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Sensex likely to hit 1,07,000 by 2026 end in bull-case scenario: Morgan Stanley



New Delhi: India's benchmark index Sensex is projected to touch 1,07,000 by December 2026, rising about 26 per cent from current levels, a report said on Tuesday, expounding its bull-case scenario with a 30 per cent probability. US investment banker Morgan Stanley, in the report,

also gave a base-case scenario projection in which it said Sensex will touch 95,000 with a 50 per cent probability. The investment banker gave an update to its earlier projection after Indian markets delivered softer returns compared to emerging markets since 1994, the report.

Earlier, Morgan Stanley had predicted that the Sensex would hit the 1,00,000 mark by June 2026, to which they had attached a 30 per cent probability. Analysts believe that relative valuations have corrected meaningfully and may have troughed in October 2025, adding that a positive growth surprise can be expected in the coming months that will support the market's re-rating. For the index to rally to its base case projection of 95,000 mark, the report projected continuation in gains in macro stability via fiscal consolidation, increased private investment, and a positive gap between real growth and real rates.

"In our base case, we anticipate a resolution to the tariff situation between India and the US in the weeks ahead.

We promise to hold your hand while you soar: Gautam Adani

New Delhi: Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Tuesday unveiled a new heart-warming airport film, promising to offer human touch while also providing world-class service at Adani Airports. The latest film, "Aapke Safar Ke Humsafar", is under the acclaimed Hum Karke Dikhate Hain platform, and demonstrates how infrastructure can be a catalyst for meaningful change and emotional connection. "In our actions sit the promises we make. Promises to open new skies, promises to carry your dreams across horizons, and promises to hold your hand while you soar. Aapke safar mein humsafar ban jaate hain. New skies are here! Hum Karke Dikhate Hain!" Gautam Adani shared in a post on the social media platform X.

The airport story showcases the human touch, where the ground staff at Adani Airports help an elderly couple embarking on their first international journey with wheelchair assistance. The airport associate also guides them through the duty-free shopping area, offers lounge comfort, and provides a smooth escort to the boarding gate. The film, offers a sneak peek into the Adani Airports with world-class benchmarks in travel and infrastructure, while keeping people and communities at heart.

India's IT spending to grow 10.6 pc to reach \$176.3 billion in 2026

New Delhi: India's IT spending is expected to reach \$176.3 billion in 2026, up 10.6 per cent on-year, driven by accelerating adoption of cloud and digital technologies, a report said on Tuesday. The data centre systems segment is projected to record the highest annual growth rate, rising 20.5 per cent in 2026 to \$9,385 million. Evolving data privacy and sovereign cloud requirements are expected to drive growth in this segment through 2026, the report from Gartner said. "Data centre systems spending is primarily driven by substantial AI infrastructure investments and multiple government programs aimed at strengthening the local AI ecosystem," said Naresh Singh, Senior Director Analyst at Gartner. "As the uncertainty pause that began earlier this year eases, rising demand for AI infrastructure will fuel new investment in data centres in India," said DD Mishra, VP Analyst at Gartner.

Mishra said that local CIOs will continue to prioritise investments in cybersecurity, AI/ML and data analytics. Their ongoing commitment to modernising applications, strengthening connectivity,



implementing hyperautomation, enhancing customer experience, and operational efficiency will propel IT spending growth, he said. Software spending is projected to grow 17.6 per cent to \$24.7 billion as enterprises ramp up investment in AI-enabled software solutions and modern IT infrastructure.

IT services spending is set to grow 11.1 per cent in 2026, with double-digit growth projected over the next few years, driven by strong enterprise investments in infrastructure as a service (IaaS), consulting, and application modernisation. The Gartner report said the rapid growth of global capability centres (GCCs) and access to a highly skilled, cost-effective workforce will drive the sector's growth. Devices spending is expected to rise 9.9 per cent to \$66,442 million, while communications services will grow 5.4 per cent to \$40,414 million, the report noted.

India's GDP growth projected at robust 7 pc in Q2 FY26: Report

New Delhi: India's GDP expansion is expected to reach a robust 7 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26) from 7.8 per cent in the April-June period (Q1 FY26), a report said on Monday. Further, the growth in the gross value added (GVA) is expected to record a narrower dip to 7.1 per cent from 7.6 per cent, respectively. "Lower expansion in the services sector-- 7.4 per cent in Q2 FY26 from 9.3 per cent in the first quarter this fiscal, and agriculture-- 3.5 per cent from 3.7 per cent, is likely to outweigh a pick-up in the performance of the industrial sector to a five-quarter high 7.8 per cent from 6.3 per cent," ICRA said in its report. The report estimated net indirect taxes (in nominal terms) to contract on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in the quarter under review, after having risen by 9.5 per cent in Q1 FY26, aided by the decline in indirect taxes to -5.2 per cent from 11.3 per cent in Q1 FY2026, amid the shallower contraction in its subsidies to -4.6 per cent from -7.3 per cent.

India seen as global digital powerhouse: Govt official



New Delhi: India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has played a transformational role in enabling universal access to services, bridging urban-rural gaps and strengthening the country's position as a global digital powerhouse, a senior government official said here on Sunday. Addressing an event organised by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Special DG, BISAG-N, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Vinay Thakur, placed special focus on the scale, strength, and evolution of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - considered one of the most advanced in the world.

He highlighted how initiatives such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, BharatNet, Co-WIN, UMANG, MeghRaj Cloud and GIS-based platforms of BISAG-N have collectively transformed governance, public

service delivery and citizen empowerment. Thakur, a national expert in digital governance and cybersecurity, emphasised that these achievements are a direct reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary Digital India movement, which aims to build a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Thakur emphasised how the Prime Minister's leadership has enabled technology to become a tool for social inclusion, transparency and economic acceleration.

Thakur also stressed the critical need for cybersecurity frameworks to secure the nation's growing digital ecosystem. He highlighted the rising cyber threats, importance of the DPDP Act, AI-enabled cyberattacks, urgent need for post-quantum cryptography (PQC) and the significance of indigenous solutions for digital sovereignty.

Air India to start non-stop flights between Delhi and Shanghai from Feb 2026

New Delhi: Air India on Monday announced the resumption of non-stop flights between Delhi and China's Shanghai, starting February 1 next year. This marks Air India's return to mainland China after nearly six years. The airline said that subject to the requisite regulatory approvals, it also intends to introduce nonstop flights between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026. Air India said it will operate four times a week between Delhi and Shanghai using its twin-aisle Boeing 787-8 aircraft, featuring 18 flat beds in Business Class and 238 spacious seats in Economy Class.

Shanghai is the 48th international destination to be served by Air India group, which continues to carry more passengers internation-



ally than any other airline in India. "The resumption of our Delhi-Shanghai services is more than a route launch. It is a bridge between two great, ancient civilisations and modern economic powerhouses," said Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Air India. "At Air India, we are happy to reconnect one of the world's most vital air

corridors, enabling travellers to pursue opportunities in business, trade, healthcare, education and culture with the comfort and warm Indian hospitality that define Air India," he mentioned.

The reinstatement of Air India's services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements that restored the air links paused in early 2020.

Against all odds: Mizoram woman achieves rare double motherhood after two kidney transplants

Aizawl: 37-year-old Lallianpui from Aizawl has conceived naturally twice after undergoing two kidney transplants, delivering healthy children in 2023 and 2025 at Manipal Hospital EM Bypass, Kolkata. Her high-risk pregnancies were managed under the expert care of Dr. Rohit Rungta, Senior Consultant, Nephrology, and Dr. Shilpita Banerjee, Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Diagnosed with chronic kidney disease over a decade ago, Lallianpui underwent her first transplant in 2012, followed by a second in 2020 due to graft rejection. Despite lifelong immunosuppressive therapy, she defied medical odds to conceive naturally twice, giving birth to a healthy baby girl and later a 3.2 kg baby boy through cesarean section at 36+6 weeks, with stable kidney function throughout.

Dr. Rungta highlighted the rarity and complexity of consecutive pregnancies in transplant recipients, while Dr. Banerjee said the meticulous coordination required to balance medications and ensure fetal growth. Lallianpui credited the medical team for her journey, calling it a source of hope and confidence for women battling chronic illnesses.



In Aizawl, her story has resonated deeply with locals, sparking conversations on maternal health and the importance of advanced medical facilities. Hospitals and clinics in the city have reported increased inquiries from patients seeking guidance on managing high-risk pregnancies.

For Northeast States, Medanta Hospital Gurgaon launches dedicated helpline number

Guwahati: In a significant step toward improving medical care in the North Eastern states, Gurgaon-based Medanta – The Medicity, which has been named Best Private Hospital in India by Newsweek for six years in a row, has launched a dedicated helpline number, marking an important step toward strengthening its healthcare delivery in an underserved part of the country by catering to patients in their own language. The helpline number—8904395588—is operational from 8am to 8pm and will provide quick and reliable support for patients and their attendants, assisting in selecting the right doctor and booking appointments, along with travel and stay assistance. Currently available in Assamese, Bengali, Nagamese, English and Hindi, the service will soon be extended to other regional languages.

Speaking about the new helpline number, Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman & Managing Director, Medanta, said, “At Medanta, we believe that

quality healthcare should be a right, not a privilege, and through this initiative, we reaffirm our mission to make world-class healthcare accessible to all, thus embodying our hospital’s ethos – ‘Har Ek Jaan Anmol’ (Every Life Is Invaluable).” Hailing the initiative, Mr. Pankaj Sahni, Group CEO, Medanta, said, “Our vision is clear -- to deliver world-class, patient-centric, and accessible healthcare to the underserved sections of society.” The launch of the dedicated helpline comes even as Medanta announced its entry into the Northeast region, holding a BhoomiPoojan ceremony in Guwahati to mark the beginning of construction for its upcoming 400+ bed super-specialty facility at Industrial Estate, Sarusajai, Guwahati along National Highway 27. Medanta Multi specialty OPD is now available in Guwahati at Sunvalley Hospital, GS Rd, Mathura Nagar, Bormotora. For more information on OPD services in the Northeast, please call 8904395588.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds expands hunger free world initiative to Ethiopia, scale global impact

Guwahati: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, India’s leading jewellery retailer and the world’s fifth largest, has announced the global expansion of its flagship Hunger Free World initiative to Ethiopia. Following successful implementations in India and Zambia, the program aims to provide daily meals and educational support to children, targeting 10,000 students in Ethiopia by 2026 with an investment of USD 864,000.

The announcement was made at the Malabar International Hub in Dubai Gold Souq, where Vice Chairman

Abdul Salam K.P handed over the Letter of Intent to H.E. AsmelashBekele, Consul General of Ethiopia in Dubai. “Extending this program to Ethiopia is a step toward our mission of eradicating hunger and promoting educational equity globally,” said Mr. Salam. The initiative aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on zero hunger, quality education, and community partnerships.

In Guwahati, where Malabar Gold & Diamonds has a significant presence, the program has been well-received. Local management highlighted that

over 5,000 meals are currently provided daily to children across Assam, reflecting the company’s ongoing commitment to social welfare in the region. Market observers note that Malabar’s CSR efforts strengthen its brand loyalty and community engagement, positively influencing sales and customer trust in the Northeast.

With over 410 showrooms across 14 countries, Malabar continues to redefine corporate social responsibility by investing 5% of net profits in ESG initiatives, demonstrating a model for global impact rooted in Indian enterprise.

TVS RONIN promotes road safety, engages young riders with ‘The Art of Protection’ on Children’s Day

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company reinforced its commitment to road safety this Children’s Day with the “The Art of Protection” initiative at Kid Zania, Noida, held from November 14–16. The event, part of the TVS Racing x Kid Zania India experience, empowered over 10,000 children and parents through hands-on activities designed to instill safe riding habits and awareness from an early age.



Since its launch in 2023, the initiative has reached more than 258,000 participants, combining education with creativity. Highlights included the TVS RONIN Art Gallery, featuring helmets adorned with Indian folk art, a helmet-painting competition for children, interactive games, quizzes, and collaborative canvas-wall activities. A ‘TVS RONIN Little Artists’ social media contest added further engagement, blending safety, art, and expression.

Vimal Sumbly, Head of Business – Premium, TVS Motor Company, said, “Awareness is the foundation of true road safety. This campaign inspires the next generation to value protection, responsibility, and empathy both on and off the road.”

In Guwahati, the campaign has sparked interest among parents and young riders, with local dealers reporting a growing awareness of safety gear and training programs. Schools and riding clubs in the city have shown enthusiasm for integrating such initiatives, highlighting a rising culture of responsible riding in the Northeast market.

Tata AIA, CNBC-TV18 partner to spotlight financial advisors as India’s growth drivers

Guwahati: In a significant push to strengthen India’s financial advisory landscape, Tata AIA Life Insurance has partnered with CNBC-TV18 to highlight the growing importance of trusted and responsible financial advice. The initiative comes at a time when India is witnessing rapid economic expansion, rising aspirations, and increasing need for structured financial security.

The government’s move to exempt GST on life insurance has elevated the sector to the ‘essential category,’ making protection solutions more accessible to families nationwide. Tata AIA, one of India’s leading protection providers, aims to harness this momentum by empowering its 1.5 lakh advisors with advanced tools and propositions.

A key highlight of the announcement is the launch of Tata AIA AURA, an exclusive platform celebrating advisor-entrepreneurs who demonstrate trust, consistency, and a consumer-first approach. “With AURA, we want to recognize the entrepreneurial spirit of our advisors and inspire the next generation,” said Venky Iyer, MD & CEO, Tata AIA Life Insurance.

In Guwahati, financial advisors say the GST exemption and increased visibility through national platforms will boost consumer confidence, especially as the city’s growing middle-income population seeks secure long-term planning amid rising economic opportunities.

Under the partnership, impactful advisor stories will be showcased across CNBC-TV18, CNBC-AWAAZ, Moneycontrol and digital platforms, reinforcing the critical role of advisors in shaping a financially secure India.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour ushers in ‘The Futureverse of Fashion’ at its Gurugram edition

Guwahati: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has ushered in ‘The Futureverse of Fashion’ at its Gurugram edition, with a groundbreaking exploration of how technology, design, and immersive storytelling are reimagining the very experience of fashion. Taking a leap from this year’s theme of defining Fashion’s Next Move, this edition presented an incredibly immersive visual spectacle that took haute couture beyond fabric and form into the digital era of AI, code & interaction. The showcase led with the creative forces of designer Falguni and Shane Peacock, alongside the Fashion Tour’s long-standing collaboration with Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI). The ‘Futureverse of Fashion’ elevated this desire into an immersive universe, where the runway became a

living canvas of fashion. From Tamannaah Bhatia igniting the show alongside humanoid robots, dynamic projections that stitched the entire show narrative, motion-sensing visuals illustrating every model’s movement on the runway, to Shahid Kapoor’s holographic show stopping moment that blurred lines between the virtual and real, every element of the showcase pulled audiences into fashion’s next dimension.

“Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has always been a platform that pushes the boundaries of creativity and expression,” said Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India. “With this showcase, we’ve taken a bold step into the ‘FUTUREVERSE of Fashion’—an immersive experience that redefines how fashion is presented in future.”



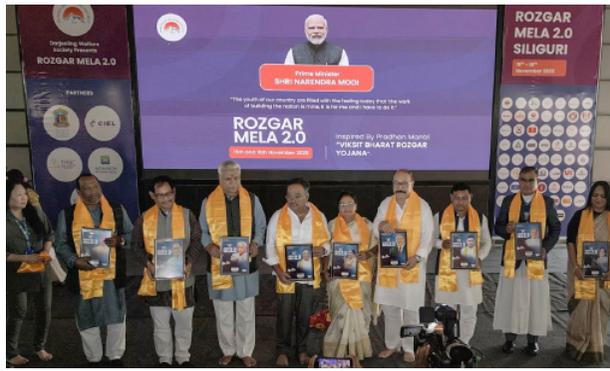
“We’re thrilled to interpret and bring to life the Futureverse of Fashion—a

concept that truly captures the spirit of what lies ahead,” said designers Falguni Shane Peacock. Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI, expressed, “FDCI is delighted to collaborate with Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, uniting two powerhouses of fashion to shape its future.” Shahid Kapoor expressed, “Being at Blenders Pride Fashion Tour runway is always exciting, but this year felt like stepping into a new era.” Tamannaah Bhatia said, “The Futureverse of Fashion by Blenders Pride Fashion Tour was an electrifying experience where creativity knew no bounds.” The tour is now headed to Jaipur on where designers Abhishek Patni and Namrata Joshipura will present High-Octane Couture with Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu and rapper Raftaar on December 6th.

Rozgar Mela 2.0 opens in Siliguri with 10,000+ job offers, major firms drive strong hiring momentum

Guwahati: Rozgar Mela 2.0 opened to an overwhelming response on Saturday, with thousands of young jobseekers gathering as more than 60 top Indian companies launched recruitment for over 10,000 positions across banking, IT, manufacturing, tourism, aviation and healthcare. The mega fair, organised by the Darjeeling Welfare Society, is attracting candidates from North Bengal, the hills and neighbouring districts.

Major employers including HDFC, Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Hero MotoCorp, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Electronics, Taj Group, ITC, Indigo Airlines and Apollo Hospitals began their hir-



ing activities with a 100% in-person selection process. Aspirants first underwent career counselling before participating in personal interviews, group discussions and screening rounds, ensuring clarity and smooth engagement with recruiters.

In Guwahati, recruiters say the surge seen in Siliguri mirrors expanding job demand across Assam's capital, particularly in BFSI, hospitality, aviation and electronics. Industry analysts note that large-scale multi-sector job fairs can strengthen regional

labour mobility, helping Guwahati employers tap skilled candidates while boosting career opportunities across the Northeast.

Rajya Sabha MP and Darjeeling Welfare Society President Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the turnout reflects youth readiness for structured opportunities and aligns with the Prime Minister's Viksit Bharat vision. MPs Shri Samik Bhattacharya and Shri Jayanto Kumar Roy, along with Shri Ram Lalji, lauded the initiative for bridging talent and industry needs.

With several candidates receiving on-spot offers, organisers expect an even larger turnout on Day 2.

Zudio strengthens presence in Northeast with new store launch in Chümoukedima, Nagaland

Guwahati: Zudio, the fast-growing value-fashion brand from the Tata Group, has expanded its presence in Nagaland with the launch of its new store at 6th Mile in Chümoukedima district. This marks the brand's third outlet in the state, following successful stores in Kohima and Dimapur. The new store has drawn large crowds of fashion enthusiasts eager to explore Zudio's trendy and affordable collections.

Speaking about the launch, Venkatesalu P, CEO and Executive Director of Trent Ltd., said, "Zudio is shaping India's fast-fashion landscape by blending variety, affordability, and modern relevance. Our mission is to make fashion accessible, aspirational, and constantly refreshed."

The store offers a wide range of casual wear, denim, footwear, and fashion essentials for men, women, and youth, with apparel starting at ₹149 and footwear at ₹199. Collections are refreshed every fortnight, ensuring shoppers always find something new and stylish.

In Guwahati, where the fashion retail market continues to grow rapidly, Zudio's affordable pricing and trend-driven collections are resonating strongly with young shoppers. The brand's steady expansion across the Northeast underscores its commitment to redefining value fashion and bringing contemporary style to every corner of India.

Tata AIA unveils AI-powered underwriting engine to transform life insurance experience

Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched its cutting-edge Underwriting Rule Engine (URE), a digital innovation aimed at making life insurance faster, simpler, and more transparent for consumers.

The URE leverages machine learning, generative AI, and big data analytics to automate the traditionally manual underwriting process. It analyses applicants' medical and lifestyle data in real time, generating instant risk assessments and approvals without human intervention. This advancement enables policies that previously took weeks to process



to be issued within hours.

Key benefits of URE include faster approvals, minimal paperwork, fewer medical tests, and greater transparency through real-time updates. Sanjay Arora, Chief of Operations at Tata AIA, said the initiative reinforces the company's commitment to consumer-centric innovation and operational excellence, setting new benchmarks in the insurance industry.

Aizawl is witnessing grow-

ing consumer interest in digital insurance services, with tech-driven processes like Tata AIA's URE expected to boost trust and accessibility among urban professionals and small business owners seeking seamless policy issuance.

Tata AIA also reported an impressive claim settlement ratio of 99.41% in FY 2024-25 and ranked #1 in four out of five persistency cohorts, reaffirming its industry leadership.

Johnson's Baby unveils new look and 'It's Pure Love' campaign with Anil & Sonam Kapoor

Guwahati: Johnson's Baby, the world's No. 1 baby care brand, has launched its upgraded product range with advanced skin-science formulations and sustainable packaging under the theme "Better for Baby, Better for Mum, and Better for the Planet." The brand also rolled out its new campaign "It's Pure Love" featuring Bollywood duo Anil and Sonam Kapoor, celebrating everyday moments of bonding between parents and babies.

The refreshed range features gentle formulations that are 100% doctor-tested and enriched with natural ingredients like Aloe Vera, Vitamin B5, milk protein, and turmeric. Johnson's Baby promises up to 72 hours of moisturization and triple protection against germs, dryness, and irritation. The new bottles are made with 50% post-consumer recycled plastic, reflecting the company's sustainability commitment.

The "It's Pure Love" campaign film, conceptu-



alized by FCB Group India, highlights the timeless bond between mother and child and Johnson's Baby's role in nurturing that connection.

In Guwahati, Johnson's Baby continues to hold strong trust among young parents, with local retailers noting rising interest in eco-friendly and dermatologically safe baby care products. The brand's sustainable, science-based relaunch is expected to further strengthen its foothold among urban families in Assam and the Northeast.

Vi's new family IR proposition aligns with rising outbound travel economics



Shillong: Vi's launch of an industry-first Family International Roaming (IR) proposition arrives at a time when outbound travel is becoming a significant economic driver for India. The India Tourism Data Compendium 2025 shows a 10.79% rise in overseas travel, with 30.89 million Indians travelling abroad in 2024. With 59% of Indians travelling with a spouse or partner and 26% with family members, the structure of overseas mobility is shifting toward multi-member travel, creating demand for cost-efficient connectivity solutions.

Vi's new strategy focuses on reducing the per-user roaming cost for families. Secondary members on Family Postpaid plans will receive a 10% discount on IR packs, while REDX Family users will enjoy a 25% reduction—applicable on 10-, 14-, and 30-day packs starting at ₹2,999. Family Postpaid plans begin at ₹701, and

customers can add up to eight secondary members at ₹299 each. The REDX Family Plan at ₹1,601 per month enhances value through unlimited data, premium services, lounge access, and annual IR pack benefits.

In Shillong, rising disposable incomes and increasing outbound leisure travel—especially to Thailand, Malaysia, and the Middle East—are shaping telecom spending. Local retailers report accelerated demand for predictable, packaged IR costs, with Vi's discounted multi-member offerings attracting frequent travellers and working professionals.

Complementing its roaming strategy, Vi will offer ₹40 lakh travel insurance at ₹285 through Aditya Birla Health Insurance and delayed baggage protection at ₹99. Together, these additions strengthen Vi's economic value proposition for India's expanding global traveller base.

AI & Future skills center launched in Nagaland to boost youth employability

Dimapur: Cyient Foundation, in collaboration with SIDBI Swavalamban Foundation, has launched an AI & Future Skills Center of Excellence (CoE) at the Nagaland Tool Room & Training Centre (NTTC) in Dimapur, marking a major step toward strengthening digital skilling in India's North-East. The Centre was inaugurated on November 15 by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the presence of Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and Cyient Founder Chairman Dr. BVR Mohan Reddy.

Designed and implemented by Cyient Foundation, the CoE will offer AI-integrated courses across domains such as handloom and handicraft, software coding, robotics, and emerging technologies. Supported through a CSR partnership with SIDBI Swavalamban Foundation, the project includes advanced AI simulation labs, digital classrooms, and industry-fo-

cused training modules.

In Dimapur, industry bodies and local business groups welcomed the initiative, stating that an AI-driven skilled workforce will enhance competitiveness in the region. Traders and entrepreneurs expect the CoE to boost tech-enabled services, MSME innovation, and local start-ups, potentially transforming Dimapur into a key skill and innovation hub in the North-East.

Dr. BVR Mohan Reddy said the Centre reflects Cyient's mission to "bridge the digital divide" and empower youth for India's innovation future. SIDBI DMD Sudatta Mandal added that the initiative would create a scalable model for technology-led livelihood generation. The Centre aims to train 200-240 youth annually, with a projected 75% placement or self-employment rate, supporting national missions like Digital India, Skill India, and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Nissan marks Children's Day with 'Little Champs' initiative across India

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India celebrated Children's Day with a unique nationwide initiative titled "Nissan Little Champs", offering an interactive and hands-on learning experience for children aged 10–15 years. Held across Nissan service centres, the programme engaged 1,304 children of Nissan owners, introducing them to the world of automobiles through simple, fun, and educational modules.

The event featured three structured sessions—"Do You Know?" on car basics, "Know Your Nissan" covering the brand's safety tools and innovation journey, and a "Walk Around" tour of the Nissan

Magnite and service facilities. Each workshop aimed to spark curiosity and build foundational automotive understanding in a safe environment. Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa said the initiative was designed to "bring children closer to the exciting world of Nissan cars through a safe, hands-on learning experience."

In Guwahati, dealers in the region reported strong enthusiasm from Nissan families, reflecting the city's rising interest in automobile education and brand engagement. Local dealers noted that such initiatives also help boost customer sentiment, especially as Guwahati remains a rapidly expanding



market for compact SUVs like the Nissan Magnite.

The programme concluded with certificates and branded goodies for all participants. Nissan highlighted its ongoing commitment to child welfare through CSR partnerships with

Smile Train India and The Akshaya Patra Foundation. The company also reiterated the global success of the 5-star GNCAP-rated Nissan Magnite and shared updates on the upcoming Nissan Tekton C-SUV, set for launch next year.

Bima Gram API set to boost rural insurance coverage, IAC-life hails digital initiative

Guwahati: The Insurance Awareness Committee (IAC-Life) has welcomed the launch of Bima Gram API by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), calling it a game-changer for rural insurance penetration. Developed jointly by the National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Posts' CEPT, and the Insurance Information Bureau of India, the API links postal PIN codes with Local Government Directory codes, allowing insurers to instantly verify a policyholder's Gram Panchayat (GP) location digitally.

The initiative addresses longstanding challenges faced by insurers in mapping coverage to rural areas, where most identification documents do not specify GP names. With the Bima Gram API, insurers can now obtain real-time certification of rural insurance data, simplifying verification, reducing manual documentation, and enhancing efficiency in reporting. Pilot testing with five insurers—including life, general, and health companies—has already been successfully completed, with full industry integration expected soon.

In Guwahati, insurance companies are optimistic about leveraging the API to expand coverage in Assam's rural districts. Local agents anticipate easier verification processes and faster policy issuance, enabling residents in far-flung areas to access life, health, and general insurance more efficiently.

A member of IAC-Life said, "Bima Gram API is poised to revolutionize India's rural insurance landscape, ensuring every household is accounted for and strengthening financial security across the country."

Apollo Pharmacy hits 1,000-store milestone in East India, expands healthcare access

Guwahati: Apollo Pharmacy, India's largest and most trusted pharmacy network, has opened its 1000th store in East India, marking a major expansion milestone. The new outlet, launched in Darjeeling on November 17, will offer residents access to over 10,000 SKUs of genuine medicines and essential healthcare products.

With this addition, Apollo now operates 1,000 pharmacies across West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Tripura, employing more than 7,500 people in the region. Of these, over 850 stores are in West Ben-

gal, where the company has also recently rolled out quick medicine delivery services to enhance accessibility.

In Guwahati, Apollo's strengthened presence is significant as the city continues to witness rising demand for reliable, round-the-clock healthcare services. Retailers in Guwahati say Apollo's expansion is expected to push overall market competition higher, improve availability of branded medicines, and accelerate adoption of faster delivery models. Healthcare consumers, too, are likely to benefit from better access to

authentic medicines in a market known for its fast-growing urban population.

Highlighting the milestone, P. Jayakumar, CEO of Apollo Pharmacy, said, "The opening of our 1000th pharmacy in East India marks an important step in our journey. We are strengthening our presence and ensuring people receive authentic medicines and quality care quickly and reliably."

Apollo also continues to expand its omnichannel platform, Apollo 24/7, offering teleconsultations, diagnostics, and customised insurance services directly to users' homes.

Sport Edge Meerut: India's sports economy gets a boost with model sports hub initiative

Guwahati: In a landmark move to integrate sports, skills, and entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), along with the SPEFL Skill Council and the British Asian Trust, launched the "Sport Edge Meerut" initiative, positioning the city as India's model Sports Hub. The program aims to strengthen livelihoods, empower women entrepreneurs, and nurture young sporting talent while leveraging Meerut's ₹1,500 crore sports goods industry, which contributes over 40% of India's sports exports.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from government, industry, finance, and development sectors, including representatives from ADB, World Bank, Microsoft, SBI Foundation, and ONGC Foundation. Discussions focused on enhancing R&D, design innovation, technology adoption, and creating stronger industry representation to meet global standards.

Guwahati, a key northeastern hub is expected to benefit from this initiative through increased availability of high-quality sports goods and skill-driven entrepreneurship opportunities. Local retailers and distributors are optimistic about expanding their portfolios with innovative products from Meerut, while training centers and



sports academies anticipate enhanced collaborations for skill development and athlete support programs.

MSDE's Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary emphasized that Sport Edge Meerut aims to transform sports into a sustainable livelihood avenue, promoting MSME growth, women-led enterprises, and a globally competitive sports economy. SPEFL-SC will coordinate skill alignment, while MSDE ensures policy support and cross-sector collaboration for scalable impact.

India Research Tour 2025 concludes in Itanagar, spotlight Northeast research and inclusivity

Itanagar: The India Research Tour 2025, a month-long initiative by Springer Nature in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, concluded today at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) in Itanagar. The tour, which began on 6 October in New Delhi, also engaged with NERIST and NIT Itanagar, marking the final leg of a journey across 29 institutions in 15 cities and seven states.

The tour aimed to promote Open Access and Open Science, strengthen research integrity through the RISE program, encourage e-book adoption, support editorial board member recruitment, and highlight diversity and inclusion initiatives such as Her Research, Our Future. Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi, Managing Director, Springer Nature India, said, "The conversations and collaborations from this tour have given us a deep understanding of researchers' needs, institutional priorities, and regional opportunities."

Professor Dhananjay Singh, ICSSR Member Secretary and RGU alumnus, expressed pride in the Northeast's inclusion, noting that the initiative helps bridge representation gaps and creates opportunities for collaboration and global visibility.

Itanagar welcomed the tour with enthusiasm, with bookshops, research supply stores, and cafés near the university reporting increased activity during the events. Vendors noted higher footfall from students and faculty attending workshops, seminars, and discussions, reflecting growing interest in research resources and academic engagement in the region.

Godrej Agrovetto invest Rs 70 crore in Andhra Pradesh, signs MoU to boost dairy and oil palm support services



Guwahati: Godrej Agrovet Limited on Thursday signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, announcing an investment of ₹70 crore to expand its dairy processing capacity and establish new Samadhan Centres for oil palm farmers. The MoU was signed in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Godrej Agrovet MD & CEO Sunil Kataria, and Rakesh Swami, Group President-Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group.

Chief Minister Naidu welcomed the partnership, calling it a crucial step toward strengthening Andhra Pradesh's agri-food processing ecosystem and creating sustainable livelihoods. Sunil Kataria said the agreement reflects Godrej Agrovet's commitment to supporting communities while enhancing India's nutrition land-

scape. The company will scale up dairy operations through its subsidiary, Creamline Dairy Products Limited, which markets products under the Godrej Jersey brand. Five new Samadhan Centres will also be established to provide farmers with tools, advisory services, and end-to-end solutions for oil palm cultivation.

In Guwahati, the investment signals rising confidence in India's dairy and agri-value chain, with experts noting that similar expansions could positively influence supply consistency and competitive pricing in northeastern markets. Guwahati, a major consumption hub, is likely to benefit from improved inter-state product availability.

Rakesh Swami added that Andhra Pradesh has played a pivotal role in the group's growth, citing the state's investor-friendly policies and swift approvals.

Huma Qureshi says film industry thrives when every kind of movie gets a chance

Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi has spoken about the importance of creative freedom in the film industry. In an exclusive interaction with IANS during the Jagran film festival, she emphasized that a vibrant cinema landscape thrives when all kinds of films—big, small, middle-of-the-road, and independent—get a chance to be made. Huma added that filmmakers must consider audiences while experimenting with different storytelling styles, as diversity in cinema strengthens the industry and offers viewers a richer experience. The ‘Jolly LLB 3’ actress shared, “We have to watch the audience and make films. We have to make films in different ways. No one can make a film in one way. Big films should be made, small films should be made, mid-



dle-of-the-road films should be made, independent films should be made. I think the film industry becomes robust and vibrant when there is freedom to make all kinds of films and people get a chance to watch it.”

Kriti Sanon reveals why she was after filmmaker Anand L Rai for years

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has opened up about her long-standing admiration for filmmaker Anand L. Rai. She revealed why she had been eager to work with him for years. Speaking at the trailer launch of her film “Tere Ishq Mein,” Kriti revealed her long-time desire to star in a love story directed by him—a dream that has always been on her wish list. Expressing the same, the ‘Heropanti’ actress stated, “See, this journey actually started many years ago. Because, I have met Anand sir so many times. And I was after him for years. Sir, I want to do a love story that is directed by you. I think it has always been on my wish list. I love love stories. And I don’t know why.”

“There is less love in the world. What is the problem? That love stories started becoming less. I don’t know about you. It is my favorite genre. And I was always craving to be directed by someone like him. You know. Who reaches to the soul. Whose love stories are not so simple. Very complicated like our normal life. It is very layered. There is love. There is pain. And there is fire too. There are many things. And. One fine day. Finally. That opportunity came. That I got Mukti,” Sanon added. Kriti also reflected on her approach to acting, emphasizing that she always ensures she is thoroughly prepared for her roles. The ‘Do Patti’ actress mentioned, “I am very prepared as an actor.

Krystle D’Souza highlights the shift from traditional to contemporary TV themes

Mumbai: Actor Arbaaz Khan marked his son Arhaan’s birthday with a heart-felt post. The actor shared a cherished throwback photo featuring Arhaan and his wife, Sshura Khan, capturing a warm family moment. Taking to his Instagram handle, the doting father shared a series of his images with Arhaan and captioned it as, “Happy birthday my Arhaan wish you the very best in life always love you the moistest.”

In the first image, the father-son duo is seen lying on a bed. Arbaaz also shared solo pictures of his son. One of the photos from Arbaaz Khan’s wedding shows a teenage Arhaan sitting with his father and stepmom, Sshura Khan. Taking to the comments section, many of Arbaaz Khan’s industry friends shared their wishes for his son, showering the post with



es for his son, showering the post with

love and warm messages. Maheep Kapoor commented, “Happy birthday cutie @iammarhaankhan.” Farah Khan wrote, “Happy birthday darling Arhaan.”

Actress Malaika Arora celebrated her ‘baby boy’ Arhaan Khan’s birthday with a heartwarming post. She posted a candid click of Arhaan relaxing on the deck of a boat, exuding effortless cool in a tank top. Alongside the photo, Malaika wrote, “Happy birthday my baby boy @iammarhaankhan #ak23.” For the unversed, Arhaan is Malaika’s son from her marriage to actor and filmmaker Arbaaz Khan. The couple parted ways in 2016 and their divorce was finalized in 2017. The duo, who tied the knot in 1998, announced their separation in 2016 after being together for nearly twenty years.

‘AB4’: Rasha Thadani steps into Tollywood with her next



Mumbai: Raveena Tandon’s actress daughter Rasha Thadani is all set to make her way into Tollywood with her next with filmmaker Ajay Bhupathi. The project has been titled “#AB4” for now. The announcement poster showed Rasha looking as beautiful as ever in a black sleeveless top and blue denim. The ‘Azaad’ actress was posing against

a motorcycle as she looked straight into the camera with a penetrating gaze. Presented by Ashwin Dutt, “#AB4” has been backed by Gemini Kiran under the banner of Chandamama Kathalu Pictures.

Spilling her excitement on her new cinematic journey, Rasha penned on her IG, “New beginnings, endless gratitude! Mee andariki prema

tho, I’m stepping into Telugu cinema. Thank you @ajaybhupathi sir for this opportunity. Chala excited to start this journey! (Dizzy emoji) #AB4 #TeluguDebut Presented by #AshwinDutt Produced by @geminikiran_official , under the @ckpicturesoffil banner. @vyjayanthimovies @swapnacinema @anandiar-tcreations (sic).” Further details regarding the upcoming project have been kept under wraps for now. After her debut with “Azaad”, Rasha is gearing up for her second release, “Laikey Laikaa”, where she will be sharing the screen with Abhay Verma.

Helmed by Saurabh Gupta, “Laikey Laikaa” is billed as a romantic entertainer. The project, which promises a mix of fun, romance, and adventure, is likely to be out in the cinema halls by 2026.

Sensex likely to hit 1,07,000 by 2026 end in bull-case scenario: Morgan Stanley

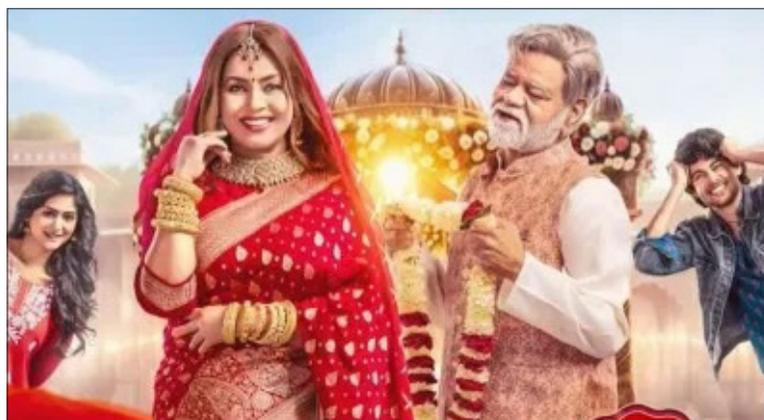
Mumbai: Bollywood star Shraddha Kapoor, who was last seen in ‘Stree 2’, has a very interesting query for all the Photo editors of the world. On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures from her photoshoot. In the pictures captured in midclose up, the actress can be seen fully decked up wearing a blue coloured top, as she rounded up her looks with demi-fine jewellery from her own brand. She wrote in the caption, “Yeh photoshop wale maathe ka til kyun nikal dete hain”. The actress is also known for her wit and quirkiness, and her posts on social media are a testament to the same. Shraddha was recently seen devouring ‘gajar ka halwa’ while getting ready, seated on her makeup chair in her make-up room.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha Kapoor is set to voice the animated character of Judy Hopps in the Hindi version of ‘Zootopia 2’. Bringing the beauty of her cuteness through her voice, Shraddha seems to be the perfect choice to portray the lovable Judy. Announcing the news, Disney India took to their social media account on the 7th of November and shared an adorable poster of Zootopia 2 featuring Shraddha and Judy.

Mahima Chaudhry & Sanjay Mishra’s ‘Durlabh Prasad Ki Dusri Shadi’ to be out on December 19

Mumbai: The makers of Mahima Chaudhry and Sanjay Mishra’s forthcoming romantic entertainer “Durlabh Prasad Ki Dusri Shadi” have finally announced the release date for the film. The drama has been locked to be out in the cinema halls on December 19 this year. The announcement poster showed groom Sanjay lovingly looking at Mahima, who is dressed as a bride, with a garland in his hand. Both Mahima and Sanjay were seen blushing in a post captioned, “The wedding bells are ringing! (Bell emoji) Get ready to celebrate love, family, and second chances. #DurlabhPrasadKiDusriShadi hadi is coming to the big screen on 19th DECEMBER. (sic).”

“Durlabh Prasad Ki Dusri Shaadi” has been made under the direction of Siddhant Raj Singh. The project shares the tale of a young man who embarks on a desperate mission to find a new bride for his widowed father, after facing immense pressure from his prospective in-laws to have a woman in the house before they send their daughter. The core cast of the drama also features Vyom Yadav, Palak Lalwani, Pravin Singh Sisodia, and Shrikant Verma in key roles, along with others. Sharing why this character holds a special place for him, Sanjay revealed in a statement, “Durlabh Prasad is a character you’ll love for his simplicity and innocence. Comedy with



emotion is always special, and this film has both in abundance. I’m excited for

audiences to meet this unique dulha and his equally unique journey.”

Ronaldo Set for Record Sixth World Cup as Portugal Crush Armenia to Seal Qualification

Cristiano Ronaldo is poised to make history at next year's World Cup after Portugal stormed into the tournament with a 9-1 demolition of Armenia in Porto. Although suspended for the match, Ronaldo's teammates ensured he will have the chance to become the first men's player to appear in six World Cups. The 39-year-old forward, who will turn 41 by the time the event begins in June, has already confirmed the 2026 edition will be his final opportunity to chase the only major trophy missing from his legendary career. His place in Roberto Martínez's squad appears all but assured, provided he remains fit — though he still

faces the possibility of a multi-game ban after being sent off in Portugal's loss to Ireland on Thursday. That surprise defeat left Portugal needing a win to guarantee the top spot in Group F, and they responded emphatically. Bruno Fernandes and rising star João Neves each scored hat-tricks as Portugal overpowered a weakened Armenian side and removed any lingering uncertainty about their qualification. Neves struck twice in the first half and completed his treble in the 81st minute, while Fernandes converted two penalties in his three-goal performance.

Hungary briefly threatened to overtake Portugal but suffered a dramatic collapse against Ire-



land in Budapest. Troy Parrott delivered a stunning hat-trick — scoring in the 80th minute to equalise before netting the

winner deep into stoppage time — as Ireland overturned a 2-1 deficit to clinch a 3-2 victory. The result lifted Ireland

into second place, securing a playoff berth and capping an extraordinary week that included their upset win over Portugal. If Ronaldo features at the 2026 World Cup, he and Lionel Messi — already qualified with Argentina — will stand alone as the only players to appear in six editions of the tournament, surpassing icons such as Lothar Matthäus. Messi lifted the trophy in Qatar in 2022, fulfilling his lifelong ambition. Ronaldo, despite winning the European Championship, two Nations League titles, five Champions Leagues and league titles in three countries, remains in pursuit of football's biggest prize.

Shubman Gill Discharged From Hospital as Ganguly Questions Eden Pitch After India's Defeat



Kolkata: India captain Shubman Gill was discharged from Woodlands Multispeciality Hospital on Sunday after receiving treatment for a neck injury sustained during the opening Test against South Africa. His release came just hours after India slipped to a 30-run defeat on a sharply turning Eden Gardens pitch, handing the visitors a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Gill suffered the injury while batting on day two and was ruled out of the Test before play resumed on the third morning. Immobilised and taken for hospital care on Saturday evening, he was unavailable to bat in India's second innings as the hosts collapsed for 93 while chasing 124. The team management has yet to decide on his availability for the second Test in Guwahati beginning November 22, with the squad scheduled to travel on Tuesday. CAB president Sourav Ganguly visited Gill in hospital earlier in the day and

later stressed that India should still have managed the modest run chase despite the testing surface. "It was not the best Test wicket, but they should have got 120," Ganguly said. "There is no controversy. Instructions were given for this type of pitch, and that is true. But we must play on good pitches." Ganguly backed head coach Gautam Gambhir, who had admitted to requesting a turning surface, but also urged balance in India's approach. "Gautam has done well for India. We will continue for a while, but pitches must be good. Win Test matches in five days, not three," he added.

The former India captain also underlined the importance of Mohammed Shami to the Test setup, calling him vital alongside Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. His remarks signalled a strong endorsement of India's pace attack at a time when questions swirl over team balance and tactics.

Preeti Pawar Clinches Medal on Comeback as India Dominate Day 1 of World Boxing Cup Finals

Greater Noida: Preeti Pawar marked her emotional return to international boxing with a medal-clinching victory on Sunday, steering India to a dominant start at the World Boxing Cup Finals. The 22-year-old outclassed Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova — a fellow Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medallist — by unanimous decision to enter the women's 54kg semifinals, capping a remarkable comeback from a year-long health battle. Preeti was diagnosed with Hepatitis A just a month before the Paris Olympics, pushing her into a grueling test of endurance as she competed through illness and bowed out after a close round-of-16 defeat. Once home, the condition forced her into three months of complete bed rest. Her return to training demanded a complete rebuild — from endurance to strength — and she often sparred five rounds instead of three to regain her sharpness.

The transformation showed immediately. Preeti boxed at a blistering pace, gliding in and out of range with quick footwork, tightening her defence, and stringing together clean combinations that kept Uktamova on the back foot throughout. "It has been a challenging period," Preeti said. "But the struggle motivated me. I feel stronger



now." Minakshi, Ankush and Narender Also Storm Into Semis India's strong opening continued with reigning women's 48kg world champion Minakshi Hooda, debutant Ankush Phangal (80kg), and seasoned heavyweight Narender Berwal (+90kg) all securing semifinal spots. Minakshi set the tone early in her quarterfinal, using her superior reach and disciplined pressure to dominate Kazakhstan's Bolat Akbota. Crisp jabs and well-timed right hands defined her win.

Advani and Damani Advance to Knockouts at World Cup of Snooker

Muscat: Indian cueists Pankaj Advani and Brijesh Damani marched into the knockout stage of the World Cup of snooker on Sunday after securing commanding victories in their respective group matches. Advani, the 28-time world champion across cue sports, produced another clinical performance in Group M as he swept past Bahrain's Hesham Alsaqer 3-0. Showcasing his trademark precision, he fired breaks of 74 and 56 to complete a one-sided win, following up on his 3-0 triumph over Oman's Hussain Allawati in his opening match. Damani, looking to make amends after narrowly missing the knockouts at the IBSF World Snooker Championship in Doha last week, continued his strong run in Group J. After dismantling Iraq's Ihab Al-Salih 3-0 in his

first outing, he defeated American Hasanain Al-Sultani 3-1 in his second match, highlighted by a solid 62-point break.

Among other Indian players, Aditya Mehta registered a comfortable 3-0 victory over Oman's Qasim Albalushi in Group R to stay in contention. Hussain Khan had mixed fortunes in Group K, earning a win against Bangladesh's Ahmed Nizam Uddin before narrowly losing a deciding-frame battle to Iraq's Firas Kamil Shaba. India's 6-red champion Dhvaj Haria endured a heartbreaking exit, bowing out after two close 3-2 losses in Group H — first to Poland's Michal Szubarczyk and then to China's Chi Kin Yeung, despite producing competitive snooker in both matches.

India women's home series against Bangladesh in Dec likely to be postponed

New Delhi: India's upcoming home series against Bangladesh, comprising three ODIs and three T20Is in December as part of the ICC Future Tour Programme, is reportedly set to be postponed due to significant political developments in Bangladesh. Although specific dates and venues had not been announced, the tour's schedule had been uncertain even before this week's political developments in Bangladesh. On Monday, a tribunal court sentenced country's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death. Her refuge in India has heightened tensions, strengthening Dhaka's insistence on her return and affecting diplomatic relations between the two countries. ESPNcricinfo reported on Tuesday that the BCB received a letter from the BCCI stating that the white-ball series will be rescheduled for a later date. Although no specific reason has been provided, it is believed that the ongoing political tensions between India and Bangladesh played a significant role.

The series, part of the ICC's Future Tours Programme, was intended to be India's final set of matches before the 2026 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL). It also served as the only series between their successful ODI World Cup campaign and the WPL. The matches were planned to take place in Kolkata and Cuttack, with the ODIs marking the start of the new phase in the Women's ODI Championship for both teams. Earlier this year, the Indian men's team's white-ball tour of Bangladesh, which was originally scheduled for August 2025, was postponed to September 2026.

"This decision has been reached following discussions between the two boards, taking into account the international cricketing commitments and scheduling convenience of both teams. The BCB looks forward to welcoming India in September 2026 for this eagerly anticipated series. Revised dates and fixtures for the tour will be announced in due course," the BCCI had said in a statement at the time.