



## World Needs Workforce, New Alliance



**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has expressed confidence that global commerce will adapt to geopolitical turbulence, saying that India is already expanding its partnerships with new regions like Latin America and the Caribbean to diversify its economy.

Speaking at a panel discussion on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Jaishankar said while uncertainty was reshaping international relations, trade and workforce mobility would continue to push through barriers. "The world will increasingly require a global workforce. Trade has always found ways to adjust and even in uncertain times, new arrangements in technology, connectivity and workplace models will emerge. The global landscape could look very different within a short span," he remarked.

## US, Israel close to agreement on Trump plan to end Gaza war, Axios reporter says

**Washington:** The United States and Israel are reportedly close to finalizing an agreement based on a peace initiative proposed by President Donald Trump to end the ongoing war in Gaza, according to a report by Axios journalist Barak Ravid. The plan, which has been under quiet negotiation for several weeks, aims



to establish a framework for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, facilitate humanitarian aid to Gaza, and lay the groundwork for long-term regional stability.

Sources familiar with the discussions told Axios that the proposal includes provisions for international oversight, reconstruction efforts, and potential prisoner exchanges. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and senior members of his cabinet have held multiple consultations with US envoys in recent days.

## Priyanka Gandhi tours Asia's oldest Nilambur Teak Plantation

**Nilambur:** Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the historic teak plantation in Nilambur, Kerala, on Sunday, marking a symbolic gesture of environmental awareness and heritage appreciation. The Nilambur Teak Plantation, established in the 1840s during British rule, is recognized as Asia's oldest and remains a vital ecological and cultural



landmark. During her visit, Priyanka Gandhi interacted with forest officials, local conservationists, and tribal community members who have long been stewards of the region's biodiversity.

## ECI Appoints Observers For Bihar Polls

**Patna:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has officially appointed a team of observers to oversee the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled to be held later this year. The move is part of the Commission's broader strategy to ensure free, fair, and transparent electoral conduct across all constituencies in the state. According to sources within the ECI, the appointed observers include senior IAS, IPS, and IRS officers with extensive experience in election management. These officials



will be tasked with monitoring poll preparedness, law and order, expenditure tracking, and adherence to the Model Code of Conduct. The observers will be deployed across Bihar's 243 assembly constituencies and are expected to coordinate closely with district election officers and local administration.

## Kolkata Puja Organisers Accuse Police of Curtailing Festivities

**Kolkata:** Several Durga Puja organisers in Kolkata have raised concerns over alleged attempts by local police authorities to restrict traditional festivities ahead of the city's grand celebration season. The accusations come as preparations intensify for one of India's largest cultural events, with thousands of community-led pujas scheduled across the metropolis. Organisers from multiple prominent puja committees claim that police officials have imposed



excessive restrictions on sound systems, crowd management, and procession timings, which they argue could dampen the spirit of the festival. Some committee members allege that permissions for cultur-

al programs and late-night activities are being delayed or denied without clear justification. "We understand the need for law and order, but the current approach feels unnecessarily harsh," said a spokesperson.

## Jairan Ramesh, Tejashwi Yadav target NDA ahead of Bihar polls politics

### He said that Politically aware Biharis will defeat BJP's tactics

**Patna:** With the Bihar Assembly elections approaching, opposition leaders Jairam Ramesh of the Congress and Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have intensified their criticism of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), accusing it of corruption, vote manipulation, and lack of vision.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took aim at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent assertion that the NDA would secure over 160 seats out of 243 in the upcoming polls. Ramesh alleged that the BJP's strategy hinges on "Vote Chori" (vote theft) and "Vote Revdi" (vote giveaways), coining a new political acronym



"VC + VR." He stated, "The politically conscious people of Bihar will defeat these machinations. The tremors will first be felt in New Delhi".

Meanwhile, Tejashwi Yadav, Leader of the Op-

position in Bihar, launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's administration, calling it a "copycat government" devoid of original vision. Yadav claimed that the NDA was replicating RJD's pro-

posals without a clear roadmap. "We have a vision for Bihar. This government is visionless," he said.

Yadav also raised concerns about the state's financial health, questioning how the government plans to fund its promises. He cited figures from the February 2025 budget, which stood at ₹3.17 lakh crore, and noted that supplementary allocations and increased welfare spending have pushed the total commitments to ₹3.95 lakh crore. "Out of this, ₹2 lakh crore is earmarked for salaries alone. What remains for development schemes?" he asked. He further criticized the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojna.

## PM to inaugurate Delhi BJP's new Office

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the newly constructed Delhi BJP headquarters located at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg today. The event marks a significant milestone for the party's state unit, which has been operating from temporary premises for several years. Ahead of the formal inauguration, senior BJP leaders and office bearers performed a traditional 'havan' (ritual fire ceremony) at the new premises to invoke blessings and ensure auspicious beginnings. The ceremony was attended by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi, and several local MLAs and party workers. The new office is equipped with modern facilities, including digital communication infrastructure,

meeting halls, and workspaces designed to support the party's organizational activities and outreach programs. Party officials stated that the building reflects the BJP's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and grassroots engagement. Security arrangements have been tightened around the DDU Marg area in anticipation of the Prime Minister's visit. The inauguration is expected to be followed by a brief address from PM Modi, highlighting the party's vision for Delhi and its preparations for the upcoming municipal and assembly elections. The Delhi BJP has expressed confidence that the new office will serve as a strategic hub for political coordination and public service initiatives in the national capital.



# Rijiju lays foundation stone for 5 projects in Arunachal Pradesh

**Itanagar:** Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday laid the foundation stone for five projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) in Keyi Panyor and Papum Pare districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

In Keyi Panyor, the sanctioned projects include the upgradation of the community health centre at Yazali, infrastructure development of the primary health centre at Joram, and installation of solar street lamps at Peni village in Yazali circle, officials said. During his visit to the district, the minority affairs minister also interacted with traders and shopkeepers at Yazali mar-



ket on GST awareness and easing compliance. Later, while speaking at the government higher secondary school, the Union minister assured people that he would continue to push for grassroots development projects.

"Laid the foundation

stone of PMJKV projects for Infrastructure Development of Primary Health Centre, Jote and Multipurpose Hall at Sangring Village under Bokoriang-II Panchayat Sagalee in Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh," Rijiju said in a post on X.

# Mizoram's oldest woman, Lalneihsangi, dies at 108

**Aizawl:** Mizoram's oldest person, Lalneihsangi, died at a hospital here due to age-related ailments, her family said. The centenarian died at Ebenezer Medical Centre in Aizawl around 7.55 pm on Saturday, they said.

Her funeral will be held at her residence in Aizawl's Khatla neighbourhood around 1 pm on Sunday. Lalneihsangi, who was fondly called 'Pi Buangi' by locals, was declared the oldest person in Mizoram by Social Welfare Minister Lalrinpuoi on September 13.

Born and raised in Aizawl's Venghlu locality, she turned 108 on April 14. She had worked in Beha-



la Girls Home in Kolkata, which earned her the fame of being the first among Mizos to work in a rehabilitation centre. She was honoured with the 'Women of Substance' Award in recognition of her contribution to the society in 2022. Her passing is not just the loss of a centenarian but the closing of a chapter in Mizoram's living history.

She leaves behind a legacy of compassion and service that inspired generations across Mizoram.

# Woman, five insurgents held Manipur

**Imphal:** A woman was among six cadres of different armed groups including PLA arrested by the police and security forces in separate operations in the valley district on Saturday, police said on Sunday. The six cadres including the woman belonged to three armed outfits, the police said in its daily law and order update.

It said that an active cadre of the banned Peoples' Liberation Army was arrested from Kumbi Bazar in Bishnupur district. He was identified as Nongmaithem Gyaneshwor Singh (49). He was allegedly "providing logistic support to his banned organization." Another active cadre of the same armed outfit was arrested from Lamdeng Mayai Leikai in Imphal West district on Saturday. He was identified as Laishram Jiten Singh (56).

# PM pays tribute to Bhupen, Zubeen in 'Mann ki Baat'

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to legendary singer Bhupen Hazarika, emphasising how his songs connected different countries. He also remembered singer Zubeen Garg, who recently died by drowning in Singapore, describing him as one of the brightest stars of Assam.

The PM also said Garg's music will inspire generations. Modi mentioned the two musical stars from Assam during his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann ki Baat', and Tamil and Sinhala versions of a famous song of Hazarika were played during the programme. "Friends, these sounds bear witness to how Bhupen Hazarika's songs connect



different countries around the world," Modi said after playing a part of the song in the two languages.

He said it was a very commendable effort made in Sri Lanka by translating Hazarika's iconic song 'Manuhe-Manuhar Babe' into Sinhala and Tamil. "I played the audio of these very songs. A few days ago, I had the privilege of participating in Hazarika's birth centenary celebrations in Assam. It was truly a memorable event," the prime minister added.

# Nagaland achievers honoured at NIFAA Silver Jubilee Awards, Delhi

**Kohima:** A 21-member delegation from Nagaland made a notable impact at the National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activities (NIFAA) Silver Jubilee Awards 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from September 21 to 24.

Hosted by NIFAA—one of India's largest non-profit organisations and a Guinness World Record holder—the event recognised outstanding contributions in the fields of social service, youth engagement, and cultural promotion. During the ceremony, Afe Winkangshu and Rhutso-mu Pfithu were conferred with State Awards for their exceptional service and



significant contributions to society. Eight young achievers from various districts of Nagaland were honoured with the Young Champion Community Award for their impactful work as social media influencers, social workers, NSS volunteers, and public figures. The awardees included C.

Chatwang Konyak (Mon), Khumo H (Noklak), Kipangwala Longchar (Mokokchung), Enyuh Phom (Longleng), Tinglem Konyak (Chumoukedima), Thritong Sangtam (Kiphire), Nüvetta Khüsoh (Kohima), and Mezilung Nchang (Peren). Adding a cultural highlight to the occasion.

# Khagre to visit Meghalaya

**New Delhi:** Congress President, Mallikarjun Kharge is set to visit Meghalaya next month as part of the party's efforts to revive its fortunes in the hill state where the grand old party presently has zero representation in the Meghalaya Assembly, the first ever setback since 1972. The state Congress unit is currently undergoing a restructuring process, with deliberations underway in Delhi to chart out the party's future course.

The grand-old-party had been in the opposition or ruling in Meghalaya over the past five decades and the party had never missed to have elected MLAs in state assembly. However, the Congress party's decline in Meghalaya this time has been dramatic, as its three MLAs – Dr Celestine Lyngdoh, Gabriel Wahlang, and Charles Marmgar – defected to the National People's Party (NPP) in August 2024, leaving the party with just one legislator in the 60-member assembly. Interestingly, the lone Congress MLA, Ronnie V. Lyngdoh also defected to the ruling NPP in July this year.

# Candlelight protests in Assam; AASU demands justice

## Thousands join AASU's candlelight protest demanding justice for Zubeen Garg

**Guwahati:** Widespread candlelight protests swept across Assam on Friday evening, as citizens rallied in solidarity with popular singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg, whose recent health emergency has sparked public outrage over alleged lapses in medical response and administrative coordination. Organized by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), the demonstra-



tions took place in multiple districts including Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, and Tezpur, drawing hundreds of participants from di-

verse age groups. Protesters held candles, placards, and photographs of Garg, demanding swift action and transparency from au-

thorities.

AASU leaders accused key officials of negligence in handling Garg's medical crisis, which reportedly involved delays in emergency care and inadequate preparedness at the hospital where he was first admitted. "This is not just about Zubeen Garg. It's about the dignity and safety of every citizen," said AASU General Secretary Sankar Jyoti Baruah. "We

demand immediate arrests of those responsible for the lapses and a thorough investigation into the chain of events."

Zubeen Garg, known for his contributions to Assamese music and cinema, remains under medical supervision. His condition is reported to be stable, but the incident has reignited public discourse on healthcare accessibility and governance in the state.



# BSNL rolls out swadeshi 4G, linking 26,700 villages

**Mumbai:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), C-DOT, and Tejas Networks, today announced the launch of the Bharat Telecom Stack, India's first fully indigenous 4G network. The rollout extends connectivity to 26,700 additional villages, reinforcing BSNL's commitment to digital inclusion and supporting the Government of India's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Developed as a mission-mode project over two years, the Bharat Telecom Stack integrates C-DOT's EPC core applications, Tejas Networks' base stations and ra-



dio infrastructure across 100,000 sites, and TCS' Cognitive Network Operations platform for 24/7 real-time monitoring. BSNL CMD A Robert J Ravi described the launch as "a monumental achievement for national pride," emphasizing its role in enabling telemedicine, online

education, e-governance, and other citizen services across urban and rural India.

BSNL Director Sandeep Govil highlighted that the network is future-ready, scalable for 5G, and underscores India's leadership in homegrown telecom technology.

# DSP Mutual Fund unveils India's first Flexi Cap ETF

**Guwahati:** DSP Mutual Fund has unveiled India's first Flexi Cap Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) – the DSP Nifty 500 FlexiCap Quality 30 ETF – aimed at simplifying long-term investing while ensuring exposure to quality companies across large, mid, and small caps. The ETF tracks the Nifty 500 FlexiCap Quality 30 TRI, a benchmark that dynamically adjusts allocations based on market momentum, automatically increasing exposure to mid and small caps when they outperform and shifting towards large caps in leading phases.

The ETF offers investors a low-cost, single-product solution that combines flexibility, quality, and transparency. Since its inception in

October 2009, the underlying index has delivered a 17.6% CAGR, outperforming the broader Nifty 500 TRI while cushioning investors during market downturns, including 2011, 2018, and the 2020 COVID crash. The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open from September 25 to October 6, 2025. The fund provides a "true-to-label" Flexi Cap strategy, addressing a gap in the Indian market where most diversified funds remain confined to narrow allocation ranges. Investors can gain exposure to a concentrated 30-stock portfolio built on strict quality criteria, offering potential long-term wealth creation with minimal monitoring. In Guwahati, investors eye ETF for balanced, long-term growth potential.

# RBI May Hold Rates On Oct 1



**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is widely expected to maintain the benchmark repo rate at 5.5% in its upcoming monetary policy announcement on October 1, as the central bank weighs domestic growth momentum against global uncertainties and inflation trends.

The three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, began today in Mumbai. The outcome, scheduled for release on Wednesday morning, will be closely watched by markets, businesses, and policymakers for cues on borrowing costs and the central bank's stance on future rate actions.

# Gold surges on dollar slide

**New Delhi:** Gold jumped to a record high above \$3,800 per ounce on Monday, supported by a weaker dollar and growing expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates further this year. Spot gold rose 1.5% to \$3,814.91 per ounce by 0624 GMT. U.S. gold futures for December delivery gained 0.9% to \$3,844. The U.S. dollar index eased 0.2% against its rivals, making greenback-priced bullion less expensive for overseas buyers. Pendlures Price Index (PCE) rose 0.3%

# Amway India unveils new Artistry serums with Nutrilite botanicals

**Imphal:** Amway India has unveiled its latest skincare innovations, the Artistry Skin Nutrition Defying Serum and Correcting Serum, designed to address early and advanced signs of skin aging. Building on the company's existing Hydrating, Balancing, and Renewing & Firming ranges, these new offerings combine over 90 years of Nutrilite botanical expertise with advanced Artistry skin science to deliver firmer, smoother, and

healthier-looking skin.

The Defying Serum targets early visible signs of aging, while the Correcting Serum focuses on advanced skin aging and loss of firmness. Crafted with 16 plant extracts sourced from Nutrilite-approved farms, the formulations emphasize safety, purity, and efficacy, aligning with growing consumer demand for plant-based, high-performance skincare products. Speaking at the launch, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing

Director of Amway India, highlighted the expanding Indian skincare market, noting rising awareness, disposable incomes, and a preference for natural ingredients. "The launch of these serums reflects our commitment to blending science and nature to meet evolving consumer needs," he said.

In Imphal, the introduction of these premium serums is expected to resonate with urban consumers seeking high-quality,

plant-powered skincare. Local beauty retailers report a growing demand for products that combine efficacy with natural ingredients, positioning Amway's latest launch as a timely addition to the city's skincare offerings.

Amrita Asrani, Chief Marketing Officer, added that the new serums support essential skin nutrition, offering next-gen solutions for ageless, radiant skin tailored to today's fast-paced lifestyles.

# Markets recover after sharp drop

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Monday after registering a sharp fall last week, amid value-buying at lower levels and a firm trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 255.46 points to 80,681.92 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 89.05 points to 24,743.75. From the Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, Eternal, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Titan and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the major gainers. However, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded in positive territory, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index quoted lower. US markets ended higher on Friday. While US markets got a breather with the Dow snapping a 5-day losing streak.

# Shopsy Mela 2025 fuels festive buys, uplifts Bharat's sellers

**Guwahati:** Shopsy by Flipkart has set the tone for the festive season with its Grand ShopsyMela 2025, registering a strong surge in orders and app installs from Tier 3 and 4+ towns. Over 70% of activity came from smaller cities, underscoring the growing appetite for affordable, quality products in Bharat. Millennials and Gen Z shoppers accounted for more than 80% of buyers, driving record growth in household essentials, men's fashion, and footwear. Repeat buyers rose 44%, reflecting increasing

shopper loyalty. The festival sale featured over 1 crore products priced under ₹149 across 1,300 categories, including festive kurtas, home décor, earbuds, and men's analog watches. Household items saw a 108% jump in demand, while men's casual wear and footwear grew by 95%, highlighting shoppers' value-conscious yet style-focused choices. Shopsy also launched its Seller Rewards Program to recognize top-performing sellers and empower local businesses. In Guwahati, the Grand Shopsy Mela re-

corded strong engagement, with significant orders for household essentials, ethnic wear, and footwear. Local sellers reported increased visibility and repeat orders, demonstrating the platform's growing penetration in Assam and its role in strengthening digital commerce in the northeast. Kapil Thirani, VP, Shopsy and Flipkart Marketplace, said, "The overwhelming response reinforces our commitment to democratizing e-commerce and delivering value to every Indian household."

# Tata Capital, WeWork Head October IPO Wave

**Mumbai:** India's capital markets are witnessing a surge in high-profile public offerings this October, led by Tata Capital and WeWork India. These IPOs mark a significant shift from the mid-sized and SME listings that dominated the previous quarter, signaling renewed investor appetite for large-cap entries. Tata Capital is set to launch its ₹15,511.87 crore initial public offering (IPO), making it the largest public issue of 2025. The IPO opens on October 6 and closes on October 8, with a price band of ₹310-₹326



per equity share. The offering comprises a fresh issue of ₹6,846 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of ₹8,665.87 crore by Tata Sons and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The listing fulfills the Reserve Bank of India's mandate for upper-layer non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to go public within three years of classification.



## Škoda Octavia RS returns to India; pre-bookings open October 6

**Guwahati:** Škoda Auto India has announced the much-awaited return of its legendary performance sedan, the Octavia RS. Pre-bookings will open on October 6, 2025, exclusively through the company's official website. Available in limited numbers as a Fully-Built Unit (FBU), the Octavia RS aims to reignite the passion of Indian driving enthusiasts with sharper design, advanced dynamics, and the iconic RS badge.

Ashish Gupta, Brand Director of Škoda Auto India, said, "Earlier this year, we promised that a global icon would return to India. Today, I'm proud to announce that we've delivered on that promise with the Octavia RS. With this launch, we're not just bringing back a



car. We're bringing back an emotion." The RS badge, derived from Škoda's rallying heritage, first entered India in 2004 and quickly built a cult following. Known for its turbocharged petrol engine and European engineering, each RS generation has maintained strong appeal among performance-seeking buyers.

In Guwahati, there is a growing interest in premium performance cars as

incomes rise among young professionals and entrepreneurs. The return of the Octavia RS is expected to boost demand in Assam's capital, where Škoda already enjoys strong visibility through its Kushaq and Slavia models.

Škoda Auto India, present in 177 cities with over 310 touchpoints, continues to expand its portfolio as part of the global Next Level Škoda Strategy.

## Siemens Healthineers launches India-wide campaign to ease scan-related anxiety

**Guwahati:** Siemens Healthineers India has launched its nationwide 'Knowing is Comforting' campaign to address Scanxiety – the stress and fear experienced by patients before, during, and after medical imaging scans. The initiative aims to raise awareness about diagnostic procedures such as Mammography, MRI, CT, and PET CT, while highlighting advances in imaging technology that make scans more comfortable and patient-friendly.

The campaign features awareness videos in English and nine regional languages, including Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu. According to Hariharan Subramanian, Managing Director of Siemens Healthcare



Pvt. Ltd., "Early and precise diagnosis leads to better outcomes, timely treatment, and effective management of lifestyle diseases. Scanxiety, the fear of scans, is the biggest hurdle between you and the early diagnosis. The cure to this common fear is knowledge. Once you know more, you will be less anxious. Scan to know how technological innovations, designed and built keeping you in mind, are transforming the whole scanning experience."

Pranav Patil, Head of Communications-Zone India, added that the content aims to simplify complex imaging technology and reach diverse communities, emphasizing that modern diagnostic imaging is advanced yet patient-centric. The campaign spans digital, offline, and media plat-

forms, with all video content available on the company's website. In Guwahati, healthcare providers and diagnostic centers have welcomed the campaign, noting that awareness about Scanxiety is low despite the city's growing demand for diagnostic imaging. Local hospitals report that patient anxiety often delays scan appointments, and initiatives like this could help enhance patient confidence, improve scan compliance, and streamline healthcare delivery across Assam.

## Medanta's "Jaanta Hai Medanta" campaign set to boost cancer awareness, starts with breast cancer drive

**New Delhi:** Medanta – The Medicity, recently recognized as India's Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for six consecutive years, has launched a year-long "Jaanta Hai Medanta" campaign aimed at raising awareness and driving action against cancer across India. The campaign begins with a focus on Breast Cancer, which constitutes

one in four cancers among women globally.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India reported over 14 lakh cancer cases in 2023, underscoring the need for early detection and public awareness. Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, stated, "Cancer care must be

evidence-based, humane, and accessible. Medanta leverages advanced technologies and research to improve outcomes at all stages of the disease." The campaign features the innovative "Aao Dekho Seekho" kiosks, designed to educate women on correct self-breast examination techniques. Group CEO Pankaj Sahni highlight-

ed that the initiative represents Medanta's promise of empathy and support for patients throughout their journey. Medanta plans to expand the campaign to other cancers in the coming months and has launched a dedicated Northeast Helpline, currently operating in Assamese, Nagamese, English, and Hindi, with plans to include Bengali and Mizo.

## Zomato proudly supports para-athletes as World Para Athletics Championship makes its historic debut in India

**Dimapur:** Zomato, India's leading food delivery and restaurant discovery platform, has partnered with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) to mark the historic debut of the World Para Athletics Championship in India. The collaboration is highlighted through a powerful new campaign under Zomato's "Fuel Your Hustle" initiative, celebrating Indian para-athletes who exemplify resilience, discipline, and determina-

tion. The campaign shines a spotlight on seven athletes—Rinku Hooda, Hokato Sema, Pranav Soorma, Simran Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Preethi Pal, and Yogesh Kathuniya—showcasing their relentless training routines, mental battles, and journey to excellence. Through films, print, digital media, and outdoor campaigns, Zomato emphasizes that perseverance and self-belief define champions, inspiring millions be-

yond the realm of sports.

Sahibjeet Singh Sawhney, Zomato Marketing Head, said, "These athletes show up with crazy discipline, day in and day out. That's what inspired us to partner with the Paralympic Committee of India. Seeing homegrown talent compete at the highest level reminds us what real hustle looks like."

In Kohima, the campaign is generating excitement among local residents, with

many expressing pride in seeing athletes from the Northeast, like Hokato Sema, celebrated on national platforms. Local cafes and digital communities have amplified the campaign, highlighting the growing awareness and support for para-sports in the region.

Through this initiative, Zomato reinforces its commitment to inclusivity, grit, and championing India's athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

## Fresh loan rates start hardening

**Mumbai:** In a sign that lenders are adopting a more cautious approach towards loan pricing, rates across the board have been on the rise in the past couple of months. As a result, they are recalibrating their lending strategies by increasing mark-ups on new loans, a move driven by the need to protect margins amid shifting interest rate dynamics. While weighted average lending rates on outstanding rupee loans continued their downward glide from 9.67% in May to 9.38% in July, the fresh rupee loans saw a reversal. After bottoming out at 8.62% in June, fresh lending rates edged up to 8.80% in July, signaling a hardening stance among banks towards new credit disbursement.

Subsequently, the weighted average domestic term deposit rates have declined at a slower pace. For fresh deposits, rates fell from 6.11% in May to 5.61% in



July, while outstanding deposit rates slipped modestly from 7.07% to 6.92%. This lag in deposit rate adjustment points to banks' need to retain stable funding sources even as they attempt to manage margins. Meanwhile, the MCLR (marginal cost of fund-based lending rate) stood at 8.60% as of August 2025, down 15 basis points compared to 8.75% in July 2025. Karthik Srinivasan, group head-financial services ratings, Icria, said, "Retail leading rates are linked to repo and with a cut in repo, lending rates have come down, but deposit costs have not come down as sharply. Therefore, banks are trying to increase spread on new loans to ensure they can reduce the impact on their margins."

## Tata Communications bags multi-crore govt order to build digital infrastructure

**Mumbai:** Tata Communications GSTAT project, GST Appellate Tribunal digital infrastructure, Tata IoT solutions, cloud and network services India, GSTAT technology upgrade, multi-crore Tata Communications order, secure digital ecosystem, SD-WAN GSTAT, predictive analytics GST, India technology partner. Tata Communications on Monday said it has bagged a "multi-crore" order from the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to build an end-to-end digital infrastructure spanning network, IoT, cloud, and security with integrated management across domains. The project, aimed at accelerating and streamlining GSTAT's operations, will enable seamless access across all benches nationwide.



## Honda drives growth in Northeast with launch of CB125 Hornet and Shine 100 DX in Guwahati

**Guwahati:** Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has expanded its product line in the Northeast with the launch of the all-new CB125 Hornet and Shine 100 DX in Guwahati. The CB125 Hornet is priced at Rs. 1,12,000 (introductory offer) and the Shine 100 DX at Rs. 77,668, both ex-showroom Guwahati. The company also commenced mega customer deliveries, signaling its confidence in the region's growing demand for premium and commuter motorcycles.

The CB125 Hornet targets young riders with its sporty design and advanced features including



golden USD front forks, all-LED lighting, a 4.2-inch TFT display with Honda RoadSync connectivity, and a 123.94cc engine that delivers class-leading acceleration. Meanwhile, the Shine 100 DX strengthens Honda's commuter portfolio with a refreshed

design, digital LCD cluster, and a 98.98cc fuel-injected engine with Enhanced Smart Power (eSP) technology for efficiency. In Guwahati, the launches are expected to make a strong impact as demand for two-wheelers continues to rise. Local dealers report positive customer response, with the CB125 Hornet appealing to performance-seeking youth, while the Shine 100 DX addresses the daily mobility needs of middle-class families. Analysts say Guwahati is emerging as a strategic hub for automobile sales in the Northeast, making it a crucial market for Honda's growth.

## Kenstar adds comfort, style, festive savings

**Gurugram:** As the festive season ushers in a surge of consumer demand, Kenstar, one of India's most trusted home appliance brands, is all set to delight households with a wide range of offerings that combine innovation, efficiency, and style. Unveils India's first 5-Star BEE-rated air coolers, next-gen water heaters, and kitchen appliances. This festive season, Kenstar is highlighting three marquee launches like:

India's first 5-Star BEE-rated air coolers with a 5-year warranty, equipped with BLDC Maxx Technology, Quadra Flow air delivery, Hydro Dense Mesh pads, and robust double ball

bearing motors. - Next-generation water heaters under the 'Bath Ban Jaye' campaign, designed with Swirl-Heat Technology for 20% more hot water, German Blue Sapphire coating for 40% longer lifespan, and a 7-Level Safety Shield for unmatched protection. New kitchen appliances portfolio, which includes high-performance mixer grinders, microwave ovens, induction cooktops, and its newly launched digital air fryers, offering healthier, oil-free cooking options for the modern household. These launches and extensions reaffirm Kenstar's focus on energy efficiency, durability, and lifestyle-driven design.

## Rupee strengthens to 88.69

**Mumbai:** The Indian rupee appreciated by 3 paise to reach 88.69 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, supported by a weaker greenback and steady foreign inflows. The currency opened at 88.71 at the interbank foreign exchange market and gained ground to trade at 88.69, marking a modest improvement from its previous close of 88.72. Forex dealers attributed the rupee's strength to a decline in the US dollar index, which slipped amid expectations of a pause in interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. Additionally, sustained buying by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in domestic equities contributed to the positive sentiment.

However, gains were capped by rising crude oil prices and cautious trading ahead of key macro-economic data releases later this week, including India's fiscal deficit figures and US non-farm payroll data.

On the domestic equity front, benchmark indices opened higher, with the BSE Sensex rising over 150 points and the NSE Nifty trading above the 19,800 mark, further supporting the rupee's momentum.

## L&T secures \$700M green finance deal



**Mumbai:** Larsen & Toubro on Monday announced securing a Sustainability-Linked Trade Facility (SLTF) worth \$700 million from Standard Chartered. The SLTF is tied to specified key performance indicators (KPI) such as the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions and fresh-water withdrawal, and targets that are crucial to L&T's business operations. It is also aligned with the Loan Market Association's Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles, ensuring adherence to market standards

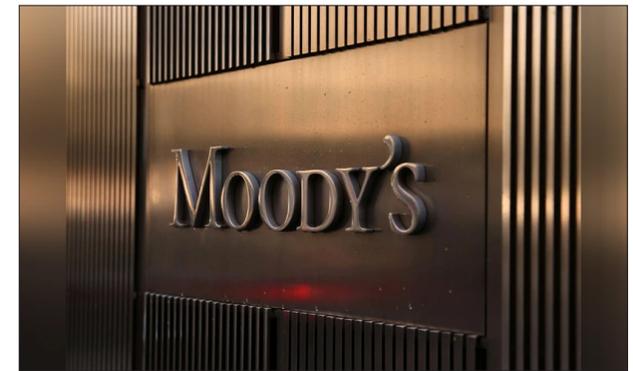
for sustainability-linked financing, L&T said in a statement.

Having issued India's first listed sustainability-linked bond, for \$60 million, under SEBI's ESG Bond Framework in June this year, L&T has now secured an SLTF worth \$700 million with Standard Chartered, the company said. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is a \$30 billion Indian multinational engaged in EPC projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services, operating across multiple geographies.

## Moody's retains India's rating at 'Baa3', maintains a stable outlook

**New Delhi:** Moody's Ratings on Monday affirmed India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured rating at Baa3 with a 'Stable' outlook on the back of robust economic growth and sound external position. The global rating agency also affirmed India's other short-term local-currency rating at P-3.

"The rating affirmation and stable outlook reflect our view that India's prevailing credit strengths, including its large, fast-growing economy, sound external position, and stable domestic financing base for ongoing fiscal deficits will be sustained," it said in a statement. These strengths lend resilience to adverse external trends, in particular as high US (Aa1 stable) tariffs and other internation-



al policy measures hinder India's capacity to attract manufacturing investment, it said. India's credit strength is balanced by long-standing weaknesses on the fiscal side, which will remain, it said. Strong GDP growth and gradual fiscal consolidation will lead to only a very gradual decline in the government's high debt burden, and will not be sufficient to materially improve weak debt affordability, especially

as recent fiscal measures to reinforce private consumption erode the government's revenue base, it said. India's long-term local-currency (LC) bond ceiling remains unchanged at A2 and its long-term foreign-currency (FC) bond ceiling remains unchanged at A3, it said. "The four-notch gap between the LC ceiling and issuer rating reflects modest external imbalances as represented by persistent.

## New rules for payments, bookings from October 1

**New Delhi:** Starting October 1, several rules related to payments, bookings and charges levied on them will get changed. These new rules will directly impact spending, driving consumption during the festive season. The changes come at a time when the new GST regime is expected to boost the sales of various prod-

ucts, and is likely to infuse more money in the economy. Mostly, the changes would be in payment rules, NPS, and IRCTC ticket booking among others.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which oversees the entire UPI payment system, will remove the collect request or pull transaction

feature from October 1. The measure is being taken to reduce the cases of fraud and scams as this feature allows people to request for money, and hence is used by scammers a number of times. From October 1, the National Pension Scheme (popularly known as NPS), will allow 100% equity investment and the

introduction of the Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF). The restrictions on limited equity investments will be removed and the non-government sector subscribers will be allowed to invest up to 100% in equity under the Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF).

However, this will also carry risks, as equity mar-

kets are highly volatile. Train ticket booking is and concerns around it affects a large number of the population as most of the ticket booking is being done through mobile application or the IRCTC website. However, the involvement of agents severely impacted the accessibility of the application.



# Asia Cup: BCCI Announces Rs 21 Cr Prize Money for Champions India Cricket

**Mumbai:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a ₹21 crore prize reward for Team India following their triumphant campaign in the 2025 Asia Cup. The announcement was made by BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who praised the team's dominant performance and resilience throughout the tournament. India clinched the Asia Cup title with a commanding win over Sri Lanka in the final, held at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The victory marked India's eighth Asia Cup title, further cementing its status as a powerhouse in Asian cricket. Jay Shah, in a post on social media, stated: "Proud moment for Indian cricket! Congratulations to our champions for their stellar performance. As a token of appreciation, BCCI is pleased to announce ₹21 crore in prize money. The Indian team, led by captain Rohit Sharma, delivered consistent performances throughout the tournament, with standout contributions from Virat



Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, and emerging star Tilak Varma. The bowling unit, in particular, drew praise for its discipline and match-winning spells in crucial games. The generous prize money reflects BCCI's commitment to rewarding excellence and boosting morale ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy scheduled for early 2026. The announcement also comes amid growing calls

for increased financial recognition of players' efforts in multi-nation tournaments.

India's Asia Cup win has sparked celebrations across the country, with fans and former cricketers lauding the team's unity and tactical execution. The BCCI is expected to host a felicitation ceremony in Mumbai next week to honour the squad. Nationwide celebrations erupted following the win,

with fans flooding social media and public spaces to cheer the Men in Blue. The BCCI is expected to host a grand felicitation ceremony in Mumbai next week, where players, coaches, and support staff will be honoured. The ₹21 crore prize will be distributed among the squad, including players, coaches, physiotherapists, and other key personnel.

# US Open 2025: JioStar Sets New Viewership Record

**Mumbai:** JioStar has announced a historic milestone in Indian sports broadcasting, with the US Open 2025 achieving record-breaking viewership across both linear television and digital platforms. The tournament clocked a staggering 877 million minutes of combined watch-time, setting a new benchmark for tennis engagement in the country.



The surge in viewership was driven by strategic innovations, including the introduction of a mixed doubles format and the addition of Hindi commentary, which broadened accessibility and appeal. Linear TV alone accounted for 388 million minutes of watch-time, marking the highest ever for the US Open in the BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) era.

Siddharth Sharma, Head of Audience Engagement and Monetization at JioStar – Sports, commented, "We have a strong belief in the fandom for tennis and the US Open in particular. The success we achieved across both our linear TV and digital platforms is a clear sign

of the ever-growing passion for tennis in India. We are committed to bringing world-class sporting events to our fans and will continue to fuel the nation's love for sports." The record-setting performance further solidifies JioStar's position as India's premier sports broadcaster. The platform currently holds rights to a wide array of marquee events including ICC tournaments, India Men's and Women's Cricket, TATA IPL, TATA WPL, Premier League, Wimbledon, and the Pro Kabaddi League. The US Open's success in India reflects a broader cultural shift — where global sports are no longer confined to elite circles but are becoming part of everyday entertainment.

# 'Technical error' as Malaysia Vows to Fight FIFA Suspensions Sports

**Kuala Lumpur:** The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) has pledged to contest FIFA's recent disciplinary action, which includes a one-year suspension of seven national team players and a hefty fine of 350,000 Swiss francs (approximately ₹4 crore), citing a "technical error" in the document submission process.

The controversy stems from Malaysia's 4-0 victory over Vietnam in a June Asian Cup qualifier, during which FIFA alleges that FAM submitted falsified documents to field naturalised players. The players suspended include Facundo Garcés, Gabriel Felipe Arrocha, Rodrigo Julian Holgado, Imanol Javier Machuca, Joao Vitor Brandao Figueiredo, Jon Irazabal Iraurqui, and Hector Alejandro Hevel Serrano. Each has also been fined 2,000 Swiss francs and barred from football-related activities



for 12 months. In an official statement, FAM Secretary General Noor Azman Rahman acknowledged the error, attributing it to administrative oversight. "We have identified a technical error in the document submission process carried out by our staff," he said, while stressing that the players involved are legitimate Malaysian citizens.

The ruling has sparked widespread backlash in Malaysia, with fans, officials, and government representatives questioning FIFA's decision. Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim, owner of Johor

Darul Ta'zim Football Club, stated, "FIFA had previously approved the players' eligibility. What changed?" Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil added, "As far as the government is concerned, the documents are in order. Perhaps certain parties, jealous of Harimau Malaya's resurgence, have raised the issue". Malaysia currently leads its 2027 Asian Cup qualifying group with six points from two matches. FAM has confirmed it will await FIFA's full judgment before filing an appeal through official legal channels.

# Iga Swiatek marks 400th win, reaches China Open Round 4

**Beijing:** World No. 2 Iga Swiatek reached a major career milestone on Monday, securing her 400th professional match victory with a commanding performance at the China Open. The Polish tennis star defeated Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, to advance to the fourth round of the WTA 1000 event. Swiatek, a four-time Grand Slam champion, showcased her trademark baseline dominance and mental composure throughout the match, breaking Kudermetova's serve three times and saving all five break points she faced. The win not only extended her unbeaten run in Asia this season but also marked a significant achievement in her career trajectory, becoming one of the youngest players to reach 400 wins on the WTA Tour. Speaking after the match, Swiatek said, "It's a special number. I didn't



even realize I was close to 400, but it's nice to celebrate it with a win in Beijing. I feel like I'm playing with more freedom and confidence this week."

The 24-year-old has had a strong 2025 season, winning titles in Doha, Stuttgart, and Rome, and reaching the finals at Roland Garros and the US Open. Her consistency across surfaces and ability to adapt to different playing conditions have made her one of the most formidable competitors on the tour.

Swiatek will next face China's Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round, a rematch of their US Open semifinal earlier this month. Zheng, currently ranked No. 7, has been in top form and is ex-

pected to draw strong home support in what promises to be a high-stakes encounter.

The China Open, held at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, is one of the premier events on the WTA calendar, offering 1000 ranking points and a prize pool of \$8.5 million. With several top seeds still in contention, including Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff, the tournament is shaping up to be a thrilling showcase of elite women's tennis. The 24-year-old has enjoyed a stellar 2025 season, with titles in Doha, Stuttgart, and Rome, along with runner-up finishes at Roland Garros and the US Open. Her next challenge at the China Open will be against China's Zheng Qinwen, in a rematch of their US Open semifinal earlier this month. The China Open is one of the premier events on the WTA calendar, offering 1000 ranking points and a prize pool of \$8.5 million.