no legal proceeding requiring disclosure, and therefore, the matter does not constitute a material event under Regulation 30 of Sebi’s Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulations, 2015. Ola Electric also stated that it is not aware of

any undisclosed information that could have influenced trading activity in its shares.

It reaffirmed that all material disclosures mandated by SEBI have been made to the exchanges. On Tuesday, shares of Ola Electric closed 2.57 per cent lower at Rs 53.39. The stock market remained shut on Wednesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

Meta expands safety tools to safeguard adults online scam

Mumbai: Meta has announced new anti-scam features and awareness initiatives, including safety tools and tips to protect users, particularly senior citizens, from cyber fraud and online scams. Meta said on WhatsApp, it is launching warnings when users attempt to share their screens with an unknown contact during a video call. Meta cautioned that scammers may pressure their targets to share their screen to trick people into giving away sensitive information, including bank details or verification codes, and added, “With this new tool we’re giving users more context to spot and avoid scams.” On Messenger, Meta said it is testing more



advanced scam detection in chats, that will warn users on receipt of a “potentially scammy message”. “When this is enabled and a new contact sends a potentially scammy message, users will be warned and given an option to send

recent chat messages for AI scam review,” it said. If a potential scam is detected, users will get more information on common scams, and actions will be suggested, including blocking or reporting the suspicious account. On Facebook,

GST exemption on uncoated paper raises fears of rising

New Delhi: Domestic paper manufacturers have expressed concern over a potential surge in imports following the exemption of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on uncoated paper used for exercise books and notebooks, stating that the move could severely undermine domestic competitiveness and increase production costs. Under the revised GST structure, uncoated paper used for exercise books and notebooks has been exempted from GST, and the Integrated pay IGST, while Indian manufacturers will be ineligible for input tax credit due to the exemption. This, it said, creates a sharp price differential that will make imported paper substantially cheaper than domestic production.

Nuvama lowers the target price while keeping the “Buy” call Shares of Sunteck Realty

New Delhi: Shares of Sunteck Realty Ltd (SRL) closed 0.97 per cent higher at Rs 436.20 on Tuesday, implying a potential upside as per Nuvama Institutional Equities’ outlook. According to the domestic brokerage, Sunteck Realty reported Q2 FY26 pre-sales of Rs 700 crore, up 34 per cent YoY (year-on-year) and 7 per cent QoQ (quarter-on-quarter). Collections for the quarter were Rs 330 crore, up 24 per cent YoY but down 6 per cent QoQ. For H1 FY26, sales and collections stood at approximately Rs 1,360 crore and 610 crore, up 32 per cent and 12 per cent YoY, respectively. The company maintained its guidance of 30–35 per cent YoY pre-sales growth in FY26E, supported by a healthy launch pipeline including the Nepean Sea Road project, ODC, Vasai and Naigaon. Nuvama highlighted Sunteck Realty’s strong balance sheet with a net debt-to-equity of 0.05x as a key positive.

The brokerage, however, noted moderation in the MMR market, raising concerns



about future sales growth. Despite this, the overall outlook remains positive due to ongoing projects and solid financials. Based on these factors, Nuvama has retained its ‘BUY’ recommendation, trimming the target price to Rs 531 from the earlier Rs 560, factoring in a rollover to Q2 FY28E estimates. Meanwhile, the stock market remained closed on Wednesday for Diwali Balipratipada. According to the domestic brokerage, Sunteck Realty reported Q2 FY26 pre-sales of Rs 700 crore, up 34 per cent YoY (year-on-year) and 7 per cent QoQ (quarter-on-quarter).

Thamma Box Office Shock: \$25 Cr Opening Beats Bhediya, Sets New Ayushmann Record

Mumbai: Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's latest film Thamma has brought the festive spark back to the box office. The horror-comedy, which hit theatres on October 21, opened to an impressive start across India, marking one of the strongest day-one performances in the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe.

According to early estimates by industry tracker Sacnilk (as of 9 p.m.), Thamma earned Rs 24.87 crore on its opening day. The Aditya Sarpotdar directorial saw a steady rise in collections through the day, fuelled by strong word of mouth and solid footfall during the evening shows. The film recorded an overall theatre occupancy of 32.83% across India, with morning shows at 15.76%, afternoon shows at 39.81%, and evening shows peaking at 42.91%. Chennai led with the highest occupancy at 53%, while the Telugu version clocked 18.37%. Despite a relatively slow start in the morning, Thamma picked up speed rapidly as positive reactions began circulating online. The mix of horror, comedy, and nostalgia — combined with Ayushmann Khurrana's comeback to theatres after over two years — seems to have drawn large crowds, especially in urban centres. With Rs 24.87 crore, Thamma has outperformed the opening-day numbers of previous MHCU films — Bhediya (Rs 7.48 crore), Stree (Rs 6.82 crore), and Munjya (Rs 4 crore).

The film's strong debut suggests that audiences continue to show up for Maddock's unique horror-comedy blend. The only competition Thamma faced on its release day was from Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, which managed Rs 2.85 crore — nowhere close



to the Ayushmann-Rashmika starrer. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, Thamma also stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Paresh Rawal in pivotal roles. The strong opening signals renewed interest in Hindi horror-comedies, a genre that Maddock continues to expand and refine.

Tanya Mittal requests ex-boyfriend entry in BB

Mumbai: Bigg Boss 19 contestant and spiritual influencer, Tanya Mittal, has been grabbing headlines ever since she entered the 19th season of the reality TV show. Known for her "lavish" lifestyle and outspoken nature, Mittal recently made a rather unusual request to Bigg Boss when she saw co-contestant, Nehal Chudasm, resting on Baseer Ali's lap. Her unexpected comment left the duo surprised and bemused. Recent episodes have highlighted the growing closeness between the current captain of the Bigg Boss 19 house, Nehal Chudasama and Baseer Ali.

'Raat Bhar': First Romantic Song from De De Pyaar De 2 is Out

Mumbai: From Ajay Devgn and R. Madhavan's ultimate son-in-law vs father face-off to Meezaan Jafri's grand entry and meta reference that adds a new spin on Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh's age-gap romance – De De Pyaar De 2 promises to be an ultimate family entertainer, packed with laughter, romance and drama. While fans are eagerly waiting for this romantic comedy, the makers have now unveiled the film's first song, 'Raat Bhar', a breezy, feel-good track that captures the charm of young romance. Sung by Aditya Rikhari and Payal Dev, with soulful music by Payal Dev and Aditya Dev, and heartfelt lyrics penned by Kumaar, the song strikes a perfect balance between romance and lighthearted fun. The video brings Meezaan and Rakul's chemistry to life, taking audiences on a sweet and spirited romantic ride. Talking about the song, director Anshul Sharma shared, "We wanted to keep the fun element alive while also showcasing a fresh and innocent bond forming between Meezaan Jafri and Rakul Preet Singh. Payal and Aditya Dev instantly got the vibe and delivered the



perfect tune for Raat Bhar. Kumaar's lyrics added just the right touch of emotion, while Aditya Rikhari and Payal Dev brought it to life with their soulful voices." Singer and composer Payal Dev also expressed, "Raat Bhar is a song that instantly makes your heart smile. We wanted to keep it light, romantic, and playful, something that stays with you long after you've heard it. We just hope listeners smile, groove, and fall a little in love with the song." De De Pyaar De 2 is directed by Anshul Sharma, produced by T-Series' Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, and Luv Films' Luv Ranjan & Ankur Garg. The film is set to release in cinemas on November 14, 2025.

Sheer gowns make Dakota feel beautiful

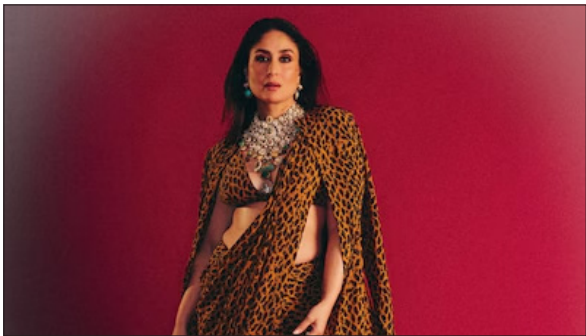
Agency: Hollywood actress Dakota Johnson has talked about her daring choice of wearing see-through dresses and said that she feels beautiful in them, hence she wears them. The actress opened up to Vogue Germany about her daring style choices and why she plans to continue rocking designs similar to her buzzy looks.

Asked by the outlet if she ever worries "about whether a naked dress might be 'too sexy,'" "the actress said, "I really don't care"."I've been able to wear some of the most beautiful dresses, and I feel beautiful in them, so I wear them," she added, reports people.com. The "50 Shades of Grey" actress agrees sometimes those dresses look good on her. But there are also some she's tried on that didn't look good at all. "It depends on the shape, the finish, the color, and everything else. So if I find a beautiful dress that I feel comfortable in, of course I want to wear it! And it's fun to wear a sexy dress," Johnson, who is the daughter of actress Melanie Griffith and Miami Vice star Don Johnson, said she has her mother to thank for her confidence. "My mom was just very open about the topic of bodies," the star said.

Chameli Director on Kareena Kapoor's Salary: 'Should've Been Paid More'

Mumbai: When Chameli was released in 2004, it marked a turning point not only in Kareena Kapoor Khan's career but also in the way Bollywood approached storytelling. Over two decades later, the film remains one of her most critically acclaimed performances, remembered for its raw realism and emotional depth. Director Sudhir Mishra believes that Kareena was "just outstanding" in the film.

Sudhir Mishra recently appeared on Cyrus Broacha's podcast and recalled how Kareena Kapoor aced her character. He recalled, "She'd come from popular cinema. So, she hadn't worked with a script before. And there was some genetic playing in her mind, with Raj Kapoor (late legendary filmmaker-actor, her grandfather), her father (actor Randhir Kapoor), and Babita (Kapoor, mother and actor). So, her instinct was amazing." "One day, when I was shooting for her, she was so great I forgot to say cut. And she didn't stop. Then



she did something that I never told her. So, I realised her professionalism as an actor, as Raj Kapoor's granddaughter, doesn't allow her to stop till the director says cut. So then, she stays on. She improvised. So, I changed the whole way

of doing the film. I kind of followed her. It's just centred around this one person. And it worked," the filmmaker revealed. Sudhir Mishra also mentioned that Kareena Kapoor "must have been paid more than" her male co-star, Rahul Bose, in Chameli. "That was up to Prithish . I wasn't involved. Rangita Nandy is the person that question should be asked to. But of course, she should've been paid more. That was her part," the filmmaker concluded. Chameli tells the story of a chance encounter between a wealthy investment banker (played by Rahul Bose) and a street-smart sex worker named Chameli (played by Kapoor) on a rainy night in Mumbai. The narrative unfolds over the course of one night, exploring class divides, trauma, and unexpected human connection. What made Chameli truly stand out was Kareena Kapoor's fearless portrayal of a character that was far removed from the glamorous roles she had been associated with.

Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat Box Office: Rane-Bajwa Film Collects ₹8 Cr. on Opening Day

Mumbai: Milap Zaveri's Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat opened in theatres with a bang. Despite competing directly with Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's highly anticipated Thamma, the film drew a crowd and had a successful debut at the box office.

According to Sacnilk, Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, featuring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, grossed Rs 8.50 crore on its release day, Tuesday. This is a good number for the film, which does not feature any famous celebrities and had to compete with Thamma for national release. Thamma, starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna is giving a tough competition to Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat. The horror-comedy, which debuted in Indian theatres



on October 21, had a solid day-one performance and earned Rs 24 crore. It is now ranking among the best in the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe. Thamma, directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, features significant parts for Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Paresh Rawal. The excellent start rekindles interest in Hindi horror-comedies, a genre Maddock continues to develop and refine. The

plot revolves around Vikramaditya, a passionate artist who falls profoundly in love with Adaa, a free-spirited woman who views love as liberation rather than possession. Their relationship begins as a passionate affair, but Vikramaditya's adoration quickly becomes obsessive, and his insecurities take over. Tragedy and treachery ensue, transforming their love story into a poignant examination of desire, ego, and the thin

line between loyalty and lunacy. Set against a backdrop of music, memories, and heartache, the film explores how love's passion can both create and destroy.

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Kratika Sengar's emotional tribute honours late father-in-law Pankaj Dheer

Mumbai: Bollywood veteran star Pankaj Dheer passed away on the 15th of October, leaving the nation in a state of shock. The Dheer family, who have been missing the actor on the occasion of Diwali, took to social media in expressing their grief. Pankaj Dheer's daughter-in-law and actress Kratika Sengar recently shared a story on social media where she expressed how difficult it was to get through the festival without her father-in-law. Sharing a picture of a diya lit on Diwali, Kratika wrote, "Only when you lose someone you love, you realise how heavy the festivals can feel," along with the heartbroken emoji.

Pankaj Dheer passed away following a battle with cancer, as per reports. The actor had reportedly undergone a surgery as a part of the treatment recently. The Indian Film and Television Fraternity gathered in Mumbai on the 17th of October to pay their last respects to the veteran actor. A prayer meet was organised by the Dheer family and was attended by several industry colleagues and friends, who came together to honour his memory and contributions to Hindi cinema. Among those present at the meet were filmmaker Rohit Shetty; actors Sharad Saxena, Suresh Oberoi, Isha Deol, Zayed Khan, Tanvi Azmi, Mohit Raina, Aditya Pancholi, Mukesh Rishi, Puneet Issar, Ashok Pandit, and Mukesh Khanna, among others. For the uninitiated, Pankaj Dheer was best known for his portrayal as Karna in B. R. Chopra's iconic television series Mahabharat. The actor passed away on the 15th of October at the age of 68.



Despite his illness, Dheer remained active at work. His career spanned over four decades, where Dheer worked extensively across film and television. Apart from the television show Mahabharat, he was also known for his roles in popular television series like Chandrakanta, Bado Bahu, Sasural Simar Ka and others.

In Bollywood, he delivered memorable performances in movies like Baadshah, Soldier, Zameen and others. The actor is survived by his wife, Anita Dheer; son, Niketan Dheer; and daughter-in-law, Kratika Sengar. Niketan Dheer is also an actor just like his father and is popularly known for his role of Thangabali in the movie Chennai Express. Kratika Sengar is an actress in the television industry. Pankaj Dheer also has a three-year-old granddaughter, Devika.

Bipasha Basu's 'Best Kind of Party': Diwali with Karan and Devi

Mumbai: Bollywood is still buzzing with the Diwali celebrations. Celebrities have marked the festival in their own unique ways, some with grand parties, while others celebrated at home with loved ones, performing puja and traditional rituals. Among them is Bipasha Basu, who never misses a chance to enjoy the little joys of life, especially festivals, with her husband Karan Singh Grover and their little sunshine, Devi.

Bipasha, who often treats fans to sneak peeks of the trio, shared special glimpses from their Diwali celebration. Bipasha shared a heartwarming reel on Instagram capturing some of the most special and adorable moments of the couple with their daughter. In the video, they are seen performing puja rituals together, doing aarti, and offering flowers to Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh. It also shows the trio dancing with full spirit. Seeing their little daughter enjoy the festival to the fullest, the couple



couldn't be happier. While Devi stole the spotlight, Bipasha and Karan are also seen sharing romantic moments, with Karan planting a kiss on her cheek. Bipasha is also seen lighting diyas in the flower rangolis. To match the festive spirit, the trio went all traditional. While Bipasha and her daughter twinned in stunning pink ethnic outfits, Karan complemented them in a green kurta. In the caption, she wrote, "Best kind of Diwali party. Thank you, God. Sending love and light to all."

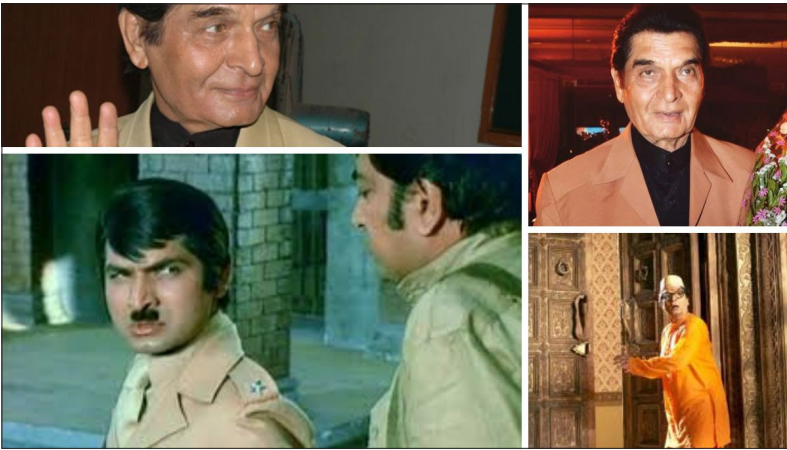
As soon as she shared the post, fans flooded the comment section with love and admiration, especially for

little Devi. One fan wrote, "Devi is so adorable just like her mumma... pretty girls in pink." while another wrote, "That kiss in the end." The third fan commented, "Devi & Mamma twinning in pink... looking absolutely beautiful & pretty. God bless your beautiful family." The fourth fan added, "Awww... soooo beautiful video. Three cuties in one frame. Happy Diwali to all of you. Love you all. Keep shining." Bipasha Basu tied the knot with actor Karan Singh Grover on April 30, 2016, in a traditional Bengali wedding ceremony. The couple welcomed their daughter, Devi, in November 2022.

Akshay Kumar and Film Fraternity Mourn the Demise of Veteran Star Asrani

Mumbai: Veteran actor Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani, passed away in Mumbai on Monday, aged 84. The actor, who was known for his contributions in over 300 films, reportedly passed away at Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital in Juhu, where he had been receiving care for breathing difficulties for the past four days.

According to his manager Babubhai Thiba, "He was a bit unwell. He was admitted following breathing issues. He passed away today at 3:00 PM. We were told by the doctors that water had accumulated in his lungs." The funeral and final rites for Asrani were conducted at 8 p.m. at the Santacruz crematorium. The ceremony was a private event, attended only by family and close friends. Thiba added, "We did not inform anyone about his demise as it was his wish that we should keep it a private thing." However, after the news of his passing, photographs of his family at the crematorium were shared online. The news of his unexpected passing came out shortly after the actor had shared Diwali greetings on his Instagram story earlier that afternoon. Fans, fellow actors, and industry insiders expressed their condolences on social media, fondly remembering the star known for his



comedic roles.

Akshay Kumar, who often worked with Asrani, also shared a touching message on social media saying, "Speechless with grief at the passing of Asraniji. We had just shared the warmest of hugs a week back at the shoot of Haiwaan. Bahot pyare insaan the... He had the most legendary comic timing. From all my cult films Hera Pheri to Bhagam Bhaag to De Dana Dan, Welcome and now our unreleased Bhoot Bangla and Haiwaan...I had worked and learned so much from him. What an absolute loss to our industry. God bless you Asrani sir, for giving us a million reasons to laugh.

Om Shanti." Director, Anees Bazmee, who directed Asrani in Welcome fondly remembered their long association. He shared, "I'm deeply saddened. He was a fantastic actor and an equally great human being. It's a treat to work with him he would make us laugh off-screen as well. I've known him for 40 years. He had a trademark style of laughing that no one else could do. I'll miss him a lot." Lyricist Manoj Muntashir also shared his thoughts in a tweet that read, "The jailer from the British era, you left behind an era of comedy! We will miss you a lot, Mr. Asrani! May God grant you a place at his feet! Om Shanti."

Nakuul, Jankee's daughter's first Diwali

Mumbai: This Diwali became more special for television superstar Nakuul Mehta as the actor celebrated the festival with his newborn daughter, Rumi. The celebration brought extra joy for Nakuul and his wife, Jankee, as it marked their first as parents of two.

Jankee took to social media to share glimpses into their homely Diwali celebration and shared a few snaps of their newborn girl. In one of the pictures shared by Jankee, she was seen holding her baby girl Rumi, while Nakuul held their 4-year-old son Sufi. Rumi was seen wearing a yellow traditional ensemble, but her face was covered with a heart emoji. The next picture showed their son Sufi performing aarti as Nakuul and Jankee stood by him.

LIFESTYLE & HEALTH

Doctor shares how parents can support them to develop social skills and make friends

Recently on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day was observed. The Down Syndrome Awareness Week is from March 17 to March 23. The global awareness is centred towards advocating the rights of people with Down syndrome and spreading awareness about the challenges they face. One of their challenges is socialising. Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused due to an extra chromosome 21, which impacts their cognitive development, learning abilities and communication skills. As a result, children with Down syndrome may struggle to socialize and understand social cues. But, with early support from parents, they can develop important social skills, build confidence, and form meaningful friendships. Dr Rashmi Jeenakeri, Consultant Neonatal Pediatrician, Apollo Hospitals in Seshadripuram, shared nuanced reasons behind why Down syndrome affected children struggle with communications. Dr Jeenakeri said, “The most significant barrier to socialization is their difficulty in communication and language. These challenges make it harder for them to express themselves and engage in conversations. Additionally, children with Down syndrome often struggle to comprehend information, making it difficult for them to participate in conversations or social interactions. They may also find it challenging to recognize and respond to social cues. For instance, they may

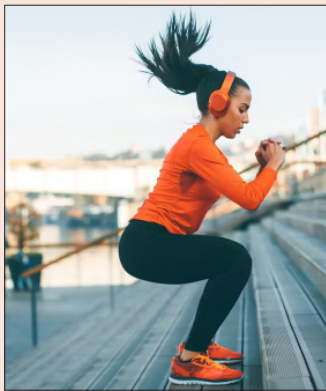


not know how to greet someone properly, leading others to perceive them as unresponsive.” Understanding social behaviour is one of the challenges for children with Down syndrome, as Dr Jeenakeri added, “Furthermore, they may struggle to distinguish between normal and abnormal social behaviours. Children with Down syndrome may have difficulty recognizing emotions in others. For example, if a mother is crying in front of them, they may struggle to comprehend her emo-

tional state. Expressing emotions can also be a challenge, making it harder for them to connect with others socially.” Dr Jeenakeri also pointed out that children with Down syndrome often experience anxiety, depression, and sensory sensitivities, making social interactions challenging. Parental support is required to help children with Down syndrome navigate social challenges, build confidence, and develop essential communication skills. Dr Jeenakeri shared these tips for parents:

ing social skills: Play is an essential tool in fostering social skills. It helps children with Down syndrome interact with peers and learn cooperation, sharing, and communication. Cooperative play, such as engaging in team activities like football or throw ball, teaches turn-taking, teamwork, and social norms. Role-playing allows children to practice real-life social situations, such as greeting a doctor or attending a birthday party, helping them prepare for interactions in a structured manner. This reduces anxiety and builds confidence in handling social situations. Social inclusion: Social inclusion plays a vital role in the development of children with Down syndrome. This can be achieved through organizing play dates and group activities, encouraging participation in community events where others are educated about interacting with children with Down syndrome, enrolling them in support groups and recreational activities like sports events or disability-friendly programs, and enhancing communication skills by teaching both verbal and non-verbal ways to express themselves. Lastly, Dr Jeenakeri concluded by sharing a hopeful message that children with Down syndrome can lead meaningful lives when given the right support. Many have gone on to become entrepreneurs, dance teachers, yoga instructors, musicians and more. With proper guidance and support from parents, they can achieve a fulfilling and productive adult life.

Can exercising help you live longer?



For as long as there has been science, researchers have continued to look for ways to help us live longer. Past studies show that certain healthy lifestyle choices, such as eating a healthy diet, not smoking Trusted Source, and exercising regularly may help increase a person’s life span. “The length of the life span reflects the overall health of individuals,” Eliina Sillanpää, PhD, associate professor in the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland told Medical News Today. “Many people still die from diseases that are partially preventable through healthy lifestyles. For example, physical activity recommendations are based on studies investigating the associations between activity and life span. Physical activity can affect various diseases and the aging process. Life span is an outcome that may combine all potential health benefits of physical activity,” she said. Sillanpää is the lead of the GenActive research project that launched in 2021 to study the potential links between physical activity, cardiometabolic disease Trusted Source, and genetics. For this study, researchers analyzed health data from almost 23,000 Finnish twins born before 1958 who had been part of the Finnish Twin Cohort. Trusted Source Study participants had their physical activity levels evaluated three times — in 1975, 1981, and 1990. And the mortality rate of participants was followed up until the end of 2020. “Previous animal and twin studies suggested that the association between physical activity and lifespan is not as straightforward as commonly thought, which piqued our interest in this topic,” Sillanpää said. “We believed that by using novel methods — such as polygenic scoring Trusted Source to determine inherited disease risk, epigenetic clocks Trusted Source to estimate biological age, and longitudinal twin designs to adjust for genetic confounding — we could produce new evidence on this topic,” she explained. Study participants were divided into four groups — sedentary, moderately active, active, and highly active — based on their physical activity data over the 15-year follow-up. When the different groups were analyzed at the 30-year follow-up point, researchers found those in the sedentary and moderately active groups had a 7% lower risk of mortality, which was the highest benefit percentage amongst the four groups.

Anxiety is linked to gut health: Could probiotics help treat it?

The gut microbiota refers to the microorganisms that live in the gut. A narrative review recently published in the journal Nutrients sought to look at data on changes in the gut microbiota in people with anxiety disorders and on how probiotics may help improve anxiety symptoms. The results suggest that there are changes like less microbial diversity that occur in people with anxiety disorders. Additionally, probiotics may help adjust the gut microbiota and improve anxiety symptoms. Through this review, researchers wanted to understand more about changes in the gut microbiota among people with anxiety disorders. They note that anxiety disorders are some of the most common mental disorders. This makes understanding body changes and identifying ways to help critical. Researchers conducted a literature search for studies relevant to the topic that were published at any time and written in English. Their review had randomized controlled trials and clinical studies with participants with anxiety disorders. One study found that participants with generalized anxiety disorder had a lower diversity of microorganisms. Participants also had less richness of microorganisms, higher levels of certain bacteria, and lower levels of “bacteria that produce short-chain fatty acids Trusted Source,” which have been linked to many different aspects of health. This study also found that even after participants experienced remission of anxiety, the gut changes remained, indicating the changes may affect generalized anxiety development. Another study found distinct decreases in certain bacteria and increases in others among participants with generalized anxiety disorder. The increases in certain bacteria were related to how severe the anxiety was, while others were associated with anxiety reduction. Other research used Mendelian randomization and found five bacterial traits that might increase the risk for anxiety disorders, and four that may decrease the risk. The review also highlighted a study that reflected on the chang-

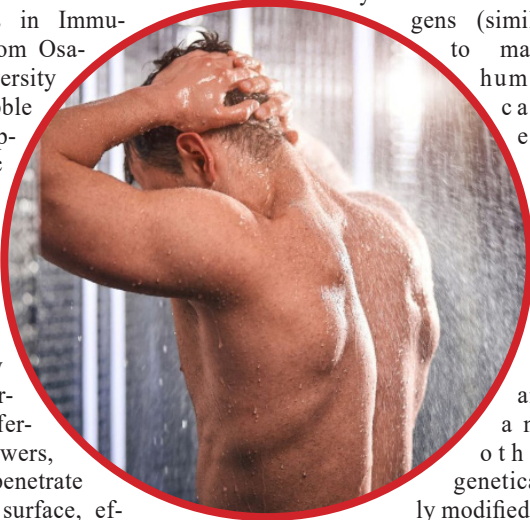


es in gut bacteria, noting a “complex relationship between gut microbiota, inflammatory and genetic factors, and the development of anxiety disorders.” There was also research noting the differences in microbiota between individuals with depression and those with generalized anxiety disorder, which further suggested that looking at the gut microbiota could help determine if someone has a depressive or an anxiety disorder.

Eczema sufferers, this shower hack could soothe your itchy skin

For millions living with atopic dermatitis (the most common form of eczema), daily life is a battle against itchy, inflamed skin. Managing the condition often means a combination of medications, moisturising routines and careful bathing but what if a simple switch in how you shower could make all the difference? A new study from Japan has suggested that ultrafine bubble showers, i.e. showers filled with microscopic bubbles, might offer significant relief for those struggling with this stubborn skin condition. Published in Frontiers in Immunology, the research from Osaka Metropolitan University found that ultrafine bubble showers improved symptoms in mice with atopic dermatitis. These tiny bubbles, each smaller than a micrometre in diameter, are already used in medical cleaning and water purification. Now, they show promise in skin care, particularly for eczema sufferers. Unlike standard showers, ultrafine bubbles can penetrate deeper into the skin’s surface, effectively washing away allergens and irritants while also strengthening the skin’s protective barrier. Since atopic

dermatitis often stems from a weakened skin barrier, this method could provide an easy, non-medicated way to reduce flare-ups. Atopic dermatitis affects up to 20 percent of children and 10 percent of adults globally. Dermatologists have long stressed the importance of keeping skin clean to prevent flare-ups. Ultrafine bubble technology enhances this process by deeply cleansing the skin while reducing inflammation signals. The study tested two types of mice with eczema: one group with dermatitis triggered by dust mite allergens (similar to many human cases) and another group with a naturally modified to produce excessive inflammation-related proteins. The mice were divided into three groups:



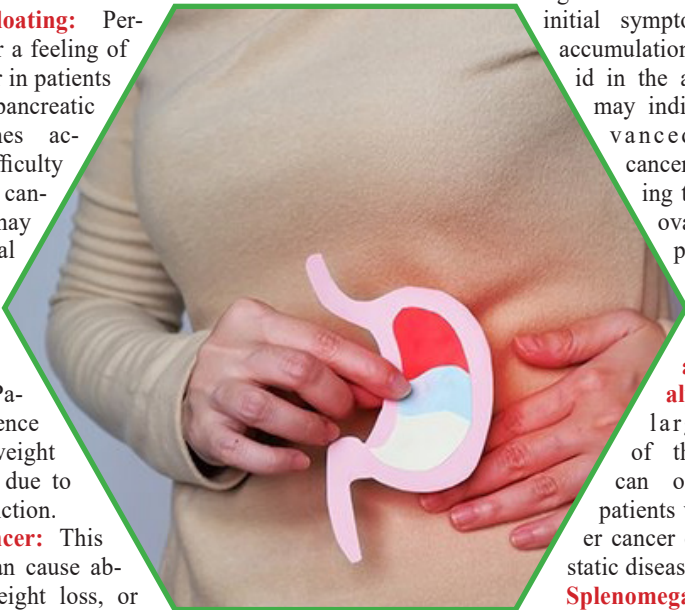
Facing abdominal pain? Know these abdominal symptoms and their link to cancer

Your abdominal pain may not be harmless. It can actually indicate the possibilities of various types of cancers. In an interview with HT lifestyle, Dr Neeraj Goel, director – oncology, CK Birla Hospital, Delhi said, “Abdominal symptoms can be indicative of various types of cancer, particularly those affecting the gastrointestinal system and other abdominal organs. While these symptoms can arise from benign conditions, persistent or severe manifestations warrant medical attention to rule out malignancies.” **Abdominal pain:** Persistent or severe abdominal pain may be a sign of stomach, pancreatic, or colorectal cancer. The nature and location of the pain can vary depending on the specific cancer type. Nausea and vomiting: Chronic nausea and vomiting can be associated with stomach, pancreatic, or liver cancer, particularly when accompanied by other symptoms like jaundice or weight loss. **Weight loss:** Unintentional weight loss is a common indicator of many cancers, including stomach, pancreatic, and colorectal cancer. It often signals advanced disease progression. **Changes in bowel habits:** Diarrhoea, constipation, or changes in stool consistency may be



symptoms of colorectal cancer. The presence of blood in the stool can also be a significant warning sign. **Abdominal bloating:** Persistent bloating or a feeling of fullness can occur in patients with ovarian or pancreatic cancer, sometimes accompanied by difficulty eating. **Kidney cancer:** Symptoms may include abdominal pain, flank pain, or a palpable mass in the abdomen. **Liver cancer:** Patients may experience abdominal pain, weight loss, or jaundice due to impaired liver function. **Pancreatic cancer:** This type of cancer can cause abdominal pain, weight loss, or jaundice, particularly in later stages. **Ovarian cancer:** Common symptoms in-

clude abdominal bloating, pelvic pain, and difficulty eating, often leading to late-stage diagnosis due to subtle initial symptoms. he accumulation of fluid in the abdomen may indicate advanced-stage cancer affecting the liver, ovaries, or peritoneum. **Hepatomegaly:** Enlargement of the liver can occur in patients with liver cancer or metastatic disease. **Splenomegaly:** Enlargement of the spleen may be associated with certain cancers, including lymphoma or leukaemia.



What it's like to live in the happiest country on Earth

Finns tend to accept the accolade of supreme happiness, bestowed on them by the UN's World Happiness Report in March 2025 for the eighth time in a row, with a collective shrug and eye

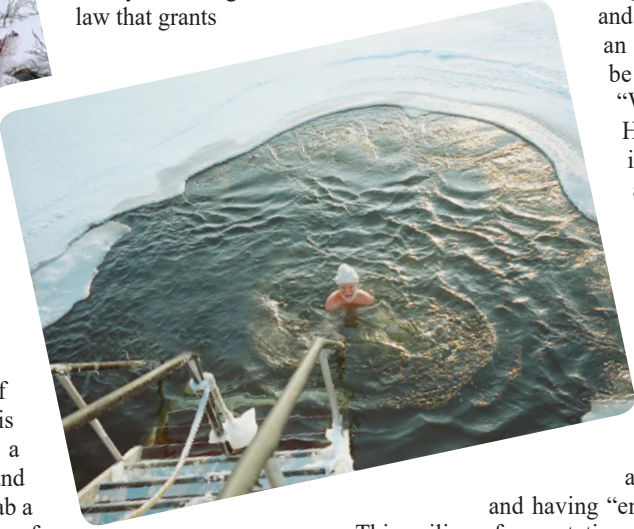
roll. But Finnish travel operators are celebrating as travellers increasingly make the connection between Finland and happiness, hoping to come and experience that Finnish brand of happiness. However, don't expect to be greeted with howls of laughter and cheerful quips when you land at Helsinki Airport or disembark from one of the Baltic ferries in the capital's harbour. There is some truth in the perception of Finland being a no-nonsense, down-to-earth kind of nation. Generally, Finns are flattered – happy, even – to be honoured by the report's conclusions, but while graciously accepting them, they feel "happiness" isn't really the right word. Instead, "contentment", "fulfilment" or "life satisfaction" are widely considered more appropriate terms. As Finnish President Alexander Stubb recently posted on Facebook: "No one can be happy all the time, and sometimes circumstance makes it difficult. But getting the basics right – security, freedom and equality – is a good start." But while the concept of happiness in Finland may be nuanced and culturally specific, it is deeply embedded in the fabric of daily life. Rather than seeking constant highs, the Finnish approach is rooted in balance, connection and quiet contentment – qualities that increasingly resonate with visitors. And for travellers,



this state of being is not just something to observe but one to get involved with first-hand, through embracing the country's nature, sauna culture, food, sustainable design and lifestyle. "We see Finnish happiness as a summary of these five elements," says Teemu Ahola, director of international operations at Visit Finland, "but we don't measure or collect data to evaluate happiness as a single attraction in itself". To experience these tangible, authentic aspects of Finnish life that underpin its consistent happiness ranking, Ahola suggests Finnish sauna culture as an increasingly popular, most globally identifiable attraction; and stresses that Finland is a safe country, naming the risk of bumping into free-roaming reindeer in northern Lapland as one of the few potential hazards for visiting tourists. Meanwhile, he adds, a new and confident generation of Finnish chefs has earned international respect for and interest in the Finnish culinary scene. Finland is home to the world's northernmost Michelin star restaurant, Tapio, in Ruka-Kuusamo; and the Saimaa Lakeland region was named a European Region of Gastronomy across



its northern periphery. The endorphin boost experienced by this kind of freewheeling adventure and access to plentiful natural resources ties directly into the UN's happiness metrics of life expectancy, freedom and positive emotions. This connection can be found at the heart of SaimaaLife, a nature and wellness company in eastern Finland's sprawling Saimaa Lakeland region, run by mental health expert and guide Mari Ahonen. Ahonen is an enthusiastic advocate of the mental balance that Finnish nature and lifestyle have to offer and leads her guests through shinrin-yoku (forest bathing), traditional lakeside saunas, wild swimming, foraging trips for mushrooms and berries and cooking over an open fire. "We Finns can be too modest," she says. "We should notice the World Happiness status in a positive way. I'm a living example of having been able to develop a business with the support that has been available for my entrepreneurship. Some people say it's a lottery win to be born in Finland." A lottery win, that is, in the form of life satisfaction and balance; of living comfortably and having "enough" in a material sense. This ceiling of expectation shouldn't be confused with a lack of ambition or resourcefulness. After all, this is the birthplace of mobile communications pioneer Nokia, the distinctive garden tool and scissor brand Fiskars and textile



explore and disappear into Central Park, a belt of forest that stretches from the city centre to the freedom to roam and forage. Helsinki, where most visitors start or end their trip, offers a first-hand glimpse of this national contentment. This is a seaside city, spread over a beautiful natural archipelago and reclaimed land. It's easy to grab a city bike from one of the dozens of stands around town and head off to the coast-hugging cycling routes or Park, a belt of forest that stretches



and clothing icon Marimekko. Finland isn't immune from economic pressure or controversies, however, and the long, dark winters can put a strain on mental health. The Finnish idea of happiness also includes a dose of *sisu*: a hard-to-translate concept of resilience, fortitude, courage and grit. Finnish-Canadian author Katja Pantzar, who has written extensively about this perceived national quality, explains that it's "a mindset that allows people and communities to work together in the face of challenges rather than give up or blame and attack others". She notes that the top four nations in the World Happiness Report are all Nordic countries with strong welfare systems designed to support the collective good. "Happiness is very culturally specific," she said. "In Finland, there are many examples of everyday happiness that are available and accessible to everyone, whether it's nature – every person in Finland is on average about 200m from the nearest forest, park, seashore or natural body of water – saunas, public libraries, safe and efficient public transport, free clean drinking water, education or health-care." Pantzar also highlights the mood-boosting properties of contrast therapy – hot saunas followed by cold dips – as an accessible, every-day mood booster. "It's incredibly easy to do in Helsinki, surrounded by the sea," she says. "When you don't need to travel great distances or pay large fees to have a quick dip, it's easier to do more regularly, before or after work or on your lunch break." And while some Finns remain sceptical of the "happiest nation" label, most seem to appreciate what they have. "I don't find it easy to think of Finland as the happiest country in the world," says pensioner Juha Roiha. "In poorer countries like Thailand and Nepal, people seem relaxed in spite of any hardship. In Finland, you might sometimes hear people say that they'd be happier somewhere else. But within ourselves, with what we have, we're happy."

A local expert's guide to seeing the most beautiful tulips in the Netherlands

Few images are as indelible as the sight of candy-coloured tulips bursting through the dark winter ground. But in the Netherlands – the world's largest exporter of the magical bloom – venerating tulips is a way of life. In the weeks leading from icy winter to spring, rows of flowers stud the country's landscape in technicolour streaks, most famously in the Bollenstreek "Bulb Region", stretching between the towns of Haarlem and Leiden, arching towards the North Sea. And with tulips come tourists; eager to experience the blooms for themselves. We spoke to Nienke Panis-Ringersma, the lens behind the popular Dutch-based tulip photography blog, Tulips in Holland, to find the best tulip bloom experiences in the Netherlands. "People in the Netherlands are very down to earth," says Panis-Ringersma, whose images and tulip facts receive thousands of likes per month on Facebook. "They are quite used to the flower fields. You know when it's tourist season, because the roads are clogged with people on a bike who are not used to riding bikes." Nonetheless, Panis-Ringersma adores her nation's iconic bulb flower – enough to have made it her career. "I think it's the excitement," she says. "It starts around December when we can buy tulips in the florist shops. And around the third weekend of January, we celebrate National Tulip Day. Around 300,000 tulips are

placed on the museum square in Amsterdam with a beautiful backdrop of the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum. It's the start of many tulip festivals leading up to the start of spring. It's a magical place and I love the flower, the fragrance. Every tulip is unique. There is a great story to tell." Here are Nienke Panis-Ringersma's favourite ways to experience tulip season in the Netherlands. "So, you ask for absolutely number one place? Visit Keukenhof," says Panis-Ringersma. Established in 1949, Keukenhof Gardens is undoubtedly the most popular tulip experience in the Netherlands; its lushly landscaped "inspirational" tulip gardens and windmills drawing over a million visitors each year during its eight-week season. "Around 7 million bulbs are planted by hands, not by machine, every year," says Panis-Ringersma, whose budding love for tulips was ignited by childhood visits to Keukenhof, where her grandfather volunteered as a ticket taker. "It's the most beautiful spring garden in the world." Visitors enjoy a wide variety of experiences at Keukenhof including picnics, flower exhibitions and didactic "whisper



boat" cruises through the gardens, where contemporary art sculptures dot the grounds. But plan ahead: Keukenhof is open for just two months, usually from the first day of Spring to the first week of May, depending on the weather (in 2025, 20 March to 11 May). "The best time to go is the \$1m question," says Panis-Ringersma. "It's different every year... right now we have an extremely warm winter. I think the best time to visit for this year is around the middle of April." To truly get swept up in the excitement of tulip season, be sure to catch the Bloemencorso Flower Parade. "A flower parade is a very festive flower festival," says Panis-Ringersma. "It's about 20 different floats, marching bands, cars very lavishly decorated with all kinds of flowers, people enjoying themselves, street entertainment... every town is a very festive atmosphere." The Bloemencorso parade takes place each year on the third Saturday of April, marching along the road from Noordwijk to Haarlem, through the Bollenstreek and past Keukenhof. "It's a full day," says Panis-Ringersma. "People line up at least three four lines thick to see. Some people get their seats ready at least three hours before the parade to make sure... it's like a Disney parade. People are sitting down on the streets

waiting for the parade to pass by." Panis-Ringersma's tip: watch from Noordwijk. "Lots of people try to see the parade around Keukenhof because it passes the gardens," she says. "But that's an extremely busy spot. Go to Noordwijk early in the morning. It's a beautiful seaside town." While waiting for the parade, feast on Dutch Stroopwafel cookies, or have lunch at Panis-Ringersma's casual Dutch dining pick, Hudson Restaurant. "It's a very festive day," says Panis-Ringersma. "Every town is having markets... it's an absolute must-see for people traveling to the Netherlands." For those who aren't satisfied merely admiring the blooms from afar, Panis-Ringersma suggests visiting a tulip farm. "Because everybody really wants to go into the fields, which is not allowed," she says. "So, please go to a tulip farm where it is allowed!" Panis-Ringersma's three farm recommendations are all found in the heart of the Bollenstreek. "All three are founded by bulb growers," she says. "So, they know absolutely what they are doing. They're all a very hands-on experience." The family-run Tulip Experience in Noordwijkerhout is Panis-Ringersma's first pick; home to nearly 1 million tulips. "You can go to the field where you can see at least 700 different types of tulips," says Panis-Ringersma. "You can visit the tulip market with all kinds of products made of tulips or with tulips on it. You can pick your own tulips. It's a very fun experience."

What sort of tulip products? "Beer with tulips, tulip vodka, tulip Aperol Spritz, soap smelling of tulips, vases, napkins with tulips, wallets with tulips," she says. "If you can name it, everything with tulips." Alternatively, visit Tulip Barn in Hillegom just 30 minutes outside of Amsterdam, where visitors can immerse themselves in the 750,000 tulips sprawling across the farm's gardens and production field. "They are more focused on making Instagrammable photos," says Panis-Ringersma. "So, for a bit younger target audience." Heading further south, Panis-Ringersma also likes De Tulperij in Voorhout. "You can go together with the bulb grower," she says. "You're walking into the fields. He will dig up some tulip bulbs and will show you how they are growing and what they are doing each year to make them grow. It's a very interesting environment." For visitors with antsy kids (and a car), Panis-Ringersma loves tulip picking in the Bollenstreek. "Not in the regular fields where you can say as you're walking, 'Oh, I like this one!'" she says. "No, just go to a tulip picking farm and pick your own tulips." There are several picking farms in the Bollenstreek area, but Panis-Ringersma recommends heading to Annemieke's Pluktuin, a tulip nursery in Hillegom run by husband-and-wife team, Annemieke and Pieter. "Pluktuin is literally 'picking garden'," explains Panis-Ringersma. "Tulip picking is an absolutely brilliant experience, especially when you go with children to walk into the field and get the tulip with the bulb and you can take the bulb and the tulip with you back home or to the hotel." For Panis-Ringersma, whose passion for tulip photography led her to become an expert in tulip horticulture, the Hortus Bulborum historical bulb garden in Limmen is a sacred institute of learning. "It's like a living museum," she says. "Tulips entered the Netherlands around the 16th Century. And people loved them from the very beginning. And right now, there is one place in the Netherlands that keep the bulbs alive from the 16th Century and later on. So, this is a place where you can visit and find the oldest bulbs of the Netherlands still blooming." The Hortus Bulborum houses more than 4,500 varieties of historical spring bulbous plants, from tulips to daffodils to hyacinths, which are rarely cultivated in modern day. The garden's star bulbs include a specimen of *Fritillaria Persica*, dating to 1557, and the ancient 16th-century tulip *Duc van Tol Red and Yellow*.



Bowl 92 overs as West Indies beats Bangladesh level series

New Delhi: West Indies bowled a full 50 overs of spin in their second ODI against Bangladesh on Tuesday, a first in one-day international cricket history, as the visitors emerged victorious at the end of a super over. After holding Bangladesh to 213 for seven wickets, West Indies made 213-9 in their 50 overs and hit 10 runs in their super over to win the match by one run and level the three-match series at 1-1. The match had a total of 92 overs of spin, the highest in an ODI. The previous record was 78 overs. Five West Indies spinners bowled 10 overs each after the tourists dropped pace bowlers Jayden Seales and Romario Shepherd from the starting XI and Bangladesh elected to bat first in Mirpur. Roston Chase conceded 44 runs and Khary Pierre 43 in their 10 overs as West Indies avoided using their only pace bowling option, Justin Greaves. It was the first time a team bowled 50 overs of spin in an ODI match, surpassing Sri Lanka's previous mark of 44 overs of slow bowling in a match in 1996.

Fast-medium bowler Mustafizur Rahman gave up 40 runs in eight overs when the hosts bowled. The other five home bowlers were spinners. Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie took three wickets at a cost of 65 runs. Alick Athanaze conceded just 14 runs and took two wickets and Akeal Hosein took two for 41.

India U20 women to play two friendlies in Kazakhstan

New Delhi: The Indian U20 women's team will travel to Shymkent to play two friendly matches against Kazakhstan U19 on October 25 and 28, 2025, as per the AIFF website. These games will form part of India's preparations for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, which will be held in April 2026. The Young Tigresses have been camping at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru and will depart for Kazakhstan on October 23. Head coach Joakim Alexandersson will announce the 23-member squad before the team's departure. India's U20 women qualified for the Asian Cup for the first time in 20 years after defeating Myanmar in their last qualifying match in August. On the other hand, Kazakhstan will use these games to prepare for their upcoming UEFA Women's U19 Championship qualifiers. October 28: Kazakhstan U19 Women vs India U20 Women Earlier this year, AIFF announced a reward of USD 25,000 for the U20 Women's National Team following their outstanding performance, which secured India's qualification for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for the first time in two decades. The India U20 women produced some fine performances, remaining undefeated in their Group D qualification campaign, where they played Indonesia (0-0), and Turkmenistan (7-0), before defeating hosts Myanmar (1-0) in front of a capacity crowd at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar, a campaign where they did not concede a single goal.



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Cristiano Ronaldo snubs India trip for FC Goa clash despite repeated club request

New Delhi: Despite multiple pleas from the Indian club, Cristiano Ronaldo is apparently not going to India for Al-Nassr's AFC Champions League 2 match against FC Goa, which is a huge letdown for Indian football fans. The decision was made the same year that Lionel Messi and his World Cup-winning Argentina team are scheduled to travel to India for an international friendly match against Australia. This is a lost opportunity for supporters to witness the two world-renowned players play in India. According to Saudi outlet Al Riyadhiah, the 40-year-old Portuguese star has opted out of Al-Nassr's travelling squad for their Group D match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on October 22. FC Goa's management had reportedly urged Al-Nassr to include Ronaldo in the squad, hoping his presence would elevate the fixture's profile and attract massive local attention. Al-Nassr will arrive in Goa late Monday night for their third group-stage match of the tournament. The Saudi club have already won both of their AFC Champions League 2 games without Ronaldo and remain well-placed to advance to the knockout rounds. Reports suggest that Ronaldo's contract allows him to skip fixtures outside Saudi Arabia, giving him the flexibility to manage his workload. With his focus on maintaining peak fitness ahead of next year's World Cup, the veteran forward has chosen not to make the long journey to India. Speculation about his possible visit grew after his name was reportedly included in Al-Nassr's visa application list submitted to Indian authorities. Speaking to The Indian Express, FC Goa CEO Ravi Puskur said, "We do not have any



clarity at present. His team has said they are exploring options and they will take a decision closer to time. We are following up and yet to get confirmation. As part of the protocol, every visiting club sends a list of their travelling contingent for visa applications, and in that squad of 28 players, Ronaldo's application is also included." FC Goa, who qualified for the AFC Champions League 2 by defeating Al Seeb, were drawn in the same group as Al-Nassr — a pairing that had generated tremendous excitement among Indian football

Hazlewood feels fit enough to play all five Tests against England

New Delhi: Australia's selectors doubt their ageing pacers can last a full Ashes series but Josh Hazlewood says he feels ready to take on England in all five Tests. While captain and fast-bowling teammate Pat Cummins is in doubt for at least the Perth opener on November 21, 34-year-old Hazlewood is already enjoying a good start to the home summer. He took two wickets in both Sunday's series-opening One-Day International against India in Perth and the last T20I against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui earlier this month. "It was a nice start," he told Australian media of the India ODI. "(My) rhythm felt good off the back of New Zealand. Everything is feeling good at the moment, a nice way to start the build (to the Ashes). My body feels great right now, I am very confident of getting through all



five (Tests) without any dramas." A fit Hazlewood, who has 295 Test wickets at an average of 24.21, is good news for the host, which has not lost a Test to England on home soil in 15 years. Hazlewood found the green-tinged, lively Perth Stadium pitch against India to his liking

on Sunday and said he hopes to see something similar when the English arrive for the Ashes opener. "Perth always offers some nice bounce and pace which has served us well in the past, especially with our bowlers who all offer something different," he added.

Michael Hussey's big claim Would be 5000 runs past Sachin Tendulkar if I debut early

New Delhi: Former Australian cricketer Michael Hussey has made a bold claim about his career achievements in comparison to Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar. Reflecting on his late entry into international cricket, Hussey remarked that starting earlier could have significantly boosted his run tally, potentially placing him ahead of Tendulkar in the record books. Hussey, who made his international debut for Australia at the age of 28, is widely respected for his consistency and contributions across all formats. However, his overall career numbers remain far below Tendulkar's, large-



ly due to his late start. Affectionately known as "Mr. Cricket," Hussey enjoyed a dominant domestic career

before finally breaking into the Australian national side. His consistent performances drew comparisons

with some of the game's greatest players, but Tendulkar's towering records continued to be the benchmark. During a conversation on The Grade Cricketer YouTube channel, Hussey joked about how different his statistics might have looked had he been given a chance earlier. "I've thought about it a lot," the leading run-scorer in the game. "Over the course of his international career, Hussey scored 12,398 runs across all formats, including 22 centuries in 302 matches. Both figures are significantly lower than Tendulkar's 15,921 Test runs and 18,426 ODI runs. However, in the shortest format.

U-20 World Cup title Morocco win FIFA

New Delhi: Yassir Zabiri struck twice in a space of 17 first-half minutes as Morocco lifted the FIFA U-20 World Cup with a 2-0 victory over Argentina in Santiago on Sunday (20 October). Morocco became only second African side to win the competition after Ghana in 2009, and are the first team to beat Argentina in a U-20 World Cup final in 42 years. Man of the match Zabiri opened the scoring on 12 minutes before doubling the lead for Mohamed Ouahbi's men in the 29th, Morocco never looking back the rest of the way. Six-times champions Argentina had been the overwhelming favourites,



having won all six games leading up to Sunday's showpiece with 15 goals and two against. But it was not meant to be on this evening for the Albiceleste, who had not lost in a U-20 World Cup decider since Mexico 1983 to arch-rivals Brazil. Morocco's Othmane Maamma was awarded the Golden Ball as the tournament's top player. Benjamin

Cremaschi (USA), Neyser Villareal (Colombia) and Lucas Michal (France) finished as joint top scorers with five goals apiece but Cremaschi went home with the Golden Boot after registering more assists. Striker Yassir Zabiri scored twice as Morocco won its first Under-20 World Cup title with a 2-0 victory over Argentina.

750 badminton tournament

Satwik-Chirag Eye French Open Glory as Indian Shuttlers Begin Campaign

Paris: Fresh off a strong run of results across Asia, India's premier men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, will look to extend their momentum as they spearhead India's challenge at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament, beginning in Paris on Tuesday.

Currently ranked World No. 6, Satwik and Chirag have rediscovered their best form after an injury-disrupted mid-season. The duo reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong and China Masters before bowing out in the semifinals of the Denmark Open last week. Their impressive consistency has raised hopes of another deep run in Paris — a venue that holds a special place in their careers. The Indian pair will open their campaign against Indonesia's Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Rahmat Hidayat. Having already claimed the French Open title twice — first in 2022, when it marked their maiden Super 750 triumph, and again in 2024 — the defending champions will aim to script a memorable hat-trick on



their favourite hunting ground. They also secured a second World Championships bronze medal in Paris earlier this year, further underlining their comfort on French soil. Elsewhere in men's singles, Lakshya Sen — runner-up at the Hong Kong Open — will look to maintain his form as he faces Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in his opening-round match. The Indian had edged past Nguyen in three games at the Denmark Open last week. Youngster Ayush Shetty, who claimed the US Open title earlier this year, faces a stern first-round challenge against Japan's Koki

Watanabe. In the women's singles draw, rising star Anmol Kharb faces a daunting task as she takes on top seed and World No. 1 An Se-young of Korea. Prospects this season, having reached the semifinals of the Arctic Open Super 500 earlier this month. Meanwhile, Anupama Upadhyaya will meet China's fourth seed Han Yue, and Unnati Hooda, fresh off a quarterfinal finish at the World Junior Championships, begins her campaign against Malaysia's Karupathevan Letshanaa.

Salt, Brook and Rashid star as England thump New Zealand in 2nd T20I 65 runs

New Delhi: In Christchurch, England crushed New Zealand by 65 runs thanks to fireworks from Phil Salt and Harry Brook and a four-wicket haul from Adil Rashid, giving the visitors an unbeatable advantage in the series. As England set a new record of 236 for four in their 20 overs, Salt (85 off 56 balls) and Brook (78 off 35 balls) pushed the New Zealand bowlers to the test and put on a 129-run partnership off just 69 deliveries. New Zealand were bundled out for 171 runs in 18 overs as Rashid spun a web around the batters with figures of four for 32 in four overs. Mitchell Santner won the toss and opted to bowl first but his call backfired as the wicket was better than the one that was available for the six of them posting double-figure economy rates. New Zealand didn't help their case with dropped catches with the biggest one being that of Brook on 40. The England skipper was at his destructive best, scoring 54 runs off his 78 in boundaries. While Kyle Jamieson dismissed both Salt and Brook in the space of three deliveries, Tom Banton's 29 off 12 balls helped England post the mammoth total. Brydon Carse rattled the top order with the wickets of Tim Robinson and Rachin Ravindra early on in the chase. Tim Seifert and Mark Chapman steadied the innings and fought back with a 69-run stand to keep the hosts in the hunt. But Liam Dawson cut the game open with the wicket of Chapman. The England spinners, led by Rashid, then took charge of things as wickets kept tumbling for the hosts. Rashid dismissed Seifert, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham and Santner, who played a blazing knock of 36 off 15 deliveries. By the time the New Zealand skipper departed, the game was all but done, with Luke Wood



putting the finishing touches. The left-arm pacer dismissed Matt Henry and Jacob Duffy in the 18th over to wrap up the win. The final match of the series will be played at the Eden Park in Auckland on October 23.