

Manipur Officials Push Local Nutrition at 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

Manipur officials held the 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 at the Manipur State Film Development Society in Imphal today. The event focused on pushing healthy eating habits for kids. Social Welfare Commissioner Haobam Rosita, Director Sheikh Abdul Hakim, and MCPCR Chairperson Keisham Pradipkumar led the proceedings.

Rosita warned that government agencies cannot fix nutrition gaps by themselves. She pushed for deeper community involvement.



"Maintaining a balanced diet was essential for good health and could not be achieved by Anganwadi workers or the Social Welfare Department alone," Rosita said. She urged families to pick local, seasonal produce over processed alternatives, noting that modern work schedules often disrupt

healthy routines.

Director Sheikh Abdul Hakim pointed to lifestyle choices as a root cause for health issues. He told Anganwadi workers to step up their outreach efforts. Meanwhile, Keisham Pradipkumar called for stricter oversight of school lunchboxes. He warned that social media advertising fuels the dangerous spread of fast food among children. Integrated Child Development Services staff set up exhibits to demonstrate nutritional value. The program also included technical sessions, promotional videos, and various cultural performances.

Chandel Forest Division Marks World Animal and Habitat Days

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

Chandel Forest Division gathered 1,500 students at St. Paul Higher Secondary School in Liwa Changning today. The event marked World Animal Day and World Habitat Day during India's annual Wildlife Week, which runs from October 2 to 8. Divisional Forest Officer Dr. N. Munal Meitei organized the assembly alongside school principal Benjamin Khudai and Range Forest Officer N. Deepa.

Dr. Munal urged the youth to respect nature. He focused on this year's theme, "See the World through their Eyes." He told the crowd that humans must understand the pain of animals and their essential role in keeping the earth in balance. Human activity destroys natural spaces, and artificial fixes cannot undo that damage. The event highlighted the interconnected nature of survival. Dr. Munal noted that mankind relies on other species for food, shelter, and health. He explained that World Habitat Day, observed every first Monday in October, defends the right to adequate housing for both people and creatures. Habitat loss, food insecurity, and climate change pose major threats today. Protecting land saves wildlife, preserves the ecosystem, and boosts local tourism.

Manipur Police Clear Nagamapal Road of Illegal Obstructions

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

Manipur Traffic Police cleared unauthorized parking and roadside vendors from Nagamapal Road today. The sweep covered the western stretch from Maharani Thongkha to RIMS Crossing. This area serves as a primary artery for office workers, local businesses, and medical transport. SP C. Cecelia Sopemla led the operation with support from the City Police Station. Emergency vehicles need this path. Clearing the route is a priority. Officials highlighted the necessity of keeping the road open for ambulances heading to RIMS and nearby hospitals. The department issued a firm warning to the public. Drivers must use designated parking spots instead of no-parking zones. Vendors must keep stalls off the carriageway. The department stated, "Public cooperation was essential for maintaining smooth traffic movement and keeping emergency routes accessible."

Suspected militant arson destroys family home in Manipur

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

Armed men torched a residence in Leimakhong Chingmang on October 4. The fire broke out at 10:10 pm at the home of Simon Chawang, also known as Stephen Chawang, a native of Konsakhul. The blaze reduced the building and all its contents to ash. Property losses reached 10 lakh. Security forces were spotted nearby while smoke filled the night sky.

The Konsakhul Village Authority condemned the



attack as a deliberate strike against the Naga community. The group identified the Kuki National Front-Progressive

and the Kuki Revolutionary Army as the attackers. Both outfits operate under the tripartite Suspension of Oper-

ations agreement. This pact should prevent them from harming civilians or private property. The village authority labeled the destruction deeply disturbing. "The Konsakhul (Kon-saram) Village Authority condemned the incident, describing it as a deliberate attack on a member of the Naga community." Officials demanded the Central Government restrain these armed groups. Both the state and central authorities must launch an impartial investigation to bring the culprits to justice.

People's War Group Issues Threat Over Manipur Farm Scheme Corruption

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

The People's War Group (Marxist Centre) is threatening retaliation over alleged corruption in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Comrade Lenin Meitei, secretary of the group's central media unit for the Kangleipak Communist Party, claims the program is rigged. He alleges that officials and private firms are pocketing money meant for farmers. Money went missing.

The group singled out a former nodal officer and three specific suppliers. These include M/S Symbolic Enterprise, M/S Wahengbam Irrigation Enterprise, and M/S East India



Machine Company. They are accused of diverting materials and padding lists with fake beneficiaries to secure illegal financial gains. The organization demands that the Manipur Loumee Marup push the Agriculture Department for accountability. They want to know exactly who received the supposed benefits.

The group claims their internal in-

vestigation shows genuine farmers in the state are being left behind. They warned that they will soon move against those who exploited the system. The statement is clear. "The organisation would take firm action against those allegedly depriving farmers of their rights." They warned that no outside group should interfere with these planned operations.

INDIA Bloc Marches from Parliament to Election Commission, Demands CEC's Resignation and Withdrawal of SIR; Leaders Detained Near NITI Aayog

AGENCY
New Delhi, Oct 06

Members of the INDIA bloc on Tuesday began a march from Parliament to the headquarters of the Election Commission of India, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the immediate withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. The Delhi Police detained several leaders near All India Radio, while Rahul Gandhi remained inside the Akashvani Bhavan.

The march, which began from the Makar Dwar of Parliament House, was stopped by security personnel after barricades were



erected near the NITI Aayog office. After being denied permission to proceed further, opposition MPs sat on the road and staged a protest, raising slogans

against the Central government and the Election Commission.

The march was joined by MPs from the Congress, Samajwadi Party and Left parties, as well as

members of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav took a dig at the BJP's offices in Delhi while speaking to the media. He said, "What was the need for the BJP to build such large offices in Delhi? They could have taken a floor in the Election Commission's office and worked from there; that would have been much better. It appears that, in the eyes of the Commission, only BJP workers are citizens and voters of the country."

Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the people's mandate had been undermined through the misuse of machinery during the by-elections in Kundarki, Meerapur, Ayodhya and Ambedkar

Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, as well as in West Bengal.

Akhilesh Yadav further alleged that despite a formal complaint regarding the filing of Form 7 using forged signatures in the name of Nandlal Nishad and the deletion of names of legitimate voters, the Election Commission had taken no action against the officials concerned.

Rejecting the proposal for "One Nation, One Election", Akhilesh Yadav said the system was an attempt to manipulate elections at one go and remain in power unchecked for five years, adding that the people would not accept such an arrangement.

PM Modi, Om Birla and Several Leaders Extend Birthday Greetings to Jitan Ram Manjhi

AGENCY
Imphal, Oct 06

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other leaders extended birthday greetings to Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Jitan Ram Manjhi, wishing him good health, longevity and continued service to the nation.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister wished Jitan Ram Manjhi on his birthday and said that throughout his long public life, he had consistently worked for the empowerment of the poor and underprivileged. Modi said Manjhi was playing a leading role in giving impetus to the MSME sector, which makes an important contribution towards making India prosperous and self-reliant. He also wished Manjhi a



long and healthy life. Om Birla extended his birthday greetings to Jitan Ram Manjhi and prayed for his good health and long life. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that Jitan Ram Manjhi had continued to play an important role in strengthening the country's micro, small and medium enterprises and empowering entrepreneurs associated with the sector. He wished Manjhi good health and longevity.

Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) national president Nitin Nabin said Manjhi's efforts to strengthen the MSME sector under the Modi government and advance the resolve of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat were commendable. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said Manjhi's long public life had been dedicated to the welfare of the underprivileged and working classes. She wished him good health, longevity and continued service to the people

Opposition Is Not Concerned About Democracy, but Frustrated by Defeat Says Shivraj Singh Chouhan

AGENCY
New Delhi, Oct 06

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has criticised opposition parties over their demands for electoral reforms and a return to paper ballots. Questioning Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the opposition parties' march, Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged that the opposition was not concerned about democracy but was instead expressing frustration over its electoral defeat and attempting to undermine the popular mandate. In a post on X on Tuesday, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that after a three-kilometre march involving 19 political parties, the opposition was demanding that the country return to the era of ballot papers. Referring to the three demands raised by Mallikarjun Kharge, he said they included the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and a return to elections conducted through ballot papers.

Defending reforms in the electoral pro-

cess, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the election system had undergone continuous changes to prevent electoral malpractice. He claimed that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) had played a role in curbing incidents such as booth capturing, while the introduction of photo voter identity cards and verification of electoral rolls had helped identify and eliminate bogus voters. He also described the SIR exercise as part of the same process of electoral reform. According to Shivraj Singh Chouhan, it is necessary to remove from electoral rolls the names of deceased voters, duplicate entries and voters who have permanently shifted to another location. He questioned how free and fair elections could be ensured if the process of cleaning and updating electoral rolls itself was opposed. Questioning the demand for a return to paper ballots, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan referred to incidents of booth capturing and bogus voting during elections in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the 1980s and 1990s. He alleged that the opposition was attempting to reverse the electoral reforms introduced over the years.

BJP Hits Back at Congress Over CEC, Form 6 Controversy; Sambit Patra Accuses Congress of Targeting Constitutional Institutions

AGENCY
New Delhi, Oct 06

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Sambit Patra has hit back at the Congress over its allegations concerning Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the controversy surrounding Form 6. He alleged that the Congress and some of its allies were targeting democratic and constitutional institutions in an attempt to politically establish

Rahul Gandhi. Patra discussed the issue at a press conference on Tuesday. Sambit Patra said the campaign had been going on for years, alleging that the Army, the Supreme Court, Hindus, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and, now, the Election Commission had been targeted at different times. He alleged that efforts were being made to create confusion and distrust regarding the Election

Commission.

The BJP leader also referred to the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Sambit Patra said Kumar assumed office as Chief Election Commissioner on February 19, 2025. The 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, and even the 2024 Lok Sabha election, had already been held before he took charge as CEC. Sambit Patra said that, therefore, it would not be factually correct to attribute the

BJP's victories in the 2014, 2019 or 2024 Lok Sabha elections to Gyanesh Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner. However, he noted that Kumar had been part of the Election Commission as an Election Commissioner since March 2024 and had served in that capacity during the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Sambit Patra also presented the party's position on the ongoing controversy surrounding Form 6. He said that various misconceptions and

alleged fake news had been circulating in recent days regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Referring to a petition seeking the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner before the Supreme Court and the notice issued in connection with it, Patra said that the issuance of a notice was part of the judicial process and did not mean that the allegations made in the petition had been established as true.

Green Party of England and Wales faces worldwide ostracism because Zionism is a racist vote

London

The English and Welsh Greens are facing international ostracism after adopting a policy declaring Zionism as a form of racism, which has drawn dismay from the group representing European Greens. The co-leader of the German Greens separately said the policy was "intolerable and unacceptable", running contrary to its belief in the right of Israel to exist. The binding policy motion passed in a vote at the Greens' conference in Brighton on Sunday. Four of the party's five MPs opposed it. The policy says Zionism, the movement for a Jewish state, should be "treated as any other form of racism", and backs a single democratic Palestinian state across historic Palestine "with equal rights for all". The European Green party, which represents 47 parties, including the Green party of England and Wales (GPEW), said it supported a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, and the new motion went against this. The alliance "will immedi-

ately demand clarity from the leadership and parliamentary group of GPEW, to understand the official party policy of GPEW, how they position themselves towards the self-determination of Israelis and Jews as well as the protection of Jewish people and members in the party", it said in a statement. Felix Banaszak, the leader of the German Greens, known formally as Alliance 90/the Greens, told a press conference the motion was "intolerable and unacceptable". "It runs counter to everything that Alliance 90/the Greens stands for in Germany, and it also runs counter to what the European Green party stands for," he added. Banaszak said: "There is a widely held view within the European Green party that Israel has a right to exist and that this right must not be undermined." His party would "approach our partner parties in Europe to clarify how to deal with this". Sandy Ruthven, the chair of Amnesty International UK's charitable trust and a longstanding Green



member, resigned over the motion and accused the party of failing to confront antisemitism. The fallout from Sunday's vote has also intensified a debate over whether the Greens' highly decentralised policymaking structures remain suitable for a party whose membership has expanded rapidly. Policy is made at the party's two annual conferences, which generally involve a small proportion of members. The Zionism motion won just over 1,000 votes, approximately 0.4% of the

total membership. Ellie Chowns, a former co-leader, said the party's governance and policymaking "urgently need to be modernised". "As a party we pride ourselves on our democratic member-led policymaking process, but I do think we need to ask ourselves some searching questions when less than 1% of our members actually participate," Chowns, the Green MP for North Herefordshire, told the Guardian. "This is long overdue and has become even more urgent with

the huge expansion of our membership." Chowns said she understood the concerns of European Greens, which she shared, but stressed: "There is still much more that unites us than divides us." One source in the party said the criticism from European Greens, especially those in Germany, was understandable given their differing stances on Gaza and Israel. They said: "The German Greens support arming Israel, opposed a ceasefire to Israel's onslaught on Gaza,

backed the suspension of funding to Unrwa and co-sponsored a Bundestag resolution describing the arguments and methods of the peaceful, Palestinian-led BDS campaign as antisemitic." Any change to internal party structures would be hard to implement. One Green insider said that to give MPs greater authority over members would undermine the party's commitment to grassroots democracy. However, they said the existing model could produce a lack of coherence and strategic direction, while giving a disproportionate influence to members with the most time to participate in policymaking. They suggested members could determine broad strategic priorities, with smaller bodies developing detailed policy while remaining accountable to the membership. Another senior Green defended the party's model of direct democracy, arguing that allowing members to determine policy was fundamental to the party's character.

Norway intends a temporary ban on smart glasses in certain public venues

Oslo

Norway is planning a temporary ban on smart glasses in some public places, amid rising global concern at the spread of the AI-enabled recording devices. The Oslo government is planning a bill to prevent the use of the camera-enabled spectacles in parks, beaches, museums, shopping centres, schools, daycare centres, healthcare facilities, gyms and public events, although private use would still be allowed. There is already a growing patchwork of restrictions on the use of the glasses including in UK and US courtrooms and in pubs, cinemas and restaurants where owners have raised privacy fears. Torgeir Mi-caelsen, Norway's minister of digital affairs, said he was

"worried that new, powerful technology is being introduced where people risk being photographed, filmed or audio-recorded without knowing it". "We do not want a society where people worry about being recorded without their knowledge, photographed or filmed in places and situations where they are accustomed to not being monitored," he said. Norway's Labour party, which heads a minority government, needs the support of other parties to pass the proposed ban. It said it planned to submit a bill "as soon as possible", while tasking an expert group with drawing up permanent regulations on the issue. Mark Zuckerberg's Meta sells "smart" versions of Ray-Ban and Oakley glasses that allow users

to film, take photos, make phone calls, play music and execute AI prompts. It has sold at least 9m pairs of the Ray-Ban versions since the start of 2023. In the UK restaurateurs such as Jeremy King, who created the Wolseley and Delaunay restaurants, and pub chain Wetherspoons have already said they do not want customers using the devices. Cinemas said in August they had begun introducing policies to ban or restrict the use of smart glasses citing both privacy and film piracy concerns. Last week the governor of California, Gavin Newsom, vetoed legislation that would have penalised citizens for using smart glasses to record people without their permission in changing rooms, doctors' offices and

other spaces people generally consider private. The state already has laws governing unlawful recording. In France, the child welfare group E-enfance said it had this year received about 20 reports of women being filmed without their knowledge using glasses fitted with a camera, the majority of which involved Meta smart glasses. It said the incidents often followed the same pattern: a young girl or woman approached in a public place, filmed without her knowledge, with the clip then posted on social media in the form of a prank or a street interview. Meta has stressed that each pair of glasses is fitted with a tamper-proof LED light that blinks white when the user is recording or taking pictures. It advises users:



"Not everyone loves being photographed. Stop recording if anyone expresses that they would rather you not." A Meta spokesperson said: "We're excited that our glasses continue to be very popular for listening to music, making calls, or getting live translations, so we're continuing to expand

styles and features around the world. Every pair with a camera has a bright light on the front that blinks when you take a photo or video. It can't be turned off and the camera is disabled if someone covers or tampers with it -- something smartphones and other camera's don't have."

IMPHAL REPORTER

07 OCTOBER 2026, VOL 36, NO 91

EDITORIAL

Asian Games outcome must drive LA28 prep

With the euphoria of the Asian Games behind us, it's time to reflect on India's campaign. On the face of it, finishing fourth on the medals table—behind the three continental sporting superpowers, China, Japan and South Korea—is a creditable achievement. Being the best of the rest on the medals count was especially praiseworthy after an underwhelming opening to the quadrennial campaign. Thanks to a glut of gold from the archers, wrestlers, boxers, hockey players and cricketers, India's tally got a late push in the second week. It is an ideal place to start afresh, with two years to go until the Los Angeles Olympics. The stakeholders, including the sports ministry, must now identify sports where there is a bright talent pool. Even if they are not in medal-rich disciplines like swimming or cycling, spotting and backing reliable medal winners in a few sports could provide the platform to start building the next dreams.

A key window of opportunity opens for growth along the Brahmaputra waterway

The flagging of the methanol cargo from Bogibeel Terminal in Dibrugarh for Dhaka by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal marked a historic milestone in Assam's waterways, brightening hopes for revival of a strategic international river trade route along the Brahmaputra. Long-term sustainability of this route hinges on bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh, and round-the-year navigability of the river-route via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route in the neighbouring country. Apart from being the first cargo shipped from upper Assam to foreign port since India's independence, the voyage of the barge is set to demonstrate the navigability of the entire stretch of the National Waterway-2, signalling to potential investors the commercial viability of river-based



logistics, infrastructure, and cruise-tourism along the Brahmaputra from Dibrugarh to Dhubri. The vessel carrying methanol produced by Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited, Namrup, will travel about 768 km on NW-2 to the India-Bangladesh border, then continue along the IBP route covering a total distance of 1,300 km from Bogibeel to Narayanganj in Dhaka. The establishment of the customs and immigration complexes at Dhubri and Bogibeel ports has already paved the way for

positioning Assam as strategic getaway for cross-border commerce with Bhutan and Bangladesh. While Customs and Immigration Complex at Dhubri has been designed to enhance regulatory oversight and boost export-import, and as a strategic gateway for inland water transport and cross-border commerce with Bangladesh and Bhutan, the Customs and Immigration Complex at Bogibeel has been developed as part of a modern tourist-cum-cargo terminal integrating cus-

tombs, with facilities that include dedicated arrival and departure waiting halls, cargo storage areas. Optimal utilisation of the strengthened logistics and enhanced passenger movement along the Brahmaputra by all north-eastern states can unlock the potential of trade and tourism in the entire region. As the entire region sources supplies of essentials from advanced states in India, use of the river route can drastically cut down transportation expense since cost advantage of waterways over road and railway is significantly higher. Earlier, successful sailing of a long-haul consignment of 1500 MT of cement originating at Pandu port to Patna covering 2,350 km via NW-2 and IBP route and NW-1 in 23 days demonstrated another crucial milestone of the region: the growing importance of Northeast as a supplier of essential goods.

Prime moment to step up as Ukraine and Russia look to New Delhi for peace talks

When External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Ukraine on September 3, three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bishkek on August 31, discerning policy watchers noticed something curious. Modi, in his interaction with Putin, had called for a shift from "endless war" to the "end of the war". Images of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha listening intently to Jaishankar's presentation suggested India had moved beyond interesting one-liners to more substantive peace formulations. We now have Sybiha on record saying that New Delhi indeed put forward a "comprehensive" and "broad" proposal to end the war. Besides India, Ukraine has received proposals for resolving the conflict from Türkiye, Egypt and the US. But Sybiha rated the Indian suggestion the best of the lot. "We have four proposals. The most comprehensive is India's. For the first time, India has signalled its willingness to play a role," he said. Sybiha's revelation came hours after Putin, delivering his annual foreign policy speech at the Valdai Discussion Club, spoke glowingly about Modi constantly flagging the conflict in their mutual interactions and having "very good ideas" to end it. "The Prime Minister takes a neutral position...



I think it's my duty to say that directly. We are thankful for his desire to put an end to this conflict through peaceful means and as soon as possible," Putin remarked. With both Kyiv and Moscow appearing keen on letting India take the lead, the situation may be ripe for the land of Gandhi to bring the sides to the negotiating table. Ukraine has already said it is ready to consider a truce covering attacks on energy infrastructure and in the Black Sea. It is also open to discussing an unconditional ceasefire along

the line of contact on the warfront. Zelenskyy had earlier indicated he would be ready for talks with Putin at the G20 summit in the US on December 14-15. Resolving the Ukraine conflict could be a low-hanging fruit compared to the US-Iran war, since both sides want an honest broker, not a self-serving bully. High diplomacy appears to be around the corner. If the PM pulls it off, it could substantially ease the global food and energy crises. Whatever the outcome, there is no harm in trying. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict

continues to destabilize international security, disrupt global energy markets, and exacerbate food insecurity across the Global South, a pivotal geopolitical shift is underway. Both Moscow and Kyiv are increasingly looking toward New Delhi as a unique mediator capable of bridging deep diplomatic divides. For India, this marks a prime moment to transition from its long-standing stance of strategic advocacy to active peacemaking, leveraging its balanced relationships with both sovereign states. Since the onset of the war, India's foreign policy framework has rested on multi-alignment, maintaining core strategic partnerships with Western nations while sustaining deep security and trade ties with Moscow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consistent refrain—that "this is not an era of war"—signaled early on that New Delhi prioritized dialogue over military escalation. However, recent developments demonstrate that mere verbal advocacy is no longer sufficient. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar acknowledged that New Delhi has explicitly moved "beyond advocacy" to take a more direct role in facilitated talks. What began as targeted negotiations around maritime safety, grain transit, and energy supply security in the Black Sea has expanded into discussions surrounding potential non-aggression frameworks and comprehensive ceasefire terms.

Vedanta will examine the first interim dividend on October 8



Mumbai

Vedanta's board of directors will meet on Thursday, October 8, to examine and approve the company's first interim dividend for fiscal year 27. Vedanta, led by Anil Agarwal, said in a regulatory filing that it has set Wednesday, October 14, as the record date for establishing shareholder eligibility for the interim dividend, if declared by the board. This will be the first dividend paid since the group's firms were divided into four separate entities in June. Shareholders whose names appear as eligible shareholders on the record date will be eligible to receive the interim dividend, assuming the board approves the payout at its October 8 meeting. The corporation has yet to reveal the size or per-share dividend. The compensation will be chosen by the board during the meeting. Vedanta has paid shareholders a total dividend of ₹140 per share since February 2023, as per stock exchange statistics. Since 2007, the corporation has issued annual dividends. Its highest-ever interim dividend

of Rs 31.5 per share was issued in May 2022. Vedanta declared interim dividends three times during FY26: in June 2025, August 2025, and March 2026. The three distributions totaled ₹34 per share for the fiscal year. Vedanta Ltd is part of the Anil Agrawal-led Vedanta group of companies.

It is a top global producer of metals, vital minerals, and technology, with operations in India, Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia.

The corporation specializes in base metals and is a major producer of zinc, silver, copper, nickel, and ferroalloys. Vedanta concluded the merger of four independent firms in June 2026, resulting in more concentrated, sector-specific enterprises. Following the demerger, Vedanta remains focused on its core metals and essential minerals operations while expanding into sectors related to energy transition and advanced technologies. Vedanta's share price is up nearly 4% in intraday trading.

The stock has fallen 6.28% in the last three months. Vedanta shares are down 56.12% year to date.

ICICI Life Insurance rebrand signals push for simpler insurance amid changing financial needs

Imphal

ICICI Life Insurance Limited, formerly known as ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, has unveiled a new brand identity and tagline, 'Har Kal Aasaan', signalling a renewed focus on simplifying life insurance and improving customer accessibility as financial planning becomes more complex.

The company said the new identity is aimed at making insurance more transparent, flexible and easier to navigate for Indian customers. It seeks to broaden the role of



life insurance from traditional protection against uncertainties to helping customers make informed and confident choices about their long-term financial futures.

Mr. Srinivas Balasubramanian, Chief of Marketing, Digital & Bancassurance, ICICI Life Insurance Limited, said, "The ICICI name holds an enduring place in

the lives of millions of Indians, serving as a symbol of trust, strength, and financial accessibility. Over the past 25 years, we have had the privilege of helping secure the dreams and futures of more than 20 crore Indians."

Balasubramanian said changing career paths, evolving family structures, longer lifespans and

shifting financial priorities were increasing the complexity of long-term planning. "At ICICI Life Insurance, we firmly believe that preparing for tomorrow should bring clarity, confidence, and peace of mind, rather than adding to life's complexities," he said. The company said the rebranding represents more than a change in name, reflecting its wider strategy to strengthen customer relevance and establish new benchmarks in the industry. It will build on its 25-year foundation while supporting the national goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

ACME Solar commissions an additional 66.68 MW solar power in Rajasthan

Mumbai

ACME Solar Holdings' subsidiary, ACME Renewtech, has installed an additional 66.68 MW of solar generating capacity in Rajasthan. "ACME Solar Holdings, through its subsidiary, ACME Renewtech, has commissioned an additional 66.68 MW of solar capacity located at Village- Kelan, Tehsil-Chhatargarh, District-Bikaner, Rajasthan, on October 05. The commercial operation date (COD) for the same is October 07," the company stated in its regulatory filing. With this latest commissioning,



ACME Renewtech has a total commissioned solar capacity of 133.36 MW out of the 300 MW hybrid power plant. The project is situated in Bikaner, Rajasthan, and is part of ACME Solar's renewable energy portfolio. ACME Renewtech has entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC for the project. The commis-

sioning of the new capacity brings the company closer to completing the entire 300 MW capacity of the hybrid power project. ACME Solar Holdings is one of India's largest renewable energy independent power producers (IPPs).

Founded in 2003 by Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, chairman of the ACME Group, the company develops, builds, owns, and runs large-scale renewable energy projects in the solar, wind, hybrid, and firm and dispatchable renewable energy (FDRE) categories. It also offers battery energy storage systems (BESS).

Non-metros fuel Amazon Prime expansion in India

Mumbai

Amazon Prime membership is expected to double from 2023 levels by the end of 2026, with roughly 70% of new members coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations as the program extends beyond its usual metro and premium client base. "Prime is fairly democratic at this point and has become a Bharat phenomenon," Akshay Sahi, Vice President, Prime and Customer Fulfillment Experience, India and Emerging Countries, Amazon, said during an interview with Fe. Sahi said the profile of Prime members has broadened significantly, with the company seeing customers across regions, income groups and shopping preferences.

Prime members also shop more frequently and across a wider range of categories – around five times more frequently than non-Prime members and across 15-20 categories, compared with two to five categories for non-members, he said. Sahi stated that the company has expanded its operations network to its widest extent to yet, adding 20 fulfillment centers, six sortation centers, and 150 last-mile delivery stations across 120 locations to accommodate this year's festive demand. The expansion includes new facilities in Raipur, Ranchi, and Varanasi.

JSW Energy's installed capacity has reached 15.1 GW, with an objective of adding 3 GW of renewables

Mumbai

JSW Energy added 1,694 MW of generation capacity since April 2026, bringing its total installed capacity to 15,147 MW, the firm announced on October 5. JSW Energy added around 1.4 GW of renewable energy capacity throughout the time. Renewable energy now represents around 61% of JSW Energy's operational portfolio. So far in FY27, capacity additions include 593 MW of solar, 108 MW of wind, 542 MW of hybrid, and 150 MW of hydropower. With the acquisition of Maruti Clean



Coal & Power, the company added 300 MW of thermal capacity. JSW Energy's operational renewable energy capacity now stands at 9,189 MW. This includes 3,125 MW of wind, 2,426 MW of solar, 1,857 MW of hybrid

and 1,781 MW of hydro capacity.

JSW Energy stated that it continues on track to meet its aim of installing 3 GW of renewable energy capacity in FY27. The organization has already met around 46%

of its target. Sharad Mahendra, Joint Managing Director and CEO of JSW Energy, stated that the business commissioned 1.4 GW of renewable energy capacity in the first half of FY27.

Having commissioned 1.4 GW of renewable energy capacity in the first half of FY27, we are on track to complete the remaining 1.6 GW during the year. "The remaining capacity is completely derisked, with land, transmission connectivity, and equipment supply already in place," Mahendra stated. He also stated that favorable construction con-

ditions in the second part of the fiscal year could help the company fulfill its annual capacity increase target. "Supported by a favorable construction season in the second half, we are well positioned to achieve our 3 GW annual capacity addition target, a significant milestone in our roadmap to 30 GW by FY30," he stated. JSW Energy currently has 32.4 GW of locked-in generation capacity. This includes 15.1 GW of current capacity and 14.5 GW under construction for thermal, hydro, and renewable energy projects.

Accused of murdering Nimisha Thakuria, was wounded in police shooting after an attempted escape attempt

Guwahati, OCT 06:

Ashik Ali, an accused in the killing of Gauhati University student Nimisha Thakuria, was shot in the knee by police during an operation in Dharapur in the early hours of Tuesday, October 6, after reportedly attempting to flee detention, authorities said. Ali was sent to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for treatment after the incident. The police fire occurred on the day that his eight-day police detention was set to expire and he was scheduled to appear in court. Ali has been accused of involvement in the death of 21-year-old Nimisha Thakuria, whose body was recovered from a homestay in Guwahati on September 25. Thakuria, a Sociology student at Gauhati University, was a resident of Dharapur under the Azara police station area. Her body was found at Rudra's Kitchen Homestay late Friday night, following which police reached the location and launched an investiga-



tion into the circumstances surrounding her death. Guwahati Deputy Commissioner of Police Bolin Deori had earlier said Ali claimed that Nimisha had died by suicide after hanging herself. Police, however, said the claim was yet to be verified and that investigators were examining all possible angles. "We have apprehended the accused, and he is in police custody, and we are questioning him. We have sent the body for post-mortem, and we can get more information later," Deori had told reporters. Responding to Ali's ac-

count of Nimisha's death, Deori said investigators would not accept the claim without verification. "According to the accused, the girl hung herself, but if this is true has to be seen. We will not trust anything;

we will analyze every possibility," he stated. According to police, Ali confirmed being in a relationship with Nimisha. Investigators are looking into how the two met, what happened before Nimisha was discovered unconscious at the homestay, and the injuries reported at the inquest.

The Meghalaya government is reconsidering the distribution of health facilities in distant regions following the death

Shillong, Oct 06:

The Meghalaya government is assessing the availability and distribution of healthcare facilities in distant regions following the death of a child in the West Khasi Hills, according to Health Minister Wailadmiki Shylla. The newborn died in its mother's arms after she walked for over three hours to reach a motorable road, from where the youngster might be transported to a medical institution.

The event has brought to light the difficulties that people of distant and inaccessible places confront while seeking urgent medical care. Shylla said the government was undertaking a study to assess the presence and distribution of medical facilities across the state, particularly in remote villages. "Now we are coming up with a study regarding the presence of



medical facilities, to make sure that villagers should not travel very far to reach services," the minister said, adding that the exercise would take some time.

The minister said the child was brought dead to the health facility and described the incident. He recognized that certain sections of Meghalaya continue to have difficulty accessing healthcare services due to inadequate connectivity. Shylla also said the Health Department had not been in-

formed about the case before the child was brought to the facility. According to the minister, the family had not contacted health officials or the local Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker. The government is also working on improving road connectivity and emergency transportation in hard-to-reach areas, he said. A proposal has been made to deploy 4x4 ambulances in areas where conventional ambulances face difficulties in reaching patients.

Mizoram undertakes the first leadless pacemaker implant at Aizawl Civil Hospital



Aizawl, OCT 06:

Doctors in Mizoram executed the state's first leadless pacemaker installation at a government hospital in Aizawl, a significant step toward providing sophisticated cardiac treatment in the state. A team of cardiologists led by Dr Loncy V Lallarhiana and Dr Isak Lallawmkima did the treatment on Monday at Aizawl Civil Hospital, with advice from Dr Uday Shankar Das of Apollo Multispecialty Hospital in Kolkata. Health Minister Lalrinpuui stated on Tuesday. The achievement comes just a year

after a cardiac catheterization (Cath) laboratory was established at Mizoram's main government hospital in 2025. Unlike traditional pacemakers, which need a surgical incision beneath the skin and leads injected via blood arteries, a leadless pacemaker is implanted directly into the heart using a catheter put through the femoral vein. The treatment removes the need for an incision to establish a pacemaker pocket and does not employ leads that flow through blood vessels, making it a less invasive option, according to the ministry. Lalrinpuui said the Abbott

AVEIR VR leadless pacemaker used in the procedure is designed to have a battery life of more than 18 to 21 years, compared with around nine to 11 years for conventional pacemakers. The patient, a 67-year-old pensioner, underwent the procedure under the Mizo Universal Health Care Scheme (MUHCS), she said. Dr Loncy said the procedure was the first leadless pacemaker implantation carried out in Mizoram. Conventional pacemaker implantations have been performed at the hospital on some occasions previously. "The milestone is expected to strengthen the cardiac-care capabilities of Civil Hospital Aizawl and marks a significant step towards providing advanced heart treatment within Mizoram," Lalrinpuui said in a social media post. The development is expected to reduce the need for patients requiring such advanced cardiac procedures to travel outside Mizoram for treatment.

'Withdraw soldiers, hold dialogue' Arunachal's Adi youth organization strengthens resistance to SUMP

Itanagar, OCT 06:

On October 6, the All Adi Youth Association (AAYA) condemned the current situation in the Siang belt, citing growing opposition to the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Central Armed Police Forces and state police personnel stationed in Siang and Upper Siang districts. Addressing a press conference at the Arunachal Press Club, AAYA Secretary (IPR) Okut Tali stated that the heavy deployment of security forces had raised law and order concerns in areas such as Sitang and Riga, where protests against the proposed project and its Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) activities had escalated. Clashes between protesters and security personnel were reported recently in Riga and Ugeng, with several protesters and CRPF personnel reportedly injured. Tali rejected what he described as the state government's claim that a majority of

project-affected families had accepted SUMP and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He questioned the claim in view of the protests and clashes witnessed in the affected areas in recent days. The AAYA leader said the Adi community had traditionally resolved disputes through customary institutions such as the Kebang and argued that deployment of heavy security forces was not an appropriate way to address differences over the project. He called for a mechanism for peaceful dialogue between the government and affected communities instead of what he described as forceful measures. AAYA also alleged that the MoUs cited by the government did not reflect the views of all 27 project-affected villages. Tali claimed that consultations and consent-gathering exercises had been conducted selectively and, in some cases, behind closed doors and outside the villages concerned. The association demanded that the

state government revoke the suspension of several gaon burahs who were suspended by the district administration over their alleged participation in protests against SUMP. It also called for the withdrawal of FIRs registered against protesters in Siang and Upper Siang districts, alleging that the cases amounted to suppression of citizens' constitutional rights.

The demands come amid a wider standoff over the proposed SUMP, with sections of the local community opposing the PFR and security deployment in the project-affected areas. The state government has maintained that the PFR is an initial technical assessment and does not amount to a final decision to construct the project. The proposed SUMP, with a capacity of more than 10,000 MW, has become a major point of contention between the government and sections of the indigenous Adi community, with concerns raised over land, livelihoods, displacement and the environment.

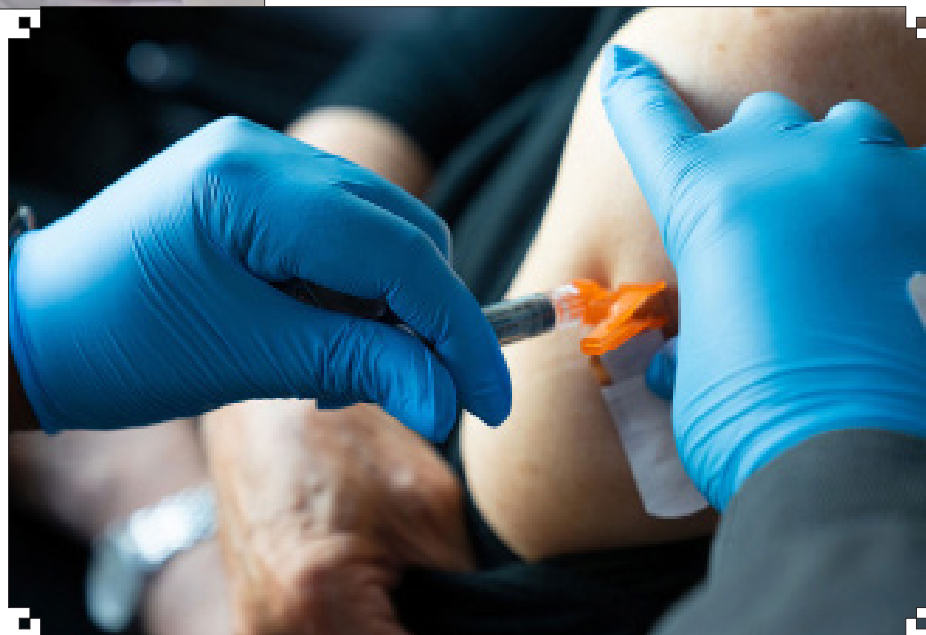
Should You Get a Flu Shot Before Winter Starts The right time might depend on where you live



If you thought flu was only a problem in the winter, 2026 has given India reason to reconsider. Delhi has 1,777 H1N1 infections by August 20 this year, compared to 229 over the same period in 2025, representing a more than six-fold increase. And this isn't just about a new or exceptionally hazardous virus. The Union Health Ministry and the ICMR stated in August that the H1N1 viruses circulating in India are consistent with seasonal influenza, with no unexpected genetic shifts found. However, by September, WHO surveillance revealed that H1N1 accounted for 75% of influenza-positive samples recorded in India, refocusing attention squarely on prevention as flu activity continued. So, if your doctor has told you get your flu shot, there is a more useful question than simply asking whether

October is the flu season or not: should you get your flu shot before winter begins, or is there a better time to take it? And in India, the answer is not necessarily as simple as waiting for the weather to turn colder. **When is the Ideal Time to Get the Flu Shot?**

The key is to get vaccinated before influenza activity reaches its seasonal peak. WHO says vaccination should ideally happen just before the influenza season, while noting that vaccination can still provide protection when given during the season. It can take up to about two weeks for the body to develop protective antibodies. For regions where influenza activity rises during winter, September and October are generally considered useful windows. Is September or October the Right Time?



Influenza season varies considerably across the country. Some areas experience higher influenza activity during the monsoon, while northern cities such as Srinagar can see a winter peak. Delhi and several other cities have historically recorded sig-

nificant flu activity during July to September. That means the best vaccination window should ideally be decided according to local influenza patterns, rather than simply waiting for winter pollution to appear.

Who Should Prioritise the Flu Vaccine?

Health authorities advise that almost everyone aged six months and older can benefit from an annual flu shot, unless there is a specific medical reason not to. The protection is especially important for:

caregivers of high-risk individuals

These groups face a higher chance of severe illness, hospitalisation or complications if they catch the flu.

Why Does Timing Matter for the Flu Shot?

The flu vaccine does not work instantly. It generally takes about two weeks for the immune system to produce protective antibodies after vaccination. Getting the shot too late can leave a window of vulnerability just when viruses start circulating

window. Vaccination can still help if taken later, as long as influenza viruses continue to circulate, but earlier timing offers better coverage through the peak season.

Does Winter Pollution in India Make A Flu Shot More Important?

In cities such as Delhi-NCR, winter often brings two respiratory concerns at the same time: influenza infections and worsening air pollution. But they are not the same problem, and a flu shot does not protect against pollution-related breathing problems. Influenza is caused by viruses, while exposure to fine particulate matter and other air pollutants can irritate the airways and worsen conditions such as asthma and chronic respiratory disease.

The two can, however, overlap during the same period, particularly for people who already have underlying lung or heart conditions.

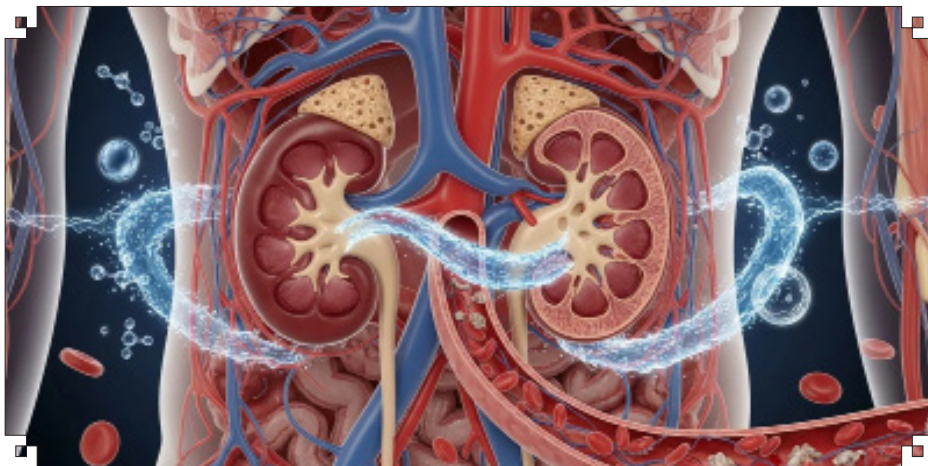
That is why vaccination can become particularly relevant before periods of increased flu activity. The purpose of the flu shot is to reduce the risk of influenza and its complications, not to counter the effects of polluted air. For people at higher risk of severe flu, including older adults, pregnant women, young children and those with certain chronic conditions, annual vaccination is an important preventive measure.

Young children (particularly under five)
Adults aged 65 and above
Pregnant women
People with chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease or weakened immunity
Healthcare workers and

more widely.

In India, flu activity frequently increases during the post-monsoon and winter months, roughly from October to March. For most people, September and October are therefore considered the ideal

Kidney Damage Can Be Silent 8 Warning Signs You Should Not Ignore



Many families are becoming increasingly concerned about kidney health as their lives and dietary habits change. Managing underlying diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure is critical for maintaining kidney function. Staying mindful of everyday routines protects your kidneys from long-term harm and keeps them operating well, thanks to a combination of contemporary medical facts and ancient Ayurvedic wisdom. Dr. Jitendra Verma of Ambala Cantt Civil Hospital emphasizes

that sustaining healthy kidneys necessitates lifestyle changes. Recognizing early risk factors and following thoughtful daily routines can protect your kidneys from chronic damage and long-term consequences. High blood sugar damages delicate kidney blood vessels over time, while elevated blood pressure strains filtering units. Managing diabetes and hypertension through medical advice and regular monitoring remains the most effective strategy to prevent chronic kidney disease. Holding urine due to long

work shifts, travel, or busy schedules stresses the urinary bladder. In Ayurveda, suppressing natural bodily urges causes internal imbalances, while modern medicine warns it increases the risk of dangerous urinary tract infections. Ignoring burning sensations or frequent urination can lead to severe complications. Untreated urinary tract infections can travel upwards and damage kidney tissues, making early medical diagnosis and treatment vital for complete recovery and long-term protection.

Why the T20I captain of India is having trouble matching

New Delhi, Oct 06

Shreyas Iyer has returned as a gold medalist from the 2026 Asian Games. Following an inauspicious beginning in his role as India's T20I captain, circumstances have improved considerably, and positive outcomes have materialized. The team now demonstrates considerably greater stability under his leadership, with Iyer successfully guiding India to victory against arch rivals Pakistan in a tournament final. Nevertheless, precisely as Iyer the captain begins to perceive more favorable prospects, the situation has become challenging for Iyer the batter. His fundamental reputation as a prolific run scorer has experienced a considerable decline. A look at Iyer's last 10 innings brings the concern into sharp focus. He is yet to cross 30, with scores of 28, 28*, 25, 27, 8*, 11, 29, 16, 13 and 21. That's 206 runs in these 10 innings at an average of 20.60 and a strike rate of 126.38, underwhelming figures for an India captain. This is a huge change, given how his captaincy stint began. After proving himself as an able leader who thrives under pressure in the IPL, Iyer returned to T20Is when he was appointed captain ahead of the Ireland and England tours in June. In his first six innings, Iyer carried his IPL form into international cricket, scoring 203 runs at an average of 40.60 and a brilliant strike rate of 149.26. He smashed 68 against England at Chester-le-Street, followed by an unbeaten 80 off just 49 deliveries at Bristol. At the time, no one could have envisioned the dip in form that awaited India's new T20I captain. But ever since, the numbers have only gone south.

The decline is not only in runs

While the absence of a big score is worrying, the bigger concern is the lack of intent and scoring rate in Shreyas's batting. In his last six innings, he has scored 98 runs off 85 deliveries at a strike rate of just 115.29. This is the opposite of what Shreyas has delivered as a batter while leading Punjab Kings in the IPL and India in his first six innings as captain. The sequence of scores - 8*, 11, 29, 16, 13 and 21 - also shows that the impact his team expects from him in the middle overs has gone missing.

His problems were even more visible during the recently concluded Asian Games. In the semi-final against Sri Lanka, Iyer scored 13 runs off 13 deliveries, followed by 21 off 24 balls in the gold-medal match against Pakistan. That's just 34 runs from 37 balls across the two matches, at a strike rate below 92. In fact, in the final, his presence in the middle slowed India's progress and sucked the momentum out of the innings. His lack of intent and inability to play the role expected of him may have gone unnoticed because the others played their roles perfectly and inflicted the required damage. But this is what makes the current version of Shreyas different from the player India gained during the IPL. That was the version that ultimately earned him the captaincy.

Where is the Shreyas of Punjab Kings?

Across the previous two IPL seasons, a



different T20 version of Iyer emerged. He scored 604 runs in IPL 2025 at an average of 50.33 and a strike rate of 175.07, and another 498 runs at an average of 55.33 and a strike rate of 168.81 earlier this year in IPL 2026. That's 1102 runs at a strike rate of nearly 170, while registering 12 scores of 50 or more, including a century in 2026. Iyer showed impeccable consistency in the destruction he brought about in the middle overs, making himself a lethal option in that phase. The fact that he struck 82 fours and 69 sixes across his two seasons with PBKS shows just how violent he had become as a middle-order batter. But his numbers since the UK tour have been strikingly different. Shreyas has scored 178 runs off 147 balls in that period, with 14 fours and hit just three sixes. That translates to one boundary every 8.65 balls. Simply put, he is taking almost twice as many deliveries to find a boundary compared to his last two IPL seasons. This, more than the absence of big scores, is what has hurt India.

India possess an abundance of power hitters and players capable of changing the complexion of a match single-handedly. The Indian T20I side does not need Shreyas to score 60 every time. With players like Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma and others in the line-up, the demand will not always be for him to change a game on his own. But the PBKS version of Shreyas Iyer could alter the tempo of a game almost immediately after walking in. The recent Indian version of him has not been able to compensate for the deliveries he takes to settle in during the initial stages. You could even argue that he has altered the tempo of games in recent matches, but in a way that has worked against India. The difference between the two versions can be partly attributed to the ecosystem around him. At Punjab Kings, Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh are primarily used to provide aggressive starts, while the middle order features Josh Inglis, Marcus Stoinis and Shashank Singh. That gives Iyer the licence to keep attacking through overs 7-16. Abhishek Sharma often provides India with an aggressive start, while Iyer has the likes of Shivam Dube and Tilak Varma around him to up the ante in the middle overs. However, there appears to be a difference in the depth of power-hitters between the two combinations, which might sometimes prompt Iyer to play more of a holding role for India.

White Sox defeated the Guardians, establishing a commanding 2-0 advantage in the series

Chicago, Oct 06

The Chicago White Sox secured a decisive 4-3 victory over the Cleveland Guardians, establishing a commanding 2-0 advantage in their Major League Baseball playoff series. Munetaka Murakami, Braden Montgomery and Chase Meidroth drove in the winning runs at Cleveland's Progressive Field as the White Sox took a giant step towards extending their fairy-tale postseason.

The White Sox carrying the hopes of lifetime fan Pope Leo XIV are aiming to continue one of the most remarkable turnaround seasons in baseball. After three straight seasons with 100 or more defeats the White Sox finished the regular season with an 84-78 record, snagging the sixth seed in the American League. In their first playoff series since 2021 they ousted the Houston Astros in two games in the Wild Card round. They now need only one more win to return to the AL Championship Series for the first time since their World Series-winning campaign in 2005.

Chicago will host Cleveland in game three of the series on Wednesday. Cleveland had taken the lead in the first inning, when what should have been a routine throw by White Sox pitcher Sean Newcomb flew wide of first base and allowed Steven Kwan and Jose Ramirez to scamper home. With Guardians starter Gavin Williams dominant thereafter the White Sox struggled to carve out scoring opportunities. But they finally got on the board in the fourth inning when Japanese slugger Murakami drove a single into right field



that brought home Kyle Teel.

Two innings later, the White Sox jumped into the lead. Williams was replaced on the mound by Erik Sabrowski after giving up a single to Miguel Vargas to open the sixth inning. Sabrowski promptly walked Randal Grichuk to leave two men on base. A wild pitch allowed the runners to advance and when Montgomery slashed a double to right field, the White Sox took a 3-2 lead.

Sabrowski was replaced by Hunter Gaddis, but the White Sox stretched their advantage when Meidroth singled to score Montgomery for a 4-2 advantage. White Sox reliever Sean Burke bottled up the Cleveland offense, giving up just one hit and one run in 5 1/3 innings before being replaced by closer Grant Taylor with two outs in the eighth inning. A triple from Jo Adell made it a one-run game heading to the ninth, but Taylor mopped up the final three outs to seal victory. The winner of the Cleveland-Chicago series will face the New York Yankees or Tampa Bay Rays for a place in the World Series.

After heading the Indian squad, Harmanpreet gave up the captaincy on her own terms

New Delhi, Oct 06

The resignation of Harmanpreet Kaur from her position as captain will create a significant absence within the Indian women's cricket team. Throughout her tenure, she established the women's squad as a formidable cricketing force, consistently positioning them as contenders for major titles across all formats. As the men's team achieved prominence in international cricket, the women's team encountered expectations to establish its own distinct identity from the outset. Although previous captains implemented important strategic measures, Harmanpreet elevated the program substantially by assembling an asser-

tive, youthful roster that demonstrated unwavering resolve in confronting adversities, whether domestically or internationally. India transformed into a competitive unit that demonstrated determination in advancing to semifinal and final stages. Ultimately, the World Cup 2025 victory secured on home soil concluded a prolonged championship drought and relieved the considerable pressure that had weighed upon Harmanpreet's shoulders.

She faced criticism during her captaincy when things didn't work out for the team, but she proved to be a leader who did not back down when her back was against the wall, and people started counting her out. There were instances when critics called shots on her to

relinquish the captaincy and hand over the reins to a young player like Smriti Mandhana, but Harmanpreet relinquished the position on her own terms after leading the Indian team to the Asian Games gold medal recently. "As a captain, I have had to make difficult decisions. Decisions that were not always understood, not always easy, and sometimes came at a personal cost. But every decision I made was with one intention - to make this TEAM better and to give other players the opportunity to grow, believe in themselves and become the best versions of themselves." These words in Harmanpreet's retirement note clearly depicted her conviction as a leader and the fighter she was while leading the side.