



Kulgam clash: 4 dead total



Kulgam: In a fierce gun-battle that erupted during a joint anti-terror operation in the Guddar forest area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, two Indian Army soldiers and two unidentified terrorists were killed, while at least one junior commissioned officer (JCO) sustained injuries. The operation was launched early Monday morning by a combined team of the Indian Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), following specific intelligence inputs regarding militant presence in the region. According to the Army's Chinara Corps, vigilant troops observed suspicious movement in the dense forest terrain and challenged the individuals, prompting the terrorists to open fire.

Modi assures relief, aid after Punjab flood survey nation

Gurdaspur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected regions in Punjab on Tuesday, marking a decisive step in the government's response to one of the state's worst deluges since 1988. Following the survey and a high-level review meeting in Gurdaspur, the Prime Minister announced a comprehensive relief package totaling ₹1,600 crore to support recovery and rehabilitation



efforts across the state. The floods, triggered by swollen rivers such as the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi, along with heavy rainfall in upstream regions of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, have devastated infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods throughout Punjab.

Modi casts first vote in Vice Pres election

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to cast his vote as polling commenced for the Vice Presidential election at the Parliament House on Tuesday morning. The election, held to fill the vacancy left by Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation on July 21 due to health concerns, marks a pivotal moment in India's parliamentary leadership transition. Voting began at 10 AM in Room No. F-101,



Vasudha Hall, inside the new Parliament building. Members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are eligible to vote, with polling scheduled to continue until 5 PM. Counting begins at 6 PM.

Sonia Gandhi condemns Nicobar project's push

Sonia Gandhi slams Modi government's eleven years of misgovernance

New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has issued a scathing critique of the Modi government's ₹72,000 crore "Holistic Development of Great Nicobar" project, calling it a "planned misadventure" that threatens both the island's fragile ecosystem and the survival of its indigenous tribal communities. In a strongly worded article titled "The



Making of an Ecological Disaster in the Nicobar", published in The Hindu, Gandhi accused the government

of insensitively pushing the project through while bypassing constitutional, legal, and environmental safeguards. She warned that the initiative poses an existential threat to the Nicobarese and Shompen tribes, whose ancestral lands fall within the proposed development zone. "The collective conscience cannot, and must not, stay silent when the very

survival of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes is at stake," Gandhi wrote, urging citizens to oppose what she described as a "travesty of justice" and a "betrayal of national values". Gandhi highlighted that the Nicobarese were displaced during the 2004 tsunami and had hoped to return to their ancestral villages now at risk of permanent erasure due to the project.

NCP MLC seeks IPS officer's caste, education papers post rebuke

Ajit Pawar questioned officer's daring in heated exchange

Mumbai: A political controversy has erupted in Maharashtra after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLC Amol Mitkari formally requested the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to verify the caste and educational credentials of IPS officer Anjana Krishna. The move follows a widely circulated video showing Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar reprimanding Krishna during a phone call, prompting criticism from opposition leaders and civil society. The incident occurred in Kurdu village, Solapur district, where Krishna, serving as Sub-Divisional Police Officer, was investigating illegal excavation of murum—a type of soil used in



road construction. During the operation, local villagers clashed with police, and an NCP worker dialed Ajit Pawar, handing the phone to Krishna. Unaware of the caller's identity, Krishna asked to be contacted directly on her official number. Pawar, reportedly offended, responded with threats, saying, "I will take

action against you... itna aapko daring hua hai kya (How dare you?)". Following the exchange, MLC Mitkari wrote to the UPSC Secretary demanding scrutiny of Krishna's caste certificate and academic qualifications. He cited doubts over her selection process and drew comparisons to a previous case involving

fraudulent documentation by a trainee IAS officer. The request has sparked backlash from several quarters. NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) MP Supriya Sule condemned the move as "character assassination" and a "grave assault on the Constitution," arguing that targeting a woman officer's credentials undermines the rule of law and civil service independence. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut also criticized Ajit Pawar, accusing him of shielding illegal activities and calling for his resignation on moral grounds. Ajit Pawar later issued a statement claiming his intention was not to interfere with law enforcement but to prevent escalation on the ground.

TMC leader threatens BJP MLA over acid

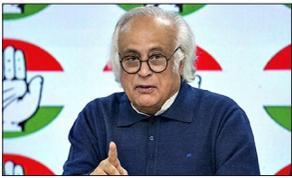
Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator and Malda district president Abdur Rahim Boxi has ignited a political firestorm after issuing a violent threat against a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, allegedly in response to remarks labeling Bengali migrant workers as "Rohingyas" and "Bangladeshis". Speaking at a public rally in Malatipur on Saturday night, Boxi declared, "If I hear such words from you again, I will destroy your ability to speak by pouring acid into your mouth. I will disfigure your face with acid. Remember, this is West Bengal. We Bengalis won't allow you a platform here". Though he did not name the BJP MLA directly, his comments were widely interpreted as targeting Shankar Ghosh, who had previously made controversial statements during an



assembly debate on migrant workers. The rally was organized to protest alleged atrocities against Bengali-speaking migrant workers in other Indian states. Boxi accused BJP leaders of pushing a divisive political agenda and viewing West Bengal's migrant population through a communal lens. He also called on supporters to tear down BJP flags and socially boycott the party in the district. The BJP swiftly condemned the remarks. Khagen Murmu, BJP MP from Malda Uttar, described the threat as symptomatic of the TMC's "politics of intimidation," adding that such rhetoric reflects the ruling party's anxiety



Jairam Ramesh slams PM's visit



New Delhi: Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh has sharply criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Manipur on September 13, calling it a "non-visit" and an insult to the people of the violence-hit state. In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh questioned the purpose of a visit that is expected to last only three hours, stating that it reflects the Prime Minister's "callousness and insensitivity" toward a region that has endured prolonged ethnic unrest. "This is actually an insult to the people of the state who have waited for him for 29 long and agonizing months," Ramesh wrote, referring to the time elapsed since ethnic violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in May 2023. He added that the visit, being hailed by the Prime Minister's supporters, would accomplish little and appeared to be more symbolic than substantive.

AWKDSU defers West Kameng bandh after MLA assurance on teacher postings issue

Itanagar: The All West Kameng District Students' Union (AWKDSU) has decided to temporarily defer its proposed 24-hour district-wide bandh, which was scheduled to begin on Monday. The bandh has been put on hold until September 17 following assurances from all four elected MLAs of West Kameng district that the issue of 12 transferred teachers failing to join their postings will be



addressed on priority with the state government and the education department. The assurance was made during a joint consultative meeting held Sunday morning, where the legislators urged AWKDSU to recon-

sider the bandh and sought time until September 17 to initiate concrete action and ensure compliance by the erring teachers.

Speaking to the media, AWKDSU president Khambo Sakrinsow said, "We have carefully considered the appeal made by our four local MLAs and, respecting their assurance and commitment, we have decided to put the bandh call on hold until September 17."

Assam govt orders Puja bonus for tea workers

Guwahati: The Assam government has instructed payment of Durga Puja bonus to tea workers latest by September 10, well ahead of the festival. The direction was issued to all tea associations of Assam to be conveyed to tea garden managements. A separate letter on the subject was also issued to all district commissioners. This year, the rituals related to the Durga Puja are scheduled to begin

on September 28. The letter on payment of bonus to the tea garden workers was issued by the state's Labour Welfare Department. It says, "The payment of bonus has serious implications on the relations between employer and employees in the industrial scenario of Assam and is more so in the state's plantation sector. Although the statutory bonus is payable to the plantation workers.

Tipra Motha to protest for Greater Tipraland

Agartala: The Tipra Motha Party (TMP), a key tribal political force in Tripura and an ally of the BJP-led state government, will hold a peaceful demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on September 9 to press for the implementation of the Tiprasa Accord and constitutional recognition of 'Greater Tipraland'.

The protest, described by TMP leaders as a non-political event, will be led by party chief and Tripura royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma. He will be joined by state ministers, MLAs, and representatives of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council



(TTAADC), which governs two-thirds of Tripura's territory and represents over 1.2 million tribal residents.

Full implementation of the Tiprasa Accord signed on March 2, 2024, between the Centre, the Tripura government, and TMP leaders in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Constitutional recognition and autonomy for 'Greater Tipraland'. Immediate deportation of illegal immigrants from Tripura.

Meghalaya CM meets Amit Shah, pushes for ILP, cites illegal immigration concerns

Imphal: In a significant development aimed at restoring stability in Manipur, the state government has pledged to fully honor the recently renewed Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement signed with two key Kuki-Zo groups—the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF). The tripartite pact, involving the Centre, the Manipur government, and the Kuki-Zo representatives, was formalized in New Delhi on September 4, 2025, following multiple rounds of negotiations. The agreement outlines a series of re-negotiated ground rules designed to uphold Manipur's territo-



rial integrity, reduce the number of designated militant camps, and relocate weapons to secure facilities managed by the CRPF and BSF. Seven camps located in conflict-prone zones are to be shifted, addressing

long-standing concerns from Meitei groups who alleged that attacks were being launched from these areas. Joint Monitoring Group formed to enforce pact, violations face strict action.

PM Modi owes Manipur apology for not showing up in two years: Gaurav Gogoi

Gogoi says PM's visit late, issues still unresolved

Guwahati: Senior Congress leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, has publicly stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi owes the people of Manipur an apology for not visiting the state over the past two years, despite its prolonged unrest and humanitarian crisis. Speaking at a media interaction on September 5, Gogoi emphasized that the Prime Minister's likely visit to Manipur should not be viewed as a conclusion to the crisis but rather the beginning of a long and necessary journey toward peace, justice, and democratic restoration. "There is



no elected government in Manipur, and normalcy has not returned. The PM's visit must be seen as a delayed start, not the end goal," Gogoi remarked.

He criticized the central government's handling of the situation, stating that

the visit should have been planned two years ago when the violence and displacement began. "Justice delayed is justice denied. The people of Manipur have been denied the PM's presence for far too long," Gogoi asserted, adding

that an apology from the Prime Minister would be a meaningful gesture of accountability. Gogoi also addressed broader concerns affecting the Northeast, including the new Immigration and Foreigners' (Exemption) Order, 2025. He argued that the order undermines the Assam Accord and should have been debated in Parliament before implementation. The order allows religious minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Christians—who entered India before December 31, 2024, to remain in the country citing religious persecution.

Brahmaputra Board plans Northeast's flood control



Guwahati: In a major step toward mitigating the recurring flood and erosion crises in Northeast India, the Brahmaputra Board has initiated the drafting and updating of master plans for 15 river sub-basins across the region. The initiative, which employs state-of-the-art technology and a multi-agency approach, aims to deliver long-term, sustainable solutions for water resource management and disaster resilience. The sub-basins currently under

focus include rivers such as Dikhow and Jhanji (Nagaland and Assam), Dikrong (Arunachal Pradesh and Assam), Kolodyne and Tui-chang (Mizoram), and ten rivers across Meghalaya, including Kynshi, Umngot, and Simsang. These areas were among the worst affected during the devastating floods and landslides in June 2025, which displaced lakhs and caused widespread damage across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, and Manipur.



Godrej Consumer Products welcomes GST rate cut, promises to pass benefits to consumers

Guwahati: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's landmark decision to streamline rates into a two-slab structure of 5% and 18% has sparked optimism in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. Industry watchers say the reform will ease household budgets, lift consumption, and give the economy a fresh push. Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), a leading player in the home and person-



al care space with brands

like Cinthol and Godrej No.1, was among the first to welcome the move. The company said the reduced tax burden on essentials will help drive volume growth and expand consumer spending. "We welcome the government's initiative of lowering taxes to

boost consumption. This is a positive trigger for demand and strong driver of volume growth. This move will ultimately contribute to overall economic momentum," said Aasif Malbari, Chief Financial Officer of GCPL. GCPL also assured that the tax benefits would be passed on to consumers, making soaps and personal care products more affordable at a time when inflation has weighed on household budgets.

Renault gains festive boost from GST cuts

Guwahati: The GST Council's landmark decision to streamline the indirect tax regime into two slabs of 5% and 18% has generated optimism across sectors, with the automobile industry among the biggest beneficiaries. The reform is expected to ease household budgets, spur rural consumption, and strengthen India's growth momentum. A major highlight is the reduction of GST on entry-level cars from 28% to 18%. The revised rate, applicable to petrol cars under 1200 cc and diesel cars below 1500 cc, is set to make personal mobility more affordable for millions of first-time buyers. "This is a transformative move that makes personal mobility significantly more affordable for the masses," said Venkatram Mamillapalle, Managing Director of Renault India. He added that



the uniform 18% GST on auto components would simplify costs and benefit both manufacturers and consumers. Beyond cars, lower taxes on tractors, farm inputs, and equipment are expected to reduce costs for farmers and boost semi-urban demand. "The GST reform will boost rural demand, strengthen agri-linked enterprises, and create new growth avenues in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets," Mamillapalle said.

PSBs close Jan Dhan accounts

New Delhi: Public-sector banks (PSBs) carried out a one-time exercise in April to close nearly 1.5 million inactive zero-balance accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).

As per news reports, this action was taken to eliminate duplication and weed out accounts that were no longer functional. Introduced in August 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the scheme was designed to extend banking access to India's unbanked population and has now completed 11 years. As of July-end, PMJDY accounts stood at 560.3 million.

Tata AIA redefines insurance with launch of health buddy and health SIP

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the launch of "Tata AIA Health Buddy", India's first 24x7 virtual health and wellness companion from a life insurer, and Tata AIA Health SIP, a unique health insurance plan that integrates long-term health protection with wealth creation. The Health Buddy comes with a mascot that personifies trust and care, symbolizing Tata AIA's focus on consumer-centric innovation. Exclusively available on the Tata AIA Life Insurance App, it provides preventive health check-ups, women's care consultations, dental wellness, second medical

opinions, access to doctors across 24 specialties, fitness coaching, and discounts on tests and medicines. According to Sujeet Kothare, Chief of Products, Marketing, Corporate Communications & Business Mid Office, Tata AIA Life Insurance, the new offering goes beyond traditional insurance by combining wellness services with financial protection. "By blending health, wellness, and insurance, Health Buddy ensures individuals are supported not just in emergencies but in their day-to-day journey toward better health," he said. The newly introduced Health SIP offers consumers financial

flexibility with no premium allocation charges, maturity boosters, tax-free withdrawals for health-related expenses from the 6th year, and long-term critical illness cover. It is available in two variants—Health SIP Plus and Health SIP Pro—to meet varied consumer needs.

In Guwahati, where awareness about preventive healthcare is growing, the launch is expected to strengthen Tata AIA's presence. The city's expanding middle-class market, facing rising medical costs, is likely to respond positively to integrated solutions that offer both health support and financial security.

Jio-Allianz partner after Bajaj exit



Mumbai: Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) on Tuesday said the company and Allianz of Germany have incorporated a joint venture company named 'Allianz Jio Reinsurance Ltd' (AJRL) to carry on the business of reinsurance in India.

The company AJRL will invest an amount of Rs 2.50 lakh towards initial subscription of 25,000 equity shares of face value Rs 10 each for 50 per cent stake, JFSL said in a regulatory approval. AJRL has been incorporated pursuant to receipt of no objection certificate from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, it said. The Certificate of Incorporation was received from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, by email, on September 8, 2025, it added.

Both the companies on July 18, had announced a

binding agreement to form a 50:50 domestic reinsurance joint venture to serve the dynamic and high-growth insurance market in India. The announcement comes months after Allianz parted ways with Bajaj group financial services firm Bajaj Finserv.

The reinsurance partnership will bring together JFSL's deep local expertise and robust digital footprint with Allianz's strong underwriting and global reinsurance capabilities, the statement had said. The joint venture will leverage Allianz's existing Allianz Re and Allianz Commercial portfolios and activities in India. It will also benefit from Allianz's global set up, including its pricing, risk selection and portfolio management expertise, it had said.

Allianz Re has been reinsuring risk in India for over 25 years.

Education and Skilling set to drive India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision

Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) today convened a high-level strategy session at Kaushal-Bhawan, New Delhi, to chart a roadmap for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat under the theme "Swadeshi Se Samriddhaaur Viksit Bharat – Strategies in Education and Skilling." The meeting was chaired by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, with Ministers of State Jayant Chaudhary and Dr. Sukanta Majumdar in attendance, alongside senior officials from school and higher education departments and heads of autonomous institutions. The discussions focused on leveraging educa-



tion and skilling as catalysts for economic growth, promoting indigenous products, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Emphasis was placed on embedding self-reliance at the school level and aligning curricula with NEP 2020 objectives, including skill-based learning, innovation,

and cultural rootedness. Shri Pradhan highlighted the role of students as ambassadors of Swadeshi, while Shri Chaudhary emphasized equipping youth with future-ready skills in AI, technology, and design. Dr. Majumdar underscored the potential of higher educa-

tion and skilling institutions to position India as a global Skill Capital. In Guwahati, these initiatives are expected to energize the regional economy by fostering local entrepreneurship, vocational training, and ITI-driven skill development programs. Local businesses and startups are likely to benefit from a skilled workforce, boosting productivity, innovation, and market competitiveness in Assam's capital.

The session concluded with actionable recommendations for nationwide alignment of educational and skill development activities, reaffirming the government's commitment to a Samriddhaaur Viksit Bharat by 2047.



EuroKids targets Assam growth with Heureka curriculum, eyes 20 new centres launch

Guwahati: EuroKids, India's leading preschool network, has unveiled its eighth curriculum version Heureka – the Visible Thinking Curriculum, inspired by Harvard University's Project Zero and aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Designed to shift focus from rote learning to critical and creative thinking, the curriculum introduces 20 structured Harvard-style routines and follows the EPICS framework, which nurtures Emotional, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, and Spiritual growth.

As part of its growth strategy, EuroKids announced plans to expand in Assam by adding 20 new centres over the next five years,



increasing its footprint from 55 to 75 centres in the state. The launch underscores EuroKids' ambition to consolidate its leadership in the early education market. Executives said the new model will prepare children for lifelong learning by

integrating programs such as CodeQuest, EuroKonect, and EuroArt, tailored to individual learning journeys.

EuroKids CEO KVS Seshasai said the initiative reflects the company's vision of preparing children for lifelong learning, while

Dr Anita Madan, Head of Curriculum Development, described Heureka as a transformative step in early education.

In Guwahati, considered a key education hub of the Northeast, the announcement has been received positively by parents and entrepreneurs. With demand for premium preschool education on the rise, EuroKids' expansion is expected to raise competition and attract new investment in the city's early education sector. EuroKids, part of Lighthouse Learning Group, operates over 1,700 preschools across 500 cities and has nurtured more than 700,000 students to date.

Axis Max Life boosts insurance advisors

Guwahati: Axis Max Life has announced a strategic push to transform life advisors into digitally empowered, emotionally intelligent financial partners, aligning with India's evolving insurance landscape. Over the past two decades, the life insurance sector has grown from an underpenetrated, urban-focused market to one of the fastest-growing protection markets globally, with life advisors at the center of this shift. Under the IR-DAI's 'Insurance for All by 2047' vision, Axis Max Life is expanding its agency force into Tier 2 and 3 cities, leveraging digital KYC norms, flexible onboarding, and platforms like Bharat Stack to improve accessibility. The company is recruiting talent from diverse backgrounds, including graduates, homemakers, retirees, and mid-career professionals, while imple-

menting AI-led learning systems, behavioral nudges, and gamification to accelerate productivity and engagement. In Guwahati, the company has strengthened its presence by empowering local advisors to combine digital tools with personal engagement. This approach helps reach households that were previously underserved, educating communities about financial protection and enabling personalized solutions tailored to the city's growing middle-class and aspirational population.

Axis Max Life stresses that technology complements human advisors, not replaces them. By integrating digital tools with trusted human insight, the company aims to build a scalable, sustainable, and impactful advisory network, reinforcing trust and securing India's financial future one household at a time.

Godrej Jersey promotes paneer with chefs during Nutrition Week

Guwahati: Godrej Jersey has announced a Nutrition Week campaign focused on unlocking the potential of paneer, positioning it as a protein-rich superfood for vegetarian households. With paneer consumption steadily rising across India, the company is looking to strengthen its presence in the value-added dairy segment through innovation and consumer engagement. Paneer, long considered the backbone of a vegetarian diet, is now finding renewed attention for its adaptability. From Paneer Chettinad in Tamil Nadu to Paneer Tikka in Punjab and Paneer-stuffed Dhokla in Gujarat, the

product continues to be reinvented in regional cuisines. This diversity, Godrej Jersey believes, makes paneer a powerful driver of growth in the packaged dairy market.

Shantanu Raj, Head of Marketing, Godrej Jersey, said, "Paneer is not just a packaged food item, but a must-have in a balanced diet. A single pack delivers protein equivalent to six eggs. At Godrej Jersey, we ensure our paneer is soft, fresh, and made from real milk, making nutrition both enjoyable and accessible. To build awareness, we have tied up with Chef Teja Paruchuri (Vismai Foods), offering consumers inno-

native recipes via QR codes on our packs and digital platforms."

Chef Teja highlighted paneer's culinary flexibility, noting that it can be grilled, stir-fried, tossed into salads, or even crafted into desserts—keeping meals both healthy and exciting. In Guwahati, demand for branded paneer has witnessed steady growth, driven by urban consumers seeking convenient, high-quality protein options. Local markets report that paneer is increasingly being used beyond traditional curries, reflecting evolving tastes and rising health consciousness in the Northeast.

Sebi denies data amid Jane Street probe



Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday told the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) that no further data would be shared with Jane Street, citing the ongoing and expanding scope of its investigation against the US-based trading firm. A three-member SAT bench led by Justice P S Dinesh Kumar admitted appeals filed by Jane Street and its group entities, directing Sebi to explain within three weeks why documents sought by the firm cannot be disclosed. Jane Street may file its rejoinder within the next three weeks. The matter will be heard again on November 18.

The case is being closely tracked for its potential implications on India's derivatives market. Meanwhile, Jane Street's personal hearing in relation to Sebi's July 3 ex-parte interim order, earlier set for September 15, has been adjourned.

Tata AIA links wellness with wealth plans

Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the launch of Tata AIA Health Buddy, India's first 24x7 health and wellness companion from a life insurer, alongside Tata AIA Health SIP, a pioneering health insurance plan that integrates long-term protection with wealth creation. Health Buddy, accessible via the Tata AIA Life Insurance App, provides preventive health check-ups, doctor consultations across 24 specialties, dental and women's wellness care, second medical opinions, fitness and diet sessions, and discounts on medicines and lab tests. The company also introduced a friendly mascot to embody trust and approachability. "Tata AIA Health Buddy is designed to empower consumers with holistic solutions that protect their health and support healthier, more fulfilling lives," said Amit Dave, Chief Distribution Officer, Tata AIA.

In Aizawl, where rising healthcare costs and limited specialty services often challenge families,



Tata AIA's Health Buddy is expected to bring timely medical access and preventive care within reach. Local businesses also see potential demand growth for digital health solutions, reflecting a shift towards integrated health-financial products. Complementing this, Tata AIA Health SIP offers long-term critical illness cover, tax-free withdrawals from the sixth year, no premium allocation charges, and maturity boosters. Available in Health SIP Plus and Health SIP Plus Pro variants, it combines protection with wealth-building, reinforcing Tata AIA's strategy of health-and-wealth-first insurance.

Oriflame unveils optimal Hydra Radiance range, strengthens skincare portfolio in India

New Delhi: Oriflame, the Swedish holistic beauty and wellbeing brand, has announced the launch of its new Optimals Hydra Radiance Range in India, further expanding its flagship Optimals line. The new collection is designed to deliver hydration, barrier strengthening, and microbiome balance, aligning with the global trend of "skinalism." The Hydra Radiance portfolio includes moisturisers, cleansers, sunscreens, and eye care



products, all dermatologically tested and suitable for different skin types. Powered by ingredients such as Niacinamide, Para-Probiotics, and Ectoin, the range provides clinically proven 48-hour hydration. Priced between ₹829 and ₹1,999, the products are available through Oriflame's website

and its network of brand partners. Commenting on the launch, Edyta Kurek, Senior Vice President & Head, Oriflame India and Indonesia, said, "With Optimals Hydra Radiance, we aim to provide consumers with routines that are simple yet effective, enabling them to feel confident in their healthiest, most radiant skin." Oriflame operates in over 60 countries, supported by nearly 3 million independent brand partners worldwide.



Vedanta's TACO commits ₹30 crores to nationwide wildlife conservation

Guwahati: Vedanta Limited (NSE: VEDL), India's leading critical minerals, energy transition metals, oil & gas, and technology conglomerate, has emphasized its focus on India's wildlife and biodiversity through its commitment of ₹30 crores over three years under The Animal Care Organisation (TACO). The initiatives are strengthening the country's wildlife conservation efforts and infrastructure. From tiger reserves in Rajasthan to elephant and rhino landscapes in Assam, the company has significantly enhanced its commitment towards wildlife conservation including the protection of endangered species and restoration of vital habitats. The initiatives

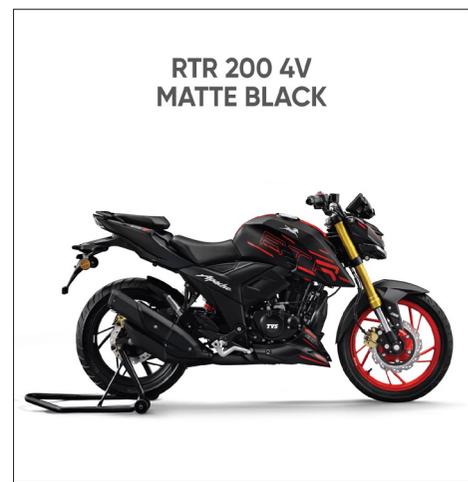
reflect a future-forward strategy aimed at expanding conservation corridors, integrating technology in monitoring systems, and fostering long-term ecological stewardship. TACO has channelled substantial resources into impactful biodiversity programs under its 'Mission Vanraksha'.

At Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, TACO commissioned five solar-powered, double-storey anti-poaching camps (about 762 sq ft each) and deployed surveillance vehicles, enabling 24x7 patrolling within the reserve, greatly enhancing protection against poaching and habitat intrusion. These combined interventions underscore a holistic 'One Health' approach, where

wildlife, humans, and ecosystems are safeguarded in unison. Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited and Anchor of TACO, said: "On this National Wildlife Day, we stand firm in our stewardship, nurturing the wild, honouring its intrinsic worth, and ensuring forests, wildlife, and communities flourish together in harmony." Across its businesses, Vedanta has planted over three million trees since FY21 and is on track to meet its seven-million-plantation target by 2030 in alignment with the World Economic Forum's Trillion Tree initiative. A global ESG champion, Vedanta is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 or sooner.

TVS Apache celebrates 20 years, unveils premium limited-edition motorcycles

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has rolled out a special 20th anniversary edition of its flagship Apache motorcycle range, introducing limited-edition variants across the Apache RTR 160, 180, 200, RTR 310 and RR310, along with premium upgrades in the RTR 160 4V and 200 4V trims. The anniversary models feature an exclusive black-champagne-gold livery, dual-tone alloy wheels, and a first-ever USB charger on Apache bikes. The new top-end RTR 160 4V and 200 4V variants debut advanced features such as Class-D projector headlamps with LED DRLs, a 5-inch connected TFT cluster with SmartXconnect and voice assist, traction control, assist and slipper clutch, and new colour op-



RTR 200 4V
MATTE BLACK

tions. Prices start at ₹1.28 lakh for the RTR 160 4V and ₹1.59 lakh for the RTR 200 4V (ex-showroom Delhi). In Guwahati, dealers anticipate robust demand for the new Apache range, with the city's youth segment driving sales of premium commuter

and sports motorcycles. Industry observers note that customers in Assam's capital are increasingly aligning with national trends, preferring advanced safety, connectivity, and racing-inspired design in two-wheelers. K N Radhakrishnan, Director and CEO of TVS Motor, said the milestone "belongs to every member of the Apache community," reaffirming the company's global strategy of innovation and market expansion.

Nissan teams with Spinny, boosts exchange network, unveils Magnite KURO edition

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has entered into a strategic partnership with Spinny, India's leading full-stack used car platform, designating it as the 'Preferred Exchange Partner Platform' across its dealerships. This first-of-its-kind collaboration between an automobile OEM and a national-level used car aggregator aims to offer enhanced exchange benefits for customers while creating new revenue opportu-

nities for dealer partners. Under the arrangement, customers can exchange vehicles through Spinny at Nissan dealerships or directly via Spinny's platform and avail exclusive benefits on new Nissan cars. Spinny's vehicle evaluation teams will be deployed at dealerships as per demand, ensuring smooth and timely assessments. Importantly, Spinny's 'Buying Letter' will serve as valid proof of exchange, eliminating the need for RC

transfer at the claim stage. The tie-up also provides Nissan's dealer network with avenues to liquidate used car inventory and drive leads through joint marketing campaigns. Both companies will integrate each other's branding into promotional activities to expand visibility. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said the partnership highlights Nissan's commitment to "enhancing customer experience and supporting

dealer growth." Spinny Founder & CEO Niraj Singh added that it will "redefine how car ownership and upgrades are experienced in India." In Guwahati, a rising hub for automobile sales in the Northeast, the collaboration is expected to strengthen customer confidence in vehicle exchange deals. Analysts believe the move will support demand for compact SUVs like the Magnite in a market where aspirational buyers are steadily expanding.

Renault cuts prices by up to Rs 96,395, passes full GST 2.0 benefit to buyers



Guwahati: Renault India has announced a major price reduction across its portfolio, fully passing on the benefits of GST 2.0 to customers. The revised prices, effective from September 22, 2025, will see cuts of up to ₹96,395, making Renault cars significantly more affordable ahead of the festive season. Customers, however, can book vehicles at the new prices starting immediately. The popular KWID now starts at ₹4.29 lakh, while the Triber and Kiger begin at ₹5.76 lakh. Among the models, Kiger's top-end variants witnessed the steepest drop of nearly ₹96,000, while Triber variants saw reductions between ₹53,000 and ₹80,000. KWID trims have become cheaper by up to

₹55,000, further strengthening Renault's entry-level positioning. Venkatram Mammillapalle, MD of Renault India, said, "Passing on the full GST 2.0 benefit is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to our customers. We believe this timely initiative will not only make our cars more accessible but also energize demand during the festive season." In Guwahati, a crucial hub for the automobile market in the Northeast, local dealers expect strong festive demand. With competitive pricing and rising interest in compact SUVs, Renault showrooms in the city anticipate increased bookings for the Kiger and Triber, especially from first-time buyers and young professionals.

Skill trainers honoured with National Teachers' Awards 2025, boost to India's skilling economy

Guwahati: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday conferred the National Teachers' Awards 2025 on 15 master trainers and instructors from the vocational training ecosystem, alongside teachers from schools and higher education institutions. The ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan and organised by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with the Ministry of Education (MoE), underscored the growing importance of skill trainers as key drivers of India's workforce readiness. Awardees from ITIs, NSTIs, and other in-



stitutes were recognised for pioneering digital learning tools, advancing women's participation in non-traditional trades, building inclusive training models, and forging sustainable industry linkages. Ahead of the ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the trainers and lauded their contribution to a "skilled and empowered India." For Guwahati, industry voices

noted that this recognition will boost confidence in the Northeast's skill training ecosystem. With Assam positioning itself as an emerging hub for ITIs and vocational institutes, the awards are expected to inspire greater youth participation in market-ready skilling, aligning with regional job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities. In total, 81 educators across schools, higher education, and skill training were honoured, reflecting NEP 2020's vision of integrating skilling into mainstream education and advancing India's Skill Capital ambition.

Vodafone Idea disputes DoT demand

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea has approached the Supreme Court of India in a fresh writ petition. The company has challenged the calculation behind the revised AGR as per a report by CNBC-TV18. It has also asked for the additional tax demand by DoT for FY17 to be set aside, added the CNBC TV-18 report. In the writ petition, Vodafone Idea has approached the Supreme Court to quash the Department of Telecom's fresh tax demand of Rs 2,774 crore. DoT demand exceeds court ruling.



Godrej Agrovet opens first Samadhan Center in Mizoram, pioneer oil palm growth

Aizawl: Godrej Agrovet Limited's Oil Palm Business has inaugurated its first Samadhan center for oil palm farmers in Bukvannei, Kolasib district, signaling a major push to modernize the state's palm oil sector. Samadhan, a one-stop solution (OSS) center, provides farmers with end-to-end support—from seed to harvest—offering access to advanced tools, advisory services, and productivity-enhancing solutions. The launch was attended by Joseph Lalnuntluanga, District Agriculture Officer, Kolasib; Lianthanzauva, Assistant Director of Agriculture; and Sougata Niyogi, CEO



— Oil Palm Business, Godrej Agrovet. Mizoram, under the National Mission on Edible Oil – Oil Palm (NMEOP), has a cultivation potential of 60,000–70,000 hectares. The center will guide farmers on balanced fertilizer application, soil

testing, irrigation solutions including drip systems, and overall farm management to address seasonal water challenges.

Sougata Niyogi emphasized, "Samadhan reinforces our commitment to sustainable development

and empowers farmers with access to government schemes, developmental finance, and modern agricultural technologies." Each center targets support for around 2,000 hectares of oil palm cultivation, ensuring sustained productivity in mature gardens. In Aizawl, the Samadhan center is expected to boost demand for quality oil palm seedlings and related inputs. Local farmers now gain easier access to expert guidance, modern technologies, and financial assistance, fostering wider adoption of oil palm cultivation and strengthening the regional agribusiness ecosystem.

Ujjivan SFB targets ₹1 lakh crore loans, boosts secured lending by FY30

Agartala: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) has unveiled its strategic roadmap to achieve a Gross Loan Book (GLB) of ₹1 lakh crore by FY30, building on its journey since commencing small finance bank operations in 2017. The growth strategy focuses on portfolio diversification, stronger liability franchise, and operational efficiency to boost profitability.

The bank has steadily shifted towards secured lending, rising from 16%

in FY19 to 46% in Q1FY26, and now aims to push this to 65%–70% by FY30 through affordable housing, MSME loans, vehicle finance, gold loans, agri loans, and new mid-corporate products. Ujjivan's liability base remains robust with deposits of ₹38,619 crore, 72% of which are retail. The bank plans to expand its branch network from 752 to about 1,150 branches, targeting CASA growth from 24.3% to 35%. In Agartala, Ujjivan's

expansion as a boost for small businesses and traders who often depend on informal borrowing. Access to structured housing and MSME credit could provide stability to shopkeepers and entrepreneurs, strengthening retail and trade activity in the city's competitive market. CEO Sanjeev Nautiyal said the bank expects annual GLB growth of 20%–25%, aiming for RoE of 16%–18% and RoA of 1.8%–2.0% by FY30.

IBC tightens fund rules

New Delhi: The government is planning to have a more foolproof mechanism to curb instances of company promoters diverting funds fraudulently before filing for personal insolvency. According to a new provision Section 164A introduced in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendments) Bill, 2025, resolution professionals (RPs) can approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to bring all kinds of "avoidance transactions".

Medanta-Nagaland health booklet signals policy shift toward preventive care

Kohima: The Medicity, Gurgaon, in partnership with the Government of Nagaland and the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), has launched "A Guide to Better Health," a preventive healthcare booklet aimed at lawmakers, officials, and the public. The move reflects a broader policy approach in India that prioritizes preventive health-

care as a means of reducing long-term economic and social costs. The initiative, conceptualized by Assembly Speaker Sharingain Longkumer and supported by the Department of Youth Resources and Sports, was unveiled by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. Over 200 legislators and senior officials received copies, while digital dissemination is expected to improve accessibility.

Abu Metha, Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chair of IDAN, emphasized the state's commitment to positioning health as a strategic policy priority. Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, highlighted prevention as the most cost-effective form of healthcare. In Kohima, the booklet represents an important intersection between public health and

economic resilience. As the city's commercial hubs expand, preventive health awareness can safeguard workforce productivity, lower medical expenditure, and support stable economic growth. The launch builds on Medanta's MoU with the state under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme and its recent medical camp in Kohima, which benefitted over 400 people.

Standard Bank backs East Africa pipeline

New Delhi: Standard Bank Group Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Sim Tshabalala said the benefits of an oil pipeline the continent's biggest lender is funding in East Africa outweigh the environmental risks.

TotalEnergies SE's \$5 billion 1,443-kilometer (897 mile) East African Crude Oil Pipeline being built to transport landlocked crude in Uganda to the coast for export has faced resistance from environmental groups

that scrutinized potential lenders. Opponents have included Ugandan activists, European Parliament members and environmental groups. "Yes, there are environmental costs, but these are being minimized, and

the net effect is that the project is worth it, now and into the future, considering all the facts which include that East Africa has a right to economic development and that people need energy, they need income."

Nissan cuts Magnite prices, passes GST benefit

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has passed on the entire benefit of the revised GST rate to customers, cutting prices of its New Nissan Magnite variants by up to ₹1 lakh. The decision comes ahead of the festive season, with the company projecting stronger retail momentum and higher customer engagement. Post revision, the New Nissan Magnite Visia MT is now available under ₹6 lakh, while the N-Connecta CVT and KURO Special Edition CVT variants fall below ₹10 lakh. The premium CVT Tekna and Tekna+ trims have seen reductions of nearly ₹97,300 and ₹1,00,400 respectively. Additionally, the Magnite CNG retrofitment kit

is now priced at ₹71,999, offering savings of ₹3,000 and retaining segment-best 336-litre boot space. In Guwahati, a key growth market for compact SUVs in the Northeast, dealers anticipate robust festive demand. The combination of aggressive pricing, 5-star GNCAP safety rating, and Nissan's 10-year extended warranty is expected to attract both first-time buyers and urban families seeking long-term value. Calling the move a "timely stimulus," Nissan MD Saurabh Vatsa said the GST cut will not only enhance affordability but also act as a growth driver for India's automotive industry. Revised prices will be effective from September 22, coinciding with Navratri.

Truecaller uses AI to enhance caller ID



Guwahati: Truecaller, the global caller ID and communication platform with over 450 million active users, has launched an AI-powered upgrade in India, transforming how users interact with incoming calls. Beyond revealing caller names, the platform now provides real-time contextual insights, including potential fraud detection, spam identification, and business classification, offering clarity on why someone is calling.

"People hesitate to answer unknown calls because they lack context, and in today's world, context is everything," said Rishit Jhunjunwala, Global CEO of Truecaller. "Our AI delivers real-time intelligence, helping users make informed decisions the moment their phone rings." Truecaller's AI engine interprets billions of signals daily from calls, messages, and user reports, dynamically generating insights without requiring manual labeling or business registration. Features include classification of business types such

as delivery, customer support, and insurance, alerts on suspicious behavior, and AI summaries of hundreds of user comments instantly.

The scale of phone scams underscores the need for such solutions. In 2024, Truecaller detected over 56 billion spam and fraud calls globally, while worldwide losses from scams reached an estimated \$1.03 trillion. Leveraging a community-driven model, the platform combines AI intelligence with human feedback, adapting to emerging fraud patterns in real time. With growing smartphone adoption and rising digital engagement in Guwahati, Truecaller's AI-powered insights are poised to gain traction among local users. Consumers frequently targeted by telemarketing calls and potential scams can now benefit from immediate context, enhancing trust and safety. For local businesses, verified and dynamically classified calls enable better customer interaction and engagement, reflecting the city's evolving digital ecosystem.





Angelina Jolie dazzles at TIFF 2025 with emotional new film 'Couture'

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie made a stunning appearance at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2025 for the screening of her latest movie, 'Couture'. Popular for her elegance both on and off screen, Jolie looked effortlessly chic in a double-breasted coat dress, paired with tights and classic black heels. The film, which tells the

story of an American filmmaker navigating the glittering world of Parisian fashion while facing a life-altering medical diagnosis, had the audience captivated.

Jolie spoke openly with reporters about the deeper themes of the movie, revealing her own thoughts on life, illness, and resilience. "People often see death as the end," Jolie shared during

the event. "But I see it as a transition, a time that shows strength and the continuation of someone's impact. Every one of us faces health challenges, whether it's ourselves or someone we love. Too often, we stop living, and we forget who we are. In this film, my character discovers she has cancer and tries to figure out how to keep living. She pushes herself forward, and that's

a lesson we all need, to support each other and to keep moving forward."

The movie is also making headlines for breaking new ground in the fashion world. 'Couture' is the first fictional film ever to be shot inside Chanel's legendary Paris showroom and atelier, giving viewers an unprecedented behind-the-scenes glimpse into the luxury fashion empire.

Aryan Khan Drops The Electrifying Trailer of The Ba***ds of Bollywood



The wait is finally over. Aryan Khan has unveiled the trailer of his directorial debut series The Ba***ds of Bollywood and it is every bit dramatic, cheeky, and unapologetic as fans hoped it would be. With seven episodes packed with glamour, ambition, and plenty of sharp humour, the show is shaping up to be one of the most exciting new releases of the year.

At the centre of the story is Aasmaan Singh, played by Lakshya, a young dreamer who dares to believe he can conquer the world's most colourful film industry. Supporting him on this journey are his witty best friend Parvaiz (Raghav Juyal), his sharp manager Sanya (Any

Singh), and his family, uncle Avtar (Manoj Pahwa), mother Neeta (Mona Singh), and father Rajat (Vijayant Kohli).

But dreams are never easy to chase. Aasmaan's biggest test comes in the form of superstar Ajay Talvar, essayed by Bobby Deol, who brings all the firepower of a seasoned performer. The stakes grow even higher when Aasmaan is cast opposite Ajay's daughter, Karishma (Sahher Bambba), leading to a mix of rivalry, ego clashes, and personal battles. The plot thickens further with Freddy Sodawallah (Manish Chaudhari), a cunning producer, and Jaraj Saxena (Rajat Bedi), a faded star yearning for a comeback.

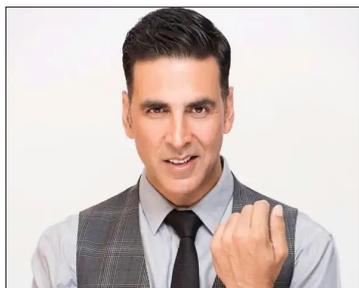
Gandhi Gets a Standing Ovation at TIFF



The upcoming Indian series Gandhi received a standing ovation at its world premiere during the 50th Toronto International Film Festival. The event saw filmmaker Hansal Mehta, lead actor Pratik Gandhi, and music legend AR Rahman in attendance, creating a star-studded moment that captured the attention of audiences and media alike. Hollywood actor Tom Felton, famously known for his role as Draco Malfoy in Harry Potter, will be making his Bollywood debut with Gandhi.

Bollywood Stars wish Akshay Kumar

Akshay Kumar, one of Bollywood's most loved and versatile stars, turns 58 today. With a career spanning over 34 years and more than 150 films, the actor has built an extraordinary legacy. From action-packed thrillers to comedies and emotional dramas, he continues to remain one of the most dependable and admired names in the industry. On his big day, Akshay penned a heartfelt note on Instagram that read, "Good morning, everyone! 58 years in the making, 34 years in this industry,



over 150 films and counting. To everyone that ever believed in me, who bought a ticket, who signed me, produced me, directed me, and guided me, this is your journey as much as mine. I'm just here to say an eternal 'Thank you' for every kind action, unconditional support, and word of encouragement. I am nothing without you; my birthday is a dedication to all those that still believe in me." Signing off, he added, "Love & Prayers, Your Akshay Jai Mahakal."

Salman Khan Shares His First Look From The Set of Battle of Galwan

Bollywood actor Salman Khan dropped a photo from the set of his upcoming film, Battle of Galwan. While he did not reveal his full look, we could see him sporting the Army uniform, along with a moustache. The actor's face was hidden by the clapboard. Sharing the photo, he wrote, "#BattleOfGalwan" The superstar's fans took to the comment section to share their excitement. One fan wrote, "Bhai Again In Form" while another added, "Loving it bhaijaan" A separate comment read, "Old swag return"

After Salman Khan's previous film Sikandar failed to impress, fans have been eagerly waiting for updates on Battle of Galwan. Seeing the actor back in action has surely raised the an-



icipation for the film. Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the movie is based on the intense 2020 conflict between Indian and Chinese forces in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh. The first look of Khan's character was unveiled last month. In the motion poster, he appeared with bloodstains on his face, a sharp moustache,

and a powerful expression filled with pride and determination. Salman Khan spoke about the physical challenges he faced while playing his character in the film. He said, "It is physically demanding. Every year, every month, every day it gets more and more difficult. I have to give more time now."

India's attack gains backing



Bengaluru: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has thrown his full support behind the national team's aggressive batting approach, stating that the high-risk, high-reward strategy under current mentor Gautam Gambhir is the right formula for success in the shortest format. With the Asia Cup 2025 set to begin on September 9, Shastri believes India should maintain their attacking mindset unless pitch conditions demand a tactical shift. In a media interaction organized by Sony Sports Network, Shastri remarked, "India will continue to play in the same attacking manner, unless of course, the pitches are slow. As the tournament progresses, the pitches will tire and getting those big scores might not be easy. They will then have to adapt, but aggression remains the core approach".

Duleep Trophy 2025

Pacers deliver it for South Zone

Bengaluru: South Zone secured their place in the final of the Duleep Trophy 2025 after a disciplined and incisive performance by their pace attack dismantled North Zone's batting lineup on the final day of the semi-final at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. Resuming play at 278/5 and trailing South Zone's imposing first-innings total of 536 by 258 runs, North Zone's hopes rested heavily on overnight centurion Shubham Khajuria. How-

ever, pacer Vasuki Koushik struck early, clean bowling Khajuria for 128 in just the second over of the day, triggering a collapse that saw North Zone bundled out for 361 in 100.1 overs. South Zone's fast bowlers exploited the overcast conditions with precision. Gurjapneet Singh led the attack with figures of 4/96, while MD Nidheesh chipped in with 3/82. Their strategy—mixing short-pitched deliveries with full-length balls.

Carlos Alcaraz beats Jannik Sinner to win US Open title

New York: Carlos Alcaraz delivered a commanding performance to defeat Jannik Sinner in the final of the 2025 US Open, securing his second title at Flushing Meadows and sixth Grand Slam overall. The 22-year-old Spaniard prevailed in four sets—6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4—at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, September 7, reclaiming the world No. 1 ranking and ending



Sinner's 27-match winning streak at hard-court majors. The match marked the third consecutive Grand Slam final between Alcaraz and Sinner, underscoring a

burgeoning rivalry that has come to define the new era of men's tennis. Alcaraz, who had lost to Sinner in the Wimbledon final earlier this year, avenged that defeat with a performance that combined precision, power, and flair. Alcaraz broke Sinner's serve in the opening game and dominated the first set with aggressive baseline play and deft drop shots.

Messi dazzles in home farewell, Paraguay and Colombia secure World Cup spots

Messi confirms Venezuela match as final home qualifier

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi delivered a stellar performance in what he confirmed would be his final home World Cup qualifier, scoring twice in Argentina's 3-0 victory over Venezuela. The match, held at the Estadio Monumental, was a poignant moment for the 38-year-old captain, who expressed deep gratitude to fans for their unwavering support throughout his



career. Messi opened the scoring in the 39th minute,

converting a swift counter-attack initiated by Julian Alvarez. Lautaro Martinez added a second in the 76th minute with a diving header from a Nico Gonzalez cross, and Messi sealed the win four minutes later with a composed finish assisted by Thiago Almada.

Argentina tops South America, already qualified for 2026 World Cup tournament.

BCCI earnings hits peak



Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has significantly expanded its financial reserves, adding ₹14,627 crore over the past five years, including ₹4,193 crore in the financial year 2023-24, according to figures shared ahead of its Annual General Meeting scheduled for September 28. The cricket board's total cash and bank balance now stands at ₹20,686 crore, up from ₹6,059 crore in 2019. This growth comes after disbursing all dues to state associations, indicating robust fiscal management and diversified revenue streams.

The BCCI's general fund nearly doubled during the same period, rising from ₹3,906 crore in 2019 to ₹7,988 crore in 2024. The board has also provisioned ₹3,150 crore toward income tax obligations for FY 2023-24, while continuing to contest certain assessments in courts and tribunals. Despite the overall financial upswing, the board reported a sharp decline in earnings from Team India matches and media rights. Gross media rights income fell from ₹2,524.80 crore in 2022-23 to ₹813.14 crore in 2023-24, attributed to fewer home internationals and the hosting of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

Sinner defeats Auger-Aliassime, to meet Alcaraz in Grand Slam final

Sinner defeats Auger-Aliassime, reaches US Open final

New York: Jannik Sinner took a medical timeout because of a bothersome abdominal muscle during a mid-match lull before re-taking control for a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime in the US Open semi-final on Friday night, moving closer to a second consecutive title at Flushing Meadows. No one has repeated as the men's champion in New York since Roger Federer took five trophies in a row from 2004-08. The No. 1-seeded Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy, will face No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, on Sunday, making them the first men in tennis history to meet in three straight Grand Slam finals within a single season, according to the ATP. The top spot in the rankings will be on the line, too, in front of an Arthur Ashe Stadium audience that is expected to include President Donald Trump. "It's a very special



day," Sinner said about Sunday's matchup. "It's a very amazing final again." Alcaraz got there by defeating 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2 earlier Friday.

Sinner advanced to his fifth consecutive title match at a Slam. He beat Taylor Fritz at Flushing Meadows 12 months ago and Alexander Zverev at the Australian Open in January, then lost to Alcaraz at the French Open in June, before beating his rival at Wimbledon in July. "Amazing season," Sinner said. "Against Au-

ger-Aliassime, Sinner was terrific in the opening set, merely so-so in the next, when the abdominal issue limited his ability to serve his best, according to one of his coaches, Simone Vagnozzi. "Sometimes you're tired and you can't let your opponent see that. At a certain point in the second set, his level went down. And naturally, if your opponent sees that, he can take energy from that," Vagnozzi said. "So you have to be good at masking your emotions and masking the physical issues Jannik had today."

Pakistan skips Women's World Cup ceremony

Lahore: Pakistan will not participate in the ICC Women's World Cup opening ceremony scheduled to be held in Guwahati on September 30, according to Geo Super. A grand opening ceremony is set to take place before the tournament opener between India and Sri Lanka, the two hosts of the tournament. Famous Indian singer Shreya Ghoshal will enchant the spectators with her melodious voice.

However, sources informed Geo News that neither captain Fatima Sana nor any other representative from Pakistan will be travelling to India to attend the opening ceremony. There are speculations that Pakistan's absence stems from the recent policy that was adopted by both nations during the buildup to the Champions Trophy. Pakistan and India won't cross the border to compete in the ICC tournament for the next three



years. Due to strained political relations between the two nations, India has not toured Pakistan since 2008. In February, Pakistan hosted the Champions Trophy, but the eventual winners, India, refused to cross the border due to the geopolitical situation between the two neighbouring countries.

As a result, Pakistan will play all of its fixtures at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. If they manage to make their way through to the semi-finals on October 29 and the final on November 2, Colombo will play host to both matches. Pakistan will begin its campaign against Bangladesh on October 2.

