

In Brief

Illegal sand mining

Shillong: Locals and environmentalists are furious over claims of a large illicit sand racket operating in Sribhumi, which has led to severe concerns about the Forest Department's and political middlemen's roles. According to sources, extensive sand extraction and trafficking in the Ramkrishnanagar constituency persists despite the Singla River's sand auctions being officially suspended since 2007. According to information obtained through an RTI (Right to Information) query filed by a local advocate, the sand auction process from the Singla River was halted nearly two decades ago.

Hydropower project

Itanagar: NHPC Limited has started the wet commissioning of the first 250 MW unit of its 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (HEP), marking a significant milestone for the hydropower industry in India. The procedure comes after the turbine's successful mechanical run, which is a significant step toward the operational start of the biggest hydroelectric project in India and the most potent unit NHPC has ever had.

Harvest season in Bishnupur

Imphal: According to officials, district authorities in Bishnupur, Manipur, met on Friday to review strategies for the rehabilitation of internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as steps to guarantee the seamless execution of harvesting operations in the foothill districts. The conference was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Bishnupur Pooja Elangbam, who emphasized the significance of tight coordination amongst all security forces to guarantee a calm harvest season. It was determined that, with proper security measures in place, harvesting operations would take place from 6:30 am until 4 pm.

'Assam government putting hurdles in tributes to Zubeen Garg'

Gaurav Gogoi

Assam Congress President Gaurav Gogoi has accused the state government of obstructing public efforts to pay tribute to the late singer Zubeen Garg. Gogoi alleged that authorities are creating "various obstacles" for supporters seeking to honour the artist during candlelight marches and memorial events.

Guwahati, Oct 26: Gaurav Gogoi, the president of the Assam Congress, has charged that the state administration is impeding public attempts to honor the late singer Zubeen Garg. Gogoi claimed that officials are putting up "a number of barriers" for fans who want to pay tribute to the musician during mourning services and candlelight marches. "Over the past



few days, the government has been attempting to sabotage the Assamese people's desire to honor Zubeen Garg," Gogoi stated. He asserted that

there is still a significant public demand for justice for the late musician in spite of the alleged meddling. The musician, who is considered to be one of Assam's most significant cultural figures, died on September 19 in Singapore, allegedly while swimming. He was supposed to play at the Northeast India Festival the next day. Thousands of fans and well-known people attended the mourning service, sharing memories of the singer's influence on Assamese society and presenting floral tributes. According to Gogoi, Garg was "a true leader of Assamese society," inspiring courage and togetherness among people throughout the state despite being apolitical. Gogoi stated, "The people of Assam are still in mourning; they miss his leadership

and his guidance." He pleaded with the government to see that justice is done and to guarantee an open inquiry into the events leading up to Garg's passing. Seven people have been taken into custody by the CID and Special Investigation Team thus far in relation to the case. Bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, co-singer Amritprava Mahanta, Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma, cousin and suspended APS officer Sandipan Garg, event organizer Shyamkanu Mahanta, and two PSOs, Nandeswar Bora and Paresh Baishya, are among those in custody. Gogoi reaffirmed the need to not stifle the public's demand for justice. He went on to say, "This is about respect for Zubeen Garg and people's right to peacefully express their love for him."

Mizoram CM launches drive against illegal immigrants, seeks YMA support

Aizawl, Oct 26: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma announced a decisive government initiative to evict illegal immigrants and non-tribal residents living in the state without valid permits. Speaking at the ongoing general conference of the Young Mizo Association (YMA) at Sakawrdai in Aizawl district, near the Manipur border, the CM stressed the need to protect tribal communities and their lands. Lalduhoma said he had discussed the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, receiving the necessary approvals to carry out eviction drives. "With the governor's permission, I informed the prime minister and union home minister about our intention to evict non-tribal residents living without a valid Inner Line Permit (ILP). The exercise has already begun in some localities of Aizawl," he said. The CM emphasized that the ILP, instituted under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) of 1873, protects tribal communities by restricting land purchases by non-tribals. He noted that the



state government has launched an online ILP system, which is being upgraded to prevent illegal settlement influx. Appealing for cooperation, Lalduhoma urged YMA members, local councils, and village authorities to actively support the eviction drive, ensuring that illegal settlers are removed lawfully and systematically. Beyond the eviction initiative, the CM addressed ongoing infrastructure challenges, including delays in widening National Highway 306/06 to four lanes due to compensation and forest clearance issues. He also highlighted delays in the Tripura-Mizoram gas pipeline and the India-Bangladesh trade facilitation centre, citing similar clearance obstacles.

Five applicants pass the examination for Mizoram's Dampa Assembly Bypoll

Aizawl, Oct 26: Officials announced on Wednesday that all five of the candidates who submitted their nomination papers for the by-election scheduled for November 11 in the Dampa assembly constituency in the Mamit district of Mizoram have successfully completed the vetting process. The nomination papers of Vanlalsailo of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), R. Lalthangliana of the Mizo National Front (MNF), John Rotluangliana of the Congress, Lalhmagaiha of the BJP, and K. Zahmingthanga of the People's Conference were examined by Returning

Officer Malsawmzuala, according to Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Lalrozama. He informed that the last date for withdrawal of candidature is Friday. The CEO further stated that preparations for the by-poll are in full swing, with the Centre deploying three observers to ensure smooth conduct of the election. "No complaints of model code of conduct violations have been received from any of the contesting parties so far," Lalrozama added. The bypoll was necessitated following the death of MNF MLA Lalrintluanga Sailo on July 21. A total of 20,790 voters, in-



cluding 10,185 women, are eligible to cast their votes in the upcoming election.

Tripura CM slams 'masked' civil society movement, vows focus on tribal development

Agartala, Oct 26: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Friday criticized a local civil society group, accusing them of carrying out an armed movement under the guise of peaceful protests. Speaking at a BJP event in Mungiakami, Khowai district, where 6,400 voters joined the party, Saha said their "true nature is now clear to everyone." CM Saha assured that his government would continue prioritizing the development of tribal communities, stating that "no compromise will be made in this regard." "Today, 6,400 voters have joined the BJP. You have taken the right decision at the right time. Without the BJP, the TTAADC, the state, or the country cannot move forward in the



right direction," he said. Referring to recent confrontations, Saha accused members of Tipra Motha of attacking BJP workers during a previous joining ceremony in Takarjala. "The way they assaulted our workers, BDO, engineer, SDPO, and others with sticks and rods, and call it a peaceful movement—what kind of movement is this? Their real face is now visi-

ble," he added. The Chief Minister also condemned attempts to intimidate residents around the Mungiakami event. "They threatened people, saying national parties like the BJP would not be allowed in the ADC area. But the BJP can go anywhere in the country—no one can stop us," he said, reiterating that tribal development remained a key goal of the party. The event was attended by BJP President and MP Rajib Bhattacharya, Tribal Welfare Minister Bikas Debbarma, BJP General Secretary Bipin Debbarma, former MP Rebati Tripura, District President Binay Debbarma, ADC member Bidyut Debbarma, and other senior party leaders.

Assam Police kill key maoist-linked militant

Guwahati, Oct 26: A dreaded Maoist-linked militant, allegedly involved in multiple railway bomb blasts, was killed during a police encounter in Nadanguri, Kokrajhar district, Assam, on October 25. The deceased has been identified as Apil Murmu, also known as Rohit Murmu (40), in Jharkhand. According to Kokrajhar Police, Murmu was one of the key accused in a recent railway track bombing in Kokrajhar and had earlier been involved in a similar blast in Jharkhand. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kokrajhar said Murmu had carried out a railway track explosion in Jharkhand in October last year before fleeing to Assam. In Jharkhand, he was known as Rohit Murmu, while in Assam, he used the name Apil Murmu, claiming to be a resident of Grahampur village under Kachugaon in Kokrajhar district of Assam. Investigations revealed that Murmu had links to both Jharkhand and Assam, and was previously a member of the NSLA. When the outfit laid down arms, Murmu refused to surrender and instead escaped to Jharkhand, where he formed a breakaway faction and reportedly became a commander.

Nagaland brings tribal heritage to Delhi with Autumn Festival 2025

Kohima, Oct 26: Delhi witnessed a vibrant celebration of Nagaland's rich cultural heritage as the Autumn Festival 2025 opened on October 24 at Nagaland House. Organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland, the two-day event showcased traditional music, dance, handicrafts, and local cuisine, offering visitors an immersive glimpse into the state's tribal traditions. The festival was inaugurated by Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra, who also unveiled the Artisans' Corner and stalls featuring handmade crafts, Naga attire, and culinary delights prepared by tribal artisans. The opening ceremony saw the presence of Union Minister Jiten Singh, diplomats,



and senior officials, highlighting the festival's significance in promoting cultural exchange. Speaking at the event, Mishra emphasized the deep cultural connection between Delhi and Nagaland and proposed expanding the festival to larger venues, including Delhi University campuses and Central Park. Along also highlighted initiatives to simplify the Inner Line Permit process for tourists and the establishment of special helpline centres

at Nagaland Houses in Delhi, Kolkata, and Guwahati. Abu Metha, chairman of the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland, stressed the importance of boosting tourism and investment cooperation between Delhi and Nagaland. The Autumn Festival 2025 immerses visitors in the vibrant crafts, textiles, music, and cuisine of Nagaland, bringing the spirit of Northeast India to Delhi and reinforcing the message of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Living Museum Launched at Zokhua, Falkawn by Mizoram Minister



Aizawl, Oct 26: The Art & Culture Minister C. Lalsawivunga inaugurated a 'Living Museum' today in a function organised at Zokhua, Falkawn by the Art & Culture Department.

In his address, Minister C. Lalsawivunga stated that the establishment of the Living Museum is a significant initiative aimed at

helping visitors and the younger generation understand the traditional lifestyle and cultural practices of the Mizo people. He added that it would also serve as a source of income for the local community, provide artisans an opportunity to showcase and sell their crafts, and allow tourists to experience and learn about Mizo identity

and heritage. The inauguration programme was chaired by Zodingpuui, Secretary, Art & Culture Department, and graced by the presence of Sudhir Kumar, Principal Secretary, GAD, EF&CC, Seju P. Kuruvilla, Inspector-General of Police, and Rajeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Various NGOs from Falkawn – YMA, MHIP, MUP representatives, and members of the Lenkaw Cultural Club – presented performances depicting traditional Mizo village life. The inauguration programme was chaired by Zodingpuui, Secretary, Art & Culture Department, and graced by the presence of Sudhir Kumar, Principal Secretary, GAD, EF&CC, Seju P. Kuruvilla, Inspector-General of Police, and Rajeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Various NGOs from Falkawn – YMA, MHIP, MUP representatives, and members of the Lenkaw Cultural Club – presented performances depicting traditional Mizo village life. Entry fee will be ₹100 per person. The show will be conducted in two segments the First Segment from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM, and the Second Segment from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Entry fee will be ₹100 per person. The show will be conducted in two segments the First Segment from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM, and the Second Segment from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

Meghalaya minister promises to repair the Tirot Sing statue in Dhaka

Shillong , Oct 26: A life-size statue of Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing will be unveiled in Dhaka on February 16 by the state government, Arts and Culture minister Paul Lyngdoh informed today. "The Meghalaya government has been talking to the high commission of Bangladesh life size statue of U Tirot Sing and also a Dhaka," Lyngdoh informed reporters.

A delegation led by Deputy Chief Ministers and Culture Minister will visit the He also informed that the statue and the by renowned artist of the state Rapphresentations including visuals this was informed. It may be mentioned that the er will be erected at the Indira Gandhi



line with the celebration of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav in Bangladesh, the Library of IGCC located at Dhanmondi would be a befitting location to install the life size sculpture/bust and portrait of U Tirot Sing.

NATIONAL

Tejashwi denied permission to hold meeting in Khagaria

Security for Amit Shah

Patna, Oct 26: According to officials aware of the situation, Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), who was selected by the Opposition Grand Alliance as the chief ministerial candidate in Bihar, was not allowed to hold a public meeting in Khagaria on Saturday for security reasons because Union home minister Amit Shah's election rally was taking place near his location. Terming it as "dictatorship," Yadav, who was to address public meetings at three assembly constituencies — Parbatta, Alouli and Khagaria — said, "The crowd in our election meeting is intimidating the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), but the people are not going to come under their trick and pressure this time." "He was denied permission to hold an election meeting at Sansarpur Ground located in the close vicinity of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cricket (JNKT) Ground where Amit Shah's rally was proposed," an official told HT over the phone, requesting anonymity. He said that permission was denied due to "complete security" reasons and had nothing to do with politics,

adding that Yadav's other rallies in Parbatta and Alouli would go on as usual. Yadav, who embarked on his electioneering on Friday, a day after being declared the Opposition's CM face, held five public meetings in Simri Bakhtiyarpur (Saharsa), Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Vaishali, and sought votes in support of his INDIA bloc candidates. Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "jungle raj" remark, Yadav said, "The PM says there will be no jungle raj in Bihar anymore, yet there are daytime murders and shootings in Bihar, and over 55 scams have rocked the state, which the PM himself mentioned from the stage." He said, "The PM should also answer the questions on law and order and corruption in Bihar." Meanwhile, the denial of permission for Yadav's public meeting has given the Opposition alliance an opportunity to raise the issue of the alleged dictatorship of the ruling NDA government. "People are looking at everything, and they will do justice in the election," local RJD leaders said.



Udit Raj alleges that his government residence was forcibly evicted

New Delhi, Oct 26: Even though the case is still pending, Congress lawmaker Udit Raj claimed on Friday that his family was forcibly removed from their government residence in Pandara Park, New Delhi. The Directorate of Estates' action, according to Raj, was "selective, politically motivated, and caste-based," targeting him because he is a Dalit leader who advocates for the underprivileged. Seema Raj, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer and Raj's wife, was given the bungalow at C-1/38 Pandara Park. Raj posted videos of home objects strewn outside the bungalow on X. "My household items are being thrown onto the street," he added in his letter.

According to the couple, the Directorate of Estates carried out the eviction even though their appeal against the notice is scheduled to be heard on October 28 at the Patiala House Court. "You can see the belongings being thrown out of the house. The matter is sub-judice, and the next hearing is on October 28. What difference would three or four more days make?" Raj said in a video statement. "This harassment is punishment for being Dalit and for raising the voice of the poor," he added.

PM Modi will likely miss the Trump meeting by skipping the Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur

New Delhi, Oct 26: According to reports on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be attending the next Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur, which means he will be unable to attend a potential side meeting with US President Donald Trump. As soon as the news broke, the opposition jumped on it to attack the prime minister once more over the status of US-India relations under Modi and his pal Trump. In a Facebook post on Thursday, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim stated that Modi had personally communicated his decision over the phone late on Wednesday evening. "Last night, I received a phone call from my counterpart, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Narendra Modi, to discuss efforts to strengthen Malaysia-India bilateral relations to a more strategic and comprehensive level," Anwar wrote. In addition to tight collaboration in the areas of technology, education, and regional security, India continues to be a significant trading and investment partner for Malaysia. We also talked about the 47th ASEAN Summit, which is scheduled for the end of this month in Kuala Lumpur. He told me that since the Deepavali festivities would still be happening in India at the time, he would participate digitally. I congratulate him and the Indian populace on Deepavali and appreciate his decision. In order to create a more peaceful and prosperous region, Malaysia is still dedicated to fortifying ties with India and expanding ASEAN-India collaboration, according to Anwar. Reports suggest that external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is expected to represent India in person at the Kuala Lumpur meeting. A report in Mint on Wednesday had claimed Delhi and Washington were close to finalising the long-delayed trade deal and that it would be announced at the Asean summit.



Thursday's development pours cold water on such hopes. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote on X: "For days the speculation has been - will He or won't He? Will Mr. Modi go to Kuala Lumpur for the Summit or not?" "Now it appears certain that the PM will not go. It means the loss of so many opportunities to hug and get photo ops with world leaders or to flaunt himself as the self-styled Vishwaguru." "The reason why Mr. Modi is not going is simple. He just doesn't want to be cornered by President Trump who will also be there. He refused an invitation to attend the Gaza peace summit in Egypt a few weeks back, precisely for this reason." Posting two video clips of Trump, Ramesh also wrote: "Posting messages in praise of President Trump on social media is one thing. But to be seen hobnobbing physically with the man who has claimed 53 times that he stopped Op Sindoor and has claimed 5 times that India has promised to stop buying oil from Russia is another matter. It's far too risky for him."

14-year-old boy electrocuted

Unnao, Oct 26: In Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, a 14-year-old boy was allegedly abducted, assaulted, electrocuted, and poisoned to death for mistreating a pet dog. With local Samajwadi Party leader Rajesh Yadav joining demonstrators in calling for justice, the incident has caused a great deal of controversy. Sources claim that the victim, Hrithik Yadav, was being pursued by Vishambhar Tripathi's pet dog as he was returning home after hearing Ram Katha from the neighboring hamlet.

Hrithik fled the scene after throwing a stone at the dog out of fear. A day later, Tripathi, along with his two friends and younger son, allegedly took the Hrithik out of his home, beat him, and made him lick his shoes. Later, they also electrocuted him and made him consume poison. A day after returning home, Hrithik fell sick, and he was first taken to the district hospital of Unnao. Later, he was referred to a private hospital, where he was declared dead. The victim's mother, Asha, has also accused the local police of inaction, claiming that the accused, Tripathi, is a gangster and is using his influence to manipulate the investigation. Meanwhile, Deepak Yadav, a senior officer from the local police, said that a case has been registered based on the complaints of the victim's family, and the deceased's body has been sent for a post-mortem. Further investigation is going on.

The Gender Battle in Bihar



Patna, Oct 26: Tejasvi Yadav of the RJD and the government NDA have made conflicting pre-election pledges in Bihar, intensifying the fight for female support. A BJP leader made fun of Tejasvi Yadav's promise to create jobs, saying, "Unka manobhav ye tha 10 lakh mein naukri denge." "Wo mein chupa le gaye the." Yadav has offered the 'Jeevika Didis' who work with self-help groups interest-free loan waivers and permanent jobs. The NDA is responding by showcasing its own female-focused programs, like as the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, which offers a one-time cash transfer of ₹10,000, 35% reservation in all government posts, and interest subsidies on loans for Jeevika Didis. With polls weeks away, the programme analyses who might win the crucial 'mahila' vote amidst this flurry of promises.

Questions for lawyers' forums Transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan to the Allahabad High Court in the midst of a dispute

New Delhi, Oct 26: The transfer of Madhya Pradesh High Court judge Justice Atul Sreedharan to the Allahabad High Court has been denounced by a group of lawyers and activists, who have linked the decision to his unfavorable ruling against state minister Vijay Shah for his divisive comments against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi following Operation Sindoor. Concerning the "independence of the judiciary," the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reform (CJAR) stated that Justice Sreedharan was initially scheduled to be transferred to the Chhattisgarh High Court but was instead moved to the Allahabad High Court at the Center's request. According to the CJAR, in August, the Supreme Court collegium suggested that 14 justices, including Justice Sreedharan, be moved from the Madhya Pradesh High Court

to the Chhattisgarh High Court. But in a statement released on October 14, the top court stated that the collegium had changed its mind and had chosen to send Justice Sreedharan to Allahabad "on reconsideration sought by the Government."

"The SC Collegium's statement does not disclose any explanations for why the government requested reconsideration or what convinced the collegium to accept the government's demands and modify its rulings," the CJAR stated. The CJAR alleged that while in Madhya Pradesh High Court, Justice Sreedharan was part of a division bench that had ordered an FIR against BJP leader Shah over his remarks against Colonel Qureshi. "While transfers are an incidence of service as a high court judge, the circumstances of his transfers raise troubling questions



about the independence of the judiciary," the CJAR said. The CJAR said Justice Sreedharan had a reputation for being independent and assertive, willing to hold governments accountable for their actions. "To see that such a judge is being transferred around for unexplained reasons makes the public question the intentions of the collegium," it added.

Naxalites in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, killed two villagers

As per the reports, two residents of Nela Kanker village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur were killed by Naxalites using sharp-edged weapons.

Raipur, Oct 26: According to police, Naxalites killed two people late Friday night in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. The attack happened in Nela Kanker village, which is under the jurisdiction of the Basaguda police station. The victims, named as 25-year-old Ravi Kattam and 38-year-old Tirupati Sodhi, were Nela Kanker locals who were slain with a sharp object, according to initial reports. According to police, the event was reported to them on the evening of October 24 and they are currently checking the information. "We have received such information and are verifying it," stated Bijapur Police Superintendent Dr. Jitendra Yadav. The killings came at a time when security forces are conducting intensified anti-Naxalite operations across the Bastar region. The government has set a target to eliminate Naxalism from the state by March 2026. Teams from the Usur police station have been dispatched to the area, and



an investigation is underway to confirm the circumstances surrounding the attack.

The national voter roll modification is anticipated to be announced by the poll body in early November

New Delhi, Oct 26: In the first week of November, the Election Commission (EC) is anticipated to announce a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral records. This would start in phases, starting with states that are scheduled to hold elections in 2026 and a few others. The official announcement may be made in the coming days, as the EC met with chief electoral officials (CEOs) on Wednesday to discuss preparations for the exercise. With the schedule and framework anticipated to be finalized next week, a notification for the countrywide SIR in the majority of states and union territories may be issued soon. The procedure could be finished in two stages: one for the general states and another for geographically difficult and high-altitude areas like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and portions of the Northeast, where field operations may be impacted by heavy snowfall and extremely cold temperatures in the upcoming months. Elec-



toral states including West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry are on the priority list. The entire process, including submitting forms, issuing draft lists, filing claims and objections, and appealing, will take a standard three months, according to EC sources. The final voter rolls are anticipated to be published by the first or at the latest the second week of February of the following year. Senior officials indicated that CEOs of all states have been in two days of discussions and preparatory meetings with the Election Commission in Delhi. Thursday marked the final session

of the conference, and the nationwide SIR announcement is expected within two to three days. The move follows a voter list cleanup in Bihar, conducted ahead of the Assembly elections. The final electoral roll for Bihar was published on September 30 with nearly 7.42 crore names, down from 7.89 crore before the SIR, but up by 17.87 lakh from the draft list of 7.24 crore issued on August 1. The draft had removed 65 lakh voters due to deaths, migration, and duplicate entries. While 21.53 lakh new electors were added to the draft list, 3.66 lakh names were removed, resulting in the net in-

A notification for the nationwide SIR in most states and union territories could be issued shortly, with the timeline and framework expected to be finalised next week.

crease. On October 7, the Supreme Court asked the EC for details of the 3.66 lakh voters excluded from the final electoral roll, citing "confusion" over their removal. Opposition parties have criticised the SIR drive, alleging that lakhs of genuine voters are being struck off without proper verification. The Bihar Assembly elections are scheduled in two phases, with 121 seats polling on November 6 and the remaining 122 constituencies on November 11, while vote counting is scheduled for November 14. The nationwide SIR, first ordered by the EC on June 24, requires all registered electors to fill enumeration forms to remain on the rolls. Those enrolled after 2003, the year of Bihar's last intensive revision, must submit documents proving their date and/or place of birth to confirm eligibility and citizenship.

Karnataka Minister following comments made by Siddaramaiah's son Party will decide leadership

Bengaluru, Oct 26: Senior politician Satish Jarkiholi underlined that the party has the final say over leadership succession a day after Yathindra, the son of Congress MLC and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, identified Jarkiholi as someone who may continue his father's political legacy. The PWD Minister stated at Belagavi that the party must choose the successor. Yathindra has voiced his personal viewpoint. The party and the MLAs will make the final decision. Let's wait and observe what transpires; there is yet time. "We cannot say anything at this time," he added, referring to his personal goals.

The leader must be chosen by the party. We'll make an effort to bring everyone together. In the end, what counts is the party's choice. "I will continue to make that claim; I have said it in the past as well," he remarked in reference to his former declaration that he hoped to become chief minister in 2028. The party must ultimately make a decision. Everything cannot be decided here and now. Thirty months remain; everything hinges on the events and the party's decision at that point. Jarkiholi also addressed his role in the Ahinda leadership, saying, "There's no question about



the Ahinda leadership. I have been one in the past and even now. I can't do politics without the Ahinda tag. We have to wait, everything will come together in due time." Meanwhile, Yathindra Siddaramaiah clarified that there is no plan to replace his father, the Chief Minister, and said, "My father will not be contesting the 2028 election. He is in the last stage of his political career. At this stage, there should be someone who is progressive in their thinking, who shares this ideology, and who can take the Congress forward." Senior leaders, including G Parameshwara and Deputy Chief Min-

ister DK Shivakumar, have stressed that leadership decisions are ultimately determined by the party's high command. "They did not speak about leadership. They said he has that capability. What's wrong with that? Discussion about the CM post is nowhere, you are saying it. Have you gone and asked the CM?" He added that the party's high command and the CLP will decide leadership matters at the appropriate time," Parameshwara said. Shivakumar said, "Whatever Siddaramaiah and I have said, we will go by what the party's high command asks us to work on. We are on it, and I'm sticking to that."

Sexual exploitation
by senior Arunachal
officials

Itanagar , Oct 26: The father of the deceased Gomchu Yekar has filed a formal complaint (FIR) with the Nirjuli Police Station in Arunachal Pradesh, alleging two high-ranking government officials of corruption, mental abuse, sexual exploitation, and aiding suicide. Talo Potom, an IAS officer and Special Secretary, PWD, who is currently stationed in New Delhi, and Likwang Lowang, an Executive Engineer, RWD, who is stationed at Chiyang Tajo, are named in the October 23 complaint as the officials who allegedly drove his son to commit suicide Gomchu Yekar committed suicide on October 23 at his leased home in Lekhi village, Papum Pare district, following “unbearable mental torture, humiliation, and coercion” from the two officers, according to the FIR submitted by the deceased’s father, Tagom Yekar. Both officials are named in a suicide note found at the scene, which also describes incidents of “systematic harassment” and “abuse of authority.” According to the FIR, the accused officers allegedly coerced the deceased on multiple occasions to commit corruption and give unlawful favors in relation to departmental projects and funding. He allegedly endured psychological torture and harassment when he protested The complaint also contains serious allegations of sexual exploitation. It claims that one of the accused, an Executive Engineer, maintained a forced homosexual relationship with the deceased and even offered ₹1 crore for physical intimacy. The letter further alleges that the accused officer, who is HIV positive, deliberately exposed the deceased to the virus, amounting to “criminal endangerment of life and health..

Scientists from Meghalaya examine Sohra’s record
rainfall in order to improve 5G and 6G networks

Shillong, Oct 26: Researchers from the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Meghalaya intend to leverage the intense rainfall in Sohra to improve 5G and 6G communication technologies. The study, which is still in its early phases, intends to comprehend how high-frequency communication transmissions are impacted by the region’s enormous raindrops and heavy downpours. Researchers noticed that the quantity and force of rains in Sohra, one of the wettest areas on Earth, frequently interfered with signal transmission after moving to their permanent site earlier this year. The team’s current goal is to use this challenge as a springboard for study.

“We have never experienced rainfall like this anywhere else,” stated Dr. Anup Dandapat, Dean of Academic Affairs at NIT Meghalaya. “We intend to use Sohra as a natural laboratory to investigate the relationship between rainfall and high-frequency signals, ultimately designing networks that are resilient to such circumstances.”

Although the project’s foundation has been laid, researchers predict that it will take some time before any noticeable results appear. When finished, the research may open the door for rain-resilient networks, which would be especially helpful in isolated and hilly regions where disruptions from the monsoon are frequent. Formerly called Cherrapunji, Sohra is still a natural and scientific wonder. Every downpour is seen by the NIT Meghalaya and NESAC teams as a possible source of data for creating technology that can adjust to the harsh conditions of nature.

Tripura BJP promises tough measures in
response to the civil society strike’s violence

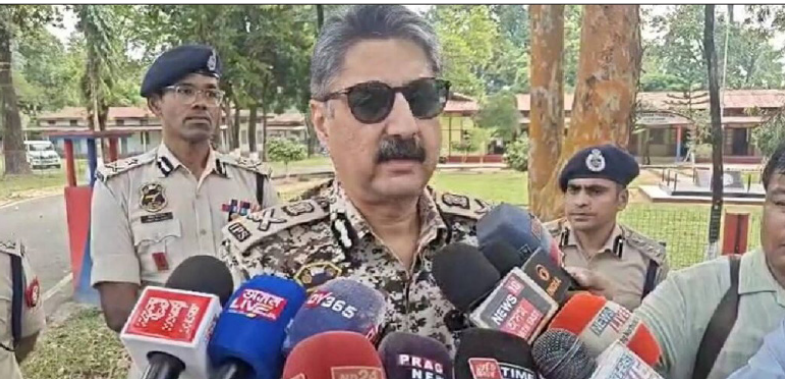
Agartala, Oct 26: Rajib Bhattacharjee, the president of the Tripura BJP, has denounced the Tripura Civil Society for allegedly inciting widespread violence after a 24-hour strike and pledged to take strong action against individuals responsible. at order to check on the victims of the incident at Santirbazar village, Salema block of Kamalpur subdivision in Dhalai district, Bhattacharjee went to GB Pant Hospital. According to reports, violence broke out following the strike that the Tripura Civil Society had announced. “We have witnessed their egregious behavior,” he continued. The Chief Minister has previously provided a

clear response and statement to the problems they brought up, which were also considered inside the Assembly. Delhi would make the final decision after a tripartite agreement was reached. However, such a horrible act in the name of protest is truly heartbreaking and unacceptable. He added that an engineer and a BDO were among those attacked and were rushed to the hospital for treatment. Bhattacharjee, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, confirmed he had spoken with Chief Minister Manik Saha, who is closely monitoring the situation. “Hooliganism in the name of civil society will not be tolerated. The CM has given his clear statement on social media.



Everyone is condemning this incident, and our government will take a decision for strict punishment. No one involved in this violence will be spared. We stand with the victims,” he said. He also noted that the central leadership has been informed, and a meeting will be held to discuss the issue further.

Police encounter results in the death of a militant
engaged in the Kokrajhar railway track explosion



Guwahati, Oct 26:: On October 25, a police encounter in Nadanguri, Kokrajhar district, Assam, resulted in the death of a feared Maoist-affiliated terrorist who was allegedly responsible for several railway bomb explosions. Rohit Murmu (40), also known as Apil Murmu in Jharkhand, has been identified as the deceased. Murmu had previously been involved in a similar explosion in Jharkhand and was one of the main suspects in the latest railway track bombing in Kokrajhar, according to Kokrajhar Police.

Murmu carried out a railway track explosion in Jharkhand in October of last year before escaping to Assam, according to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kokrajhar. He went by Rohit Murmu in Jharkhand and Apil Murmu in Assam, claiming to be from Grahampur village, which is under Kachugaon in the Kokrajhar district. According to

investigations, Murmu was formerly a member of the NSLA (Nation Saotal Liberation Army) and had ties to both Jharkhand and Assam. Murmu refused to give up when the group put down its weapons and fled to Jharkhand, where he allegedly rose to the position of commander and founded a splinter unit. He later established connections with Maoist groups, expanding his militant network and participating in subversive activities in Jharkhand since 2015. A Jharkhand Police team had recently arrived in Assam to coordinate with local authorities in tracking him down. During the operation, police recovered a pistol, a grenade, a voter ID card, and an Aadhaar card issued in Jharkhand from the site of the encounter. Kokrajhar Senior Superintendent of Police confirmed that operations are still underway in the area to apprehend other possible associates of the slain militant,

MNF Slams Mizoram CM, Files Complaint
Over Dampa Poll Code Breach

Aizawl, Oct 26: The Mizo National Front (MNF), Mizoram’s main opposition party, has filed a complaint with the Election Commission against Chief Minister Lalduhoma, accusing him of violating the model code of conduct, an election official said on Saturday.

The MNF has also lodged a separate complaint against ruling Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) MLA and Chief Minister’s adviser, Dr Lorrain Lalpeklina Chinzah, the official added. According to the complaint submitted to State Joint Chief Electoral Officer Ethel Rothangpuii on Friday, the MNF alleged that Lalduhoma breached poll norms by announcing a Rs 700-crore water project for Dampa constituency and promising turmeric processing machines to farmers during a campaign at Reiek village in Mamit district. The party further alleged that Dr Lorrain conducted a free medical camp in the Dampa area after the model code of



conduct had come into effect. The matters are being investigated, he added. Five candidates are in the fray for the bypoll to Dampa seat on November 11. Ruling ZPM has fielded Mizo singer and preacher Vanlalsailova, MNF nominated party senior vice-president and former health minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana and Congress fielded its vice-president and former transport minister John Rotluangliana. The BJP nominated Lalhmingthanga, who recently joined the saffron party, while former chief minister Brig. T Sailo’s party fielded its vice-president K. Zahmingthanga.

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

Shillong, Oct 26: The Hynniewtrep Integrated Territorial Organisation (HITO) has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, through the Governor of Meghalaya, for urgent intervention over alleged human rights violations linked to the ongoing Assam-Meghalaya border dispute. In its memorandum, HITO accused the Assam government of repeated encroachments into areas under the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, resulting in “daily hardships, destruction of property, and threats to livelihood” for residents of border villages. The organisation cited past incidents, including the 2009 Langpih massacre and the 2022 Mukroh firing, as evidence of what it termed “state-sponsored aggression,” claiming Assam has ignored historical boundaries and regional agreements. Most recently, HITO

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

Arunachal will hold municipal
and panchayat elections

Itanagar, Oct 26: Itanagar and Pasighat municipal bodies and panchayati raj institutions will be up for election in December, according to the Arunachal Pradesh State Election Commission (APSEC). The commission recently issued a notification instructing officials to start poll preparations and guarantee that seats in zilla parishads, gram panchayats, and municipal bodies are reserved for women. Officials have been directed by the APSEC to send out the poll notices by October 30. Changlang, Itanagar, Keyi Panyor, and Kurung Kumey districts will all have lotteries as part of the process to determine the seats set aside for women in the next panchayat elections. Keyi Panyor’s draw is set for October 29, while the draws in Changlang, Itanagar, and Kurung Kumey are set for October 28. In Itanagar, the draw for reservation of seats in the civic body will be conducted at the DK State Convention Centre at 11 am on October 28. The exercise will be carried out under Section 15(2) of the Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 2019, which mandates the reservation of one-third of seats for women belonging to the Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe.

Assam SIT team to fly to Singapore today to
investigate Zubeen Garg’s mysterious death

Guwahati, Oct 26: In a major development in the ongoing investigation into the sudden demise of Assam’s celebrated singer Zubeen Garg, a two-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) from Assam is set to depart for Singapore today. The move comes as authorities aim to follow key leads linked to the high-profile case. The SIT team will be led by Munna Prasad Gupta, Special DGP (CID) and SIT Chief, along with Investigating Officer Tarun Goel. The delegation’s primary objective will be to retrace Zubeen Garg’s movements during his visit to Singapore and verify the sequence of events surrounding his final international trip. This phase of the investigation has emerged as a crucial component in understanding the circumstances of the late singer’s death. Reports suggest that ten Assamese expatriates residing in Singapore have already provided vital information to



investigators. Their testimonies have reportedly helped identify important contacts and engagements that may shed light on Zubeen Garg’s activities during his stay abroad. During their visit, the SIT team is expected to coordinate closely with Singapore police authorities, review shared evidence, inspect locations where Zubeen Garg resided or visited, and examine electronic and financial records for potential clues. They will also collect documentary and CCTV evidence and interact with individuals who had direct or indirect contact with the singer.

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

Agartala, Oct 26: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday issued a public apology after inadvertently referring to the Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura (IPFT), the ruling BJP’s alliance partner, as an outlawed group during a political rally in poll-bound Bihar. The incident occurred on Saturday at a rally in Ramnagar, Bihar, organized to mark the filing of nomination papers by two BJP candidates. While addressing the gathering, Saha mentioned that members of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), All Tripura Tiger Force



(ATTf), and IPFT had surrendered to lead normal lives, unintentionally grouping the BJP ally with banned militant outfits. Acknowledging the error, Dr. Saha took to Facebook on Sunday to clarify his statement and apologise. “While addressing in Bihar (on Saturday), I inadvertently referred to IPFT like NLFT and ATTf. As soon as the matter

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

37 villages unite to
protect Ntangki National
Park in Nagaland



Kohima, Oct 26: In a landmark move for environmental conservation, representatives from 37 villages under Athibung sub-division in Peren district have unanimously resolved to protect Ntangki National Park and its surrounding ecosystems. The resolution was adopted during a General Consultative Meeting held at Athibung Town Hall on October 17, 2025, under the theme “Community Consultation on Conservation around Ntangki National Park.” The meeting was organized by the Zeliang-Kuki Public Organisation (ZKPO) and attended by village GBs, chairmen, youth and women representatives, as well as members of civil society organisations including the Kuki Inpi and the Nagaland Zeliang People’s Organisation (NZPO). The house resolved to fully support the Forest Department in the conservation of Ntangki National Park and agreed to strictly enforce customary laws against violators. A total ban on timber logging, fishing, and hunting within the park was declared. The use of poison, inverters, and batteries in rivers across Athibung sub-division was also prohibited. Each Village Council has been empowered to enforce these measures within its jurisdiction. Speaking at the meeting, SDO (Civil) of Athibung sub-division urged village councils and organizations to exercise their rights under Article 371(A) to protect both land and people. “It is the right time to focus on conservation; later may be too late,” he warned. NZPO president Zandi Domta called for an end to the practice of offering bush meat to VIPs and urged villages to stop hunting parties from entering forests. He emphasized stronger ownership over village lands, saying they must be nurtured “as a real owner would his own property.”

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

Imphal , Oct 26: The 134th Raising Day Parade of the Manipur Police was held today at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground in Imphal, with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla gracing the occasion as the chief guest. The event celebrated the courage, discipline, and dedication of the state’s police personnel, highlighting their exemplary service to the community. Governor Bhalla conducted a thorough inspection of the parade contingents, which included Manipur Rifles (Male), India Reserve Battalions (Male), Civil Police (Male and Female), 9th IR (Mahila) Battalion, Traffic Police, Home Guards, and VDF (Male). The parade featured a spectacular march-past led by Dr. Sarangthem Ibombcha Singh, MPS, Commandant of the 6th India Reserve Battalion,



showcasing the professionalism and coordination of the force. The ceremony was attended by several MLAs, Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, Security Advisor Kuldiep Singh, Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, and other senior police officers. During the event, Governor Bhalla distributed trophies and awards to outstanding police stations, battalions, and personnel in recognition of their exceptional service, bravery, and dedication. In his address, Governor Bhalla com-

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

Four candidates
file nominations for
Mizoram’s Dampa
Assembly bypoll

Aizawl, Oct 26: Four candidates have officially filed their nominations for the upcoming Dampa assembly by-election in Mizoram, election officials confirmed on Sunday. The bypoll follows the untimely demise of MNF MLA Lalrintluanga Sailo on July 21. The contest is shaping up as a four-way battle between Vanlalsailova of the ruling Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM), R Lalthangliana of the Mizo National Front (MNF), Lalhlangaiha of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and John Rotluangliana of the Congress. Election authorities have set Tuesday as the final date for filing nominations, with scrutiny scheduled for Wednesday and withdrawal of candidatures by Friday. Polling is scheduled for November 11, with votes to be counted on November 14. Dampa constituency has 20,790 registered voters spread across 41 polling stations. Silsury-I records the highest number of voters at 1,103, while Zopui has the lowest at just 30.

Assam court condemns a drug trafficking
case to two to seven years in prison

Guwahati, Oct 26: Two individuals from Nagaon were given a seven-year severe prison sentence by a district court in Dima Hasao, Assam, for their roles in a 2023 drug trafficking case. The two were found guilty under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on October 22 by District and Sessions Judge Md. Yusuf Azad. Each prisoner was additionally fined Rs 40,000, and if they didn’t pay, they would be imprisoned for a further three months. Additional Public Prosecutor Sanjay Kumar Jadav claims that the complaint was filed at the Khatkhathi police station the previous year. A third defendant was exonerated for lack of proof. The ruling is yet another firm stand by the district court against drug-related offenses in the area, which has witnessed a number of trafficking cases recently.



BUSINESS

Revenue increases by single digits as supply networks are disrupted by GST rate reduction
HUL Q2 Results

New Delhi: The fiscal second quarter financials of Hindustan Unilever Ltd. demonstrate the initial effects of GST 2.0 on its supplier chains. According to a Thursday (October 23, 2025) exchange filing, the largest FMCG manufacturer in India saw a 3.81% year-over-year increase in consolidated net profit to ₹2,694 crore for the three months ending September 30, 2025, on the strength of a 2.11% year-over-year gain in revenue to ₹16,061 crore. Bloomberg surveyed analysts, who projected the topline to be ₹16,020 crore and the bottomline to be ₹2,570 crore. HUL had an exceptional gain of ₹184 crore in July-September, discounting which net profit 4% year-on-year to ₹2,482 crore. Separately, the company has declared an interim dividend of ₹19/share. According to the company, GST-related disruptions continue into October while normalcy is expected from November onwards. If commodity prices remain where they are, then price growth will be in low single digits. The EBITDA margin is expected to remain at the



current levels. Overall, HUL expects H2 FY26 to be better than H1 FY26. “The GST reforms are a positive step by the government to drive consumption but the quarter saw a transitory impact as the market adjusted to these changes,” HUL CEO Priya Nair said in a statement. “We anticipate normal trading conditions starting early November, once prices stabilise, paving the way for a gradual and sustained market recovery.”

Infosys promoters, including Nandan Nilekani, Sudha Murty opt out of Rs. 18,000-crore share buyback

Mumbai: Infosys promoters and promoter group, including Nandan M Nilekani and Sudha Murty, have decided not to participate in the company’s ₹18,000 crore share buyback, according to a regulatory filing on Wednesday. The promoters collectively hold 13.05 per cent of the company’s equity as on the buyback announcement date. “...the Promoter and Promoter Group of the Company have expressed their intention of not participating in the Buyback vide their letters dated September 14, 2025, September 16, 2025, September 17, 2025, September 18, 2025 and September 19, 2025. “Pursuant to the proposed Buyback and depending on the response to the Buyback, the vot-



ing rights of the Promoters and Promoter Group in the Company, which constitutes 13.05 per cent as on the date of the Public Announcement, may change,” Infosys said. Infosys promoters include company co-founder N R Narayana Murthy’s wife Sudha N Murty, daughter Akshata Murty, and son Rohan Murty. It also includes company co-founder Nandan Nilekani, his wife Rohini Nilekani, and children Nihar and Janhavi Nilekani. Other co-founders and their families are also promoters of the company. The Infosys board, in a meeting dated September 11, 2025, approved the company’s largest-ever share buyback worth ₹18,000 crore.

Blackstone plans to purchase a 9.99% share in Federal Bank for Rs. 6,200 crore



New Delhi: After days of speculation, Federal Bank confirmed on Friday that New York-based Blackstone will purchase a 9.99 percent stake through its affiliate Asia II Topco XIII, investing ₹6,196.51 crore. This will add to the list of foreign companies purchasing shares in mid-sized Indian banks. The private lender based in Kochi will issue up to 272.97 million warrants, each convertible into one fully paid-up equity share of face value ₹2, at a price of ₹227 per share (including a premium of ₹225), as part of the investment, which will be done through preferential issue on a private placement basis.

Subject to shareholder and regulatory approval, the US private equity company will control a 9.9% ownership in the bank after the warrants are converted. The warrants may be exercised in one or more tranches and will have a tenor of eighteen months from the date of allotment. 25% of the issue price will be paid by the investor at the time of subscription, with the remaining 75% due when the shares are converted into equity. At the conclusion of the term, any warrants that remain unexercised will expire, and the money paid for them will be lost. Additionally, Blackstone has been granted a special right by

the bank’s board to choose one retiring non-executive member to the board, provided that they hold at least 5% of the bank’s paid-up share capital and that all warrants are exercised. Shares of the bank are up 1.12 per cent at ₹229.90 on the BSE, following the announcement. Federal Bank does not have a promoter, and all its shares all publicly held. The bank has called an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of shareholders on November 19, 2025, via video conferencing to seek approvals for the preferential issue and the grant of the board nomination right. The record date for e-voting has been fixed as November 12, 2025. The Indian banking sector has seen a flurry of foreign investors investing in the sector. Last week, Emirates NBD announced that it will invest \$3 billion for a 60 per cent stake in RBL Bank, the largest foreign investment in India’s private banking space. Earlier this year, Japan’s SMBC bought a 24 per cent stake in Yes Bank. Additionally, Abu Dhabi’s largest listed company, International Holding Co. PJSC acquired a 42 per cent stake in Sammaan Capital for almost \$1 billion. Earlier, Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) invested \$877 million in IDFC FIRST Bank.

Starlink wants to launch satcom with nine earth stations throughout India

New Delhi: The Times reported that earth stations will in key Indian cities—Mumbai, Noida, Hyderabad, Kolkata, by SpaceX’s internet service, opening of Starlink internet services aided by these stations. Through its Gen 1 satellite constellation, the corporation has requested for 600 gigabit per second capacity over India, according to an official who spoke to The Economic Times. The spectrum has been provisionally assigned to show compliance with security regulations. Security issues The business, which is controlled by Elon Musk, has been granted temporary authorization to utilize a portion of the radio spectrum for system testing and security compliance. Starlink is the third company, after OneWeb and Jio Satellite, to get permission for such security tests. None of them can start full operations until security agencies approve.



Economic nine gateway be established ies, including Chandigarh, katta, and Lucsatellite in-Starlink. The link’s satellite in India will be

Orkla India, a manufacturer of MTR Foods, announces an IPO price range of up to Rs.10,000 crore

Mumbai: The ₹1,667.54-crore IPO pricing range for Orkla India Ltd., which has a valuation of up to ₹10,000 crore, has been revealed. In order to raise up to ₹1,667.54 crore at a valuation of ₹10,000 crore, the parent company of the ready-to-eat brand MTR Foods will offer 2.28 crore shares in the Orkla India IPO at a price range of ₹695-730 each. Since the IPO is a pure offer-for-sale, the firm will not receive any of the proceeds; instead, they will exclusively go to the selling shareholders. Orkla ASA, a Norwegian company, first entered India in 2007 when it acquired MTR Foods. In 2020, it grew by acquiring most of Eastern Condiments. The corporation combined its local operations in 2023 under Orkla India Pvt.



Ltd., an Indian subsidiary. With the announcement of its IPO, it now hopes to capitalize on India’s thriving primary market. In the Orkla India IPO, Orkla Asia Pacific, one of the company’s largest shareholders and a member of

The Orkla India IPO is a pure offer-for-sale, meaning the proceeds will go to the selling shareholders only—and not the company.

the “promoters or promoters group” in India, would offer 20.6 million shares. The Meeran Group’s Navas and Feroz Meerans, among other current shareholders, will each sell 1.1 million shares. Consolidated net profit of the MTR Foods maker rose 12.97% year-on-year to ₹255.69 crore in Fiscal 2025, on the back of revenue that increased 2.81% to 2,455.24 crore, according to the company’s RHP. The company had a net worth of ₹1,853.47 crore in FY25, as against the ₹10,000 crore its aiming for in the IPO.

Samsung targets Apple's Vision Pro with its Galaxy XR headset, which incorporates Google AI

New Delhi: Samsung Electronics unveiled the Galaxy XR extended reality headset on Tuesday, relying on Google’s AI capabilities to help it break into the uncharted and unproven computing-on-your-face sector, which is controlled by Apple and Meta. The headset will cost \$1,799, which is almost half of what Apple charges for its Vision Pro headset.

It looks like headsets created by other companies like Meta. In a long-term collaboration with Qualcomm and Alphabet’s Google, it is the first of a family of new gadgets driven by artificial intelligence and the Android XR operating



system. “There’s a whole journey ahead of us in terms of other devices and form factors,” said Google’s vice president of AR/XR Sharham Izadi in an interview ahead of the launch. Executives stated that the release of lighter eyewear will come next, but they would not go into further detail. Samsung has revealed collaborations with South Korea’s Gentle Monster luxury eyewear and Warby Parker. The largest

tech companies are engaged in a competition to develop new form factors for computing and entertainment that are supported by AI. With a roughly 80% market share, Instagram owner Meta dominates the VR headset market, with Apple coming in second. OpenAI, the company that makes ChatGPT, is also entering the market. In May, it paid \$6.5 billion to acquire io Products, a hardware firm founded by iPhone designer Jony Ive, in order to develop gadgets for the AI era. The long-awaited Samsung Galaxy XR, first demonstrated last year, combines virtual reality and mixed reality features.

As pressure on Russian oil increases globally, Reliance Industries purchases more West Asian crude

New Delhi: Reliance Industries, which is funded by Mukesh Ambani, purchased West Asian crudes last week and may place additional orders, suggesting that its procurement practices may be beginning to be impacted by Western pressure against Russian oil. According to brokers familiar with the situation, the refiner purchased at least 2.5 million barrels, including Basrah Medium from Iraq, Al-Shaheen, and Qatar Land. Although RIL often purchases petroleum from the area, the traders claimed that the recent buying frenzy was more active than usual, according to Bloomberg. According to the traders, Reliance has been inquiring with numerous possible counterparties over the availability of oil from the region that is comparable in grade to Russian crude, in addition to the rush of spot purchases. The company has typically been the largest single buyer of Moscow’s crude in India, relying on the flows as a mainstay for its operations. The development comes within a week of US President Donald Trump claim-



RIL explores alternative suppliers and increases spot purchases to mitigate risks from EU ban and US warnings affecting Russian crude imports

ing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured him that India would pull back from buying Russian oil. Trump said India would continue to face ‘massive tariffs’ if it keeps buying Russian oil. Other Indian refiners have broadly indicated they would trim — but not stop — purchases from the Opec+ pro-

ducer. A ban by the European Union on imports of fuel made from Russian crude, is set to take effect on January 21, potentially impacting Reliance’s exports of refined products to the bloc. Official guidelines named India as a country that counterparties should take added precautions with.

Motilal Oswal Financial reaches a record high in October after rising 17%

Mumbai: In an otherwise quiet market, Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL) shares reached a record high of ₹1,044.40, rising 2% on the BSE during intraday trading on Friday. As of this writing, the stock has increased by 17% in October. On December 11, 2024, the stock brokerage and related services company’s market price reached a new high of ₹1,034.95. By contrast, at 11:27 AM, the BSE Sensex was down 0.3% at 84,303.58.

MOFSL has informed the stock exchanges that the meeting of the board of directors of the company is scheduled on October 30, 2025, inter alia, to consider and approve unaudited financial results (standalone & consolidated) of the company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2025. MOFSL is a financial services company. Its offerings include Wealth Management, Capital Markets (Institutional broking & Investment banking), Asset & Wealth Management (Asset Management, Alternates & Wealth Management), Housing Finance & Equity



based treasury investments. MOFSL’s operating profit after tax grew by 21 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis to ₹522 crore, mainly driven by asset and private wealth businesses besides the capital market business. Asset management company (AMC) continued to gain market share, both in mutual funds and alternate segments and reached a major milestone of ₹1.5 trillion of equity AUM. The company’s focus in the interim continues to increase share of its fee-based and trail-based revenues, which will be driven by the asset management business, the private wealth business, the distribution business and the lending book growth.

After reaching an agreement with Tesmec S.P.A. Italy, BEML’s stock increased by 3%

New Delhi: BEML’s stock increased 3.1%, reaching a high of ₹4,535 per share on the BSE throughout the day. BEML’s share price was up 2.3% on the BSE at ₹4,498.8 per share at 11:22 AM. The BSE Sensex, by contrast, was down 0.28 percent at 84,322.73. The company’s market capitalization was ₹18,723.99 crore. The 52-week low was ₹2,346.35, and the 52-week high was ₹4,874.85 per share. Following

the company’s signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tesmec to introduce surface miner equipment for mining applications, the purchase took place at the counter. “BEML Limited and M/s. Tesmec, S.P.A Italy has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for introducing Surface Miner equipment by BEML for Mining applications,” the filing read. That apart from that, recent-

Google integration, long-term memory, and collaboration are added to Microsoft Copilot

Mumbai: Microsoft strengthened its AI services to fend off competition on Thursday by introducing new capabilities in its digital assistant Copilot, such as collaboration and tighter connectivity with other apps like Google and Outlook. Several AI service providers, like Anthropic and OpenAI, are introducing new products and updating their models in an effort to gain a larger portion of the rapidly expanding AI industry. With user consent, Copilot may view and employ reasoning capabilities across its tabs in the Microsoft Edge browser to compile, compare, and do tasks like making hotel reservations. Additionally, past searches can be transformed into “storylines” to allow users to revisit earlier concepts. Along with the software features, the company introduced an avatar called “Mico” a nod to Microsoft Copilot that can show expressions and change color to make conversations feel natural, the company said. The changes aim to increase Microsoft’s browser’s attractiveness in order to outperform competing agentic browsers, such as Comet from Perplexity, Google Chrome from Alphabet, and Atlas from OpenAI, which was just published. Groups enables users to work together on writing



and other projects by transforming Copilot into a shared area that can accommodate up to 32 participants. Additionally, Copilot has long-term memory, which aids in managing lists and thoughts, and customization enables it to retain a user’s crucial information for later use. “It’s absolutely essential for a companion to have memory. With co-pilot’s long-term memory, it naturally picks up on important details and remembers them long after you’ve had the conversation,” said Ella Steckler, AI product manager at Microsoft. The company has also improved Copilot’s health-related questions, addressing how to ground responses from credible sources, as concerns over misinformation from AI-generated responses rise. All the updates are live in the United States, Microsoft said, adding that it will roll them out across the UK, Canada and beyond in the next few weeks.



for metallic detail parts.

Diljit Dosanjh brings ‘party’ energy to KBC 17

Mumbai: Diljit Dosanjh, a renowned actor and singer who has consistently made India proud internationally, is all set to grace the 17th season of Kaun Banega Crorepati. The episode will be aired on October 31. The Good Newz actor had revealed his stint on the Amitabh Bachchan-hosted show a few days ago on the social media platform X and fans were excited to witness the spectacle. Now, the Born To Shine singer has shared the promo on his Instagram, where he can be seen singing alongside Mr. Bachchan.

Diljit Dosanjh, who was recently nominated for the International Emmy Awards 2025 for his portrayal of Amar Singh Chamkila in Imtiaz Ali's directorial, looked dapper in a blue t-shirt and black trousers and paired his look with a white turban. Big B introduced him as ‘Punjab Ka Puttar’ and gave a warm hug to the singer. The channel shared the promo of the show on their Instagram, tagging Dosanjh in a collaborative post. The caption read, “Dekhiye Kaun Banega Crorepati, 31st October, Fri raat 9 baje sirf Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV



par.” Elated by the announcement, fans were quick to fill the comment section with love and excitement for the singer's episode on KBC.

A comment on the post read, “Punjabi Aa Gye Oye”. Another user wrote, “KBC highest TRP about to come.” Diljit had earlier revealed about his KBC episode on X to a user who asked him about his experience on the show. The user asked the Soorma actor, “How was the experience in KBC?” To this, Diljit replied, “It's for the Punjab flood.” It is being speculated that the amount won by the actor on the show will be donated to Punjab for its flood relief campaign.

2025 saw an unprecedented and devastating flood in Punjab, after which, actors and singers donated for the flood victims. Diljit had announced the adoption of many Punjab villages and his team was on the ground helping victims and their families. Diljit had also shared a video online where he was talking about the floods. The post had over 4 million likes and 110k comments.

Simon Cowell, Lauren Silverman marriage update viral

Agency: English TV personality and record executive Simon Cowell made headlines after sparking marriage rumours with fiancée Lauren Silverman. After being engaged for nearly four years, fans speculate that the couple has secretly tied the knot. Rumours started swirling after Lauren Silverman debuted a new Instagram account with Simon Cowell's last name and declared herself as Lauren Michelle Cowell.

After creating the new account, the socialite deleted her previous Instagram account, which further increased the speculation among the fans. Although Lauren's new profile is private, her friends and Jeff Bezos' wife, Lauren Sanchez Bezos, already follow her ac-



count. However, the couple has not yet released any official statements or responded to the marriage speculations. The couple first crossed paths in 2004 and started dating years later. They confirmed their relationship in 2013 after revealing her pregnancy with their son Eric, whom they welcomed in 2014. After years of being together, in 2021, the former American Idol judge proposed to Lauren in Barbados, where they originally met in 2004. The fairytale beach proposal took place during a family vacation, accompanied by their son Eric and Lauren's first son, Adam, whom she shares with ex-husband Andrew Silverman.

Bollywood Mourns: Sarabhai Star Satish Shah Dies at 74



Mumbai: Veteran actor Satish Shah, famously known for ‘Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro’ and ‘Sarabhai vs Sarabhai’, passed away on Saturday. He was 74. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit confirmed the news of his death on Instagram. In his video, Ashoke Pandit revealed that Satish Shah passed away due to kidney failure. His health suddenly deteriorated at home and he was rushed to Hinduja Hospital. He passed away at the hospital. Pandit called it a huge loss to the film and television industry.

Sharing the news of Satish Shah's demise, Ashoke Pan-

dit wrote, “Sad and shocked to inform you that our dear friend and a great actor Satish Shah has expired few hours ago due to kidney failure . He was rushed to Hinduja hospital where he breathed his last . A great loss to our industry . Om Shanti .” As per a report in India Today, Satish Shah had been battling kidney-related complications and had recently undergone a transplant. His manager told the news portal that the body remains at the hospital, and the funeral will take place on Sunday. Over a career of more than forty years, Satish Shah became a household

name in Indian cinema and television through his memorable roles. He pursued his education at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, before training at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. He made his acting debut with Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan (1978) and went on to feature in more than 250 films over his illustrious career.

He achieved cult status with his iconic performance in the 1983 film Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro. He played the role of Municipal Commissioner D'Mello in the film directed by Kundan Shah. Satish Shah also starred in films such as Shakti, Hum Saath Saath Hain, Main Hoon Na, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Fanaa, Om Shanti Om and others. On television, Shah's role as Indra-vadan Sarabhai in Sarabhai vs Sarabhai is remembered as one of Indian TV's most iconic comic performances. Satish Shah is survived by his wife Madhu Shah.

Malaika at 50: The Queen of Glam Hits Goa to Ring in Milestone Birthday with Epic Dance Party

Goa: Bollywood's style queen, Malaika Arora, turned a year older on October 23. The actress, known for her age-defying beauty, dancing talent, daring fashion choices and knack for yoga and fitness, celebrated her milestone birthdays surrounded by her closest friends and family. Celebrating in the heart of Goa, Malaika made sure her 50th birthday bash was filled with laughter, music, memorable moments and a whole lot of glamour.

The actress celebrated her birthday in true star style – with more than one celebration – and celebrity stylist Aastha Sharma recently gave an inside glimpse from the fun-filled night on social media. The actress kicked off her celebrations with an intimate cake-cutting ceremony alongside her son Arhaan Khan before heading off to a glitzy Goa getaway with her inner circle. The first glimpse featured Malaika looking radiant in a polka dot dress, followed by photos and clips of her enjoying the night to the fullest. She was seen cutting a customised cake shaped like the number 50. One of the highlights of the night was Malaika setting the dance floor ablaze as she grooved to her timeless hit “Chaiyya Chaiyya”, reminding everyone why she remains Bollywood's ultimate dance queen. The celebrations also doubled as Malaika stunned in multiple ensembles. From a silver feather-detailed outfit, a pink off-shoulder dress with a bow-tie



accent, a pearl-embellished mini dress, and finally, a golden shimmery look, she turned heads and set new fashion goals in her own unique way.

The star-studded guest list included some of her closest friends and family members, such as Farah Khan, Gabriella Demetriades, Aastha Sharma, Seema Kiran Sajdeh, Delnaz Daruwala, Dino Morea, Amrita Arora, Aditi Rao Hydari, and her mother and son, who made the evening even more special. Last seen in a peppy dance number in Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's Thamma, Malaika is all set to appear in a new show titled Pitch to Get Rich. Produced by the Fashion Entrepreneur Fund

(FEF) and Dharmatic Entertainment, the one-of-a-kind reality show will premiere on October 20 on JioHotstar. With a massive investment pool of Rs 40 crore, the fashion entrepreneur reality series promises to turn creativity into serious business by backing the next generation of fashion entrepreneurs in the country. Besides Malaika, the series features celebrated personalities like Karan Johar, Manish Malhotra and Akshay Kumar as judges, mentors and investors. They will be joined by leading business tycoons, including Naveen Jindal, Ravi Jaipuria, Darpan Sanghvi, Dhruv Sharma, Gaurav Dalmia, Vagish Pathak and Vinod Dugar.

Fans find Nora Fatehi connection between Thamma and Stree



portant part of the film was Nora Fatehi's iconic dance number Kamariya. After the song ended, Nora left the scene with her bodyguard. Well, this year Nora returned to the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe in Thamma with yet another item song. Titled Dilbar Ki Aankhon Ka, the track won hearts whereas Nora's smooth as butter dance moves left fans wanting more. But it was her fangs which

stole the show! Well, netizens now believe that Nora was a betal (vampire) even when she appeared in Stree. A viral Reddit thread reads, “So Nora Fatehi was in stree as just an item dancer while she is In Thamma as a betaal. So was she Betaal in Street too. I know when stree was started there was no Maddock Cinematic universe.. but lots of people were posting that How can be Kareena in Singham

again as wife of Singham, while she was as dancer in Dabangg 2, there was only one cameo of Chulbul Pandey, here it is a complete universe. So Nora was betaal in Stree too.” Agreeing with this netizen, a fan stated, “Actually the cop said “Yeh wahai hai Chanderi ki Rani” while introducing Nora,” whereas another hopeful internet user gushed, “I hope they'll explore her character even more in upcoming mhu movies. Well they have to cuz she's one of the best dancers in Bollywood rn for them to have in item songs.” Another comment read, “chanderi ki rani reference or Jana calling aalok as bittu are connections.. I guess in next some movie, pankaj tripathi will be brought as planner & may be in next he will be shown as punter of akshay kumar,” whereas a netizen wrote, “Of course she is the same... Her character was introduced as “Chanderi ki Rani” in Thamma.”

Amitabh's cryptic ‘People Change’ note sparks fan worry

Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan penned down a cryptic note on his blog on Saturday and left netizens worried. The veteran Bollywood actor talked about changing times and expressed his views on how people also change with time. “Times change the World changes .. attitudes, habits change, culture changes .. people change .. they that were then, are not now .. and soon they that are ‘now’ shall in time be in reference of the ‘then’ (sic),” he wrote.

Big B then talked about how there's no point dwelling on the past and added, “Lamentations from the ‘then’ keep echoing in the times of now... they shall simply remain a memory. Let them be in memory. Lamenting upon it shall be an exertive waste upon your system, attuned to ‘then’. Respect and enjoy it — they were such a delight ‘then’ (sic).” On Friday, Amitabh Bachchan also mourned the loss of Piyush Pandey via his blog and addressed him as “a creative genius, a most amiable friend, and guide.” “A creative genius... a most amiable friend, and guide... has left us... No words to express our grief... Piyush Pandey passed away this morning... The creative works



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left behind by him shall ever be an eternal emblem of his immeasurable creativity,” he wrote.

On the work front, Amitabh Bachchan is awaiting the release of his courtroom thriller drama Section 84. Made under the direction of Ribhu Dasgupta, the film also stars Abhishek Banerjee and Nimrat Kaur. Besides this, Amitabh will also reprise his role as Ashvatthama in Nag Ashwin's upcoming Kalki 2. Set in the year 2898 AD, the film blends sci-fi with ancient mythology. The shooting is expected to begin in December.

Prabhas' Fauzi draws spiritual core

Hyderabad: Pan-India superstar Prabhas is all set to return to the world of epic period dramas with Fauzi, directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, marking his first venture into the genre since Baahubali. The film, mounted on a grand scale by Mythri Movie Makers and T-Series, promises to blend history, patriotism, and emotion into a cinematic experience that celebrates the forgotten spirit of India's freedom struggle. Set against the backdrop of India's pre-Independence era, Fauzi follows the life of a soldier in Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, exploring themes of duty, identity, and sacrifice. The film aims to uncover “hidden chapters of history” — stories of unsung heroes who fought with courage and conviction long before India gained its freedom. Speaking about the creative choices behind the project, director Hanu Raghavapudi said, “We intentionally used Sanskrit shlokas because they add gravity and meaning to our warrior tale. However, this is not a mythological film.

Thamma's terrifying turn of events that changes the course of MHCU's history Bhediya meets Betaal

New Delhi: The connection between ‘Thamma’ and the rest of Maddock's horror-comedy universe is no longer a secret or a spoiler. The fundamental question is how it accomplishes it and what that means for the cosmos as a whole. ‘Thamma’, starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna, was the first full-fledged love tale in Maddock's ever-expanding horror-comedy universe. However, its deft twists were what truly drew our attention, not simply the romance or the action. Some twists that caused ‘Stree’ and ‘Bhediya’ franchise fans to take attention. Since the bonds are so strong this time, it is truly impossible for one superhero to exist without the other. Does that sound confusing? Continue reading.

‘Thamma’ teaser already suggested Varun Dhawan's Bhediya would feature. The importance of that crossing was not made clear. Bhediya becomes an essential component of Alok's environment rather than merely making a brief appearance. So much so that even though Alok, played by Ayushmann, hates Bhediya, he quickly realizes he cannot live without him. The irony? Even though both Alok and Bhediya are legendary hybrids—half beast, part human—Bhediya does not think highly of Alok. The subsequent chapter of Maddock's horror-comedy story is driven by the close connection between Thamma and Bhediya's destinies. At one point in ‘Thamma’, we meet a familiar face-- the ever-so-delightful Jana (Abhishek Banerjee from the ‘Stree’



universe). He is looking for a cure for his friend Bhaskar, whose powers as Bhediya have been fading ever since Sarkata struck him during the ‘Stree 2’ climax. Jana learns that the only way for Bhaskar to regain his strength is to drink a Betaal's blood. Here comes the twist: Betaals -- vampire-like phantoms who protect humanity -- are a new addition to the Maddock mythos. And Alok is one of them. But just when Alok begins to understand his purpose, he learns that a terrifying entity, Yakshasan (Nawazuddin Siddiqui), has been set free. To face this greater evil, Alok must gain more power -- and the only way to do that is by drinking Bhediya's blood. That's the hook. That's where ‘Bhediya’ and ‘Thamma’ get intertwined -- their survival depends on feeding each other's blood. But how can two beings destined to destroy one another come together to fight a bigger evil? Their stories are now tangled in ways that are as dangerous as they are fascinating.

Desi eggs vs. regular eggs

There's no denying that eggs are one of the most healthy sources of nutrition one can add to the daily diet. Right from its delightful taste and texture to its versatility, eggs can be added to the diet in many unique ways. However, when it comes to buying eggs, one can often find it confusing to decide between desi eggs or regular eggs. Then you need to read on and follow us through these easy tips and tricks. While both types of eggs are loaded with essential nutrients, they differ in several ways, particularly in terms of their nutritional value, taste, and their origin and production. Desi eggs are often the healthiest version of eggs; this is because these eggs are laid by hens that roam free- environments. These hens aren't confined to small cages and can peck worms, and seeds, giving them a more varied, natural diet. This diet is quite different from the diet of hens which produce regular eggs, are often kept in con- spaces and fed a uniform of grains and corn in large mer- cial farms. The lifestyle of desi hens contribute to the es in types of eggs they one of the biggest of desi eggs nutritional more mus- func- natural these rich in sup- nitive eggs also tamins like like beta-car- immune system are still a great source of protein and essential vitamins like B12 and D, their nutritional content doesn't quite match up to that of desi eggs. This is because regular eggs are high in protein, but desi eggs usually are a little more healthy and nutritious. Unless the hens are specifically fed omega-3-enriched diets, regular eggs tend to have fewer of these heart-healthy fats. Moreover, regular eggs are a good source of vitamins, but desi eggs generally have more of the fat-soluble vitamins, such as A, D, and E. Many people choose these eggs for their unique taste and texture; this is because eggs are known for their rich taste and texture, which also has a more intense flavor, partly because of the hens' diet. The yolks tend to be darker and more vibrant in color, which many consider a sign of better quality. Lastly, desi eggs have a firmer texture and less watery whites. Regular eggs, on the other hand, are milder in taste, and their yolks are often lighter in color. The fats in desi eggs are often considered healthier, thanks to the hens' more natural diet. Here's why: Higher Monounsaturated Fats: These healthy fats promote heart health and reduce inflammation. Better Omega-3 to Omega-6 Ratio: Regular eggs from factory farms often have an imbalance of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids, which could potentially promote inflammation. Desi eggs have a better balance, making them a healthier choice for reducing inflammation in the body. Commercially produced regular eggs may come from hens treated with antibiotics and hormones to prevent disease and boost production.

Though these chemicals are regulated, some people worry about the long-term effects of consuming them. In contrast, desi eggs come from hens raised in more natural conditions, usually without antibiotics or hormones, making them a safer option for those concerned about chemicals in their food. One downside of desi eggs is that they are generally more expensive than regular eggs. Since they're produced on a smaller scale by local farmers or in rural areas, they're not always as accessible in every market. Regular eggs, however, are much more affordable and can be found at any grocery store due to the large-scale production in commercial farms. Desi eggs may be a better choice from an environmental perspective.

The hens that lay these eggs typically live in less intensive farming conditions, where they eat a more natural diet, and the farming practices often have a smaller environmental footprint. Regular eggs, produced on factory farms, have a much larger environmental impact due to the mass production, waste management, and synthetic feeds required. While both desi and regular eggs offer excellent nutritional benefits, desi eggs have the edge when it comes to nutritional content. They are richer in protein, omega-3s, and fat-soluble vitamins, making them a superior choice for those looking to fix their diet. So, if you are concerned about hormones and antibiotics, desi eggs are also a better option since they are typically free of these chemicals. That being said, regular eggs are still a healthy choice. They provide quality protein and vitamins at a more affordable price point, making them a practical option for many people.

Soups that can help reduce inflammation

Dealing with inflammation can be tough, as it can lead to several health issues. But you will be amazed to know that inflammation can be caused by various factors, including stress, poor diet, and underlying health conditions like arthritis, heart disease, and digestive disorders. However, including certain foods in the diet can help reduce inflammation naturally, and one of the best ways to reduce inflammation is by adding soups to the daily diet. This is because soups are not only comforting and easy to digest, but they can also be packed with anti-inflammatory ingredients. Here are six simple soups that can help reduce inflammation and promote overall health. Turmeric and ginger are two powerhouse ingredients known for their anti-inflammatory properties. Turmeric contains curcumin, a compound with potent anti-inflammatory effects, while ginger helps alleviate inflammation and can reduce pain associated with conditions like arthritis. To make this soup, sauté onions, garlic, turmeric, and ginger, then add vegetable broth and simmer. You can also add vegetables like carrots or spinach for added nutrients. Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, a potent antioxidant that has been shown to reduce inflammation.

Paired with fresh basil, which contains anti-inflammatory compounds like flavonoids, this soup is a delicious way to fight inflammation. Simply sauté garlic and onions, add chopped tomatoes, and let them simmer with vegetable broth. Blend the soup until smooth, then stir in fresh basil and season to taste. This flavorful soup is both nourishing and effective in reducing swelling and discomfort. Sweet



potatoes and carrots are both high in beta-carotene, a nutrient that helps reduce inflammation and supports immune function. Sweet potatoes also contain vitamin E, another antioxidant that works to neutralize free radicals in the body.

To prepare this soup, roast the sweet potatoes and carrots, then blend them with vegetable broth, garlic, and a pinch of cinnamon for added flavor. Bone broth is an excellent option for reducing inflammation, as it is rich in collagen, gelatin, and amino acids that help to heal the gut and reduce inflammatory responses in the body. You can make your own bone broth by simmering bones with vegetables like carrots, celery, and onions for hours. The slow simmer allows the nutrients to infuse the broth. Drinking bone broth regularly has been shown to support joint health, reduce gut inflammation, and boost the immune system. Lentils are an excellent source of plant-based

Tamarind is a tangy, flavorful fruit commonly used in cooking around the world. Beyond its culinary uses, tamarind can be a potent ally for those looking to shed some pounds. This tropical fruit is rich in nutrients, antioxidants, and fiber, which may support healthy digestion, curb cravings, and boost metabolism. Here are six effective ways to include tamarind in your diet for weight loss:

Tamarind Water to Curb Appetite Drinking tamarind-infused water first thing in the morning is a great way to kick-start your metabolism and reduce hunger cravings. Tamarind contains hydroxycitric acid (HCA), a compound known to suppress appetite and block fat storage. To make tamarind water, simply soak a small amount of tamarind pulp in water overnight, strain it, and drink it the next morning. This hydrating beverage helps cleanse the digestive system and keeps you feeling full longer, reducing your overall calorie intake.

Tamarind in Salads for Extra Flavor Adding tamarind to salads is an excellent way to enhance their taste while boosting the fiber content. The fruit's natural sourness can complement a variety of fresh vegetables, giving your salad a zesty twist. The high fiber in tamarind promotes satiety and helps

6 untold benefits of drinking pomegranate juice with soaked basil seeds

Pomegranate juice, known for its refreshing taste, nutrient-dense composition and unique health benefits. When combined with soaked basil seeds (sabja or tukmaria), it becomes a powerful health elixir that offers numerous benefits. Basil seeds are tiny but potent, providing fiber, vitamins, and minerals. The combination of these two ingredients can be a game-changer for your health. Here are six untold benefits of drinking pomegranate juice with soaked basil seeds. Boosts gut health The combination of pomegranate juice and soaked basil seeds offers significant benefits for your digestive system. Basil seeds are rich in fiber, which helps regulate bowel movements and improve digestion. Soaked basil seeds expand in size, which aids in the smoother movement of food through your intestines. Pomegranate juice, on the other hand, contains natural antioxidants like punicalagins and flavonoids that reduce inflammation in the gut and promote a healthier digestive tract.

Together, they can help prevent constipation, bloating, and discomfort. For those looking to shed a few pounds, drinking pomegranate juice with soaked basil seeds can be a great addition to your diet. Pomegranate juice is known to improve metabolism and curb appetite, which can help with weight management. The soaked basil seeds absorb water, making you feel fuller for longer and reducing unnecessary cravings. The high fiber content also helps maintain steady blood sugar levels, preventing sudden hunger pangs. Together, these ingredients work synergistically to support a balanced, healthy weight. Pomegranate juice is loaded with vitamin C and antioxidants that are essential for skin health. It helps fight oxidative stress, which is a major factor in the aging process. The juice promotes collagen production, keeping your skin youthful and radiant. Adding soaked basil seeds enhances this effect. The seeds contain ome-



regulate blood sugar levels, which can aid in weight management. You can create a simple tamarind dressing by mixing tamarind paste, olive oil, lemon juice, and a pinch of salt, making it a healthy, flavorful addition to your salad.

Tamarind Smoothies for a Nutrient-Packed Snack Tamarind can be added to smoothies as a delicious and nutritious ingredient to promote weight loss. The fruit is rich in vitamin C, antioxidants, and dietary fiber, which all help in boosting immunity, improving digestion, and enhancing fat metabolism.

Blend tamarind with low-calorie fruits like berries, spinach, or cucumber, and add a little honey for sweetness. This makes for a refreshing, filling snack that curbs cravings and supports your weight loss goals.

Tamarind as a Healthy Snack If you're craving something tangy, opt for tamarind as a healthy snack. Tamarind pods or tamarind balls are widely available and can serve as a satisfying treat without adding too many calories to your daily intake. You can even prepare your own tamarind balls by mixing tamarind



ga-3 fatty acids and antioxidants that can help reduce inflammation, prevent acne, and improve overall skin texture. This combination is a natural way to give your skin a healthy, glowing appearance. The antioxidant-rich pomegranate juice is already known for its heart-healthy benefits, as it helps in reducing bad cholesterol (LDL) and boosting good cholesterol (HDL). Pomegranate juice also helps to regulate blood pressure, which is crucial for heart health. When combined with soaked basil seeds, which are high in omega-3 fatty acids, the mix becomes even more beneficial for your cardiovascular system. The omega-3s help reduce inflammation and support healthy blood circulation, which in turn contributes to a lower risk of heart disease. Drinking pomegranate juice with soaked basil seeds is a fantastic way to strengthen your immune system. Pomegranate juice is a rich source of vitamin C, which is known for its role in

boosting the immune system by supporting the production of white blood cells. The basil seeds contain antioxidants and essential minerals like zinc, which is crucial for immune function. Together, they help fight off infections and diseases by increasing the body's natural defenses. This powerful combination can help keep you healthy year-round, especially during cold and flu season. The combination of pomegranate juice and soaked basil seeds is a great way to keep hydrated and energized throughout the day. Basil seeds, when soaked, absorb a significant amount of water, helping to keep your body hydrated. Pomegranate juice provides natural sugars and vitamins, giving you a quick energy boost without the crash that comes from processed drinks or sugary beverages. This drink is a great option for those who need an afternoon pick-me-up or for athletes looking to stay hydrated during exercise.

6 ways to include black chickpeas in your kid's meal

Black chickpeas, also known as kala chana, are a highly nutritious legume that offers a variety of health benefits. Packed with protein, fiber, and essential minerals like iron and calcium, black chickpeas are a fantastic addition to your kid's diet. However, since they may not be the most popular food among children, finding creative ways to include them in their meals is key. Here are six simple and delicious ways to incorporate black chickpeas into your child's meals. A black chickpea and vegetable stew is a great way to hide the earthy flavor of kala chana while packing in a variety of vegetables and flavors. Simply cook the black chickpeas with carrots, potatoes, peas, and tomatoes in a mild, kid-friendly curry base. You can add just a pinch of cumin, turmeric, and mild spices to make the stew flavorful yet not overpowering. Serve the stew with soft rice or warm bread for a wholesome meal that's both satisfying and packed with nutrition. Black chickpeas can be ground into a flour to make chickpea pancakes or chilla, which are perfect for a quick breakfast or snack. Simply soak the black chickpeas overnight, grind them into a smooth batter, and mix in grated vegetables like zucchini, carrots, or spinach. You can also add a bit of cheese for extra flavor. Pour the batter onto a hot pan to make crispy, savory pancakes that kids will love. These are a great alternative to regular pancakes, offering more fiber and protein to keep your child full and energized. A black chickpea salad is a fun and colorful way to incorporate this nutritious legume into your child's lunch. Combine boiled black chickpeas with chopped cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, and bell peppers. Add a little lemon juice, olive oil, and a pinch of salt to create a simple dressing. You can also add a handful of fresh herbs like cilantro or parsley for extra flavor. This vibrant and crunchy salad is a healthy snack or side dish that's full of fiber, which is great for your child's digestive health. Hummus is a kid-friendly dip that's both nutritious and delicious, and using black chickpeas instead of regular chickpeas gives it a unique twist. Simply blend boiled black chickpeas with tahini, lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, and a pinch of salt. This creamy dip can be served with vegetable sticks like carrots, cucumbers, or bell peppers, or paired with whole grain pita bread or crackers. It's a great snack for after-school, giving kids a pro-



tein-packed, energy-boosting bite. Turn black chickpeas into crispy, savory tikkis (Indian-style patties) by mashing them and mixing with boiled potatoes, breadcrumbs, and mild spices like cumin and coriander. Roll the mixture into small patties and shallow fry them until golden brown. These tikkis can be served with a tangy yogurt dip or ketchup. The best part is that they're highly customizable—feel free to add finely chopped veggies like peas, carrots, or corn to make them even healthier. A black chickpea soup can be a comforting meal for kids, especially on chilly days. You can make a mild soup by boiling black chickpeas along with vegetables like onions, tomatoes, carrots, and potatoes. Season it with gentle spices like cumin and a touch of coriander powder for flavor, without making it too spicy. For extra richness, blend the soup until smooth and top with a dollop of yogurt or a sprinkle of grated cheese. This soup is packed with fiber, protein, and essential vitamins, making it a great choice for boosting your child's immunity.

The stunning Canadian island you can see but not touch

Hidden deep in the Rockies and only visible by boat, Spirit Island is one of Canada’s most iconic places – and a sacred site for those who have sealed it off from the world. On my seventh day in the Canadian Rockies, all the mountains disappeared. The previous afternoon, I had paddled for hours through Maligne Lake’s turquoise-coloured waters, past glaciers spilling off the serrated teeth of the Queen Elizabeth Range and towards the towering pinnacles of an alpine cathedral known as the “Hall of the Gods”. But when I woke up and unzipped the flap of my tent, everything was gone, blanketed in a wall of fog so dense it felt like a dream. After wiping my eyes in disbelief and stuffing my gear back into the hatches of my kayak, I set out blindly into the void. The world soon melded into an ethereal haze beyond the bow of my boat.

There was no clear sense of earth and sky, water and land or where I was. Somewhere to my left, the heavy strides of a bull elk suggested I was being watched. High above, a 7,000-year-old glacier creaked and groaned as its meltwater tumbled into the lake. Up ahead, the murky silhouettes of evergreen trees appeared and vanished in the vapour like ghosts. Still, I knew that if I kept paddling and peering through the mist, I’d eventually see it: Spirit Island, the world’s most famous isle you can’t visit. Often called the “jewel” of Jasper National Park, Spirit Island is a tiny, uninhabited strip of land with a near-mythical allure. For much of the year, the island isn’t actually an island, but a peninsula connected by a narrow isthmus to Maligne Lake’s eastern shore. But despite being located 14km from the nearest road or hiking trail, and 49km from the closest town, this far-flung landmark has become one of the most iconic sites in Canada. The island’s striking position set against a ring of snowcapped peaks first captured global attention in 1960, when Kodak displayed a 18m-wide image of it inside New York City’s Grand Central Station. In the decades since, Apple has used a photo of



the island to showcase the camera quality of its new iPads, it’s appeared in American films and TV shows and been plastered on roadside billboards across Canada. Today, tens of thousands of travellers every year head out on Maligne Lake to photograph the island’s pine trees



stretching skyward towards the Hall of the Gods. “When you see a picture of Spirit Island, it’s hard to understand that places like this exist in real life,” said Tyler Riopel, the CEO of Tourism Jasper. “It’s one of the most awe-inspiring places in the world.” Riopel explained that since private, gas-powered boats are prohibited in the national park, there are only two ways to see the island: by boarding a public cruise, which stops at a nearby viewpoint for a 15-minute photo-op, or by embarking on a 28km round-trip canoe or kayak journey from the lake’s northern tip. “The [cruise] is a great way to see it in a shorter period, but paddling it is an unreal experience,” Riopel said. “The whole majesty of it is best seen from that perspective.” That’s because even though Spirit Island is small enough to cross in just a few steps, the only people legally allowed to step foot on it are members of the Stoney First Nation, who consider the island sacred. “Since time immemorial, these mountains have been our home,” said Barry Wesley, a Stoney knowledge keeper and language protector. “For thousands of years, we would go to Spirit Island to conduct healing ceremonies, but when Jasper [park] was created back in 1907, we were forced out.

‘Bacteria in your mouth may trigger Parkinson’s disease risk’

Oral bacteria, once colonised in the gut, can affect neurons in the brain and potentially trigger Parkinson’s disease, according to a study. Researchers from the Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea identified the mechanism by which metabolites produced by oral bacteria in the gut may trigger the development of Parkinson’s disease — a major neurological disorder characterised by tremors, stiffness, and slowed movement. “Our study provides a mechanistic

understanding of how oral microbes in the gut can influence the brain and contribute to the development of Parkinson’s disease,” said Professor Ara Koh. “It highlights the potential of targeting the gut microbiota as a therapeutic strategy, offering a new direction for Parkinson’s treatment.” Although previous studies suggested that the gut microbiota of individuals with Parkinson’s differs from that of healthy individuals, the specific microbes and metabolites have remained unclear. The new findings,

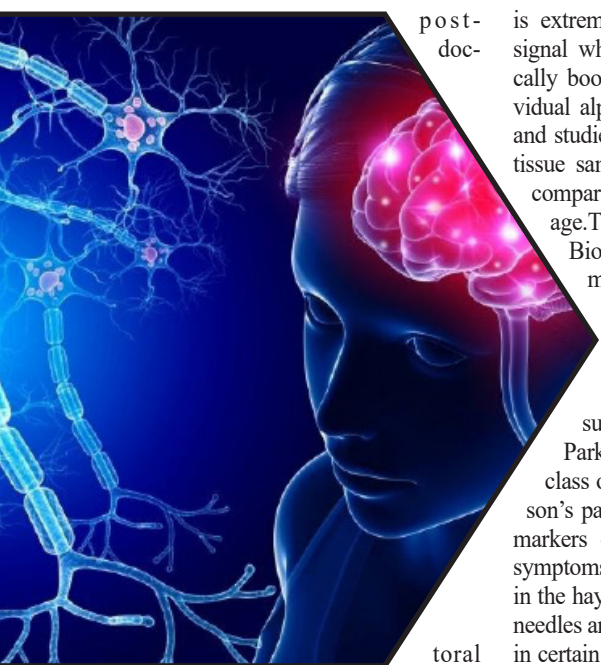
published in the journal Nature Communications, showed an increased abundance of Streptococcus mutans — a well-known oral bacterium that causes dental caries — in the gut microbiome of Parkinson’s patients. More importantly, S. mutans produces the enzyme urocanate reductase (UrdA) and its metabolite imidazole propionate (ImP), both of which were present at elevated levels in the gut and blood of patients. ImP appeared capable of entering systemic circulation, reaching the



brain, and contributing to the loss of dopaminergic neurons. Using mouse models, the researchers introduced S. mutans into the gut or engineered E. coli to express UrdA.

Scientists observe Parkinson’s ‘trigger’ in human brain tissue

Scientists have, for the first time, directly visualised the way Parkinson’s disease gets ‘triggered’ in human brain tissue. Using a newly developed technique, called ASA-PD (Advanced Sensing of Aggregates for Parkinson’s Disease), researchers from the University of Cambridge and University College London, UK, could see, count, and compare the protein clusters called alpha-synuclein oligomers in human brain tissue. Oligomers have long been considered the likely culprits behind Parkinson’s, but until now, these tiny clusters — just a few nanometres long — have evaded direct detection in human brain tissue. Using ASA-PD with ultra-sensitive fluorescence microscopy, the team could, for the first time, detect and analyse millions of oligomers in post-mortem brain tissue. “This is the first time we’ve been able to look at oligomers directly in human brain tissue at this scale: it’s like being able to see stars in broad daylight,” said Dr. Rebecca Andrews, who conducted the work when she was a



at Cambridge’s Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry. “It opens new doors in Parkinson’s research,” she added. Since oligomers are so small, their signal

is extremely weak. But ASA-PD maximises the signal while decreasing the background, dramatically boosting sensitivity to the point where individual alpha-synuclein oligomers can be observed and studied. The team examined post-mortem brain tissue samples from people with Parkinson’s and compared them to healthy individuals of similar age. The results, reported in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, showed that oligomers exist in both healthy and Parkinson’s brains. The main difference between disease and healthy brains was the size of the oligomers, which were larger, brighter, and more numerous in disease samples, suggesting a direct link to the progression of Parkinson’s. The team also discovered a subclass of oligomers that appeared only in Parkinson’s patients, which could be the earliest visible markers of the disease, potentially years before symptoms appear. “Oligomers have been the needle in the haystack, but now that we know where those needles are, it could help us target specific cell types in certain regions of the brain,” said Professor Lucien Weiss from Polytechnique Montréal, who co-led the research. Weiss noted that similar technologies could be applied to other neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s.

Italy’s smaller, smarter alternative to Venice

As Venice struggles with crowds and pollution, nearby Treviso is quietly proving that sustainability and good taste can go hand in hand. The air is thick with salt and butter as a bowl of tagliatelle tangled with melted anchovies and shaved cod’s roe arrives at my table beside the canal. The sharp pop of a cork breaks the hum of restaurant chatter and waitress pours a glass of local white wine. Lunch has arrived.



“This is the king of butters,” I’m told by my waitress, who says the Alpine butter – Primiero Botiro – coating my pasta is a regional speciality. Made in mountain dairies during July and September from raw milk, she says, “it tastes best now”. It’s September and I’m in Treviso, one of northern Italy’s most quietly delicious destinations and a place many travellers only pass through, landing here on low-cost carriers and then heading straight to nearby Venice. However, Treviso is worth a stop: a historic walled city laced with canals, where tiramisù first appeared on menus and radicchio and prosecco shape everyday life. Most recently, it’s a destination turning heads by becoming the first Italian city to win the European Green Leaf Award, an EU initiative that recognises the environmental efforts of smaller towns and cities (20,000-100,000 residents). With a population of nearly 94,000, Treviso impressed judges by transforming an abandoned landfill into a solar park, overhauling its canal system to improve water quality and launching biodiversity projects to clean its air. The green drive is also expanding beyond the city, into the Unesco-listed Prosecco Hills, where wine producers are adopting sustainable practices to combat climate change. Treviso’s efforts offer an interesting counterpoint to Venice, just 30 minutes away, which continues to buckle under overtourism, lagoon pollution and infrastructure strains. The ancient city’s long-heralded day-tripper fee raised millions in revenue but has failed to significantly curb tourists, which still average around 13,000 per day in 2025, compared with 16,676 in 2024. “We are very proud of our city,” says Alessandro Manera, Treviso’s deputy mayor. “It was something of a challenge to show that an Italian city could win this award. The target of the award isn’t to [be] the most lovely, green city in Europe. It’s about showing who is improving.” Since launching its sustainable mission seven years ago, Treviso has built kilometres of new bike lanes to reduce car usage, implemented school programmes on recycling and planted 6,000 additional trees.

Trees, says Manera, play a major role in improving air quality in the municipality, which is located within the Po Valley – a natural basin that traps pollutants. Another key project has been modernising Treviso’s wastewater infrastructure, with only 27% of the city’s population connected to the ageing system at the start. “We’re already at 64% and [by year 10] we would like to finish at 80%,” says Manera. “It’s really a green revolution because all that organic wastewater was going in

2,100-year-old centre, passing flower-filled balconies and drooping weeping willow trees along the water banks. “This is a city where the canals are the protagonists,” says Ilaria Barbon, a tour guide at Treviso Tours. “The presence of the Sile River was essential for the origins and the development of Treviso. The same canals and the massive walls protected Treviso at the beginning of the 16th Century.” She adds that water remains central to Treviso’s identity. “Today the quality of the water is very good. We have a lot of fountains, some of them are famous, like Dei Tre Visi or the Delle Tette. Free Aqua is an app [to] track them to fill your [water] bottle. I live 6km from Treviso, and the local administration is giving aluminium bottles to every kid at school – ‘plastic zero’ is the goal.” That same water has long powered Treviso’s industry too. Ancient water mills used for grain in the 16th Century are dotted across the city. Today, they have been brought back into use, with one even powering the lights

our rivers.” For a city surrounded by water, the transformation is vital. Often dubbed “little Venice” by locals, Treviso’s waterways cut right through the city’s at Treviso’s central fish market. “You can only produce energy [from the mill] for this place because, for the whole city, it would be impossible,” says Manera. “But another big project – a €25m (£21.7m) project – is to move all the city’s public lights to LED. We will complete this in another six to seven months,” he says, estimating this will result in a 70% energy saving. That same drive for more sustainable living extends beyond infrastructure. Tour guide Annalisa De Martin encourages travellers to explore Treviso on two wheels, running biking tours along the canals, river paths and surrounding countryside while weaving in the city’s food scene. “I always finish my tours with a slice of tiramisù,” she tells me: “It was invented here.” According to legend, the coffee-soaked dessert was created in the 1800s by a madam who ran a local brothel. The tiramisù – which translates literally as “pick me up” – was said to be used as an aphrodisiac for her punters. Visit any one of the city’s restaurants and you’ll almost certainly see it on the menu. Treviso is also renowned for its production of radicchio – a type of red chichory that is slightly bitter in taste and often paired with cheese. Tours run along Radicchio radicchio ducers



Road, a stretch of road filled with fields, with farms and products that you can stop off and visit. “Radicchio is used in so many ways here,” says De Martin. “Not only raw, but for risottos and roasted. We also use it for pasta sauces and [to make chutney] for cheese. We have a radicchio cake called fregolotta and someone once even made a radicchio tiramisù during our annual Tiramisù World Cup.” Beyond dessert and vegetables, the region’s rolling Prosecco Hills reflect the same balance between land, tradition and innovation. Winemaker Sandro Bottega, founder of Bottega Prosecco, says climate change is forcing producers to adapt.

“There are many things we are experiencing,” says Bottega, “from excessive water evaporation during hot summers to increased rain and hail during colder seasons that damage the vines.” He says climate change is having a major impact on production, adding that “in some vineyards last year, we lost 80% [of our crops]. This year it will be 50%”. In response, producers like Bottega are experimenting with sustainable viticulture methods to reduce their carbon impact – like green manure techniques to promote soil fertility, solar panels for energy independence and geothermal air-conditioning as natural climate control. A sign perhaps that Treviso’s green ambitions have rippled beyond its city walls. Combined, they show how one of Italy’s less-trafficked destinations is shaping a green future; one that’s rooted in the simple pleasures of good food and drink, clean water and community action.

SPORTS

Alexander Isak is probably going to miss
Liverpool's matchup with Brentford
Arne Slot

Mumbai: Alexander Isak sustained a groin injury during Liverpool's 5-1 Champions League victory over Eintracht Frankfurt, raising questions over his readiness for Saturday's match against Brentford. Although the injury is not thought to be serious, Isak is still doubtful for the next game, according to manager Arne Slot. The Reds are looking to snap a three-game losing streak in the Premier League, which has seen them fall to third place in the standings following losses to Manchester United, Chelsea, and Crystal Palace. Slot's squad selection is complicated by injuries; Ryan Gravenberch is also questionable because of an ankle injury he suffered prior to the Frankfurt game. Slot confirmed that Isak's injury status will be monitored ahead of the Brentford fixture. The team's recent poor domestic form has increased pressure to secure a positive result. With Jeremie Frimpong and Alisson Becker sidelined, Liverpool's squad depth faces further tests. Frimpong is expected to be out for a few games due to a hamstring issue, leaving Slot with limited options on the flanks. Slot identified a notable tactical evolution in the Premier League this season. He noted opponents are playing more direct and using long balls, revealing Liverpool had to defend 178 long balls in their first seven games—a major difference from last season. "I try to tell (the players) that the main, main, main, main difference between

this season and last season is the playing styles we face," Slot told reporters on Friday. "We had to defend 178 long balls in (the first) seven games, and then the United game, we had to defend 59 long balls. That's different than the first half of last season." The manager addressed the increased defensive workload, emphasising how Liverpool are adapting to these challenges. Breaking down organised, low-block teams, Slot said, now depends on creative moments or set-piece opportunities. "The way to unlock it is a moment of magic, which we had in the first half of (last) season, a lot with Mo (Salah), or a set piece, which we had at Frankfurt as well," he said. "Two set pieces (goals from corners) unlocked the game for us." Slot also clarified his previous comments regarding Manchester United's tactics, saying they were meant as a compliment to manager Ruben Amorim. This reflects his respect for the tactical nuances implemented by opposing clubs while maintaining focus on Liverpool's own adjustments. "When I tried to explain this in the media, it was actually more of a compliment for the other manager (Ruben Amorim), that he found the right answer to our playing style," Slot said. "But I think if I'm correct, that wasn't how people looked at it." Liverpool were able to end a four-match losing streak with their win against Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League.



Virat Kohli receives a standing
ovation in Sydney

Mumbai: On Saturday, October 25, Virat Kohli was given a thundering ovation by the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) as he came out to bat in the third ODI against Australia. All of the players and fans there appeared to understand the significance of this occasion. It's possible that this will be Kohli's last time playing in Australia. The 36-year-old's innings on this day could signal the end of a spectacular chapter in his illustrious career, as the Indian team is not planning another journey to Australia anytime soon. One of cricket's most renowned international stars, Virat Kohli, has always had a particular bond with Australia. There's something about playing the Australians that always makes him perform at his peak. He has amassed over 3600 runs in Australian conditions alone, averaging just above 50, and over 5000 runs versus Australia, averaging just under 50. Much of the golden age of modern cricket has been shaped by Kohli's clashes with the men in yellow, from Adelaide to Sydney. As Kohli strode to the middle, he carried the burden of an unusual slump. In the previous two ODIs, he had failed to open his account — a rare first in his illustrious career. The tension was palpable as he took guard, but once he finally got off the mark, Kohli's response was trademark Virat: a cheeky grin and a



Virat Kohli received a thunderous ovation at SCG as he possibly played his last innings in Australia. The farewell highlighted Kohli's enduring legacy and raised questions about his future in international cricket.

playful fist pump to the crowd, as if laughing off the pressure. Critics had begun to wonder whether, after limited game time and advancing age, Kohli could still summon his vintage form — especially with the 2027 ODI World Cup looming on the horizon. But true to his nature, he seemed intent on silencing doubts the only way he knows how: through performance and passion.

IND vs. NZ With a scorching hundred, Smriti Mandhana
approaches her all-time record

New Delhi: Smriti Mandhana closes in on Meg Lanning's record for most hundreds in the history of Women's ODIs with her 14th century against New Zealand in Navi Mumbai on Thursday, October 23. Mandhana reached the landmark off just 88 balls and her innings consisted of 10 boundaries and three sixes. After a rather slow start to the campaign, Smriti came back into form against Australia and England with scores of 80 and 88. However, the Indian vice-captain was left disappointed that she

couldn't get the job done in the end against England. India started the innings against New Zealand slowly, with Smriti taking some time to get going. Once both the openers were able to get going, they started to toy with the New Zealand bowlers. Smriti started to be the aggressor in the partnership and targeted the likes of Sophie Devine and Amelia Kerr and got to her fifty in 49 balls. The foundation was set once again for a big score for India and Smriti started to change gears.



Despite her big hitting, there was a lucky moment for the Indian vice-captain when she was given leg before wicket while batting

on 77. Smriti was hesitant to take the review but Pratika Rawal persuaded her to go for the review and the snicko showed an inside edge before the ball hit the pads. From there, Smriti just coasted along and reached her hundred with a single off Jess Kerr. This was her third hundred in the Women's World Cup, allowing her to go level with captain Harmanpreet Kaur. She also got her fifth hundred in what has been a record-breaking year for the Indian vice-captain.

Elena Rybakina advances to the Pan Pacific Open semifinals
and wins her third straight WTA Finals appearance

New Delhi: Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan advanced to the semi-finals of the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, securing her spot at the season-ending WTA Finals 2025 next month. Rybakina secured the final spot for the year-end tournament in Riyadh after defeating Victoria Mboko of Canada 6-3, 7-6(4) in the quarter-finals. The 26-year-old needed just one more victory in Tokyo to guarantee qualifying, so it was a significant victory. Rybakina went into the match with the knowledge that she would be among the top eight players in the season if she made it to the semi-finals, buoyed by her victory at the Ningbo Open last week. Rybakina took charge early against Mboko, using powerful serving and flat groundstrokes to win the opening set 6-3. Mboko pushed Rybakina to the edge in the second set, which was considerably closer, but Rybakina held her ground, saving a set point at 5-6 and winning the tie-break 7-4. Once more demonstrating her poise under duress, she won the match with 23 points to Mboko's 17. Rybakina's third consecutive berth at the WTA Finals was confirmed by the outcome. Alongside Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Jessica Pegula, Amanda Anisimova, Madison Keys, and Jasmine Paolini,



she joins a prestigious field that exemplifies the balance and strength at the top of women's tennis this season. Speaking after the match, Rybakina said, "It's great to qualify and play some more matches, especially against top players. I tried to take it one match at a time, knowing it would be a long road to make it." Her qualification caps a strong late-season surge. The

Ningbo title, where she beat Ekaterina Alexandrova 3-6, 6-0, 6-2, was her 10th career singles trophy and proved she is peaking at the right time. Next up, Rybakina faces Czech youngster Linda Noskova in the Tokyo semi-finals. A win there would further boost her momentum heading into Riyadh, where she aims to improve on her previous best of reaching the group stage.

Argentina and Lionel Messi
postpone their trip to Kerala

Mumbai: The event's sponsor declared on Saturday that Lionel Messi and the Argentina football team will not be traveling to Kerala next month. The state sports administration and the proposed football match's sponsor, Anto Augustine, had already declared that the Messi-led Argentina team would play a friendly match in Kochi on November 17. Augustine, however, declared on his Facebook page that the match would not happen the following month. "Considering the delay in receiving FIFA's permission, after discussions with the Argentine Football Association (AFA), it has been decided to postpone the match from the November window," wrote Augustine. He said the match in Kerala will be held during the next international window, and the new date will be



announced soon. Officials in the office of Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman said they have not received any official communication about the postponement. The

department will speak with the concerned authorities and confirm the change in schedule, an official said. Earlier, AFA representatives had visited the Jawaharlal Nehru

International Stadium in Kochi to assess the facilities. The Argentina national team was expected to play a top international side in the friendly match in Kochi.

Alexander Zverev joins Alcaraz, Sinner,
and Djokovic in the ATP finals

Mumbai: Following Tallon Griekspoor's withdrawal, Alexander Zverev, a two-time ATP Finals champion, advanced to the Vienna Open semi-finals on Friday, becoming the fourth singles player to earn a spot in the season-ending championship. The 28-year-old German, who is ranked second in Vienna, qualified for the Turin tournament for the seventh time in nine seasons. Zverev was well-positioned for the PIF ATP Live Race To Turin early in the year after placing second at the Australian Open in January. Zverev becomes the fourth player to earn a spot in the tournament, which takes place at the Pala Alpi Tour stadium in Turin from November 9-16, along with Novak Djokovic, Jannik Sinner, and Carlos Alcaraz. There are still four seats available for singles. The Hamburg native has enjoyed considerable success at the ATP Finals, lifting the trophy in 2018 and 2021. He also reached the semi-finals in 2019 and 2024. His only absence since 2017 came in



2022, when a serious ankle injury sidelined him for much of the season. This year, Zverev added to his impressive resume by triumphing on home soil in Munich for the 24th ATP Tour title of his career. He has now claimed at least one tour-level trophy in nine of the past 10 seasons. He also reached the final in Stuttgart and advanced to ATP Masters 1000 semi-finals in Toronto and Cincinnati. According to the ATP Win/Loss Index, Zverev holds a 17-10 record at the year-end champion-

ships, including a 9-3 record since the tournament relocated to Turin in 2021, with two defeats coming in final-set tie-breaks. When Zverev claimed the ATP Finals crown for the second time in 2021, he became one of only two active singles players to have won the event more than once, alongside Novak Djokovic. With four singles spots still available, fifth-placed Taylor Fritz is currently next in line to qualify, as the elite eight-man field begins to take shape in Turin.

Gaganjeet Bhullar Wants
the Philippines Be Great

New Delhi: India's Gaganjeet Bhullar is hoping that a physical and mental overhaul can help him move to the next level at International Series Philippines, just three weeks after falling short in an agonising fashion in Indonesia. The 11-time Asian Tour champion was in a three-way tie for the lead along with Zimbabwe's Scott Vincent and Wade Ormsby of Australia going into the final round of the Jakarta International Championship, the fifth of nine elevated Asian Tour events that form a pathway onto LIV Golf through a season-long rankings race. Bhullar ultimately fell away to T19 after a four-over final round, while Ormsby, the 2023 International Series Thailand champion, edged out International Series Morocco winner Vincent to deny the Zimbabwean a second successive tournament victory in the series. The result put Vincent top of the rankings and in pole position for that LIV Golf spot next season, while Ormsby, a two-time Hong Kong Open champion, moved up to third. Bhullar, who sits on 35th, needs a good result or two as the series heads for a thrilling conclusion with plenty of points at stake in a helter-skelter four tournaments in five weeks.



Mohun Bagan will play East
Bengal in the IFA Shield final
Kolkata derby

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan Super Giants defeated United SC 2-0 in a group match here on Wednesday, setting up a big IFA Shield final matchup with bitter rivals East Bengal, the third Kolkata derby in less than three months. Dimitri Petratos gave Bagan the lead in the 44th minute, and Bagan then forced an own goal in the 49th, as the Mariners put up a strong show to win Group B and secure their spot in the Salt Lake Stadium final on Saturday. East Bengal had defeated Nadhari FC 2-0 to take the lead in Group A earlier.

Petratos converted a cross from Jason Cummings soon before halftime to end the stalemate. Mohun Bagan doubled the lead soon after the change of ends when a Robson free-kick caused chaos inside the box. Cummings' attempt deflected off goalkeeper Sujal Munda before striking United



defender Ankan Bhattacharya and rolling into the net.

The win ensured another mouth-watering Kolkata derby in the title clash -- the third such meeting between the two city giants since July. East Bengal had defeated Mohun Bagan 3-2 in the Calcutta Football League Premier League on July 26 though it was by their developmental side. They then

won the Durand Cup quarter-final 2-1 on August 18 -- their first win in a senior derby in six matches since the Durand Cup on August 12, 2023. In its 125th edition, the IFA Shield is making a comeback after a three-year absence. A total of six teams -- two sides from ISL, three I-League teams and one from I-League 2 are taking part.