

From Siang To The Skies: Arunachal’s Pangin Solung Featured In IndiGo’s In-Flight Magazine

Itanagar, Aug 25: In a significant push for cultural promotion and eco-tourism in Northeast India, the celebrated Solung festival of Pangin—a picturesque town situated along the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh—has been featured in IndiGo Airlines’ widely circulated in-flight publication, Hello 6E. The feature, titled “From Siang To The Skies,” spotlights the vibrant harvest rituals, indigenous folklore, and community traditions of the Adi tribe, introducing millions of air travelers across national and international routes to the rich cultural tapestry of the region.

The multi-page feature provides a detailed narrative of the Solung festival, traditionally celebrated in September to mark the agricultural cycle, seek divine blessings for a bountiful crop yield, and ensure the well-being of livestock. The article highlights key cultural components of the



The harvest festival you didn’t know about

The mighty Siang River makes this corner of Arunachal Pradesh a year-round delight, but August offers an even more compelling reason to visit. This is when the Adi tribe celebrates Solung, one of its most significant harvest festivals, filling Pangin town with traditional Ponung dances.

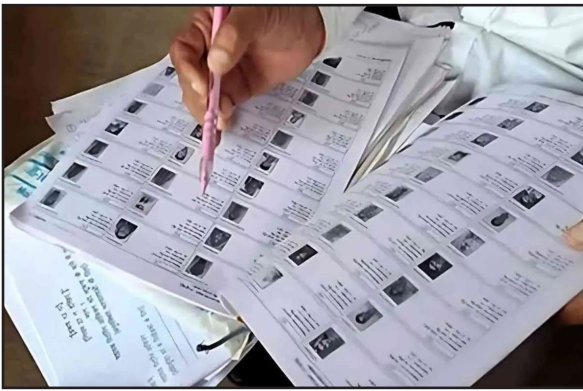
festival, including the traditional Ponung dance performed by Adi women, the chanting of mythic lore by the Miri (traditional shaman), and community feasts that reflect the ethos of unity and sustainable living inherent to the indigenous population of Siang district.

Travelers flying on domestic and international sectors can access the feature, which also underscores Pangin’s eco-tourism

potential. Located near the confluence of the Siang and Siyom rivers, Pangin serves as a Gateway to North Arunachal, offering pristine river valleys, historical sites such as Kekar Monying, and trekking trails that appeal to cultural enthusiasts and adventure tourists alike. The showcase aligns with ongoing efforts by the Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Department to leverage aviation networks and public platforms to boost regional footfalls.

Community leaders, cultural bodies, and tourism stakeholders in Pangin and Pasighat expressed appreciation for the national spotlight, emphasizing that mainstream media representation plays a vital role in preserving and promoting indigenous heritage. The feature is expected to drive curiosity among domestic travelers, bolstering local homestays, eco-resorts, and rural tourism circuits across the Siang region.

Nagaland Records 64.59 Percent Enumeration Form Distribution Under SIR



Kohima, Aug 25: The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Nagaland, announced that the distribution of pre-printed Enumeration Forms (EFs) under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has reached 64.59 percent across the state. Official status reports indicate that house-to-house distribution by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) has covered 8,76,610 electors out of the total registered electorate of 13,57,208. The ongoing revision exercise—conducted as part of Phase III of the Election Commission of India’s (ECI) nationwide electoral roll update—aims to establish an accurate voter database using October 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. District-wise performance data revealed significant progress alongside variation in field coverage. Longleng district recorded the highest coverage rate in the state at 99.2 percent, having distributed 50,293 forms out

of 50,700 registered voters, followed closely by Wokha at 90.41 percent and Tseminyu at 89.88 percent. Conversely, administrative districts such as Noklak (40.97 percent) and Mon (44.44 percent) reported lower distribution figures, prompting electoral authorities to deploy additional supervisory teams to accelerate house-to-house outreach in remote border pockets before the field verification window concludes. The physical distribution and collection drive, which commenced on August 16, will continue through September 14, 2026. Following the conclusion of field verification, the draft electoral roll is scheduled for publication on September 20, 2026, comprising voters who successfully submit verified forms. Electors who miss the initial submission period retain the opportunity to file claims and objections via Form 6 between September 20 and October 20, leading up to the final electoral roll publication on November 22, 2026.

CM Neiphiu Rio Calls for Stronger Sporting Culture in Nagaland

Kohima, Aug 25: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio called for establishing a stronger, sustainable sporting culture across the state, emphasizing that raw athletic talent must be systematically backed by consistency, discipline, modern facilities, and structured career opportunities. Speaking as the chief guest at a send-off ceremony organized at the Nagaland Cricket Association conference room in Sovima, Chümoukedima, the Chief Minister addressed athletes and coaches selected to represent Team India at the upcoming 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Addressing the gathering, CM Neiphiu Rio—who also serves as the President of the Nagaland Olympic Association (NOA)—congratulated the selected contingents, noting that sports in the modern era has evolved from mere recreation into a viable, high-potential career path capable of bringing national recognition, financial security, and overnight fame.



He highlighted that nearly 15 sports personalities from the Sepaktakraw discipline alone have secured gainful employment within central and state services due to their competitive achievements. The Chief Minister stressed that while Nagaland possesses natural athletic potential across various disciplines, achieving Olympic-level performance requires athletes to adhere strictly to the three guiding principles of dedication, discipline, and determination. He pointed out that Nagaland achieved statehood in 1963 but was integrated into the official Olympic movement four decades later, yet the state

has successfully produced three Olympians despite initial infrastructural constraints. To build a robust sports ecosystem, Rio affirmed that the state government is actively strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure, upgrading training facilities, and enhancing coaching capacities across districts. He urged the Asian Games contingent—comprising Sepaktakraw players Menenu Tsukru and Seyiekhrieno Tapa, coaches Puleno Neikha and Pungotolu Puro, alongside para-athlete Hokato Hotozhe Sema—to perform with excellence and serve as inspiring role models for the state’s youth.

Itanagar, Aug 25: The High-Powered Committee (HPC) constituted by the Arunachal Pradesh government to examine the long-pending non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) offspring issue held its maiden meeting in Itanagar. Chaired by State Law and Sports Minister Kento Jini, the multi-stakeholder panel convened to establish operational guidelines, review preliminary documentation, and formulate a roadmap for examining the socio-legal rights and Scheduled Tribe status accorded to offspring born to APST women married to non-APST fathers.

The panel was formed following extensive consultations between Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the Arunachal Indigenous Tribes Forum (AITF), the All Arunachal Pradesh



Students’ Union (AAP-SU), and the Arunachal ST Bachao Andolan Committee (ASTBAC). The meeting focused on establishing a systematic process to collect field data, verify APST certificate records,

and evaluate existing legal frameworks across various districts, including Namsai, Tezu, Roing, Tirap, Changlang, and Longding. Committee members highlighted the necessity of balancing constitutional

guarantees with indigenous rights to protect indigenous tribal identity, demographic integrity, and land rights.

During the session, representatives from community-based organizations, legal experts, and research

scholars discussed challenges encountered during initial district-level document verification drives. Chairman Kento Jini assured stakeholders that the panel would conduct thorough field studies, hold public consultations across districts, and maintain close coordination with legal advisors to ensure an action-oriented outcome. The government has mandated the High-Powered Committee to submit its comprehensive findings and policy recommendations within a six-month timeframe.

Community leaders and indigenous rights organizations welcomed the formal commencement of the HPC meetings, emphasizing that clear policy directives are essential to resolve decades-old administrative ambiguities surrounding APST certificate issuance.

Arunachal DCM Chowna Mein Pushes Hydropower, Seeks Transmission Upgrade

Itanagar, Aug 25: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi to discuss the state’s ambitious hydropower expansion plans and the urgent need for transmission infrastructure upgrades.

During the meeting, Mein highlighted Arunachal’s vast hydropower potential, estimated at over 50,000 MW, and stressed that harnessing this resource could transform the state into a major contributor to India’s renewable energy goals. He underscored that hydropower development would not only strengthen national energy security but also generate employment and revenue for local communities.

“Arunachal Pradesh has the capacity to become the powerhouse of India. But without adequate transmission lines and grid connectivity, our projects cannot deliver their full potential,” Mein said, urging the Centre to prioritize



investments in transmission corridors linking the state with the national grid. The Union Power Minister assured support, noting that the government is committed to accelerating renewable energy integration. He emphasized that Arunachal’s hydropower projects align with India’s broader climate commitments

and the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

Officials discussed plans to strengthen the North-Eastern Regional Power Grid, including high-capacity transmission lines and modern load management systems. The Ministry of Power is expected to coordinate with the Central Electricity Authority and Power Grid Corporation of India to fast-track approvals and funding.

Mein also raised concerns about delays in project clearances and the need for streamlined processes to attract private investment. He suggested that joint ventures between central PSUs and state agen-

cies could accelerate project execution while ensuring local participation. Industry experts welcomed the dialogue, noting that Arunachal’s hydropower push could reshape the energy landscape of the Northeast. They cautioned, however, that ecological safeguards and community consent must remain central to project planning.

Observers believe that the meeting signals renewed momentum in Arunachal’s hydropower journey, with transmission upgrades emerging as the critical link between potential and performance. The outcome is expected to set the stage for long-term collaboration between the state and the Centre in advancing India’s clean energy transition. In addition, Mein proposed that the Centre consider establishing a dedicated Northeast Hydropower Development Fund, which could provide targeted financial support for transmission projects, community rehabilitation, and environmental safeguards.

Nagaland Police To Launch Single-Window Complaint Portal: DGP



Dimapur, Aug 25: Nagaland Director General of Police (DGP) Rupin Sharma announced that the state police will soon launch a single-window complaint portal, aimed at streamlining grievance redressal and enhancing transparency in policing. Speaking at a press briefing, Sharma said the initiative is designed to make filing complaints more accessible and efficient for citizens. “The single-window system will allow people to register complaints online, track their status, and receive timely updates. It is part of our effort to modernize policing and strengthen public trust,” he stated.

The portal will integrate existing mechanisms such as FIR registration, cybercrime reporting, and women’s safety helplines into a unified digital platform. Officials explained that the system will also feature multilingual support, ensuring inclusivity for Nagaland’s diverse communities. According to the DGP, the portal will be linked to police stations

across the state, enabling faster coordination and reducing delays in complaint processing. Citizens will be able to upload documents, evidence, and photographs directly, while automated notifications will keep them informed about progress. Sharma emphasized that the initiative reflects the police department’s commitment to accountability. “We want to ensure that no complaint goes unheard. The portal will create a transparent trail of action, making officers more accountable to the public,” he added. Civil

society groups welcomed the announcement, noting that the system could reduce instances of complaints being overlooked or delayed. They urged the police to ensure robust cybersecurity safeguards to protect sensitive data. Observers believe that the single-window portal could set a precedent for other northeastern states, where digital policing initiatives are still evolving. By integrating technology with grassroots policing, Nagaland aims to bridge gaps between citizens and law enforcement.

Fourth KSU leader held; CM vows firm action on violence

Shillong, Aug 25: Meghalaya Police on Sunday arrested a fourth Khasi Students’ Union leader in connection with the August 19 black-flag bike rally violence, even as Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma assured the Assembly and citizens of firm action against those responsible.

Jeremiah Pohthmi, the KSU’s assistant organising secretary, was arrested from Nongmensong locality on Sunday night. East Khasi Hills SP Vivek Syiem said police produced him before the court on Monday and obtained three days of custody.

Investigators have so far identified five masked individuals involved in the attacks, particularly on Assam-registered vehicles. Pohthmi is alleged to be one of them.

Pohthmi’s arrest follows the detention of three senior KSU office-bearers — president Raymond Kharjana, vice-president Pynkmenlang Sanmiet and general secretary Reuben Najiar — on the night of the violence under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Meghalaya Maintenance of Public Order Act.

Making a suo-motu statement on the opening day of the Autumn Session on Monday, Sangma said the government had taken strong note of the “unfortunate incident” and would leave no stone unturned to bring the miscreants to justice.

The rally had been organised with the approval of the East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner and an undertaking from the KSU that it would remain peaceful. Yet some participants allegedly torched two vehicles and damaged 31 vehicles in all — including eight bearing Assam registration numbers — and attacked innocent bystanders.

Eighteen people were injured and treated at Shillong Civil Hospital, the Chief Minister said.

Fifteen FIRs have been registered. A Special Investigation Team headed by the IG (Law and Order) has been constituted to identify and prosecute all those involved, he informed the House.

Sangma was categorical that the right to peaceful

Government has extended an invitation to KSU for discussions

Shillong, Aug 25: The Meghalaya government has formally written to the Khasi Students’ Union inviting it for talks on its five-point agenda.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday said the government expects a response by Tuesday and wants to discuss all five issues to find a way forward through dialogue. The legal process arising from the August 19 violence will continue independently. The outreach follows the restoration of normal movement with Assam after the fallout of the August 19 incident.

Responding to demands from NGOs for withdrawal of the Meghalaya Maintenance of Public Order Act and release of KSU leaders, Sangma said the government would not interfere with the legal process. The law would take its own course irrespective of whether the case involved an organisation or an individual. On whether a conspiracy was behind the violence, he said the entire episode was under investigation and no possibility was being ruled out. The government had acted on available reports and intelligence, and the probe would leave no stone unturned to identify those responsible. Sangma rejected Opposition claims that the government had been caught “sleeping.” Considerable communication had taken place be-

Meghalaya High Court requests assault on court vehicles officials

Meghalaya High Court requests

Shillong, Aug 25: A Division Bench of the Meghalaya High Court on Monday directed the State government to produce the case diary relating to the violence on August 19 during the Khasi Students’ Union (KSU) black-flag bike rally in Shillong.

During the hearing of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the bench, comprising Justice Wanlura Diengdoh and Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew, noted that two vehicles of the Meghalaya High Court carrying judicial

Chokayan Village Installs New Pastoral Leadership

Shillong, Aug 25: Lotha Baptist Khumshum in Chokayan Village installed a full-time pastor and associate pastor on August 23, 2026. This service kicked off a fresh chapter for the local congregation. Dr. Suntsuthung Lotha, finance secretary of the Lotha Baptist Churches Association, chaired the proceedings. Members, church leaders, and representatives from the broader Lotha community filled the seats to witness the transition. Rev. Wojanthung Lotha of Lotha Baptist Church Diphupar B opened the event with an invocation. Rev. Dr. Renbi Rangthang, executive secretary of the LBCA, handled the formal installa-

tion and led special prayers. The church declared Myingthungo Shitiri a licensed pastor after his previous service across five villages. Nzanbemo Ngullie, a veteran with over 10 years of experience as pastor in charge, stepped into the role of full-time associate pastor.

Both men committed themselves to shepherding the Chokayan Village congregation and winning souls for the faith. During his message based on 1 Peter 3:8-15, LBCA Youth Secretary Dr. Chenijian Patton called for humility and unity. He reminded the crowd to be “faithful witnesses of Christ in the community.”

Vehicular traffic between Assam and Meghalaya has recommenced Conrad

Shillong, Aug 25: Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday said inter-state vehicular movement between Meghalaya and Assam has resumed following joint efforts by the two governments to defuse tensions triggered by recent violence in Shillong and a subsequent road blockade at Jorabat, near the inter-state border. He said the two states have also agreed to establish a dedicated hotline and a permanent district-level mechanism to address day-to-day issues along the inter-state border. A joint meeting between delegations from both the states was held on August 22, with Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar and Assam minister Atul Bora leading the respective delegations. The two states’ chief secretaries and other senior officials also attended the meeting. Following the meeting, the road blockade at Jorabat by Assam-based associations was called off, allowing normal movement of



essential commodities between the two states, Sangma said while informing the Assembly about steps taken to restore normalcy. He said a permanent district-level committee comprising the deputy commissioners of Nongpoh and Kamrup Metropolitan and police officers of corresponding rank would address day-to-day issues along the inter-state border. The government

will also constitute a joint committee comprising commissioner- and secretary-level transport officials from both states and representatives of tourist taxi associations to facilitate and regulate tourist transport movement and protect the shared tourism interests of Assam and Meghalaya, he said. Sangma further said a meeting chaired by Dhar, who is in charge of transport,

was held with Meghalaya transport associations, following which they agreed to withdraw their agitation and restore normal movement of vehicles. The next meeting with the associations is expected to be held in the second week of September to discuss the remaining issues, he said. “I would like to assure the members of this august House as well as the citizens of our state that the unfortunate incident that took place is something which the government has taken strong note of,” Sangma said. He said the government had acted swiftly and would take all necessary steps to ensure that those involved in violent activities were brought to justice. “We want to ensure and assure the House and citizens of the state that the government will take all steps and leave no stone unturned to ensure the miscreants who were involved and indulged in violent activities will be brought to justice,” he said.

Chief Minister of Mizoram conducts a review of significant infrastructure projects

Aizawl, Aug 25: Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Monday reviewed the progress of several major infrastructure projects across the state at a Mizoram Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (Mi-PRAGATI) meeting here, an official statement said. The meeting held at the Chief Minister’s Conference Hall was attended by Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Minister K. Sapdanga, PWD Minister Vanlalhlana, Art and Culture Minister C Lalsawivunga, Information Communication and Technology Minister Vanlalhlana, Tourism Minister Lalngthinglova Hmar and senior officials. The meeting focused on project milestones, monsoon-related disruptions and institutional measures required to keep ongoing works on schedule, the statement said. The Thenzawl Peace City Master Plan was among the key projects reviewed during the meeting. The proposed planning area covers 85 sq km across six Village Councils in Thenzawl town and surrounding area in Serchhip district, with 51.81 sq km identified as developable land, the statement said. The initial “Early Bird Projects” include a solid waste management system at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore, development of the Dिल्पु Lake area at Rs 8 crore and a new Saturday Market at Rs 3 crore, it said. Another Rs 23 crore has been earmarked for rejuvenation of the Lau river and flood mitigation measures in the old city area, it said.



The Thenzawl peace city project was proposed by the chief minister to decongest Mizoram’s capital, Aizawl, which has seen increasing migration from other parts of the state over the years. Thenzawl is located about 90 km from Aizawl.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) Conference Centre at Thingsulthliah near Aizawl, being constructed under the Ministry of Tourism’s Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme at an approved cost of Rs 99.71 crore. It was pointed out in the meeting that the project achieved 80 per cent hill cutting, 90 per cent entry-road cutting and completed 100 per cent exit-road cutting. The project is scheduled to be completed by March 2028.

The meeting reviewed the Mizo Fiber Grid Network (MFGN), which aims to connect all district headquarters through 543 km of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) and 82 km of Aerially Deployed Optical Fibre Ca-

ble (ADSS). The project, scheduled to be completed by December this year, was sanctioned at Rs 50 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme and stringing of 24 km of OPGW has been completed, the statement said. The meeting also reviewed the ongoing Rs 60 crore integrated office complex project at Mizoram New Capital Complex (MINECO) or government secretariat complex in Aizawl. Officials said that 15 per cent of the project has been completed now due to challenges caused by the monsoon. Progress of the 21-km Pukzing-Sil-surury road project in Mamit district on the state border with Bangladesh has also been reviewed and 8.38 per cent of the Rs 100.24 crore project has been completed, the statement said.

The meeting discussed compensation claims and monsoon-related delays to ensure that the road project remains on course for completion by January 2028, it said.

Fuel supply eases after oil tankers arrive in city

Shillong, Aug 25: The fuel supply situation in Shillong city is showing clear signs of easing after several days of uncertainty, with petrol pump operators reporting the arrival of fresh consignments and assuring motorists that normal supplies are gradually being restored.

The development comes after fuel availability was disrupted following restrictions on fuel tankers supplying petroleum products to Meghalaya, which had triggered widespread concerns over a possible shortage across the State.

The situation began improving on Monday with fuel tankers reaching the city and replenishing stocks at petrol stations. Ashok Jain, Manager of Peak Service Station, an Indian Oil outlet at Dhankheti, said there was no reason for motorists to panic as fresh supplies had arrived.

According to Jain, a tanker carrying petrol reached the station on Monday, and the outlet currently has sufficient stock to meet demand.

FIR against Assam man over ‘hate’ posts

NSA action against KSU

Shillong, Aug 25: Social activist H. Bansiewdor Nonglang on Monday lodged an FIR at Sadar Police Station against Assam-based social media user Satya Ranjan Borah, alleging that a series of Facebook posts contained inflammatory, derogatory and provocative remarks against the Khasi community, the Khasi Students’ Union (KSU) and Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

Nonglang claimed the posts, made after the August 19 violence during the KSU’s black-flag bike rally in Shillong, had the potential to aggravate tensions between Meghalaya and Assam.

He specifically referred to posts in which Borah allegedly described the Chief Minister as a “sponsored agent” of Christian missionaries, linked the KSU to missionary groups, used highly derogatory language against the organisation and compared it with terrorist outfits.

The complainant further alleged that the posts questioned

the state government’s handling of the incident and suggested that connectivity to Shillong could be blocked through Assam routes.

Nonglang said such statements, coming at a time of heightened tension, could fuel hostility between communities and disrupt longstanding social, economic and inter-State ties. He also referred to Borah’s comments on the alleged damage to the statues of Swami Vivekananda and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and to vehicles with Assam registration numbers.

While Borah had condemned the incidents, Nonglang alleged the posts went beyond legitimate criticism and amounted to an attempt to incite communal disharmony.

Seeking stringent action, Nonglang urged police to conduct a cyber investigation, preserve the posts, screenshots and electronic evidence, and issue directions to the social media intermediary.

The High Court criticized the sluggish pace of investigation and requested the case diaries

On August 19, regarding the violence

Shillong, Aug 25: The High Court of Meghalaya on Monday expressed strong dissatisfaction over the pace of investigation into the August 19 violence in the city, noting that apart from the arrest of office-bearers, no further arrests have been made of persons connected with the incidents.

In compliance with its earlier order dated August 20, the state government submitted a status report. Advocate General Amit Kumar, assisted by senior government ad-

vocate N.G. Shylla and other GAS, informed the Division Bench of Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew and Justice Wanlura Diengdoh about the steps taken, particularly the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct an expeditious probe into the circumstances leading to the incidents of August 19.

The cases registered in connection with vandalism and assault were produced before the court. Observing the progress, the Bench re-

marked: “It is noticed that the investigation is going on, but apart from arrest of the office-bearers, there has been no further arrest made of the persons connected with the incidents.” The court took particular note of the fact that two vehicles of the Meghalaya High Court, in which officers were present, were also attacked during the incidents. A PSO and a driver were among those assaulted. Directing the state to produce the case diaries in respect of these specific cases (appearing at

serial numbers 7 and 8), the Bench made it clear that the same expeditious consideration must be given to all the cases, including the attack on a public transport bus.

Observing that the investigation is still at the initial stage, the court listed the matter for September 1 for a fresh status report and production of the case diaries. The order was passed in the suo-motu PIL No. 16 of 2026 filed by the Registrar General of the High Court against the State of Meghalaya.

Omar Abdullah defends the J&K power hike when it sparks protests

New Delhi, Aug 25: The Omar Abdullah government's allies and the opposition have both reacted angrily to the rise in electricity prices and called for an urgent reversal of the over 7% increase in power rates in Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah's unmet pledge of 200 units of free power has angered the opposition, who accuse him of doing the exact opposite. However, the Chief Minister defended the increase, calling it a necessity and pointing to structural challenges, rising electricity prices, and inflation.Omar Abdullah retaliated against his rivals by reminding them of the significantly bigger tariff increases that occurred during their administration. "Those criticising us have also been in government. During the PDP-BJP government, power tariff was increased by 14 per cent. Four years earlier, there was a 15 per cent hike. We have only raised tariffs by around 6 per cent after a gap of four years," Mr Abdullah said.The Chief Minister said



his government had never promised a freeze on electricity tariff. "We committed to provide 200 units of free electricity to the poorest households through a solar-based scheme," he added. The opposition alleges that Omar Abdullah is reneging on his election promise, as the National Conference had promised 200 units of free electricity in its election manifesto. A 6.8% increase in electricity rates was recently granted by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) and will take effect on September 1.The rise has been described as a "unjustified burden" on the populace by the Congress, a significant

ally of the NC-led administration. Tariq Hamid Karra, the head of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee, declared that the Congress would support the people and resist the increase in tariffs.The government needs to keep in mind that power is a necessary service and not a luxury. Instead of constantly rising electricity costs, the people of Jammu and Kashmir should have access to reasonably priced, dependable power. He declared, "The Congress will stand firmly with the people and oppose every measure that places an unjustified financial burden on them." The BJP has termed the hike

a "betrayal" of the people. BJP leader Sunil Sharma said the National Conference was voted to power on the promise of providing 200 units of free electricity to every household."The NC government promised 200 units of free electricity to every household. But instead of fulfilling that commitment, people are now facing an increase in electricity tariffs. This is not relief, it is a betrayal of the trust placed in the government," he said. The Peoples Democratic Party, meanwhile, protested the tariff increase and called for its reversal.

Party employees staged candlelight vigils in several locations to call for a reversal of the tariff increase.The government ought to cease adding to the stress that households are already facing due to increased expenses. Electricity is not a source of income at the cost of regular people, but rather a necessary service.

The party declared that the tariff increase had to be reversed.

Rajnath Singh authorizes the transfer of DRDO missile technologies to Indian companies



New Delhi, Aug 25: The Defense Ministry said on Tuesday that Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has authorized the transfer of all conventional missile system technologies produced by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to Indian industry for domestic manufacturing.The action is intended to increase domestic industry engagement in the nation's defense ecosystem and boost India's defense self-reliance.According to the Ministry, Indian busi-

nesses will be permitted to produce conventional missile systems domestically through the Transfer of Technology (ToT), provided they meet the necessary certifications, qualifications, and legal conditions. The project is a major step toward realizing Atmanirbharta's defense vision and encouraging increased participation of Indian firms in defense manufacture.The transfer will boost India's domestic defense manufacturing capabilities by enabling qualified domestic

firms to produce DRDO-developed missile technologies domestically.With the DRDO developing hypersonic glide and cruise missile technologies, India has been progressively developing its domestic hypersonic weapons program.Prime Minister Narendra Modi also highlighted the DRDO earlier on August 15, emphasizing the growth of India's defense manufacturing base. PM Modi added, "In the last 12 years, defence production has increased by four times."The Prime

Minister's remarks coincide with a significant rise in India's domestic defense exports and production as the government works to boost domestic manufacture and lessen dependency on foreign suppliers. The Ministry of Defense reports that defense production increased from Rs 84,643 crore in FY 2020-21 by 15.6% in FY 2024-2025 and 110%. Since FY 2013-14, indigenous defense output has nearly quadrupled.

In FY 2025-2026, India's defense exports hit a record Rs 38,424 crore, and the country currently exports defense goods to over 80 nations.By 2029, the government aimed to export defense goods worth Rs 50,000 crore. Additionally, the private sector has become a more significant contributor to India's defense industrial base.In FY 2025-2026, it made up 24% of all defense production, with the remaining 76% coming from Defense Public Sector Undertakings and other public sector organizations.

Amid protests at IIT Delhi, the CJP calls for "immediate" attention to structural issues

New Delhi, Aug 25: The Cockroach Janta Party has declared that the increase in student suicides, particularly in Indian Institutes of Technology throughout the nation, highlights a "clear structural problem." Students are still protesting following the death of an IIT Delhi student."The fact that IITD has had eight suicides in the last three years is disturbing. In the past five years, there have been 65 suicides at IITs. Our IITs have a serious structural issue that needs to be addressed right once, according to CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka. On Saturday morning, a 31-year-old student pursuing an MSc in Physics is said to have committed suicide by jumping from the sixth floor of the institute's Lecture Hall Complex. On August 22, the IIT-Delhi administration released a statement confirming the occurrence.

Ranka emphasized in his statement that the student was struggling with mental health problems following the death of his father. Ranka wrote on X, "But the Institute seems to have

failed to provide the requisite support, including his hostel accommodation and appropriate counseling," adding that the CJP is in sympathy with the IIT Delhi students and the deceased's family. Students from all across the school held a demonstration on Monday starting at nine in the morning. The rest of the day's afternoon classes were also canceled due to the hours-long turmoil on campus. The demonstration went on till 5:00 p.m.Students demanded the resignation of the head of the physics department and the dean and assistant deans of the Students' Welfare Office, carrying signs that said "IIT-D: Dreams or Death." "We demand an independent investigation into the administration's mistakes that led to the student's suicide, address issues like housing facility non-allocation, academic project denial, and clear disclosure of the institute's mental health protocol regarding students seeking counseling." The protesting students' demand charter stated, "We also demand the resignation of the



dean and associate deans (ADSW and ADHM) in the students affairs office and the head of the department, physics, and we demand the family of the student be compensated adequately and compassionately with ₹1 crore." Students continued their demonstration on Tuesday, calling for answers from the university and drawing attention to the eight student suicides that have occurred at IIT Delhi in the last 30 months. By Monday, everything had returned to normal, as if nothing had happened. With a declaration of remorse and the matter ended, it was handled as if it were simply another ordinary episode. The students became enraged as a result, and we expressed our need for a resolution. In the last 30 months, IIT Delhi has seen eight suicides. "Eight suicides," a student informed a news outlet.

As floods ravage the West District, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha promises a long-term solution

Agartala, Aug 25: Prof. Dr. Manik Saha, the chief minister of Tripura, stated today that the administration would take long-term measures to address the state's flood issue and that everyone was working non-stop.Following his visits to different flood-hit areas and relief camps at Vivekananda School, Bardowali, and Ashram Chowmuhani, where he spoke with the affected people, Dr. Saha made this statement.I've heard that water unexpectedly invaded the West District and Khowai. Water has gotten into several areas in the West District as a result of the Barmura Hills' intense rains.



In August 2024, the same thing also occurred. From the Secretary to the District Magistrate, everyone is at work. When I was in Amarpur for a programme, I had a conversation over the phone with the officials. The water in the Haora River crossed the danger level, but now

the water is slowly declining, which is a good sign. Rain is not happening," he said.Dr Saha said that relief camps were opened and arrangements were made for food and baby food for everyone. "Disaster teams are on the field. Boats were also deployed. I have also

visited some places. As per the report, 17 relief camps were opened and 413 families comprising 1,305 people are in relief camps. I am also thinking about how to find a permanent solution to this problem.

Although we are trying to make some progress, you cannot fight with nature. Embankments have also been built. On our end, we are vigilant. Teams from the NDRF have been held in reserve. Party workers and karyakartas are among the council members that work nonstop. We are closely monitoring the issue as well. "West District has been severely impacted," he stated.

Assam Chief Electoral Officer evaluates Morigaon's EVM, logistical, and poll cell readiness

Guwahati, Aug 25: Anurag Goel, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Assam, examined the Morigaon district administration's readiness for the next bye-election on Tuesday, August 25.In the Conference Hall of the Office of the District Commissioner, Morigaon, Goel presided over a review meeting. The CEO was

briefed by District Commissioner Sriшти Singh, IAS, on the administrative readiness and preparations being taken to ensure a seamless election process. The deployment of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), logistical plans, and the operation and coordination of numerous election-related cells were among the

important elements of the election process that the CEO examined.

He instructed the relevant personnel to maintain strict adherence to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Election Commission of India and to finish all necessary preparations within the allotted time frames. District Development Com-

missioner Orphap Baglari, ACS; Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Satyajit Chetia, ACS; Additional District Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, the Election Officer, Circle Officers, EVM Officers, and officials in charge of various election cells, among others, were present at the meeting.

In Numaligarh, wild elephants demolish nine homes and a school

Guwahati, Aug 25: In Murchinghoni Leteku Basti, Moranig, a herd of wild elephants went on a rampage on Sunday night, demolishing up to nine homes in one night. The Leteku Basti Primary School was also assaulted by the elephants, which severely damaged the school's structure. The nine impacted households were caught off guard by the unexpected elephant attack and barely survived. The families were left in a condition of terror and destruction as the herd attacked their houses at night. Locals claim that disturbances caused by wild elephants have persisted for a considerable amount of time in several parts of Moranig Mouza. Given this circumstance, locals have called on the Forest Department to put in place more efficient and well-thought-out strategies to lessen conflict between humans and elephants. Additionally, demands have been made for the quick repair of the damaged school so that the students can resume their regular learning environment and for urgent compensation to the impacted families.

After the Shillong riots, Meghalaya and Assam will establish a cooperative mechanism and border hotline



Shillong, Aug 25: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma informed the Assembly on August 24 that Meghalaya and Assam have decided to establish a permanent district-level structure and a dedicated hotline to handle disputes along their interstate boundary. Following rioting in Shillong and a road roadblock at Jorabat, close to the Meghalaya-Assam border, tensions increased. According to Sangma, the two governments have taken action to resume regular travel and stop similar conflicts from

getting worse. Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar and Assam Minister Atul Bora led their respective delegations to a combined meeting of top officials from the two states on August 22. Senior officials from both administrations, including chief secretaries, were also present.A permanent district-level committee including police officials of the appropriate rank and the deputy commissioners of Nongpoh and Kamrup Metropolitan will be established as part of the structure. Resolving daily problems

along the border will be the committee's responsibility. Additionally, the two governments will form a combined transport committee including representatives from tourist taxi associations as well as commissioners and secretaries from both states. In an effort to safeguard the interests of both states' tourism industries, the committee would concentrate on regulating travel between Assam and Meghalaya and resolving operator concerns.According to Sangma, the agreements came after discussions that

assisted in putting an end to the blockade of Jorabat by associations located in Assam. The flow of necessary goods and other vehicles between the two states was resumed after the blockade was lifted.Additionally, he stated that after talks with the state's transportation groups, Meghalaya Transport Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar agreed to end their agitation.In order to address outstanding issues, a second meeting with the associations is anticipated during the second week of September. Meanwhile, Sangma declared that the government would take action against individuals guilty for the violence in Shillong."I want to reassure the members of this august House and the people of our state that the government has taken serious note of the regrettable incident that occurred," he stated. The chief minister declared that the government would take all required actions to guaranty the prosecution of individuals responsible for violent acts.

Shillong Violence: Meghalaya Police Arrest Another KSU Leader

Shillong, Aug 25: Meghalaya Police have arrested another senior member of the student organization and expanded their investigation into the violence that broke out during a Khasi Students' Union (KSU) demonstration in Shillong.Jeremiah Pohthmi, a KSU assistant organizing secretary from Nongmensong in East Khasi Hills, was taken into custody by police on Monday. Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem stated that once he was brought before a judge, detectives requested his custody so they could question him further. Pohthmi's arrest comes after three other senior KSU officials were taken into

custody in relation to the violence on August 19: general secretary Reuben Najiar, vice president Pynkmenlang Sanmiet, and president Raymond Kharjana. Investigators have so far identified five masked individuals allegedly involved in the incidents. Police are particularly examining the attacks on vehicles registered in Assam during the black-flag bike rally. The East Khasi Hills district government had approved the rally, but after some participants allegedly attacked cars and pedestrians and started throwing stones, the event deteriorated into violence. According to the state government, eighteen

persons were hurt and thirty-one cars were damaged.A Special probe Team led by the Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) has now broadened the probe.

The group's job is to find the culprits and take them to court.On Monday, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma informed the Meghalaya Assembly that 15 FIRs had been filed in connection with the violence. The state administration has reaffirmed that no organization or person is permitted to tamper with the legal process, and that the inquiry would be conducted independently and in compliance with the law.

On August 27, Nagaland will participate in the National Sports Day program

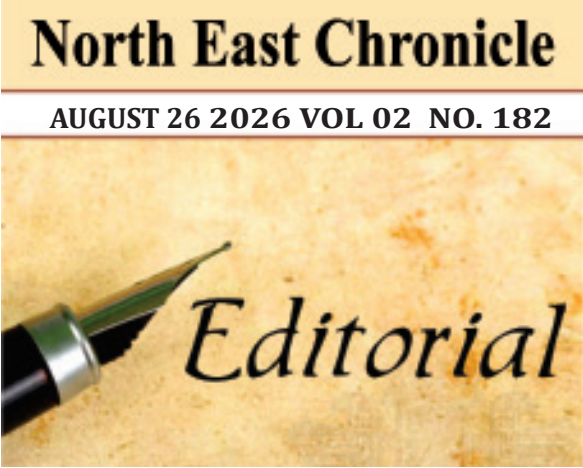


Kohima, Aug 25: According to officials on Monday, August 24, Nagaland will take part in the national National Sports Day program on August 27. Events will be held at 20 colleges in 12 districts as part of the Khelo India Samwad 2026 and Yuva

Connect projects.According to officials, the state-level initiative will unite students, young volunteers, sports fans, and local stakeholders to promote increased involvement in sports, leadership, and nation-building. The program was revealed at a press conference in Kohima by Ruokuovikho Chale, State APS MyBharat Nagaland, and Pradeep J, District Youth Officer, MyBharat Kohima.Every year on August 29, National Sports Day is held to honor the anniversary of the birth of renowned

hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. However, this year's unique national program will take place on August 27 and link young people from all around the nation via a single platform.As part of the program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to remotely address around 8 lakh youth participants at over 1,600 places throughout the nation, according to officials.With Nagaland's involvement, students and youth from all of the State's districts and educational institutions would be able

to participate in the national program. According to Chale, the event would give students and young people a forum to talk about the importance of sports in community building, personal growth, and the idea of a Viksit Bharat. Activities are scheduled throughout 20 colleges in 12 districts. According to the initiative's organizers, the goal is to encourage young people to participate in community development and nation-building while also fostering a stronger sporting culture.



The AI frontier for the Assamese language

Time is an endless and ever changing continuum where every element of human civilization continuously reinvents itself to adapt to shifting paradigms. As human thoughts, collective consciousness, and lifestyles undergo profound transformations, the fundamental medium of human expression—language—inevitably evolves alongside them. In contemporary times, the unprecedented explosion of science, information technology, and computational capabilities has radically restructured the global landscape, leaving no corner of human culture untouched, including our deeply cherished Assamese language. Historically, a prevailing sense of existential dread gripped intellectual circles, fueled by fears that aggressive globalization and the overwhelming dominance of major global languages like English would ultimately eclipse and marginalize regional tongues. However, this pessimistic forecast has been decisively challenged by the dawn of the digital era, which has transformed technological instruments from perceived threats into powerful champions of linguistic survival. Far from being a cold, mechanical force devoid of soul, modern technology has provided the struggle for linguistic longevity with an unprecedented surge of vitality, turning a potential crisis into a profound intellectual revolution of self-discovery and global assertion. The intrinsic relationship between language and technological advancement is deeply rooted in human history, evolving from primitive inscriptions on tree bark and stone tablets to the monumental disruption of the Gutenberg printing press. Yet, the modern digital revolution has shattered all historical benchmarks, spearheading a renaissance largely anchored by the advent of Unicode technology. Before the standardization of Unicode, encoding and communicating in Assamese on digital devices was an excruciatingly complex enterprise that required specialized software configurations, proprietary fonts, and advanced technical expertise, effectively confining digital literacy to a handful of specialists. The universal adoption and simplification of Unicode completely demolished these artificial barriers, empowering everyday citizens to effortlessly articulate their thoughts, creative insights, and daily communications through mobile phones and personal computers from any corner of the globe. This widespread accessibility successfully liberated the language from the static confines of physical books, embedding it deeply into the dynamic, fast-paced stream of everyday modern life and proving that technology, when democratized, breathes extraordinary momentum into linguistic evolution.

Building upon this digital foundation, the exponential rise of social media ecosystems, decentralized content creation platforms, and digi-

tal communication networks has dramatically widened the operational and creative scope of the Assamese language. Traditional literary gatekeeping, which once restricted publishing privileges to a select elite vetted by traditional newspaper and magazine editors, has been entirely dismantled by the advent of modern blogging platforms, social networking sites, and digital sharing spaces. Consequently, every individual has transformed into an active literary creator, while every reader simultaneously acts as an engaged critic, shifting the epicentre of linguistic culture toward the grassroots of society. A young, aspiring writer situated in the most remote, picturesque village of rural Assam can now instantly broadcast poetry, prose, and social commentary to a worldwide audience, unhindered by geographic or institutional constraints. Active online communities, vibrant literary forums, and vigorous digital debates demonstrate that the innate affection and enthusiasm for the Assamese language remain vibrantly alive and deeply rooted in the collective psyche of its speakers. Furthermore, the expansion of discussions into specialized fields such as science, technology, economics, sociology, and governance has exponentially enriched the lexicon of the Assamese language, rendering its expressive repertoire far more robust, nuanced, and structurally diverse. This linguistic resurgence is powerfully reinforced by the economic viability that modern digital platforms provide, shifting the language from a purely sentimental domain into a thriving medium of sustainable livelihood and commercial enterprise. Through monetized video production, independent podcasting, digital journalism, and creative content creation on platforms like YouTube and specialized blogs, a new generation of Assamese youth is achieving financial self-sufficiency while championing their mother tongue. When language transitions from an emotional attachment to a practical tool, capable of generating economic sustenance and securing daily livelihoods, its societal value skyrockets organically, inspiring broader commercial investments, digital advertising campaigns, and an unshakable cultural pride that guarantees long-term resilience and sustained growth. At the absolute forefront of this contemporary linguistic evolution lies the revolutionary integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies, which are systematically reshaping how the Assamese language interacts with the digital universe. The rapid proliferation of advanced computational tools such as automated machine translation engines, sophisticated voice-typing interfaces, and intelligent conversational chatbots is fundamentally redefining the boundaries of human-computer interaction and multilingual communication.

The Yuan’s resurgence: a growing threat to the US dollar’s supremacy

Replace the words “Yuan” and “China” in the title with “Dollar” and “America” and you have what US treasury secretary John Connally said in 1971 to European finance ministers. The adage remains true, except that there are now two currencies the world must worry about. The US dollar curated over eight decades of careful branding as a reference currency, central to a stable, global financial system and now the contender the yuan, held steady by the trade competitiveness of China and a closely managed exchange rate regime. The yuan depreciated by 15 per cent against the US\$ over the period 2014 to 2024, even as China contributed one third (US\$1.2 trillion) to the global increase in merchandise export. It also has the largest reserves in the world, about US\$ 3.4 trillion.

China’s trade policies are devious (think non-trade measures and barriers) but relatively kosher. Being the most competitive manufacturer helps. Acting in national interest, it scuppered competing exports by subsidising export manufacture and infrastructure whilst skimping on consumer benefits and welfare. China does

not encourage consumption, in keeping with its per capita income levels, by defraying the cost of living or exceptional life events, accessing education, healthcare or old age pensions. The average Chinese consumer must save for these eventualities. Hyper domestic savings are partly the result of financial repression. Regulated purchase of government bonds by Chinese banks like the RBI’s Statutory Liquidity Ratio, which sequesters 18 per cent of a bank’s net liabilities into cash, gold or government bonds, low interest rates for domestic savers and exchange controls to dissuade capital flight, all generate a flood of enforced savings. These are funnelled by Chinese banks into manufacturing, creating overcapacity and a frenzy of hyper competition with exports the only option. Rock bottom export prices destroy competing trade, creating global imbalances in market access- a masterful version of state supported capitalism.

The paltry scale of personal consumption in China 31 per cent of GDP in a nearly high-income economy, comes as a surprise. Compare this with the United States where consumption accounts for 68 per cent of GDP. Even in lower-middle

income India, it is 62 per cent. Americans might be spendthrifts given that their per capita income is 8X of China’s. But it is not just the Americans. Closer home, Malaysia has a per capita national income lower than China (0.9x) but consumption is, like India, at 62 per cent of GDP. Exceptionally low consumption in China is not driven by the lack of resources. It is a policy designed to divert savings into investments for exports. The Chinese could have consumed more, like the Malaysians, if they had access to more public goods like pensions, or good health and education facilities outside major cities, access to which is tightly regulated with penalties for unauthorised entry. Unsurprisingly, “save baby save” is the lot of the average Chinese consumer. In India, State policy transferring income to families is more generous and the “bite” of tough but inequitable laws is masked by poor implementation. Squatting on urban public land — for a price paid informally — is a safety valve for rural folk to self-urbanise, hoping a kindly government might legitimise their stake. Government schemes for subsidised food are now portable. Entry to cities is open for all with

no travel restrictions. Travel by rail (general glass) whilst of indifferent quality, is compensated by ubiquitous cross-country connectivity, frequent services and rock bottom ticket prices making it cheaper than travel by public bus. Unsurprisingly, much of the travel is from rural areas to cities, to avail better work opportunities, education or medical care.

Why did India not adopt an economically efficient path as China has since the 1980s? One admits it grudgingly, but India never had China’s trump card a disciplined one-party system socially oppressive but highly, albeit often coldly, efficient. China copied and scaled up, the subsidised manufacturing and export production model from the 1960s developmental policy of Japan and subsequently South Korea. What is solely Chinese is their long-term vision of global political and economic dominance targeting America’s dominant position post 1945 till the 1960s and again its unipolar moment post 1989, once the Soviet Union splintered. China is unlike any other country, in moulding public behaviour via a curious mélange of mass subservience mixed with public faith in a top-down system, which

dextrously decentralises political responsibility and fiscal power for economic development. This builds widespread support for the party. The most egregious, cases of public corruption, are carefully distanced from the party and punished. Selectively but routinely, sacrificing inconvenient insiders, reinforces the public’s trust in the party. South Asians, in general, are not in thrall of the Chinese development model. Nor for that matter are Taiwan, South Korea or Japan. India remains a rapidly evolving petri-dish intent on translating traditions into modern practices, aligned with equitable development. The Union backstops all public debt as the lender of last resort. But expenditure norms are not common across all levels of government. Panchayats and city governments are as necessary as Parliament or state Legislative Assemblies, but they remain underfunded and incapacitated administratively. Spending priorities remain warped. Digital India is a prime developmental meme, but publicly funded physical infrastructure takes precedence, even as privatisation remains frozen.

China offers powerful lessons in economic man-

agement, government effectiveness and diplomacy. Its unique combination of native business smarts with facilitating economic policies is worth emulation. Such realism would benefit India. Consider our listless policy for the 300 odd million workers in MSMEs. The notion that MSMEs can somehow continue to contribute one half share, even as our merchandise exports more than double from US\$ 440 billion in 2025 to US\$1 trillion by 2030, is fanciful. Aggressive mergers and incentivised production at scale, is preferable to graduate the 300 million workers and MSMEs to the better regulated formal sector, where firm productivity and worker benefits improve. AI integration in enterprises, can pave the route to formalisation. Should we, pillarise the yuan and the centrally directed economy it represents? Prudence suggests waiting till the yuan playbook is fully revealed. The yuan appreciated by six to seven per cent against the USD since 2025, while the INR depreciated by 14 to15 per cent. Differential impact of the Iran war explains some of this. For now, assume that what you cannot change must be endured. Just adjust please.

Stringent FDI rules threaten India’s drive to attract foreign investment

Foreign investments in India are at an all-time low. Net foreign direct investment (FDI) was about \$7 billion in FY26, one of the lowest levels India has seen in recent years. It is in this context that the proposed changes to the NDI Rules, which the RBI has placed for public comment, gain greater significance. On July 21, the RBI released the Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Investment) Rules proposing to replace the existing Non-Debt Instruments Rules, 2019 and invited public comments on the draft until August 31.

The NDI rules govern how foreign investors can acquire, hold, or transfer assets in Indian entities. Now, there are two key changes that the draft rules propose. The first concerns the pricing at which transactions can take place. The second is the definition of “foreign control,” and the subsequent regulations that apply once control is established. The proposed changes may have significant economic costs, such as stifled Mergers and acquisitions activity, stranded distressed assets, and deterrence of foreign capital. Increasing regulatory frictions at a time when India needs foreign capital seems like a counterproductive move. Let’s say a foreign investor wants to buy a stake in an Indian start-up. What should the price of the transaction be? There may be a theoretical discounted cash flow value (considered the fair market value), but in reality, the actual price depends on negotiations between the buyer and the seller.

For example, the foreign investor may negotiate an earn-out clause, paying the first 80% at the time of purchase and the remainder after a year based on the company meeting some revenue target. If the start-up is in distress, it might sell shares at a discount because it needs cash quickly.

However, such pricing flexibility is not possible under existing rules. The RBI insists that foreign investors must pay at least the fair market value at the time of purchase, or receive only up to the FMV at the time of sale. While the idea of fair market value can itself be called into question, the current arrangement leaves enough room for pricing structures between the thresholds. The proposed new rules seek to ensure that transactions must occur only at the “exact determined price.” This will eliminate much of the existing pricing flexibility and narrow the range of possible transactions. Buyers and sellers rarely agree on the value of a transaction. Without flexibility to work around the determined price, deals may not go through. Further, companies in distress may not find takers at the exact determined price. There is often a need for a deep discount for a transaction to take place. The proposed pricing norms could force deals into a rigid framework, leaving little room for buyers and sellers to negotiate and share risk. A mathematical valuation model cannot always capture the absolute truth.

The Reserve Bank of India has always been worried about the “pass-through trap”, where foreign investors could use Indian companies to indirectly bypass foreign ownership limits. Let’s say India’s FDI policy lays out that foreign investors can only have a 26% stake in, say, retail. A foreign investor could circumvent this by setting up an Indian company and having that company buy a 51% stake in the retail business. In effect, the foreign investor would still control the business through the Indian company. To prevent this, the RBI has created the “Foreign Owned or Controlled Company” (FOCC) framework. Under this, only when a domestic Indian company is majority-owned

(more than 50%) or controlled by foreigners are its investments into other Indian startups classified as downstream foreign investment. Let’s say Company A has 40% foreign shareholding, including some veto rights for the minority foreign shareholder. It would not come under the FOCC framework and, therefore, could buy stakes in Indian firms without seeking RBI approval. The proposed rules replace the FOCC framework with a “Foreign Controlled Entity” (FCE) framework. Now, a company with less than 50% foreign shareholding but with foreign control rights will qualify as foreign. Its transactions will be classified as indirect foreign investment, and rules such as pricing floors, sectoral caps, and reporting obligations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) will apply. The consequence could be that Indian founders incorporate their firms outside India, such as Singapore (or elsewhere), while the Indian entity remains a back-office operation. Not only is this bad from the point of view of FDI, but in the future, India could lose out on tax revenues from these firms, as well as the wider benefits that emerge from being a centre of innovation.

The draft document released by the RBI for public comments does not lay out the rationale for these consequential changes. Traditionally, India’s pricing rules stem from an anxiety over capital flight preventing assets from being sold too cheaply or foreign capital from extracting excessive payouts. Similarly, rigid control rules aim to stop foreign investors from using domestic wrappers to bypass sectoral caps in sensitive industries. However, modern tax-based transfer pricing and targeted national security screening could achieve these objectives with less friction.

Merit on the margins: the risks of rewarding loyalty over expertise

Here is where it is coming to an end, step by step. The façade is crumbling; the putrid structure is becoming visible. First, they leave. There is no grand theoretical explanation, no elaborate political doctrine, no convincing institutional account. They simply depart, citing personal reasons, political disagreements, reassignment or silence. This is how such systems often end, not with a single dramatic collapse, but with departures that gradually reveal what had been concealed by the appearance of control. President Trump’s administration offers a laboratory in which loyalty can become more valuable than competence, repetition more useful than evidence, aggression more effective than explanation, and personal allegiance more important than institutional responsibility. The deeper danger is that intelligent people learn to justify the behaviour, reproduce it and eventually mistake their participation

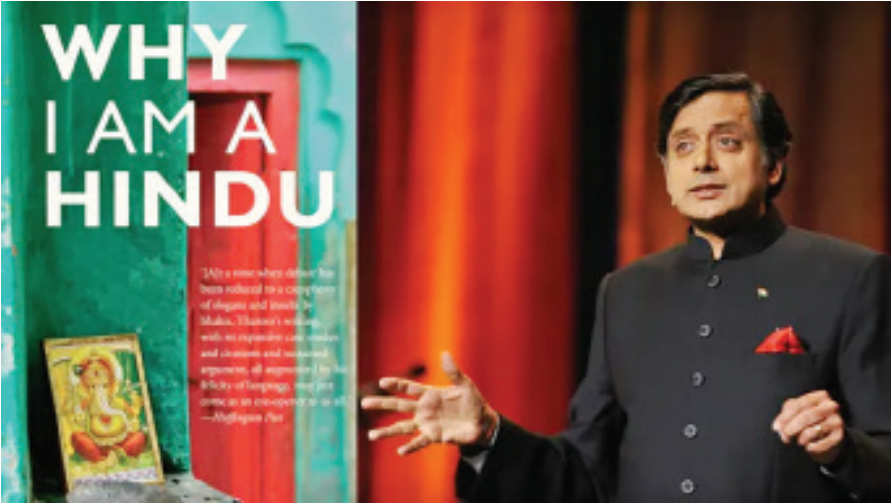
in it for political virtue. The political order begins to fracture, and their loyalty does not necessarily protect them.

Pam Bondi, former Attorney General, Tulsi Gabbard, the former spy chief, and Karoline Leavitt, the former White House press secretary, are revealing precisely because they are not identical figures. Leavitt transformed the office of White House press secretary from an institution supposed to mediate between government and journalists into something closer to a combat platform. The press secretary became an amplifier. The exchange was no longer about what the administration had done, but about how effectively the administration could defeat the person asking. A press briefing ceases to be an information mechanism when the performance of dominance becomes more important than the transmission of information. The exchange is clipped, posted, shared, praised, attacked

and recycled. A hostile question becomes a thirty-second video. The answer need not survive scrutiny if the clip survives the news cycle. The reporter could be recategorised as an enemy, a partisan, a “left-wing hack”. Once that transformation occurs, the factual content of the question becomes secondary. The audience is invited to judge allegiance rather than accuracy. This is precisely the political psychology of propaganda. The public no longer asks, “Is the claim true?” It asks, “Whose side is this person on?” Plato’s warning about persuasion without knowledge becomes particularly relevant here because propaganda does not require the elimination of facts. It requires only the destruction of a common procedure for deciding which facts deserve belief. Pam Bondi exposes a different mechanism: the transformation of institutional authority into personal loyalty. Her exceptional loyalty to Trump

did not guarantee permanence. Her removal demonstrates the brutal rule of personalised government: loyalty is necessary but never sufficient. A subordinate can be indispensable on Monday and expendable on Thursday. Such systems consume loyalists because those who gain institutional authority, knowledge and independent judgement can eventually become liabilities. The Epstein affair further reveals the collision between secrecy, expectation and political loyalty. A promise to release information creates an obligation; delay creates suspicion; incomplete disclosure creates a vacuum filled by speculation. The dismissed official becomes part of the story. Removing an official does not remove the underlying institutional crisis. Gabbard presents the third variation. She is the subordinate whose independent judgement can become politically dangerous even when she remains formally loyal.

Nepali Translation of Shashi Tharoor’s ‘Why I Am a Hindu’ to Be Launched in Kathmandu



Kathmandu: The Nepali translation of Why I Am a Hindu, a book authored by Indian politician and intellectual Dr. Shashi Tharoor, will be launched in Kathmandu.

The launch, organised as part of the Nepal Literature Festival, will be held on August 26 at the Nepal Academy in Kathmandu. During the event, Dr. Tharoor will engage in a discussion on pluralism, faith and secular democracy in South Asia.

In the book, Tharoor explains various concepts of Hinduism through a combination of personal belief and scholarly analysis. He discusses the contributions

of eminent figures such as Adi Shankaracharya, Patanjali, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, while also examining philosophical traditions and concepts including the Vedas, Advaita Vedanta and Bhakti Yoga.

The book also examines traditional religious practices, the rise of Hindutva and its contemporary political influence. Tharoor presents his views on the role of the Hindu majority community in the context of Indian secularism. He also warns that religious extremism poses a threat to India’s cultural heritage. The Nepali translation has been carried out by journalist Swechchha Raut.

Active in journalism for nearly a decade, Raut began her career in radio and later gained experience in online journalism with the BBC Nepali Service.

Why I Am a Hindu has been published in Nepal by FinePrint, one of the country’s prominent publishing houses. FinePrint has published significant works on literature, history, politics and public discourse.

According to the organisers, Tharoor’s views on faith, secularism and democratic values will provide an important opportunity to promote informed, balanced and constructive dialogue on these issues.

Prince Harry quits board of wildlife charity after rangers’ human rights abuses

The Duke of Sussex has stepped down from the board of a major African wildlife charity that had been at the centre of a human rights controversy.

Prince Harry’s spokesperson confirmed he was no longer a trustee of African Parks, which admitted last year that human rights abuses were committed by its rangers in the Republic of the Congo.

The charity’s admission followed an independent review into allegations made by members of the Baka community.

In a 2024 report published by the Mail on Sunday newspaper, community members accused African Parks rangers of beating, waterboarding and raping locals to stop them from accessing their ancestral forests, which are now in a conservation area.

After the review, African Parks published a statement acknowledging that human rights abuses occurred in the Odzala-Kokoua national park, which it manages. It said that it had improved its safeguarding processes both at the park and institutionally.

A spokesperson for Harry said the duke, who was president of the charity for six years before he became a member of its board of di-



rectors in 2023, remained an active and avid supporter of African Parks.

“The duke is proud of his 10 years with African Parks and fully supports the ongoing strengthening of its board,” the spokesperson said.

“His commitment to conservation in Africa continues, and he remains a supporter of African Parks’ mission.”- Survival International, a global human rights charity that campaigns for the rights of Indigenous people, had

called on Harry to step down as a member of the board.

Caroline Pearce, the executive director of Survival International, said it was “outrageous that for 10 years Prince Harry has served African Parks” while people working for it had “been responsible for abuse and violence against Indigenous people. His departure doesn’t undo that record — African Parks itself must now be held accountable, and must abandon this model of fortress

conservation for good.”

Founded 26 years ago, African Parks manages more than 20m hectares (50m acres) in partnership with 13 African governments and hundreds of local communities.

African Parks expressed “deep gratitude” to the duke on concluding his tenure after his 10-year commitment to the organisation.

“His relationship with the organisation dates back to Malawi in July 2016, when he supported one of the large-

est elephant translocations in history. He served as president for six years before being appointed a member of the board of directors,” it said.

“Over the years, the duke has brought global attention to the urgent need for biodiversity protection for the benefit of people and wildlife, and has contributed greatly to promoting philanthropy for the cause of conservation in Africa. The duke remains deeply committed to this cause, and remains a strong supporter of African Parks’ work.”

The announcement comes as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are due to relocate to the UK from California with their children, Prince Archie, seven, and Princess Lilibet, five.

Former Suits star Meghan is said to be pursuing an acting role, with reports she has been in talks about a role in the third series of Guy Ritchie’s Netflix hit The Gentlemen, swiftly followed by other reports that the deal was off.

The couple are understood to be planning an “extended stay” in the UK, and their children are already enrolled in school, but it has not been confirmed for how long.

‘An amazing relief’: implant offers hope for those with refractory angina

UK: Study finds device brings significant fall in chest pain in 75% of patients, but further trials and NHS approval are needed

“It’s an amazing relief, both physically and emotionally, to be able to live my life again normally, without feeling that I’m limited all the time in what I can do.”

Cristian Jensen is describing the difference that an implant inserted in his chest – to reduce the symptoms of his debilitating angina – has had on his life.

The 64-year-old used to have five angina attacks a week, each involving a sharp, acute pain that reminded him of the heart attack he once had. Now he has an attack every week or two.

He used to have to limit the amount of exercise he did, in case strenuous activity induced an attack. Now he’s walking further and faster and no longer worries about

climbing stairs.

“It’s made a huge difference to my confidence,” the packaging designer adds. “Angina is a reminder that something isn’t right with your body. It’s like a sharp pain in the middle of your chest that stops you doing what you are doing.

“The fear that the pain of an episode of angina could be a heart attack. Suddenly not having that anxiety at the back of your mind changes your life.”

Angina, a common form of heart disease, involves pain in the chest, neck, shoulders, jaw or arm.

Jensen had a long and troubled history of heart problems before consultant cardiologist Dr Ranil de Silva fitted him with the implant – a coronary sinus reducer (CSR) – at the Royal Brompton hospital, a renowned centre of specialist NHS heart and lung care in London, in 2021. In 1990, he

was diagnosed with angina at an unusually young age – at just 28 – after an angiogram showed he had blocked arteries.

Open heart surgery helped. “That fixed me, for a while at least,” he says. “I was angina-free for 17 years until I had a heart attack in 2007.” That led to him having the first of what became eight stents put in, to help his arteries stay open and his heart to keep pumping blood around his body.

But in 2015 he began taking drugs to lower the high level of bad cholesterol in his bloodstream – fatty deposits that narrow the arteries. He also started using another drug, a spray called glyceryl trinitrate (GTN), to banish the pain each of his angina attacks brought.

Jensen is one of an estimated 300,000 people in England with refractory angina. That is angina that remains problematic despite

the patient having drugs, stents and heart bypass surgery.

When Jensen’s symptoms persisted, de Silva suggested he have the implant fitted. Despite the large number of people with the condition, only a handful have had what is still an experimental treatment.

The small, hour-glass-shaped device is implanted near the heart using keyhole surgery through the patient’s neck. It works by narrowing a vein at the back of the heart. That helps to redirect the person’s blood flow to the parts of the heart muscle that are getting too little oxygen. Each device costs the NHS £11,400.

A new study – the largest of its kind worldwide to date – has found that the device brings about a significant fall in chest pain in 75% of people with refractory angina within six months of its implantation.

Iran to Seize Vessels Violating Rules in Strait of Hormuz: PGSA

Tehran: Iran has adopted a stringent approach towards vessels transiting the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) has warned that vessels violating its prescribed regulations could face restrictions on future passage through the waterway, including fines, detention and seizure.

Iran’s international news network Press TV and Türkiye’s state-run Anadolu Agency reported that the PGSA, in a statement posted on its official social media platform X on Sunday, urged shipping companies and cargo owners transporting goods from the Persian Gulf to check the updated list of non-compliant vessels (NCVs) before chartering any vessel.

The Iranian authority said that vessels cooperating with those included on the list could also be immediately

added to the NCV list. Such activities include ship-to-ship (STS) transfers, transshipment and other similar operations.

According to the PGSA, vessel owners seeking removal of their names from the list must submit a formal application citing appropriate reasons. The authority has provided a procedure for submitting such applications via info@pgsa.ir.

Iran’s announcement comes at a time when maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has already been severely disrupted. According to Reuters, only 89 cargo vessels exited the strait and 103 entered during the week ending August 23, representing around a 90 per cent decline in activity compared with pre-conflict levels.

According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 68 confirmed

maritime incidents had been recorded in and around the Strait of Hormuz as of August 21, resulting in the deaths of 19 seafarers.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world’s most important energy corridors. Large volumes of oil and gas from the Persian Gulf region pass through the waterway to international markets. Any restrictions on vessel movements through the strait could therefore have significant implications for global energy markets and shipping costs.

Iran has previously maintained that its conditions and security concerns regarding the Strait of Hormuz cannot be ignored. In August, Tehran said the United States would have to change its conduct for the waterway to be fully reopened under normal conditions.

Tensions between Iran and the United States over the

Strait of Hormuz are rising at a time when diplomatic efforts between the two countries have also reached an impasse. In June, an interim agreement was reached between the two sides with mediation by Pakistan and Qatar. However, differences subsequently emerged over its implementation and the movement of vessels through the strait.

Even after the agreement’s deadline expired on August 17, no permanent arrangement could be reached. Meanwhile, the sharp decline in vessel traffic through the strait has left a large number of commercial ships stranded in the Gulf region.

Against this backdrop, the PGSA’s latest warning could increase compliance pressure on shipping companies and further deepen uncertainty surrounding international trade through the Strait of Hormuz.

US removes Syria from list of state sponsors of terrorism

Syria: Andrei Fedorov, an adviser to the Kremlin, says there might be a “semi-military” response against UK drone factories by “unknown sources” over the sharing of military blueprints with Ukraine.

His comments on BBC Newsnight come as UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham says he plans to travel to the US next month with European leaders to lobby US President Trump on Ukraine’s defence needs.

In an interview with Bloomberg, Burnham said, “I’m looking forward to going to New York in September,” when the UN General Assembly will meet.

He said that while the details were not “fully confirmed”, it is “likely” he will go. The trip would be his first to the US since becoming prime minister in July.

“Leaving today, I’m quite clear what I need to do in the next few weeks,” he said following his official visit to Ukraine on Monday, during which he promised to continue pressuring Russia.

The UK has also agreed to hand over blueprints for British-made components for the Scalp mis-

sile, a French version of the UK’s Storm Shadow cruise missile. The blueprints will allow Ukraine to produce the long-range weapon domestically.

Fedorov, who is Russia’s former deputy foreign minister, said Putin was facing “serious” pressure “to undertake certain measures against UK”. Asked on BBC Newsnight where the pressure was coming from, Fedorov responded, “public opinion polls, it’s coming from journalists, from mass media”. Asked what a “semi-military” response might look like, Fedorov said “it could take the form of something might happen with enterprises, with factories which are producing drones for Ukraine.” They could be attacked not by Russia, but by from unknown sources,” he said.

The comments are in line with those made by Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday, when he criticised the UK’s decision to share the missile blueprints. Peskov said it prevented “even the slightest progress” towards achieving peace.

He told reporters on Monday that the Russian military was al-



ready gathering data to locate any missile production sites to destroy them. “Britain is involved in this war on the side of the Kyiv regime. Britain methodically and regularly adds fuel to the fire,” he added.

In response, Burnham said: “Who started the fire? That’s the question, isn’t it?”

Burnham’s visit to Ukraine was his first official international visit. He met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv and chaired his first meeting of the “coalition of the willing”, set up by the UK and France under his predecessor Sir Keir Starmer.

Burnham has been reaffirming the UK’s support for Ukraine in

the wake of escalating Russian strikes in recent weeks - including one last week on a shopping centre that killed at least 16 people.

Ukraine has been relying on American supplies of the Patriot interceptor missiles, which are used to combat Russia’s ballistic missiles, but stockpiles are running low due to the war in Iran,

leaving Ukraine vulnerable to Russian attacks. Zelensky has said he is hoping to secure 300 patriot missiles ahead of winter, when Russia is likely to increase its attacks on energy infrastructure, as it has done in past years.

In the interview with Bloomberg, Burnham said that he felt “really confident” that the issue was “fixable”. But he pointed out that it wasn’t only the US who could supply Ukraine with Patriots.

“There are other players who could help in the mix who we have influence with,” he said. “It’s probably going to be a solution that involves a lot of layers and a lot of negotiation.”

In July this year, three weeks after offering Ukraine the right to produce Patriots itself, Trump backtracked, saying, “We have not agreed to that. We’re talking about it. But it’s a hard thing to give away, that kind of technology.”

“These weapons are incredible. We have to be very careful about letting somebody build them,” Trump told a cabinet meeting.

In a joint statement after the meeting in Ukraine, Burnham

and co-chairs French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the group would aim to strength Kyiv’s air defences “as a matter of urgent priority”.

They also condemned Moscow’s “systemic and escalating strikes against Ukraine’s cities, critical infrastructure and civilians” and pledged to “constrain Russia’s war chest through sanctions and actions against the “shadow fleet”.

In a statement ahead of the visit, Burnham said: “On Ukraine’s 35th anniversary of independence, the Ukrainian people should be in no doubt: the UK is behind you today and for as long as it takes.” I am proud of the contribution our country has made to Ukraine and I want the Ukrainian people to hear it directly from me that our support will not waver.

After all, Ukraine’s security is our security.”

He said the friendship Ukraine shared with the UK would “long outlast Russia’s illegal war”, adding: “Russia should be in no doubt of our resolve. We will not back down until there is a just and lasting peace.”

Batana Hair Oil: A Comprehensive Look at the Newest Haircare Frenzy Taking Over Social Media

Social media frequently transforms traditional beauty ingredients into trending haircare solutions, ranging from rosemary oil to rice water. The newest addition to this list is Batana oil, a luxurious amber-brown oil that is being marketed as a remedy for dryness, breakage, thinning hair, and even premature greying. Videos frequently describe it as “liquid gold” and claim that it can regrow lost hair. But what exactly is Batana oil, and do its most popular benefits stand up to scientific scrutiny?

What Is Batana Oil?

Batana oil is derived from the American oil palm, botanically known as *Elaeis oleifera*. According to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the palm is native to parts of Central and tropical South America, including Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. Kew Science

The oil is particularly as-

sociated with Indigenous Miskito communities in Honduras, where it has traditionally been used for hair and skin care.

Raw Batana oil generally has a thick consistency, a deep brown colour and a distinctive roasted or earthy fragrance.

It should not be confused with the more commonly available African palm oil. Although both come from palm species, Batana oil is associated with *Elaeis oleifera*, the American oil palm.

Why Has It Become So Popular?

Batana oil has gained attention because of videos claiming that it can restore damaged hair, encourage growth, reduce hair fall and reverse greying. Its rich texture also makes it appealing to people with very dry, curly, coily or chemically treated hair.

Its conditioning properties are linked to its lipid content. When applied to the lengths, an oil can coat the hair shaft, reduce friction and make rough strands feel smoother. This may improve shine, softness and manageability while helping fragile hair resist some mechanical breakage.

That cosmetic improvement, however, should not be confused with the growth of new hair from the scalp.

Can Batana Oil Regrow Hair?

There is currently no strong clinical evidence showing that Batana oil can stimulate follicles, treat baldness or regrow hair. No robust human trials have established it as a treatment for common causes of hair loss, such as androgenetic alopecia, alopecia areata, thyroid disorders, nutritional deficiencies or hormonal changes. Its viral reputation is based largely on traditional use, personal testimonials and marketing claims rather than controlled clinical research.

Batana oil may make existing strands appear healthier by conditioning



them and reducing dryness-related breakage. If the hair breaks less frequently, it may retain length more easily, but this is different from increasing the biological rate of hair growth. Anyone experiencing persistent shedding, bald patches, a widening part or a receding hairline should consult a dermatologist instead of relying

solely on cosmetic oils.

Can It Reverse Grey Hair?

Claims that Batana oil can restore the natural colour of grey hair are also unsupported. Hair turns grey when pigment-producing cells in the follicles reduce or stop producing melanin. Applying oil to the scalp or strands has not been shown to restart this process. The oil may add shine and temporarily make dull hair look richer, but it cannot be considered a proven treatment for greying.

What Benefits Can You Realistically Expect?

Batana oil may work primarily as a conditioning treatment. Depending on the formulation and the person’s hair type, it could: Soften dry or coarse strands

Add shine and reduce a rough appearance

Improve manageability and ease detangling

Reduce friction during combing

Help limit breakage caused by dryness

Tame flyaways and frizz temporarily

These are cosmetic benefits, not evidence that the oil changes follicle activity or cures hair loss.

How To Use Batana Oil

Begin with a small quantity because raw Batana oil can be thick and heavy.

Warm a few drops between your palms and distribute them through the mid-lengths and ends.

Leave it on for 20 to 30 minutes before shampooing.

People with very dry or textured hair may use a tiny amount on the ends as a finishing oil, provided it does not leave the hair greasy.

If applying it to the scalp, use it sparingly and wash it out thoroughly. Heavy application can lead to buildup, particularly on oily

scalps or when the product is not cleansed properly.

Who Should Be Careful?

Natural does not automatically mean irritation-free. Any botanical oil or added fragrance in a formulation may cause itching, redness or contact dermatitis in some people. The American Academy of Dermatology notes that contact dermatitis can develop when a substance touching the skin causes irritation or an allergic reaction.

Perform a patch test before the first full application. Stop using the product if it causes burning, itching, swelling or a rash. People with dandruff, seborrheic dermatitis, an inflamed scalp or palm-related allergies should speak to a dermatologist before trying it.

It is also important to check the ingredient label. Products marketed as “Batana oil” may contain fragrances, essential oils, preservatives or a blend of carrier oils rather than pure *Elaeis oleifera* oil.

Five kurta outfits for Raksha Bandhan are shown here



Raksha Bandhan is a delicate balancing act filled with high stakes. The day begins early with traditional puja rituals performed on the floor, swiftly transitions to avoiding your brother’s sticky, sweet-coated hands, and ultimately culminates in an extensive family selfie session that lasts for hours, where the lighting must be perfect. You need an ethnic ensemble that looks like high-end couture in photographs, yet feels as effortless as loungewear while you navigate family banter, heavy meals, and sticky temperatures. You shouldn’t have to choose between suffocating in heavy, scratchy zardozi or looking underwhelmingly underdressed in basic home wear. So if you’re obsessed with soft, breathable daytime cottons, sleek structured silhouettes that resist creases all day, or flared Anarkali-style cuts built for maximum movement (and extra mithai), we’ve curated the ultimate lowdown on 5 stand-out kurta sets. These pieces hit the exact sweet spot between all-day comfort, witty modern charm, and serious festive glamour.

Kurta sets for Raksha Bandhan

1. DRESOUL Women Pure Cotton Schiffli Kurta Set: If heavy sequins sound like a personal nightmare for a warm morning ceremony, Schiffli embroidery

and print harmonies, this set leans straight into timeless Indian ethnic elegance.

The Fit and Feel: Premium, lined fabric with structured seams that hug in all the right places while leaving room for extra mithai.

Why Your Photos Will Thank You: Traditional motifs paired with clean border trims never look dated in family albums.

Style Hack: Pair with warm gold chandbalis, a slick low bun, and metallic block heels.

4. Nermosa Embroidery Solid A-Line Set: Straight cuts too restrictive when sitting on the floor for the tikka? Nermosa’s flared A-line silhouette brings all the movement, drama, and instant elegance of a lightweight Anarkali. The Fit and Feel: A rich Viscose Silk top balanced by a weightless Chanderi Cotton printed dupatta. Why Your Photos Will Thank You: Flares automatically give you dynamic, fluid movement shots, cue the aesthetic reel footage. Style Hack: Embellished platform wedges elevate the hem off the ground and keep your posture long and sleek.
5. Varanga Blue Straight Kurta Set: Tired of the standard yellow-red-pink festive palette? Swapping to a cool, deep blue instantly sets you apart in the sea of warm tones. The Fit and Feel: Ultra-soft cotton



Tips for making your makeup resistant to the effects of monsoon weather

The monsoon season is arguably one of the most challenging times for makeup application. You may invest considerable effort in perfecting your base in the morning, only to step outside and discover that humidity, perspiration, and moisture in the atmosphere have already altered its appearance. However, the solution does not lie in applying more makeup; rather, it involves selecting the appropriate products and adequately preparing your skin. Vaishnavi Jain, the head of product development at PAC Cosmetics, has provided valuable tips on how to maintain your makeup during the monsoon season.

Skin preparation

The first step is always skin preparation. Vaishnavi highlighted that during monsoon, try to keep the routine simple and lightweight. A moisturiser that works for your skin type, followed by a good primer, can make a noticeable difference. When the skin is properly prepped, makeup sits better and is less likely to separate during the day. Avoid layers

“When it comes to the base, avoid applying too many layers. A lightweight foundation or skin tint can give you enough coverage without making the skin feel heavy,” said Vaishnavi. Apply it in thin layers and build coverage only where you actually need it. This also makes touchups much easier later.

Consider compact for oily areas

For areas that tend to get oily, such as the forehead, nose, and chin, a little



setting powder can help. But there is no need to keep adding powder every time you notice shine. Instead, gently blot away excess oil first and then touch up. This keeps the makeup from looking cakey. Eye makeup is important. Eye makeup needs a little extra attention during the monsoon. Waterproof or longwearing kajal, eyeliner and mascara are worth reaching for, especially if you have a long day ahead. There is nothing more frustrating than perfect eye makeup turning into smudged makeup by lunchtime.

Consider setting spray

A setting spray is another simple step

that can help bring the entire look together. It helps the different layers of makeup settle into the skin and can make the finish look more natural. Most importantly, don’t fight the weather. Monsoon makeup should feel comfortable and breathable. Keep the layers light, choose long-wearing formulas where you need them, and carry a few essentials for quick touch-ups. “The goal isn’t to have makeup that looks exactly the same at 9 AM and 6 PM. It is to make sure that even after a long, humid day, your makeup still looks fresh, effortless, and, most importantly, like you,” concluded Vaishnavi.

How To Make Your Baby’s First Flight Safer And More Comfortable

Children occasionally take flights for leisure, and other times they do it out of need. When taking their only child on a plane for the first time, what are some things parents should consider?

Age: When it comes to travelling, age comes first. The age at which a newborn can travel by air is a question that many people ask. However, there isn’t a definite rule. A newborn as little as seven days old can travel on an aeroplane. Waiting until they are at least two to three months old is preferable, though. because babies are susceptible to infections and colds. Airline bassinets: Airlines offer special hanging beds for babies under 6 months and under a certain weight (must be booked before boarding). You can apply for one if the trip is long. Where to sit: For the safety of your child, it is

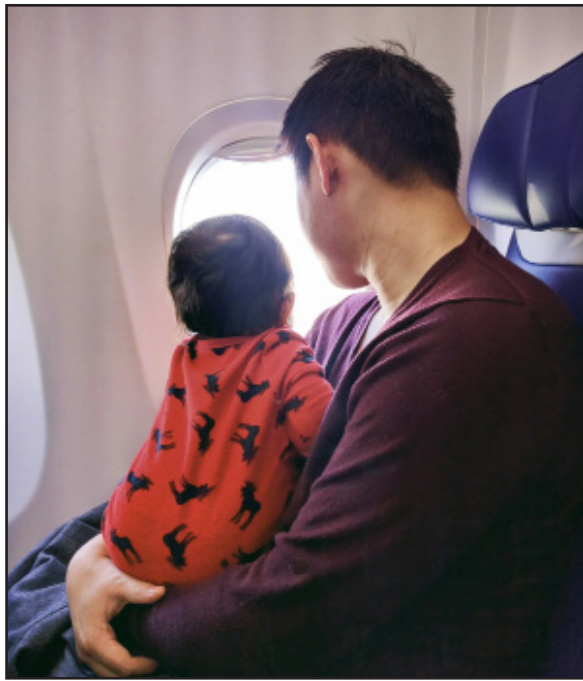
best to choose a window seat. Seats near the aisle or middle row pose a risk of accidentally spilling hot drinks or luggage.

Exceptions: There are several exceptions to the regulations regarding the transportation of breast milk and water used to create formula for infants. You can have them scanned individually and notify the security guard beforehand.

Earache: Giving your infant a dummy or breast milk during takeoff and landing lowers the pressure within the ear, which lowers the chance of an unexpected earache.

Clothing and Diapers: Wear light and comfortable clothes. Change diapers just before boarding the plane. Also bring 2-3 extra sets of clothes.

Noise Control: The noise made when the airplane’s wheels touch the ground can be distressing. To prevent it from reaching the



ears, you can stuff cotton wool in the child’s ears. The child will also remain calm. Entertainment: Keep them occupied with books, tiny toys, or cartoons on a tablet if needed.

Documents needed: Al-

though children often don’t require a photo ID for interstate travel, it’s a good idea to bring a copy of their birth certificate as proof of age. The child must have their own passport in order to go internationally.

Himanshi shares cryptic relationship post

Mumbai : Amid her ongoing online row with ex-boyfriend Asim Riaz, Himanshi Khurana has shared a picture of herself reading The Best Couple Ever by Novoneel Chakraborty. The romantic psychological thriller looks at the secrets and problems hidden behind picture-perfect relationships on social media. Himanshi’s book choice comes as she and Asim continue to make claims about their past relationship.

Himanshi Khurrana shared two pictures of herself sitting in an outdoor area holding the book. She wears a white dress and leaves her curly tresses loose. The actress looks towards the camera and gives a bright smile. She captioned it with just a white heart emoji. Meanwhile, hours after Asim Riaz denied forcing Himanshi Khurana to change her religion, the actress-singer responded with strong allegations against her ex-boyfriend. In a post on X, Himanshi said she has proof of their conversations about religious conversion and is willing to make it public. She also alleged that she faced violence during their relationship and hinted at a major incident between them in November 2023.

“I have always been respectful and mindful while sharing my personal journey publicly.. whether it was my Bigg Boss experience, my spiritual journey, or matters concerning my health. I shared these aspects of my life with honesty and never used them as an excuse to disrespect or target anyone. I never said “forceful conversion” was there. People and media set that narrative,” she wrote.“However, when my health is mocked and my struggles are questioned, I believe it is time to draw a line. If we are going to talk about proofs, then let’s talk about everything. I am prepared to share the facts and evidence (CCTV footages, recordings.. hope you remember that early morning of 27.11.23) surrounding the conversion-related matter and yes the violence I suffered. If you want to tarnish my image then now, I am not someone who will continue covering up to protect your so called image, or staying silent while I am repeatedly insulted and disrespected,” Himanshi added. Himanshi Khurana and Asim Riaz met during their time on Bigg Boss 15 and soon fell in love. The couple were together for nearly four years before announcing their separation on December 6, 2023.

Sidhu moose Wala hologram world tour drops in Toronto



Mumbai : Late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala is set to return to the stage in a never-seen-before avatar: as a hologram. The late star’s first-ever hologram concert, which is titled Signed To God World Tour, will kick off in Canada, with its first show scheduled at Toronto’s Scotiabank Arena on October 8, 2026.

The concert will feature a 3D holographic projection of Sidhu Moosewala performing alongside his original vocals. The experience is expected to combine cinematic visuals, stage effects and immersive technology to recreate the singer’s presence on stage. Sidhu Moosewala, who unsuccessfully contested the Punjab Assembly elections on a Congress ticket from Mansa in 2022, was tragically murdered on May 29, 2022. He was shot dead by assailants in his

car in Jawaharke village of Mansa district. Even though he was rushed to a hospital immediately, he succumbed to his injuries before receiving medical attention. Following Moosewala’s murder, his parents also led a movement to seek justice for their son. A music video was also released prominently displaying a flag with the message “Justice for Sidhu Moosewala”.Sidhu Moosewala was very popular, particularly among the youth, and was known for composing and producing his own songs. He was regarded as one of the wealthiest Punjabi singers. Despite his untimely demise, many of his songs have been released posthumously and have raked in millions of views.

'Gunmaaster G9' teaser: Emraan Hashmi swaps heartbreak for guns & romance



Mumbai : Emraan Hashmi, who is basking in the success of Awarapan 2, will next be seen in Aditya Dutt’s upcoming film ‘Gunmaaster G9’. The film also stars Genelia Deshmukh and Aparshakti Khurana, with newcomer Abhishek Singh making his acting debut. Fans had been eagerly waiting for updates about the film, and the makers have now unveiled the first teaser, leaving fans thrilled. The teaser promises plenty of action, romance and drama, while Himesh Resham-

miya’s music adds a nostalgic touch.

The teaser of Gunmaaster G9 is finally here, and it looks like Emraan Hashmi is all set to return with a mix of romance, action and intense drama. The 1-minute-22-second teaser shows Emraan’s character going to great lengths for the woman he loves. He speaks about love, death and his wish to stay alive until he reaches her. The teaser then offers glimpses of him sharing romantic moments with a woman. However, her face

isn’t revealed in the teaser.

The mood soon shifts as the teaser brings in several action-packed sequences, with Emraan taking on the film’s antagonists. The combination of romance and intense fight sequences suggests that his love story will come with plenty of danger along the way. The makers also teased Himesh Reshammiya’s music, with the song Afsanam briefly playing in the background. It reminded fans of Emraan’s earlier romantic films and their iconic soundtracks.

Kriti Sanon calls out trolls over Raksha Bandhan ad look



Mumbai : Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has reacted to the backlash over her outfit in a recent Raksha Bandhan jewellery advertisement. A section of netizens slammed the actress for wearing a deep-neck bralette-style blouse, stating that the outfit was inappropriate for a campaign centred around a traditional Indian festival. More recently, Kangana Ranaut also commented on the outfit, questioning why one would tie a Rakhi to their sibling in an outfit like this. Now, Kriti has strongly reacted to the criticism, questioning why women continue to be judged by what they wear.

Addressing the backlash, Kriti Sanon questioned

why a woman’s clothing continues to be linked to her respect for culture and traditions. She pointed out that festivals are ultimately about the emotions and relationships behind them, rather than the clothes someone chooses to wear. The essence of festivals is not in the clothes you wear, it is in the emotions and

meaning you hold for the traditions. Rakshabandhan is a bond of protection. My sister and I tie rakhi to each other. We know we can protect each other no less than a brother would have. We pray for each other’s health, happiness & long life. And for us, this prayer and promise extends to our dogs too! Afterall, they are

family!” she wrote.

The actor then addressed the wider issue of women being told what is and isn’t appropriate to wear. “Also, when will we stop telling women what to wear??Ethnic fashion has evolved over the years, but still a woman’s respect for her culture is measured with just her clothes!! Culture & Traditions are in her heart, not in her neckline!” wrote the actress. Apart from her outfit, the advertisement also drew attention for featuring Kriti tying a rakhi to a dog. While some viewers questioned the idea of including a pet in the festival, others focused on her look and debated whether it was appropriate for Raksha Bandhan.

Sunita Ahuja prays at khatu shyam temple amid Govinda controversy



Mumbai : Amid ongoing speculations surrounding her married life with actor Govinda, Sunita Ahuja visited the Khatu Shyam Temple in Rajasthan on Tuesday and offered prayers. Videos from her temple visit have surfaced on social media.

In one of the videos, Sunita was seen standing inside the temple premises with folded hands. She wore a pink dupatta over her head and appeared deeply immersed in devotion. Another video showed Sunita visiting a Hanuman temple, where she bowed her head before the idol and offered her prayers. Sunita’s temple visits come at a time when reports and speculation about trouble in her marriage with Govinda

have been making headlines. The couple, who have been married for nearly four decades, are facing a turbulence now.

It all started after rumours of Govinda dating his co-star Komal Rani surfaced online. Rumours of their alleged relationship started after Govinda and Komal were spotted together at the Mumbai airport recently. Their appearance quickly became a talking point on social media, with reports connecting Komal to earlier speculation surrounding Govinda’s personal life. Later, Sunita also reacted to the speculation surrounding Govinda and Komal. When asked about the actor’s appearance with the actress, she

told paparazzi, “Vinash Kale Viprit Buddhi,” suggesting that she was unhappy with the situation.

Amid the trouble in her marriage with Govinda, Sunita Ahuja recently withdrew her divorce case. She claimed that she took back the case after learning that Govinda was planning to marry actress Komal Rani Swarnakar. However, Govinda’s manager, Shashi Sinha, denied the claim and said there was no second marriage in the offing. He also maintained that Sunita remained Govinda’s wife.While Arti Singh, Krushna Abhishek and Kashmera Shah have reacted to the family troubles, Govinda has not issued any statement as of now.

Taapsee Pannu’s ‘Gandhari’ trailer promises an edge-of-the-seat thriller

Mumbai : Taapsee Pannu is back with another high-stakes thriller, Gandhari. The trailer of the upcoming Netflix film was unveiled at an event today in the presence of Taapsee, director Devashish Makhija, writer-producer Kanika Dhillon and actors Chhaya Kadam, Ishwak Singh, Mita Vashisht and Jatin Sarna.

In the film, Taapsee plays a mother whose daugh-

ter goes missing during a train journey. She sees a mysterious woman taking the child away and gives chase, only to suffer a severe injury to her head that leaves her blind. As she and her husband, played by Ishwak Singh, turn to the police for help, they begin to uncover a far more sinister plot involving the kidnapping of children. Their search eventually leads them to a group of

bahurupiyas, who appear to be connected to the disappearances. But as Taapsee’s character realises that finding her daughter will not be easy, she decides to take matters into her own hands. Despite losing her eyesight, she begins training herself to fight without being able to see, eventually stepping onto the battlefield herself in a desperate attempt to bring her daughter home.

The trailer promises several intense action sequences, with Taapsee taking on her attackers head-on. The film also marks a major action outing for the actor.The title Gandhari draws from the character from the Mahabharata. In the trailer, Taapsee’s character is told that Gandhari had chosen to cover her eyes for her husband, while this Gandhari must do the same for her daugh-

ter. The film appears to turn that idea on its head. While Gandhari in the Mahabharata never entered the battlefield herself, this Gandhari does.

Directed by Devashish Makhija, the film stars Taapsee Pannu, along with Chhaya Kadam, Ishwak Singh, Mita Vasisht, Swastika Mukherjee and Jatin Sarna, among others.It will be released on Netflix on September 3.



Salman Khan supports body double Parvez Kazi through health emergency



Mumbai : It is no secret that Salman Khan cares about his people and has a big heart when it comes to social work. The Bollywood superstar has proved it once again. According to reports, Salman recently heard about his longtime body double Parvez Kazi’s health so he stepped in to help him

for his heart surgery. He made sure Kazi was well taken care of and supported him.

Parvez Kazi fell ill at home on August 6, according to a report by India Today. Initial reports claimed that he had suffered a heart attack while shooting, but his manager Piyush later clarified that this

was not the case. After feeling unwell, Kazi visited a doctor and underwent several tests. He was subsequently admitted to a hospital, where he underwent a minor heart surgery.

After learning about Parvez’s health condition, Salman Khan quickly offered his support and made sure he

received proper medical care. His manager Piyush said Salman was “right there with us” and personally looked into Parvez’s treatment and recovery. He added, “Salman sir treats Parvez sir, like a younger brother and helped immediately.”Parvez Kazi’s health scare also affected the schedule of Salman Khan’s upcoming pan-India action film with Nayanthara, reportedly titled Monster. As Kazi took time off to recover, reports suggested that Salman may have had to perform some of the action sequences himself. However, Kazi is now said to be recovering well and could return to the sets after a few days of rest. The makers have also adjusted the stunt schedule and are taking additional safety measures for his return.

Kiara Advani praises Yash and Geetu mohandas’ support during pregnancy



Mumbai : Kiara Advani, who plays a pivotal role alongside Yash in Toxic, recalled the moment she shared the news of her pregnancy with the film’s lead actor and director Geetu Mohandas. The duo were among the first people outside her family to learn about her pregnancy during the making of the multilingual action drama.

Speaking at an event in Chennai on Monday, the Bollywood actress revealed that instead of worrying about the filming schedule or logistical challenges, Yash and Geetu responded with warmth and emotional support. She said they congratulated her with teary-eyed smiles and made it clear that her well-being came first. The actress said she remains grateful for the way both Yash and Geetu made her feel comfortable throughout the demanding production. “I was so touched to just see someone who was so happy for me. I will never

forget that you asked me to be comfortable on set the way I wanted. As you told me, you have made the best film,” the Shershaah and Kabir Singh

actress added.

Both Yash and Geetu reportedly took extra care of Kiara during the shoot, with Yash even describing how they behaved like her protective bodyguards to ensure that she was comfortable and safe while filming. Kiara and her husband, actor Sidharth Malhotra, announced their pregnancy in February 2025. “The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon,” they wrote in their announcement. At the time, major portions of Toxic were yet to be filmed.

Following the birth of their daughter, the couple shared another emotional announcement, writing, “Our hearts are full, and our world forever changed. We are blessed with a baby girl.”Kiara plays Nadia in Toxic. Yash has previously praised her performance, expressing confidence that audiences will be impressed by her portrayal and saying, “India will fall in love with her again.”

India, the reigning champions, has announced their Kabaddi teams for the 2026 Asian Games

Aichi-Nagoya: According to Olympics.com, India's 12-man men's kabaddi squad for the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, would be led by star raiders Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal as well as all-rounder Pawan Sehrawat.

The 20th Asian Games will take place from September 19 to October 4. The Nagoya City Trade and Industry Center will host kabaddi competitions from September 21 to September 26. Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal, the top two raiders from the previous season, are spearheading the attack against the Indian men's squad, which includes some of the biggest players from the Pro Kabaddi League. Arjun Deshwal and Ashu Malik will provide further strength

to the raiding department, while experienced defender Sunil Kumar will spearhead the defence alongside Sumit Sangwan, according to Olympics.com.Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar, both Asian Games gold medallists, have been included as the two all-rounders in the squad.Only four members of India's gold-winning men's team from Hangzhou 2023 -- Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar -- have been retained for the upcoming Asian Games.Indian kabaddi squad for Asian Games 2026, according to Olympics.com.Indian men's kabaddi team: Ashu Malik, Ayan Lohchab, Devank Dalal, Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Jaideep Dahiya, Rahul Sethpal, Gaurav Khatri, Sumit Sang-



wan, Ankit Jaglan, Pawan Sehrawat, Aslam Inamdar Ritu Negi, Pushpa Rana, Sonali Shingate, Sanju Devi, Pooja Kajla, Ritu Sheoran, Jyoti

Thakur, Pinki Roy, Manisha Kumari, Bhavna Thakur, Rajrani, and Nikita Kumari make up the Indian women's kabaddi squad.

“Misled”: Rebel Trinamool MLA Kasem Siddiqui Goes Back to the Camp of Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, Aug 25: MLA Kasem Siddiqui of the Trinamool Congress has declared his return to the Mamata Banerjee camp, months after he joined the dissident group headed by MLA Ritabrata Banerjee. The Amdanga MLA said on Monday that he was “misled” by the rebels into thinking Mamata Banerjee was still their leader. Speaking at a news conference with Belegghata MLA Kunal Ghosh, Siddiqui said that he was and will stay with Mamata Banerjee. Regarding his decision to join the rebel group, he stated: “I went there believing Didi was there. Then I noticed that Didi was nowhere to be seen. Didi was the reason why people cast ballots. I carried Didi’s



posters as I ran for office in Amdanga. We are present wherever Didi is.” Ritabrata invited us to a single meeting and informed us that Mamata Banerjee will continue to be our leader. In the midst of turmoil, we were forced

to sign the letter. We then discovered that Didi wasn’t present and that it was a different bunch,” he continued.They were misled and confused in order to get them to sign. The reason the signatures were acquired has nothing to

do with reality, according to Kunal Ghosh.The MLA from Amdanga, Kasem Siddiqui, is a Pirzada of Furfura Sharif, a location that Muslims hold in high regard. Meanwhile, as Kasem Siddiqui returned to the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool, former Amdanga MLA Rafiqur Rahman met rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee. Mamata Banerjee had replaced Rafiqur Rahman with Kasem Siddiqui as the candidate in the last elections. Siddiqui is a descendant of Abu Bakr Siddiqui - the ‘Boro Pir’ of Furfura in Hooghly. He has been close to Mamata Banerjee since 2024. Siddiqui defeated Arindam Dey of the BJP in Amdanga in the 2026 polls.

‘I Want To’: Saina Nehwal Opens Up About Political Ambitions



New Delhi: Saina Nehwal, a badminton icon, has indicated she is open to entering electoral politics in the future, but she has not made a final choice yet. Nehwal, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member, stated that she wants to contribute to the country’s growth and continue to serve the nation beyond her sports career. In 2020, Nehwal joined the BJP in the presence of the party’s national general secretary, Arun Singh. “I want to. Let’s see. I haven’t decided yet. But I absolutely look forward to that.” “Just like I played for the country for so many years. I am in BJP now. Because I like BJP altogether. Like they are doing for the country, for development. So, I am associated with them. So, I would also like to do better for the country. I have always thought of the betterment of the country. And I have brought so many medals. So, I would like that we all come together in unity. And we can do as much better for our country,” she added. Nehwal also praised Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand for their confident and composed performance that earned India a women’s doubles bronze at the recently concluded BWF World Championships 2026.Nehwal said she had hoped India would win more medals in the singles events, but expressed pride in the duo’s achievement and praised their confidence and composure under pressure. Jolly and Gopichand secured a bronze medal after their spirited challenge against world No. 1 Chinese pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning ended in a three-game defeat in the women’s doubles semifinals of the BWF World Championships 2026.

Barcelona crushes Elche, as Atletico Madrid salvages a draw against Villarreal

Spain: Barcelona defeated Elche 5-0 in their La Liga opening on Sunday, with Raphinha and Fermin Lopez each scoring twice and Anthony Gordon setting up two goals on his debut. Earlier, Atletico Madrid drew 2-2 with Villarreal despite having defender Robin Le Normand sent off. After seeing Jose Mourinho’s Real Madrid beat Espanyol 2-1 on Saturday with a late victory, Barcelona’s performance warned the Portuguese coach that the Catalans would not give up the crown easy. Karim Adeyemi also struck on his debut as Barca made light work of a vulnerable Elche side at the Martinez Valero stadium. Hansi Flick started with several regular starters on the bench as they continue to get up to speed following the World Cup. Teenage winger Lamine Yamal, a key part of the triumphant Spain squad, did start on the right but was far from his best, although it did not matter given Barca’s otherwise sparkling display.“Five goals against this team is good, Elche play fantastic football,” Flick told reporters. “We are really happy that we won 5-0, three points, this is a fantastic start for us. It give us the confidence we need for the next matches.”Brazil international Raphinha lined up as the team’s number nine, after Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres left the club, and shone.Barcelona are still looking for a striker after Atletico Madrid rejected their bid to sign Julian Alvarez.“I’ll leave that to the president,” said Raphinha, when asked if Barca needed to sign a number nine. “I am comfortable



(anywhere) on the pitch.”Raphinha was cut down in the box by Victor Chust and stroked home the resulting penalty after 14 minutes to get Flick’s team on their way. Rapid winger Adeyemi, playing on the left, started shakily but grew into the game and doubled Barca’s lead before the break after Raphinha unselfishly set him up. In the second half, former Newcastle United winger Gordon, on as a substitute, teed up Raphinha for his second and then supplied Lopez for Barca’s fourth in an electric and impressive cameo.Youngster Xavi Espart played in Lopez, who endured a difficult summer after missing Spain’s World Cup triumph through injury, for his second to seal Barcelona’s comfortable triumph.“We ended up feeling good... it was a great game from the team, we’re still getting up to speed and we have to carry on like this,” said Lopez. “I was really excited to start the season

well, it was tough for me (this summer)... and I’m happy.”Flick’s high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its usual frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet. In the capital, Giuliano Simeone grabbed Atletico a draw after Gerard Moreno and Georges Mikautadze’s penalties put Villarreal in front following Marc Pubill’s 59th-minute opener.Atletico coach Diego Simeone brought Julian Alvarez on as a second-half substitute to a chorus of boos from home supporters.The forward walked down the tunnel at the end by himself while his team-mates were thanking the fans after securing their draw.“It wasn’t Julian’s decision, it was a decision from the club,” said Diego Simeone.“I think that we all have to be united, Julian is with us in the team, while he’s here we will support him,” Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak told DAZN.

“Hijab Is Not Essential To Islam”: High Court Denies UP Student’s Petition

Prayagraj, Aug 25: In a major verdict, the Allahabad High Court stated that no student has the right to change the dress code established by an educational institution based on personal preferences. The court denied a student’s appeal to school authorities for permission to wear a headscarf in addition to the school’s uniform.A juvenile girl and a pupil from Prayagraj’s private school filed the petition. The girl has completed her high school education and want to enroll in Class XI at the same institution. She petitioned the court through her mother, requesting that the school officials allow her to wear a headscarf in addition to the school uniform. The petition stated that wearing a headscarf is a fundamental aspect of Islamic practice, and that the petitioner had been wearing one since class 6 at the same institution.A two-judge bench consisting of Justices JJ Munir and Indrajit Shukla observed: “We have studied the images from various classes relevant to the petitioner. Except for her, no other female student is wearing a headscarf, including those from the same religious group as the petitioner.” The court also rejected the argument that wearing headscarf is an essential Islamic practice.“Where



ever this issue has arisen, the high courts have been unanimous in opinion that wearing a headscarf is not an essential part of the Islamic faith for a woman to don in the absence of which faith would be jeopardised,” the court added.The court in its judgment passed on August 21 also observed, “It is to be noted that the assertion in the writ petition that wearing a headscarf is an essential religious practice is a bare assertion.” The court stated clearly that as long as a school’s uniform code is fair, non-discriminatory, and implemented to maintain institutional discipline and equality, the institution retains full autonomy to enforce its internal discipline and dress code.The High Court observed that any unaided private educational institution has the full right to enforce a uniform dress code within its premises. The court held that adherence to

the prescribed school uniform is mandatory and that there is no legal right to seek permission to add a headscarf to it on an individual basis. The court clarified that if the uniform applies equally to all students, allowing individual students to alter or forgo the prescribed uniform based on personal choice would defeat the very concept of a uniform. This would shift the authority to determine school discipline from the institution to individual students. The school declared that it is a private, self-funded educational institution with a uniform dress code for all pupils.The school serves children from a variety of communities, and providing a special uniform exception to one kid might jeopardize the institution’s discipline and consistency of dress code, according to the school. The State Government and CBSE both opposed the plea.

‘Perfect’ Head Coach Selected by Matthew Hayden He’s Indian, but not MS Dhoni, for CSK



New Delhi: The Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have not yet chosen a new head coach for the 2027 Indian Premier League. After 18 years in charge, Stephen Fleming left, but the five-time IPL champs haven’t chosen a replacement. Michael Hussey and Eoin Morgan have been mentioned as potential successors. But current Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) coach Dinesh Karthik is the best candidate to take over as head coach of CSK, according to great Australian and former CSK opener Matthew Hayden. One of the reasons Karthik is the ideal choice, according to Hayden, is his strong ties to Chennai. Karthik represented Tamil Nadu in domestic cricket and was born in Chennai.Some individuals have been discussed, like Dinesh Karthik, who I be-

lieve is likely prepared to play that type of role. In an interview with Sportstar, Hayden stated, “I think it’s important to have a local coach.” “I know that a lot of franchises do go for international coaches, but I feel like the head coach role of a franchise as big as CSK should have that kind of local touch, even Chennai touch, which is why I thought Dinesh would be perfect,” he added.While the local touch is one aspect, Karthik’s coaching credentials also speak volumes. Over the last three years, Karthik has been in the support staff of an RCB team that has dominated the IPL, winning both the 2025 and 2026 editions back-to-back. Hayden, who won the IPL Orange Cap in 2009, stated that it is imperative for the franchise to get the appointment right.“It’s

something that I really hope that the franchise gets right. Flemo (Fleming) did a fantastic job with MS Dhoni; that was really such a strong engine room of CSK,” Hayden said. “You may definitely have non-local support workers, but what a transformation... MS and Flemm’s campaign was so lovely. “It’s a bold and good move, and I’m looking forward to seeing who gets the job,” he continued. “There’s so much success, equal title holds with Mumbai (Indians), just such a good legacy.”Another thing the team must think about is the role that iconic skipper MS Dhoni would play with CSK. Despite not playing a single game for CSK in the 2026 Indian Premier League, Dhoni’s opinions might be crucial in determining their future head coach.

An ex-air hostess was discovered smuggling drugs worth Rs 30 lakh from Gujarat to Mumbai

New Delhi, Aug 25: A former air hostess and her accused assistant were detained for attempting to smuggle cocaine valued at Rs 30 lakh from Vadodara, Gujarat, to Mumbai.The inquiry revealed the woman’s lengthy history of drug peddling.When the Surat Crime Branch learned that a significant amount of MD (also known as methedrone) substance was being transferred from Vadodara to Mumbai in a vehicle, the interstate drug smuggling was stopped on Monday. This led the authorities to pull over a suspicious vehicle close to a toll booth on the Del-

hi-Mumbai Expressway. The former air hostess, Mansi Sayed (41), and her assistant, Sohail Suleman Shaikh (20), were seated in the car when the police searched it and discovered 977 grams of cocaine. They also discovered many cell phones, as well as plastic containers and bags used to package the medications. Subsequently, Sayed and Shaikh were arrested. During interrogation, they revealed that they had rented a car from Mumbai and had travelled to Vadodara to take the drugs back. They had received the drug consignment from an unidentified woman

near the Vadodara railway station. Investigation further revealed that once the drugs reached Mumbai, they would have been divided into smaller packets for supply. The plan was to prepare packets with five to 10 grams of drugs and sell them to people based on demand.According to officials, the two accused lived in Mumbai’s Santacruz area and have known each other for several years.Mansi Sayed’s previous recordInvestigation revealed that the accused, Mansi, was a former air hostess who worked with Malaysian Airlines and had travelled to various countries.

Devendra Fadnavis on the Language Row: You Should Know Basic Marathi, But You Don’t Need to Be an Expert

Mumbai, Aug 25: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had to intervene to quell the panic after widespread apprehension among autorickshaw and taxi drivers over alleged high penalties connected to a state government Marathi proficiency drive erupted into street demonstrations in areas of Mumbai on Monday.Common folks were inconvenienced in the morning when some drivers attempted to stop other members from conveying passengers during protests. Videos of protests taking place in suburban Kandivali, Malad (West), Santacruz, Dahisar, Andheri, and a few other places have been making the rounds on social media. According to a senior regional transport officer at the Borivali RTO, they discovered that someone had misled drivers into believing they would be penalized between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000 for not knowing Marathi.In an attempt to soothe drivers’ worries, Fadnavis stated that the goal of the government initiative requiring “working knowledge” of

Marathi was to guarantee that they could interact in the local language for work rather than to make them language specialists. He said drivers had already been given additional time to learn the language and asserted that no licence had been cancelled.“There is no reason to make them experts in Marathi. They should know work-related, basic Marathi,” Fadnavis added. State Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik has warned of action against RTO officials fining autorickshaw and taxi drivers for the Marathi requirement before their one-month deadline to learn the language expires.He clarified that the August 12 government resolution stated that RTO officials will issue a month’s notice to autorickshaw and taxi drivers who lack working knowledge of Marathi and grant them time to learn the language. He said that if they fail to meet the language requirement after a month, their licence and badge will be suspended and drivers will be given three more months to learn Marathi, failing which

their licence will be cancelled.“If an RTO official is found to have wrongly fined drivers before a month’s notice ends, action will be taken against him,” Sarnaik told reporters.The minister, however, warned of action against drivers who intentionally refuse to learn the language.Sarnaik’s remarks have come after Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam, the party’s north Indian face, met him and appealed for the imposition of fines to be stopped.Nirupam also alleged that fines as high as Rs 25,000 were being slapped on drivers without issuing them a month’s notice. On August 20, the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) issued notices to 1,268 commercial passenger vehicle drivers, mainly autorickshaw and taxi drivers, for lacking adequate knowledge of the Marathi language. A day later, notices were issued to 1,499 non-Marathi-speaking drivers across Maharashtra.Sarnaik said that 1,65,600 non-Marathi autorickshaw and taxi drivers had attended Marathi classes so far.

Michael Vaughan Calls for Severe Punishment After England’s Latest Nightclub Incident



New Delhi: Michael Vaughan has called for severe punishment after England dropped Brydon Carse from their squad for the second Test against Pakistan while an investigation into a reported incident at a pub in Derby, central England, continues. Carse was seen in handcuffs outside a pub on Saturday night, shortly after Durham’s 338-run County Championship win over Derbyshire. The 31-year-old fast bowler

was reportedly detained for a few minutes but was not arrested or charged. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has referred the matter to the Cricket Regulator, which will investigate the incident and establish the full facts. England have since ruled Carse out of selection for the Lord’s Test and replaced him with Sonny Baker. “Someone is going to have to get a punishment that sends a shiver down the whole

England cricket team and right down through the programme,” Vaughan told BBC Radio. “It’s the only punishment that will really hurt players.” Vaughan stressed that he would not want Carse to become a scapegoat for England’s wider disciplinary issues. He said he hoped the Durham fast bowler was getting the right support and advice, while describing him as someone who can be “a little bit loose” if given too much freedom. “I would feel for Carse if he is the one who takes the rap for what has happened over the past nine months,” Vaughan said. But he also believes England need to set a clear precedent that such behaviour will not be tolerated. Carse was not with the England team when the incident took place. He had been released from the Test squad to play for Durham after missing the first Test against Pakistan at Headingley. He had taken two wickets in Durham’s victory, while England captain Ben Stokes claimed five for 17. Footage circulating on social media appeared to show Carse surrounded by police officers outside the pub, with Stokes also visible in the background. There is no suggestion that Stokes was involved in the incident. Reports indicate Carse was briefly detained and later released without charge.

Another French Revolution: How France Created a New Generation of Badminton World Champions



New Delhi: “I am going to walk on the road, and probably no one cares.” Alex Lanier had just become a world champion, the first Frenchman to win the men’s singles title at the BWF World Championships. A few hours earlier, Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue had become France’s first badminton world champions, winning the mixed doubles title. Two gold medals on

the same day in New Delhi. A moment that should have changed the way a country looked at badminton. Lanier was not entirely convinced. “There will be nobody waiting for us, I think,” Gicquel said when asked what kind of reception he expected at the airport back home. There was humour in both answers, but also a truth about where French badminton sits in the sport-

ing landscape. France is a country that has produced football World Cup winners, Grand Tour cyclists, Olympic champions and some of rugby’s greatest teams. Badminton, despite having a substantial playing base, has never occupied that sort of space in the national imagination. And yet, in the space of a few hours at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, France produced two world

Ibrahim Zadran Named Afghanistan Captain for India T20Is as Naveen-ul-Haq Returns

New Delhi : Ibrahim Zadran has been named Afghanistan’s T20I captain for the upcoming three-match series against India, with the opener set to lead the side in his first assignment as the team’s full-time T20I skipper. The series will be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi from September 13 to 17 and has been designated as Afghanistan’s home series. Afghanistan have also welcomed back fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq, who returns to the national side after recovering from a stress fracture in his right shoulder. The injury ruled him out of Afghanistan’s T20I series against the West Indies and the 2026 T20 World Cup. Naveen’s return strengthens Afghan-



istan’s pace attack, which also features Fazal Haq Farooqi, Abdullah Ahmadzai and all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai. Afghanistan have named a full-strength squad for the series, with experienced all-rounder Gulbadin Naib also returning to add depth to the middle

order and provide another bowling option. Rashid Khan will lead an experienced spin attack that also includes Noor Ahmad and Nangyal Kharoti, while senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi adds further experience and balance to the side. Uncapped wicket-

keeper-batter Noor Rahman has been included as the second wicketkeeper alongside Rahmanullah Gurbaz following his performance in domestic cricket, the Shpageeza Cricket League and at A-team level. ACB CEO Naseeb Khan said the board had focused on selecting a well-balanced squad for the series against India. “The Afghanistan Cricket Board has always made every effort to select a well-balanced and fully prepared squad for all relevant competitions. We have followed the same approach for the upcoming series against India, and I hope the Afghanistan team will deliver an outstanding performance in these matches,” he said.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Receive Major Rankings Boost After Heroic Bronze Medal Triumph

New Delhi : Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who punched well above their weight to win a historic bronze medal at the Badminton World Championships, have been rewarded with a big jump in the latest world rankings. The Indian women’s doubles pair, who entered the tournament ranked 39th in the world, have climbed 12 places to No. 27. Their rise is the biggest ranking jump among women’s doubles pairs in the top 50. The ranking boost comes after a stunning run in Delhi, where Treesa and Gayatri repeatedly defied the odds against higher-ranked opponents to reach the semi-finals and secure India’s first women’s doubles medal at the World Championships. The duo began their campaign as the 39th-ranked pair in the world but quickly showed that their ranking did not tell the full story. They produced one of the biggest results of their campaign in the quarter-finals, beating China’s Jia Yi Fan and



Zhang Shu Xian to book their place in the last four. The victory was an emotional one for the Indians. Treesa and Gayatri broke down in tears after securing their place in the semi-finals following a gruelling one-hour, 10-minute battle against the Chinese pair. Treesa was one of the standout performers throughout the tournament, with her powerful smashes from the back court repeatedly troubling their opponents. Gayatri, meanwhile, continued to grow into

the tournament and produced some superb badminton as the pair moved closer to the medal. Their semi-final was another test of their progress. Up against the world No. 1 pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning, Treesa and Gayatri refused to be overawed. They stunned the Chinese duo by taking the opening game 21-18 and moved within two games of a place in the final. The world No. 1s, however, fought back strongly. Liu and Tan took the second game 21-13 before sealing the contest 21-8 in the decider. The defeat ended Treesa and Gayatri’s run but confirmed their place on the World Championships podium. Now, their performance has translated into a significant rise in the rankings. The jump from No. 39 to No. 27 reflects how quickly the Indian pair have progressed after repeatedly taking down opponents ranked far above them. For Treesa and Gayatri, the World Championships bronze has provided breakthrough medal and a major.

India’s Hockey Reality Exposed Against Kings and Big Teams at World Cup

New Delhi : India’s men’s team would have known exactly what was at stake when they stepped onto the field against Argentina. The women’s side, meanwhile, had put up a brave fight throughout their campaign, which came to a heartbreaking end on Sunday, August 23, following a draw against Australia. Yet, few would hold their results against

them. After all, India lost just one game in the entire tournament, against the mighty Netherlands. They drew with China, Australia and England, while also registering a win over South Africa. In retrospect, this campaign could be seen as a step in the right direction for the Indian eves, even if their wait for another World Cup semi-final appearance

now stretches beyond 52 years. For the men’s team, however, the expectations were entirely different. The kings of Asia came into the tournament hoping to bridge the gap with the world’s best and prove that they belonged at the highest level. Confidence was high. The players were ready, while the management was careful not to let expecta-

tions spiral out of control. What followed, though, was more than just a reality check for the team. It was a reality check for Indian hockey and its fans. India struggled against the teams ranked above them and, more importantly, failed to beat any of them. They were outclassed by the Netherlands, England and, finally, Argentina, a team that has

now scored 23 goals against India in their last five meetings. India did beat Wales and their arch-rivals Pakistan. But Pakistan hockey is currently in a far deeper crisis than Indian hockey. And even against Wales and Pakistan, India’s performances were far from convincing or dominant. The margins were narrow, and India often had to dig

deep just to hold on for victories. That raises the biggest question of all: How, and when, will India bridge the gap with the world’s best? When PR Sreejesh unleashed a scathing outburst at Hockey India following India’s 3-5 defeat to Argentina, it painted a troubling picture of how those in charge may have approached the World Cup.



Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan: Dhruv Jurel’s Century Celebration Pays Tribute to Family Roots

Jurel Salutes Soldier Father, Farmer Grandfather After Century



New Delhi: Colombo Test centurion Dhruv Jurel dedicated his special century celebration and the tattoo on his bicep reading ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’ to his family roots, saying his father was a soldier and his grandfather a farmer. After reaching three figures against Sri Lanka on Monday, Jurel revealed that he stood tall, saluted

and flexed his biceps to honour his family’s legacy. “My grandfather was a farmer, and my father was a soldier. So, those are my roots, and I don’t want to forget them. So, that salute should go to my father and grandfather,” Jurel said after the day’s play. Jurel’s unbeaten 115 lifted India to 503 for nine declared on day two of the second Test.

It was an innings built on patience and composure, with the wicketkeeper-batter refusing to get carried away by Rishabh Pant’s aggressive approach at the other end. The pair shared a vital 112-run partnership, with Pant contributing a brisk 63. Jurel remained committed to his own game plan, picking his moments to attack. “We all know Pant is such a terrific player and what he has done for India in Australia and England. So, whenever he is in, I only seek his advice, because he has so much experience. So, I always ask him for advice as, what I should do in a particular situation,” he said. Jurel was equally clear that batting alongside Pant did not mean attempting to replicate his style. “As you can see, Test cricket has different ways of playing, and it makes the game beautiful.

When you play with Pant, it’s a very terrific experience. I can’t play like him, the way he has been playing since childhood. “My game plan is to see which bowler should I take down, which spell should I play, and I always ask Pant because he is a wicketkeeper, I am a wicketkeeper, and we play in the middle order, so it’s a very good experience.” Jurel’s knock carried extra weight after a period in which his place in the playing XI had come under scrutiny. His unbeaten hundred in Colombo underlined his ability to absorb pressure and construct a Test innings. He also credited his previous tour of Sri Lanka with India A for helping him prepare for the Test series. Jurel made sure to highlight the contribution of Mohammad Siraj, who defended for 29 balls without scoring.

Former Snooker World Champion Graeme Dott Convicted in Child Sexual Abuse Case

New Delhi: Former snooker world champion Graeme Dott was on Monday convicted of sexually abusing two children several decades ago after a trial in a Scottish court. Dott was charged with two counts of “lewd, indecent and libidinous behaviour”, against a girl between 1993 and 1996, and a boy between 2006 and 2010.

The indictment alleged that the 49-year-old had sexually assaulted the girl, exposed himself to her and induced her to touch sexual remarks to the boy and touching his genitals. He denied the charges but was found guilty after a trial at the High Court in Glasgow. He will be sentenced next month. “Dott is a dangerous individual and I hope this conviction provides some measure of comfort to those impacted by his crimes,” Detective Inspector Gary Smillie from Police Scotland told reporters. Dott won the world snooker championship in 2006, beating Peter Ebdon 18-14 in the final, and twice finished as runner-up in 2004 and 2010. He was suspended by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association after the charges were announced last year. Former snooker world champion Graeme Dott was convicted in Glasgow of sexually abusing two children decades ago, involv-



ing lewd behavior and assaults between 1993-1996 and 2006-2010. He denied charges but was found guilty; sentencing is pending. Dott, who won the 2006 world championship, was suspended by the professional snooker association following his indictment. Police described him as dangerous, hoping the conviction offers some solace to victims. “There are two options,” Ceferin told The Rest Is Politics: Leading podcast. “One option is that he realises that he doesn’t have the support, and that’s not only a political support of the ones who vote, but the political support of football community, the political support of fans, the political support of the players, former players, coaches.” “And

the second option that he goes to the elections in March, but in that case, I think he will have a candidate against him. I don’t know yet who.” The Slovenian also dismissed the idea that UEFA’s opposition to Infantino is driven solely by Europe’s biggest football nations. He pointed to smaller associations that, according to him, had also rejected FIFA’s controversial commercial proposal. Infantino, meanwhile, has continued to position himself as an advocate for football associations outside the game’s wealthiest nations. Speaking after meeting members of the Caribbean Football Union in the Dominican Republic, he said FIFA’s priority should be between countries.