

Supreme Court Orders Long-Awaited Village Committee Elections in Tripura’s Tribal Council by September 2026

Tripura, Jun 16: In a major landmark development for local governance in Tripura, the Supreme Court has officially directed the State Election Commission to conduct the long-delayed Village Committee elections within the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) by September 2026.

The apex court’s directive came during the hearing of a writ petition filed by prominent tribal leader Pradyot Kishore Manikya Deb Barma, who had legally challenged the state authorities for failing to hold these grassroots polls for nearly a decade. Following the court’s intervention, the Tripura State Election Commission submitted a formal affidavit pledging



that the entire electoral process will commence in the first week of September and be wrapped up within the same month.

Hailing the top court’s mandate as a monumental victory, Pradyot

Kishore Manikya Deb Barma emphasized that the order finally restores the fundamental constitutional rights of the tribal residents after years of intense legal battles. He noted that the citizens

of the TTAADC areas had been enduring a ten-year-long wait for democratic representation at the local level, asserting that this outcome transcends partisan politics and stands as a triumph for the Indian Constitution and the people themselves. Village Committees serve as the vital bedrock of rural administration and local self-governance across the tribal council, and their prolonged suspension had triggered widespread criticism over the years. With the path now cleared for the upcoming polls, there is renewed hope that the revival of these elected bodies will significantly strengthen grassroots democracy and accelerate much-needed developmental projects across the region.

Sikkim CM Visits Rumtek Monastery on 17th Karmapa’s Birth Anniversary



Gangtok, Jun 16: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang visited the historic Rumtek Monastery on Tuesday to offer prayers on the birth anniversary of His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje.

During his visit, the Chief Minister received blessings from 12th Goshri Gyaltsab Rinpoche and prayed for the long life, good health, and

spiritual well-being of the Karmapa. He also prayed for peace, harmony, and the welfare of people around the world.

In a social media post, Tamang said that the teachings of Buddhism continue to guide people towards compassion, wisdom, and universal brotherhood. He expressed hope that society would uphold these values and work together to build

a more peaceful and caring world.

The birth anniversary of the 17th Karmapa is celebrated with great devotion by Buddhist followers across the Himalayan region and other parts of the world. Special prayers and religious ceremonies were held at monasteries, including Rumtek Monastery, which is regarded as the main seat of the Karmapa in Sikkim.

Arunachal Christian Forum Puts Protest on Hold Following CM’s Assurance

Itanagar, Jun 16: The Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF) on Monday suspended its proposed statewide vehicle rally scheduled for June 18 after receiving an assurance from Chief Minister Pema Khandu that the rules under the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (APFRA), 1978, would not be implemented without extensive consultations with all stakeholders.

The decision came after a meeting between ACF representatives and the Chief Minister, where the organisation raised concerns regarding the framing and enforcement of rules under the decades-old legislation. Addressing reporters after the meeting, ACF president James Techhi Tara said the state government had given a positive response to the concerns raised by the forum. According to Tara, the Chief Minister provided a written assurance that the proposed APFRA rules would not be enforced until detailed discussions were held with representatives of different religious communities and other stakeholders.

Following the assurance, the ACF decided to suspend the planned vehicle rally, though it clarified that the protest programme had not been cancelled permanently and could be revived if required. Tara expressed gratitude to members, supporters and communities across the state for their cooperation and solidarity during the movement. He said the decision

to suspend the rally was taken in the interest of maintaining dialogue and ensuring that concerns raised by citizens were addressed through democratic means. Following the meeting, Chief Minister Pema Khandu described the interaction with the newly elected central executive members of the ACF as positive and meaningful.

He reiterated that the state government’s priority was to maintain peace, harmony and inclusive development. The Chief Minister said no religious community should feel excluded or alienated and that every faith and tradition was an important part of Arunachal Pradesh’s social fabric. The APFRA issue has remained a matter of public discussion after the state government began the process of framing rules for the 1978 Act following directions from the Gauhati High Court. The ACF had earlier demanded wider consultations before implementation and had announced democratic protests over the issue. The government has maintained that the proposed rules are aimed at operationalising an existing law and are not targeted against any particular religion. The APFRA was enacted to prevent religious conversions through force, fraud or inducement but remained largely unimplemented for several years due to the absence of detailed rules.



Manas National Park Records Zero Rhino, Tiger Poaching for Three Straight Years

Guwahati, Jun 16: In a major conservation triumph, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced Tuesday that Manas National Park has achieved zero rhino and tiger poaching for three consecutive years. Once plagued by rampant poaching and insurgency-related disturbances, the UNESCO World Heritage Site has undergone a massive transformation. The Chief Minister credited this historic milestone to the state’s relentless, sustained efforts to strengthen wildlife protection mechanisms, upgrade surveillance infrastructure, and actively foster local community participation. Sarma highlighted that zero poaching has officially become the “new normal” for the park, moving far away from a past where wildlife crimes frequently dominated headlines. The achievement underscores Assam’s continued, unwavering commitment to safeguarding its rich biodiversity and preserving crucial faunal diversity.



Arunachal Pradesh Launches Digital Film Challenge to Promote Tourism and Culture

Itanagar, Jun 16: The Arunachal Pradesh government has launched a digital storytelling film challenge aimed at promoting the state’s tourism, culture, creativity and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the initiative is a first-of-its-kind platform designed to encourage filmmakers, content creators, storytellers and creative professionals to showcase the diverse identity of Arunachal Pradesh through the medium of films. The newly introduced film challenge portal seeks to provide a digital platform where participants can highlight the state’s breathtaking landscapes, rich tribal heritage, traditional practices, local communities and emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem. The initiative is expected to create greater visibility for Arunachal Pradesh by encouraging innovative storytelling and bringing untold stories from different parts of the state to a wider audience. Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the proj-



ect reflects the government’s commitment towards using technology and creative platforms to strengthen tourism promotion and cultural preservation. He added that visual storytelling has the power to connect people, inspire travel and create awareness about the unique traditions and natural beauty

The Delicate Balance of Kinship and Survival Inside Mizoram’s Complex Response to the Chin Refugee Crisis



Aizawl, Jun 16: For decades, Mizoram has served as a sanctuary for the ethnic Chin people fleeing conflict in neighboring Myanmar. This humanitarian bond is deeply rooted in shared history; the Mizos and Chins belong to the same larger tribal community, sharing linguistic, cultural, and familial ties. However, as the influx of displaced people swells—now estimated to make up nearly 10% of Mizoram’s total population—the initial wave of unconditional solidarity is facing a complex test. The state is currently locked in a delicate struggle to balance ethnic compassion with legal control, economic stability, and national security.

The cross-border movement between the regions has historically been fluid. In the 1950s and 1960s, Mizos migrated to Myanmar’s Chin State in search of economic prosperity. However, the tide completely reversed in the 1990s as political instability gripped Myanmar and India pumped substantial financial aid into Mizoram’s economy. The ongoing civil war in Myanmar, exacerbated by the 2021 military coup and intricate internecine warfare among various Chin rebel factions, has pushed thousands more across the

border. While local civil society organizations have historically carried the financial and logistical weight of this humanitarian response, signs of strain are beginning to show. Due to extreme economic hardship, many Chin migrants take up low-rung, underpaid jobs, sparking anxiety among local youths over employment displacement. This economic friction has triggered protests, with sections of local Mizo society appealing for the repatriation of migrants, citing a rise in cross-border crime and illegal drug cartels. Reflecting this growing unease, administrative and political measures have tightened. In 2022, the Aizawl district administration prohibited Chin migrants from purchasing land, operating businesses without prior permission, or obtaining driving licenses. By 2023, the influential Young Mizo Association (YMA) pushed a resolution demanding that the state government confine refugees to designated, compact border zones. More recently, in March 2026, Mizoram Home Minister K. Sapdanga took a firm stance in the state assembly, confirming that refugees engaged in illegal trade had been arrested and

put on trial, reiterating that the massive influx has become a heavy burden on the state’s limited resources. Despite these legislative crackdowns, humanitarian initiatives have managed to sustain communal harmony by adapting their strategies. A prime example is the “Lydia Project,” launched by the Baptist Church of Mizoram. The project focuses on serving the most vulnerable, long-term residents by deliberately integrating local low-income Mizos and displaced Chins into the same aid programs. By refusing to isolate refugees as a separate group in need, the project avoids breeding local resentment and fosters greater community acceptance. India remains a non-signatory to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, leaving Mizoram to navigate this crisis without a formal federal framework. Yet, despite growing domestic challenges and allegations of religious persecution and church closures by the Myanmar junta driving the exodus, the visceral, ancestral camaraderie between the Chins and Mizos endures—even as the state meticulously shifts its approach from open-armed refuge to structured regulation.

By promoting regional crafts, food traditions and innovative enterprises, the campaign aims to encourage economic opportunities and strengthen grassroots development. The launch comes at a time when Arunachal Pradesh is focusing on expanding its tourism potential while preserving its cultural heritage. The state, known for its mountains, forests, rivers and diverse communities, has been increasingly attracting visitors seeking nature-based and cultural experiences. The film challenge is expected to complement these efforts by using digital media as a tool for promotion and engagement. The government believes that the initiative will not only enhance Arunachal Pradesh’s presence in the digital space but also inspire a new generation of storytellers to document the state’s evolving journey. By combining creativity, technology and entrepreneurship, the digital storytelling film challenge aims to build a stronger connection between Arunachal Pradesh and audiences across India and beyond.

Twenty-four Meghalaya students selected for educational visit to Malaysia

Shillong, June 16: Twenty-four young achievers from different parts of Meghalaya have been selected for an educational exposure visit to Malaysia under the Chief Minister's Youth Programme after successfully emerging from a highly competitive selection process involving more than 1,200 participants. The selected students, representing a wide range of fields including arts, culture, science, innovation, leadership and youth engagement activities, earned their places through several rounds of competitions and assessments conducted under the state's flagship youth development initiative.

The international exposure programme aims to provide participants with valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom by giving them first-hand experience of educational institutions, cultural environments and development models in another country. During the

visit, the students will have the opportunity to interact with academic institutions, observe global best practices and gain a broader understanding of educational, professional and leadership opportunities available on the international stage. Officials said the initiative forms part of the Meghalaya government's wider efforts to strengthen youth development through programmes focused on leadership, innovation, cultural exchange and skill enhancement.

Over the years, the state's youth engagement initiatives have expanded considerably, creating pathways for talented young people to progress from block-level and district-level competitions to national and international platforms.

The selection process attracted participation from more than 1,200 young individuals from across Meghalaya, highlighting the growing interest among students and youth in programmes that offer opportunities for



personal growth, learning and international exposure. After

undergoing multiple stages of evaluation, the final group of 24

students was chosen based on their achievements, potential

and overall performance. Several of the selected participants expressed happiness and gratitude after being chosen for the overseas visit.

Describing the opportunity as a dream come true, they said the experience would help them broaden their perspectives, build confidence and strengthen leadership abilities that would benefit them in their future academic and professional journeys.

Many students also noted that interacting with people from different backgrounds and learning about new cultures would help them develop a deeper understanding of the global community and prepare them for future challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma has consistently emphasised the importance of youth engagement and international exposure programmes in shaping the future of Megha-

laya's young population. He has previously described such initiatives as "transformational" programmes designed to prepare the next generation of leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and change-makers.

According to government officials, earlier editions of the programme have also provided outstanding participants with opportunities to travel abroad, enabling them to gain valuable international experience and bring back new ideas that can contribute to the development of their communities and the state.

The Malaysia exposure visit is expected to provide the selected students with practical insights into education, innovation, leadership and cultural diversity while encouraging them to think beyond traditional boundaries. Officials believe such experiences can play an important role in developing confidence, ambition and a global outlook among young people.

Meghalaya honours 15 athletes with cash awards at Sports Conclave

Shillong, June 16: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma honoured 15 outstanding sportspersons from across the state at the Meghalaya Sports Conclave, recognising their achievements and contributions in various sporting disciplines. The athletes, who have excelled in Archery, Athletics, Swimming, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Football, were presented with cash awards ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 87,500.

The recognition programme was organised as part of the Meghalaya Sports Conclave, an initiative aimed at promoting sports development and encouraging young talent across the state. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Sangma said that recognising the achievements of athletes is important not only for rewarding their hard work but also



for motivating them to continue striving for greater success in their respective fields. "Celebrating sporting excellence is essential not only to encourage athletes to continue striving for success but also to inspire the younger generation to pursue their dreams through sports," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted Meghalaya's grow-

ing reputation in sports and noted that the state has consistently produced talented athletes who have brought recognition and pride to both Meghalaya and the country through their performances at different levels of competition. He said the government remains committed to strengthening the sporting ecosystem in the state by creating better

opportunities, improving infrastructure and providing support to emerging athletes.

According to Sangma, sustained investment in sports can help young people develop their potential while contributing positively to society. The awards ceremony formed one of the key segments of the Meghalaya Sports Conclave, which fo-

cuses on nurturing talent, encouraging excellence and building a stronger sports culture among the youth. The event brought together athletes, coaches, sports administrators and officials to discuss ways to further develop sports in the state.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the success stories of the award recipients should serve as an inspiration for aspiring sportspersons. He said the achievements of the honoured athletes demonstrate what can be accomplished through dedication, discipline and consistent effort. The cash awards were presented as a token of appreciation for the athletes' performances and their role in raising the profile of sports in Meghalaya. The recipients represented a diverse range of disciplines, reflecting the state's growing presence across multiple sporting fields.

Four Bodies Identified at JNIMS as Grieving Families Demand Swift Justice



Imphal, June 16: Public grief and outrage have intensified in Manipur following the formal identification of four out of six bodies recently recovered from a remote area. The deceased are believed to be part of a group of Naga men, including local pastors, who were abducted from Leilon Vaiphei village in the Kangpokpi district last month.

Following an intensive 24-hour joint search operation involving nearly 450 personnel from the Manipur Police, Assam Rifles,

and CRPF, the severely mutilated bodies were recovered and transferred to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) morgue in Imphal. Distraught family members, civil society leaders, and hundreds of community members gathered outside the medical facility to await the identification process and claim the remains of their loved ones. The initial deployment of security barricades, which temporarily prevented mourners from paying their respects, sparked

brief standoffs and sharp public anger before being removed by authorities.

As formal identification procedures continue for the remaining victims, the victims' families and various Naga community organisations have united in demanding swift justice. They have called on both the state and central administrations to conduct a thorough investigation, apprehend the perpetrators behind the brutal killings, and urgently reinforce security protocols across the conflict-torn region.

Manipur to host Miss Universe state pageant on June 21 with 20 contestants

Imphal, June 16: Manipur is set to host the Miss Universe Manipur 2026 pageant on June 21 at Chandrakriti Auditorium in the Palace Compound, Imphal, where 20 contestants from different parts of the state will compete for an opportunity to represent Manipur at the national level.

The announcement was made during a press conference by Miss Universe Manipur State Director and noted fashion designer Robert Naorem. He said the competition will serve as the official platform for selecting Manipur's representative for Miss Universe India 2026, which is the national gateway to the internationally recognised Miss Universe competition.

According to Naorem, the pageant is intended to provide aspiring young women from the state with a platform to showcase their abilities and gain exposure on a larger stage.

He said the initiative is aimed at helping participants develop confidence and pursue opportunities beyond the state level.

"The winner of Miss Universe Manipur 2026 will go on to participate in Miss Universe India 2026," Naorem said, adding that the competition offers a pathway for talented women from Manipur to gain national recognition. Speaking about the broad-



er purpose of the pageant, Naorem said the Miss Universe platform has long focused on empowering women and encouraging them to become leaders and advocates for social causes.

He noted that participants are expected not only to compete in the contest but also to contribute positively to society through various community initiatives. In line with this objective, Miss Universe Manipur has partnered with the Manipur AIDS Control Society and For Better Kangleipak to undertake several awareness and community engagement programmes.

These activities include

cleanliness drives, tree plantation campaigns, and awareness programmes focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention and environmental responsibility.

Organisers said the event will combine elements of fashion, personality development and social awareness, giving contestants an opportunity to engage with issues affecting their communities while preparing for a competitive national platform. The pageant will be directed and choreographed by former model Sheetal Sharma from Mumbai.

Contestants will also receive grooming and mentoring from Noyonita Lodh,

who was crowned Miss Universe India in 2014. Organisers said the grooming sessions are designed to help participants improve their presentation skills, confidence and overall performance during the competition.

The event is also expected to attract prominent personalities from the national pageant circuit. Miss Universe India 2025 Manika Vishwakarma and National Director of Operations Amzad Khan will attend the programme and serve as judges. Naorem said the initiative reflects ongoing efforts to create meaningful opportunities for young talent in Manipur.

He expressed hope that the platform would help contestants gain visibility and recognition at both national and international levels while showcasing the talent and potential of women from the state. Miss Universe Manipur 2026 is being powered by Kisma Diamonds & Jewellery, Thangmeiband, with PCTC serving as the co-power sponsor.

With contestants, mentors and judges from across the country set to participate, the pageant is expected to provide a significant platform for young women in Manipur to pursue opportunities in fashion, leadership and social advocacy while representing the state on a wider stage.

Arunachal government to hold wide consultations before implementing anti-conversion law, says CM Khandu

Itanagar, June 16: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has assured that the State government will not implement rules under the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (APFRA), 1978, without first conducting extensive consultations with all stakeholders, amid growing discussions and concerns surrounding the proposed enforcement of the decades-old legislation.

The assurance was given during a meeting on Monday with newly elected members of the central executive committee of the Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF), which has strongly opposed the implementation of the Act and raised concerns about its possible impact on religious freedom and social harmony in the state. The meeting comes at a time when debate over the legislation has intensified following recent developments related to the framing of rules required for its implementation. According to the Chief Minister, the government remains committed to ensuring that all communities are heard before any decision is taken.

Describing the interaction with the Arunachal Christian Forum as positive and constructive, Khandu said the government's approach would be guided by the principles of peace, inclusiveness and mutual respect among all religious communities. "In our beautiful State, no religious community should ever feel hurt, excluded, or alienated. Every faith, every tradition, and every citizen is an invaluable part of the Arunachal family," the Chief Minister said in a post shared on social media platform X after the meeting. The Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act was passed by the State Assembly in 1978 with the objective of prohibiting religious conversions carried out through force, fraud or inducement. However, despite being enacted nearly five



decades ago, the legislation never became operational because the rules necessary for its implementation were not framed. The issue returned to public discussion after a committee headed by retired Justice Brojendra Prasad Katakey submitted draft rules for the Act to the State government on June 8.

The submission of the draft rules revived debate among different sections of society, with opinions sharply divided over the future of the legislation. Several indigenous faith-based organisations have supported the move to frame and implement the rules. They argue that the law is intended to prevent forced or fraudulent religious conversions and help preserve traditional indigenous belief systems and cultural heritage. On the other hand, Christian organisations have expressed reservations and opposition to the proposed implementation.

They have voiced concerns that the enforcement of the Act could affect religious freedom and potentially create misunderstandings among communities. Following the meeting with the Chief Minister, the Arunachal Christian Forum stated that it had received assurances from the government that no rules would be enforced

without comprehensive consultations involving all concerned stakeholders. The forum also reiterated its long-standing demand for the repeal of the Act.

While describing the discussion with Khandu as constructive, the organisation announced the suspension of a state-wide vehicle rally that had been planned for June 18 as part of its protest programme. However, the ACF clarified that it has not withdrawn its agitation entirely.

The organisation said its district units have been instructed to remain prepared for future action if the assurances provided by the government are not fulfilled. The controversy surrounding the Act has also attracted attention from political parties and civil society organisations.

The People's Party of Arunachal, an ally of the ruling BJP, recently opposed the implementation of the legislation and called for a special session of the State Assembly to discuss the matter in detail. Meanwhile, Human Rights of Arunachal, a rights-based organisation, has urged the government to reconsider recommendations related to the implementation of the Act and ensure that all viewpoints are taken into account before moving forward.

A man accused of killing a UP priest was killed during a police encounter

Unnao, Jun 16: According to officials, the key suspect in the murder of a temple priest in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh was slain in a police encounter on Monday. According to them, a Special Operations Group (SOG) policeman was also hurt during the procedure. Police and a SOG team were on patrol when they received a tip that the accused, Israel, was in the vicinity of the Tajpur village underpass, according to Unnao SP Jai Prakash Singh. Taking the initiative, a combined police and SOG unit arrived at the scene, encircled the accused, and demanded his surrender. But according to the SP, the accused opened fire on the group, with one bullet striking sub-inspector Newton Kumar Singh's bulletproof jacket and another striking SOG constable Vikas Bhadauria in the arm. "Retaliatory firing wounded Israel. He was taken to the Bangarmau community health center, where medical professionals pronounced him dead, according to the officer. From the scene of the encounter,



police found a knife, two expended bullets, and a country-made handgun with a .315 bore, he added. Shanu alias Munna Kalia, the fifth accused in the case with a Rs 1 lakh reward, was apprehended by police from close to an overbridge on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, according to the SP. "In relation to the priest's murder, a case was filed against five named individuals and a few anonymous individuals. The named suspects have all been taken into custody, according to the police.

Tension in the area was sparked on June 9 when Ram Milan Das, a long-

time priest at the Bodheshwar temple in Bangarmau, was fatally stabbed at a shrine that was still under construction, according to authorities. Approximately 200 meters from his home, where he lived most of the time, Das began construction on the temple approximately six months ago. Virendra, Das's older brother, informed the police that there was no known conflict within the family. Sakshi Maharaj, a Lok Sabha MP from Unnao, praised the encounter as an illustration of Uttar Pradesh's "zero tolerance" attitude towards criminals. Ram Milan Das's violent murder stunned and infuriated the entire region. He stated in a statement, "I met the victim's family after the incident and reassured them that no criminal could evade the law under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath." He continued, "The encounter demonstrated that no criminal, no matter how powerful, will escape punishment for their crimes in Uttar Pradesh."

PM Modi will attend today's G7 summit in France



New Delhi, Jun 16: The third and last leg of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-nation tour will begin on Tuesday when he arrives in Evian, France, for a two-day visit to attend the G7 Summit. The Prime Minister will be formally welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron upon his arrival. PM Modi will take part in a working session on the topic of "Forging New Partnerships

and Rebuilding International Solidarity" during the summit. Leaders of the G7, allies, and representatives of important international organizations, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, will attend the meeting. Strengthening international cooperation, tackling global economic issues, and advancing sustainable development are anticipated to be the main topics of discussion. On the

sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He is also expected to meet US President Donald Trump. Later, the Prime Minister will attend a gala dinner hosted by President Macron. President Macron invited PM Modi to visit the French metropolis. India's involvement in the G7 Summit is indicative of its expanding impact on world affairs and its role in influencing conversations about important international issues. India is participating in the G7 for the thirteenth time this year, and PM Modi has attended the summit seven times in a row. India's consistent attendance at G7 summits is indicative of the growing acknowledgement of India's

role and contributions in tackling global issues pertaining to environmental sustainability, development, peace, and security.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, "India has consistently brought the priorities, concerns, and developmental aspirations of the Global South to the forefront at the G7, international forums, including the G20 and the Voice of Global South Summit." The White House has also confirmed that Prime Minister Modi and President Donald Trump would meet bilaterally on June 17 as part of the summit. The two leaders are anticipated to discuss the status of talks on a planned trade agreement between the United States and India, which may be the first official economic agreement between the two nations, according to a senior US administration official.

Another life is lost in the Udalguri border communities due to human-elephant conflict

Tangla, Jun 16: Wild elephants continue to pose a threat to the Indo-Bhutan border villages in Udalguri district, which have long been plagued by human-elephant conflict and frequent slaughter. People who live near the border have experienced anxiety and terror due to the ongoing migration of elephant herds and lone tuskers.

A wild elephant from a herd killed Sitaram Dhanuvar on Sunday night at Farmline Badalapara, which is under the Dimakuchi police station in the Udalguri district. A herd of ten to twelve wild elephants has reportedly been terrorizing a number of communities, including Bhutiachang, Bamanjuli, Orangajuli, and Nonaipara. In addition to the herd, lone elephants have been seriously damaging homes in Rajagarh, Bamanjuli, and Nonaipara. Nabajyoti Baruah, a well-known wildlife campaigner, expressed alarm about the deteriorating situation and stated that it was time for the State Government to awaken from its deep sleep and go beyond making promises in the name of reducing conflict between humans and elephants. Shivdutt Tanti, president of the All Assam Adivasi Students' Association (AASAA), Udalguri District Committee, and advisor Sanjuk Sabar have called on the Assamese government and the Forest Department to set up forest outposts as soon as possible in sensitive areas like Badalapara, Tankibasti, Bamanjuli, and nearby localities. According to official data from Udalguri's Dhansiri Forest Division, human-elephant conflict remained a significant issue in the district between 2022 and 2025. In addition to significant property and agricultural damage, 28 elephants and 44 people died in conflict-related incidents during that time, and 33 people were injured.

After 30 years on Everest, ITBP begins a mission to retrieve the body of the "Green Boots" climber

New Delhi, Jun 16: In order to collect the body of climber "Green Boots" from the top slopes of Mount Everest, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has issued a tender to employ a specialized high-altitude recovery service. For thirty years, the climber's lifeless body in the 8,000-meter-high "death zone" of the mountain, where oxygen is short, has been a somber reminder of the difficulties involved in reaching the highest peak in the world. According to a report, the difficult extraction is set to take place between June and September of this year. A group of expert Sherpas are trying to reach the death zone, retrieve the body, and carry it down the mountain before returning the dead remains to India via Nepal. For the mission, at least six highly skilled Sherpas with knowledge of technical retrieval operations above 8000 meters may be sent. In addition, the organization winning the contract would need to obtain authorization from the Chinese government in Tibet, plan transportation across the Tibet-Nepal border, fulfill the legal requirements for repatriation, and guarantee the pres-



ervation of the remains.

The winning bidder must also "use appropriate preservation techniques for handling of the dead body that has been lying for decades in sub-zero conditions, to ensure respectful and safe handling". The climber got his moniker from the lime-green boots, but nobody knows whose body it is. He was one of six Indian climbers who were part of the ITBP and whose 1996 attempt to reach the summit via the North Ridge route failed miserably. Some say it's the body of Lance Naik Dorje Morup, while others say it's Head Constable Tsewang Paljor,

who pushed for the summit on May 10, 1996, together with Subedar Tsewang Samanla. The three men reportedly approached the summit but were compelled to retreat, stopping while still in the danger zone. The other three members of the team have reported seeing headlights going across the Second Step, which is located at 8,570 meters. But the flashing quickly ceased, and the three guys died. 200 bodies are thought to be frozen on Everest, the most of them are in the death zone. As the snow cover on the mountain thins due to climate change, more might appear.

After joining the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, a rebel faction will emulate the TMC structure

New Delhi, Jun 16: The hierarchy of the 20 lawmakers who left the Trinamool Congress to join the Nationalist Citizens Party of India—and who have declared their support for the National Democratic Alliance, which is led by the Bharatiya Janata Party—will be similar to that of their old party. "The conversations are ongoing. Nothing has changed. The dissident MPs' spokesperson, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, declared that the previous arrangement will remain in place. Dastidar will be the chief whip of the NCPI, a position she previously held in the TMC until Kalyan Banerjee took over, according to two persons with knowledge of the situation. The two persons stated, requesting anonymity, that Shatabdi Roy will be nominated as the deputy leader and veteran MP Sudip Bandoopadhyay, who was the TMC's floor leader in the Lower House prior to fellow lawmaker Abhishek Banerjee taking over in August of last year, will be the next floor leader of the NCPI. The NDA's strength has increased from 294 to 314 in the Lok Sabha as a result of the TMC defectors' merger with the NCPI and their choice to back the party. However, the NDA is still 46 votes shy of obtaining the crucial two-thirds majority in the Lower House. After the next round of biennial and by-elections, the ruling party can reach 155 seats in the Upper House, just 8 seats short of a two-thirds majority. "Have you even heard the name of this party before yesterday?" asked Manoj Kumar Jha, leader of the RJD. Did anyone in the nation, other from those who invented it? Our democracy is in a terrible situation right now. What happens to democracy if these strategies become commonplace? A "non-entity" party that had only received 800 votes in two assembly elections unexpectedly gained 20 Members of Parliament overnight. The world's opinion of India has greatly changed as a result of our democracy being degraded to such a ridiculous state. The rebels met with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday, just minutes after MPs Kirti Azad and Sagarika Ghose, who supported Mamata Banerjee, met with the Speaker and gave him a letter from TMC Lok Sabha floor leader Abhishek

As the INDIA bloc divide deepens, the DMK attacks Rahul Gandhi and the Congress



New Delhi, Jun 16: Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) attacked Congress and Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday, blaming him of "weakening" the opposition alliance as the divide within the INDIA bloc deepens. The DMK's attack comes after the INC announced an alliance with Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) during the Tamil Nadu assembly elections, which caused a divide with the Congress. The regional party claimed via its official spokesperson, "Murasoli," that although the Congress looks to its allies for support in national parliamentary elections, it frequently attempts to weaken them in state-level assembly elections.

"The Congress has made every effort to keep its fellow members of the INDIA alliance from winning assembly elections in state after state. However, in order to oppose the BJP, it asks for their support when parliamentary elections come around," the spokesperson stated. Gandhi "did not appreciate the comments and was caught off-guard," according to the DMK, which said that several politicians voiced their displeasure with the Congress relationships notwithstanding Gandhi's absence from the June 8 INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi because to the Congress's "betrayal." It seems like Rahul Gandhi was not prepared for this kind of criticism. Congress itself became the

main target of criticism during a conference called to discuss opposition unity against the BJP. Rahul Gandhi's political immaturity and dishonesty are to blame for that," the DMK spokesperson continued. It seems like Rahul Gandhi was not prepared for this kind of criticism. Congress itself became the main target of criticism during a conference called to discuss opposition unity against the BJP. Rahul Gandhi's political immaturity and dishonesty are to blame for that," the DMK spokesperson continued. DMK leader TKS Elangovan added to the remarks made at Murasoli by telling that "Tamil Nadu will not accept" anything Rahul Gandhi says. His MLAs defected to TVK immediately following the elections, and two of them were appointed ministers. The people of Tamil Nadu would not accept anything he says now," he declared. The Congress 'jumped ship the minute they saw a shiny new toy,' according to another attack by the DMK's IT cell on X. "We carried the INC on our shoulders when they were fighting for their political survival, only for them to jump ship the second they saw a shiny new toy," the group said. It simply demonstrates that the "brother" is still a huge joke and hasn't matured at all," the statement on X added. "When the tide shifts, don't rush back to us. "I hope you survive!" The IT department added more.

A Gurugram techie on vacation with his spouse was discovered dead at a homestay in Mussoorie

Dehradun, Jun 16: According to police on Tuesday, a 27-year-old lady who worked for an information technology company in Gurugram was discovered dead at a homestay on the Mussoorie-Dhanolti route under strange circumstances. P Radha Gayatri, a resident of Delhi's Kidwai Nagar East, was identified as the deceased.

Gayatri and her husband, Soumya Sricharan, an IT worker in Pune, arrived at the Kiana Homestay Tipridhar late on Sunday night, according to the police.

An unresponsive woman at the homestay was reported to the Mussoorie police on Monday morning. The woman was pronounced dead by a pharmacist affiliated with the ambulance service after an ambulance was dispatched.

According to preliminary investigation, the couple arrived in Rishikesh from Delhi on June 13 and checked into the homestay's "Bliss" room the following evening



at approximately 11.30 p.m. The spouse, Sricharan, said to the police that the two had consumed alcohol during the evening and fallen asleep at approximately 3.30 in the morning. He stated that when he woke up in the morning, he saw his wife unconscious in a puddle of urine with blood seeping from her nose.

According to the police, the pair was originally from Visakhapatnam and were married on November 8, 2025. "The deceased's body was discovered naked on the ground, and the bedsheet had bloodstains on it. Food items and two empty

liquor bottles were found in the room, according to a statement from the police. For a post-mortem, the body was sent to Coronation Hospital in Dehradun.

A panel of doctors will perform the autopsy under camera, per the police's request. Gayatri's parents were notified of the tragedy and were anticipated to arrive from Visakhapatnam late on Tuesday, Circle Officer Manoj Aswal said. "We have sent the body for a post-mortem examination. Things will become clear only after the post-mortem report is received," he stated.

Abhishek Banerjee Following an 11-Hour Probe Agency ED Interrogation

New Delhi, Jun 16: Despite being the subject of numerous probes, MP and general secretary of the Trinamool Congress Abhishek Banerjee has stated he will not submit to the BJP.

Following an 11-hour interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at the agency's Salt Lake office in Kolkata on the purported school recruitment scam, Banerjee adopted a belligerent tone. Banerjee declared, "I will come again if they summon me, but we will not surrender even if they slit our throats," as he left the ED office late on Monday night.

The lengthy interrogation occurred one day after Banerjee had a similar, nearly eight-and-a-half-hour session with the state CID about the purported forgery of MLAs' signatures on documents pertaining to the appointment of the state Assembly's Leader of Opposition. According to Abhishek Banerjee, the BJP is making every effort to create a political system in West Bengal devoid of opposition. "It is best to say as little as possible about the BJP. The opposition forces that are fighting without bending their heads have been suppressed, intimidated, and destroyed for the past month. "The goal of this entire exercise is to create a political system in West Bengal without an opposition," he stated. "They have broken the party's elected MLAs and MPs. All I want to emphasize, though, is that none of these workouts will eventually produce results. We won't give up." The ED and the Criminal Investigation Department are still questioning Mamata Banerjee's nephew in a slew of suspected corruption and "hate speech" cases. He will have to show himself at the CID headquarters in South Kolkata on Tuesday for interrogation in relation to a formal complaint filed against him, in which he is charged with instigating violence and threatening Union Home Minister Amit Shah prior to the state's recently finished Assembly elections. On the evening of June 12, he received a notice from the CID officials.

North East Chronicle

JUNE 17 2026 VOL 02 NO. 113



Reshaped India-Nepal Ties Benefit Region

Nepal’s Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal used his latest visit to New Delhi to send a clear message—though the long-standing border dispute over the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiadhura stretch, will remain on the bilateral agenda, they need not define the

future of India-Nepal relations. Clarifying recent remarks by Prime Minister Balendra Shah that had sparked speculation about third-party involvement in the territorial dispute, Khanal reiterated that Kathmandu remains committed to resolving the issue through established bilateral mechanisms.

CBSE Faces Controversy Questions

This could be a year of great discomfort for farmers in Odisha. Fresh from a season when it posted a record 150 lakh metric tonnes food grains production, the state is now staring at headwinds. The south-west monsoon is already delayed and the projections are not good either. Forecast of a deficit rainfall in the monsoon core zone of which Odisha is a part, must worry the state government. According to the India Meteorological Department, the probability of below-normal monsoon rainfall is 43 percent. With the mega El Niño predicted to form during this critical period, the challenges can mount quickly unless timely measures are taken. Pre-monsoon rainfall has been below average and the farming community is already in a tizzy. Yet there is very little on-the-ground information campaign to sensitise farmers about what the season has in store. Fact be told, if the long-term weather outlook holds, the government would have its hands full. Odisha’s tryst with natural calamities is well-known and if the monsoon fails, challenges would be far greater if the administration is not in a state of readiness. The scarcity of fertiliser is already being felt with the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative plant facing an ammonia shortage that has impacted production of diammonium phosphate and urea, due to the West Asia crisis. In another two months’ time, when agriculture activities would be at an advanced stage, things can really get out of hand. Odisha has been a rice-focused state, so much so that it has led to a glut. Last kharif season, it procured well over 77 lakh MT paddy. The number of farmers who enrolled for the procurement went up to a record 18.85 lakh because the BJP government has been providing an additional input assistance of ₹800 per quintal over and above the MSP. While this has driven up the farmer participation, crop diversification has been hit. Under such circumstances, if the weather gods don’t shower mercy, the agriculture sector could be under tremendous pressure. At present, the confidence level on the ground is very low with price rise impacting the bottomline of farmers. Much of it can be controlled if the government firms up a comprehensive crisis management

plan that includes both information and technical support for cultivators on the impending climate change risk and provides stage-by-stage guidance and insurance support. Routine advisory should be chucked; alacrity must be the need of the hour. Paddy remained the principal crop during the previous Kharif season, with cultivation spread over 15.59 lakh hectares, accounting for more than half of the total cropped area in the State, followed by cotton in 4.56 lakh hectares, pulses in 3.63 lakh hectares and oilseeds in 2.63 lakh hectares. Among pulses, red gram dominated with 3.22 lakh hectares, while groundnut remained the major oilseed crop with 2.08 lakh hectares. Maize was cultivated in 1.87 lakh hectares, while sugarcane, tobacco, sesamum, castor, sunflower and soybean were also taken up in varying extents across the State during the season. Farmers in delta regions have already started preparing agricultural fields in anticipation of canal water release for transplantation activities. It may be noted that the government has already decided to release irrigation water in phases from May 15 for the Kharif season, which will be more helpful to farmers. Under the Godavari Delta System, 51.67 TMC of water is currently available. Canal maintenance works began on May 2, and irrigation water release is planned from June 1 for the Krishna Eastern Delta and from July 1 for the Krishna Western Delta. Under North Andhra projects, 9.22 TMC of water is currently available and cultivation activities are expected to begin in the second week of June. Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir presently has 27.07 TMC of water, including Andhra Pradesh’s share of 17.866 TMC, and the government is examining the release of 7,000 cusecs per day from May 15 to meet drinking water and initial irrigation needs. Officials said advance water release would help farmers take up nursery raising and sowing activities early in several command areas. They said the government is going to supply 7.46 lakh quintals of quality seeds through the AP State Seed Development Corporation via Rythu Seva Kendrams, and subsidised paddy seed distribution is scheduled to commence from May 15, while 1 begin from May 20.

Politics Over People: On India’s High-Level Committee Regarding Critical Demographic Change

In constituting a panel to study demographic changes in India, the Centre was guided by a paranoid mindset that saw devious conspiracies everywhere. The move gave shape and substance to a thought expressed by Home Minister Amit Shah: “unnatural demographic change” is a “very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation”. In his Independence Day address in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the proposal, characterising illegal infiltration as a “premeditated conspiracy” to alter India’s demography. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.P. Naolekar, is to assess demographic changes, examine patterns of abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities, and recommend a time-bound solution. Mr. Shah linked demographic changes not only to sovereignty but also to national security, law and order, “profound changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal society”. According to the government, demographic shifts have affected public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution and social cohesion, and Justice Naolekar has said that the panel will also formulate a system for the custody and deportation of infiltrators. It is indeed true that the management of population dynamics is a key instrument of governance. On June 14, Switzerland held a referendum and rejected a proposal to cap the country’s population at 10 million. Across the world, immigration has become contentious, with unregulated cross-border movement seen as a challenge to sovereignty. Population management, however, is not entirely about illegal infiltration, and securitising demographic trends at the cost of all adjacent factors could do more harm than good.



As the recent experience with the SIR of electoral rolls shows, facts about people would be seen as valid only to the extent that these are established through documentation. If this exercise creates a large stateless population with no country willing to accept them, it could result in a demographic deadlock rather than a solution. The fear of communal profiling of Muslims is real, and the Centre should also seriously consider whether the human costs are worth it. India faces major demographic challenges. Rising life expectancy and falling birth rates are changing the composition of India’s population. There are concerns of India losing its demographic dividend, as the quality of education and health, and the evolving dynamics of work, remain very challenging. Migration continues to shape India’s trajectory. Partition created three sovereign countries out of a geographical and cultural continuum, and its legacy included voluntary and involuntary movement of people. Sensitivity and a long-

term view should guide India’s demographic governance. Demographic change is a natural process influenced by factors such as birth rates, death rates, education, healthcare access, urbanisation, migration, and economic conditions. For a country as diverse as India, these changes present both opportunities and challenges. The central question is whether demographic policies will be designed around evidence-based planning or become part of wider political debates. India has undergone significant demographic transformation over the past several decades. The country has experienced declining fertility rates, improved life expectancy, rapid urbanisation, and increased mobility of workers and families. Earlier, population growth was seen mainly as a challenge because of pressure on resources and public services. Today, the conversation has changed. A younger workforce is often viewed as an economic opportunity, while future ageing trends require new social and healthcare

policies. India’s demographic situation is not uniform. Different states are at different stages of demographic transition. Some regions have lower fertility rates and ageing populations, while others have relatively younger populations. This diversity makes population policy a complex issue requiring careful analysis rather than one-size-fits-all solutions. Demographic planning affects almost every aspect of governance. Housing, employment, transportation, healthcare, and social security systems all depend on population trends. However, concerns arise when demographic discussions move away from development needs and become linked with political narratives. Population issues are sensitive because they involve identity, representation, resources, and social relationships. When demographic data becomes part of political competition, there is a risk that communities may be viewed through numbers rather than as citizens with equal rights and aspirations. A discus-

sion about demographic change should focus on improving living standards, ensuring opportunities, and strengthening public services. If population debates are framed mainly around political advantage, they can create divisions and distract from the real challenges facing society. Experts argue that demographic policy should be guided by science, data, and constitutional values rather than short-term political interests. One of the major issues connected with demographic change is political representation. India’s electoral system has historically involved questions about balancing population size and representation among states. States that successfully reduced population growth have sometimes expressed concerns about losing political influence compared with states that continue to have larger populations. This creates a difficult policy challenge. Any future discussion about representation must consider fairness, federal balance, and the contributions made by different regions. A demographic policy that ignores these concerns could increase tensions between states. Migration is one of the most important aspects of demographic change. Millions of Indians move between states and cities for employment, education, and better opportunities. Internal migration has played a major role in economic growth. Large cities depend on migrant workers in sectors such as construction, manufacturing, transportation, services, and domestic work. However, migration also creates challenges related to housing, healthcare access, education, and social security. Instead of viewing migration only as a problem, policymakers need to create systems that allow migrants to contribute while ensuring their rights and welfare.

CBSE Must Answer Hard Questions Posed by the Recent Online Marking Controversy

A botched transition to an on-screen marking (OSM) system for evaluating Class XII answer scripts has forced a leadership shake-up at the top of the Central Board of Secondary Education. The axe of accountability has fallen on chairman Rahul Singh and secretary Himanshu Gupta, with Lokhanda Prashant Sitaram and Varun Bhardwaj appointed to replace them, respectively. OSM involves scanning of pen-and-paper answer sheets for online assessment. There was nothing wrong with the policy per se—such platforms work efficiently elsewhere. But the way it was implemented here left students and parents shocked and distressed. For starters, the contract for the digital platform was awarded just 74 days before the board exam began on February 17. A pilot test in mid-January spotted plenty of bugs and suggested delaying the rollout, but the advice was ignored. The result: the first round of revaluation requests threw up blurry scanned copies, missing pages and supplementary sheets, incorrect answer books or evaluation against a different set, and unexpected drops in marks. It led to a flood of students demanding revaluation, at which stage the payment gateway demanded phantom fees. Besides, the system was found porous, potentially exposing scanned answer sheets along with evaluator and student information to hackers. The OSM contract went to the Hyderabad-based Coempt EduTech last December on



the third attempt of floating the tender, with the process progressively reducing compliance specifications. Student-whistleblower Sarthak Sidhant blogged about his explosive findings after examining the tender documents on the Central Public Procurement portal, yet no corrective action was taken. He also deposed before a parliamentary standing committee in the presence of the outgoing CBSE chairman and secretary, both of whom reportedly had no clear rebuttal. People-facing platforms abroad are subjected to intensive stress tests before they go live. Why CBSE’s OSM was cleared after just one pilot test remains

a mystery. The government has since constituted a one-member committee headed by S Radha Chauhan to investigate the award and procurement of services related to the OSM platform, and submit a report within a month. The CBSE could also consider returning the revaluation fee to students as a stress buster, the way the education ministry did to take the sting off the NEET-UG retest. The controversy surrounding the alleged issues connected with the Open Source Model (OSM) has raised serious questions about transparency, accountability, and trust in India’s school examination system. As concerns

grow among students, parents, teachers, and education experts, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) faces the challenge of addressing difficult questions about how such controversies emerge and how confidence in the examination process can be protected. Examinations are among the most important institutions in a student’s academic journey. They determine opportunities for higher education, career pathways, and future prospects. Any uncertainty regarding evaluation methods, assessment procedures, or examination management can therefore create anxiety among millions of students. The OSM

controversy has brought attention to larger issues — how examination systems use technology, how data is managed, how decisions are communicated, and how institutions respond when doubts arise. The credibility of an examination board depends largely on public trust. Students and parents expect evaluation systems to be fair, accurate, and transparent. When questions are raised about examination procedures, the concern is not limited to one incident. It affects confidence in the entire system. CBSE conducts examinations for a large number of students across India and abroad. Because of this scale, even

minor procedural problems can have major consequences. The OSM-related debate has therefore become a test of whether examination authorities can respond quickly, clearly, and responsibly. The term OSM has been discussed in connection with examination and evaluation processes. Questions have emerged about the functioning of systems involved in assessment, data handling, and result preparation. The biggest impact of examination controversies is often felt by students. For a student, an examination result can influence admission to colleges, professional courses, scholarships, and career decisions. Uncertainty around evaluation can cause stress and confusion. Students preparing for board examinations already face significant academic pressure. Any controversy related to results or assessment procedures adds to their concerns. Education authorities must therefore ensure that students are not left without information during important academic transitions. The use of technology in education is growing rapidly. Digital assessment, online platforms, and automated systems are becoming more common. The OSM controversy provides an opportunity to strengthen India’s examination framework. Examination bodies can provide more detailed information about evaluation methods and processes. External audits and expert reviews can and improve trust.

GIFT City clears way for Zerodha, Groww, Upstox to offer int’l investing

New Delhi: India’s top stockbroking platforms -- Zerodha, Groww, Angel One and Upstox -- have received approval to enable international and US stock investing through GIFT City, according to a report by Moneycontrol.The services are expected to go live in the next two to three months, after companies complete technology integration, testing and regulatory compliance processes, the news report said.

Last week, Raise Securities, which operates investment platform Dhan, also introduced access to US stocks. To provide access to foreign markets, Zerodha and Upstox are expected to route transactions through overseas clearing and execution partners such as ViewTrade International, Interactive Brokers and Alpaca Securities, the news report said. At present, ViewTrade has received GAP approval, while products linked to Interactive Brokers and Alpaca may take additional time to launch.These firms, the news report said, have already established partnerships with major US brokerage platforms, including Charles Schwab and Robinhood, which can support access to international equities. Brokers operating un-

der the GAP model are also expected to partner with US brokerage firms to enable cross-border investing.

Growing interest in overseas markets

International investing is already available through platforms such as smallcase, INDmoney and HDFC Securities, which have reported strong growth in investor participation in recent years. Demand has accelerated as investors seek exposure to themes that are less represented in Indian markets, including AI, semiconductors, electric vehicles and space technology.

Global markets, particularly in the US, South Korea and Taiwan, have gained from these trends, while Indian benchmark indices have moved more gradually.

Interest has also been supported by rupee depreciation, a pipeline of high-profile public offerings and strong returns from US technology-focused indices over the past year, the news report said.In August last year, GIFT City introduced the Global Access Provider (GAP) framework to create a lower-cost and regulated route for Indians to invest internationally. One feature of the framework is zero withdrawal charges when bringing funds back to India.

Petronet LNG shares up 2% as Qatar plans to rapidly

Mumbai: Shares of Petronet LNG gained on Tuesday after Bloomberg reported that Qatar is planning to rapidly boost liquefied natural gas production once the Strait of Hormuz reopens.

Petronet LNG is the country's largest LNG importer. The counter opened in the green at ₹286.60 and touched an intraday high of ₹291.80, up nearly 2 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

As of 3 PM, the stock was trading firmly in the green at ₹291, up 1.8 per cent. Nearly 4.7 million shares of the company changed hands, according to exchange data.

Notably, Qatar had halted LNG production after its facilities were attacked by Iran. India, which depends on long-term LNG contracts with Qatar for a significant share of its gas needs, had seen a temporary suspension of cargoes, leading to supply cuts up to 40 per cent for a range of industrial consumers and city gas distribution (CGD) companies. According to a Bloomberg report, Qatar aims to restore most of its export capacity within two months. QatarEnergy,



which operates the country's LNG facility, has told buyers that it expects to raise output to about 50 per cent of capacity a month after safe passage through the strait is restored, and to roughly 80 per cent within two months.

Petronet LNG was not able to send ships to Qatar to ferry LNG as the Strait of Hormuz was closed. Additionally, Qatar had also shut down liquefied natural gas production at the world's largest export facility - which also supplied gas to India - after it was targeted in an Iranian drone attack.

Petronet had even sent force majeure notice to QatarEnergy for inability to send ships. QatarEnergy too has served a force majeure

Britannia adds a milkier twist to Marie biscuits with Doodh Marie Gold

Mumbai: Britannia Industries has expanded its Marie biscuit portfolio with the launch of Doodh Marie Gold, a move aimed at tapping growing consumer demand for richer taste experiences within everyday snacking categories.

The new biscuit, made with atta and containing 0 per cent maida, offers a milkier taste while retaining the light and crispy texture that has made Marie biscuits a long-standing favourite among tea-time consumers. The launch is targeted at consumers

seeking a more indulgent flavour profile without moving away from the familiarity of the Marie segment.

According to Britannia, Doodh Marie Gold combines a distinctive taste profile with the core characteristics of traditional Marie biscuits, creating a differentiated offering in a highly competitive market. The product reflects the company's focus on innovation and its efforts to respond to evolving consumer preferences across the packaged foods sector.



To support the launch, Britannia has introduced a new television commercial that highlights the biscuit's light, crispy and milkier

experience. Set around the familiar tea-time occasion, the campaign showcases how Doodh Marie Gold caters to consumers who prefer a milkier biscuit accompaniment with their tea.

With Doodh Marie Gold, Britannia is strengthening its presence in the Marie category while aligning with broader consumer market trends that favour enhanced taste experiences, product differentiation and premiumisation within everyday food and beverage consumption occasions.

Fortis Healthcare among 3 stocks with Golden Crossover trade

Mumbai: Fortis Healthcare, Deepak Fertilisers and Deepak Nitrite are among the select stocks within the Nifty 500 space to witness the formation of ‘Golden Crossover’ on the daily charts in recent trading sessions.

The term ‘Golden Crossover’ means that the short-term, specifically the 50-day moving average (50-DMA), has now crossed over the long-term 200-DMA. This in general is considered as a positive development on technical charts.

On Tuesday, Deepak Fertilisers stock gained nearly 2 per cent. Fortis Healthcare was down 0.6 per cent, while Deepak Nitrite traded on a flat note. In comparison, the Nifty was up 0.3 per cent at 23,925 levels

Nishchal Jain, Quant Researcher at Share.Market by PhonePe reckons that this ‘Golden Crossover’ is a significant technical development for these 3 stocks, and they can potentially rally up to 13 per cent from here.Technical outlook on Fortis Healthcare, Deepak Fertilisers and Deepak Nitrite by Nishchal Jain of Share.Market. Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals CorporationCurrent Market Price: ₹1,522

Deepak Fertilisers has captured a significant technical interest by establishing a highly constructive ‘Golden Crossover; pattern, indicating a major shift in long-term market sentiment, says Nishchal Jain of Share.Market. ”The stock has successfully distanced itself from the critical crossover junction where both the 50-day and 200-day moving averages converged near the ₹1,260 to ₹1,270 zone, currently trading with strong momentum in the ₹1,510 to ₹1,550 range,” explains the analyst.For short-term traders, Jain recommends a ‘Buy on dip’ strategy toward ₹1,450-₹1,480 levels, keeping a strict stop-loss below ₹1,380.

Positional investors, however, can hold long positions, says Jain as decisive close above the immediate overhead resistance at ₹1,580 will likely open the doors for a sustained rally toward ₹1,680-₹1,700 trajectory. Current Market Price: ₹973



Fortis Healthcare too demonstrates a well-developed golden crossover breakout, driven by an aggressive price rally over the past few weeks that successfully pushed its short-term 50-day moving average past the long-term 200-day baseline, says Jain. The current market price is consolidating well above its key moving average cluster around ₹960-₹980. This technical position reflects exceptional price velocity, while daily indicator metrics lean heavily toward a strong buy signal, the analyst reckons.

As a trading strategy, Jain suggests traders should view the ₹960-₹980 zone as a robust line of defense and utilize intra-week market volatility to accumulate the stock. The ideal short-term trade setup involves maintaining a trailing stop-loss below ₹940. For medium-to-long-term investors, the analyst says once the stock clears the psychological ₹1,000 to ₹1,010 resistance barrier, it is well-positioned to trigger a

fresh wave of buying, targeting the ₹1,100+ mrk thereafter.

Deepak NitritCurrent Market Price: ₹1,665

Serving as a compelling thematic parallel to its sector peer, Deepak Nitrite displays a nearly identical, confirmed ‘Golden Crossover’ signal emerging from a solid multi-month accumulation base, notes Jain. ”The specialty chemical counter has witnessed a clean technical breakout, accompanied by a steady rise in delivery volumes. This price action points to genuine institutional buying rather than speculative retail activity, effectively shifting the short-term momentum above the long-term trend line and signalling a sector-wide capital rotation back into high-alpha mid-caps,” explains the analyst.

Jain sees immediate technical support for the stock near ₹1,600-₹1,630 zone, and suggests a strict stop below ₹1,580 to manage risk.

For long-term investors, he believes this crossover suggests

the beginning of a multi-quarter recovery cycle. A decisive, volume-backed move past its resistance at ₹1,720 should pave the way for a sharp advance toward previous cyclical highs near the ₹1,800-₹1,850 zones, adds Jain

Analyst Disclaimer: Investments in securities are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing. The securities are quoted as an example and not as a recommendation.

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Award finalist Michael Evans expands Elara into global healing brand with Asian contributors

Kohima: Author and investigator Michael Evans is transforming *Elara* from a literary project into a global healing and media brand aimed at women and girls, following his recognition as a finalist for the International Impact Book Awards for *The REAL Matrix Reloaded: A Map for Escaping the Prison You Can’t See*.

The award winner will be announced in Hollywood, California, in October, where Evans is expected to attend alongside contributors including Zhang Miaomiao from China, Dia from South Korea and Vinikali Wotsa from Nagaland. The *Elara* initiative now encompasses two books, a rapidly growing children's bedtime video, and a 90-minute cinematic production currently moving into development.The children's video has already attracted nearly 400,000 views within four days, highlighting strong audience engagement for content focused on



self-worth, identity and healing. Based on true events, *Elara* follows the journey of a woman who escaped North Korea, survived exploitation and rediscovered her sense of

self. Wotsa, a theology teacher from Nagaland, contributes a faith-based reflection rooted in Naga culture, exploring the pressures many girls face growing up with expecta-

tations of silence, obedience and responsibility.In Kohima, the project reflects growing demand for value-driven content across publishing, digital media and wellness sectors. Educational institutions, churches, youth organisations and women-focused groups in Kohima are increasingly engaging with themes of mental well-being, identity and empowerment, creating opportunities for socially impactful storytelling and community outreach initiatives.Evans, founder of King-sman, an organisation involved in rescuing vulnerable and exploited women and girls, said *Elara* seeks to start conversations between mothers and daughters on identity, boundaries, faith and self-worth. The upcoming cinematic experience will feature artists, performers, investigators, survivors and cultural contributors from several countries, positioning *Elara* as a cross-border project with a growing global audience.

Systematix backs Nestle India’s rural expansion

Mumbai: FMCG major Nestle India is sharpening its focus on penetration-led volume growth and rural expansion, with the management believing that the existing portfolio of core brands offers significant headroom for growth, analysts at brokerage firm Systematix Institutional Equities said. Systematix said that Nestle India has strengthened its product pipeline through new product launches across the segments. Among the new launches, sales’ salience of new products (7 per cent in FY25) likely benefited from launches in Maggi noodles, breakfast cereals, confectionery, RTD cold coffee and pet foods. Among business segments, the Prepared Dishes & Cooking Aids posted 17 per cent Y-o-Y sales growth in FY26, led by around 12 per cent volume growth. Confectionery sales jumped 33 per cent, while the beverages business recorded 26 per cent growth, supported by strong volume expansion.Milk Products & Nutrition segment, however, reported a 2 per cent decline in volume despite a marginal increase in sales. The brokerage noted that the recent channel checks indicate infant nutrition is reviving in North and West regions, with sales growing at 9 per cent as Nestle regains share from Abbott and Danone. It estimates FY26-FY28E sales CAGR of 8 per cent

‘Unbelievable’ waste and inefficiency at MoD, says ex-defence minister Al Carns



London: Ministers have embarked on a concerted lobbying operation to prevent a backlash from the Trump administration to the under-16s social media ban announced by Keir Starmer. Officials said they have spent weeks trying to reassure senior Trump officials and the US president himself that the restrictions were not specifically aimed at US technology companies. The ban on platforms including X, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok, makes the UK the second country in the world to put sweeping limits on social media for children, after Australia did the same earlier this year. But British officials are aware of the risk of retaliation from Trump, whom Starmer will meet at the G7 summit in Evian this week and who has previously threatened the UK with “a big tariff” if the government does not drop its digital services tax.

One person involved in the effort said ministers had taken a three-pronged approach to “engage the companies, pre-brief the administration and myth bust in the media”. They added: “This is about protecting children in Britain, not taking on US tech.” Asked about the possibility of sparking a fresh row with Washington, Starmer said: “I honestly think that across world leaders, there has always been a recognition that leaders have to take steps to protect children.” He added: “In relation to President Trump, I spoke to him on Saturday, I’ll see him again this after-

noon and, yes, of course, we’ll discuss this and many other issues, and lots of other leaders are very interested in it.” YouTube said: “Blanket bans push kids out of such curated, supervised, beneficial experiences and towards anonymous, less-safe services.” Ministers have asked the media regulator, Ofcom, to come up with detailed proposals for how to enforce the ban.

Companies could be asked to take into account written forms of identification, the number of years spent on a platform and facial recognition tools when deciding whether people should be allowed to use their services.

Ofcom will make its recommendations in the autumn, while the technology secretary, Liz Kendall, said on Monday she wanted to see a ban in place “as early as possible ... first couple of months of 2027”. By Monday evening the US president had not commented on the plans. Andy Burnham, the Greater Manchester mayor, is hoping to win the Makerfield byelection later this week and has promised to challenge the prime minister if he does so. “This is a huge statement of our values, who we are as a country. And it’s a way of actually bringing our country together,” Starmer said. The announcement was welcomed by the Conservatives – who called for a ban several months ago – Labour backbenchers and several campaign groups. Esther Ghey, the mother of the murdered teenager Bri-

anna Ghey, said she was happy about the ban, adding it could “save so many children’s lives”. But it has encountered scepticism from some experts, including an independent expert panel convened by the government, which found the impact of social media was “nuanced” and did bring some benefits to teenagers.

The world’s largest technology companies have warned that the move would push teenagers towards more dangerous parts of the internet, but are not thought the preparing legal action to block it. A spokesperson for Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said: “As we’ve seen in Australia, bans risk isolating teens from on-line communities and information, and driving them to unregulated alternatives that lack built-in protections and parental controls.” However his ally Elon Musk, who owns X, posted: “This censorship law is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. The real goal is to enable the UK government to track everyone.” The plans involve a wider set of restrictions than have been applied in Australia. As well as setting age limits for many social media platforms, the government will prevent under-16s from live-streaming themselves, will ban adults from making unsolicited contact with children on gaming sites and will ban children under 18 from engaging with “romantic” chatbots. Certain services have been specifically excluded, including YouTube Kids, Lego Play and Google Classroom. Ministers are working on further limits to be unveiled next month, including late-night social media curfews for 16- and 17-year-olds. Officials suggested on Monday that there could be additional regulations for virtual private networks (VPNs), which allow users to circumvent geographical internet controls. Daniel Berntsson, the chief executive of Mullvad VPN, said he thought the government would probably require companies like his to demand users provide identification to prove their age. The move could have a huge impact on the lives of young people. Among 13- to 15-year-olds, nine out of 10 have a social media account and say that their main sources of news are YouTube, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram. Starmer told a press conference in Downing Street: “Social media is making children unhappy, it’s making it easier for bullies to harass and abuse them, and it could even be harming their mental health. The prime minister once opposed such a move, but said he had been persuaded by the evidence that had been gathered during the government’s 12-week consultation. He denied rushing his announcement in an attempt to cement his legacy should he be ousted as prime minister in the coming weeks.

Bonnie Tyler out of coma but remains in intensive



London: Welsh pop star Bonnie Tyler is no longer in a coma but remains “very unwell” in intensive care at a hospital near her home in Faro, Portugal.

The 75-year-old singer received emergency intestinal surgery in May and was placed in an induced coma to aid her recovery. A statement on her official website said that although her condition was improving and doctors remain confident she will recover, it was nonetheless a slow process. All her remaining shows due to take place this summer have been cancelled, the statement said, but it is hoped some dates in the autumn could go ahead. The update on her recovery came after the singer’s family had expressed distress over the “lurid and untrue rumours” circulating about her health. “Bonnie is no longer in a coma but remains very unwell and in intensive care in hospital in Portugal. Although her condition is improving it is a slow process,” the statement said. “Her doctors remain confident that she will make a good recovery but it is going to take time.” As such we are sorry to tell everyone that we will be cancelling, or postponing until next year where possible, all of our remaining shows this summer. “This will affect every current show until the end of August. At present we are still hopeful that our shows in the autumn will go ahead.” The spokesperson apologised for “the disappointment that this will cause” and hoped fans would “understand and bear with us in these difficult circumstances”.

They added: “We would like to thank everyone for the huge outpouring of love and support from all over the world that we have received for Bonnie and want to tell you that she is aware of, and very grateful for, your good wishes.” She had been due to perform at Sunshine festival in Worcester in August, as well as a number of European dates. She is also booked to perform at Cardiff’s Utilita Arena on 17 December. Tyler, who was born Gaynor Hopkins, won international fame in the 1980s with the release of her chart-topping single Total Eclipse of the Heart, which spent two weeks as UK No 1, and four weeks at the top of the US charts in 1983. Her soulful husky voice helped make her songs instantly recognisable, with other hits including Holding Out For a Hero, It’s a Heartache and If You Were a Woman (And I Was a Man). Originally from Neath, in south Wales, she was discovered by a talent scout in Swansea, and her first single was released in 1976. Tyler represented the UK in the 2013 Eurovision song contest in Malmö, Sweden, with the song Believe in Me, with which she finished in 19th place.

In 2023, she was made an MBE for services to music.

Trump hails Iran deal that fixes

London: If we get to a Friday signing ceremony without this uncertain new US-Iran deal being derailed by any of its inherent ambiguities, then nuclear talks can finally restart in the same place – and at almost exactly the same point they were before this conflict started. The world will have irrevocably been changed in other ways. There is no going back for the 120 Iranian children in Minab killed in their primary school in the war’s first hours, nor for their bereaved parents, or any of the thousands in Iran, Lebanon and around the region whose lives were erased or blighted by a feckless war of choice. Iran itself has been changed as a state and society in ways which will only become clear in the coming months and years, but for the time being it is evident the military has been strengthened at the expense of secular civilian governance. Freedom and basic rights for Iranians are as elusive as they were before the conflict, maybe more so. Tehran has been bolstered by its proven capacity to close the strait of Hormuz and squeeze the lifeblood of the global economy. Conversely, the power and credibility of the US has been undermined decisively in front of the entire world. Donald Trump has so far achieved none of the stated regime change and nuclear disarmament goals he laid out when the war was launched with Israel on 28 February. The achievement he advertised overnight – “Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!” – was a matter of claiming credit for fixing a problem his war had caused. US-Iran peace deal hinges on shipping, sanctions relief and deferred nuclear talks

[Read more](#)

Even that is not in the bag yet. It is still a long way to Friday and a planned signing ceremony in Geneva, in view of all the fudges that have been packed into this compromise deal. It is not clear, for example, if Iran will continue to charge tolls (or “service fees”) for the use of the strait, nor whether \$24bn (£18bn) of Iran’s frozen assets will be released and paid to Tehran before or during the intended nuclear talks in Geneva. The two sides have very different spins on what was agreed under those headings in the past few days. Ultimately, the ships will only start their engines and the oil begin to flow through the strait of Hormuz when the shipping companies and insurance companies judge it to be safe – and that may be some days or weeks off. At the same time, Iran and the Pakistani brokers are adamant that the deal should stop Israel’s war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, but members of Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition have already made clear they do not intend Israel to be bound by the agreement. US-Iran deal may get oil flowing again, but region’s root problems are unsolved

[Read more](#) A deal that freezes the Middle East battlefield as it stands now is a political disaster for Netanyahu, who promised Israelis he would rid them of their worst enemies: Iran’s regime with its nuclear programme, Hezbollah and Hamas. They are all still standing while Israel’s relationship with the US, its ultimate security guarantee, has taken a battering. Netanyahu’s greatest success was finding a US president he could persuade to go to war with Iran with him, but that glimmering triumph has turned to ashes in his hands. Trump is now openly dismissing the Israeli prime minister as a “difficult guy”, and the relationship is unlikely to get any easier in the near future, as Netanyahu seeks to demonstrate his independence of action to sceptical voters before elections due by October.

Netanyahu declares victory over Iran – and rules out withdrawal from Lebanon

London: Benjamin Netanyahu has hailed a historic victory over Iran and ruled out any immediate withdrawal from Lebanon, saying that Israel’s forces would remain there “for as long as necessary”. “We established deep security zones around the state of Israel. We did this in Gaza, in Lebanon and in Syria,” the Israeli prime minister said in a televised press conference on Monday. “And I want to make it clear: we will remain in these security zones ... to protect our country.” The new preliminary agreement between Washington and Tehran has prompted dismay and anger in Israel, with widespread criticism of Netanyahu’s leadership. He claimed on Monday that the joint US-Israeli military campaign against Iran had spared his country from what he described as “nuclear annihilation”.

“And what would that mean? It would mean that millions of Israeli citizens ... would have been in terrible danger of mass death ... and we have pushed away from us, for years, this danger of the annihilation of Israel’s population.” The exact details of the interim deal remain unclear, but appear to explicitly include a ceasefire in Lebanon, where Israel launched a wide-ranging offensive after attacks on northern Israel by Hezbollah at the beginning of the 15-week-long conflict. US officials have sought to reassure Israel, saying on Monday that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon was not a condition of a pact between the US and Iran, and Israel would have the right to defend itself against attacks by Hezbollah. The apparent terms of the agreement still appear to be a major setback for Israel, which fiercely resisted Iranian efforts to link its interim deal with the US to halting Israeli attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon. Headlines in Israeli media described an “abject failure”. There was relative calm in southern Lebanon on Monday, although sporadic violence persisted as Israeli troops remain in territory they have occupied in the three-month war, according to Lebanese and foreign security sources. An Israeli drone strike killed one person in the southern Lebanese town of Kfar Tebnit, and Hezbollah later said it had attacked an Israeli force trying to advance in the same area. Before Israel’s drone strike, Hezbollah welcomed the US-Iran deal, saying it had resulted in a comprehensive ceasefire including in Lebanon.

A Hezbollah official earlier told Reuters the group’s position on the ceasefire was linked to Israel adhering to it, while military sources in Israel quoted by the Jerusalem Post said that, if Hezbollah respected



the new ceasefire, Israeli military forces would not attack anywhere in Lebanon. Officials and many commentators in Israel have claimed the deal will strengthen Hezbollah and other militant Islamist organisations around the region supported by Tehran. But Israel, which depends on the US for vital military, diplomatic and other support, could not afford to alienate Trump, analysts said. On Sunday, an Israeli strike on Hezbollah targets in Beirut earned Netanyahu a further expletive-laden reprimand from the US president. The announcement of the interim peace agreement may have averted a new barrage of Iranian ballistic missiles aimed at Israel. Neil Quilliam, of the Chatham House thinktank in London, said: “The personal relationship between Trump and Netanyahu has taken a hit but ... the whole debate around Israel in the US is changing so Israeli-US ties are under some strain at the moment, both at the political level and the societal level.” Netanyahu was instrumental in convincing Trump to launch the war against Iran, and Israeli military forces have coordinated closely with their US counterparts throughout the conflict. An Israeli military strike killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, then Iran’s supreme leader, on the war’s first day. However, any achievements in

the war have fallen far short of Netanyahu’s promises of regime change in Tehran, as well as the destruction of Iran’s nuclear programme and its ballistic missile capabilities. Opposition politicians in Israel have been quick to attack the deal. An election is due in Israel before October, and there is likely to be a close fight for power. Netanyahu said on Monday that he would run in the elections and intended to win. Yair Golan, the leader of the Democrats, a centre-left party, said Netanyahu had allowed “military achievements won through the courage of [Israel’s armed forces] to be erased”. “Trump signs an agreement that funnels billions to the ayatollahs’ regime, leaves the nuclear infrastructure intact, preserves the ballistic [missile] threat as it is, and throws a lifeline to the murderous regime in Tehran,” Golan said. Naftali Bennett, a former prime minister and a leading challenger in the forthcoming polls, said Netanyahu was “incapable of achieving a decisive victory” and had led Israel into wars of “stagnation and attrition”. Far-right members of Netanyahu’s coalition government called for Israel to ignore the terms of the deal, saying Israel had not been involved in negotiations and so was not bound by the agreement. “We are not party to this

agreement. It does not safeguard our security,” Itamar Ben-Gvir, the national security minister, said on his Telegram channel. Israel has seized swathes of territory in Syria and has occupied more than 60% of Gaza since Hamas’s surprise raid into Israel on 7 October 2023, which triggered the series of recent conflicts. Airstrikes have continued in Gaza since a ceasefire arranged by Trump last year, killing close to 1,000 Palestinians. Danny Orbach, a military historian at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said if Trump forced Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, then Netanyahu’s political career would be over. “To withdraw from the border would be a repudiation of the basic lesson of October 7 ... which is that if there is an enemy who want to destroy you, you do not withdraw from the border.” Dahlia Scheindlin, a leading Israeli electoral analyst, said the situation in the north was undoubtedly problematic for Netanyahu, but many supporters of the prime minister would see the apparently unfavourable terms of the interim deal between Iran and the US as only a “blip in a long list of what they consider to be his accomplishments”. “I don’t know if any of them are going to change their minds because of the ceasefire,” Scheindlin said.

Chikankari kurtas priced under ₹1500 that add a touch of everyday elegance to your wardrobe

Certain fashion items consistently remain relevant in wardrobe discussions, and Chikankari kurtas exemplify this trend. Each summer, as wardrobes transition to lighter materials, softer hues, and garments suitable for enduring the heat, this age-old Lucknowi embroidery re-emerges into the limelight.

The reason is simple: Chikankari manages to look delicate without feeling overdone. The fine threadwork, floral motifs, and breezy silhouettes bring an old-world charm, but modern cuts and affordable styles have made it one of the easiest ethnic trends to wear every day.

From celebrities styling pastel Chikankari sets to fashion lovers pairing embroidered kurtas with jeans, trousers, and contemporary accessories, this craft has moved far beyond being just “occasion wear.” It is now the kind of wardrobe staple that works for office mornings, coffee plans, festive lunches, travel days, and those last-minute family gatherings where you still want to look effortlessly put together. And while premium hand-embroidered pieces can cost a fortune, the good news is that you don’t have to spend thousands to add this timeless style to your closet. There are plenty of beautiful Chikankari kurtas under ₹1500



that bring the same elegant vibe without making your wallet

cry. Whether you love classic whites, soft pastels, flowy rayon styles, or complete kurta sets that require zero styling stress, these picks prove that traditional fashion can be affordable, comfortable, and very much in trend.

Chikankari kurtas for women

1. BHARVITA Cotton Embroidered Chikankari Work Kurta Set: If you love outfits that are basically ready-to-wear solutions, this Chikankari kurta set is a winner. The straight kurta, matching pants, and dupatta come together to create a complete ethnic look without the usual “what bottom should I pair this with?” confusion.

The cotton fabric keeps it light and breathable, while the embroidered details add that graceful traditional touch. It feels festive enough for small celebrations but comfortable enough for regular wear.

Style it with: Silver jhumkas, embroidered juttis, and a tote bag for that effortless “I woke up like this” ethnic look.

2. Ada Cotton Hand Embroidered Lucknowi Chikankari Kurti: This one is for the minimalists who believe less is more. The beauty of this Ada kurta lies in its subtle embroidery and classic Lucknowi craftsmanship. The cotton fabric makes it a summer-friendly

pick, while the regular fit keeps the silhouette easy and flattering. It is the kind of kurta that quietly does the work—you don’t need loud prints or heavy embellishments when the detailing speaks for itself. Perfect for office days, casual outings, or those “I want to look put together but not overdressed” moments.

Style it with: White pants, delicate earrings, and kolhapuris for a clean summer look.

3. Seva Chikan Hand Embroidered Cotton Kurta: A good Chikankari kurta is basically a wardrobe safety net, and this one fits right in. The traditional embroidery gives it a handcrafted feel, while the simple silhouette keeps it modern and wearable.

Made in cotton, this kurta is designed for days when the temperature is high but your outfit standards are higher. The relaxed design makes it easy to style, repeat, and love. Think of it as your “I have nothing to wear” emergency outfit.

Style it with: Straight pants, oxidised jewellery, and comfortable flats.

4. OWLSKY, SASSY & STYLO Rayon Lakhnavi Chikankari Kurta: If you prefer a kurta with a softer, flowier fall, this rayon Chikankari style brings exactly that. The fabric

drapes beautifully, giving the straight silhouette a more fluid and elegant appearance. The three-quarter sleeves and ethnic detailing make it versatile enough for workwear, festive lunches, and casual evenings. It has that perfect balance of traditional charm and modern simplicity. Style it with: Cigarette pants, a structured handbag, and minimal jewellery for a polished look.

5. BHARVITA Cotton Chikankari Work Straight Kurta Set: Another beautiful pick from Bharvita, this set is for anyone who likes their ethnic wear coordinated and fuss-free.

The straight kurta silhouette keeps the look sleek, while the matching pieces create a balanced outfit. The embroidery adds texture without making it feel too heavy, which means you can comfortably wear it beyond just special occasions. It is the kind of set that works for office hours, festive gatherings, and everything in between.

Style it with: Pearl earrings, nude sandals, and a sleek hairstyle.

6. Seva Chikan Apricot Cotton Chikankari Kurta: Move over basic whites; soft pastel Chikankari deserves its moment too. This apricot-toned kurta brings a fresh, feminine twist to traditional Lucknowi

embroidery. The warm shade makes it perfect for daytime wear, while the delicate detailing keeps it elegant. It is light, pretty, and very much the outfit equivalent of a summer breeze. Style it with: Gold hoops, woven bags, and soft makeup for a dreamy daytime look.

7. RATAN Rayon Straight Lucknowi Chikankari Kurta: For everyday ethnic dressing, this rayon kurta is the kind of piece you will keep reaching for. The straight silhouette gives it a clean structure, while the Chikankari detailing prevents it from feeling too basic.

The soft drape makes it comfortable for long days, whether you are heading to work, running errands, or meeting friends. It is simple, elegant, and exactly the kind of wardrobe staple that earns repeat wears. Style it with: Printed dupatta, simple jewellery, and comfortable sandals.

Trends come and go, but Chikankari stays because it understands the assignment: looking elegant without trying too hard. The embroidery adds personality, the fabrics make it wearable, and the silhouettes fit into everyday life. Whether you like minimal fashion or love adding accessories, a Chikankari kurta always gives you room to play.

Maintain a tidy dresser with these 7 makeup organizers



Is your dresser appearing disorganized and untidy? Do you frequently struggle to locate your preferred lipstick shade in that drawer? If you answered yes to both of these inquiries, it is evident that your dresser requires a makeup organizer. A thoughtfully designed makeup organizer not only minimizes clutter but also enhances accessibility by ensuring that commonly used products are readily available, while safeguarding cosmetics from harm, dust, and unintentional spills.

Whether you have a small collection or an extensive beauty arsenal, the right organizer can maximise storage space and help maintain order without compromising aesthetics. In recent years, makeup organisers have evolved from basic storage containers into stylish vanity accessories that complement modern home décor. Their

versatility allows users to customise storage according to their unique needs and preferences.

Benefits of a makeup organizer

1. Keeps beauty products organised: Dedicated compartments help separate lipsticks, brushes, foundations, palettes, and skincare products, reducing clutter and confusion.

2. Saves time during daily routines: With every item easily visible and accessible, you can quickly find what you require without searching through drawers or bags.

3. Maximises storage space: Makeup organisers utilise vertical and compartmentalised storage, helping make the most of limited vanity or bathroom space.

4. Protects cosmetics from damage: Proper storage reduces the risk of products breaking, leaking, or becoming damaged due to improper handling.

5. Improves hygiene: Keeping makeup products neatly stored minimises exposure to dust, dirt, and bacteria, supporting better beauty hygiene.

6. Enhances vanity aesthetics: Stylish organisers create a clean, professional, and visually appealing beauty space.

7. Ideal for travel and portability: Compact makeup organisers make it easier to carry beauty essentials while keeping them protected and accessible.

7 makeup organisers for your beauty kit

1. Boniry Makeup Organizer Box | 4 Compartment for Cosmetic Organizer | Quality Storage Box and Organizer: The Boniry Makeup Organizer is designed to help keep your beauty essentials neat, tidy, and easy to find. Equipped with a transparent cabinet door, this makeup organiser allows clear visibility of all your makeup products, from your favourite lipstick

shades to your nail polishes. Made of sturdy PP+PET plastic, this makeup organiser has glass doors and cabinets, which prevent your makeup from getting dusty and from falling. Its rotating design makes finding your shade effortless. Customers appreciate its spacious compartments that accommodate makeup, skincare products, brushes, and accessories in one place. It helps reduce clutter on dressing tables while keeping frequently used items within easy reach.

2. YAGVIZ Makeup Organizer Storage Box for Countertop Cosmetics, Dustproof Cosmetic Storage Box: The YAGVIZ Makeup Organizer is a stylish storage solution for makeup lovers who want everything neatly arranged. This cosmetic storage box contains 1 extra-large storage space with a flip lid and 2 big drawers. It also has 8 short + 8 long lipstick storage spaces on the left side

and 4 drawers for essence/makeup brush/eyeliner on the right side. The best part is that it has different storage sizes for your perfumes, palettes, lipsticks, nail polish, jewellery, skin care, and makeup. Customers like its multiple sections that help separate cosmetics, skincare products, perfumes, and beauty tools.

3. INOVERA (LABEL) Cosmetic Makeup Organizer with Drawer - Countertop Vanity Storage Case - Dressing Table Cosmetics Display: The INOVERA (LABEL) Cosmetic Makeup Organizer combines functionality with convenience for everyday beauty storage. This makeup organiser has little drawers for all your little makeup items and jewellery pieces, such as rings, kajals, eyeliners, lip balms, and more. The top tier holds tall bottles and perfumes, the middle section accommodates medium-sized items, whilst the pull-out drawers provide organised storage for lipsticks, brushes, and smaller cosmetic items. Customers enjoy its spacious design, which accommodates various beauty essentials, from lipsticks and brushes to skincare bottles and perfumes.

4. Lifelong Makeup Organizer Box with Dustproof Transparent Cover & 3 Drawers | Large Capacity Cosmetic Storage Box for Skincare: The Lifelong Makeup Organizer Box with Dustproof Transparent Cover is ideal for keeping cosmetics clean, protected, and organised. This makeup organiser comes with a transparent cover to protect your cosmetics and accessories from dust and moisture. It features multiple drawers and compartments for clutter-free storage and easy access to your essentials. Customers appreciate the transparent cover that shields products from dust while allowing easy visibility of stored items. The spacious compartments can hold skincare products, makeup, brushes, and accessories neatly in one

place.

5. Bingobang Makeup Organizer 360 Rotating, Spinning 2 Tiers Skincare Cosmetic Organizer Acrylic Large: The Bingobang Makeup Organizer offers a practical way to store and display beauty essentials. This 2-tier organiser is made of imported thickened ABS plastic material and a premium metal bracket, which is safe and durable with a smooth surface, for a 360-degree rotation. It can hold your lipsticks, skincare products, hair cards, lotion, facial mask, mascara, eyeliner, eye shadow palette and other daily cosmetics, quickly find the cosmetics you need and keep your vanity neat and organised. Customers like its organised compartments that help separate cosmetics, skincare items, brushes, and accessories for easy access. The design helps

reduce countertop clutter while making daily beauty routines more convenient. Many reviewers appreciate its ability to store multiple products efficiently without occupying too much space on a dressing table or bathroom counter.

6. Auxmir 360 Rotating Makeup Organizer, 9-Tier Adjustable Makeup Organizer with Rotation: The Auxmir 360 Rotating Makeup Organizer is popular for its smooth rotating design and impressive storage capacity. Featuring 9 adjustable tiers with compartments, this cosmetic organiser can be customised to fit different types and sizes of beauty essentials, offering a truly personalised storage solution. Customers frequently mention how easy it is to access products by simply spinning the organiser. Adjustable shelves allow users to customise the space

for bottles of different sizes, while the compact footprint helps save valuable counter space.

7. SHAMAKART 360° Rotating Makeup Organizer with Dustproof Brush Holder, Large Capacity Cosmetic Storage Box for Vanity: The 360° Rotating Makeup Organizer is a versatile storage solution designed to keep beauty products organised and easily accessible. Its 360-degree rotating design allows easy access to makeup brushes and tools. Designed to store makeup brushes, beauty sponges, skincare bottles, creams, serums, and accessories. Customers often praise its large capacity, adjustable shelves, and smooth rotating mechanism. The design allows users to quickly locate makeup, skincare products, perfumes, and brushes without searching through drawers.



ENTERTAINMENT

Aditya Sarpotdar delays Munjya 2: 'I will not make it until...'



Mumbai : Maddock's Horror Universe has been one of the most successful film franchises in Bollywood and, following Thama, fans have been awaiting the release of the next film. In a recent chat, Aditya Sarpotdar has shared a major update on the upcoming films in the franchise, including Shakti Shalini and Munjya.

When asked about Munjya 2, Sarpotdar told Variety India, "I get a lot of messages about it, and it's good to know people want to watch it. But that's the point. I can't disappoint them with something that's mediocre. I would rather not make it

than deliver something that's not up to the standard." "I'm okay with being asked maybe 10 years later, 'Why didn't you make it?' But until I don't feel that my script matches a certain level of quality and is something totally new and beyond people's expectations, I will not make it," he further added. Revealing that the focus is currently on Shakti Shalini, he concluded, "Yeah, we wrapped up the shoot and are now into post-production. It was a massive shoot, so the whole planning and execution had to be done meticulously. So now we are back in the edit room. Right now, what I really

want to focus on and get right is Shakti Shalini. That's the big game," he said.

Shakti Shalini was officially announced during Diwali last year. The title announcement promo was attached to Thamaa and introduced the central character with the descriptions: "The Protector", "The Destroyer", and "The Mother Of All". The film marks another chapter in the expanding Maddock Horror Comedy Universe, which includes several interconnected titles that have found success at the box office. Earlier, in an exclusive interview with News18 Showsha, Aditya rubbished all such reports, saying, "Sharvari is an integral part of the Munjya team." While speaking with us, when asked if Pratibha Ranta is on board for any of MHCU's films, Aditya shared, "Yaar, I don't know where this Pratibha story came from. I'm sure it's just another rumour because vo definitely nahi hai, that's not how it is."

Kalki 2 buzz: Alia Bhatt joins cast, speculation over Deepika Padukone

Mumbai : Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2898 AD emerged as one of the biggest blockbusters of 2024, with Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone playing pivotal roles in the sci-fi epic. As the makers gear up for the next chapter of the franchise, the film has once again grabbed headlines amid fresh casting buzz following Deepika's exit from the sequel. Speculation is rife that Alia Bhatt has come on board the Kalki universe, potentially marking her first collaboration with Prabhas and director Nag Ashwin in the ambitious cinematic saga.

According to Aakashvani and Telugu Chitraalu, Alia Bhatt, who is currently busy promoting her upcoming film, Alpha, has joined Prabhas' Kalki 2. While the makers are yet to make an official announcement, re-

ports suggest that Alia has already come on board the project and is believed to have joined the cast during the film's second shooting schedule. Reportedly, she shot for around five days in Hyderabad last month. Early reports had sparked speculation that Alia would take over Deepika's character, Sumathi (SUM-80), the mother of Kalki. However, the latest buzz suggests otherwise. According to reports, Bhatt has been cast in a different yet significant role within the franchise, while Sai Pallavi is said to be the frontrunner to step into Sumathi's shoes following Deepika's exit.

Recent reports suggest that the team is gearing up to commence the next phase of filming, with the remaining schedules expected to be completed soon. Several reports stated that the



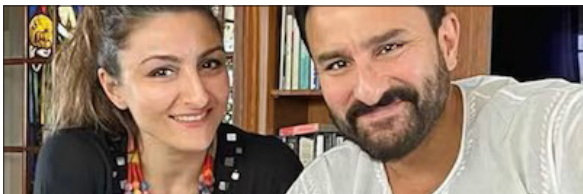
film is eyeing a theatrical release in December 2027, with the shoot likely to be wrapped up by April next year. However, the makers are yet to share an update on the release date. Meanwhile, Alia is gearing up for YRF's

Alpha. It also stars Sharvari, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor in key roles. It is all set to hit theatres on July 3.

Soha Ali Khan shares childhood tales with Saif Ali Khan

Mumbai : Soha Ali Khan recently took to her Instagram and revisited some of her most cherished childhood memories with her favourite toy, a stuffed toy dog named Elliot. The actress, taking a trip down memory

lane, recalled how she would sit with her brother Saif Ali Khan and sister Saba Pataudi and play investigative games and tell stories around Elliot. Inspired by Disney and Pixar's highly anticipated Toy Story 5, which releas-



es on Friday, 19th June, in a nostalgic video, Soha Ali

Khan reflected on her favourite childhood companion and shared, "One of my most favourite summer vacation memories is just sitting with Bhai, with my sister Apa, and making up stories around Elliot. One of us

would start the story, another would continue it, and a third would add a twist; and by the end of the afternoon, Elliot had travelled the world, solved mysteries, and made the most unlikely friends." She also reminisced about

the imaginative games the siblings created together and recalled, "Bhai would hide clues around the house, my sister would draw up a treasure map, and I would lead the investigation through Elliot. I remember entire af-

tearments just disappearing as we solved mysteries that basically existed only in our imaginations." "It was never really about the toy itself. It was about everything our imagination allowed it to become," she added.

Main Vaapas Aaunga day 4: Imtiaz Ali's film nets ₹97 lakh on Monday
Day 4 lowest, net ₹6.67 cr

Mumbai : A strong critical response doesn't always guarantee packed theatres. That's the challenge Imtiaz Ali's latest directorial venture Main Vaapas Aaunga appears to be facing as it navigates a crowded box-office landscape despite earning praise from viewers and critics alike.

Released on June 12, the romantic drama starring Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Vedang Raina and Sharvari has received positive reviews since its debut. However, the film's box-office performance has yet to reflect the goodwill it has generated. According to trade tracker Sacnilk, Main Vaapas Aaunga earned ₹97 lakh on Monday, marking its lowest single-day collection since release. The latest figures come after the film showed growth over its opening weekend.

The film began its theatrical run with ₹1.15 crore on Friday, followed by ₹1.85 crore on Saturday and ₹2.50 crore on Sunday. With Mon-



day's collection added, the film's India gross stands at ₹7.74 crore, while its India net collection has reached ₹6.67 crore. One of the challenges facing the film is the intense competition at the ticket window. Main Vaapas Aaunga is currently sharing screens with several releases, including Ram Charan's Peddi, Kangana Ranaut's Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata, Vikram Bhatt's Haunted 3D: Echoes Of The Past and Steven Spielberg's Hollywood release Disclosure Day.

Directed by Imtiaz Ali, the film revolves around a 95-year-old man whose urgent attempt to travel to

Pakistan is interrupted by a stroke. As he drifts between memory and reality, his grandson begins uncovering fragments of a deeply personal story rooted in the Partition era. Through those memories, the film explores the emotional scars left behind long after borders were drawn. Beyond the story, the film's music has become one of its biggest talking points. Tracks such as Kya Kamaal Hai, performed by Diljit Dosanjh, along with Maskara and Ishq Mastana, have struck a chord with audiences and gained popularity in recent weeks.

Speaking about the soundtrack, music com-

poser AR Rahman said in a statement, "There are certain stories where music becomes the language of the unspoken. It expresses what cannot be explained and reveals what cannot always be shown. In Main Vaapas Aaunga, the songs and score have been an attempt to listen to the silence within the story and give it a voice. I hope people find a part of themselves in this music."

"Imtiaz Ali also highlighted the importance of music in the film, noting that it was always going to play a central role in the narrative. According to the filmmaker, Punjab in 1947 was shaped by both folk traditions and Western influences, and the team wanted the soundtrack to reflect that unique cultural blend. While the film's box-office numbers have slowed at the start of the week, its positive reception and strong musical appeal could help it stay in the conversation as it heads into the coming days.

Tom Holland, Zendaya reunite for spider man: brand new day tour

Agency : The press tour for Spider-Man: Brand New Day has officially begun, with Tom Holland and Zendaya leading the charge in Madrid. The beloved duo, who are set to reunite on screen for their fourth Spider-Man film together, made a stylish appearance at the first promotional event for the highly anticipated superhero movie.

Photos emerging from Spain event Tom and Zendaya perfectly coordinated in black ensembles. Tom kept it sleek in a black suit paired with a striking red shirt beneath his jacket, while Zendaya exuded effortless elegance in a chic all-black look. The couple's coordinated fashion choices quickly grabbed attention, setting the tone for the film's global press tour. It's a BRAND NEW DAY for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider-Man in a world that doesn't remember him—and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him—sparks a change in Peter he may not have the power to control. But that transformation might also be the



only thing that can stop a shocking new threat to the city and those he loves – a powerful villain no one can even see. The world may have forgotten Peter Parker, but he hasn't forgotten them.

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/

Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink. Sony Pictures Entertainment India will release Spider-Man: Brand New Day in theatres on 30th July 2026 in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam across all premium formats in 2D and 3D.

Sanchita ugale death: Sheezan appeals

Mumbai : Actress Sanchita Ugale's death has left the industry in shock, and while the investigation into the case is still underway, actor Sheezan Khan has questioned those who are now sympathising with the late actress.

Taking to his Instagram handle on Tuesday, June 16, Sheezan Khan said, "I have a very simple question for everybody. Whenever somebody passes away, especially if somebody is young, I see the same kind of posts on social media: 'I should have called, I wish I was there, we were supposed to meet. How could this happen?'" "Every single time, I wonder how many of you actually tried when the person was alive? Not before the news broke, not before the RIP posts, but before that? When was the last time you tried to contact that friend jo thoda distant ho raha ho itne mahino se, ya whenever you called somebody to check up on them?" he further added.

Khan further continued and urged viewers to reach out to those in need. He advised simple but meaningful actions such as calling, texting, or checking in on someone when they come to mind.

Dishani Chakraborty engaged, wedding in December 2026



Mumbai : There is a celebration in store for the family of veteran actor and politician Mithun Chakraborty. His daughter, Dishani Chakraborty, has officially announced her engagement to Myles Mantzaris. The couple, who shared the happy news with fans, is set to tie the knot on December 6,

2026.

Taking to Instagram, Dishani shared a series of dreamy pictures from the proposal, which quickly grabbed attention of her followers. One image showed a heartwarming moment as Myles, who is a steadicam operator and colourist, got down on one knee. Another photo showed

Dishani proudly flaunting her engagement ring, while the final slide captured a wholesome moment as the two shared a kiss. Expressing her happiness over the moment, Dishani kept her social media caption simple yet beautiful, writing: "06.12.2026... The easiest forever I've ever known." Dishani is the adopted daughter of Mithun Chakraborty and his wife, actress Yogeeta Bali. The legendary actor, who made his debut in the 1976 art house drama Mrigayaa, a role that earned him the National Film Award for Best Actor, has been a star of Indian cinema for decades. He and Yogeeta Bali, who married in 1979, have three sons, Mimi, Ushmei, and Namashi, alongside their daughter Dishani.

Bollywood star Disha Patani Leases Khar west luxury home at ₹2.85 lakh monthly

Mumbai : While Disha Patani keeps busy with films and brand commitments, one of her Mumbai properties has quietly landed a new occupant. The actor has leased out her plush apartment in the city's upscale Khar West area, adding her name to the long list of Bollywood celebrities earning through Mumbai's booming rental market.

According to property registration documents accessed via Zapkey, Disha has rented out her apartment at Rustomjee Paramount, a premium residential tower in Khar West, adding her name to the long list of Bollywood celebrities earning through Mumbai's booming rental market.

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more than 1,000 sq ft and has been leased to Kamla-ben Mangalbhai Gujjar. The rental agreement begins at a monthly rent of ₹2.85 lakh. Documents further reveal that the tenant has paid a security deposit of ₹8.55 lakh, which is equal to three months' rent. There's also a 5% rent hike built into the agreement after the first year. This means the monthly rent

will increase to around ₹2.99 lakh during the second year.

Going by the rental terms, the deal is expected to bring in close to ₹71 lakh for Disha over the two-year period. Neither Disha Patani nor the tenant could be reached for comment. Disha isn't the only Bollywood star putting real estate to work. Over the past few years, celebrities including Amitabh Bach-

chan, Kartik Aaryan, Shahid Kapoor and Salman Khan have grabbed attention for renting out both residential and commercial properties across Mumbai.

The apartment is part of Rustomjee Paramount, a luxury project developed by Keystone Realtors Private Limited, popularly known as the Rustomjee Group. The development offers 3BHK and 4BHK residences and comes packed with high-end amenities such as a mini theatre, spa and salon, banquet hall, business centre and a sky lounge. The project has also attracted celebrity homeowners over the years. In 2021, Rani Mukerji purchased a 1,485 sq ft apartment in the complex for ₹7.12 crore, along with two parking spaces.



CMFRI drafts national guidelines for marine ecolabelling to boost seafood exports



Kochi: The CMFRI has prepared a draft of India's National Guidelines for Marine Ecolabelling, proposing a comprehensive framework to regulate seafood sustainability certification programmes and enhance the global competitiveness of the country's marine products. The draft, released as a discussion paper, comes amid growing demand for internationally recognised sustainability certification for Indian seafood and increasing interest from global certification agencies in the country, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute said in a statement on Tuesday.

A key feature of the proposed guidelines is the protection of the interests of the country's fishing community while promoting environmental sustainability and facilitating premium market access for Indian

seafood products, it said. The draft recognises that although ecolabelling can help fisheries gain access to high-value international markets and improve returns for fishers, market-driven certification systems may create barriers for small-scale and traditional fishing communities.

To address this, the proposed framework calls for equitable participation of traditional and artisanal fishers in certification processes, ensuring that legitimate stakeholders are not excluded from the benefits of ecolabelling.

Ecolabel certification verifies that fish and fishery products originate from sustainable and responsibly managed fisheries.

India currently does not have a national mechanism to govern such certification processes, even as several international agencies have shown interest in operating

in the country, it said.

According to CMFRI, the proposed guidelines seek to ensure that certification schemes function in alignment with India's fisheries laws, sustainability priorities and socio-economic realities.

The draft also reaffirms the country's sovereign rights over marine fisheries resources within its Exclusive Economic Zone and stipulates that all certification activities must comply with national and state fisheries regulations, biodiversity conservation laws, seafood safety standards and coastal aquaculture norms.

It further emphasises traceability across the seafood value chain and explores the possibility of developing an indigenous Indian marine eco-label that could complement globally recognised certification systems, the statement added.

Andhra CM pitches state as semiconductor manufacturing hub at Singapore roundtable

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday invited global semiconductor companies to explore investment opportunities in the state, describing Andhra Pradesh as one of India's most investment-friendly destinations. Addressing the Semicon Ecosystem Roundtable in Singapore, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh follows a "Speed of Doing Business" approach to facilitate investments and industrial growth.

"This is the right time for investors to explore opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. I invite industrialists to visit the state within the next 30 days and assess the policies and opportunities available," Naidu said, according to an official press release.

He said India is among the safest destinations for investments globally and noted that Andhra Pradesh offers a conducive environment for industries through investor-friendly policies and faster approvals.

Highlighting the state's potential

in semiconductor manufacturing, he said a semiconductor manufacturing facility would soon be established in the Rayalaseema region.

The chief minister noted that Rayalaseema also offers significant opportunities in defence, aerospace, electronics, fighter aircraft manufacturing and automobile production. Representatives of several Singapore-based semiconductor companies attended the roundtable meeting and discussed opportunities for collaboration and investments in Andhra Pradesh.

Among the participants were representatives from GlobalFoundries, NXP, ASMPT, One System Technologies, TechSend Photomask and Aquatech.

The discussions focused on strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem and exploring investment opportunities in manufacturing and allied sectors in Andhra Pradesh, the release added.

Earlier, the chief minister released

a book titled 'CBN@361 Degrees - Polymath' in Singapore, which analyses his leadership style and decision-making as a public administrator.

Naidu participated in an event organised by a local Telugu association in Singapore and formally released the book.

He presented the first copies to the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana and representatives of the association. The book was authored by Shakamuri Srinivasa Prasad, a senior journalist and editor, and translated into English by retired IAS officer KV Sathanarayana.

According to the author, the book examines several decisions taken by Naidu over the years and analyses his role as a visionary leader in governance and development.

Prasad said Naidu's decision-making could be compared with that of globally recognised leaders such as

former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

He noted that Naidu's vision for Andhra Pradesh's development and his commitment to the construction of Amaravati as the state capital were examples of his approach as a leader.

The author said the book also highlights lesser-known aspects of Naidu's public life through observations and opinions expressed by former Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority Chairman Ramamath on various occasions. During the event, representatives of the association presented Naidu with a commemorative silver coin issued to mark the centenary of Lee Kuan Yew, regarded as the architect of modern Singapore. The organisers said the book would soon be released in Telugu, Hindi and other Indian languages.

They also noted that the digital version of the previously published book 'Chandrababu X.0' had recorded around eight million downloads.

Karnataka cabinet minister's portfolio row unresolved over a week after oath ceremony

Bengaluru: The allocation of responsibilities within Karnataka's newly expanded cabinet remains unclear over a week after the swearing-in ceremony. Bengaluru development minister Krishna Byre Gowda has postponed assuming charge due to unresolved issues regarding his authority over the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bena-

luru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA). Despite seeking intervention from the Congress high command and discussions with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Gowda returned without a resolution. He argues that effective oversight of Bengaluru's development requires control over these key agencies. Currently, he oversees the Greater Ben-

galuru Authority, the five municipal corporations, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and Namma Metro, while the BDA and BMRDA remain under the chief minister's control.

Gowda reported that discussions with the chief minister had touched on these issues, but clarity is still pending, with assurance that a resolution will

come within days. He emphasized that his concerns are based on accountability rather than a mere dispute over authority, suggesting that without a clear institutional framework, it would be challenging to meet the public's expectations.

The impasse has drawn criticism from the opposition, with R Ashok questioning the government's management of civic issues

amidst ongoing internal negotiations, especially following recent rainfall. He alleged that Gowda's delay in assuming office is linked to the lack of control over the BDA and BMRDA. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya also criticized the government's decision to appoint ministers who are not granted full authority, calling into question the efficiency of the cabinet's administration.

Lionel Messi remains football's biggest attraction: Scaloni's 'whole planet' verdict for World Cup

Lionel Messi is widely expected to be playing in his final FIFA World Cup, with the 38-year-old unlikely to feature when the tournament returns in 2030. The Argentine captain cemented his place among football's all-time greats by leading his country to World Cup glory in Qatar in 2022, a campaign in which he also won the Golden Ball as the tournament's best player. Messi has remained the driving force behind Argentina's recent success, helping them win two Copa America titles as well as the 2022 World Cup. His achievements have further strengthened his standing in the long-running debate over football's greatest player.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni has repeatedly praised Messi's influence, often highlighting the veteran's role in shaping one of the most successful periods in the nation's football history. Reflecting on Messi's enduring popularity ahead of another World Cup campaign, Scaloni said the Argentine captain remains a figure admired not just in Argentina but throughout the footballing world.

"Not only the Argentinian population but everybody, the whole planet, wants to see him play," Scaloni explained. "Everybody wants to see him on the pitch, because he has an effect not only on Argen-



tina fans but supporters all over the world."

Messi arrived at the World Cup after managing a minor hamstring concern, but there have been encouraging signs regarding his fitness. In the limited training sessions open to the media, the Argentina captain has moved freely and shown no obvious discomfort. He also came through the team's final warm-up match against Iceland without any issues.

Introduced after the break at Auburn's Jordan-Hare Stadium, Messi made an immediate impact by converting a penalty and completed around 20 minutes on the pitch, offering further reassurance that he is ready for the challenges ahead. Several reports already suggest that he will in the starting line-up for Algeria clash on Wednesday morning.

"There's nothing negative to say," Scaloni said. "He's

always been there, and he's essential for us. He's going to remain that way." Looking back at Argentina's memorable World Cup triumph in Qatar, veteran defender Nicolás Otamendi said the experience continues to motivate the squad. He admitted that the celebrations and unity across the country remain fresh in their minds, but insisted that the team cannot rely on past success and must maintain the same hunger and humility to compete at the highest level again.

"What happened back in Qatar was just amazing. The whole country united," recalled Messi's longtime national teammate, Nicolas Otamendi.

"We have that engraved in our minds, and it's just injected us with the strength to keep trying. There's no relaxing. We need to keep working with that level of humility that is required in these types of competitions." There are few more humble superstars than Messi, whom Otamendi described as "simple man that just focuses on training."

"He's also a competitive animal," Otamendi said. "You want to be there with him, supporting him, serving him, and laughing our hearts out all the time. As I've said, when the ball is rolling, that's when you need to press, unite and come together as a family on the pitch," he added.

Vozinha, Cape Verde goalkeeper who kept Spain at bay, plays in Portugal's second division; father a military man

Josimar Jose Evora Dias is a global football sensation. You know him as Vozinha. On Monday, the 40-year-old goalkeeper orchestrated one of the greatest upsets in history, making seven crucial saves as his Cape Verde team held a star-studded Spain to a historic 0-0 draw on their FIFA World Cup debut. He was named Man of the Match for his heroics. Cape Verde are the third-smallest country to ever qualify for the World Cup. Their population of 500,000 is smaller than that of most Spanish cities. None would have expected anything other than a dominant Spain victory. Indeed, Spain utterly dominated the Group H opener in Atlanta, with 74 per cent possession and an xG of 2.29 compared to Cape Verde's 0.29.

But Cape Verde had Vozinha in goal, and Vozinha was a brick wall in goal and a rallying leader of a dogged defence that earned their country their first-ever World Cup point. When the final whistle blew, he fell to his knees in tears and was quickly mobbed by his ecstatic teammates. His Instagram following skyrocketed almost a hundred times, from 50,000 before the match to 5.8 million at the time of writing. His name will forever be etched in World Cup folklore.

The moniker "Vozinha" means "little granny" in Portuguese. It comes from his grandparents, who primarily raised him — his father was in the military, and his mother worked long hours to provide for the family.

Earlier this year, in an interview with FIFA, he revealed that he chose the name to avoid a jersey-name clash with a fellow goalkeeper. "When I arrived in Angola, there was another goalkeeper named Josimar, and I said, 'I am not



going to put Josimar II on the shirt'. If everyone knew me as Vozinha in Cape Verde, that's what I would be."

Born in Mindelo on the island of São Vicente, Vozinha began his professional career at 25 with Batuque FC before joining CS Mindelense. Since then, he has been a globetrotting nomad, playing his trade in five different countries across Africa and Europe — from Pro-

gresso in Angola, Zimbru Chisinau in Moldova, Gil Vicente in Portugal, AEL Limassol in Cyprus and AS Trencin in Slovakia. Since 2024, he has been at Chaves. His future in football remains uncertain. His club contract expires in just two weeks. Before yesterday's match, he was practically unknown outside his home country, with an estimated transfer value of just €50,000.

Tunisia sack Sabri Lamouchi after just one World Cup 2026 match, turn to Argentina conqueror Herve Renard

Tunisia have become the first team to make a managerial change at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, dismissing Sabri Lamouchi just days after their crushing 5-1 defeat to Sweden in the tournament opener. The heavy loss not only left Tunisia rooted near the bottom of their group but also damaged their goal difference significantly, making the task of reaching the knockout stages even more difficult. With crucial matches against Japan and the Netherlands still to come, the Tunisian Football Federation moved swiftly in an attempt to revive the campaign.

The federation confirmed on Monday that Lamouchi had been relieved of his duties and replaced by experienced French coach Herve Renard.

Renard is best known for guiding Saudi Arabia to a stunning victory over eventual champions Argentina at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. He later took charge of the France women's national team and now faces the challenge of turning Tunisia's fortunes around in the middle of a World Cup campaign.

"The president of the Tunisian Football Federation, Moez Nas-

sari, announced that an official agreement had been reached with French coach Herve Renard for him to take charge of the national football team until the end of the 2026 World Cup," the Tunisian public broadcaster announced. Lamouchi's tenure proved to be a short one. The former France international was appointed only in January on a contract running until 2028, but the humiliating defeat to Sweden ultimately proved costly. He leaves after just a few months in charge, with Tunisia now hoping a change in leadership can keep their World Cup



hopes alive ahead of two daunting group-stage fixtures.

Renard, twice an Africa Cup

of Nations winner, coached Saudi Arabia at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and led them to a

famous victory over eventual winners Lionel Messi's Argentina in the group stage. Meanwhile, Sweden made a flying start to their World Cup campaign with a commanding 5-1 victory over Tunisia in Group F. Yassin Ayari starred with two outstanding goals, while Alexander Isak and Viktor Gyokeres also found the net as Sweden overwhelmed their opponents from the outset. Ayari, whose father is Tunisian and mother Moroccan, opened the scoring in the seventh minute after Tunisia goalkeeper Mouhib Chamakh failed to deal with a

clearance under pressure from Isak. The early mistake handed Sweden the initiative and set the tone for a difficult evening for Tunisia, who struggled to recover after falling behind. Following the defeat, Tunisia coach Sabri Lamouchi admitted his side had paid heavily for a series of costly errors and warned that similar mistakes could derail their World Cup campaign.

"It's a difficult loss. It's painful. Starting the competition with this bad of a loss is indeed difficult," Lamouchi told the post-match news conference.

India Seal FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Semifinal Spot After 2-1 Win Over Japan

Tunis: Tunisia have reportedly sacked their manager Sabri Lamouchi just one game into their FIFA World Cup campaign following a brutal 5-1 loss to Sweden in their campaign opener. The North African side was left absolutely exposed in terms of their defence during their campaign opener against Sweden on Sunday, making it one of Tunisia's worst results at the international level. A brace from Yasin Ayari and strikes from Alexander Isak, Viktor Gyokeres and Mattias Svanberg piled up misery on Tunisia, who could manage just one strike by Omar Rekik in the 43rd minute. According to French journalist Romain Molina, quoted by Goal.com, the Tunisian Football Federation (FTF) acted swiftly and terminated Lamouchi's deal after the match ended. While the on-field results did play a role, it is also reported that a significant level of dressing room tensions also played a role in the coach's dismissal. He is the first manager to be dismissed during the ongoing World Cup. Lamouchi's stint with Tunisia ends



with just five matches in the dugout across all the competition. Looking ahead, Tunisia, which is appearing in their sixth World Cup, could witness their former manager Mondher Kebaier, taking over the reins on an interim basis. Also, former Sunderland and Tunisia star Wahbi Khazri is also among the frontrunners to take the all-important post. However, whoever the manager be, it would be important for Tunisia to sort things out really quickly, with quality opposition like Japan (June 21 at Guadalupe, Mexico) and the Netherlands (June 26 at Kansas City, US) awaiting them. In their previous five WC appearances, Tunisia has never managed to make it past the group stage. Nestor Irankunda and Connor Metcalfe scored one goal each as Australia spoiled Turkey's return to the World Cup after 24 years with a 2-0 victory on Saturday night. Goalkeeper Patrick Beach made eight saves for the Socceroos in their group opener as FIFA President Gianni Infantino looked on. Australia is playing in its sixth straight World Cup and seventh overall. Turkey

reached the semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup but then missed five straight tournaments before qualifying this year by beating Kosovo in a playoff. Irankunda broke through for the Socceroos in the 27th minute with a low shot while being pursued by three defenders. It came less than a minute after the first-half hydration break. Irankunda celebrated by punching the corner flag in a tribute to Australian soccer legend Tim Cahill. The 20-year-old who plays for Watford is the Socceroo's youngest-ever goal scorer at a World Cup.

strength, there are areas that require attention. Fast bowling remains one of them. From the T20I series against South Africa, the pace trio of Kranti Goud, Arundhati Reddy and Renuka Singh have struggled to maintain control, often conceding runs at a high rate and allowing opposition batters to break free. There is little doubt that India's spinners will be central to their hopes of a deep run in the tournament. However, conditions may not always favour them. India are set to face Australia at Lord's, a venue that has traditionally offered assistance to seamers. With South Africa also firmly

India Women Defeat Pakistan, But Concerns Remain Ahead of Tougher Challenges



New Delhi: India could not have asked for a better start to their Women's T20 World Cup campaign after a dominant win over Pakistan. Their spinners had already impressed in the warm-up matches, and on Sunday, the quartet of Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Shreyanka Patil and Shree Charani once again showcased their value by playing a crucial role in the victory. While India have begun the tournament on a positive note, the challenges are only set to grow tougher with heavyweights Australia and South Africa still to come in Group A. Although the spin attack has been India's biggest

in the race for a semi-final spot, that clash against Australia could prove decisive in determining who progresses from a highly competitive Group B. It is difficult to ignore the fact that Renuka Singh remains the leader of India's pace attack. Yet, surprisingly, she has not played a single match since the T20I series against South Africa. The fast bowler only returned from a lengthy injury lay-off in September last year, and since then, the Indian team management appears to have taken an extremely cautious approach with her workload. That caution was evident during last year's

ODI World Cup as well, when she did not feature in every match. Against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup opener at Edgbaston, India opted for Kranti and Arundhati instead. While Shreyanka, Deepti, Shafali and Charani dominated proceedings, the pace duo struggled to make an impact, conceding 35 runs in three overs without picking up a wicket. Those expensive overs allowed Pakistan to race to 52 in the powerplay and briefly put themselves in a position to challenge India. Fortunately for the Women in Blue, the spinners pulled things back. But what if they hadn't? That is precisely why India need to back their premier fast bowler. Major tournaments are the occasions for which players like Renuka are managed carefully. The Department of School Education has allotted under-14, under-17 and under-19 boys' hockey wings to Government Senior Secondary School, Jarkhar, for the academic session 2026-27. The trials will be conducted by the department's selection committed young players.

McCullum Concerned for Ben Stokes After England Captain Dropped From Test Squad



New Delhi: England head coach Brendon McCullum has admitted he is worried about Ben Stokes' well-being after the England captain was dropped from the squad for the second Test against

New Zealand, stressing that supporting the star all-rounder remains the team's priority. Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were ruled out of the second Test at The Oval pending an investigation into a nightclub incident in London following England's victory over New Zealand in the series opener at Lord's. The pair breached the team's midnight curfew while celebrating the win,

with reports stating they were present when a member of England's security staff was struck by a Saracens rugby player. Speaking on the eve of the second Test, McCullum revealed his reaction when he first learnt of the incident, describing a mix of disappointment and concern. "When I first found out about it I was slightly bewildered, if I'm being honest," McCullum said. "Then you go through a range of emotions. You go from being bewildered, on to angry, on to kind of gutted - from the progress which we talked about over the last six months and what we're trying to do with the side, and some of the improvements we've tried to make, which includes the standards we want to set for ourselves, to hear about this was incredibly gutting."

tigation into a nightclub incident in London following England's victory over New Zealand in the series opener at Lord's. The pair breached the team's midnight curfew while celebrating the win,

Joshna Chinappa and Anahat Singh Lead India's Squash Squad for Asian Games

New Delhi: India on Monday named an eight-member squash squad for the 2026 Asian Games, with veteran Joshna Chinappa set to make her seventh consecutive appearance at the continental showpiece. The 2026 Asian Games will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, with the squash events scheduled at the Nagoya Kinjo-Futo Arena between September 23 and October 3, as per Olympics.com. Selected following trials conducted at the ISTA Academy in Chennai, the Indian squad combines experience and emerging talent. Leading the contingent is 39-year-old Joshna, one of India's most accomplished squash players, alongside teenage sensation , who continues to establish herself as one of the sport's brightest young prospects. The squad reflects India's intent to build on its recent success on the continental stage, blending seasoned campaigners with a new generation of players eager to make their mark at the Asian Games. This year's edition carries added significance as



the men's and women's singles champions will secure qualification spots for the LA 2028 Olympics, where squash will make its debut. India's challenge in the singles events will be led by Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani in the men's draw, while rising star Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna will represent the country in the women's competition. For the mixed doubles event, India has named two partnerships: the experienced duo of Velavan

Senthilkumar and Joshna Chinappa, alongside the pairing of Shameena Riaz and Suraj Chand. The combinations offer a balance of experience and youthful energy as India looks to mount a strong medal challenge at the Games. India's Asian Games 2026 squash squad Men: Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Velavan Senthilkumar, Suraj Chand. Women: Anahat Singh, Tanvi Khanna, Joshna Chinappa, Shameena Riaz.

Sourav Ganguly Files Police Complaint Against Social Media Page for Alleged Defamation



Kolkata: Former Indian cricket team captain and Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President Sourav Ganguly has lodged a complaint with the Kolkata Police. According to the complaint, he alleged that a Facebook page named 'Sourav Ganguly fans' was attempting to tarnish his image, and also mentioned the media platform Sportzwiki. FIR has been filed at Thak-

urpukur Police Station. Ganguly said the page was continuously sharing posts "that are intended to malign my reputation and create a negative impression among the public". "Being a public figure, I understand that opinions and criticism are a part of public life; however, spreading misleading, defamatory, and damaging content with the intention of harming my reputation is

unacceptable and requires appropriate legal action," Ganguly said in his complaint. "I therefore request you to kindly register my complaint against the individuals/group operating this page and take necessary action as per the applicable laws," he further said. Ganguly was noted for his distinct leadership style throughout his time on the pitch. In the summer of

1996, he made his Test debut against England, earning the nickname 'Dada'. He quickly made headlines after scoring a century in his first Test at Lord's, and the 'Prince of Kolkata' then went on to smash a ton in the second Test, becoming the third batter in history to make a hundred in each of his first two innings. In 2000, the Team India camp got trapped in a match-fix-

ing scandal. Ganguly was then appointed the captain of the side, where he started grooming new talent. Ganguly led India to the finals of the 2000 ICC Knockout Trophy for the first time. Another Team India milestone came in 2001 when the Ganguly-led side defeated Australia 2-1 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Australian team, captained by Steve Waugh, challenged India to follow on in the series, but VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid staged one of the greatest comebacks in Indian cricket history. The former India captain's most memorable moment was definitely when he stripped off his shirt on the Lord's balcony when India famously beat England from the jaws of defeat in the Natwest Trophy finals in 2002. Ganguly also led India to the World Cup finals in 2003, where they narrowly lost to Australia in the championship game. In 2004, he also oversaw an ODI and Test series in Pakistan. The Test series triumph was India's first on Pakistani soil.

India Seal FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Semifinal Spot After 2-1 Win Over Japan



Auckland: The Indian Women's Hockey Team defeated Japan 2-1 in their second Pool A match of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup New Zealand 2026 on Tuesday at the North Harbour National Hockey Centre in Auckland to secure a spot in the semi-finals, having won both their pool games so far. Captain and 'Player of the Match' Salima Tete (33') and Lalremsiami (49') netted the goals for India while Hiramitsu Ai (35') was the lone goalscorer for Japan. It was a memorable game for midfielder Jyoti, who marked her 100th senior international

appearance, according to a press release. The first half was extremely tight with both sides creating chances, but none could break the deadlock till half-time. The game opened up in the third quarter as India scored first in the 33rd minute through a nicely executed penalty corner variation. Navneet Kaur's strike was deflected perfectly to Salima by Nikki Pradhan, and the skipper slotted it into the goal to give India the lead. Japan promptly replied two minutes later, as Hiramitsu (35') converted from a penalty corner to score the equaliser. With all to play for in the

final quarter, India's Lalremsiami found the winning goal in the 49th minute. Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam played an incisive pass from the edge of the circle towards the goal and found Lalremsiami, who deflected the ball into the net to help India emerge victorious. The win took unbeaten India to the top of Pool A with six points from wins against the USA and Japan. India will next face Uruguay in their last Pool A match of the tournament on June 18 at 4:15 am IST, while Japan and the USA will face off for the second semi-final spot from Pool A.