



Delhi HC warns ED

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) a "last and final opportunity" to argue its plea challenging the bail granted to Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy-linked money laundering case.

Justice Ravinder Dudeja issued the directive after ED's counsel sought another adjournment, citing the unavailability of Additional Solicitor General S.V.Raju, who was engaged before the Supreme Court. This marked the tenth adjournment requested by the agency, prompting strong objections from Kejriwal's legal team.

Senior Advocate Vikram Chaudhri, representing Kejriwal, criticized the repeated delays, stating that the ED was unnecessarily prolonging proceedings. The court emphasized that no further adjournments would be entertained and listed the matter for hearing on November 10.

Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 'NDA's seat allocation talks done

Patna: Leaders of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar have confirmed that the coalition's seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming Assembly elections has been amicably finalized. Discussions regarding the allocation of specific constituencies to individual parties within the alliance are now in the final stag-



es. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stated that the seat-sharing process was conducted through consensus and mutual understanding. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, all NDA partners are united and prepared to contest the

elections," Choudhary posted on social media platform X. As per the agreed arrangement, both the BJP and Janata Dal (United) will contest 101 seats each. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has been allotted 29 seats, while Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) will contest six seats each.

No SIT probe in Rahul Gandhi's allegations

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of voter list manipulation in the Bengaluru Central constituency, as raised by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The petition, filed by Advocate Rohit Pandey, called for an independent investigation led by a retired judge into claims of large-scale irregularities in the electoral rolls. Gandhi had previously alleged that

the constituency witnessed "Vote Chori" — a term implying electoral fraud — and demanded accountability from the Election Commission of India (ECI). A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi heard the matter and declined to entertain the plea. The court observed that the petitioner had already made a representation to the ECI and advised him to pursue the matter further with the poll panel. "We are not inclined to entertain the petition, which is purportedly filed in public interest.

CPI(ML) Liberation to contest 18 seats in Bihar elections 2025

Kolkata: The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation has confirmed its participation in the upcoming Bihar Assembly Elections, with plans to contest at least 18 seats. The announcement was made by Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary of CPI(ML) Liberation, who stated that seat-sharing negotiations within the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) have been finalized for these constituencies. The party, which emerged as a significant force in the 2020 elec-



tions by winning 12 out of 19 seats it contested, had initially sought around 40 seats this time. While the Grand Alliance is yet to make a formal declaration on overall seat distribution, CPI(ML) Liberation has begun preparations to file nominations starting Tuesday.

Bhattacharya also criticized the Election Com-

mission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, describing it as an "electoral purge masquerading as verification." He expressed concern over the large-scale deletion of names from the voter list, particularly in marginalized communities.

Negotiations are reportedly ongoing for a few additional constituencies beyond the confirmed 18. The party remains a key component of the opposition alliance and is expected to play a prominent role.

Prez Trump repeats India-Pakistan truce claim, cites 200% tariff threat

India denies Trump's claim of brokering Indo-Pak ceasefire

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has said that tariffs have given Washington diplomatic and negotiating strength while reiterating his claim of stopping the conflict between India and Pakistan. Trump was speaking to reporters as he left for the Middle East on Sunday for the release of hostages from Gaza after brokering a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. "Tariffs have given us diplomatic and negotiating strength. I settled a few wars just based on tariffs. For example, between India and Pakistan. I said, If you guys want to fight a war and you have nuclear weapons, I am going to put big tariffs on you both, like 100 per cent, 150 per cent, and 200 per cent," he said.



"I said I am putting tariffs. I had that thing settled in 24 hours. If I didn't have tariffs, you could have never settled that war," he added.

Notably, India has repeatedly rejected Washington's claim that Trump helped broker a ceasefire between New Delhi and Islamabad. Ever since the announcement of the ceasefire, Trump has re-

peatedly claimed that he helped stop the conflict between the two neighbouring countries. New Delhi has maintained that the truce was achieved through direct talks between the Indian and Pakistani militaries, rejecting Trump's claims of mediation. Notably, India has repeatedly rejected Washington's claim that Trump helped

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The US President also said that he could take up the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan after his return, since he is "good at solving wars." "This will be my eighth war that I have solved, and I hear there is a war now going on between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

ED Raids Sresan Pharma, Maker of Coldrif, in probe

Chennai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted raids on Chennai-based pharmaceutical company Sresan Pharma, the maker of Coldrif cough syrup, in connection with a money laundering investigation. The action follows reports that Coldrif syrup contained diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic chemical linked to the deaths of 22 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

ED officials searched seven locations, including the residence of company owner S. Ranganathan, and homes of senior officials from the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TNFDA). The raids were carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Authorities allege that despite poor infrastructure and repeated safety violations, Sresan Pharma continued opera-



tions under a TNFDA license issued in 2011. The company's owner was arrested last week, intensifying scrutiny on regulatory lapses and drug safety enforcement.

Despite repeated safety violations and poor infrastructure, Sresan Pharma had been operating under a TNFDA license issued in 2011. The company's owner was arrested last week, intensifying scrutiny on both the manufacturer and the regulatory authorities. The case has triggered national outrage and renewed calls for stricter pharmaceutical regulation, especially in rural and tribal regions where access to safe medication is critical.



4 militants, 3 drug peddlers, including cop, held in Manipur

Imphal: Four hardcore militants belonging to different factions of the Kan-gleipak Communist Party (KCP) and three drug peddlers, including a policeman, were arrested in Manipur during the past 24 hours, officials said on Sunday. A police official said that the four militants were arrested from Thou-



bal and Bishnupur districts, and some arms and ammunition were recovered from the possession of one of the militants, identified as Moirangthem Mohen Singh alias Pari, 42. The arms

and ammunition recovered from the arrested militants include an SM carbine along with a magazine, two AK rifle magazines, 24 rounds (bullets) of AK rifle ammunition, a camouflage T-shirt, and a mobile phone along with two SIM cards. The arrested extremists were involved in various crimes.

Lions International Peace Poster Contest concludes in Kohima

Dimapur: The Lions International Peace Poster Contest 2025, organized by the Lions Club of Kohima, was held at the Conference Hall of the Red Cross, Kohima on October 10. The event brought together 24 students from 13 schools in and around Kohima, including 11 under the competitive category and 2

under the non-competitive category, all participating under the global theme "Together As One."

The contest showcased exceptional creativity, with each poster reflecting powerful messages of unity and peace. Renowned artist and East Asian Art-ist Forum member, Nicky Kire, served as the judge,

commending the depth of imagination and thematic interpretation demonstrated by the young participants.

Hruyia Irene of Little Flower Higher Secondary School, Kohima, secured the first position, followed by Monoteo Ritse of Ministers' Hill Baptist Higher Secondary School, Kohima.

Assamese-Hindus now about 40 pc: Himanta

Guwahati: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday claimed that Assamese Hindus now make up only around 40 per cent of the state's population, about the same as that of Muslims. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme here, Sarma said the state has witnessed a sharp shift in its population composition, and termed the Centre's proposed Demography Mission a significant step towards addressing the issue. "Assam has been a

big victim of demographic change. In 2021, the Muslim population crossed 38 per cent, and as we speak, it is about 39.5 per cent of the state population," he said. He claimed that districts like Majuli, known as the seat of Vaishnavite culture and the world's largest inhabited river island, have seen 100 per cent growth in Muslim population. However, he clarified that the increase was not due to natural growth among local Muslims, but because of infiltrators.

Gauhati University dismisses allegations against VC, labels them 'baseless'

Guwahati: Gauhati University (GU) has issued a firm rebuttal to allegations circulating across print, electronic, and social media platforms against its Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nani Gopal Mahanta. In an official statement released on Thursday, the university described the claims as "baseless and misleading," asserting that its financial and administrative operations are conducted strictly within statutory and regulatory frameworks.

The university empha-



sized its commitment to transparency and accountability, stating that all decisions and processes are

subject to internal and external audits. GU also warned that it would pursue legal action against

any defamatory or malicious attempts to tarnish the institution's reputation. The controversy emerged following a memorandum submitted by the Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuba-Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), which demanded Dr. Mahanta's resignation. The AJYCP alleged instances of corruption, nepotism, and misuse of power during his tenure.

In response, GU reiterated its support for the Vice Chancellor and urged the public and media to rely on verified information.

NPF urges unity and divine advice ahead of NDPP merger

NPF holds prayer meet, seeks unity and divine wisdom

Dimapur: Naga People's Front (NPF) held a special prayer programme at its Central office in Kohima, seeking God's guidance and unity among party members as it moves toward the proposed merger with the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP). Addressing the gathering, NPF president Apong Pongener expressed gratitude to the organisers and reflected on the party's journey and the sacrifices of its pioneers, who laid a strong foundation despite numerous challenges.



between the NPF and NDPP was becoming a reality through the earnest prayers of the people. He expressed confidence that the NPF, once perceived to be at its lowest point, would soon regain its strength and return to power.

Azo urged all members to remain truthful and faithful to their colleagues and the party, stressing the importance of humility and caution against overconfidence in political life, while calling on everyone to earnestly pray for the success of the forthcoming merger day. Advisor of the NPF Central Women's Wing, Mrs. Sano Vamuzo, highlighted that the two regional parties were now nearing their merger. She acknowledged the challenges and struggles the NPF has faced over

the years but noted that the party remained steadfast through faith and perseverance. Observing the current divisions and disillusionment among the Naga people, she stressed the importance of unity and spiritual renewal, describing the prayer programme as timely amid the party's ongoing reorganisation. She urged all members to seek God's wisdom, discern His purpose for the party, and remain committed to both God and the NPF's founding principles.

NPF secretary general and MLA Achumbemo Kikon along with senior leaders and members were also present. The programme was chaired by NPF general secretary Atou Lieziestu while Mathew Rongmei, press secretary, recorded the proceedings. Earlier, the programme began with the hymn "The Lily of the Valley" led by Banuo Sanchu, followed by scripture reading and prayer by H. Zung-kum Chang.

Manipur BJP MLAs meet party Gen Secy in Delhi



New Delhi: BJP national general secretary (organization) BL Santosh assured for the formation of popular government in Manipur at the earliest, convener of state BJP legislator party's convener claimed on Friday. As many as 25 MLAs of the state BJP are currently camping at New Delhi to press the party Central leadership to reinstall popular government in the state currently under President's Rule.

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Rule. Sources here said that the six-member delegation of the state BJP MLAs visited the residence of BL Santosh around 11 am.

The delegation also included MLAs - Yumnam Khemchand, Thongam Biswajit, Kh Ibomcha and Konthoujam Govindas. The meeting, which lasted for about an hour, focused on the role of the state legislature in facilitating the peace process initiated by the Central government, said convener of BJP legislators party MLA Kh Ibomcha, in a statement issued after the meeting. The meeting also deliberated on the formation of a popular government in the state, it added.

Meghalaya Police Foil Bomb Plot

Shillong: A major tragedy was averted with timely detection of a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district on Saturday evening, police officials said on Sunday.

The IED, planted inside a bag, was found inside a compound located in front of the Meghalaya Rural Bank in the Umsning market at around 7.30 pm, Vivekanand Singh Rathore, the district police chief of Ri-Bhoi, said.

Simultaneously, the bomb detection and disposal squad (BDDS) and a K-9 team were requisitioned and, upon assessing the abandoned bag, they confirmed the presence of explosives. The IED was successfully diffused by BDDS.

"On analysis, it was found that the IED was made using 4.7 Gelatine as an explosive, 10 detonators, and approximately 50 iron rod pieces as splinters, Rathore said.



Vi launches 'Vi Protect' at IMC 2025 to shield customers and enterprises from cyber threats

New Delhi: Vi (Vodafone Idea) unveiled Vi Protect at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 — a comprehensive AI-powered initiative aimed at safeguarding customers and enterprises from spam, scams, and cyberattacks. The launch reflects Vi's commitment to creating a secure digital environment as India's reliance on online services grows. Vi Protect intro-



duces an AI-based Voice Spam Detection system, which flags fraudulent calls in real time, displaying "Suspected Spam" alerts on users' screens. Complementing this is an AI-driven

Cyber Defense and Incident Response System for Vi's core network, capable of detecting and neutralizing cyber threats in under an hour with nearly 70% higher accuracy. The initiative also strengthens existing protections, including SMS spam filtering, International Calling Display, and AI-powered threat analysis, which have collectively blocked over

600 million spam calls and messages. Vi plans to roll out real-time URL protection soon, preventing phishing and malware attacks, ensuring both personal and enterprise users are safeguarded. Vi CTO Jagbir Singh said, "Vi Protect demonstrates our commitment to a safe and trusted digital environment as India's digital adoption expands."

Gold surges amid trade tension



New Delhi: Gold price continues to see bull run on Tuesday driven by rising concerns over US tariffs and expectations of additional rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, which continue to boost safe-haven demand.

On Tuesday, MCX December gold future rates climbed more than ₹2,000, or over 1.6 per cent, reaching a record ₹1,26,652 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, MCX December silver futures jumped over ₹7,400, or nearly 5%, to hit a fresh high of ₹1,62,057 per kilogram. Gold prices are surging as global political and economic uncertainties intensify. Renewed trade tensions between the world's two largest economies—the US and China—have sparked concerns over potential disruptions to global trade and economic growth.

US President Donald Trump has announced a 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods and imposed export controls on key US-made software, set to take effect on November 1, in response to China's move to broaden its rare-earth export restrictions. "Gold prices opened sharply higher with a strong gap up of ₹2,000, trading above ₹1,26,600 per 10 grams, as renewed U.S.-China trade tensions reignited safe-haven demand.

California almonds see rising demand as health-focused Diwali trends gain momentum

Guwahati: As Diwali approaches, health-conscious consumers are increasingly turning to California Almonds, driving a notable uptick in sales across India. Rich in protein, fibre, and heart-healthy fats, almonds offer 15 essential nutrients including calcium, magnesium, zinc, and vitamin E, making them a preferred choice for festive consumption and gifting. Market analysts note that the almond segment is benefiting from the growing trend of nutritious alternatives replacing traditional high-sugar and fried foods during the festive season. Celebrity endorsements and expert recommendations are fueling demand. Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan shared, "Almonds help families enjoy



celebrations while making healthier choices." Ayurveda expert Dr. Madhumitha Krishna emphasized their role in balancing doshas and promoting vitality, while nutritionists Ritika Samaddar and Sheela Krishnaswamy highlighted almonds' benefits for satiety, blood sugar regulation, and mindful snacking. In Guwahati, local retailers and e-commerce platforms report strong consumer interest in California Almonds, particularly as gifting options. Specialty stores

have observed increased footfall, and online orders are surging as urban buyers prioritize nutrient-dense products over traditional festive sweets, signaling a shift in consumption patterns in the northeast market. The Almond Board of California, representing over 7,600 growers and processors, continues to promote almonds globally, leveraging research-driven marketing to strengthen the nut's position as a health-conscious choice this festive season.

LG Electronics shares list at 50% premium, beats expectation

New Delhi: LG Electronics India made a blockbuster debut on the exchanges with its shares getting listed at Rs 1715 on the BSE, a premium of Rs 575 or 50.44% over the issue price of Rs 1140. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), LG Electronics' share price debuted at a premium of 50.01% at Rs 1,710.10. The Korean brand's listing beat the market expectations, as signalled by its grey market premium (GMP). Ahead of the stock market debut, LG Electronics shares traded at Rs 1562 in the unofficial grey market, signalling a listing premium of 37%. The strong listing came after LG Electronics' recorded one of the highest subscriptions ever for a large Indian IPO (Rs 10,000 crore and



above), with its initial share sale oversubscribed 54 times. Bids were placed for 385 crore shares compared to the 7.13 crore shares on offer. The IPO set a new record by attracting bids worth Rs 4.43 lakh crore at the top end of its price band of Rs 1,080 to Rs 1,140 per share. Most analysts had viewed the issue as attractively priced relative to peers and hence there was a robust demand for the same. A stop-loss near Rs 1,400 is recommended to safeguard against market volatility.

JSW MG Motor launches Windsor Inspire Edition, marks 1-year milestone with Gadkari

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India on Thursday unveiled the limited-edition Windsor Inspire Edition, commemorating one year of its best-selling EV, the Windsor, which has clocked over 40,000 units in India. The launch, attended by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, highlights the company's commitment to sustainable mobility and innovation. Priced at ₹16.64 lakh (ex-showroom) under the Battery-as-a-Service model, the Inspire Edition features a Pearl White and Starry Black dual-tone exterior, 18-inch all-black alloy wheels with rose gold claddings, and premium Sangria Red and Black leather interiors with 135-degree recline aero lounge seats. Optional

Annapurna Ghee expands, honors 70-year legacy



Agartala: Annapurna Ghee, a trusted household name for over three generations, is set to expand its footprint across India, leveraging its 70-year legacy of purity, authenticity, and consistent quality. The Northeast's highest-selling ghee brand has been a staple in kitchens, known for its rich aroma, 'danedar' texture, and wholesome taste, making it a symbol of tradition and nourishment.

The Annapurna Group is consolidating its dominance in existing markets across the East and Northeast while strategically entering North India. To reinforce its presence, popular personality Shehnaaz Gill has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Annapurna Cow Ghee, underlining the company's focus on trust, purity, and cultural relevance in new regions.

In Agartala, Annapurna Ghee has witnessed steady demand, with local retailers highlighting strong sales both in everyday consumption and festive seasons. The brand's reputation for quality and reliability has made it a preferred choice for households, driving healthy market penetration and enhancing visibility against regional and national competitors.

Beyond ghee, Annapurna Group has diversified into fruit beverages, ready-to-eat gravies, pickles, jams, edible oils, and premium sauces. With future plans including nutritional drinks, pulses, and breakfast cereals, the company is pursuing a phased growth strategy aimed at consolidating its stronghold while evolving with the tastes of a rapidly expanding Indian market.



personalization includes a Skyline Infinity View glass roof and wireless illuminated sill plates. Bookings for the limited 300-unit edition opened Thursday, with deliveries beginning October 15. In Guwahati, the Windsor Inspire Edition has generated significant interest, with dealerships reporting strong pre-bookings. Local customers are increasingly

drawn to EVs that combine luxury and sustainability, and the BaaS model has lowered entry barriers, making premium electric mobility more accessible in the city. Dealers anticipate robust demand in Assam as consumer awareness of EV benefits continues to rise. Gadkari hails Inspire Edition, boosting India's EV revolution.



Sansaar taps festive demand with sustainable home décor, sees uptick in Guwahati

Guwahati: As India gears up for the festive season, Sansaar, the sustainable home décor brand under D'Décor, is witnessing growing demand for its eco-friendly furnishings and fabric collections. The brand's offerings, spanning luxurious bedding, soft furnishings, and stylish accents, are designed to add warmth and character to homes while remaining environmentally responsible. Sansaar's curated collections include the lustrous Satina fabrics for living rooms, pastel Locomotion sheers, and 100% organic cotton bedding from Plains and Charm ranges, combining elegance with comfort. Its Fables collection brings playful, non-toxic prints for children, while the Integra range adds a sophisticated touch to workspaces and studies. The brand emphasizes thoughtful décor choices over ex-



cess, allowing homes to feel lived-in, welcoming, and festive.

In Guwahati, retailers report a surge in festive-season purchases, with customers seeking sustainable yet stylish home décor. Cushions, bedcovers, rugs, and statement fabrics from Sansaar have emerged as popular choices, reflecting the city's growing preference for premium,

eco-conscious products. Local market analysts note that this trend aligns with an increasing awareness of sustainable living among urban consumers. Sansaar's range is available across 450+ stores nationwide and online at www.sansaar.co.in, enabling households to celebrate the season responsibly while upgrading their living spaces.

Tata Motors, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank join hands to boost SCV financing

Itanagar: Tata Motors, India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank to enhance financing for its small commercial vehicles and pick-ups (SCVPU), including the newly launched Tata Ace Pro. The partnership aims to make vehicle ownership easier for entrepreneurs and small business owners with low interest rates, simplified documentation, and quick loan disbursals. The collaboration will strengthen the state's economy by supporting key sectors such as tourism, agriculture, horticulture, mining, and construction. Tata Motors' SCVPU portfolio—including the Ace, Intra, Yodha, and Ace Pro—offers payloads ranging from 750kg to 2-tonne, multiple fuel options including diesel, pet-

rol, CNG, bi-fuel, and electric, and rugged designs suitable for Arunachal Pradesh's challenging terrains. These vehicles help transport horticultural produce from Panshat and Ziro Valley, support tourism in Tawang, and enable cargo movement in districts like Changlang and Tirap. In Itanagar, the partnership is expected to stimulate local entrepreneurship and small business growth. Easy financing with EMIs starting at ₹8,999 will allow traders, transporters, and delivery service providers in the capital to acquire reliable SCV solutions, improving operational efficiency and boosting commercial activity. Tata Motors' Pinaki Halder said the tie-up marks a significant step in empowering entrepreneurs and facilitating business expansion across Arunachal Pradesh.

Bank unions oppose opening PSU leadership roles to private sector candidates

Mumbai: The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has opposed the government's decision to open up some of the top posts in public sector banks including State Bank



of India as well as the Life

Insurance Corporation to private sector candidates. "From the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), representing nine trade unions of officers and workmen across all our banks.

Tata Steel launches First Mobile Bore Pile Cage Machine, opens automated construction service centre in Guwahati

Guwahati: Tata Steel marked a significant milestone in India's construction sector with the unveiling of its first Mobile Bore Pile Cage Machine and the inauguration of a fully automated Construction Service Centre in Guwahati. Developed in partnership with TJK India, the mobile machine aims to streamline site-based reinforcement manufacturing for large-scale infrastructure projects, reducing costs and labor while delivering customized solutions with precision. The new Construction Service Centre, established in collaboration with SM Corporation Ltd., boasts a production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per month, initially offering



Tiscon ReadyBuild pre-engineered Cut & Bend Tata Tiscon TMT rebars with coupler threading. The centre plans to expand its offerings to include Welded Wire Mesh, positioning itself as a comprehensive hub for modern construction solutions in the North-East. Speaking at

the inauguration, Ashish Anupam, Vice President – Long Products, Tata Steel, highlighted the company's commitment to innovative and value-added construction solutions tailored to the challenging terrain of the region. The event also hosted a 'Converse to Construct' meet for over 100

architects, engineers, and construction consultants, featuring a session on new technologies in road construction by CSIR-CRRI expert Satish Pandey.

In Guwahati, the new facility is expected to strengthen local supply chains, enhance availability of ready-to-use reinforcement products, and support the city's growing infrastructure demands, including housing and industrial development projects. This initiative aligns with Tata Steel's broader expansion strategy, adding to its network of 31 digitally connected, automated service centres across India, driving growth in ready-to-use reinforcement solutions.

SBI shares trading near 52-week high

Mumbai: Shares of State Bank Of India (SBI) are trading at their 52-week high with the banking stock gaining 10% this year. The stock has clocked positive returns in short and long durations. SBI stock hit a high of Rs 888.05 in the previous session. On BSE, the stock was trading at Rs 884.50 in the current session. On NSE, the stock hit a high of Rs 884.15 today. Market cap of the lender rose to Rs 8.08 lakh crore on NSE.

Total 2.67 lakh shares changed hands amounting to a turnover of Rs 23.48 crore on BSE. The scrip is trading neither in the oversold nor in the oversold

zone, signals its relative strength index (RSI) of 66.6. SBI stock has a one-year beta of 1, indicating average volatility during the period.

SBI shares are trading higher than the 5 day, 10 day, 20 day, 50 day, 100 day and 200 day moving averages. The stock has risen 10.52% in 2025 and gained 52% in two years.

Axis Direct is bullish on the banking stock. The brokerage has a price target of Rs 940-Rs 1035 levels on the banking stock. "On the monthly chart, SBI is trending up within the "up-sloping channel", indicating a sustained strong uptrend.

IGNiTE 4.0 launched to skill 1,000 underserved youth for future mobility careers

Guwahati: Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary on Thursday announced the launch of "IGNiTE 4.0", a skilling initiative by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Mercedes-Benz India, aimed at empowering 1,000 underserved youth in future-ready automotive technologies such as Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Industry 4.0. Chaudhary said that India's growing workforce must be equipped to drive innovation and sustainability in the global automotive industry. "Our institutions must lead on innovation, product development, and



intellectual property creation," he said, highlighting the government's vision to create 45 million jobs in the mobility sector, including 9 million in the EV ecosystem. The 12-month programme will be implemented by Kedman Skilling Pvt. Ltd. across two advanced centres at Manav Rachna University (Delhi-NCR) and MIT ADT University (Pune), ensuring at least 30% participation by

women. In Guwahati, the initiative is timely as Assam's auto retail and EV sectors are expanding rapidly. With new charging infrastructure and dealerships emerging across Guwahati, the demand for certified EV technicians and product testers is on the rise, creating fresh employment opportunities for the city's youth. Mercedes-Benz India's ED & CFO Emrah Oezer said the partnership aligns with the brand's global sustainability and human capital goals, bridging India's skill gap in next-generation mobility.



Guwahati hosts launch of Nalanda Literature Festival 2025, signal growth in India's creative economy

Guwahati: The Nalanda Literature Festival (NLF) 2025 was officially unveiled for the North East market through an interactive session at Jyoti Chitraban, Kahilipara, Guwahati. The announcement marks a key milestone ahead of the festival's inaugural edition to be held in Rajgir, Nalanda, Bihar, from December 21 to 25, 2025. The event, themed "Legacy, Language & Literature," aims to create a cultural bridge where ancient wisdom meets modern creativity, in partnership with Nalanda University. The Guwahati session saw



participation from Ex-DGP and writer Sh. Kula Saikia, Padma Shri Arup Kumar Dutta, Shri Kalyan Chakravarthy, ACS, and other literary figures including Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia and poet

Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih. Chairperson D. Aaliya and Festival Director Ganga Kumar shared the festival's vision of promoting dialogue, diversity, and creative collaboration across India.

In Guwahati, the event is expected to drive cultural engagement and boost creative sectors such as publishing, tourism, and media. Local entrepreneurs and bookstores anticipate higher demand for Assamese and regional literature, alongside increased cultural tourism. The NLF team also paid homage to late singer Zubeen Garg for his contribution to Indian music. Running from September 2025 to March 2026, the Nalanda Literature Development Programme will further enhance creative exchange leading to the grand festival.

Medanta's 'Banno Ki Rasm' sparks cancer awareness nationwide

New Delhi: Medanta – The Medicity, a six-time Newsweek-recognized Best Private Hospital in India, has created a nationwide buzz with its newly launched awareness film, Banno Ki Rasm. Released under the hospital's "Jaanta Hai Medanta" initiative, the 2-minute 28-second video has already crossed 8 million views across social media platforms, highlighting self-breast exams as a tradition of strength, self-love, and care.

Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman & Managing Director of Medanta, said, "Through this film, we aim to empower women and break the stigma around breast cancer." Dr. Kanchan Kaur, Senior Director of Breast Cancer at Medanta, added that early detection through regular self-exams and screenings can significantly

improve survival outcomes. Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers among women, claiming an estimated 6.7 lakh lives globally in 2022, with India among the worst-affected countries.

The campaign has triggered heightened awareness and engagement. Local pharmacies, health-care outlets, and wellness centers have reported increased footfall and inquiries about preventive screenings, while social media conversations among women in the city reflect a growing commitment to health consciousness. Market analysts note that such campaigns can influence consumer behavior in healthcare-related products and services, underlining the intersection of awareness and business opportunity.

Infosys wins ₹14K crore NHS deal



Bengaluru: Infosys has secured a £1.2 billion (over ₹14,000 crore) contract from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to build and manage a workforce management platform for the National Health Service in England and Wales. The engagement spans 15 years and is set to replace the existing Electronic Staff Record (ESR) system, which currently manages payroll for 1.9 million NHS employees. The new platform is intended to streamline recruitment, onboarding, payroll, and career management functions across the NHS and will utilise artificial intelligence to support workforce planning and enhance user experience. Infosys CEO Salil Parekh stated the company will bring its global digital transformation expertise and AI platform, Infosys Topaz, to deliver 'a platform that drives efficiency today and empowers the NHS into the future.' Shares of Infosys ended at ₹1,488.40, down 0.35% on NSE. The IT stock ended 0.21% lower at Rs 1489.80 on BSE. Market cap of the firm stood at Rs 6.18 lakh crore.

TATA AIG survey links youth heart risks to financial readiness urgency

Itanagar: TATA AIG General Insurance's latest nationwide survey of nearly 300 cardiologists has uncovered a sharp rise in heart disease among younger Indians, highlighting both medical and financial challenges. The study found that 74% of doctors report most cardiac patients are under 50, with 36% aged 31–40 and 38% between 41–50. Stress, poor diet, and sedentary lifestyles are cited as key drivers. Financial unpreparedness compounds the crisis, with 59% of doctors reporting that fewer than 40% of patients can afford advanced cardiac treatments. The survey also noted that



78% of patients ignore early warning signs such as chest pain and fatigue, while 60% seek care only after significant heart damage has occurred. Rising cardiology costs, up 65% over the last five years, underline the importance of comprehensive insurance cover.

In Guwahati, cardiolo-

gists report similar trends, with younger residents increasingly seeking emergency care for heart-related issues. While awareness of preventive care is gradually improving, most families in the city remain financially unprepared for costly cardiac interventions, driving demand for robust health insurance solutions. Mr. Rajagopal Rudraraju, Senior EVP & National Head – Consumer Claims, emphasized, "The growing incidence among young Indians necessitates proactive healthcare planning backed by reliable insurance coverage to prevent delayed treatment and financial strain."

Equirus, Sapiant Finserv unite to build top wealth platform in India

Guwahati: Leading financial services powerhouse Equirus group has entered into a strategic partnership with Sapiant Finserv Group, one of India's fastest-growing independent wealth managers, in an equity swap deal that will create a combined platform that ranks among the top 10 non-bank independent wealth managers in India. The landmark move for India's wealth management industry will significantly expand Equirus group's footprint in wealth management and family office services, with combined Assets Under Management (AUM) reaching INR 35,000 crore. Headquartered in Pune, with a strong presence in Maharashtra and the Northeast, Sapiant Finserv Group currently manages over INR 13,500 crore in AUM and a robust monthly SIP book of INR 65 crore. As part of the merger, Amit Bivalkar, Founder and Pallav Bagaria, Director and Co-founder at Sapiant Finserv Group, will join the Leadership Team and Board of Equirus Wealth, rein-

forcing shared governance and vision. "At Equirus, we have always been at the centre of value creation—partnering with entrepreneurs and institutions in building their market cap and enabling its monetisation," said Ajay Garg, Managing Director, Equirus Group. By partnering with Equirus, Sapiant Finserv Group expands its offering into complementary spaces, enhancing its ability to serve professionals, entrepreneurs, and families. "At Sapiant Finserv, we have always believed in being more than just wealth managers—we are long-term partners in our clients' financial journeys," said Amit Bivalkar, Founder, Sapiant Finserv Group. "It is always a privilege to work with good people who share the same values. This partnership is not just about scale—it is about serving our clients better," said Pallav Bagaria, Director and Co-Founder, Sapiant Finserv Group. Equirus backs Sapiant's client-first ethos, supported by marquee investors.

IIT Guwahati owns the WongaWits Stage: Engineering a Clean Sweep

Guwahati: After electrifying audiences in Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune, and Lucknow, WongaWits Season 2 - YES SECURITIES' Flagship Initiative "India's Premier Finance and Stock Market Quiz"—made its way to the scenic city of Guwahati. The event was hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati), one of India's premier institutions and a proud symbol of academic excellence in the Northeast. The Guwahati edition saw an enthusiastic response with 100+ student registrations competing across multiple quiz rounds that tested both the fundamentals of finance and the real world dynamics of the stock market. Students from over 10 colleges across the region participated, showcasing a diverse mix of academic backgrounds and a shared curiosity for finance. The competition was intense yet filled with camaraderie, as participants demonstrated quick thinking, analytical depth and teamwork

at every stage. Adding a touch of fun to the day, RJ Aliya from Big FM kept the energy high through engaging interactions, witty banter, and spontaneous audience games. But it was the students of IIT Guwahati who truly stole the show. Demonstrating exceptional knowledge, quick thinking, and teamwork, they swept all three top positions, emerging as the undisputed champions of the Guwahati leg. 1st – IIT Guwahati, 2nd – IIT Guwahati, 3rd – IIT Guwahati. Adding to the day's excitement, RJ Aliya from Big FM kept the crowd engaged with her wit, charm and interactive audience games, ensuring a perfect balance of fun and learning. The winners from Guwahati now move forward to the Grand Finale in Mumbai on 19th December 2025, where champions from across India will battle for the ultimate WongaWits crown and a chance to be recognised among the nation's brightest young financial minds.



Abhinav Mishra launches 'The Shrine' couture collection with sibling runway debut in Delhi

Guwahati: Leading Indian couturier Abhinav Mishra unveiled his much-anticipated annual couture collection, The Shrine, in a grand outdoor showcase at Chhatarpur Gardens, Delhi. The highlight of the evening was the first-ever sibling runway appearance of Sara and Ibrahim Ali Khan, with Sara reprising her role as showstopper. The show

transformed the venue into a living work of art, featuring an architectural stepwell, mirrored terraces, thousands of candles, and fire-lit decor that reflected Mishra's signature love for mirror work and artisanal craft. The Shrine drew inspiration from India's shrines, palaces, and frescoed walls, translating centuries of craft into contemporary couture.

The collection emphasized Mishra's signature mirror work and gota embroidery, layered over flowing organza, chiffon, silk, and georgette ensembles. Central themes—Enchanting Blooms, Watercolour Artistry, and Delicate Harmony—combined warmth, pastel hues, and intricate embellishments to balance grandeur with softness. Gu-

wahati's luxury fashion segment is showing increasing interest in high-end couture. Retailers report rising inquiries for mirror-work lehengas and anarkalis, reflecting the city's growing appetite for premium Indian craftsmanship and signaling potential business opportunities for designers like Mishra outside metropolitan hubs.

IIM Trichy wins Godrej DEI challenge, leads campus inclusion drive

Guwahati: IIM Trichy emerged as the winner of the India Included on Campus Case Study Challenge, organized by Godrej DEI Lab, the diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative of the Godrej Industries Group. The national competition aimed to engage India's top B-schools in devising actionable solutions to corporate DEI challenges, with a focus on women's retention and attrition in the workforce.

eo-based interventions that connect inclusion with tangible business outcomes. The winning team—Muttayyib M Khan, Visvanathan A, Mahima Suresh, and Ishwarya Sree—received ₹1,00,000 and mentorship from Godrej leaders. Parmesh Shahani, Head of Godrej DEI Lab, highlighted, "Inclusion is not just a moral imperative but a strategic driver of innovation and sustainable growth." In Guwahati, initiatives like these encourage regional businesses, particularly in agriculture and retail, to integrate gender-inclusive strategies. Local enterprises can leverage insights from such case studies to boost female participation in leadership and operations, aligning workforce diversity with improved productivity and market competitiveness.

The finale at Godrej One, Mumbai, featured four teams from IIM Trichy, SIBM Pune, IIM Mumbai, and IIM Lucknow, presenting strategies to enhance gender inclusivity. IIM Trichy's Team Do and DEI proposed a comprehensive plan for Godrej Agrovet, conducting employee surveys, competitor benchmarking, and field research to develop vid-

ICICI Prudential profit surges

Mumbai: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance reported a quarterly profit rise on Tuesday, as it benefited from an increased push into non-market-linked products and lower expenses.

Shares of the company rose as much as 3% after the results and were last up 1.3% against a 0.2% drop in the benchmark Nifty 50. Life insurers in the world's most populous country have been focusing on diversifying their product mix as volatile equity markets and uncertain macroeconomic conditions dampen demand for market-linked insurance. While demand for these has recovered in recent months amid a recovery in the equity markets, insurers have been pushing more traditional, non-linked products that offer higher margins. For ICICI Prudential Life, non-linked products made up 21.8% of the product mix at the end of September from 18.1% a year earlier.

IFAT India 2025 emerges as key hub for green tech investments and ESG solutions

Guwahati: IFAT India 2025, the country's premier trade fair for water, sewage, solid waste, and recycling technologies, is scheduled for October 14–16 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO), Mumbai. Organised by Messe Muenchen India, the fair is expected to be the largest edition to date, covering 45,000 sqm with over 500 exhibitors from 30+ countries and drawing around 28,000 trade visitors from 50 nations. Country pavilions from Germany, Canada, Netherlands, South Korea, Hungary, and Australia underscore the event's strong international engagement. The fair is set to facilitate over 2,000 structured buyer-seller meetings, connecting technology providers with municipal authorities, EPC contractors, and corporate procurement heads. With more than 15,000 solutions on display—including effluent treatment, sludge



management, waste-to-energy, and recycling automation—IFAT India is increasingly seen as a critical platform for ESG-driven investments and compliance-focused corporates. Industry analysts estimate India's investment potential in solid waste and effluent treatment could reach ₹35,000–40,000 crore over the next five years. In Guwahati, the fair is attracting significant attention from environmental and waste management firms in Assam. Local municipalities and private companies

are exploring advanced solutions for solid waste management, sewage treatment, and bioenergy projects, reflecting growing investment interest in sustainable urban infrastructure across the Northeast. The three-day event will also host 40+ technical sessions with 400+ speakers, covering ESG financing, PPP models, and industrial decarbonisation. Dia Mirza will inaugurate the fair, calling it "a movement towards a greener, cleaner, more responsible India."

EPFO eases withdrawals, mandates 25% retention

New Delhi: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO's) move to liberalise and simplify withdrawals has ensured that members are not able to move out all their retirement savings at one go and would be able to access only 75% of the funds.



As per the decision of the Central Board of Trustees of the EPFO on October 14, members can withdraw 100% of their eligible balance for three broad categories of requirements including essential needs such as illness, education and marriage; housing needs and special circumstances for which no reason has to be attributed. For essential needs like education, members can make up to 10 withdrawals while for marriage up to 5 withdrawals. "A provision has been made for earmarking 25% of the contributions in the members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times," said an official release by the labour ministry.

mulatively in the member's account, including both employee and employer shares. This would ensure that they continue to accrue some amount of savings for their retirement.

Sources explained that the minimum balance would include 25% of the total annual contributions cu-

EPFO's data shows that 50% of the EPF members have less than Rs 20,000 at the time of final settlement, while 75% have less than Rs 50,000 at the time of final settlement and 87% have less than Rs 1 lakh. Officials attributed this to frequent withdrawals for various purposes. Further, internal studies by the EPFO of withdrawal data have revealed that some options for withdrawals such as illness and housing have seen a sharp rise and increase in frequency over the years. It was also seen that in many cases, members are availing even small amounts as advances and as frequently as possible resulting in withdrawing even the latest monthly contributions made into their account.

Tanishq introduces its festive highlight of the season, 'Mriganka'

Guwahati: As the festive season draws near, Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the House of Tata, has introduced its festive highlight of the season, 'Mriganka', a collection inspired by mythical worlds and imaginative realms. The latest collection is a gateway into the mystical lands and a realm where floating palaces, celestial gardens, and ethereal creatures come alive in gold. Inspired by India's age-old love for storytelling and symbolism, each piece in Mriganka is a poetic tribute to the festive spirit. Bringing this world to life is former Miss World



and actor Manushi Chhillar, who perfectly embodies the spirit of Mriganka—bold, imaginative, and strikingly otherworldly. The idea was to create a visual world that transcends trends, where every element, be it a mystical 3D bird or a palace of brilliance, evokes a sense of wonder and presence.

Inspired by mythical creatures and fantastical blooms, Mriganka is crafted to be as spectacular as imagination, as sublime as dreams. Crafted using advanced techniques such as stone-on-stone jadau, Badroom, Chandak, Ras Rava, and intricate jalli layering, the collection

features an eclectic mix of coloured kundan, enamel detailing & 3D motifs. Speaking about the collection, Revathi Kant, Chief Design Officer, Titan Company Limited, said, "At the onset of the festive season, we are delighted to introduce 'Mriganka' an opulent celebration of imaginative world of our dreams, painted with the rich heritage of our Indian stories and tales. This collection is set in the magical land, where majestic palaces peek through clouds, mystical beings of exquisite beauty, and rare exotic blooms come alive in gold." Mriganka: Tanishq's artistry meets affordability.





Matcha made in heaven



Matcha, a centuries old green powerhouse drink that once fuelled Zen monks, is finding its way from Instagram's addictive algorithms to modern kitchen menus. Forget the basic tea. It's more than just the ordinary tea and iced lattes—that your feed is pushing for.

Chefs across the world are brewing this newly found 'green gold', into things which even that crazy viral Instagram reel won't show up. It's part of the soft serve ice creams, fudgy brownies, fluffy soufflé pancakes, chewy mochi doughnuts, and even the unimaginable velvety cheesecakes.



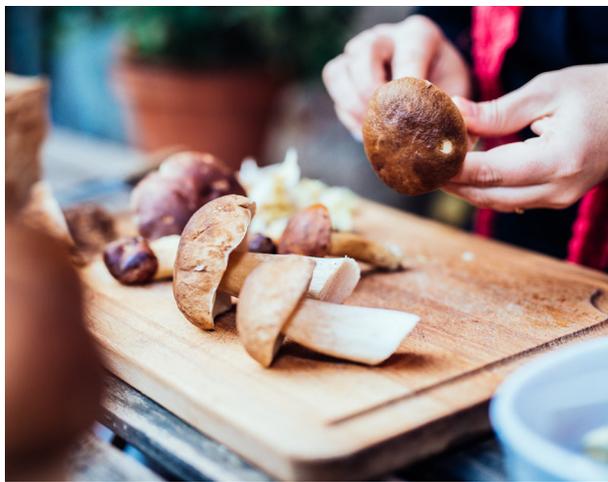
Matcha is making waves at Masque, Mumbai, with 'Rangoli', a festive barfi box crafted by Chef Dej Kewkacha. The Matcha Coconut flavour has emerged as a crowd favourite, pairing creamy nuttiness with matcha's signature earthy bitterness. "We wanted it to feel Indian yet global," shares Head Chef Varun Totlani. In New Delhi,

Adwait Anantwar, Chef Partner at INJA, is putting an Indian spin on the global matcha craze. His yuzu mishti doi is subtly dusted with green powerhouse. "Matcha brings a familiar earthiness to the tang of yuzu mishti," he explains. "Just a small touch, but one that bridges our flavours with a global favourite."



That won't wash: should you rinse your mushrooms?

I could witter on about mushrooms all day," says fungi fan Will Murray, which is good news, because Olivia's question is somewhat contentious. The chef and co-founder of Fallow, Fowl and Roe, all in London, even grows his own shrooms, and advises his chefs to clean them "at least three times in bowls of cold water", which brings us straight to the great mushroom washing debate, which has been rumbling on for years.



Writing in the Guardian in 2003, Heston Blumenthal called advice against washing mushrooms in water in case they become waterlogged "nonsense". He cites Harold McGee, who tested this theory in his book *The Curious Cook*: "McGee weighed 252g fresh mushrooms, submerged them in water for five minutes, then removed them, blotted the surface moisture and reweighed them." The

result was 258g, which, as McGee noted, is a 16th of a teaspoon of extra water per mushroom. "This was after five minutes of soaking, so five to 10 seconds of rinsing under running water is going to make no difference whatsoever."

Not so fast, though, because Ben Rand, executive chef at Bubala in London, says a pastry brush (or the back of a knife) is the best tool to "knock off the dirt", as does Conor Spacey, au-

thor of *Wasted*. Meanwhile, Claire Thomson, author of *Mushroom*, prefers a piece of dry kitchen towel to rub off any muck. So, clear as mud then. Peeling mushrooms, however, isn't necessary. But, Spacey says, "if the stalk is thick and woody, do peel the stalk area; and, if the mushrooms are older and sitting in the 'never to return drawer' in your fridge, throw them a lifeline and peel away the top layer with a small knife".

To drink a secret brewed in secret

Evening settles over Phobjikha Valley like a silk shawl, its rolling meadows bathed in the quiet glow of the fading sun. Inside her snug homestay kitchen, Kumbu Lhamo tips a shallow wooden bowl, grinning into its cloudy depths. The sip is warm, smoky, faintly chewy; the taste of Bhutan itself. This is ara, the country's most guarded home-brew, as beloved and unmistakably Bhutanese as ema datshi.

Ara is not found on supermarket shelves or glossy menus; it is born in kitchens and courtyards. Lhamo, like most Bhutanese women, distils hers in copper stills behind her farmhouse. Rice, barley, maize, or millet transform with time, instinct, yeast discs and inherited wisdom. Each household swears theirs is best: honeyed here, peppery there, always unique. A recipe carried through generations, like a secret hand-



shake between the past and the present. To drink ara is not just to taste Bhutan, but also to belong, if only for a moment, to its living story. Bhutan is not alone. Across Asia, once-obscure brews are slipping out of their clay jars and bamboo flasks, demanding global attention. In Nagaland, zutho, a rice beer with a tart, cider-like kick, turns festivals into song. In the hill tracts of Myanmar, khaung yay, brewed from sticky rice and passed around in bamboo tubes, carries the warmth of community it-

self. From the Indonesian island of Flores, the potent palm spirit *sopi* fuels ceremonies with both fire and camaraderie. And in China's Guizhou province, the hauntingly fragrant *mijiu* of the Miao people—a sweet-sour rice wine steeped in wild herbs—remains a drink of ritual and rebellion. To call ara a drink is to miss the point. Ara is both myth and magic. During *Lha-Soel*, a religious ritual, priests flick a few drops towards the sky and earth to honour protective deities and bless the household.



Babar Azam Sets WTC Record

Lahore: Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam has etched his name into cricketing history by becoming the first Asian player to score over 3,000 runs in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC). The milestone was achieved during the first Test match against South Africa at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on October 12.

Needing just two runs to reach the landmark, Babar crossed the threshold in style with a boundary, eventually scoring 23 runs before being dismissed by South African spinner Keshav Maharaj. His WTC tally now stands at 3,021 runs from 67 innings, with an impressive average close to 48. This achievement places Babar in an elite group of global Test performers, joining the ranks of Australia's Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head, and Usman Khawaja, as well as England's Joe Root, Ben Stokes, and Zak Crawley. Among Asian batters, Babar now leads the WTC charts, surpassing Indian stalwarts Rohit Sharma (2,716 runs) and Virat Kohli (2,642 runs).

Babar's consistency in the format has been a cornerstone of Pakistan's Test strategy since the inception of the WTC.

Unanimous picks: Wilson, Collier lead All-WNBA team

London: Las Vegas Aces center A'Ja Wilson and Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier were unanimous selections to the 2025 All-WNBA first team announced Friday. Wilson and Collier each swept all 72 first-place ballots from a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

They were joined on the first five by Phoenix Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas, Atlanta Dream guard Alisha Gray and Indiana Fever guard Kelsey Mitch-



ell. Wilson also won Most Valuable Player and co-Defensive Player of the Year honors this season and has the Aces on the brink of a championship, leading the Mercury 3-0 in the best-of-seven finals entering Game 4 on Friday night. Collier

was the runner-up for the MVP award this season after leading the Lynx to the league's best regular-season record at 34-10. Named to the 2025 All-WNBA second team were Seattle Storm forward Nneka Ogumike, Aces guard Jackie Young, Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu, Fever center Aliyah Boston and Dallas Wings rookie guard Paige Bueckers. The voting for the All-WNBA team was conducted at the end of the regular season.

Rohit, Virat 2027 World Cup Chances

Sydney: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has weighed in on the future of veteran cricketers Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, suggesting that their participation in the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup remains uncertain and will depend heavily on their performance in the upcoming series against Australia.

Speaking at the launch of Kayo Sport's Summer of Cricket in Sydney, Shastri emphasized that the three-match ODI series beginning October 19 in



Perth will be a critical test for both players. "They're part of the mix. It depends on their fitness, their hunger, and, of course, form," Shastri said. "This series is very important to see how they go. They themselves will know by the end of this series how they feel, and then it's their call."

Brook wary of Australia, Cummins injury lingers

London: England batter Harry Brook has urged caution in assessing Australia's strength ahead of the upcoming Ashes series, despite uncertainty surrounding the fitness of Australian captain and fast bowler Pat Cummins. Brook's comments come as England prepares for the first Test in Perth, scheduled for November 21. Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald confirmed that Cummins is "running out of time" to be fit for the series opener. Although not officially ruled out, the 32-year-old pacer reportedly needs to resume bowling at

least four weeks prior to the match to avoid further setbacks. Cummins has been a central figure in Australia's Ashes dominance since his debut in the 2017-18 series, and his absence would mark a significant blow to the home side. Speaking at the Professional Cricketers' Association Awards, Brook acknowledged Cummins' impact, calling him "an amazing bowler" known for his high pace and skill. However, Brook emphasized that Australia's depth and home advantage make them formidable opponents regardless of individual absences.

Tennis Player Gets 4-Year Ban, Says Kiss Caused Positive Test

Portuguese tennis player banned; kiss blamed for meth result

London: Goncalo Oliveira, a professional tennis player representing Venezuela, has been handed a four-year suspension by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) following a positive test for methamphetamine. The decision was announced on Friday after an independent tribunal concluded that Oliveira failed to prove the banned substance entered his system unintentionally. The incident traces back to November 2024, when Oliveira was competing at the ATP Challenger event in Manzanillo, Mexico. During



the tournament, both his A and B samples tested positive for methamphetamine, a stimulant prohibited under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code. Oliveira

was provisionally suspended in January 2025 pending the outcome of the investigation. Oliveira claimed the drug entered his system through a kiss.

Germany cruise, Mbappe on the mark for France in WC qualifying football

Germany regained lost swagger after Slovakia loss, edged Ireland

PARIS: Germany and France registered commanding victories in their respective FIFA World Cup qualifying matches on Friday, with standout performances from Joshua Kimmich and Kylian Mbappé.

Germany, four-time World Cup champions, cruised to a 4-0 win over 10-man Luxembourg, reclaiming top spot in Group A on goal difference ahead of Slovakia and Northern Ireland. Captain Joshua Kimmich led from the front, converting a first-half penalty and adding a second goal shortly after the break. David Raum opened the scoring with a well-placed free kick,



while Serge Gnabry added the fourth early in the second half.

Head coach Julian Nagelsmann praised his team's "aggression and greed," noting that while not everything was perfect, the win was both

deserved and necessary. The result marked a return to form for Germany, who had previously struggled in the campaign with a loss to Slovakia and a narrow win over Northern Ireland. Meanwhile, France maintained their

perfect record in Group D with a 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Star forward Kylian Mbappé showed no signs of his recent ankle injury, scoring with a slaloming run and assisting the second goal. However, he limped off late in the match following a tussle with an opponent, raising concerns ahead of France's next fixture.

Despite the injury scare, France dominated possession and chances, with Mbappé's early impact setting the tone for a confident display. The win keeps France firmly on course for qualification to the 2026 World Cup.

India reach 427/4 at lunch on day 2 Cricket

New Delhi: India continued their commanding performance in the second Test against West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, reaching 427 for 4 at lunch on Day 2. Resuming from an overnight score of 318/2, the hosts added 109 runs in the morning session while losing two wickets—Yashasvi Jaiswal and Nitish Kumar Reddy.

Jaiswal, who had starred on Day 1 with an unbeaten 173, was run out early in the session after adding just two more runs to his tally. His innings, marked by 22 boundaries off 258 balls, laid a solid foundation for India's innings. Nitish Kumar Reddy, promoted up the order, contributed a brisk 43 off 54 balls before being dismissed by



Jomel Warrican. Reddy's partnership with Shubman Gill added 91 runs for the fourth wicket in just over 17 overs. Nitish Kumar Reddy, promoted up the order, played a confident and attacking innings, scoring 43 off 54 balls. His partnership with Shubman Gill added 91 runs for the fourth wicket, providing momentum and stability. Reddy's dismissal came via a sharp delivery from Jomel Warrican, who remained the most effective bowler for the visitors.

