

To bring GB Pant Hospital up to national standards, Tripura teams up with AIIMS Delhi

In Brief

Free bicycles provided

Guwahati: The Government of Assam has distributed over 6.93 lakh bicycles to Class IX students over the past three years, enabling them to overcome transportation challenges and attend school. This year, an additional 3 lakh students will receive bicycles, demonstrating the government's commitment to accessible and equitable education. The initiative has had a transformative impact, especially in rural areas where long distances discourage students, particularly girls. It boosts school attendance, fosters confidence, independence, and motivation among the youth, and aims to create self-reliant, inspired, and educated citizens ready to contribute to the state's progress.

Security Forces Arrest KCP Cadret

Churachandpur: Security forces in Nepal have arrested an active cadre of the KCP (PWG) and an extortionist, and recovered several arms and ammunition in separate operations. On October 13, they arrested Naorem Thembung from Patsoi Part-4 and Leishangthem Surchandra Singh from Tengnoupal district. The forces also recovered a cache of weapons and ammunition from the Nepali Basti area near Churachandpur police station. Additionally, they recovered several arms and ammunition from the Keipha Road area in Bishnupur district.

Lady peddler arrested in East Siang

Itanagar: East Siang Police in Arunachal Pradesh have apprehended two individuals and seized approximately 9.28 grams of heroin, worth around Rs 50,000 in the local market. The operation was led by the district's anti-drugs squad (ADS) and Pasighat's anti-drugs warriors. The peddler, Peeman Manham Taloh, was arrested and the habitual drug user, Tajen Perme, was caught red-handed during the transaction. The seizure was made in strict compliance with the NDPS Act, 1985, and a house search yielded 9.28 grams of heroin, Rs 89,000 in cash, and a keypad mobile phone. Taloh was taken to the women police station, while Perme and the seized items were handed over to Pasighat Police Station. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act and 3(5) BNS, and further investigation is underway.

Fresh Eviction Drive Launched

Mangaldai: The Darrang district administration is set to launch a fresh eviction drive on October 15 to clear 250 bighas of encroached government land in No. 3 Dhalpur village in Sipajhar. The operation complies with Guwahati High Court guidelines and has served notices to 167 families. Around 700 people, who built 203 structures on the land, will be evicted. Since the Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took office, around 8,000 bighas of government land have been reclaimed from encroachers.

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Agartala, Oct 15: Tripura is set to modernise Govind Ballabh Pant (GB Pant) Hospital, its largest referral centre, through a collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The partnership aims to transform the hospital into an institution of national repute, matching AIIMS standards in patient care and medical education. Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with AIIMS Delhi on October 15, paving the way for a three-year roadmap to upgrade Tripura's premier hospital.

Health Secretary Kiran Gitte

said the collaboration will bring comprehensive changes in both medical and non-medical operations at GB Pant Hospital. The exchange of expertise will enhance clinical services, management practices, and teaching methodologies at the Agartala-based institution. The agreement comes at a time when Tripura has made notable progress in reducing the number of referral cases to other states. According to official data, the number of patients referred outside the state dropped from 2,000 in 2018 to 671 in 2024, a clear sign of improved healthcare facilities within Tripura.

"We want to ensure that no patient feels their disease cannot be treated here. While people are free to go outside for treatment, it should be a matter of choice, not necessity," the Health Secretary asserted. Under the MoU, AIIMS Delhi is expected to play a pivotal role in institutional development, offering expert consultations, technical assistance, and academic collaboration. The plan also in-



cludes developing a robust capacity-building framework, where Tripura's doctors, nurses, and technicians will undergo periodic training at AIIMS Delhi. In return, AIIMS faculty members and specialists will conduct workshops, surgeries, and clinical audits in Agartala to help GB Pant achieve and sustain higher standards of care.

The Tripura government has also been aggressively expanding medical education and allied health programs to meet growing human resource demands. "We have several new medical colleges and degree courses coming up in the health sector. Our main focus is to build strong human resources, and in the coming days, there will be no shortage of med-

ical professionals in the state," Gitte said.

He added that the government continues to invest heavily in the health infrastructure to create a self-reliant system that reduces dependency on external medical facilities. GB Pant Hospital, which currently has more than 1,400 beds, serves as the backbone of Tripura's healthcare sys-

tem and is attached to the Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC).

Tripura's GB Pant Hospital is being supported by the state government, which provides over ₹600 crore annually to expand its infrastructure and services. The aim is to make the hospital one of the best-equipped medical institutions in the Northeast. The state's partnership with AIIMS Delhi could serve as a model for regional collaboration in the Northeast, ensuring smaller states receive top-tier technical guidance and mentoring from premier national institutions.

The state aims to offer citizens the same quality of care as metropolitan hospitals by standardizing treatment protocols, enhancing diagnostic capabilities, and improving patient management systems. Chief Minister Manik Saha is personally monitoring the modernisation process, focusing on infrastructural growth, service quality, digital record-keeping, and patient satisfaction.

In Cachar, prohibitions are enforced along the India-Bangladesh border

Guwahati, Oct 15: On October 14, authorities in Assam's Cachar district issued prohibitory orders along the India-Bangladesh border due to concerns over potential extremist activity and cross-border smuggling.

The restrictions, imposed by Cachar District Magistrate Mridul Yadav under Section 163 of the BNSS, aim to maintain law and order and prevent illegal transport of goods and cattle in sensitive areas near the international border.

The orders prohibit movement between sunset and sunrise within a



Authorities issued prohibitory orders along the India-Bangladesh border in Assam's Cachar district on October 14.

one-kilometer belt along the border, and prohibit boating for fishing unless special permission is

granted. Transportation of essential commodities such as sugar, rice, wheat, edible oil, kerosene, and

salt is also prohibited between sunset and sunrise within a five-kilometre belt along the border.

In special cases, the circle officer may grant limited relaxation after verification from local supply officials, with mandatory copies sent to the district magistrate and BSF commandant.

The ex-parte order comes into immediate effect and will remain valid for two months unless revoked or modified earlier. State and central government officials on official duty in the border areas are exempt from the restrictions.

Discuss Tapat incident Karbi Organizations submit Memorandum to CEM

Guwahati, Oct 15: A coalition of Karbi organizations, including the Karbi Students' Association (CEC), the Joint Action Committee for Autonomous State (JACAS), Karbi Farmer Association, Karbi Youth Association, Karbi Unemployed Youth Association, Karbi Students' & Youth Council, Karbi Anglong Women Justice Forum, and Karbi Anglong Indigenous Youth Association, has submitted a joint memorandum to Dr. Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).



The memorandum addresses the Tapat incident and concerns impacting indigenous Karbi communities along the Assam-Meghalaya border in West Karbi Anglong.

The coalition calls for urgent measures to safeguard the safety, dignity, and rights of Karbi people while reinforcing territorial integrity and governance of KAAC-administered areas.

Zubeen Garg Death Case Update

Guwahati, Oct 15: The court has remanded five accused in the Zubeen Garg death case, ordering enhanced jail security amid public scrutiny. Meanwhile, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's official Facebook page has been deactivated following a global campaign demanding justice for the late singer. The hashtag #JusticeForZubeenGarg has flooded the page with posts and comments, urging a transparent investigation into the singer's death. The campaign has gone viral across platforms, transforming social media into a space for collective grief, anger, and solidarity. Authorities have not released an official statement on the reasons behind the page's deactivation. Actress Amrita Gogoi was among those who urged people to participate in the digital protest, calling it a movement of unity and remembrance. "We grew up with Zubeen's voice. Now it's our turn to speak for him," wrote one user. Within a day, #JusticeForZubeenGarg has become more than a hashtag; it has evolved into a symbol of shared emotion and public demand for truth.

District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) Meeting Summary

Tezpur, Oct 15: District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) of Sonitpur district held its first meeting under the chairmanship of MP Ranjit Dutta.

The meeting, attended by MLAs Prithiraj Rava, Ganesh Kumar Limbu, Krishna Kamal Tanti, District Commissioner Ananda Kumar Das, Chairperson of Sonitpur Zilla Parishad Manisha Upadhyaya, Vice-Chairperson Hitesh Baruah, and CEO of Sonitpur Zilla Parishad Karabi Saikia Karan, reviewed the progress of various government flagship schemes being implemented in the district.

The meeting began with a review of the Action Taken Report on decisions adopted in the previous DISHA meeting, followed by detailed discussions on schemes under departments such as Panchayat & Rural Development,



PHE, Women and Child Development, PWD (Buildings & Roads), Health, Education, Agriculture, FPD&CA, DoHUA, Labour, DICC, Forest, Excise, and APDCL, among others. De-

tailed discussions were also held on the status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and AwaasPlus 2024 survey, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes, registration of workers under the Nir-

man Sakhi portal, PM Vishwakarma, CMAAA, PM-KISAN, PMGSY, Asom Mala, construction of Model Anganwadi Centres, and Ration Card coverage.

Sr. Rose Paite of Mizoram received the renowned National Mental Health award

Aizawl, Oct 15: Mizoram's Sr. Rose Paite, MSMHC, was awarded the prestigious Mrs. Janamma Thomas Muthoot Award by the Catholic Mental Health Ministry (CMHM) during the World Mental Health Day Conference in Kerala. The award, named after Mrs.

Janamma Thomas Muthoot, honors individuals who embody selfless service and Christian values. Sr. Rose was praised for her 25 years of dedicated service, empowering women, children, and marginalized communities in India's Northeast.

Her pioneering work includes preventing human trafficking, promoting safe migration, and advocating for the rights of domestic workers. The ceremony also featured Bishop Lumen Monteiro, Chairman of the CBCI Office for Healthcare, and Bishop Alex Vadakumthala, Secretary General of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council.



Archbishop Tharayil praised Sr. Rose's tireless efforts, highlighting her work as a beacon of hope and holistic wellbeing, inspiring communities across India to prioritize mental health and social welfare.

Robbery attempt foiled by public in Laban; 2 men detained

Shillong, Oct 15: Two men were detained by police on Tuesday evening after they were caught and beaten by members of the public near Last Stop, Laban, while attempting to rob a 62-year-old man.

The two accused were identified as Kevin Tongwah (22) of Lumshiyap Shanmari and John Syiem (30) of Nongstoin, near the PWD Office, West Khasi Hills.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police, Vivek Syiem, informed

that they tried to snatch a mobile phone and cash from Rahul Amin Hal-



dar, a resident of Lumshatsngi locality.

However, the 62-year-old raised an alarm, drawing the attention of nearby

pedestrians who intervened and rescued him from the assailants. Syiem informed that the accused was using a Yamaha RX 135 motorcycle without a number plate (Engine No. 1L5L11807). Police also recovered two helmets and a hammer from the scene, which have been seized. Both accused were taken to Shillong Civil Hospital for medical examination.

NATIONAL

HC orders Himachal govt not to divert temple funds to welfare schemes

● A high court in Himachal Pradesh has ruled that donations to Hindu temples should be exclusively used for dharmic and Hindu religious propagation, not for government programs or unrelated public projects.

Agency: A high court in Himachal Pradesh ruled on Tuesday that donations to Hindu temples may not be used for government programs or unrelated public projects. The money shall be used exclusively for dharmic and Hindu religious propagation, the court further said. “Every rupee of temple funds must be used for the temple’s religious purpose or dharmic charity. It cannot be treated like general revenue for the State or gen-

eral public exchequer,” read the order of Division Bench of Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Rakesh Kainthla while disposing of a petition filed by Kashmir Chand Shadyal, who sought strict compliance with the Himachal Pradesh Hindu Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1984, particularly its provisions on budget preparation, maintenance of accounts, and expenditure. “It cannot be diverted to or transmitted or donated to any welfare schemes of the Government or other similar purpose or activity unrelated to the temple or religion,” the order further stated. To promote transparency, the high court directed “Temples should publicly display their Monthly income and expenditure, details

of projects funded by donations and audit summaries on notice boards or websites to instil confidence in the devotees that their donations are being utilised for the propagation of the religion and welfare of Hindus”. “Every temple must maintain proper accounts of income and expenditure, which will be audited annually, and the result of the audit will be published to ensure that the funds are being utilised for the intended purpose,” the court said in its order. To fix accountability, the high court directed that “Where it is found that any trustee has misutilised or caused to misutilise the funds of the temple, it will be recovered from him and he will be personally liable for the misutilisation of such funds”.

TN Assembly begins session with tribute to Karur stampede victims



Chennai, Oct 15: A resolution honoring the 41 victims of the Karur stampede at actor Vijay’s rally was adopted by Tamil Nadu in a special assembly session that started on Tuesday. This came a day after the Supreme Court handed over the investigation into the tragedy from the state police to the CBI. It is anticipated that the supplemental budget projections will be presented during this brief session, which ends on October 17. All MLAs, including those from the opposition AIADMK, the government DMK, and the BJP, observed a two-minute silence in memory of the victims of the stampede that took place at the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) gathering on the evening of September 27 under the leadership of Vijay. Members of the Pattalli Makkal Katchi (PMK) an ally of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) who amid internal turmoil in the party between father and founder S Ramadoss and son Anbumani Ramadoss sat in a dhama near the assembly asking for the removal of G K Mani as the floor leader. The protesting members support Anbumani while Mani backs his father. Speaker M Appavu also condoled the deaths of Tamil Nadu BJP leader and Governor of Nagaland L Ganesan, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren, former Chief Minister of Kerala V S

SC permits Delhi Diwali firecrackers with conditions

New Delhi, Oct 15: The sale and bursting of green crackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) from October 18 to 21 was approved by the Supreme Court on Wednesday. However, only those that have been approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) will be allowed on a trial basis. “We have to take a balanced approach, permitting it in moderation while not compromising with the environment,” the highest court stated. Many people are happy by the nod in advance of Diwali. The Supreme Court further pointed out that crackers, which it claimed do more harm than green firecrackers, are smuggled into Delhi-NCR. Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai and



Justice Vinod Chandran’s bench granted approval, however they also imposed certain restrictions. On the two days of Diwali, the highest court bench has ruled that cracker bursting is permitted between 6 and 7 am and 8 and 10 pm. \SC regulations for sales, cracker explosion-

Only green crackers that have received PESO and NEERI certification will be permitted. The district collector will select certain places for the selling of the green firecrackers. Police patrol units will establish a watch and confiscate any crackers sold without authorization or green crackers that are not certified. Additionally, patrol teams will regularly inspect firecracker producers, and websites must be updated with their QR codes. The capital does not allow the sale of firecrackers that are imported from outside Delhi-NCR. If discovered, vendors’ licenses will be revoked. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and state PCBs are directed to gather sand and water samples, monitor the quality of the air, and submit a report between October 14 and October 21.

Haryana cop dead

Haryana, Oct 15: The deceased inspector general Y Puran Kumar, the same senior officer whose alleged suicide exactly one week prior exposed the state police’s top brass for casteism and bias, was accused of corruption in a purported suicide note found with a gunshot wound to the body of a Haryana police assistant sub-inspector on Tuesday. Lathar, a native of Julana in Jind, was a member of the Rohtak CIA-2 squad that, on October 6, apprehend-

ed and detained Kumar’s associate after receiving a corruption report. The following day, 52-year-old IGP Kumar was discovered dead at his Chandigarh home. A day before Kumar died, Lathar was part of the Rohtak CIA-2 team that intercepted and arrested the late IGP’s associate Sushil Kumar, an exemptee assistant sub-inspector (an ASI who has been exempted from certain duties) following a complaint by liquor contractor Praveen Bansal.

Cough syrup deaths

Kancheepuram, Oct 15: The Chhindwara police special investigation team (SIT) has detained the production manager and quality control in-charge of Sreesan Pharmaceuticals in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, in relation to the deaths of 23 infants from hazardous cough syrup. “The batch was cleared by manager K Maheshwari without quality testing. An investigating officer stated that she was taken into custody after G Ranganathan, the director of the pharmaceutical company, took her name and claimed that it was the production manager’s responsibility to verify the quality of each batch. SIT has been investigating over the last three days after arriving in Chennai on Monday with Ranganathan. However, the enforcement directorate’s (ED) raid on his property hindered the investigation. “The company was running in a very bad shape in a 2,000 sq ft area. There was no proper system from quality control to testing as per norms. The department We have also seized some documents including formulation to manufacture the cough syrup,” he added. The decisions come amid a massive outrage across the country over the deaths of at least 22 children from Madhya Pradesh, mostly residents of Parasia village in Chhindwara district, in last one month due to suspected renal failure after consuming the contaminated cough syrup.

Bihar CM signals cabinet reshuffle after polls

Bengaluru, Oct 15: According to top party officials with knowledge of the situation, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hinted that a cabinet overhaul could occur following the Bihar assembly elections, if the Congress high command gives its assent. Siddaramaiah allegedly informed ministers during a dinner meeting on Monday night at his official residence, Cauvery, in Bengaluru, that about a dozen positions could be transferred to accommodate newcomers. According to reports, he emphasized that such reorganization would only take place upon final approval from the Delhi party leadership. Along with a number of cabinet officials, D.K. Shivakumar, the state Congress president and deputy chief minister, attended the meal. According to those in attendance, Siddaramaiah had casual talks with his colleagues when Shivakumar left early, advising them to maintain their attention on party work and governance.

Reminding his ministers that “the high command sees everything and rewards accordingly,” the chief minister is said to have emphasized the importance of loyalty and performance in the party’s decision-making process. Insiders claim that Siddaramaiah also urged ministers to assume more accountability for fortifying the Congress organization and to be prepared



for duties outside of Karnataka, such as possible positions in Bihar. Ministers made an effort to minimize rumors of a rearrangement in public. “We talked about the BBMP, Zilla Panchayat, and Taluk Panchayat elections,” stated Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy. The reshuffle of the cabinet was not discussed. Elections were the sole item on the dinner meeting’s agenda. “We had a great and delicious dinner,” said Labour Minister Santosh Lad, who also called the event “a general and casual gathering.” We greeted and talked to each other in a broad and informal gathering. A few individuals had direct conversations with the CM,

but no specific topics were covered. However, senior officials indicated that the supper had more uses than just fostering camaraderie. One goal, they said, was to strengthen Siddaramaiah’s power in the face of growing talk of a “November Revolution” within the ruling party, a term that Shivakumar’s supporters are believed to have used to allude to a potential change in leadership as the Congress government approaches its halfway point.

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According to insiders, a letter from the State Contractors’ Association claiming anomalies in multiple departments was the third topic discussed during the talks. Both Siddaramaiah and the Congress leadership in Delhi received the letter, which led the chief minister to direct the ministers in charge of the seven or eight departments in question to pinpoint and address internal problems.

SC to review quota for civil judges in district posts

New Delhi, Oct 15: A Supreme Court constitution bench will consider whether a specific quota for entry-level judicial officers, such as civil judges and judicial magistrates, should be set aside for appointments to the district judge cadre. This will help junior judges, who frequently experience professional stagnation and infrequently advance to the position of high court judges. The petition will be heard on October 28 and 29 by the five-judge bench, which is led by Chief Justice of India Bhushan R. Gavai and includes Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, K Vinod Chandran, and Joymalya Bagchi. The reference originates from a growing concern within the judiciary that bright young recruits who join as civil judges or judicial magistrates seldom make it to the rank of principal district judge (PDJ), which is the highest position within the district judiciary, and in only the rarest of rare cases are elevated to high courts. The issue has major institutional significance for the judiciary. If the constitution bench recognises the need for a quota or preferential mechanism, it could pave the way for systemic reform in how the subordinate judiciary progresses through ranks, potentially making the service more attractive to talented young lawyers who currently view it as a stagnant career path. Conversely, those opposing the move warn that any quota in the promotion channel could curtail opportunities for meritorious candidates entering the system as direct recruits, disrupting the balance between merit and seniority that the current framework maintains. The bench will hear arguments from both sides-- those supporting a quota in favour of entry-level judicial officers and those opposing any alteration to the existing seniority framework. On October 28, parties advocating a quota system will present their case, while those opposing the proposal will argue on October 29.

The bench will also examine the broader question of how seniority should be determined in the cadre of district judges and whether a fact-finding exercise is necessary to confirm the extent of stagnation across states. During earlier hearings, amicus curiae Siddharth Bhatnagar proposed that a certain percentage of posts in the PDJ cadre be reserved for officers who began their careers as civil judges or judicial magistrates. Senior advocates R Basant, Vijay Hansaria and Gopal Sankaranarayanan raised queries regarding the scope of the exercise and whether the issue could eventually require a reference to a larger bench. The issue was formally referred to the constitution bench on October 7 by a bench led by CJI Gavai in the All India Judges Association case. The court, at that stage, acknowledged an “anomalous situation”, noted by amicus Siddharth Bhatnagar, where judicial officers recruited at the base level “often do not reach the level of principal district judge, leave aside reaching the position of a high court judge.”

Seizures worth ₹34 crore in Bihar include freebies, liquor, and drugs



Patna, Oct 15: With only a few weeks until Bihar’s crucial Assembly elections, law enforcement has begun to tighten down on political parties’ attempts to sway voters. Since the October 6 announcement of the poll dates, Bihar has seen the seizure of cash, drugs, alcohol, and freebies totaling ₹33.97 crore. The Election Commission claims that several law enforcement organizations have conducted seizures and that expenditure observers have already been sent out to keep an eye on the candidates’ election expenditures.

Next month, Bihar will hold a two-phase election on November 6 and 11, with a vote count on November 14. A robust mechanism is in place to keep a check on poll spending by candidates in Bihar. The Election Commission has emphasized that enforcement au-

thorities must carry out checks and inspections without causing inconvenience or harassment to ordinary citizens.

The expenditure observers reached the candidates’ respective constituencies in the state on the day of the notification for the two phases were issued, the poll body said, adding that they will meet the appointed observers. The EC also said that flying squads, surveillance teams, and video monitoring units are working round the clock to detect any suspected use of money or other inducements to influence voters.

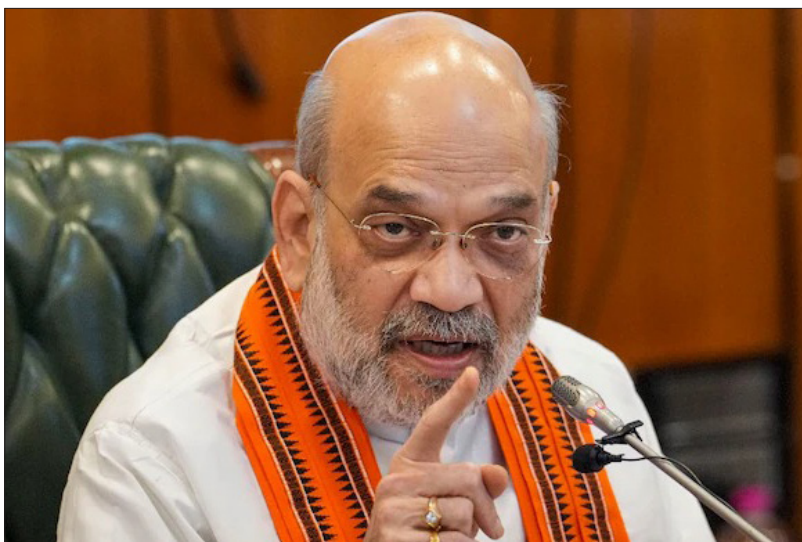
Besides, an online system called Election Seizure Management System (ESMS) has been activated in Bihar, which will help with reporting of interceptions/seizures made by surveillance teams and enforcement agencies on a real-time basis.

Ayodhya to get NSG hub to tackle terror: Amit Shah

Agency: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the National Security Guard (NSG) is establishing a new headquarters in Ayodhya to provide a “befitting response to any terror attack.” “A hub will be set up in Ayodhya. At these hubs, NSG commandos will be present round-the-clock throughout the year. Around the periphery of the area, a zone will be prepared and the special composite group will always be there to give a befitting response to any terror attack. In a way, across the six hubs of the NSG (strategically spread across different zones), the force will be there to protect the country. Additionally, at the NSG’s headquarters in Manesar, training will be conducted for the counterterrorism forces of the country,” he said at the 41st Raising Day of the anti-terror commando force at its headquarters in Manesar, Haryana.

He added that the Narendra Modi government would soon introduce major reforms to strengthen the elite commando force’s operational capabilities. The Ram Temple in Ayodhya is one of the most vulnerable and secured religious sites in the country. Earlier this year, following Operation Sindoor, the CRPF (the force guards the temple along with UP police) had also conducted another security survey and fixed the critical gaps.

This will be the sixth regional hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) after the existing hubs of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gandhinagar. The force also has a small unit called “task force” in Jammu. The hubs were



opened in 2009 post the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, when the then government was criticised for failing to airlift NSG commandos on time, and the lack of regional hubs in vulnerable locations.

Officials in NSG and in the Uttar Pradesh government, who asked not to be named, said that the hub is likely to start by end of this year or early next year, for which the UP government has allotted 8 acres of land. On July 4, 2025, the UP government, citing enhanced security requirements, allotted the land in Ayodhya Cantonment for the NSG hub. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Yogi Adityanath. Also on Tuesday, Shah inaugurated the ground breaking ceremony for the Special Operations Training Centre (S.O.T.C.) within the NSG’s Manesar

campus. The Centre, which is being built on 8 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 141 crore, will provide state-of-the-art training to special commandos combating terrorism. “At the S.O.T.C, not only NSG personnel but also anti-terror units established within police forces across the country will be trained with cutting-edge technology to prepare them for the fight against terrorism. In a vast country like India, the central government alone cannot tackle terrorism; rather, all state governments, special units of state police forces, NSG, and all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) must work together to ensure the country’s safety. He added that this S.O.T.C will, in the coming days, sharpen the nation’s fight against terrorism and keep our forces ever-ready,” Shah said.

Notification sent; by-election procedure to Dampa in Mizoram starts



Aizawl, Oct 15: The formal process for the November 11 bye-election to the Dampa Assembly constituency in Mizoram has begun, with nomination papers being submitted until October 21. The Returning Officer for the Dampa Assembly bypoll, Malsawmzuala, stated that nomination papers can be submitted between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and will be scrutinised on October 22.

The counting of votes will take place on November 14. The Dampa Assembly seat in western Mizoram's Mamit district fell vacant after the death of Opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) legislator Lalrintluanga Sailo on July 21. The ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and opposition parties — MNF, Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — have announced their candidates, making it a multi-cornered contest. The ZPM has fielded Mizo singer and preacher Vanlalsailova,

while the main Opposition MNF nominated its party Vice-President and former State Health Minister R. Lalthangliana. The Congress fielded its state unit Vice-President and former Minister John Rotluangliana. The BJP nominated former Congress leader Lalhmingthanga, who recently joined the BJP. With four strong candidates in the fray, the upcoming bye-election is expected to be one of the most closely watched political battles in Mizoram.

The political parties after announcing their candidates have already started their campaign in this politically significant Assembly seat. The Dampa Assembly seat, bordering neighbouring Bangladesh, has a significant minority population, including Chakmas and Reang tribals. As per the final electoral rolls published on September 30, a total of 20,790 voters, including 10,185 women, are eligible to cast their votes.

Arunachal is dazzling the country with a number of important accolades: Khandu

Itanagar, Oct 15: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday said that state continues to make its mark on the national stage with a series of prestigious recognitions earned across multiple sectors, reflecting the government's commitment to good governance, innovation, and inclusive development. "Our state continues to shine nationally with a series of prestigious recognitions across diverse sectors," Khandu said in a post on X, attributing the achievements to the collective effort of the people and the dedication of government functionaries working to transform Arunachal Pradesh into a model of good governance and growth.

The recognitions include top honours in several national assessments, from governance and innovation to health and community engagement. Arunachal Pradesh topped a national survey as the "Most Improved State in Governance", and bagged three prizes in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards for effective implementation of the housing scheme.



The state was also declared a "Top Performer" in the states' start-up Ranking 2022 conducted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and was recognized as a Top

Performer in the Investment Pillar of the India Innovation Index 2021. Highlighting the state's progress in environmental innovation, Khandu noted that Arunachal's eForest Fire App was awarded at the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance.

Additionally, Tawang and East Kameng districts were honoured at the 'Azadi@75

Swachh Survekshan, 2022' for excellence in cleanliness initiatives. The northeastern state was also recognized as an Achiever in the LEADS-2024 report, and earned the 'Best Community Engagement in Adolescent Health and Wellness Days' award by the National Health Mission for its outstanding public health outreach.

Sivasagar Bans Pig Movement Post-ASF Outbreak



Sivasagar, Oct 15: In view of the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) cases in Habikuti Missing Gaon under Nazira Revenue Circle and Bethari Chetia Koibarta Gaon under Sivasagar Revenue Circle, the District Administration of Sivasagar has issued a prohibitory order to curb the further spread of the disease.

The order, issued by Sivasagar District Magistrate Aayush Garg, prohibits the movement of live pigs, pork meat and related products, and sale, purchase or slaughter of pigs or pork products within the affected areas. Pig breeders have been directed to maintain strict biosecurity measures, and any death of pigs must be reported to the Veterinary Department for safe disposal.

Transportation of pig feed will also require prior permission from the Veterinary Department. The District Magistrate stated that the order has been issued in the interest of public and animal health and shall come into force with immediate effect, remaining valid until further notice. Violation of the order will invite punitive action under the relevant provisions of the law.

Bodoland Janajati Suraksha Manch (BJSJ) Opposes Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status Grant to Assam Communities

• The BJSJ strongly opposes the recent decision by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma to grant ST status to six advanced and non-tribal communities in Assam.

Kokrajhar, Oct 15: The Bodoland Janajati Suraksha Manch (BJSJ) has strongly opposed the recent move to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six advanced and non-tribal communities of Assam, initiated by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. The organization views this move as an anti-tribal, unconstitutional, and politically motivated attempt to dilute and destroy the rights and identity of the aboriginal and indigenous tribal people of Assam. The Working President of the BJSJ, DD Narzary, stated that the proposed six communities do not qualify for inclusion in the ST list under the criteria laid down by the Lokur Committee (1965), which were later upheld by the Supreme Court of India.

Narzary argued that the Koch-Rajbongshi community had contradictions in its claim, as the Rajbong-



shis are recognized as Scheduled Castes (SC) in West Bengal and are now demanding to be recognized as Scheduled Tribes in Assam, an impossible contradiction under constitutional provisions. He also noted that the Adivasi Tea Tribes, numbering over 90 lakhs, were brought to Assam by the British in the 19th century as bonded laborers and

were not aboriginal to the land and hence cannot claim tribal status.

The BJSJ condemned the Government of Assam for what it said was betrayal of the tribal people and warned that such a divisive and unconstitutional decision would invite statewide democratic agitation. The BJSJ is determined to approach the Supreme Court of India

to challenge this move and protect the rights of the genuine Scheduled Tribes of Assam.

They also called upon all tribal and indigenous organizations of Assam to unite under one platform and launch a united protest movement to defend the rights, identity, and existence of the aboriginal tribal communities of the state.

Professor Jaynarayan Luitel's Tezpur Gratitude

Tezpur, Oct 15: A special felicitation ceremony was held at the Historic Baan Theatre auditorium in Tezpur to honor Professor Jaynarayan Luitel, a retired faculty member of the Department of Political Science at Darrang College.

The event was organized by Pushpalal Smriti Adhyayan Goshti and attended by leading intellectuals and members of Tezpur's literary and cultural fraternity. The ceremony began with the ceremonial lighting of a lamp by Satradhikar Bhava Goswami.

The event featured welcome remarks by Professor Kamal Che Ayee of Tezpur College and an address by Mukti Luitel, Secretary of the organizing body. A special felicitation volume dedicated to Professor Luitel was released, featuring

• The ceremony included lighting a lamp by Xatriya artiste Satradhikar Bhava Goswami, welcome remarks by Professor Kamal Che Ayee, and an address by Mukti Luitel, Secretary of the organizing body.

contributions from over a hundred admirers.

Pushpadhar Sharma, retired Principal of Udalguri Higher Secondary School, delivered an extensive commentary on the volume. The cultural segment included a Borgeet presentation by Roji Devi and melodious group performances by Roji Devi, Madhu Kashyap, Prashanta Dey, and their ensemble. Professor Luitel expressed gratitude for the love and respect received, expressing renewed zeal for further creative work.

In the Zubeen Garg Probe, CID Interviews Additional Assam NRIs; 10 of 11 Have Recorded Statements

■ Singapore authorities are requesting information on visiting Indian officers for an on-site inquiry, according to Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta.

Guwahati, Oct 15: The custody period of five accused individuals, including Shyamkanu Mahanta, Siddharth Sharma, Sandipan Choudhury, and two of Zubeen Garg's bodyguards, has expired.

All five were produced before the Chief Judicial Mag-

istrate in Guwahati. Two more Assamese-origin NRIs from Singapore, Sushmita Goswami and Partha Pratim Goswami, have appeared before the CID office and their interrogation has begun.

Divyajyoti Saikia, a member of the Assam Association Singapore, will be departing today to join the probe. Out of the 11 Assamese NRIs identified in Singapore, 10 have already appeared before the CID and their statements have been recorded.

The Special DGP clarified

that the post-mortem report shared on social media is fake and will take strict action if anyone is found spreading fake news. The Indian High Commission has received communication from Singaporean authorities, requesting the names and agendas of officers who will travel to Singapore for the next phase of the inquiry.

Gupta noted that the interrogation process in Assam is proceeding smoothly and that action will be tak-



en strictly based on factual evidence and reports. He further mentioned that the SIT had ensured proper security arrangements for the Assamese NRIs visiting the CID office, to prevent any intimidation or incident that could delay the investigation. Meanwhile, the custody of Amrit Prabha and Shekharjyoti Goswami will expire on October 17. "We will not seek further ED custody; the court will decide which prison they will be sent to," Gupta stated.

Streamlines train passenger experience

Aizawl, Oct 15: The Mizoram government is aiming to streamline the Inner Line Permit (ILP) process for passengers arriving in the state by train, following the inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line. The move aims to ensure smooth entry procedures for visitors while maintaining the regulatory framework that governs travel into the protected tribal state.

Mizoram Home Minister K Sapdanga visited the Sairang railway station to assess the preparedness of officials in handling the influx of train passengers. He recalled the state government's launch of an online ILP portal in 2019 to make applications and approvals more accessible. With the introduction of train connectivity, new offline arrangements are being readied to facilitate non-tribal travelers who arrive with-



out prior permits.

Sapdanga proposed the creation of separate exit gates at Sairang station, one for travellers who already possess valid ILPs and another for those who need to obtain them upon arrival. He also highlighted the urgent need to upgrade the station's infrastructure to meet growing passenger demand.

The incoming train currently carries between 250 and 300 passengers, many of whom are first-time visitors to the state. NF Railways Deputy Chief Engineer Harjimal Meena provided updates on several ongoing projects at Sairang station, including the construction of a new rail terminal and setting up a tourist facilitation center.

Adi Council Urgent Action

Siang river erosion affecting Mebo villages

Itanagar, Oct 15: Alarmed by the severe flood-induced erosion caused by the Siang River, the Adi Baane Kebang (ABK) — the apex and traditional council of the Adi community — has urged the Arunachal Pradesh government to take immediate and concrete steps to protect several villages under the Mebo Sub-Division in East Siang district.

The call comes after a team of ABK leaders and members of its Youth Wing conducted a ground inspection of the worst-affected areas, where homes, farmlands, and vital infrastructure are on the verge of collapse. The ABK delegation, accompanied by local panchayat representatives, Gaon Burahs (village elders), and community leaders, visited Namsing, Seram, Borguli, and Sagar villages, all of which have been facing recurrent erosion for years due to the river's changing course.

The situation has worsened this



monsoon, with several households displaced and public property damaged beyond repair. At Namsing village, considered one of the most severely affected areas, the visiting team was met with grim scenes of destruction. Large tracts of agricultural land have disappeared into the river, and several families have been rendered homeless.

Even the Circle Office compound, which once stood at a safe distance from the riverbank, now faces imminent collapse due to erosion. "Hundreds of hectares of fertile land have been washed away over the years. Immediate attention is needed to prevent further loss of life and property," said ABK President Tanon Tatak, who led the in-

spection team.

He described the Siang's relentless erosion as a slow-moving disaster that has destroyed livelihoods and forced communities to live in constant fear of displacement. The delegation's visit was not merely symbolic. It served as an urgent reminder that Mebo Sub-Division — situated along the volatile Siang River — is in dire need of a long-term flood protection and rehabilitation plan.

Local officials, including ZPM Gumin Tayeng, village secretaries, and panchayat members, welcomed the ABK's initiative, expressing hope that their intervention would push the state government into taking concrete steps. In Seram, Borguli, and Sagar villages, ABK officials interacted directly with residents who narrated the recurring hardships caused by seasonal floods. Many complained that previous protection measures had either failed or been left incomplete.

BUSINESS

Godrej’s Diwali film ‘Kanta Didi’ sparks conversation on acceptance and inclusion

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group, through its brand-agnostic media property Godrej L’Affaire, launched its Diwali campaign film ‘KantaDidi’, continuing the #CelebratingAcceptance initiative. The film portrays a domestic worker, Kanta Didi, interacting with a queer couple for the first time, highlighting how understanding and empathy can emerge naturally in everyday life. A moment of hesitation transforms into an honest exchange, with Kanta Didi’s warmth helping Kapil, a newcomer, open up about his identity. Her simple words, “Acha, boyfriend hai?Toh mereko ko kya?”, underscore a philosophy of live and let live, reflecting the campaign’s message that love should be nurtured in every form.Parmesh Shahani, Head of Godrej DEI Lab, said the films celebrate the quiet, everyday shifts in Indian society, noting growing recognition of queer dignity through policy and social acceptance. Raz Rehman Ali, Director at Onlyn India, added that the film’s authentic-



ity lies in its simplicity, observing life rather than teaching it. In Guwahati, the film has already generated buzz on local social media, with audiences praising its relatable storytelling and inclusive

message. Retail outlets and community screenings in Guwahati have also witnessed increased engagement during the festive season, as families discuss themes of acceptance and empathy.

The film urges society to embrace #honestconversations, showing that relationships—not rituals—define celebrations, making this Diwali a festival of understanding and unity.

Quick commerce powers stress-free Diwali celebrations across India

Guwahati: As Diwali nears, quick commerce platforms are playing a pivotal role in helping consumers manage last-minute gifting, hosting, and festive errands with ease. From busy professionals scrambling for gifts to families ensuring traditional treats and décor reach loved ones, platforms like Zepto, Happilo, Godrej, and Paperkraft are offering curated options available in minutes. For office-goers who forgot gifts, HappiloDhamaka Gift Boxes and Fabule Mini Karaoke Mics are providing instant festive energy. Families travelling home can rely on Godrej Jersey Mysore Pak and Phool Diwali Decor Boxes to relive childhood Diwali memories. Hosts organizing impromptu gatherings are turning to Zepto’s Diwali party essentials, Paperkraft Eco Crackers, and Godrej Yummiez range for quick, hassle-free setups. Office potluck participants can impress colleagues with Farmley Mix Dry Fruit Gift Packs and Open Secret Festive Snack Boxes, combining indulgence with mindful snacking. In Guwahati, local demand for quick commerce has surged as urban consumers prioritize convenience alongside tradition. Retailers in the city report higher sales in sweets, home décor, and gifting segments, while online platforms are witnessing a sharp increase in same-hour delivery orders, helping consumers complete their festive shopping in record time. With these solutions, quick commerce is turning last-minute stress into timely Diwali celebrations, ensuring the festival is joyful, vibrant, and hassle-free.

HAL, Paras Defence, Max Health, Sagility

New Delhi: Indian equity markets underwent significant volatility throughout Samvat 2081, marked by corrections in benchmark indices such as the Nifty 50 and Sensex, which recovered from lows reached in February 2025 but ended below the peaks of September 2024.The first half of Samvat 2081 was characterised by a sharp downturn, influenced by global economic headwinds, currency depreciation, and sustained selling from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). FPIs withdrew an estimated Rs 4.29 lakh crore from the market, while the second half saw recovery buoyed by robust domestic inflows, said Aditya Birla Capital one-year forward earnings, a level aligned with historical averages and indicating that overall market valuations remain moderate rather than stretched. Policy developments, including GST 2.0 with reduced and exempted slabs, and income tax relief in the 2025 Union Budget, provided an additional boost to domestic sentiment, note the brokerage firm.

Sparkle Red: A Vibrant New Shade for the Holidays Revealed by an AI+ Smartphone

New Delhi: Ai+ Smartphone from NxtQuantum Shift Technologies has unveiled a new Sparkle Red colour edition across its Pulse and Nova 5G models. Inspired by the vibrance of India’s festive season, the new color brings a bold, high-energy aesthetic to the Ai+ smartphone range, reflecting the confidence and individuality of its users. “The Sparkle Red edition reflects what Ai+ Smartphone stands for: individuality, purpose, and performance that lasts,” said Madhav Sheth, CEO of Ai+ Smartphone and Founder of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. “Our mission is to build technology that inspires confidence and puts control back in the hands of Indian users, combining beautiful design with uncompromising trust.” Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India’s first sovereign mobile operating system, Ai+ Smartphone ensures

users have complete control over their personal data. Every device comes with the NxtPrivacy Dashboard, a real-time privacy control center that shows which apps are accessing your camera, mic, gallery, or location and allows users to revoke access instantly. With no hidden trackers or bloatware, all data is securely stored within India. New Sparkling Red Color: A premium, high-gloss red with luminous metallic undertones - inspired by the vibrancy and warmth of India’s festive palette.- Performance: Powered by T615 (Pulse) and T8200 (Nova) chipsets for smooth, efficient multitasking.- Display: 6.7” HD+ screen with 90Hz (Pulse) and 120Hz (Nova) refresh rates.- Camera: 50MP AI-powered dual camera system for detailed, vibrant images.- Battery: 5000mAh all-day battery with fast charging support.- Storage: Up to 8GB RAM

Net profit for Tata Communications’ second quarter

New Delhi: Tata Communications reported a 19% fall in profit after tax (PAT) for the second quarter of FY26. Profit fell to Rs 183.21 crore in the September 2025 quarter against Rs 227.27 crore in the year ago period. Despite this decline in PAT, the company clocked a 6.5% increase in its revenue from operations, reaching Rs 6099 crore, up from Rs 5725.85 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. On a sequential basis, PAT plummeted 3.64% from Rs 190.14 crore. Following the announcement of results, Tata Communications’ shares rose 7% to hit a record high of Rs 2000 on NSE. On BSE too, the IT firm stock hit a fresh high of Rs 2,000. Market cap of the firm stood at Rs 55,368 crore on BSE. On NSE, market cap of the firm stood at Rs 55,272 crore.

Manipal Hospital champions breast cancer awareness in Aizawl, spotlight survivorship and advanced care

Aizawl: Manipal Hospital, EM Bypass, hosted a Breast Cancer Champions’ Meet in Aizawl, celebrating the resilience of breast cancer survivors and highlighting advancements in treatment. With one in 20 Indian women at risk of breast cancer and Mizoram showing a high incidence rate, the event emphasized early detection, timely treatment, and holistic care. The program was presided over by Dr. Pooja Agarwal, Consultant – Surgical Oncology, and Dr. Aadil Adnan, Head of Nuclear Medicine, who discussed the latest innovations in diagnostics and tailored treatment plans. Dr. Agarwal stated, “Early detection and treatment have dramatically improved survival rates. Programs like this build strong support networks, reminding women they are not alone.” Dr. Adnan added, “Combining technology with compassionate care allows each patient to receive optimum treatment and confidence in overcoming cancer.” Survivors, including Juliet Lal-



ruatmawii Ralte, Lalruatfeli, and Zonunmawii, shared their journeys of diagnosis, treatment, and hope, demonstrating the transformative impact of specialized medical intervention.In Aizawl, the meet reflects rising demand for advanced oncological care among Mizoram

residents. Patients increasingly travel outside the state to access specialized diagnostics and treatment, strengthening ties with leading hospitals like Manipal Hospital, EM Bypass, and signaling growth opportunities in medical outreach, awareness programs, and

health-focused community initiatives.Aligned with WHO’s theme, “Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters,” the event reinforced the importance of screenings, awareness, and personalized care in improving outcomes for breast cancer patients.

Godrej aer launches festive edition automatic home freshener to elevate Diwali ambience

Guwahati: Godrej aer, India’s leading home fragrance brand under Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), has expanded its automatic home freshener portfolio with the launch of Godrej aeromatic Royal Festive Essence. Designed specifically for the festive season, the new variant features a rose-gold finish and a Warm Vanilla fragrance, combining rich vanilla with soft floral undertones to create a welcoming and celebratory home ambience. The device offers flexible placement with a built-in shelf stand and wall-mounting options, while each refill provides up to 2,200 sprays lasting up to 60 days on low settings. A smart timer allows users to customize fragrance intervals at

10, 20, or 40 minutes. Priced at ₹549, the starter kit is available across modern trade, general trade, and leading e-commerce platforms. Air fresheners remain one of the fastest-growing segments in East India, valued at over ₹300 crore, with automatic variants contributing more than ₹150 crore. In Guwahati, festive season demand has seen a significant uptick, with shoppers increasingly preferring premium and aesthetically designed automatic fresheners to enhance home decor during Diwali and other celebrations. Retailers in the city report strong footfalls and early festive bookings for Godrej aeromatic Royal. Ashwin Moorthy, CMO of GCPL, noted, “Festivals are



when families invest most in their homes. This special edition Matic is crafted entirely in India to elevate festive experiences and serve as an aspirational gifting option.”

Sansaar brings sustainable festive cheer to homes across India



Guwahati: As the festive season begins, Sansaar, a sustainable home décor brand under the D’Décor umbrella, is offering families across India an opportunity to elevate their homes with style, warmth, and personality. Known for its sophisticated soft furnishings and eco-friendly accents, Sansaar’s collections aim to make homes inviting, vibrant, and celebration-ready. The brand’s wide range includes the deep-hued Satina collection for living rooms, pastel Locomotion sheers, and 100% organic cotton bedding from the Plains and Charm collections, designed to bring luxury and comfort to bedrooms. Sansaar’s Fables collection caters to children with playful, non-toxic fabrics, while the Integra range adds a festive touch to

workspaces without compromising professionalism. In Guwahati, the festive spirit has prompted a surge in interest for Sansaar products, with local shoppers seeking sustainable yet stylish décor for homes. Retailers in Guwahati market report strong footfall, particularly for vibrant cushions, luxurious bedcovers, and statement rugs that tie rooms together. Shoppers appreciate the balance of aesthetic appeal and eco-consciousness, making Sansaar a preferred choice this season. Sansaar’s sustainable home furnishings are available at over 450 stores nationwide and online at www.sansaar.co.in , allowing households to celebrate responsibly while creating warm, memorable spaces.

Tata Salt champions iodine awareness, connect health and market growth ahead of WIDD

New Delhi: Tata Salt, India’s pioneering iodized salt brand, is taking a people-centric approach to raise awareness about iodine deficiency as World Iodine Deficiency Day (WIDD) approaches. Highlighting iodine’s vital role in children’s mental development, the brand is merging public health objectives with business outreach, demonstrating how socially conscious campaigns can drive both awareness and market engagement. Despite 76.3% of households consuming adequate iodized salt, only 22.4% fully understand its benefits, according to the India Iodine Survey 2018-19, underscoring the need for education-driven initiatives. Tata Salt has expanded its audio-led campaign, ‘Namak ho Tata ka... Tata Namak,’ across key transit hubs nationwide, including railway stations, bus stands, and transport vans in cities such as Delhi, Nagpur, Varanasi, Patna, and Muzaffarpur. By connecting with everyday commuters through familiar cultural messaging, the brand emphasizes the link between proper iodine intake, child development, and national progress.Through these initiatives, Tata Salt exemplifies how business strategy and social responsibility can intersect to promote health while expanding market presence.



After OTT Hit, Shahid Kapoor Urges Ishaan Khatter to ‘Show Them What You Got’

Mumbai: Ishaan Khatter is riding high on the massive success of Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan. With its poignant narrative, social relevance and standout performances, the emotional drama has emerged as one of the most powerful cinematic experiences of the year. As the film continues to dominate the box office and win hearts across the country, Bollywood actor and brother Shahid Kapoor couldn’t contain his delight after seeing the love and appreciation Ishaan is receiving for his phenomenal performance in the film. As the ‘proudest cheerleader,’ he took to Instagram to express his delight at Ishaan’s growing popularity. He posted a monochromatic snapshot of them, where they are hugging each other. Pouring his heart out, Shahid wrote, “This boy is an



artist that’s homebound. @ishaankhat-ter am so proud of you. It’s a joy to see you come into your own as an actor and express your inner self with honesty and commitment. You are going from strength to strength and I can’t tell you how proud I feel. You go get em boy.

Show them what you got. Always your proudest cheerleader.” Made under the direction of Neeraj Ghaywan, the emotional drama centres around two childhood friends, Shoaib, a Muslim (played by Ishaan Khatter) and Chandan, a Dalit (played by Vishal Jethwa). Set in a North

Indian village, Homebound shows how the two set out to become police officers to save themselves from the deep-rooted discrimination they face. As time passes and the police exam results are delayed, life tests their bond as desperation grows in this quest. The film delves into themes like the emotional complexities of friendship and rural India’s socio-political challenges. Starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor, the emotional drama is bankrolled under the Dharma Productions banner by Somen Mishra, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Adar Poonawalla. Melita Toscan Du Plantier, Marijke deSouza and legendary Hollywood filmmaker Martin Scorsese are the executive producers of the film. The actor is currently busy shooting for the romantic drama, Cocktail 2.

Helmed by Homi Adajania and penned by Luv Ranjan, the sequel also features Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon in lead roles. The film, backed by Dinesh Vijan’s Maddock Films, is being shot in the picturesque locales of Italy. While other details about the plot are still under wraps, the makers are planning to release it in the second half of 2026. Up next, Shahid will be seen in the period drama, O Romeo. The highly anticipated film, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, features a stellar cast, including Triptii Dimri, Nana Patekar, Randeeep Hooda and Vikrant Massey. Set against the backdrop of 1990s Mumbai, O Romeo is described as an action-packed love story packed with action and gangsters. The family’s public celebration underscores the importance of the film’s success for the young actor.

Sagar Parekh returns to Anupamaa cameo

Mumbai: Sagar Parekh, who played Samar in the iconic drama Anupamaa, has shared a heartfelt post on Instagram, marking his emotional comeback to the show after more than two years. The post featured a sweet and nostalgic moment with on-screen mother Rupali Ganguly, who was shown affectionately pecking him on the cheek. Earlier, there were reports that the actor would be seen on the show for a brief while, and his post confirmed the news. In his post, Sagar shared what it was like to step back into Samar’s shoes, even if only for a short time.

High Court Order Secures Hrithik Roshan’s Personality Rights

New Delhi: In a big relief, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday protected the personality rights of Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan. As reported by Live Law, the court directed the removal of certain links and listings on various internet and e-commerce websites, which allegedly infringed the personality rights of the War 2 actor.

The court also declined to grant ex-parte relief against Instagram pages and fan clubs of the Bollywood actor, who had approached the court seeking protection of his personality rights against unauthorised use of his images/voice for alleged commercial purposes. Hrithik, via his lawyer, told the court that his name and imag-



es were being used to sell products. He also claimed that his videos are being widely circulated for dance tutorials. However, the court noted, “It’s a song which is of Hritik Roshan which they will be using for dance tutorial. They are using that performance to teach people. It is not commercial merchandise. At this stage, I am not persuaded by this... This is

available in public domain. Anybody can use this.” In recent times, several celebrities, including Aishwarya Rai, Abhishek Bachchan, Amitabh Bachchan, Karan Johar, Rishab Shetty and Akkineni Nagarjuna, also moved court to seek protection of their personality rights. Recently, the Bombay High Court issued an order protecting the unau-

thorised use of veteran playback singer Asha Bhosle’s personality rights. The court restrained various entities from misusing the personal attributes of the singer, like her name and images – even with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It also stated that making AI tools available to replicate a celebrity’s voice without consent is a violation of their identity rights. Personality rights refer to an individual’s legal entitlement to control the commercial and public use of their identity. They safeguard attributes that are uniquely linked to a person, such as their name, image, likeness, voice, signature, or even trademark catchphrases, from being exploited without consent.

Telugu advance booking huge, eclipses Tamil pre-release sales

Agency: Debutant director Keerthiswaran’s upcoming romantic drama, Dude, with Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju in lead roles, is gearing up for release ahead of Diwali on October 17. The film, which was made in Tamil and dubbed in Telugu,

night. Surprisingly, of the total amount so far, \$32K was from the Telugu version of the film, while the original Tamil version brought in \$27K. It remains to be seen if the trend will change as the film continues to bring in collections ahead of its release. Pradeep

in ₹18.68 crore, net of the ₹101.34 crore domestic box office from the Telugu version. According to Sacnilk, as of 2 PM, Dude made ₹17.26 lakh in advance booking in India. “Aravind aka Dude (Pradeep Ranganathan) is carefree and confident, living



is surprisingly outperforming the original in advance sales in the US for the dubbed language.

A trade source confirmed that Dude has secured \$ 59K in advance bookings in the US as of Wednesday morning, following the opening of bookings on Tuesday

gained fame in the Telugu states due to the success of his previous films Love Today (2022) and Dragon (2025). For Love Today, the collections for the Telugu version stood at ₹11.81 crore net in India, out of a lifetime domestic collection of ₹66.57 crore. For Dragon, the film brought

life on his terms—until love happens. When he meets Kural (Mamitha Baiju), things take an unpredictable turn: laughter, heartache, jealousy, betrayal. As emotions run high, decisions made in moments of passion lead to consequences that threaten everything Aravind holds dear.

Arjun Kapoor Hypes Up Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh’s Next Film

Mumbai: Ajay Devgn, R Madhavan and Rakul Preet starrer De De Pyaar De 2 trailer has been released, and it is getting love from all corners. Celebrities, including Arjun Kapoor, has also expressed his excitement for the upcoming romantic comedy. The actor shared his anticipation for the much-awaited sequel, calling it one of his most eagerly awaited films. The first De De Pyaar De, released in 2019, was a major success. Starring Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh, and Tabu, the film was loved by audiences.

Taking to his Instagram stories, Arjun Kapoor shared the trailer and wrote, “Loved part 1 and now part 2 looks 2 good! Can’t wait” Many other celebrities also praised the trailer. Ahan Shetty wrote, “I’ve waiting for this one.” The film is all set to release on November 14 this year. The trailer picks up exactly where the first film left off — with Aashish (Ajay Devgn) and Ayesha (Rakul Preet Singh) still navigating their complicated age-gap relationship. In the new film, Aashish must now face an even tougher challenge: winning over Ayesha’s family. The two arrive at her parents’ home, played by R Madhavan and Gautami Kapoor, who try hard to appear open-minded — until they realise that Aashish is almost the same age as Ayesha’s father. What follows is a mix of awkward humour, emotional moments, and the return of Aashish’s best friend, played by Jaaved Jaaferi, trying to keep things from completely falling apart. Adding to the chaos is Meezaan Jafri’s



character — planted by Ayesha’s family as a potential match for her. What ensues is a battle of love, age, and approval, in true Luv Ranjan style. The De De Pyaar De 2 trailer also pays tribute to Ajay Devgn’s classic moments in films — including his famous Phool Aur Kaante entry scene, where he balanced on two bikes, and his trademark Singham move of stepping out of a moving car with full swagger.

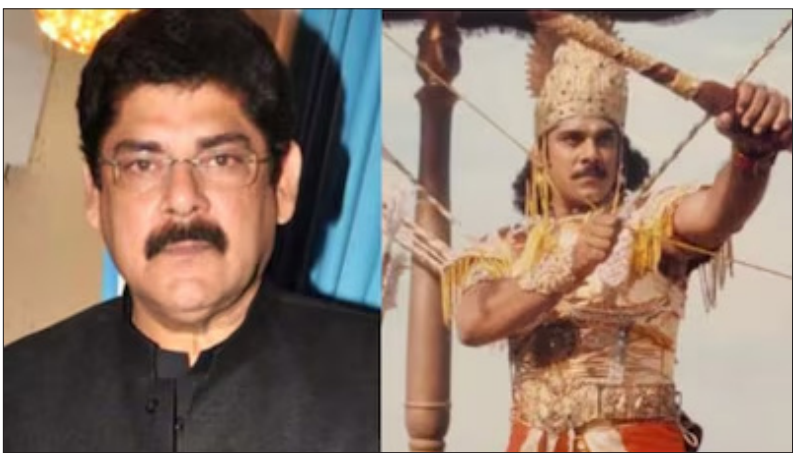
On the work front, Arjun was last seen in the rom-com Mere Husband Ki Biwi opposite Bhumi Ped-

nekar and Rakul Preet Singh. He has wrapped the Delhi schedule of his upcoming Mudassar Aziz directorial. Arjun’s next appearance will be in No Entry 2, the highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster comedy No Entry. Anees Bazmee directed the film, which also stars Varun Dhawan and Diljit Dosanjh. There has also been talk that Tamannaah Bhatia will join the cast as the female lead, however no official confirmation has been made. Boney Kapoor, Arjun’s father, is producing the film.

Veteran Actor Pankaj Dheer Passes Away

Mumbai: Veteran actor Pankaj Dheer, best remembered for his unforgettable portrayal of Karna in BR Chopra’s Mahabharat, has passed away at the age of 68. The actor breathed his last on September 15, after a long battle with cancer. His close friend and CINTAA member, Amit Behl, confirmed the news to India Today.

Sources revealed that Pankaj had been undergoing treatment for cancer and had shown signs of recovery before the illness relapsed a few months ago. He had also undergone a major surgery recently. “With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform you of the passing of our Trust’s erstwhile Chairman and CINTAA’s former Hon. General Secretary, Shri Pankaj Dheer ji, on 15th October 2025. The cremation will be held today at 4:30 pm, next to Pawan Hans, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai.” Pankaj Dheer rose to fame in the late 1980s for his unforgettable portrayal of Karna in BR Chopra’s iconic TV series Mahabharat — a performance that made him a household name across India. His dignified and emotion-



al take on the tragic warrior earned him immense respect and remains one of the most memorable interpretations of the character on screen. His career was far richer than just his towering portrayal of Karna in BR Chopra’s Mahabharat. He went on to take powerful roles in landmark TV shows like Chandrakanta, where he played King Shivdutt, the fantasy drama The Great Maratha, and the patriot saga Yug (as Ali Khan) on DD

National. He also starred in the courtroom drama series Kanooon produced by B.R. Chopra, showcasing his range across genres. Over his decades-long career, Pankaj Dheer appeared in several popular films and television shows including Sanam Bewafa and Baadshah. He also turned director with the film My Father Godfather and founded the Abhinav Acting Academy, mentoring a new generation of actors.

Director Abhinav Kashyap Blasts Salman Khan’s Career and Image

Mumbai: Dabangg director Abhinav Kashyap has reignited his feud with Salman Khan, accusing the superstar of being a “criminal” and questioning his credibility to play a soldier in Battle of Galwan. The controversy stems from Kashyap’s long-standing claims that Salman hijacked Dabangg and created a toxic work environment, ultimately leading the director to step away from the sequel.

In a recent interview shared by Bollywood Thikana, Abhinav didn’t hold back, saying, “One hypothetical situation could be that Salman orders a hit on me.” He continued, “He is not saying anything while I am criticising him,



but his sycophants seem to have a problem with it. This man has destroyed his life to an extent that it is beyond saving now.” On Salman’s upcoming film, he added, “A criminal like him will play a soldier?” Kashyap further detailed his fallout with Salman, highlighting the betrayal he felt after giving the superstar

his big break with Dabangg. “He begged me for a film, and I gave him a chance with Dabangg, but he stabbed me in the back. Ye jo in logon ne zehar dala hai na mere andar, ye zehar ki ulti kar raha hu main. (I’m spitting whatever venom they’ve filled me up with.)” Abhinav said, taking aim at what he calls Salman’s

‘chapri’ or tacky style. He also questioned why someone like Salman could be cast as a Veer Senani.

Salman Khan addressed the situation indirectly on Bigg Boss, without naming Abhinav. He remarked, “There is one more Dabangg insaan who has taken a dig at Aamir Khan also, along with me... kaam mila kya bhai?” Salman emphasized that badmouthing others only harms oneself: “The only thing I feel bad about is that you destroyed yourself... If someone gives you advice to think about what you say, then listen to them. I want to see you grow. Talented man, he writes well, but he shouldn’t do this the wrong way.”

New satellite will see through clouds to ‘weigh’ Earth’s forests

A first-of-its-kind satellite that will be able to see through clouds and leafy canopies to assess how the world’s rainforests are protecting the planet from climate change, has successfully launched. The Biomass satellite, from the European Space Agency, will “weigh” the Earth’s forests, revealing how much planet-warming carbon is being stored within trees and therefore kept out of the atmosphere.Until now the amount of carbon stored by the 1.5 trillion trees in the planet’s rainforests has been impossible to calculate.Led by European aerospace group Airbus, the project hopes to help scientists more accurately model climate change and track rates of deforestation. The satellite launched from ESA’s Kourou station in French Guiana.It has been affectionately named “space brolly” for its giant 12m diameter antenna which will expand outward when the launch process is complete.“We really want to interrogate these forests. We can actually look inside,” Prof John Remedios, director of The National Centre for Earth Observation, which proposed the idea to ESA, said after the launch.He said that it would be a major achievement “to actually know for the first time with high accuracy how much is actually in the Amazon, Congo, Indonesia”.The antenna will use radar with a very long wavelength - allowing it to see deeper inside forests and reveal branches and trunks obscured by the canopy.“Most



radars that we have in space today take wonderful images of icebergs, but when they look at forests they see the tops of the forest, the little twigs, the little leaves, they don’t penetrate down into the forests,” explained Dr Ralph Cordey, head of geosciences at Airbus. “But what we found was that by using a much longer radar wavelength, we could see down into the depths of trees and forests,” he said.The 1.2-tonne satellite will use an approach not dissimilar to that used in a CT scan, and analyse slices through the trees on repeat passes to build up a picture of how much woody material is present.It is this material that can be used as a proxy for the amount of planet-warming carbon dioxide stored.Currently scientists

have been measuring individual trees and trying to extrapolate, but this presents a “huge challenge” said Prof Mat Disney, professor of remote sensing, at University College London.“Our current understanding is really patchy, because it’s really, really difficult to measure,” he said. “Essentially, what we’re talking about is trying to weigh the amount of carbon that’s stored in one and a half trillion trees across the tropics.“Satellites are really the only way you can do that consistently.”On the ground measurements will continue to take place after the satellite is launched to verify the data it is sending back. Despite years of testing, the launch was challenging.“Certain things on the satellite are big, that includes its

big 12-metre, deployable antenna. It’s a bit like deploying an umbrella in space, only a very big one, so we will be looking for that to happen smoothly,” said Dr Cordey.Airbus brought in engineers from the American company L3Harris Technologies to their site in Stevenage to oversee the construction of the antenna-reflector.L3Harris are specialists in these large, unfurlable systems - expertise which is not currently possessed in Europe. The team is hoping to produce the first maps within six months, and will then continue to gather data for the next five years.These annual maps will not only show how much carbon is stored but how much is being lost through deforestation.“The kind of observations that we’ve had for 50 years from [other] satellites like Landsat are affected very heavily by clouds. And in tropical regions, we have clouds a lot of the time, so you may not see a chunk of tropical forest,” said Prof Disney.Another advantage of the longer wavelength of the Biomass satellite is that it can penetrate clouds giving a consistent, comparable view of a forest from one year to the next.It is this outcome which has motivated the scientists who have worked on the project for more than 20 years.“It’s exciting, because it’s going to tell us about how something that we perhaps take for granted,” said Dr Cordey. “Our forests, our trees, how they are contributing to the processes which govern our planet, and in particular, the processes behind climate change which are so important to us today and for the future.”

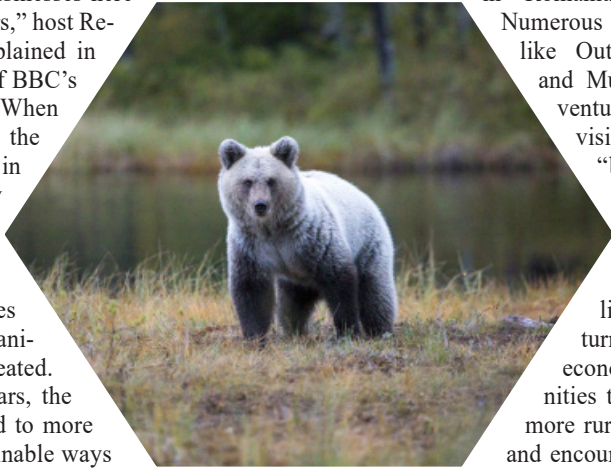
‘Wildfire sent years of work up in flames’

For years, conservationists have been working to bring native trees back to the spectacular Glen Rosa on the Isle of Arran.But a decade of effort was wiped out in days when a wildfire ripped across the valley earlier this month.“It was years of our work going up in flames,” Kate Sampson, the National Trust for Scotland’s senior ranger on Arran, told BBC Scotland News.“We just have to start again.“We’ve lost 10 years of conservation work and effort but we just have to pick ourselves up.”The blaze began on Thursday 10 April and was not fully extinguished until the following Sunday.By the time the fire was out it had destroyed 27,000 trees as well as killing hundreds of reptiles.Much of the Glen Rosa valley was left looking like a charred and blackened moonscape, with little sign of the years of work from the National Trust for Scotland, which is responsible for the area.According to the trust, thousands of years ago the glen would have been a native woodland but it was left bare by human intervention such as grazing sheep and deer.It has been trying to restore the woodlands by introducing downy birch, sessile oak, hazel, willow, aspen and alder as well as endangered tree species such as Arran whitebeam. Then, two weeks ago, Ms Sampson could do nothing but watch as years of effort were destroyed.She was at the scene within minutes of the blaze starting on grassland at the bottom of the valley.“It was shooting up the hill really fast because of the dry conditions and the wind,” she told BBC Scotland News.“From then on in, it was disaster management.” As well as firefighters, local volunteers worked around the clock to try to keep the wildfire under control.Ms Sampson said: “The moorland was so tinder-dry and we had so much dead bracken and Molinia grass, so it just spread really fast across the moorland.“There wasn’t much we could do to stop it.”In the days after the fire, Ms Sampson and a group of naturalists surveyed the land to assess the potential impact of the wildlife.“It’s quite tough to see, it’s not just the trees that are gone, all the wildlife in the glen has been devastated too,” she said.“We had a group come and we monitored the glen but instead of monitoring live animals we had to record dead bodies.“We had 72 dead slow worms, 25 dead adders, countless frogs and all dead as we walked the valley. Ms Sampson ordered a live long worm from the scorched In the two since the only come handful of still alive.“It’s hard to know the long-term impacts but the ecology has been totally disrupted and it’s going to take a long time for that to recover,” she said.Initial investigations have suggested the fire could have started when dry ground was ignited when sun shone through a discarded glass bottle but the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has not confirmed a cause.



The European nation where bears roam free

Romania is home to the largest population of wild brown bears in Europe outside of Russia, with as many as 13,000 bears living in and around the largely untouched forests of the Carpathian Mountains. But while bear-spotting has long been a tourist attraction in Romania, it historically didn’t involve venturing into the forest.“It wasn’t that long ago that it was commonplace to see a bear kept in a cage outside of businesses here to attract customers,” host Reece Parkinson explained in a recent episode of BBC’s The Travel Show.When Romania joined the European Union in 2007, the country began to adhere to the EU Zoos Directive, which issues guidelines for how captive animals are to be treated. In the past 18 years, the country has turned to more humane and sustainable ways to show off one of Europe’s last truly wild corners and the brown bears who thrive here.Brown bears have roamed the



woods and mountains of Europe for millions of years. However, their numbers dwindled significantly as human civilisation expanded. Today, it’s estimated that roughly 36,000 bears live in the European part of Russia, but new research conducted by Romania’s Forestry Research Institute reveals that the nation’s brown bear population is much higher than previously estimated – a fact that has brought both opportunity and challenges to surrounding communities. On one hand, sustainable bear tourism in Romania is growing. Numerous tour operators like Outdoor Holidays and Much Better Adventures now offer visitors guided “bear-sighting” hiking trips into the forests where brown bears live. This, in turn, also brings economic opportunities to the country’s more rural communities and encourages continued conservation of the animals’ habitat.There’s even a dedicated safe haven: Liberty Bear Sanctuary, nestled in the south-



ern Carpathian Mountains in the town of Zarnesti, is the world’s largest brown bear sanctuary. It not only rescues and provides medical care to formerly captive bears who can’t be released into the wild, but also offers public tours, allowing visitors them to see the bears in a 69-hectare expanse of oak forests and grasslands. “In the last 20 years, Cristina Lapis and

her team [at Liberty Bear Sanctuary] have given a home to over 130 bears here in Transylvania,” said Parkinson.Unfortunately, not everyone is enthusiastic about their furry neighbours. As the bear population flourishes, so do dangerous encounters with humans.Some local farmers, many of whom have lost livestock to the bears, have lobbied for culling Romania’s

brown bear population. Visitors have also had conflicts with the animals, often because of unexpected encounters while hiking the mountains – several of which have turned deadly. Still Lapis, who runs the sanctuary, insists that such encounters are not the norm. “I know hundreds of thousands of cases where people who are used to the forest saw a bear and nothing happened. So [there] must be something special that an accident happened,” said Lapis. “When you go in the forest... it’s important to make noise. If you make noise the animal knows you’re coming and goes away.”Efforts are underway to try to find a happy medium that protects the bears and keeps visitors and livestock as safe as possible. The animals are protected under Romanian law, and reforestation and educational efforts are underway to prevent the bears from entering into human territory to feed and to teach humans what to do when they encounter a bear in the woods. Most life-threatening encounters with bears are due to human error, usually when a human startles a bear or interacts inappropriately with cubs, making mother bears defensive. Therefore, when hiking in bear country – whether in Romania or elsewhere – it’s important to talk loudly or clap your hands to give the animals time to avoid you. If you come upon a bear accidentally, make yourself as large as possible and back away.

Wales facing unrecognisable future warns commissioner

Wales faces an “unrecognisable future” without urgent action to protect the environment, tackle poverty and ill health, the country’s future generations commissioner has said.The unique job was created ten years ago with a law which now forces public bodies to consider the long-term impacts of all decisions.But Derek Walker, who was appointed to the role in 2022, told the BBC he had been “frustrated at progress” as the Wales Audit Office also warned of a failure to achieve “system-wide change”.The Welsh government said it would review the recommendations carefully before responding formally. As part of the role, Wales’ future generations commissioner writes a progress report every five years, to be published a year before a Senedd election.It provides advice on the actions required to protect the Welsh citizens of today as well as “those yet to be born”. Mr Walker explained. While pointing to successes such as Wales’ world-leading recycling rate and investment in sustainable transport, he warned of “significant” challenges.These include climate change and the collapse of nature, with 1 in 6 species currently facing extinction from Wales.There are also 273,000 homes at risk of flooding, a figure projected to double within 100 years, as a result of changing weather patterns and rising sea levels. While there is a Welsh government target for public sector organisations to reach net zero by 2030 - meaning they no longer contribute to global warming - the report found many concerned about whether they could actually achieve it and needing “significant additional resources”. On the other hand, the fact that there was no legally-binding nature recovery target in Wales meant that part of the problem “was not given sufficient priority” by the public sector, the report said. Tougher enforcement of those polluting the environment was also called for, with new legislation needed to give Natural Resources Wales powers to issue civil sanctions, such as stop orders and fines.Other challenges include poverty levels that remained

“unacceptably high”.Nearly one third (29%) of children in Wales live in poverty, while more than 1 in 5 of the population as a whole lived in relative income poverty between 2021-23.The report called on every public body to commit to a plan within two years that sets out how it would offer the voluntary Real Living Wage - so far only 13 out of 56 have done so.The commissioner also said Wales “cannot afford to keep treating preventable diseases without addressing their underlying causes”.NHS Wales spends £1 out of every £10 they have on diabetes, for instance, yet “most Type 2 diabetes cases are preventable” with healthy eating and exercise.Wales currently has the highest percentage of people living with diabetes in the UK, while around one in four adults are obese.Life satisfaction and anxiety levels among adults are worsening, and in 2025 many can expect to spend the last 20 years of their lives in ill health.As the NHS grapples with the population’s acute care needs, funding for preventative measures has been cut.The report described this as “an act of collective self-sabotage”, warning the health service was “increasingly overwhelmed with preventable diseases and accidents”.The commissioner also warned that “culture is in crisis” in Wales, insisting the arts were “not a nice-to-have” but rather vital to people’s well-being.The capacity of the Welsh public sector was described as being “at breaking point” due to rising demand and years of austerity.Wales became the first country in the world to legislate for the rights of citizens not-yet-born, when the Well-being of Future Generations Act was passed in 2015.Ten years on, today’s progress report finds “strong support” across the public sector.From Welsh government ministers down to those running schools and hospitals, they are now all meant to be evaluating the long-term impacts of their decisions and working collaboratively to tackle future threats such as climate change and growing health inequalities.

Fingerprints of city-sized icebergs found off UK coast

Icebergs as large as cities, potentially tens of kilometres wide, once roved the coasts of the UK, according to scientists.Researchers found distinctive scratch marks left by the drifting icebergs as they gouged deep tracks into the North Sea floor more than 18,000 years ago.It’s the first hard evidence that the ice sheet formerly covering Britain and Ireland produced such large bergs.The findings could provide vital clues in understanding how climate change is affecting Antarctica today. The scientists searched for fingerprints of giant icebergs using very detailed 3D seismic data, collected by oil and gas companies or wind turbine projects doing ocean surveys.This is a bit like doing an MRI scan of the sediment layers beneath the present-day seafloor, going back millions of years. The researchers found deep, comb-like grooves, interpreted to have been created by the keels of large icebergs that broke off the British-Irish ice sheet more than 18,000 years ago. Some of these scratch marks are as close as 90 miles (145km) to Scotland’s present-day east coast. “We found [evidence of] these gigantic tabular ice-

bergs, which basically means the shape of a table, with incredibly wide and flat tops,” said James Kirkham, marine geophysicist at the British Antarctic Survey and lead author of the new study, published in the journal Nature Communications.“These have not been seen before and it shows definitively that the UK had ice shelves, because that’s the only way to produce these gigantic tabular icebergs.”Ice shelves are floating platforms of ice where glaciers extend out into the ocean.By analysing the size of the grooves, the scientists estimate that these icebergs could be five to tens of kilometres wide and 50-180m thick, although it’s difficult to be exact.That means they would have covered an area roughly as big as medium-sized UK cities like Norwich or Cambridge. The icebergs are comparable in size to some of the smaller icebergs found off present-day Antarctica, such as blocks that calved from the Larsen B ice

shelf in 2002.Dr Kirkham described seeing such an iceberg when working in Antarctica two years ago.“Those of us working on this paper were standing together, gazing out onto this iceberg and thinking, ‘Wow, that’s probably a similar size iceberg to what was found off the shore of Scotland 18,000 years ago, right in front of us in Antarctica today.’” Hundreds of ice shelves surround about three-quarters of today’s Antarctic ice sheet, helping to hold back its vast glaciers.But if ice shelves are lost, the glaciers behind can speed up, depositing more and more ice into the ocean and raising sea levels worldwide.Exactly how this plays out, though, is “one of the largest sources of uncertainty in our models of sea level rise”, Dr Kirkham told BBC News.That’s partly because scientists have only been able to use satellites for a few decades to observe - hence the desire to look for examples further back in time.No ice shelf setting is the same, but the researchers say their findings from the former British-Irish ice sheet could help understand how Antarctica might respond to today’s rapidly warming climate.





A vintage ride on the British Isles’ only electric mountain railway

Our train was crawling slowly up a steeply pitched valley that felt hidden from the rest of the world. To the right of the tracks, the Laxey River dropped suddenly, turning south to vanish into the Irish Sea. Here and there, sheep grazed and the soft scent of gorse wafted into the carriage. I gazed out as the vegetation disappeared and we rattled higher – higher – as the train spiralled around the mountain’s bald summit. A howling wind greeted our arrival at the top station, and I looked out to a sea that had turned to thrashing waves. The view stretched even further. According to folklorists, the summit is where one can glimpse seven kingdoms, including those that aren’t acknowledged by any map. I could see England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man, but up there you can also see that of Manannán mac Lir, son of the sea and king of the otherworld in Gaelic mythology, and the kingdom of heaven. For believers, the journey is an imagined pilgrimage. Snaefell, or “Snow Mountain”, is no ordinary peak and the Snaefell Mountain Railway is no ordinary train. I was on the Isle of Man, atop the island’s highest peak, having ridden the only electric mountain railway in the

British Isles. The tradition to ride to the top is a profound one, but, equally, to learn about the train is to build a vivid portrait of the Isle of Man. For the railway’s story is one of unemployment and migration, engineering milestones and the rise of Victorian-era tourism, and it still looms large in the legend of the island, revealing the independent character at the very heart of Manx life. The day had begun at the Manx Museum, the Isle of Man’s national museum in Douglas. The former hospital building is a nostalgic place by nature, with galleries dedicated to Viking silver hoards, Celtic crosses and Tynwald (the oldest continuous parliament in the world) helping distil the island’s 10,000-year history into bite-sized nuggets. Chiefly, I was interested in the railway’s timeline, which led me to the social history galleries and an encounter with Katie King, the museum’s curator of art and social history. “In the mid-19th Century, the Isle of Man was in a mess,” she said, as we symbolically slipped back in time. “There was low population growth, no employment, exponential immigration and the island’s coal industry was collapsing. The [Isle of] Man government was alarmed by all of

this.” At the time, this was a familiar lament across many communities in the British Isles. But the Isle of Man, a UK Crown Dependency, had a secret weapon: its influential lieutenant governor, Sir Henry Brougham Loch, 1st Baron Loch. In office from 1863 to 1882, Loch realised the island’s potential as a destination for spa tourism. Seaside holidays were booming in Queen Victoria’s era and the Isle of Man, with sandy beaches and bracing waters, was primed to reap the rewards. In one sense, the island’s capital, Douglas, was sacrificed to tourism. A glossy marketing campaign appeared on the London Underground in the 1870s, featuring idyllic sailing boats and beautiful women in swimming costumes, transforming the working-class port town into a glamorous holiday destination. The journey to get there, from ports including Blackpool, Whitehaven, Silloth, Ardrossan and Greenock by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, the world’s oldest continuously operating passenger shipping company, was also portrayed as an exotic sea crossing to a mystical island. The speed at which things changed was astonishing. At its peak, 11 steamer ships made the crossing from Liverpool daily; and,

by 1880, nearly 350,000 visitors were arriving every summer. A staggering 1,500 hotels opened, and, within a decade, Douglas had been transformed with a seafront promenade, pier and the largest ballroom in Europe. Despite moral outcry from the influential Methodist community, the island attracted legions of unchaperoned single men and women. And with liberal drinking laws, it was once described, as King puts it, as “one of the most debauched places in Britain”. “But the gover-



nor wasn’t content with stopping there,” added King. “All those visitors only spent time in Douglas because there weren’t opportunities to explore the island. So, building a train was the next obvious step.” Enter the Manx Electric Railway at the northern end of the Loch Promenade. First opened to the coastal town of Grouldle in 1893, it is now the oldest electric tram line in the world with its original rolling stock still in service. Then, two years later, the Snaefell Mountain Railway arrived as part of a further tourism push. Remarkably, the two connecting lines still run with much of their original Victorian-era infrastructure. Both feel like museums on wheels. If it’s fascinating to hear these stories, it’s more thrilling to ride to Snaefell, all while peering out of the world’s oldest operational electric tram cars. While the epic views mean that comfort is secondary, the enjoyment of the three-hour return journey to the summit comes from riding on period piece Victorian tram cars doing what they were built to do. First, the Manx Electric Railway rattles, stutters and sways along the seven-mile track from Derby Castle Station to Laxey; then it’s a quick switch onto the Snaefell Mountain Railway as it pushes uphill for a further five miles to 621m. Inside, the shallow arched carriages are polished ash and pitch

pine. There are glazed vestibules, mirrored panels and sliding



October. Like me, many come for the ride through the glens and fields, the train clawing



past beech trees bursting to green before the hillside peters into rocks. Some come for the rare experience of driving the tram itself, with one day

train-driving tutorials available. And those of a more spiritual bent

come to savour the seven kingdoms. Before dusk, I reflected on much of this as I scrambled to Snaefell’s true summit above the rail tracks. Ireland lay in front of me, with Wales, Scotland and England at my back, facing east. Above, so Manx folklore says, was the domain of “otherworld”, a legend more difficult to ignore because of the remains of a Victorian-era observatory at the summit. Around me was the watery kingdom of Manannán mac Lir (fun fact: he’s reputedly buried under a grassy knoll behind the walls of Peel Castle on the island’s west coast). All of this was a confusion of the real and make-believe. And yet, looking out at this island full of stories made me realise that my short journey onboard the Snaefell Mountain Railway had taken me to more places than I ever could’ve imagined. It seems an ordinary train, but the tracks of this tiny electric mountain railway continue to keep both fantasy and so much of Manx history and culture alive.

How to experience Italy like a local this summer

Does it seem like everyone is in Italy right now? Italy has been ranked as the top destination for American travellers in 2024 and 2025, according to a study by Price Waterhouse Cooper and the United States Tour Operators Association, but the honour should come as no surprise. The nation welcomes 80 million international visitors annually, drawn by its pastel-coloured villages, Renaissance treasures and Roman ruins. From the Etruscans to the Romans to the Byzantines, each civilisation that has passed through this boot-shaped nation has left their own unique architectural stamp on the land, transforming its cities into open-air museums. Italy also enjoys a reputation for a deliciously laid-back lifestyle – especially in summer, when everybody’s in the piazza and beach umbrellas stud the coastlines. “Italy doesn’t ask you to be a tourist; it invites you to feel something,” says Ruben Sanpietro, CEO and founder of Visit Italy. “It’s a country where chaos meets elegance, where silence in a mountain village can be as powerful as an opera at [Milan’s] La Scala [theatre]. You can visit 10 times, and the 11th time still surprises you, not with something new, but with something ancient you hadn’t noticed before. Italy doesn’t entertain you. It transforms you.” A 2024 study by TourismA

found foreign visitors stick to the same few popular cities – equaling just 1% of Italy’s territory. Here are our favourite ways to explore the other 99% this summer. There are a million reasons to visit. Here are some of our favourites. The Palio of Siena attracts history buffs with its recreation of a medieval horse race (2 July and 16 August), while Milan Fashion Week and opera season in Shakespeare’s fair city of Verona are musts for culture vultures. Sports fans can experience the Giro d’Italia (9 May to 1 Jun in 2025) or the Formula One Grand Prix held in Imola (spring) and Milan (late summer). Hack: Upwards of 30 million pilgrims are expected to head to St Peter’s Basilica in Italy’s already-overtouristed capital city to celebrate the Jubilee year for Roman Catholics. Visitors dreaming of Rome in 2025 would do well to skip summer and come during the shoulder months of October to March, avoiding the religious holidays of Easter, the Immaculate Conception (8 December), Christmas and the Epiphany (6 January). For a detour from the bucket list art cities, visit the Dolomites. This limestone mountain range – spanning the Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and Friuli-Venezia Giulia regions – is beloved

by Italians for its epic skiing and hiking, and lacks the tourist crowds of Rome, Florence and Venice. “Limited time is an issue,” admits Fiorenza Lipparini, DMO of Milan & Partners, which runs the website YesMilano. “There are no close international airports and a lack of accommodation – we’re talking about very small villages.” The Dolomites, with their wild valleys, gorges and lakes offer thrilling hikes year-round. “They really are the most beautiful mountains in the world, from the Swiss Alps to [the valley of] Val Gardena,” says Lipparini. “They’re good in the summer almost as much as in the winter.” Meanwhile, Agrigento, Sicily is Italy’s 2025 Capital of Culture. Explore its UNESCO-listed Valley of Temples, and unwind on the stunning Scala dei Turchi beach. Italian food is one of the most beloved cuisines in the world, but its superpower is its deep regionality. Tasting a familiar favourite like pizza in its homeland is a holy pilgrimage, but failing to try the deep culinary cuts is sacrilege. When in Rome, enjoy pasta alla carbonara (pasta with egg yolk, pecorino Romano cheese and pork cheek) at Da Tosto in romantic Trastevere or pasta cacio e pepe at Felice a Testaccio in Rome’s ex-slaughterhouse district. Bistecca alla fioren-



tina – rare, ultra thick T-bone steak – in Florence is iconic (get a great one at Trattoria Mario on Via Rosina). Venice is famous for its cicchetti, baguette bites topped with a variety of seafood, meats and vegetables; they’re delectable at Bar All’Arco in San Polo. Try traditional Milanese cuisine at Trattoria Masuelli San Marco, like osso buco (braised veal shanks) and risotto alla milanese (saffron-flavoured risotto). Seaside Naples is the birthplace of pizza: get a perfect pie at the historic Antonio Starita. Bologna is the epicentre of stuffed pastas such as tortellini and lasagna bolognese; try them at generational pasta maker Sfoglia Rina on Via Castiglione. Be sure to sample artisanal products at the source; visit a caseificio (dairy) like the Caseificio di Biagio Staiano in Ravello to sample – and make! – fresh mozzarella, or one of Italy’s

26 stunning national parks for the zero-kilometre culinary experience of a lifetime. Oenophiles, you’d do well to venture past Tuscany. Sip volcanic island wines like the Biancolella in Ischia, or travel to the Russo family’s Cantina del Vesuvio, at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, to try Lacryma Christi (“Tears of Christ”), an ancient wine produced from Vesuvius’ indigenous grapes, said to have been drunk in Roman times. Italy’s monuments have attracted a lot of misbehaving tourists in recent years – don’t be one of them. Keep your shoulders covered when visiting religious sites, and keep your hands off historical treasures. Tipping is not expected or enforced in Italy (regardless of what the cheeky waiter might suggest). Stick to traditional Italian mealtimes and food customs: a light breakfast of a pastry and espresso or cappuccino, lunch at 13:00,

aperitivo (happy hour with snacks) from 17:00-19:00 and dinner after 20:00. Ask for a cappuccino after 11:00 and risk a wince from your barista. Few are truly prepared for the magnificence of doomed Pompeii, and few visitors know that nearby Herculaneum was also destroyed – and preserved – by the eruption. Further south, the ruins of Paestum display exquisite temples and rare painted Greek tombs. Art lovers usually head straight to the Sistine Chapel in Rome, but Renaissance masterpieces abound throughout Italy, like Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper at the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. “The Last Supper, like the Mona Lisa, is universal,” says Lipparini. “[It’s] an unparalleled theatrical scene where love and anticipation, suspense and betrayal emerge from the collective interaction of the masterful portraits



of Jesus Christ and the 12 apostles.” In Naples, find the Baroque Cappella Sansevero and Giuseppe Sanmartino’s reality-defying masterpiece, il Cristo Velato, depicting the slain, shrouded Christ. The incredible realism of what appears to be a thin veil sculpted in marble has confounded admirers for centuries. Soaring mountain passes and centuries-old forests mean incredible hiking and cycling. “Cycling is an ideal way to discover

the city and experience a day out on two wheels,” says Lipparini. Try tackling a tract of the Via Francigena, an ancient 6th-Century, 1,700km pilgrimage trail snaking from Canterbury, England to Puglia in Italy’s deep south, or check out YesMilano’s Lombardy-based bike routes. Trekkers hit the rainbow-hued expanse of the Cinque Terre National Park and skyscraping Path of the Gods on the lemon-perfumed Amalfi Coast.

SPORTS

Shastri
backs
Jadeja to
play WC

New Delhi: Former Indian head coach Ravi Shastri backed veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja to return to ODI set-up after being left out of tour to Australia, saying that he is “fit as a fiddle” and spinners could get help in South Africa during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027, which will keep him in contention for the spot. While the return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in Indian colours after T20Is and Test retirements and appointment of Shubman Gill as ODI captain made plenty of headlines, one noticable thing in the Australia squad was absence of Jadeja, who has been in exceptional form with the bat in Tests this year and also had hit the winning runs in the ICC Champions Trophy final against New Zealand back in March.Speaking of Jadeja, Shastri said to Fox Sports, as quoted by ICC, “He is fit as a fiddle. He is still one of the best fielders in the world.”“When it comes to a World Cup, you are not playing just one team. You are playing a lot of other teams.”“The conditions are different in South Africa. There will be pitches where the spinners will get help, so do not rule him out.”“I am sure the management would have spoken to him And Jadeja himself said in an interview that he would have loved to have gone there. The communication has also been that you are not out of it. You are in the mix,” concluded Shastri.During the team selection presser, chief selector Ajit Agarkar had said about the 36-year-old Jadeja, “At the moment to take two left-arm spinners to Australia is not possible. He is clearly in the scheme of things with how good he is, but there will be some competition for places.

If I can play Ranji, why can't I play ODIs Shami
takes dig at Indian team management

New Delhi: After being left out of India's ODI and T20I squads for the next tour of Australia, veteran Indian bowler Mohammed Shami has made a subtle but scathing jab at the Indian team management on his fitness level.Despite not securing a spot in the limited-overs teams, Shami denied fitness rumors and insisted he is match-ready. The Indian pacer emphasized that if he is healthy enough to play four-day Ranji Trophy matches, he is equally capable of managing the demands of 50-over cricket. He said that the management, not himself, was the source of the communication breakdown. The veteran pacer, who was overlooked for the white-ball leg of the Australia tour, has been named in Bengal's squad for the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season, which begins on October 15. The side



will be led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, as confirmed by the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on Wednesday. "The Indian team didn't communicate with me regarding fitness. I am not the one who would inform them about my fitness -

they have to ask me. If I can play four-day cricket, then why can't I play a 50-over game? If I wasn't fit, I'd be at the NCA and not playing here in the Ranji Trophy," Shami said.Shami's remarks stood in contrast to comments made by chief selector Ajit Agarkar, who offered a different explanation for the pacer's omission. Agarkar, addressing the media recently, said there had been no fresh updates on Shami and cited his limited game time in recent seasons. "I have no update. He has played in the Duleep trophy. But in the last two-three years, he hasn't played a lot of cricket. I think he played one game for Bengal and one in the Duleep trophy. As a performer, we know what he can do, but he has to play cricket," said Agarkar. The Bengal pacer, who last represent-

ed India in the Champions Trophy 2025 final against New Zealand, has not featured in the national setup across formats since then. Despite beginning that tournament strongly with a five-wicket haul against Bangladesh, Shami went wicketless in two consecutive matches before regaining form with a three-wicket performance against Australia in the semifinal and a wicket in the final. While a national recall may not be immediate, Shami's statement makes it clear that he's far from done. With a packed domestic season ahead and a crucial Test series against England in early 2026 on the horizon, his fitness and form in the coming months could well determine how soon the selectors come calling again.

Gautam Gambhir's practical thought
on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma
2027 World Cup chances

New Delhi: Gautam Gambhir, the head coach of India, has expressed a realistic assessment of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's chances of playing in the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. The tournament is still more than two years away, he said, and he hoped that the team and the seasoned batters would do well in the forthcoming series against Australia. "They are quality players, and their experience will be invaluable. With the 2027 World Cup still 2.5 years away, it's important to stay focused on the present. Kohli and Rohit are both exceptional players, and their return will be a big boost. Hopefully, they have a successful tour, and more importantly, the team comes out with a strong series performance in Australia," Gambhir said in a post-match press conference.



Kohli and Rohit, who have defined India's white-ball cricket for nearly two decades, are set to walk out again in blue for the three-match ODI series against Australia starting on 19 October. Both have been preparing in isolation - Rohit following a strict fitness regime in Mumbai, reportedly shedding close to ten kilos, while Kohli has been fine-tuning his rhythm

Hopefully, those two guys can have a successful tour, and more importantly, as a team, we can have a successful series," said Gambhir, addressing the press conference.

recently added nuance to the discussion, noting that both remain non-committal and that a final decision will be taken in due course. Age and match practice remain the biggest challenges. Rohit will be 40 and a half, while Kohli will turn 39 during the tournament. Neither has played professional cricket since June, raising questions about their readiness for high-intensity international action. The scenario draws a parallel with Steve Smith, whose ODI retirement following Australia's Champions Trophy semi-final loss surprised many.

Gretchen Walsh, Hubert Kos
Lead Standings First Leg



New Delhi: After the first stop of the World Cup circuit, which unfolded over the weekend in Carmel (Ind.), Hubert Kos and Gretchen Walsh hold the lead in the series' points standings. Kos and Walsh each earned \$12,000 for their efforts during the opening leg of the tour and will look to continue their momentum as the World Cup moves on to Westmont (Ill.), with action scheduled for Friday through Sunday.In sweeping the backstroke events, Kos totaled 58.4 points to secure a lead over the Netherlands' Caspar Corbeau, who scored 55.8 points while winning the 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke, along with placing second in the 50 breaststroke. In third sits American Carson Foster (55.4 points), who

left Carmel with wins in the 400 freestyle and 400 individual medley. Points are accumulated based on event finishes and times produced. On the women's side, Walsh tallied 59.1 points for her wins in the 50 butterfly, 100 butterfly and 100 individual medley. In the 50 fly, Walsh broke her own world record, clocking 23.72. She is followed in the World Cup standings by training partner Kate Douglass, who picked up 58.9 points while winning the 100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke. Siting third is Australian Kaylee McKeown, who won the 50 backstroke and 200 backstroke, and was second in the 100 backstroke. McKeown scored 56.8 points in Carmel

Ian Botham criticizes England for not
being ready 2025 Ashes of conceit

Former England all-rounder Ian Botham has raised concerns over England's limited Ashes preparations, highlighting the risks of minimal warm-up matches and fitness management ahead of the Test series in Australia.

Mumbai: Ian Botham, a former all-rounder for England, has openly criticized the team's strategy for the forthcoming Ashes series in Australia, voicing displeasure at the choice to play just one warm-up game before to the commencement of the five-Test match.A veteran of England's successful Ashes trips in the 1970s and 1980s, Botham had serious concerns about the team's preparation approach. Before playing Australia, England will play a single three-day warm-up match at Lilac Hill versus the England Lions. "I'm concerned. Botham stated on the podcast "the Old Boys, New Balls" that "we're going to wander in and have a little game with the 'A' team." And he went on, "All right, buddy, how are you? Well done, and are we going to go perform? Not one (state match), which is almost conceited. Botham also said he was concerned that Brendon McCullum's side were not giving themselves enough time to adapt to Australian conditions. He pointed to the tough environment England will face, highlighting factors that



have historically challenged foreign teams touring Australia. Botham cited the heat, the hard, bouncy pitches, and the passionate local crowds. "You're not playing against the Australian cricket team, you're playing against Australia - 24.5 million people," he said. England coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes have selected a 16-player squad for the series that starts on November 21. England aim to reclaim the Ashes for the first time since 2015 and secure their first series win in Australia since 2011. Botham's

criticisms come as the team prepares to break a long drought on Australian soil. Beyond scheduling, Botham voiced concern about England's fitness management, particularly for pace bowlers. He criticised the reliance on gym work and highlighted recurring injury issues among key bowlers. "Bowlers don't get fit in gyms, that's been proven," he said. "Look at the record with injuries -- (Mark) Wood, (Jofra) Archer, Stokes, Brydon Carse... they don't play enough. You get fit by playing."

Messi carves name in history for
assists Ronaldo become prolific
Goal in World Cup Qualifiers

Florida:Argentina's prolific forward, Lionel Messi, found a way to topple records and carved his name in history once again after rising to the summit of the top assist-makers in men's international football history. The Argentinian skipper notched two assists during Argentina's 6-0 rout over Puerto Rico at Chase Stadium in Florida. With a tally of 60, Messi eclipsed Neymar (58) and Landon Donovan (58) to become the player with the most assists in men's international football. Messi set up goals for Alexis Mac Allister and Lautaro Martinez, who remained clinical, converted the opportunities and finished with a brace. Puerto Rico barely threatened the world champions throughout the 90 minutes as the Albiceleste slotted six goals past their resilient defence. Gonzalo Montiel struck the net, and an own goal from Steven



Echevarria completed the demolition job. Messi made his first international assist at the age of 19 in his World Cup debut in 2006, when Argentina hammered Serbia with a 6-0 win.Meanwhile, Messi's arch-rival, Cristiano Ronaldo, continued to script new milestones in the international circuit at the age of

40. The veteran goal-scoring machine netted a brace during Portugal's 2-2 draw with Hungary. After Szalai handed Hungary an early lead, Ronaldo restored parity in the 22nd minute and surpassed Guatemala international Carlos Ruiz's tally to register his 40th World Cup qualifying goal.

It feels great when people recognise
achievements: Manu Bhaker

New Delhi: Paris Olympics double medallist Manu Bhaker extended her gratitude to fans, coaches, and the sporting fraternity after being honoured at a special Indian Olympic Association (IOA) felicitation ceremony held at the Taj Mansingh Hotel in New Delhi on Monday."That feeling is really, really good. When you work hard and people recognize that you have achieved something, it feels great. It also serves as a strong motivation," Bhaker told IANS, who returned from Paris 2024 with two bronze medals - one in the wom-



en's 10m air pistol event and another in the mixed team category alongside Sarabjot Singh.Manu

first received Rs 50 lakh for her bronze medal in the individual 10m air pistol event, followed by

another Rs 25 lakh as her share of the Rs 50 lakh prize jointly awarded to her and Sarabjot Singh for securing third place in the mixed 10m air pistol team event.The ceremony, attended by IOA President P.T. Usha, The IOA presented cash awards to all medallists and their coaches in recognition of their achievements and contributions to India's success. Neeraj Chopra received Rs 75 lakh, Manu Bhaker Rs 50 lakh and Rs 37.5 lakh for her two medals, Sarabjot Singh Rs 37.5 lakh, Swapnil Kusale and Aman Sehrawat Rs 50 lakh each.

Might be the last chance for Aussie
public to see Ro-Ko: Cummins

New Delhi: Australia captain Pat Cummins says the ODI series against India starting on Sunday in Perth is special as it might be the "last chance" for fans Down Under to catch a glimpse of superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in this country. They've obviously been champions of the game for India and are always very well supported. Whenever we play them, the crowd gets loud," he added.The premier pacer said he is disappointed about missing the series that will also feature games in Adelaide and Sydney. It will be followed by a five-match T20 International se-

ries from October 29. "Virat and Rohit have been part of almost every Indian side for the last 15 years, so this might be the last chance for the Australian public to see them playing out here,"The goal is to try and play them, see what they can do, and make sure that once we get close to the World Cup, we know what our 15-man squad is going to be and that we're well placed," he said.On pacer Mitchell Starc's retirement from T20 international cricket to focus on his Test career, Cummins said he understands the thought process that has gone into taking that call.