



THE MILEAGE

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BRIEF NEWS



ED raids

Ranchi

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday raided multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal in a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals, official sources said. (PTI)

Cong slams BJP govt in UP

New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that police in Prayagraj lathi-charged students raising their voice against the "arbitrariness" of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission and claimed that earlier also attempts have been made to suppress the voice of the youth demanding jobs.

Delhi airport sees 7 flight diverted due to badweather

Akola

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said wherever a Congress government is formed, that state becomes the ATM (Automated Teller Machine) of the party's 'shahi parivar'. We won't let Maharashtra become the ATM of Congress, Modi asserted while addressing a campaign rally in Akola for the November 20 state assembly elections.

When the Congress indulges in so much corruption to win polls, one can imagine how corrupt the party will be once in power, the PM pointed out.

"Wherever the Congress forms a government, that state becomes the ATM

Voting underway for 31 seats across 10 states in big INDIA vs BJP contest

The bypolls are being seen as a litmus test for the Congress and the INDIA bloc

New Delhi

Voting is underway in bypolls in 31 Assembly seats across 10 states in what is being seen as a litmus test for the Congress and the INDIA bloc following the debacle in the recently held Haryana elections. Bypolls are also being held in Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, where Congress's Priyanka Gandhi is making her electoral debut.

Bypolls are being held in seven seats in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal, five in Assam, four in Bihar,

three in Karnataka, two in Madhya Pradesh, and one each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, and Meghalaya. Bypolls in 14 other Assembly seats across Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh will be held on November 20 along with the Maharashtra Assembly election.

The ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha in Sikkim has already won two seats unopposed. The results will be announced on November 23.

A win in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, coupled

with an edge in the bypolls to the 46 seats, will help restore confidence in the INDIA bloc. For the BJP, a win in Maharashtra and a return in Jharkhand, after Haryana, will help shake off the Lok Sabha jitters.

In Rajasthan, bypolls are being held in Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Deoli-Uniara, Khinvsar, Chaurasi, Salumbar, and Ramgarh. Of the seven seats, four were held by the Congress, and one each by the BJP, Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP), and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party.



Elon Musk and his son X feature in the Trump family photo at election night

Congress-ruled states ATM of party's 'shahi parivar', MVA symbol of corruption: PM Modi



PM Modi addresses an election rally for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Akola district (PTI)

of the party's shahi parivar. As much as Rs 700 crore has been extorted from the liquor business in (Congress-ruled) Karnataka for the Maharashtra polls. Telangana and Himachal Pradesh have also become this shahi parivar's ATMs," he said. The PM said the manifesto of the

Mahayuti (ruling alliance in Maharashtra) focuses on women's security, job opportunities, expansion of Ladki Bahin Yojana, while the Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP, have come out with a "ghotala patra". He said. (PTI)

Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st CJI

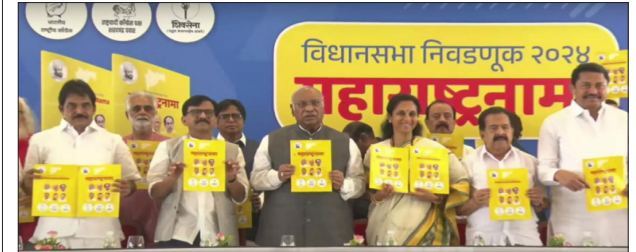
New Delhi

India's 51st Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has his imprint on several landmark judgements such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, abrogation of Article 370, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and granting interim bail to former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Hailing from an illustrious Delhi-based family, Justice Khanna is the son of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Dev Raj Khanna and the nephew of the iconic late former apex court judge H R Khanna.

Caste census, Rs 3000 for women

Kharge unveils MVA's manifesto for Maharashtra polls



New Delhi

Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday released the joined manifesto for Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), outlining a series of welfare measures for the state. The launch event, held in Mumbai, saw the presence of key MVA leaders who joined hands to announce what they called the "five guarantees" for Maharashtra.

The MVA, which is a coalition of the Congress, Ud-

dhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), and Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has pledged to address key issues impacting the state's socio-economic landscape. The release of the MVA manifesto comes amid an intensifying political contest between the MVA and the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance. Earlier in the day, the BJP launched its own manifesto, pledging 25 key assurances if it is elected to govern the state for another term.

BJP's Yediyurappa, ex-Minister to face prosecution over misuse of Covid funds

Bengaluru

A report submitted by retired High Court judge Michael D'Cunha Commission of Inquiry, who is probing the alleged Covid-19 scam that took place during the previous BJP-led government in Karnataka, has recommended the prosecution of the then Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Minister for Health and Family Welfare B Sriramulu under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The recommendation stems from allegations regarding irregularities in the 2020 procurement of three lakh PPE kits from Chinese companies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice D'Cunha submitted the report, accessed by India Today TV, to the Karnataka government on August 31.

According to the report, the BJP government, led by Yediyurappa, approved large purchases of PPE kits, medicines, and med-

ical equipment in March and April 2020. These were mostly bought from Chinese suppliers, DHB Global and Big Pharmaceuticals, at prices far higher than those offered by local companies. Officials argued that local suppliers could not meet demand, but records show that

companies like Plasti Surge Industries Pvt Ltd sold PPE kits at much lower rates — initially Rs 330.40 per kit, which later rose to Rs 725. By comparison, DHB Global charged around Rs 2,117.53 per kit.

The report suggested that the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSC) bypassed competitive bidding, opting for direct orders. This approach was reportedly supported by both the Chief Minister and the Health Minister. Though domestic kits were priced between Rs. 400 and Rs. 1,444.80, officials chose foreign suppliers at substantially higher rates.



Two Mizoram footballers barred in Meghalaya

Shillong

The Meghalaya Football Association (MFA) suspended two footballers - Flavius Lalruakima and C Vanlalhriata from Mizoram, who are currently playing for the city-based Nongkiew Irat FC in the ongoing Shillong Premier League.

The decision came due to their alleged involvement in match-fixing activities in their home state, according to officials.

Lalruakima and Vanlalhriata were among 25 players currently facing ban from the Mizoram Football Association for their illegal activities in the sport, as per officials.

In a statement, the MFA said, "Meghalaya Football Association has today decided that it will stand by its sister association and debar the same players from football in Meghalaya."

"We are mindful of how harmful match fixing is to the sport. We have decided to respect the Mizoram FA's decision and ensure that none of the sanctioned players can play in any league of a district association affiliated to Meghalaya Football Associations," it added.

12 political leaders join Congress in Manipur

Imphal

Twelve leaders from different political parties joined the opposition Congress in Manipur on Friday. The leaders, including two former MLAs, four former Chairmen of ADC Tamenglong, and six social workers, were welcomed to the party by former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, state Congress President Keisham Meghachandra Singh and Lok Sabha member (Congress) Angomcha Bimol Akoijam at Congress Bhawan in Imphal.

10 militants killed in Manipur CRPF camp attack



Imphal

A combined team of paramilitary personnel and state police gunned down 10 militants on Monday in Jiribam district of Manipur after a group of armed men attacked a security camp, underlining the simmering tensions in a state where 230 people have died in clashes that started roughly 18 months ago.

In a statement, Manipur Police said that around 3pm, a post of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Jakuradhor and the nearby Borobekera police station were attacked by armed militants. The

combined security forces, including CRPF and civil police, retaliated strongly. While 10 bodies were recovered, the forces suspect one more militant, whose body was taken by cadres, was killed in the attack.

"Due to the attack, CRPF constable Sanjeev Kumar sustained a bullet injury and has been evacuated to Silchar Medical College in Assam, where he is currently receiving treatment," the statement said. The heavy exchange of gunfire lasted for 40-45 minutes, after which the situation was brought under control.

Union Home Secretary Reviews Progress on Border Dispute Agreements Between Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh

Guwahati

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan reviewed the progress of inter-state border agreements between Assam and its neighboring states, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, on Wednesday.

These agreements aim to resolve decades-old boundary disputes.

The Assam-Meghalaya pact was signed in March 2022, while the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh agreement was inked in April 2022.

A senior Assam government official stated that both states have committed to expedite the survey work on six disputed areas with Meghalaya (Tarabari, Gizang, Hahim, Baklapara, Khanapara-Pillangkata, and Ratacherra) and 38 agreed villages with



Arunachal Pradesh within the next six months.

The official also highlighted the need to activate regional committees to finalize boundaries of 49 villages with Arunachal Pradesh by April 19, 2025.

The Union Home Secretary expressed satisfaction over the resolved Hahim dispute and directed the completion of boundary pillar erection by December 2024.

He also urged for the completion of pillar erection in the Kamengabari

and Bhalukpong areas of the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, where pilot surveys have been concluded.

The review meeting was attended by senior officials from Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Assam also has ongoing border disputes with Nagaland and Mizoram. A violent clash between Assam and Mizoram police in July 2021 near Vairengte village underscored the seriousness of these border issues.



Union Minister Jual Oram launched the eight-day-long 'Purvottar Aadi Mahotsav' in Khanapara, celebrating tribal culture, craft, cuisine, and commerce.

Truck driver and assistant jailed for 12 years in Tripura drug bust

Agartala

A truck driver and his assistant from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, have been sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Tripura court for smuggling banned cough syrup. Additional District and Sessions Judge Debasish Kar in Sepahijala district handed down the verdict on Thursday, also imposing a

fine of ₹1 lakh each on the defendants.

The sentencing follows a police operation conducted on June 4 of the previous year. Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted the truck, registered in Uttar Pradesh, at the Bishalgarh bypass in Sepahijala. The vehicle, en route from Agartala, was found to contain a large stockpile of the restricted

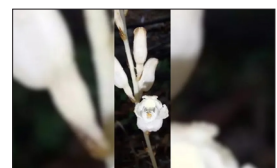
cough syrup, which is often abused as a narcotic.

The driver and his handyman were immediately arrested and subsequently charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The judgment underscores the court's commitment to cracking down on illegal drug trafficking in the region.

'Endangered' orchid species discovered in Arunachal

Itanagar

A team of researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), led by Krishna Chowlu, has recently identified a new species of orchid in the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh. The leafless orchid, named *Gastrodia lohitensis*



was discovered, is a significant addition to India's rich biodiversity. Uncommon among orchids, this species survives without sunlight by relying on fungi in the leaf litter for nutrition. It is found exclusively in bamboo canopies near Tezu, the district headquarters, and stands

out from other orchids in Southeast Asia due to its unique ridged lower lip and linear calli.

The orchid has been classified as "Endangered" on the International Union

for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List, highlighting the need for its protection. Chief Minister

Pema Khandu took to the social media platform X to celebrate the discovery, noting that it underscores the region's remarkable biodiversity and the importance of conservation efforts. He also congratulated Dr. Krishna Chowlu and the BSI team for their significant achievement.

Assam Rifles seize cigarettes worth Rs 1.27 crore

Agartala: Assam Rifles along with the Customs Department seized 10.4 Lakh foreign cigarettes worth Rs 1.27 crore and apprehended two individuals and seized one Bolero pickup from the general area, Teliamuara, under Khowai district of Tripura on Monday. As per Assam Rifles, based on credible information, an operation was launched by Assam Rifles and they were able to seize the contraband and apprehend the individuals which were further handed over to the customs department

NSDC launches Bharatpur job fair with 11,000 openings, expands skill reach to rural India

Guwahati: Bharatpur, Rajasthan, November 7 – The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, is organizing a mega job fair, Kaushal Mahotsav, in Bharatpur on November 19. Announced by MLA Shri Subhash Garg, this event will offer over 11,000 job opportunities across IT, healthcare, hospitality, and manufacturing, aiming to connect skilled youth with potential employers.

Shri Garg emphasized the initiative's goal to bridge the skills gap, especially for Bharatpur's rural youth, through a five-day Job Readiness Programme that offers soft skills training, CV writing, and interview preparation across 15 local training centers. NSDC CEO Ved Mani Tiwari highlighted this job fair as part



of a broader government vision to secure employment for India's youth by providing direct employer connections and industry-relevant training.

In Guwahati, the Kaushal Mahotsav's approach has sparked interest among local industries eager for skilled labor. As Assam's economic hub, Guwahati foresees similar initiatives boosting employability and

skill standards, particularly in the city's burgeoning sectors like services and manufacturing.

This Bharatpur event, following eight prior Kaushal Mahotsavs, aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision of a skilled India by 2047, supporting long-term economic growth and local workforce development. Candidates can register at NSDC JobX until November 14.

Bajaj Allianz Life reports strong 34% growth in IRNB for Q2FY25

Guwahati: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has posted impressive financial results for Q2FY25, achieving a 34% year-on-year growth in Individual Rated New Business (IRNB), which reached INR 1,895 crores, up from INR 1,415 crores in Q2FY24. The company's Gross Written Premium (GWP) also saw a significant 23% increase, rising from INR 5,338 crores to INR 6,544 crores. Assets Under Management (AUM) grew by 25%, reaching INR 1,23,178 crores as of 30th September 2024, reflecting strong financial health and market confidence.

Bajaj Allianz Life's market share in the private sector increased to 8.9%, while its

overall industry share grew to 6.1%. The growth is attributed to the company's robust distribution network, which includes over 1.59 lakh agents and 372 institutional partners across India.

In Guwahati, Bajaj Allianz Life's growth mirrors the increasing adoption of insurance products as consumers prioritize financial protection. The company's extensive presence, with a strong agent network and digital platforms, has strengthened its position in the Northeast, where awareness of life insurance is on the rise. This strategic focus on expanding reach across urban and rural areas in Assam is driving its growth in the region.

IndiGo expands Northeast connectivity with eight new flights for winter season

Agartala: IndiGo has announced the launch of eight new flights this winter, aiming to boost accessibility across Northeast India. The new schedule introduces exclusive tri-weekly flights between Agartala and Dibrugarh starting October 29, 2024, alongside direct flights connecting Guwahati to Dimapur and Ahmedabad from December 10. Additionally, Kolkata-Bangkok services will see increased frequency, with flights operating four times weekly

beginning November 24, 2024.

These new routes are designed to strengthen domestic connectivity, providing business and leisure travelers with convenient options across East and Northeast India. IndiGo's Head of Global Sales, Vinay Malhotra, stated, "The demand surge has led us to expand these routes, enhancing regional connectivity and supporting economic growth, tourism, and cultural exchange." The new flights

also hold potential for Siliguri, which serves as a trade hub for the Northeast region. Enhanced connectivity could facilitate smoother movement of goods and promote tourism, benefiting local businesses and creating new economic opportunities. The winter schedule will allow travelers to explore the cultural richness of destinations like Guwahati, Dimapur, and Agartala, with booking options available via IndiGo's website and mobile app.

ICICI Foundation enhances healthcare access across Northeast India

Shillong/Kohima: ICICI Foundation, the CSR arm of ICICI Bank, has significantly boosted healthcare services across India's North Eastern region, benefiting over 9,100 patients since 2023. The foundation's efforts span Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura, providing vital medical infrastructure and services to improve accessibility and care quality. Key interventions include the provision of over 60 medical equipment such as video bronchoscopes, dialysis units, ultrasounds, and endoscopes. Additionally, mobile medical units, ambulances, and blood

collection vehicles have been deployed to enhance healthcare delivery in these underserved areas. In Meghalaya, ICICI Foundation's support to Reid Provincial Chest Hospital in Shillong has revolutionized TB care. A video bronchoscope has been pivotal in diagnosing TB and lung cancer, significantly reducing mortality rates, especially for those with drug-resistant TB. In Assam, 25 dialysis units were installed across several districts, providing timely kidney care closer to home for patients in need. Meanwhile, in Nagaland, a mobile blood collection unit facilitated blood drives that collected 180 units of blood, benefiting over 500

patients. The foundation's initiatives are pivotal in addressing healthcare challenges in remote regions, reaffirming ICICI Bank's commitment to sustainable community development and improving healthcare access. In Shillong, these healthcare improvements have had a profound impact. With better access to diagnostic tools and treatment, local markets have seen reduced patient travel outside the region, allowing families to focus on recovery. Enhanced healthcare infrastructure also boosts public trust, encouraging more people to seek timely medical care, thus supporting local businesses and healthcare providers.

NSDC and TCS iON join forces to bridge employability gap in India

Guwahati: In a landmark move to address the growing employability gap in India, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and TCS iON have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to launch the National Proficiency Tests (NPTs). This collaboration aims to provide industry-recognized certifications to enhance skills and improve job prospects for youth across the nation. The NPTs, powered by TCS iON, will serve as a nationwide platform for students, job seekers, and professionals to validate their skills in diverse sectors such as IT, BFSI, Manufacturing, Healthcare, and more. These assessments, conducted monthly, will include a unique two-part test: Test of Knowledge and Test of Application. Participants will receive a Proficiency



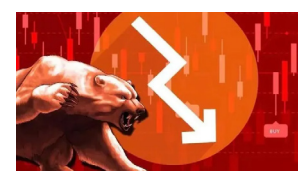
Score, demonstrating their capabilities to potential employers and boosting their chances of securing better job opportunities. Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC, highlighted that this partnership will play a crucial role in bridging the employability gap in India, enabling youth to align their skills with industry standards. "Empowering youth with relevant skills and certifications is

essential for fostering a robust economy," he said. In Guwahati, the NPTs are expected to benefit the local market by providing qualified candidates for sectors such as IT and healthcare, industries witnessing steady demand in the region. Local employers will now have access to a pool of pre-certified candidates, streamlining the hiring process and reducing recruitment time.

Sensex dives 1,000 points, Nifty falls below 23,600

Mumbai: Benchmark stock market indices fell sharply during Wednesday's trading session as investor sentiments were impacted by sustained foreign outflows, rising retail inflation, and reduced optimism over the prospect of a rate cut.

The S&P BSE Sensex ended 984.23 points lower at 77,690.95 at the closing



bell, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 324.40 points to settle at 23,559.05.

The other broader market indices plummeted during the session due to a sharply rise in market volatility.

All Nifty Sectoral indices were also battered during the session, with heavyweight Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services falling sharply. However, Nifty Realty fell over 3% and was the top loser among sectoral indices.

The top five gainers on Nifty50 were Britannia, Grasim, Tata Motors, Asian Paints and NTPC.

Apollo Cancer Conclave 2024 launches innovations in Oncology, paves way for future cancer care

Guwahati: The 7th edition of the Apollo Cancer Conclave, held at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from November 8-10, attracted over 2,000 oncologists and 450 global speakers, spotlighting the latest advancements in cancer treatment. The conclave emphasized a shift towards precision oncology, with expert-led sessions on breast, gastrointestinal, gynaecological, haematolymphoid, and other cancers, alongside

discussions on AI, robotic surgeries, and molecular profiling.

India's growing cancer burden, expected to rise from 1.41 million new cases in 2022 to 2.69 million by 2050, underlined the conclave's focus on preventive strategies and the integration of innovative technologies. Industry leaders discussed breakthroughs like Robotic Nipple-Sparing Mastectomy and Proton Therapy, marking a new era in pa-

tient-centered care.

In Guwahati, the adoption of precision oncology practices and advanced cancer care technologies is expected to grow, driven by increased awareness and improved healthcare infrastructure. Local healthcare professionals are eager to integrate global innovations into regional treatment offerings, ensuring better patient outcomes and access to world-class cancer therapies in Assam.

Škoda Auto India reveals Kylaq: A new era for sub-4m SUVs with a starting price of INR 7.89 lakh

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has officially launched the Kylaq, its first-ever sub-4m SUV, marking a significant entry into the highly competitive Indian SUV market. Priced at INR 7,89,000, the Kylaq will be available globally ahead of its official launch in January 2025. The compact SUV offers remarkable features, including a segment-leading 446-litre boot, six-way electric seats with ventilation, and over 25 active and passive safety features, including six airbags.

Powered by a 1.0 TSI engine generating 85kW of power and 178Nm of torque, the Kylaq is offered with a six-speed manual or automatic transmis-



sion. This marks Škoda's commitment to producing India-centric models with high levels of localization, superior driving dynamics, and uncompromising safety.

In Guwahati, the Kylaq's competitive pricing and premium features are ex-

pected to capture the growing demand for compact SUVs. With its combination of spacious interiors and advanced safety features, the Kylaq is well-positioned to appeal to the region's increasing number of urban buyers looking for an affordable yet stylish SUV.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor champions skill development for India's youth on National Education Day

Bangalore: On National Education Day, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) showcased its unwavering commitment to skill development, empowering India's youth through a range of transformative educational initiatives. Focused on bridging the skills gap, TKM's programs offer practical solutions to equip economically underprivileged youth with the technical know-how to thrive in the modern industrial workforce.

A standout initiative is the Toyota Technical Training Institute (TTTI), which has been offering world-class technical education since 2007. Recently expanding its capacity to 1,200 students, including 600 women, TTTI provides a



comprehensive three-year residential training program, emphasizing hands-on learning and holistic development. In addition, the Toyota Kaushalya Program, a unique "Learn and Earn" model, allows rural youth to gain industry experience while continuing

their education.

TKM's efforts align with the region's increasing need for skilled professionals in automotive and industrial sectors. As Dimapur's infrastructure and economy continue to grow, TKM's programs offer a valuable opportunity for local youth to gain specialized skills and secure employment in industries critical to the region's development. By fostering talent, TKM is helping Dimapur nurture a skilled workforce that can drive economic growth. "Through these initiatives, we are empowering youth and supporting India's journey toward becoming a developed nation," said G. Shankara, Executive VP of TKM.

JSW MG Motor India expands Hector lineup with new 7-seater variants

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India has introduced two new 7-seater variants of the popular MG Hector, expanding the lineup of India's first Internet SUV. The Hector Plus 7-Seater Select Pro and Smart Pro variants cater to customers seeking a premium and spacious SUV experience. The Select Pro features a 1.5L petrol engine with a CVT transmission, priced at INR 19,71,800, while the Smart Pro variant comes with a 2.0L diesel engine and a 6-speed manual transmission, priced at INR 20,64,800. "These new 7-seater variants emphasize our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our customers while maintaining the quality and innovation that make the Hector a favorite among SUV enthusiasts," said Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India.



The Hector Plus variants boast a host of advanced features, including India's largest 14-inch HD infotainment system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and i-SMART technology with over 75 connected car features. Safety is enhanced with features such as ABS, EBD, ESP, TCS, and Hill Hold Control. The exterior design is marked by LED projector headlamps and dual-tone machined alloy wheels, while the interior offers premium upholstery and an

intuitive digital interface. In the Guwahati, where there is a growing demand for premium SUVs, the Hector's expanded range is expected to attract customers looking for both luxury and functionality. With the addition of the new 7-seater variants, the Hector is well-positioned to meet the needs of large families and individuals seeking an enhanced driving experience. The vehicle's technological offerings and competitive pricing further boost its appeal in the region.

Bajaj Finserv AMC introduces 'Consumption Fund' to tap India's growing consumer market

Guwahati: Bajaj Finserv AMC has announced the launch of its latest offering, the Bajaj Finserv Consumption Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed to capitalize on India's evolving consumer market. The fund opens for subscription on 8th November and closes on 22nd November 2024.

This scheme will focus on sectors driven by consumption megatrends, including FMCG, consumer durables, healthcare, realty, and telecom, with a benchmark tied to the Nifty India Consumption Total Return Index (TRI). Ganesh Mohan, CEO of Bajaj Finserv AMC, highlighted India's rising income levels and urbanization as key factors driving this shift, positioning

the fund to benefit from the country's consumption boom.

Guwahati, reflecting broader consumption trends, has seen a surge in demand across realty, healthcare, and consumer goods as disposable incomes rise. This shift makes the city a promising focal point for consumption-driven investments, aligning well with Bajaj Finserv's strategy.

The fund, managed by CIO Nimesh Chandan and team, will be open to investments from ₹500 with both growth and IDCW options. This investment vehicle aims to deliver long-term wealth creation by tapping into India's robust consumer demand, offering investors exposure to diverse sectors primed for growth.

Generative AI to add \$359 bn-\$438 bn to India's GDP by FY30: RBI DG Patra

Mumbai: Forecasts indicate that generative artificial intelligence (AI) could add between \$359 billion and \$438 billion to India's GDP by 2029-30, said Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday.

The adoption of AI in production processes by Indian firms has risen from 8 per cent in 2023 to 25 per cent in 2024. "India is uniquely positioned to un-

lock new growth avenues and optimise existing ones with its digital public infrastructure (DPI), a vibrant information technology (IT) sector and a burgeoning youth population, including one of the largest AI talent bases. Forecasts suggest that Generative AI will contribute \$359-438 billion to India's GDP by 2029-30. Indian firms' integration of AI into production processes has increased from 8 per cent in 2023 to 25 per

cent in 2024," Patra said at DEPR Conference on 'Digital Technology, Productivity and Economic Growth in India' in Jaipur.

He said micro-level evidence from surveys of Indian banks shows that while all of them have implemented mobile and internet banking, 75 per cent offer online account opening, digital KYC, and digitally enabled doorstep banking.

Additionally, 60 per cent provide digital lending.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank launches first sustainability report, sets benchmark in green banking

Guwahati/Shillong: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) has proudly released its inaugural Sustainability Report for FY 2023-24, titled "U-SUSTAIN," marking a key step in the bank's commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. The report details strategic efforts in climate risk management, energy efficiency, waste reduction,

and community-focused initiatives, demonstrating Utkarsh SFBL's dedication to sustainable banking. In the report, the bank highlights achievements across three ESG pillars: environmental initiatives, social impact, and robust governance. Environmentally, Utkarsh SFBL has implemented green technologies and efficient resource management. Social efforts

include boosting financial inclusion and promoting diversity. Governance-wise, the bank ensures transparency and accountability through a strong ethical framework.

Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO, stated, "Our first Sustainability Report reflects Utkarsh SFBL's ongoing commitment to responsible banking. We are dedicated to creating long-term

value for our stakeholders by addressing critical environmental and social challenges." The bank's focus on sustainability is likely to attract eco-conscious consumers who prioritize green financial practices. Utkarsh SFBL's initiatives align well with the regional demand for responsible and community-oriented banking, positioning it as a leader in sustainable finance.

Hon. Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasizes MESOC Governing Council's role



Guwahati: In a landmark move to shape India's media and entertainment landscape, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, emphasized the council's renewed mandate to address the growing demands and complexities of this vibrant sector, noting, "The Media and Entertainment Skill Council's (MESOC) Governing Council has been strengthened to recognize the vast opportunities and the increasing scale of skill development needed, not only within India but also on an international scale."

MESOC's accomplishments underscore its commitment to transforming M&E education and creating a skilled, employable workforce.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, emphasized the council's renewed mandate to address the growing demands and complexities of this vibrant sector, noting, "The Media and Entertainment Skill Council's (MESOC) Governing Council has been strengthened to recognize the vast opportunities and the increasing scale of skill development needed, not only within India but also on an international scale."

MESOC's accomplishments underscore its commitment to transforming M&E education and creating a skilled, employable workforce.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor launches the Special Limited Edition across its popular models

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is excited to make this year-end memorable for car buyers with the launch of the Special Limited Edition across its popular models—Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor, and Urban Cruiser Hyryder. Following the overwhelming response to the recently introduced Festival Limited Editions, the Special Limited-Edition takes Toyota's commitment towards customer centricity a step further by offering Toyota Genuine Accessory (TGA) packages. Apart from the special limited edition, Toyota is offering exclusive year-end offers above Rs 1 Lac in Toyota Glanza, Urban Cruiser



Taisor & Rumion (except CNG models). Awesome consumer benefits will continue up till 31st Dec 2024. Commenting on Toyota customer-first philosophy, Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kir-

loskar Motor, said, "We are thrilled by the tremendous customer response to our previously announced Festival Editions of the Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor, and Urban Cruiser Hyryder, each offering a unique combination of premium styling

and advanced features." Bookings for Special Limited-Edition of the Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor, and Urban Cruiser Hyryder are now open at all Toyota dealerships, as well as online at www.toyotabharat.com/ online-booking.

SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank continue to be systemically important: RBI

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Wednesday that State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank remain classified as systemically important banks, with SBI and HDFC Bank required to maintain additional capital buffers starting April 2025.

From April 1, 2025, SBI's additional capital requirement will increase by 20 basis points (bps) to 0.80 per cent of its risk weighted assets from the current 0.60 per cent. Similarly, HDFC Bank's additional capital requirement will increase by the same quantum to 0.40 per cent of its risk weighted assets from 0.20 per cent currently.

Systemically important banks are those considered



too big to fail due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, lack of substitutability, and interconnectedness. The disorderly failure of these banks has the potential to cause significant disruption to the essential services they provide to the banking system, and in turn, to the overall economic activity.

RBI had classified SBI and ICICI Bank as domes-

tic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) in 2015 and 2016, respectively. In 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB.

The D-SIB framework, issued by RBI in 2014, requires the central bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs and place these banks in appropriate buckets based on their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).

DBS India Awaits RBI Approval for New CEO

Mumbai: DBS Bank India Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd, on Tuesday said that Surojit Shome, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of DBS Bank India, will be retiring on February 28, 2025. Additionally, the lender said it is awaiting Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for the successor and will make an announcement once regulatory approvals are in place.

DBS Bank has been present in India for 30 years, opening its first office in Mumbai in 1994. Following a successful career at the helm of DBS Bank India.

Sebi bats for easing angel fund norms; move to aid funding of startups

Mumbai: The market regulator may soon allow angel funds to broaden their investor base by including Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), family trusts, sole proprietorships, and others—beyond the current limitation of accredited investors.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed a series of measures to ease norms for angel funds, including adjustments to minimum investment, minimum corpus, relaxation on the minimum and maximum investment limits in a startup, lower lock-in requirements, and diversification limits.

Although angel funds are



structured as alternative investment funds (AIFs), they differ as they exclusively invest in startups and currently cater only to accredited investors. Accredited investors are deemed to have a better understanding of investment risks and are required to meet net worth criteria, which is verified by a third-party accreditation agency before they are allowed to invest in angel funds. Sebi is considering widening the eligibility beyond accredited investors.

Tata Motors launches 'Customer Care Mahotsav' to enhance commercial vehicle experience

Aizawl: Tata Motors has launched its nationwide "Customer Care Mahotsav 2024," a pan-India engagement program aimed at enhancing the after-sales experience for commercial vehicle customers. The event, which runs from 23rd October to 24th December 2024, is being hosted at over 2,500 authorized service outlets across the country, offering a range of benefits to fleet owners and drivers. The Customer Care Mahotsav provides customers with comprehensive vehicle check-ups conducted by trained technicians, along-



side access to Tata Motors' value-added services. Drivers will also receive specialized training in safe and fuel-efficient driving, as part of the Sampoorana Seva 2.0 initiative, which is designed to support all aspects of

the vehicle lifecycle—from purchase to post-purchase services. Girish Wagh, Executive Director of Tata Motors, emphasized the company's commitment to delivering best-in-class service, saying, "The Ma-

hotsav is an opportunity to strengthen relationships with our customers and offer tailored solutions that benefit their businesses." Aizawl is seeing increased enthusiasm for Tata Motors' services, as customers recognize the value of comprehensive vehicle maintenance. The local service centers are bustling with fleet owners taking advantage of the extensive offerings, from vehicle check-ups to driver training, ensuring optimal vehicle performance and operational efficiency for businesses in the region.

RBI inflation target credible as expanding supply will curb pressure: S&P

Mumbai: S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday said supply capacity in India is continuing to expand pretty quickly which will help contain inflationary pressure.

S&P Senior Economist Asia Pacific Vishrut Rana said the central bank's monetary policy and inflation target remains credible and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should be able to anchor inflationary expectations. "That remains a manageable challenge," he said.

India's retail inflation soared to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October --above the RBI's tolerance band, mainly on account of rising food prices. It was 5.49 per cent in September. "As long as economies' supplies capacity continues to expand pretty quickly which is happening in India at the moment with emphasis on manufacturing infrastructure, etc, we expect inflationary pres-

sure should be contained," Rana said at the Asia-Pacific Credit Outlook 2025 conference.

The RBI, which is mandated by the government to contain inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent) has projected retail inflation to be 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal year. "For policymakers and households to balance (consumption and sustainable growth) is to making sure that everyone spends within the means and that can increase savings," Rana said.

He said consumption is a major component for the Indian economy, with private consumption accounting for more than 55 per cent of the overall growth.

"We do see a strong consumption-driven growth outlook for economy. Overall, infrastructure is another component of growth. Urban consumption has been the key driver of growth over the past couple of years," Rana added.

QNET India strengthens wellness with nutriplus for World Diabetes Day

Guwahati : As World Diabetes Day approaches on November 14, QNET India is stepping up its commitment to diabetes management by promoting holistic health solutions. With the theme "Diabetes and Well-being," this year's observance, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), highlights the importance of managing diabetes through immunity-boosting, balanced wellness strategies. QNET India's Nutriplus DiabaHealth and Nutriplus ImmunHealth offer an innovative approach to diabetes care, emphasizing immune health and overall wellness. DiabaHealth, a 100% natural supplement, incorporates Malabar kino, known for its insulin-like properties, alongside other herbal ingredients. This formulation helps manage healthy blood sugar lev-



els, offering a side-effect-free solution for long-term diabetes management. ImmunHealth further complements diabetes care by fortifying the immune system with ingredients like Papaya Extract, Aloe Vera, and Guduchi Satwa, crucial for DNA synthesis and immune regulation. Together, these supplements provide a comprehensive health boost that goes beyond blood sugar control, aiming to build resilience

and immunity for individuals managing diabetes. Demand for natural health supplements is growing as more consumers seek preventive health measures. With increasing awareness around diabetes and immunity, QNET's wellness products are gaining traction among health-conscious individuals in the city, particularly those looking for natural, side-effect-free alternatives to support their well-being.

Swiggy Hits Rs 1 Trillion Valuation on debut

Bangalore: Swiggy, food delivery major, joined the elite club of companies having a market capitalisation (market cap) of Rs 1 trillion or more, after the stock price of company hit Rs 448 mark on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Wednesday's intra-day trade. At 11:15 am; Swiggy's market cap stood at Rs 100,148 crore (Rs 1.0 trillion), the NSE data shows. The stock was trading 6.5 per cent higher at Rs 447.40, from its listig price. The stock had gained 15 per cent when compared with its issue price of Rs 390 per share. On the NSE, Swiggy shares listed at Rs 420, a 7.6 per cent premium over its issue price. A combined 71.38 million equity shares changed hands on the NSE and BSE.

RBI issues operational framework for reclassification of FPI to FDI



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday issued an operational framework for reclassification of investment made by a foreign portfolio investor to foreign direct investment (FDI) if the entity breaches the prescribed limit. Currently, an investment made by foreign portfolio investor along with its investor group (FPI) should be less than 10 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis.

Any FPI investing in breach of the prescribed limit has the option of divesting their holdings or reclassifying such hold-

ings as FDI subject to the conditions specified by the RBI and Sebi within five trading days from the date of settlement of the trades causing the breach.

The RBI has issued an operational framework for reclassification of foreign portfolio investment by FPI to FDI.

As per the framework, the FPI concerned will have to take necessary approvals from the government and concurrence of the Indian investee company concerned.

However, the facility of reclassification shall not be permitted in any sector prohibited for FDI, the RBI said.

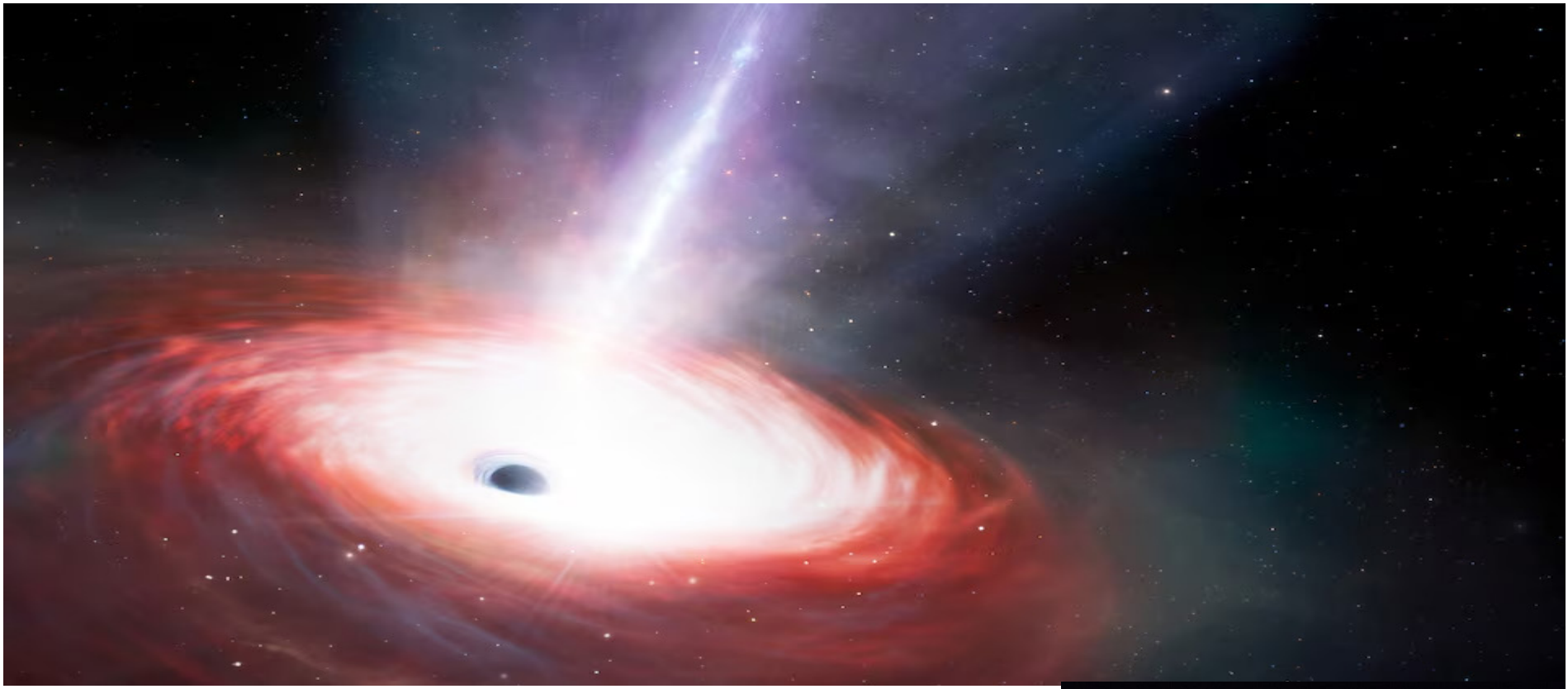
Godrej Industries strengthens food & beverage portfolio with Savannah Surfactants acquisition

Guwahati: Godrej Industries' Chemicals Business has signed a business transfer agreement to acquire the Food Ester and Emulsifier Business of Savannah Surfactants Limited. This strategic acquisition aims to enhance Godrej's offerings in the food and beverages sector, expanding its portfolio in specialty chemicals. Vishal Sharma, Executive

Director and CEO of Godrej Industries (Chemicals), commented, "In line with our strategy, this acquisition will allow us to grow our specialty chemicals business and is aligned with our commitment to sustainable growth and innovation." Savannah Surfactants, based in Goa, has a manufacturing capacity of 5,200 MTPA, producing

high-quality food esters and emulsifiers. This acquisition strengthens Godrej's footprint in the growing food and beverages segment, where demand for sustainable and specialty ingredients is rising. In Guwahati, this acquisition positions Godrej to meet the increasing need for innovative, sustainable food solutions. As businesses in

the region seek eco-friendly and high-performance ingredients for food processing, Godrej's expanded portfolio will cater to the growing local demand for greener, specialized food products. This will allow Godrej to further solidify its presence and leadership in North East India's rapidly developing food & beverage sector.



Webb telescope reveals rapid growth of primordial black hole

Black hole existed 1.5 billion years after Big Bang, Object exceeded theoretical limits on growth rate

The Reuters Bureau

At the heart of our Milky Way galaxy lurks a supermassive black hole about four million times the mass of the sun, called Sagittarius A*. In fact, these objects, which increase in mass over time by eating material that wanders too close, reside at the center of most galaxies.

But since NASA's James Webb Space Telescope came online in 2022, astronomers have been surprised to find supermassive black holes inhabiting the early universe - earlier than they had thought possible considering the time needed to gather such great mass. New observations of one such primordial black hole is offering insight into how this may have occurred - through episodes of supercharged growth.

Black holes are extremely dense objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape. With their immense gravitational pull, they grow in mass by sucking in material such as gas,

dust and stars unfortunate enough to stray nearby.

"The existence of supermassive black holes in the early universe challenges our current models of black hole formation and growth," said astronomer Hyewon Suh of the International Gemini Observatory in Hawaii and the U.S. National Science Foundation's NOIRLab, lead author of the study published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*.

The new Webb observations involve a supermassive black hole called LID-568 that existed when the cosmos was about 11% its current age - about 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang event 13.8 billion years ago that initiated the universe. LID-568 has a mass about 10 million times greater than the sun, so 2-1/2 times that of Sagittarius A*. The researchers have not yet determined the mass of its home galaxy.

LID-568 was observed gaining mass at a pace faster than previously thought possible. Webb showed that, based on its observed energetic output,

LID-568 appeared to be consuming infalling material - known as accretion - at more than 40 times the hypothesized maximum, called the Eddington limit, for such activity.

"The Eddington limit is a theoretical limit for the maximum energy output the black hole can produce through the accretion process. This theoretical limit assumes that the outward force from the radiation produced during the accretion process balances the gravity of the infalling material," said astronomer and study co-author Julia Scharwächter of the Gemini Observatory and NOIRLab.

These primordial black holes are thought to have originated in one of two ways, either following the explosive death of the universe's first generation of stars or through the collapse of large clouds of gas present in the early universe.

"The discovery of LID-568 suggests that a significant portion of mass growth can occur during a single episode of rapid

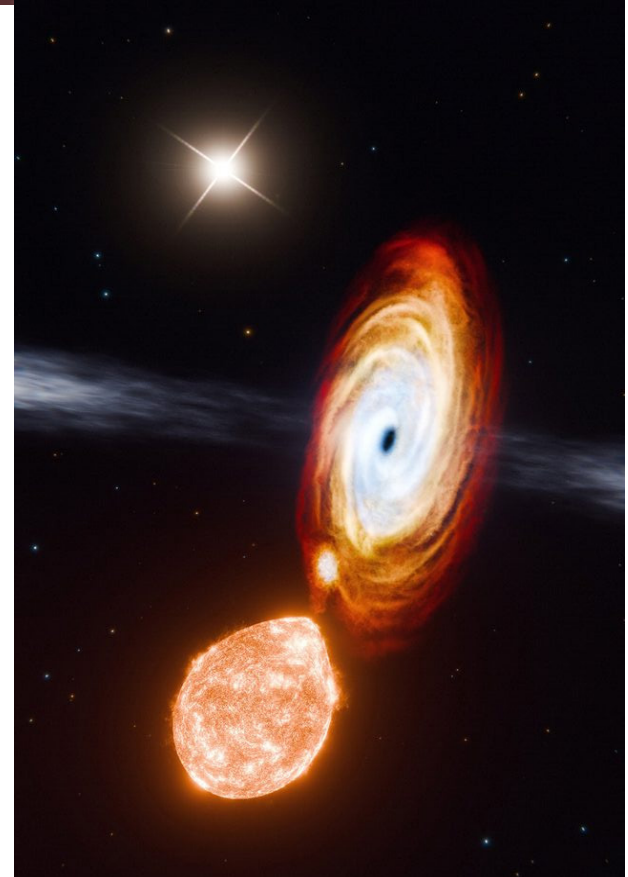
accretion. This could help explain how supermassive black holes formed so early in the universe, regardless of how they originated," Suh said.

"Until now, we have lacked observational confirmation of how these black holes could grow so quickly in the early universe," Suh added.

"Until now, we have lacked observational confirmation of how these black holes could grow so quickly in the early universe," Suh added.

A key sign of a growing supermassive black hole is emission of X-rays, high-energy electromagnetic radiation with very short wavelengths. Material swirling around a supermassive black hole before it is consumed is superheated and glows strongly in X-ray wavelengths. The researchers first spotted LID-568 using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and then studied it more closely using Webb's infrared observational capabilities.

The Webb observations suggest the existence of



some sort of mechanism through which a black hole can gobble up material at a faster pace than previously believed possible.

The Webb Telescope's infrared observational capabilities were crucial in this discovery, following initial detections by the Chandra X-ray Observatory. Material swirling around a black hole emits X-rays as it heats up, serving as a cosmic beacon for researchers.

"We don't yet understand how LID-568 manages to exceed these limits,"

Scharwächter explained. Further research is underway, promising to delve deeper into this cosmic anomaly. More observations from Webb will be essential to unlock the mysteries of early universe black holes.

Chandra X-ray Observatory. Material swirling around a black hole emits X-rays as it heats up, serving as a cosmic beacon for researchers.

"We don't yet understand how LID-568 manages to exceed these limits," Scharwächter explained.

Pakistan will not accept 'hybrid' Champions Trophy, says PCB chair

Pakistan also hosted the Asia Cup last year but winners India played all their matches in Sri Lanka under a "hybrid model".

Lahore

The Pakistan cricket board (PCB) will not stage matches of the 2025 Champions Trophy outside the country if India do not travel for the tournament, chairman Mohsin Naqvi said.

Pakistan, winners of the last Champions Trophy in 2017, will host the Feb. 19-March 9 tournament. It will be the first ICC event hosted by Pakistan since it shared the 1996 World Cup with India and Sri Lanka.

Due to soured political relations, India have not visited Pakistan since 2008 and the rivals play each other only at multi-team events. Pakistan also hosted the Asia Cup last year



but winners India played all their matches in Sri Lanka under a "hybrid model".

At the time, India said they had not received permission from their government to tour Pakistan.

On Friday, a media report that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had informed the PCB of their unwillingness to travel to Pakistan and suggested playing India's matches at a neutral venue. "In the last two months, the media has been reporting that India isn't travelling. I discussed this with them and

my team, and our stance is clear: they need to give us in writing any objections they may have," Naqvi told reporters on Friday.

"Until now, no discussion of the hybrid model has happened, nor are we prepared to accept one. The media are reporting it, but no formal communication has reached the PCB... Almost every country wants the Champions Trophy to be played here.

"I remain in touch with several boards, and they're all looking forward to playing here. I don't think anyone should make this a political matter. We'll give every team as many facilities as we can. We'd like to see fans from abroad come for the tournament, too."

West Indies quick Joseph suspended for ODI walkoff

Jamaica

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has been suspended for two matches for storming off the field after a row with captain Shai Hope during Wednesday's one-day international victory over England, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said on Thursday.

The pacer appeared to be frustrated by the field placings as he bowled a wicket maiden early in the match in Barbados and, after a heated exchange with Hope, walked back to the dressing room which briefly left the home team a man short.

"I recognise that my passion got the best of me," Joseph said in a CWI statement.

"I have personally apologised to captain Shai Hope and my teammates and management. I also

extend my sincerest apologies to the West Indies fans. I understand that even a brief lapse in judgment can have a far-reaching impact and I deeply regret any disappointment caused."

West Indies coach Darren Sammy had already labelled Joseph's conduct unacceptable and CWI

said it had fallen short of the professionalism expected of players. "Such conduct cannot be overlooked, and we have taken decisive action to ensure the gravity of the situation is fully acknowledged," said Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe.

West Indies, whose eight-wicket victory on Wednesday clinched the series 2-1, take on England in the first of five Twenty20 Internationals at Kensington Oval on Saturday.



UCLA shuts down Boston University in 71-40 rout

Los Angeles

Lazar Stefanovic and Eric Dailey Jr. each scored 13 points for UCLA, which forced 28 turnovers on the way to a 71-40 rout of Boston University on Monday night in Los Angeles.

UCLA (2-1) returned home after a disappointing loss to New Mexico in Henderson, Nev., on Friday, after which Bruins coach Mick Cronin called out his team for its turnover troubles. UCLA committed 15 giveaways on Monday but offset them with its stifling defense.

The Bruins converted Boston University's turnovers into 36 points. UCLA also dominated the interior, outscoring the Terriers 34-10 in the paint. Stefanovic went 3-for-5 from 3-point range on a night UCLA collectively

Neeraj Chopra joins Javelin great Jan Zelezny's training group



New Delhi

Double Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra announced on Saturday his new partnership with javelin legend Jan Zelezny, who has joined as his new coach. Zelezny, a three-time Olympic and World Champion and the current world record holder, is revered as one of the greatest javelin throwers in history, a figure Neeraj Chopra has long idolized.

"Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are sim-

ilar, and his knowledge is unmatched. It's an honor to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," Chopra said in his announcement.

Zelezny, known for his technical brilliance and competitive drive, holds the current javelin world record of 98.48m, set in 1996. His name remains synonymous with excellence in the sport, having achieved multiple Olympic titles and World Championships, as well as setting four world records during his career. The decision to team up with Zelezny comes as Neeraj aims to refine his technique and build on his already impressive career achievements.

FIFA urged to avoid awarding 2034 World Cup to Saudi Arabia

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia is slowly becoming a powerful force in the football world. From Newcastle United to Cristiano Ronaldo joining the Saudi Pro League, Saudi Arabia has been flourishing in the sport. They are also the lone bidder for the 2034 FIFA World Cup, but that plan has received a huge setback. According to the Amnesty International and the Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA), the World Cup should not be awarded to Saudi Arabia as it could lead to major human rights issues.

In a new report, Amnesty and SRA evaluated Morocco, Spain and Portugal, who received the 2030 World Cup hosting rights, and Saudi Arabia. The report concluded that "neither bid adequately outlines how the would-be host nation would meet the human rights standards required by FIFA in its bidding regulations, nor did these bids show evidence of having meaningfully consulted with human rights organisations."

Ronaldo set to leave Al Nassr in winter, European return unlikely

Riyadh

Cristiano Ronaldo's transfer to Al Nassr on December 30, 2022, shocked the world. Considered to be among the greatest-ever footballers in history, Ronaldo signed a contract where he would earn 200 million Euros per year, including a guaranteed salary of 90 million Euros, with commercial and sponsorship deals bringing his total annual salary to 200 million.

But now it looks like Ronaldo could be on his way out of Al Nassr, and rival club Al Hilal has been touted as a possible destination. According to reports, Al Hilal are considering acquiring Ronaldo, as replacement for Neymar, who has been struggling with injuries, and is also rumoured to join Inter Miami in the upcoming transfer window. The move could happen in the winter transfer window, and Al Hilal are hoping to wrap up the deal in January. Since



joining Al Nassr, Ronaldo is yet to win a title. This season, he has appeared in 14 matches, scoring 10 goals and bagging three assists.

Many football fans will also be hopeful of him moving to Europe, with one last chance to witness him play at the Champions League before retirement. His last club in Europe was Manchester United, whom he joined in 2021 for a second stint.

But it ended unceremoniously as Ronaldo fell out of favour with then-head coach Erik ten Hag. The Portugal star gave a controversial interview to Brit-

ish broadcaster Piers Morgan, where criticised the club's hierarchy and Ten Hag.

Meanwhile, Neymar's Saudi Arabia adventure hasn't gone according to plan. Al Hilal reportedly paid PSG 90 million Euros on August 15, 2023. He is also reportedly earning 150 million Euros a year with the club. But the Brazilian has been constantly injured, and has barely featured for the club. The Brazilian has also become a victim of criticism in Saudi Arabia, with Al Hilal fans pointing out his unavailability since joining the club.