



THE MILEAGE



WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025 | GUWAHATI | AIZAWL | IMPHAL | ITANAGAR | KOHIMA | SHILLONG PAGES 06 | Rs 3.00

VOL 7, ISSUE 41

PM Modi Arrives in Bhutan For 2-Day Visit

Thimphu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bhutan today for a two-day state visit aimed at deepening India-Bhutan relations and participating in key diplomatic and cultural engagements. The visit coincides with the 70th birth anniversary celebrations of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the revered Fourth King of Bhutan. Upon arrival in Thimphu, Prime Minister Modi was received with ceremonial honours and welcomed by Bhutanese Prime



Minister Tshering Tobgay and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan. The visit underscores the enduring friendship and

strategic partnership between the two Himalayan neighbours.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled

to hold bilateral talks with His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and Prime Minister Tobgay. Discussions are expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in energy, connectivity, and cultural exchange, with a particular emphasis on sustainable development and regional stability. A major highlight of the visit will be the joint inauguration of the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project.

Amit Shah to lead security review following Delhi Blast

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level security review meeting today in the wake of a deadly explosion near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station that claimed at least nine lives and injured over 20 others. The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan at 11 a.m., brought together top officials from India's internal security apparatus to assess the situation and coordinate the national response. The meeting

was attended by Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, National Investigation Agency (NIA) Director General Sadanand Vasant Date, and Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha. Jammu & Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat joined the session virtually.

Government likely to issue advisories and consider new security policies in coming days.

Regional Journal: Pawar goes against INDIA bloc

Mumbai: NCP SP chief Sharad Pawar is giving the Congress-led INDIA bloc a tough time. Although the Opposition has so far stuck together to boycott the Joint Parliamentary Committee tasked with studying the constitution amendment Bill that seeks to remove the PM, CMs and ministers from office if they are jailed without release beyond 30 straight days, Pawar has nominated daughter Supriya Sule to the panel. A call a senior Congress leader made to Pawar to reconsider the decision does not seem to have helped. Although the Himachal BJP has been



trying to present a united front, its internal rift was evident when separate press releases were issued by factions loyal to former CM Jai Ram Thakur and Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur after a joint event to mark the 150th anniversary of the Vande Matram. All BJP leaders had attended the function. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has often mocked the BJP.

RSS body of individuals, so exempt from tax: Mohan Bhagwat

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the Sangh was a recognised body of individuals as per laws of the land and was exempted from income tax. Fielding queries on opposition parties' allegations that the RSS was an unregistered, unrecognised body, Bhagwat, speaking to influencers in Bengaluru, said, "How did the government ban an unrecognised body thrice? How did the courts thrice resolve that ban?"

Noting that the RSS was a body of individuals which functioned on voluntary donations (guru dakshina) exempted from income tax as per law, the Sangh chief



said before Independence, the Sangh could not have registered with the British government and after Independence, the laws did not mandate registration."The Income Tax Department asked us to pay but courts exempted our guru dakshina from tax. We are a recognised body of individuals and very much a constitu-

tional, legal entity. You keep hearing pro and anti-RSS statements all the time in Parliament. You would not have heard those had the RSS been unrecognised... By the way, even the Hindu dharma is unregistered," he said. On RSS roots, Bhagwat said it was established in 1925. "Do you expect us to have registered with the British government...After Independence, laws did not make registration mandatory. We are categorised as a body of individuals, and we are a recognised organisation," he noted. Bhagwat said the Income Tax Department and courts had also termed the RSS a body.

Delhi Air Quality 'Severe'



New Delhi: The air quality in Delhi and surrounding National Capital Region (NCR) plunged into the 'Severe' category on Tuesday, prompting the Centre to invoke Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The decision follows a sharp spike in the city's Air Quality Index (AQI), which rose from 362 on Monday to 425 on Tuesday morning, indicating hazardous pollution levels across the region.

The deterioration is attributed to calm winds, stable atmospheric conditions, and adverse winter meteorology that have trapped pollutants near the surface. Areas such as Bawana (AQI 412), Jahangirpuri (394), Burari Crossing (389), and Anand Vihar (379) reported alarming pollution levels, pushing Delhi firmly into the 'Severe' AQI bracket (401-450).

Health experts have warned of increased risks of respiratory and cardiovascular complications, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions.

Rahul Gandhi accuses Modi, Shah stole votes at Bihar rally

Congress: BJP-RSS Divide, INDIA Bloc Unites Bihar

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a campaign rally in Kishanganj, Bihar, accusing them of orchestrating "vote theft" and undermining democratic processes. The remarks were made as part of the INDIA bloc's campaign ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections. Addressing a large gathering, Gandhi alleged that Modi and Shah, along with the Election Commission, had no answers to the opposition's repeated



claims of electoral manipulation. "The truth is now in front of the people. They can go anywhere, but they will eventually be caught for indulging in 'vote chori' (vote theft)," he declared,

drawing loud applause from the crowd. Gandhi also accused the BJP and its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), of attempting to divide the country.

Namaz video viral, BJP slams Karnataka govt

Bengaluru: A viral video purportedly showing a group of people offering 'namaz' (Islamic prayer) at Terminal-2 of the Kempegowda International Airport in the city has ignited a political controversy, with the opposition BJP taking strong exception to the incident and demanding accountability from the state government. The video shows security personnel nearby observing the prayers.

BJP Karnataka unit spokesperson Vijay Prasad asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister Priyank Kharge whether those who performed

prayers in a public place had obtained any prior permission as mandated in the recent rule framed by the state government. "How is this even allowed inside the T2 Terminal of Bengaluru International Airport? Hon'ble Chief Minister @siddaramaiah and Minister @PriyankKharge do you approve of this?" Prasad asked in a post on X on late Saturday night.

"Did these individuals obtain prior permission to offer Namaz in a high-security airport zone?" Referring to the rules, which the BJP alleged were framed to restrict RSS activities in the state.



80 lakh foreign nationals included in Assam voter list: Ex BJP MLA

Dev alleges 80 lakh illegal voters in Assam

Guwahati: The controversy over Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) has resurfaced after former BJP MLA Shiladitya Dev accused the process of being riddled with errors and facilitating the inclusion of foreign nationals in the state's voter list. During a media interaction in Guwahati, Dev asserted that the existing voter roll in Assam is "deeply flawed," claiming that nearly 80 lakh Bangladeshi or East Pakistani-origin Muslims were wrongly recognised as Indian citizens. He argued that the NRC,



finalized in 2019 under the Supreme Court's direction, failed to fulfill its objective of identifying illegal immigrants.

Dev cited examples like Saifur Rehman Talukdar to question the credibility of

the list, alleging that many such names appeared despite doubtful citizenship credentials. "When such entries exist, the authenticity of the NRC itself comes under question," he remarked.

Arunachal student dead; suicide under probe

Itanagar: A 19-year-old Class 11 student of St Xavier's International School in Aalo, West Siang district, was found dead inside the school washroom on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Tato Podo, a resident of Gapur village in Shi-Yomi district. Police said two hostel students discovered the body after noticing that the washroom door was bolted from the inside. When they forced it open, they found Podo lying on the floor with a necktie around his neck, tied to the door frame.

School officials were immediately informed, and police, led by Sub-Inspec-

tor A. Pangge, arrived at the scene. The area was photographed, video-graphed, and examined before the body was taken to Aalo General Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Officer-in-charge Yomken Riram said preliminary inquiry and CCTV footage suggested no external involvement. Following a written request from Podo's family, the case was withdrawn, and the body was released without a post-mortem. Family members confirmed they believed the death was self-inflicted and opted to perform the last rites.

Manipur exam postponed over error

Imphal: The Manipur Public Service Commission has rescheduled two papers of the Civil Services Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination, 2022, after discovering a printing error just moments before candidates were due to begin writing. Paper-IV (General Studies-III) and Paper-V (General Studies-IV), originally scheduled for November 9, will now be held on November 22, 2025 (Saturday). The error came to light when invigilators opened the sealed question paper cover in the examination hall and found a mismatch between the heading on the paper and its actual content.

The commission clarified that the printing mistake by the secured press could not be detected earlier due to strict confidentiality protocols. "No official from the MPSC is allowed to see the Question Papers to keep full confidentiality, and the question paper is opened only in front of the candidates in the examination hall," the notification stated.

Manipur Police arrest insurgents, seize drugs

Imphal: Manipur Police conducted two major operations on November 9, arresting three active cadres of the proscribed Revolutionary People's Front/People's Liberation Army (RPF/PLA) and two individuals involved in drug trafficking. In the first operation, a team from Lamsang Police Station, Imphal West, apprehended three active RPF/PLA members from their respective homes. They have been identified as Chingangbam Ingomacha Singh alias Kishan (50) of Sanjenbam Awang Leikai, Ngangom Inaocha Singh alias James (49) of Lamsang Awang Leikai, and Huidrom Bhopen Singh alias Chingkhel (40) of Mana Inghol Mamang Leikai. Police recovered three mobile phones and three Aadhaar cards from them. Investigation is un-



derway to determine their recent activities and any links to subversive operations. In a separate action, Porompat Police Station personnel detained Md. Salman Khan (35) of Kwakta Khuman, Moirang, and Md. Sahidur (51) of Ward No. 2, Bishnupur district, near the JNIMS crossing. Police seized around 2.3 kilograms of WY tablets, a Mahindra Scorpio vehicle bearing registration number AS12K-6496, an Aadhaar card, and two mobile phones. Both cases are under active investigation as police work to uncover wider networks tied to insurgency and narcotics trafficking in the state.

Assam rolls out NFSA food subsidy scheme

Guwahati: The Assam government on Monday launched a scheme to supply essential food items, including lentils, sugar, and salt, at subsidised prices under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the scheme at a state-level event in Guwahati, announcing that the prices would be further reduced from January next year.

"Masur dal: Rs 69 per kg, sugar: Rs 38 per kg, salt: Rs 10 per kg. Is it possible? Yes, in Assam it is!" Sarma wrote on X after unveiling the initiative. He said the subsidised items will be available at all fair price shops across the state. The Chief Minister added that from January, Rs 100 will be sufficient to



buy one kilogram each of dal, sugar, and salt, calling it a new benchmark in nutritional security for ration card holders.

The scheme was simultaneously launched at nearly 33,000 fair price shops across Assam, with beneficiaries, ministers, MLAs, and local representatives participating in the event.

Speaking at the launch event, Sarma emphasized the government's commitment to "Antyodaya"—uplifting the poorest sections of society. "From today, through the Assam Fair Price Shop scheme, we will provide one kg of lentils, one kg of sugar, and one kg of salt to more than 70 lakh families in Assam.

Meghalaya marks Seng Khasi anniversary

Shillong: A total of 40 commemorative monoliths were erected at the sacred summit of Lum Sohpetbeng on November 9 as part of Seng Khasi's 125th anniversary celebration. The event, organised by Seng Khasi Kmie along with units of Seng Khasi and Seif Raji, formed a major highlight of the organisation's year-long quasi-centennial observance.

Founded in 1899 by sixteen young men in Shillong, Seng Khasi was established to preserve, protect and promote the Khasi Way of Life. Over the past 125 years, it has grown into a widespread movement with more than 300 branches across Meghalaya, working to safeguard Khasi culture, rituals and traditional philosophy. Meghalaya Governor CH Vijayashankar, attending as chief guest.

MOA, Governor discuss Manipur sports roadmap

Imphal: In a strategic move to strengthen Manipur's sporting infrastructure, a delegation from the Manipur Olympic Association (MOA) met with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at Raj Bhavan, Imphal, on May 15, 2025. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming 39th National Games, scheduled to be hosted by Meghalaya in 2027, with Manipur expected to contribute



key venues and facilities. During the interaction, MOA representatives emphasized the urgent need to upgrade the velodrome

and fencing court at the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex. These facilities are likely to be utilized for select events during the

National Games, and the delegation urged the Governor to expedite renovation efforts to meet national standards.

Governor Bhalla responded positively to the proposals and directed Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) Secretary N. Praveen Singh, who was also present, to initiate swift action for upgrading the identified venues. The Governor's Secretariat later issued a

statement confirming that the state would prioritize timely completion of infrastructure enhancements to ensure readiness for the sporting mega event. The meeting also highlighted the importance of inter-state coordination, as the Meghalaya State Olympic Association had earlier expressed interest in utilizing Manipur's advanced sports facilities for certain disciplines.



Godrej Agrovet reports strong H1 FY26 growth, led by animal feed, vegetable oils and branded foods

Guwahati: Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL) posted robust volume-led growth across most business segments in its second quarter and half-year results ended September 30, 2025.

Managing Director Sunil Kataria said the company achieved strong margin improvements despite softness in the standalone Crop Protection segment. The Animal Feed business delivered record quarterly

volumes, with cattle feed rising 18% year-on-year, while segment margins improved ~70 basis points, reflecting operational efficiency and cost management. Vegetable Oils recorded stellar revenue and profitability growth, supported by higher crude palm oil and palm kernel oil realizations, record Oil Extraction Ratio (OER), and a 9% rise in Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) arrivals. Dairy performance remained re-

silient, with value-added products contributing 36% of sales, up from 32% a year ago. Godrej Foods' branded segment, including Yummiez, posted 19% revenue growth, boosting branded salience to 86%. Astec LifeSciences reduced losses, driven by higher enterprise volumes and stronger margins, while ACI Godrej Bangladesh saw sequential volume growth of 6% despite year-on-year revenue decline.

In Guwahati, retailers reported strong demand for cattle feed, vegetable oils, and branded dairy and processed food products. Rising urban consumption and preference for value-added goods have driven sales, reflecting GAVL's growing influence in the Northeast market. GAVL's diversified portfolio and operational efficiency highlight its resilience amid challenging commodity prices and seasonal volatility.

Bajaj Finserv launches BFSI Growth fund

Guwahati: Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited has launched its Banking and Financial Services Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed to capitalize on India's fast-growing financial sector. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens today and will close on November 24, 2025. The fund is benchmarked against the NIFTY Financial Services TRI and aims to offer investors access to India's evolving banking and financial ecosystem.

The fund will invest in 45-60 carefully selected stocks from a universe of 180-200 companies across banks, NBFCs, insurers, asset management companies, and other capital market intermediaries. Built on Bajaj Finserv Mutual Funds' Megatrends strategy, it targets structural growth drivers such as UPI adoption, digital lending, Jan Dhan initiatives, and rising participation in insurance and mutual funds. The scheme is intended for long-term investors with higher risk ap-



petite seeking wealth creation through focused BFSI exposure. Ganesh Mohan, MD of Bajaj Finserv AMC, said, "India's financial services sector will play a key role in the country's growth trajectory, attracting both domestic and foreign capital. This fund allows investors to participate in a megatrend across the entire BFSI spectrum."

In Guwahati, investors and financial advisors have shown keen interest in the new fund. The city's retail investor base is increasingly looking for thematic equity schemes that provide structured exposure to high-growth sectors, reflecting optimism in regional financial markets and growing awareness of diversified investment opportunities.

Sensex, Nifty dip; Bajaj weighs

Mumbai: Benchmark indices traded with marginal loss in the mid-trading session, dragged by financial stocks, and succumbing to profit-taking and sector-specific concerns. Though there are positive signals such as a potential US-India trade deal, market participants remain cautious. Sensex and Nifty 50 fluctuated nearly 600 points and 188 points, respectively, in today's trading session.

Midcap and smallcap indices remained largely flat, while sectoral indices showed mixed trends. The telecom index rose 1.5%, IT gained 1%, and auto and metal indices added 1% and 0.6% respectively.

Capital A taps Bahrain as Middle East hub to accelerate global expansion

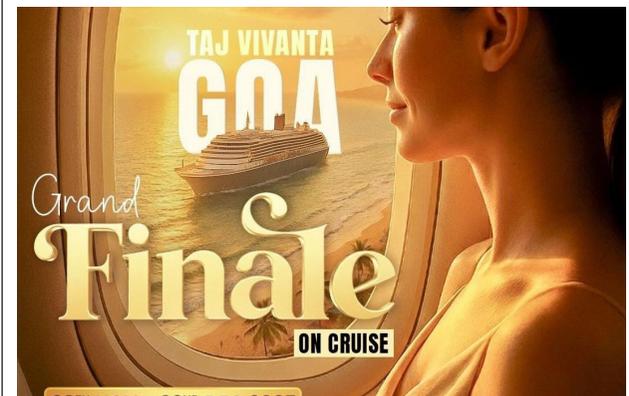
Guwahati: Capital A Berhad ("Capital A") has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Bahrain's Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications to explore establishing the kingdom as AirAsia's Middle East hub, marking a strategic push to bridge Asean with one of the world's fastest-growing aviation regions. The agreement lays the foundation for collaboration across airline operations, cargo and logistics, maintenance capabilities, and talent development. Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A, described the move as a "game-changer," highlighting plans to operate over 25 daily flights between Bahrain and Asean megahubs by 2030, carrying more than 20 million passengers over five years. Asia Digital Engineering



(ADE) will set up a state-of-the-art MRO facility to service Airbus and Boeing aircraft, while Capital A's logistics arm, Teleport, aims to expand Middle East, European, African, and CIS connectivity. The expansion is projected to contribute USD 8 billion to Bahrain's economy and create over 100,000 jobs. In Guwahati, the development is expected to enhance regional travel and trade. Improved international connecti-

ty through Bahrain could open new routes for business and tourism, boost cargo and e-commerce flows, and strengthen Guwahati's position as a key economic and aviation hub in Northeast India. H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa noted the partnership supports Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, reinforcing its role as a tourism, logistics, and aviation gateway connecting Asia, Europe, Africa, and the US.

Zoya Sheikh launches KARA to empower women



Shillong: Mrs. Universe finalist and Mrs. Maharashtra 2022-23 third runner-up, Zoya Siraj Sheikh, has launched three major pageants—KARA Miss & Mrs. Maharashtra 2025, Mrs. India Supranational, and Mrs. Supranational—creating a global platform for women to gain recognition, confidence, and social impact visibility. Sheikh, Founder and Managing Director of KARA ZOYA Pvt. Ltd., said, "Every woman has a story, a strength, and a sparkle that deserves to be seen. Through KARA's pageants, we are celebrating courage, confidence, and individuality." The

competitions focus on talent, communication skills, personality, and social responsibility, with a special "I AM ENOUGH" forum supporting widow empowerment. The grand finale will take place on a luxury cruise in Goa, offering participants a blend of glamour and professional development. Bollywood actress Hina Khan will attend as a celebrity guest, following appearances by Terence Lewis and Neha Dhupia in past editions. Registrations are open till November 20, 2025, through www.mrsindiasupranational.com or via +91 93227 10192 / +91 75063 12201.

Blenders Pride tour 2025 promotes innovation with fashion's next move across India

New Delhi: The Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025, in collaboration with the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), has launched its latest edition titled "Fashion's Next Move," spotlighting the spirit of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship driving India's fashion ecosystem. The initiative reflects how design thinking, technology, and artistic expression are reshaping the business of fashion for a new generation of consumers and startups alike. The tour begins in Gurugram with "The Futureverse of Fashion" by Falguni and Shane



Peacock, featuring Shahid Kapoor and Tamannaah Bhatia, introducing a futuristic, tech-integrated cou-

ture experience. It moves to Jaipur with "High Octane Couture" by Abhishek Patni and Namrata Joshipura, featuring Harnaaz Sandhu and Raftaar, inspired by motorsport aesthetics. The grand finale in Kolkata, "Breaking the Moulds of Fashion Craft" by Anamika Khanna and Ishaan Khatter, celebrates craftsmanship fused with innovation. Debasree Dasgupta, CMO of Pernod Ricard India, said the tour "sets new benchmarks shaping the evolution of fashion." Sunil Sethi, FDCI Chairman, called it "a celebration of creativity and culture."



Medanta opens Noida hospital using tech; Q2 revenue grows by 15 percent

Gurugram: Medanta Global Health Limited (NSE: Medanta, BSE: 543654) has launched its sixth hospital, a 550-bed super-specialty facility in Noida, integrating cutting-edge medical technologies to enhance patient care. Operational since September 2025 with 226 beds, 81 ICU beds, and five operating theatres, the hospital has onboarded 151 doctors across key specialties. Advanced diagnostic and treatment

equipment reflects Medanta's focus on innovation-driven healthcare delivery in Delhi/NCR. For Q2 FY2026, Medanta reported consolidated total income of INR 11,189 million, up 14.8% year-on-year, with net profit rising 21.1% to INR 1,584 million. EBITDA excluding Noida increased 13.7% to INR 2,804 million. Mature hospitals generated INR 7,200 million in revenue, while developing hospitals excluding Noida grew 28.3%, with margins

improving to 31.5%. International patient revenue surged 48.5% to INR 762 million, and OPD pharmacy revenue rose 23.9% to INR 456 million, highlighting strong adoption of innovative healthcare solutions. Other developments include capacity expansions in Patna and Lucknow and the upcoming 500–750 bed hospital in Mumbai, reflecting Medanta's commitment to technological advancement and network-wide growth.

ICICI Prudential Life launches BSE 500 value Index Fund

Imphal: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Thursday launched the BSE 500 Enhanced Value 50 Index Fund for its Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs), providing investors a platform to participate in India's economic growth. The fund mirrors the BSE 500 Enhanced Value 50 Index, comprising 50 fundamentally strong companies currently trading below their intrinsic value, selected based on earnings, book value, and sales relative to price. The

fund follows a systematic, rule-based investment process, reconstituted quarterly to remain aligned with evolving value opportunities across large, mid, and small-cap segments. Historically, the BSE 500 Enhanced Value 50 Index outperformed its parent index in 12 out of 19 years from 2006 to 2024, underscoring the potential of disciplined value investing. Speaking on the launch, Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insur-

ance, highlighted that the fund offers ULIP customers a transparent and simple way to systematically save, combining wealth creation with life cover to ensure financial security for families. In Imphal, ULIP-linked index funds gain traction as investors pursue disciplined, diversified exposure to value stocks—boosting participation among young professionals and families focused on education, retirement, and long-term financial goals.

Bajaj Finserv elevates Pune Marathon 2025 with global sprint icons Noah Lyles and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

Guwahati: Bajaj Finserv Ltd, one of India's leading diversified financial services groups, announced the 6th edition of the Bajaj Pune Marathon, to be held on December 14, 2025, with the empowering theme "You Too Can Fly." The event marks a significant step in the company's vision to inspire aspiration, resilience, and inclusivity through sports.

This year's marathon brings two of the world's greatest sprinters — Noah Lyles, the reigning



World's Fastest Man, and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce,

the most decorated female 100m sprinter — as global ambassadors. Both champions will motivate thousands of participants across multiple race categories, from the full marathon (42.2 km) to shorter runs, reflecting Bajaj Finserv's commitment to community well-being.

Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv, said, "Our vision is to give wings to every Indian's aspiration. The Bajaj Pune Marathon embodies the spirit of limitless

possibility." In Guwahati, the marathon has sparked growing interest among fitness brands and retailers. Local stores report higher demand for running gear, sports nutrition, and event partnerships, as fitness-focused consumers increasingly align with national wellness initiatives led by major corporations. With global stars and a purpose-driven mission, Bajaj Finserv's Pune Marathon 2025 positions itself as a flagship event in India's sports-business landscape.

NBFCs go back to the drawing board

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's draft guidelines for risk weights in infrastructure lending has put non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in a fix. Most believe that the proposed framework is more complicated than the current rules and could be difficult to implement. The draft introduces a split risk weight structure of 50% and 75% for high-quality infrastructure projects, replacing the existing flat 50% applicable to com-

missioned projects with over a year of commercial operations. Lenders say the new criteria—based on repayment levels and other conditions—add layers of complexity which are not present in the current framework. The guidelines will be effective from April 1.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) said it is reviewing the draft's impact across its loan book, which spans generation, transmission, and distribution.

California almonds gain ground as smart Diabetes Day choice

Guwahati: Ahead of World Diabetes Day on November 14, health experts and nutritionists are urging consumers to include California Almonds in their daily diet to help manage blood sugar levels. With India often dubbed the "Diabetes Capital of the World," a recent ICMR study revealed that 101 million Indians have diabetes, while 136 million are pre-diabetic. This year's theme, "Diabetes in the Workplace," highlights the need for awareness and supportive environments to manage the condition effectively. Almonds, packed with protein, unsaturated fats, dietary fiber, and 15 essential nutrients, are proven to help regulate glucose, reduce the blood sugar impact of carbohydrate-rich meals, and offer anti-inflammatory benefits. Studies led by Dr. Anoop



Misra of Fortis-C-DOC, New Delhi, indicate that consuming almonds before meals significantly improves blood sugar control in Asian Indians with pre-diabetes and obesity. Experts like Sheela Krishnaswamy and Ritika Samaddar emphasize almonds as an easy-to-incorporate, nutrient-dense food that supports energy, satiety, and overall metabolic health. Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan and Ayurveda expert Madhumitha Krishnan also

endorse almonds for balanced diets and holistic wellness.

In Guwahati, demand for California Almonds is rising sharply ahead of World Diabetes Day, with retailers reporting increased purchases from supermarkets and kirana stores. Health-conscious consumers are turning to almonds as a daily snack and a staple for meal planning, reflecting a broader shift toward preventive nutrition in the region.

Jindal hosts Milaap meet to strengthen Shillong steel market presence

Shillong: Jindal (India) Limited, part of the B.C. Jindal Group and a leading downstream steel products manufacturer in India, successfully conducted its "Milaap" retailer meet in Shillong. Organized in association with Power Roofings, the event saw participation from over 90 prominent retailers, serving as a key platform to strengthen relationships and expand the company's regional footprint. The meet highlighted Jindal (India) Limited's diverse portfolio, including Jindal Sabrang, a range of colour-coated steel sheets designed for enhanced outdoor durability and visual appeal, and Jindalume, a bare-galvalume product tailored for value-conscious customers. Company officials also discussed growth plans for the region, sought first-hand feedback from



retailers, and addressed operational challenges to ensure stronger collaboration and market development. In Shillong, the event is expected to create a significant impact, offering local retailers access to advanced steel solutions and enabling them to meet rising consumer demand in Meghalaya. The retailer meet also positions Jindal (India) Limited as a trusted partner in the region,

promoting competitive pricing, product diversity, and improved supply chain engagement. Recently, the company secured a Letter of Approval through its subsidiary, Jindal India Steel Tech Limited, for a greenfield steel plant in Dhenkanal, Meghalaya, with a phased investment of Rs 15,000 crore by 2030, signaling long-term commitment to the Northeast market.

TAFE Tractors EV debuts at Agritechnica 2025 with hybrid, smart farming tech

Guwahati: TAFE – Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, one of the world’s largest tractor manufacturers, has earned global recognition at Agritechnica 2025, with its TAFE EV28 electric tractor named among the Top 5 finalists in the “Tractor of the Year (TOTY) 2026” Sustainable Tractor Category. The company also unveiled its ground-breaking TAFE EVX75, a 75 HP hybrid tractor combining an EU Stage V diesel engine with a 400 V electric battery system, capable of



operating in both electric and hybrid modes for enhanced efficiency and lower emissions. TAFE also showcased three new product ranges — the TAFE 1015

(100+ HP) for heavy-duty operations, the TAFE 6065 Compact Utility Series (65 HP), and the TAFE 7515 GE Fruit and Orchard Series (74 HP) — all designed to

address the evolving needs of farmers globally. These innovations reflect TAFE’s strategic focus on precision AgTech, automation, and sustainable energy platforms.

In Guwahati, where small and mid-scale farmers are increasingly exploring hybrid solutions, TAFE’s new range is seen as a potential game-changer. Local dealers report growing inquiries for smart, fuel-efficient, and climate-resilient machinery suited for Assam’s diverse farming terrain.

SoftBank exits Nvidia stake, profit doubles



Mumbai: Japan’s SoftBank group has sold its entire stake of 32.1 million shares in US chipmaker Nvidia for \$5.8 billion as it reported that its quarterly net profit had more than doubled.

The Japanese technology-investment firm, which logged a net profit of 2.5 trillion yen (\$16.2 billion), sold the shares to Nvidia in October, while also disclosing that it had sold part of its T-Mobile stake for \$9.17 billion. SoftBank logged a net profit of 2.5 trillion yen (\$16.2 billion) in July-September.

Despite its latest exit, SoftBank is involved in a number of Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects that are linked to Nvidia’s technology, including a \$500 billion Stargate project for data centres in the US, CNBC reported.

In 2017 too, SoftBank’s Vision Fund had backed Nvidia, reportedly amassing a \$4 billion stake in 2017 before it sold all of its holdings in early 2019. Separately, SoftBank has been leading an investment of up to \$40 billion in OpenAI, with plans to syndicate

out \$10 billion to co-investors.

On Tuesday, SoftBank said co-investors had committed to the entire syndication amount, and that it will invest an additional \$22.5 billion in OpenAI through its Vision Fund 2 in December. In fact, SoftBank has reportedly planned a \$30 billion injection into OpenAI, which is also a part of the StarGate project, and a proposed \$6.5 billion acquisition of chip designer Ampere Computing LLC, according to Bloomberg. Making further advances in the world of AI, SoftBank has also agreed to acquire Swiss giant ABB’s robotics business for \$5.4 billion, attempting to merge the potential of AI and robotics.

SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son is also pursuing partnerships with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC), which is the world’s largest semiconductor foundry, and others on a potential \$1 trillion AI manufacturing hub in the US, according to reports.

Gold jumps over \$4,000

New Delhi: Gold prices are on the rise again. After moving up in a hurry and climbing over 57% so far this year, gold prices have remained flat in the last month. Gold, for the first time in history, breached the \$4,000 level on October 7, 2025, and touched an all-time high of \$4,380 on October 17.

Later, a 10% correction in gold took prices below \$4,000, but now gold is back above \$4,000. On November 11, gold trades around \$4,137 and the gold price today in India is Rs 1,25,120. Gold’s recent up move has hit a three-week high as growing economic uncertainty in the US fueled expectations for a near-term Federal Reserve rate cut. The next FOMC meeting is on December 9-10, where the Fed chair Powell is expected to announce a 25bps rate cut. Fed Governor Stephen Miran is advocating a larger half-point reduction amid falling inflation and rising unemployment.

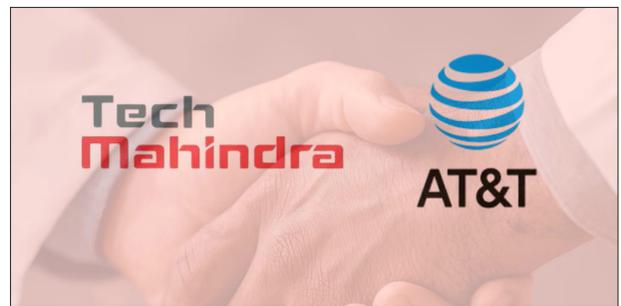
“Global sentiment on the potential end to the US government shutdown is mixed. Normally, an end to the uncertainty would strengthen the USD and reduce safe-haven demand for gold.



Tech Mahindra adopts AT&T tools for 5G, LTE testing

Pune: IT services firm Tech Mahindra on Tuesday said it has entered into a licensing agreement with AT&T to offer telecom operators a highly automated solution for conducting network health checks and connectivity tests, ensuring more robust and reliable networks.

As part of the deal, Tech Mahindra will use AT&T’s Automated Network Testing (ANT) and Open Tool platforms to transform network testing and certification for LTE and 5G networks globally, the company said in a statement. “Tech Mahindra ... today announced a licensing agreement with AT&T for its proprietary ANT and Open Tool platforms. These



applications deliver an advanced platform designed to transform network testing and certification across Long Term Evolution (LTE), 5G Non-Standalone (NSA), and 5G Standalone (SA) domains,” it said.

The ANT platform features a user-friendly interface and an automated backend, integrating multiple industry traffic gener-

ation tools for streamlined test execution and validation. The Open Tool simulates data and voice traffic essential for certifying mobile packet core network functionality in lab and production environments. The licensing allows Tech Mahindra to provide this testing solution to global telecom providers outside AT&T’s operational markets.

Godrej Industries Q2 profit dips 16%

Mumbai: Godrej Industries on Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹242.47 crore during the second quarter of the financial year 2025-26 (Q2FY26), down 16 per cent from ₹287.62 crore reported in Q2 FY25. Sequentially, profit fell around 31 per cent from ₹349.22 crore.

The firm’s revenue from operations rose 5 per cent to ₹5,032 crore in Q2FY26, from ₹4,805 crore from the same quarter last year. On a sequential basis, it increased 13 per cent from ₹4,459 crore. Its total expenses rose 16 per cent Year-on-year (Y-o-Y)



in the September quarter to ₹5,602 crore, while remaining rising 18 per cent on a sequential basis. The firm’s total segment revenue stood at ₹6,290 crore, up 23 per cent Y-o-Y from ₹5,118 crore. Despite these segmental gains, the overall profitability was weighed down by cost inflation and margin compression.

IndusInd Bank seeks to recover ex-executives’ pay, bonuses

Mumbai: IndusInd Bank has begun a process to claw back salary and bonuses from its former chief executive and deputy chief, after an internal review flagged misconduct and misreporting, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. To deter misconduct, Indian banking regulations have allowed clawback provisions in employee contracts since 2019, but such efforts have been rare, with just two known instances since, while employees may challenge such actions legally. This year, IndusInd Bank disclosed incorrect accounting on derivative



trades that prompted a \$230 million hit to its accounts and led to the exit of former CEO Sumant Kathpalia and deputy CEO Arun Khurana in May.

Both now face investigations by the Indian markets regulator and enforcement authorities over accusations of insider trading and accounting irregularities. The

two sources spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to media. Khurana responded to Reuters queries via text message declining to comment, saying he had no information on the matter. Kathpalia did not respond to an email and text message. The bank did not respond to an email seeking comment. “The board of IndusInd Bank has obtained legal opinion on fixing staff accountability on the basis of its own internal code of conduct and as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines,” said the second source.



320 assistant coaches approved nationwide: Sports Ministry

Mandaviya eyes medals in underperforming sports

New Delhi: In a strategic push to elevate India's performance in international sporting events, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the appointment of 320 assistant coaches across 25 disciplines under the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The move is part of the government's broader "medal strategy" aimed at preparing athletes for the upcoming Olympic and Asian Games.

Announced by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on November 10, 2025, the initiative focuses on disciplines where India has traditionally underperformed but holds significant medal potential. These include aquatics, cycling, tennis, kayaking, and ca-



noeing. The minister emphasized that the selection process will be merit-based and transparent, with only certified or licensed professionals eligible for recruitment. A key highlight of the scheme is its commitment to gender equality. Mandaviya confirmed that 50% of the new assistant coaches will be women, aligning with the National Sports Governance Act's mandate

to foster a safe and inclusive sporting environment. The appointments will be distributed across SAI centers nationwide, ensuring that athletes receive specialized support in both mainstream and emerging sports. The ministry aims to not only improve India's medal tally but also deepen the country's sporting culture by investing in disciplines that often receive less attention.

Siraj Stresses South Africa Importance

Kolkata: Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has described the upcoming Test series against South Africa as "crucial" for India's standing in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. The two-match series, set to begin Friday at Eden Gardens, marks a pivotal moment for both teams as they seek to consolidate their positions on the WTC points table. India currently sits third in the WTC rankings, having drawn their away series in England and secured a home win against the West Indies. South Africa, the defending WTC champions, began their title defence with a 1-1 draw in Pakistan. The upcoming series is expected to be fiercely contested, with both sides fielding strong line-ups and aiming for vital championship points. Speaking ahead of the series, Siraj emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum and building on India's recent performances. "This series is crucial for the new WTC cycle, especially since South Africa is the defending champion," he said. "We're confident from our own good form we created a positive environment.

Messi's secret Camp Nou visit stirs emotions



New Delhi: Lionel Messi made a quiet and emotional return to Barcelona's Camp Nou, visiting the stadium for the first time since his departure in 2021. The Argentine star, now with Inter Miami, entered the under-renovation ground on Sunday night without any public announcement — a moment filled with nostalgia for both him and Barcelona fans.

Messi shared glimpses of his late-night visit on Instagram, writing, "Last night, I returned to a place that

I miss with all my heart. A place where I was immensely happy, where you made me feel like the happiest person in the world a thousand times over." He also expressed his desire to return to the club one day, saying, "I hope that one day I can come back, not just to say goodbye as a player, as I never got the chance to do." Now 38, Messi continues to shine at Inter Miami, where he recently scored twice and assisted twice in a 4-0 win over Nashville.

Rooney criticizes Salah after Liverpool's City defeat

Manchester: Wayne Rooney has slammed Mohamed Salah after his performance in Liverpool's 3-0 loss to Manchester City on Sunday, November 9. Salah struggled to make an impact on the game and missed a good chance during the second half as Liverpool slumped to their fifth loss of the season.

The Egyptian had a brilliant Premier League campaign last season, but has struggled for goals. Salah has scored just four goals this season but it is his defensive work that teams have exploited to attack Arne Slot's team. Jeremy Doku destroyed Connor Bradley on the left with Salah providing very little cover.

Raina backs Jadeja's CSK retention strongly

Mumbai: Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) stalwart Suresh Raina has publicly advocated for the retention of star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, amid swirling rumors of a potential trade involving Rajasthan Royals ahead of the IPL 2026 mini-auction. Raina's comments come at a time when CSK is reportedly considering a swap deal that could see Jadeja and another player move to Rajasthan in exchange for wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson. Speaking to media outlets, Raina described Jadeja as a "gun player" and emphasized his consistent contributions to CSK's success over the years. "Ravindra Jadeja has done really well for CSK. He should be retained," Raina stated, adding that Jadeja's experience and versatility make

him indispensable to the franchise. Jadeja has been a key figure in CSK's lineup since 2012, barring the 2016 and 2017 seasons when the team was suspended. His IPL record includes over 3,260 runs and 170 wickets across 254 matches, with a strike rate of 130.29 and an economy rate of 7.67. He played pivotal roles in CSK's title wins in 2018, 2021, and 2023. The all-rounder was retained ahead of the IPL 2025 auction for ₹18 crore, underscoring his value to the team. However, recent reports suggest that CSK management is exploring options to restructure the squad, prompting speculation about Jadeja's future. Raina's endorsement adds weight to the growing sentiment among fans and former players that Jadeja remains a vital asset.

Sinner Starts Title Defense

Turin: Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner began his ATP Finals title defense in emphatic fashion, defeating Canada's Félix Auger-Aliassime 7-5, 6-1 in the opening round-robin match at the Inalpi Arena. The victory marks Sinner's 27th consecutive win on indoor courts and reinforces his status as a top contender in the year-end championship. Sinner, currently ranked World No. 2, showcased clinical precision and mental consistency throughout the one-hour, 41-minute encounter. After a tightly contested first set, the defending champion capitalized on Auger-Aliassime's physical discomfort in the second, cruising to a straight-sets win. The Canadian required medical attention for a left leg injury.

Darjeeling to get stadium named after Richa Ghosh

Richa Ghosh played a key role in India's World Cup win

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that a new cricket stadium in Darjeeling will be named after India's 2025 Women's World Cup hero, Richa Ghosh. The move comes as a tribute to the 22-year-old Siliguri-born cricketer, who played a pivotal role in guiding India to their historic title win earlier this month.

The Chief Minister made the announcement during a felicitation event in honour of Richa, highlighting that Bengal wants to ensure her achievements are remembered for generations. "Richa became a world champion at just 22. On behalf of the West



Bengal government, we honoured her, but I want to do more. There's about 27 acres of land in Darjeeling, and I've asked the mayor to plan a cricket stadium there. It should be named the Richa Cricket Stadium so that people remember her performance in the fu-

ture and are inspired by it," Mamata Banerjee said. Richa received a hero's welcome in her hometown of Siliguri after India's 52-run victory over South Africa in the Women's World Cup final at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on November 2.



Rooney criticised Salah, saying that the Egyptian should have doubled up

during such big games to help out his young teammate.

"Salah is in the team to score goals and create goals. He's been one of the best players in the Premier League over the last six or seven years. But in big games, you have to double up." "You have to get back and help your teammate.

Conor Bradley was having a really tough game today, to be left on his own. Ryan Gravenberch was trying his best to help him and get over there, but then that leaves spaces in other positions. I think Salah has to come back and help his teammate," said Rooney while speaking on Match of The Day.