

## Gangster Anmol Bishnoi arrested by NIA on deportation from US



**New Delhi, Nov 19:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested the brother and close aide of dreaded gangster Lawrence Bishnoi on his deportation from the US to India.

Absconding since 2022, US-based Anmol Bishnoi is the 19th accused to be arrested for his involvement in the terror-syndicate led by his jailed brother, Lawrence Bishnoi. Anmol was chargesheeted by the NIA in March 2023 after investigations in the case

established that he had actively aided designated individual terrorist Goldy Brar and Lawrence Bishnoi in the commission of various acts of terrorism in the country during the 2020-2023 period. Operating closely with various Bishnoi gang associates, Anmol continued to run terror syndicates and execute terrorist acts from the US for the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, using its operatives on the ground. Investigations revealed that Anmol Bishnoi had provided shelter and logistic support to the gang's shooters and ground operatives. He was also engaged in extortion in India from foreign soil with the help of other gangsters.

NIA continues to investigate the case RC 39/2022/NIA/DLI (terror-gangster conspiracy case led by Lawrence Bishnoi), as part of its efforts to destroy the nexus between terrorists, gangsters and arms smugglers, including their infrastructure and funding channels.

## SC India Takes part in high-level task force meetings for NE development

• Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia attended two High-Level Task Force (HLTF) meetings aimed at coordinated development in the North Eastern Region (NER).

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, participated in two High-Level Task Force (HLTF) meetings on Wednesday, as part of the government's strategy to drive coordinated, participatory and impactful development across the North Eastern Region (NER).

Earlier this year, the Ministry of DoNER constituted eight HLTFs each led by a Chief Minister of a North Eastern State, following the consensus of the 72nd NEC Plenary Session held in Agartala.

The meeting of HLTF on Sports, chaired by the Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, saw participation from Union Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Raksha Khadse; Sports Minister of Mizoram, Lalnghinglova Hmar; Sports Minister of Meghalaya, Shakliar Warjri; Secretary, Ministry of DoNER and senior officials from the Government of Assam and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The meeting reinforced the "One Sport, One State" approach, with each participating State selecting a core discipline for comprehensive, end-to-end development.

Building on this framework, Minister Scindia urged the participating States to prepare focused micro-proposals aligned with their



chosen disciplines—Mizoram (Football), Manipur (Boxing and Weightlifting), Tripura (Judo), Meghalaya (Archery), Nagaland (Archery and Taekwondo), and Sikkim (Taekwondo).

He underscored that these proposals must be developed jointly by State Sports Ministers and Secretaries, working closely with Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse and SAI DG to ensure alignment, ownership and sustainability.

The meeting of HLTF on Self-reliance in Milk, Eggs, Fish and Meat was chaired by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, and attended by Secretary, Ministry of DoNER and officials from Nagaland, the Department of Fisheries, and representatives from all eight North Eastern states.

The Task Force undertook a detailed demand-supply analysis for all eight states, creating the foundation for a truly composite frame-

work that goes beyond a unidimensional approach.

Discussions covered connectivity and logistics, infrastructure and value chains, human resources, breeding and productivity enhancement and avenues for expanding credit access and private investment. This integrated perspective is required for the region's food systems strategy.

The Minister emphasised, "Our aim is to build a connected, effi-

cient and resilient food ecosystem for the Northeast that strengthens livelihoods, expands market access and ensures better nutrition for every citizen."

To ensure rapid progress, the meeting resolved to begin interventions in two states for each product category — milk, eggs and poultry, meat and fisheries, to generate real-time learnings that can be scaled across the region, enabling sharper, evidence-driven expansion.

## Tripura's Organic Farming Model Shines on Global Platform at Dubai Expo

**Agartala, Nov 19:** Tripura's rapid progress in organic farming earned global recognition as Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath showcased the state's achievements at the Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo (MENOPE) 2025 in Dubai.

The three-day expo, hosted at the Dubai World Trade Centre, brought together global stakeholders in the organic sector. Tripura's participation stood out, drawing strong interest from international delegates who praised the state's premium organic products, including the GI-tagged Queen Pineapple, aromatic rice varieties Kalikhasa and Harinarayan, Bird's Eye Chilli, Gandharaj Lemon, White Sesame, and Foxtail Millet.

Minister Nath shared that Tripura now has over 26,400 hectares of certified organic farmland cultivated by 26,800 farmers, making it one of India's leading states in sustainable agriculture. He credited long-term policy support and a robust farmer network for the state's rising



success.

To strengthen global outreach, Tripura has formed 53 farmers' producer companies to assist growers with aggregation, processing, branding, and direct export. "Tripura's organic mission has evolved into a catalyst for rural transformation and international market expansion," Nath said. Among the products showcased, the nat-

urally sweet Queen Pineapple—with a Brix value of 16 to 20—and antioxidant-rich black rice were major attractions for global buyers. Tripura's organic ginger, turmeric, and foxtail millet also saw notable interest from buyers in Europe, the Middle East, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Highlighting new export opportunities, the minister promoted agar-

wood, agar oil, and bamboo shoots as emerging non-traditional export commodities that are gaining global demand. Nath invited investors and buyers to participate in the Organic Buyer-Seller Meet scheduled in Tripura in January 2026, encouraging them to explore partnerships and investment prospects in the state's expanding organic sector.

## Jobs up for grabs across various GOVT depts, says Tripura Minister

**Agartala, Nov 19:** Tripura Cabinet Minister Sushanta Choudhury on Wednesday informed that there are several job vacancies across various government departments for eligible youths in the state. Addressing a press conference in Agartala this evening, Choudhury said that more than 400 jobs are up for grabs for the youth in different departments such as social welfare, urban development, cooperative and information and cultural affairs. He further said that the BJP-led government led by Chief Minister Manik Saha has been working tirelessly to fulfill the aspirations of the people. Notably, chairing a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday night, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha laid special emphasis on providing jobs to several unemployed youths of the state.

The chief minister had also emphasised provision of pension benefits to the journalists who have been actively working in the field for continuous 25 years and upgrading the Tripura Institute of Technology into a University. Minister Choudhury further informed that the state government has provided 19,000 jobs to the youth of the state in recent past. "Apart from providing jobs, the Tripura Institute of Technology has been upgraded to Tripura Government Technical University. Likewise, the Women's college in Agartala will be upgraded to Tripura Government Women's College," he said. "In addition to this, 119 anganwadi centres will get 119 anganwadi workers and equal number of anganwadi helpers," he added.

## RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses Youth Leadership Conclave in Guwahati



**Guwahati, Nov 19:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghalak Mohan Bhagwat has appealed to the youth of Assam and northeast India not to create any opinion about the RSS on the basis of pre-conceived notions or motivated propaganda. Bhagwat, while addressing a Youth Leadership Conclave in Guwahati on Wednesday, also urged the youth to observe and understand the RSS closely. Making several important remarks over the principles, ideals, and functioning of the RSS, Bhagwat also highlighted various debates and discussions surrounding the organi-

zation in front of over hundred young representatives from different fields. Beginning his address, the Sarsanghalak, who is on a two-day visit to Assam, commented that the RSS has now become a subject of public discussions. "But those discussions should be based on factual information," he asserted. Talking about various sources of information, Bhagwat admitted that in different international platforms and some other digital sources which deliver information, over 50% of the information related to the RSS is either incorrect or incomplete. "There is also a deliberate misinfor-

mation campaign against the RSS in different media outlets," he stated. Urging the youth to study the history of developed nations, he highlighted that the first hundred years of their growth were focused on building unity and qualitative strength within their societies. Calling upon the youth to engage with the RSS activities according to their time, interest, space and abilities, the Sarsanghalak explained that the Sangh is an integral part of the society. Bhagwat also mentioned that the foundation of the RSS in the far eastern region is gradually becoming stronger.

## Bandh affects normal life in valley districts of Manipur

**Imphal, Nov 19:** A 24-hour bandh called by militant outfit Kangleipak Communist Party-Military Council (Progressive) to protest against the state government's decision to hold the Sangai Festival from November 21 to 30 in Imphal hit normal life in the valley districts of Manipur today. The festival, halted after ethnic violence erupted in 2023, is set to return this year after a two-year gap. According to the outfit, this was not the right time to organise such an event when people are still bearing the brunt of the ethnic violence. However, the government said the tourism festival is also important for economic acceleration in the state. Several markets, business establishments and education-

al institutes remained closed, and a few vehicles were seen plying on the roads in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts, officials said. Government offices also recorded low attendance, they said. However, no bandh-related untoward incident has been reported so far. Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel had appealed to people to participate in the festival. "While the relief and rehabilitation of IDPs (internally displaced persons) is the top priority for the state government, holding of Sangai festival is also important for economic acceleration and providing market linkages to local artisans, entrepreneurs, craftsmen and farmers, boosting trade and investment," Goel said. (EOM)

## Odisha Police Crack Down on Suspected Infiltrators

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** According to a senior officer, the Odisha Police launched coordinated searches in five districts as part of a stepped-up effort to combat infiltration. The operation began on Tuesday after police in the Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha destroyed a home that was allegedly used as a sanctuary for suspected Bangladeshi nationals. The protest coincided with the Vishva Hindu Parishad’s (VHP) 12-hour bandh in Keonjhar, which disrupted daily life and demanded that suspected infiltrators be immediately evicted. According to Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, the Odisha government has started identifying people from Bangladesh who are illegally residing in Odisha in accordance with orders from the Union government. “We will take legal action and evict all those found staying illegally,” he asserted. The police conducted the raids in Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Puri districts throughout Tuesday, officials said. In Bhadrak, 17 people were detained, while Jagatsinghpur district police arrested four persons and questioned several others after recovering weapons, including a pistol, from the house demolished on Monday, they said. In Jagatsinghpur’s Tirtol police station area, around 20 people living in rented accommodations in the Rahama locality were interrogated about their identities, the nature of their business, and their duration of stay in Odisha, according to one of those detained. Puri SP Prateek Singh said all police stations have been instructed to maintain heightened vigilance, after reports suggested that some suspects may have fled during the Jagatsinghpur raid. “We have asked all police stations in Puri district to identify persons suspected to be Bangladeshi infiltrators. However, till Tuesday evening, none have been identified,” Singh said. The VHP-led bandh in Keonjhar saw shutdown of shops, markets, schools, colleges, and vehicular movement, though the day passed without any major law-and-order incidents, police said. The bandh’s impact extended beyond Keonjhar town to Champua, Joda, Barbil, Patana, Ghasipura and Anandapur, with picketing at multiple locations leaving vehicles stranded along stretches of National Highway-20, the officer said.

IGP (Western Range) Brijesh Rai, who visited Keonjhar, described the bandh as peaceful and said the police remained alert to concerns over alleged infiltration.

## SC Sets April 30 Deadline for Bar Council Polls

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that only attorneys who have applied for verification of their law degrees will be eligible to vote in the nation’s long-delayed state bar council elections. The court also mandated that all councils complete the polls in five phases by April 30. A bench led by Chief Justice of India-designate Justice Surya Kant made a major intervention to address electoral delays and ongoing concerns about phony degrees. The bench placed the entire process under the supervision of powerful committees led by retired judges, with a national appellate panel whose rulings cannot be contested before any high court. Bihar’s process has concluded and counting in Chhattisgarh,

already underway, must be completed within a month, the Court noted. Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur, where elections are not due, remain outside this schedule. To expedite verification, all law universities and departments have been directed to depute special teams headed by senior faculty to authenticate degrees forwarded by state bar councils, and may charge fees as per rules. The Court also laid down fixed timelines for each stage of the electoral process to prevent further drift. Counting will take place under the supervision of the high-powered committees. Where any step has already been completed, the supervisory bodies may dispense with requirements to avoid duplication.

## Maharashtra Opposition’s Message on Uddhav-Raj Thackeray Reunion

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** According to an official on Tuesday, the Delhi Police have filed complaints against 250 individuals in the North district as part of a massive verification campaign that was launched in the wake of the November 10 explosion close to the Red Fort. The majority of these individuals were accused of failing to complete the required police verification procedure. After a white-collar terror module spanning Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh was busted, a suicide bomber set off an explosion that

killed fifteen people and injured several others. Most FIRs pertain to people living in north Delhi who did not complete the mandatory police verification process, the officer said. A significant number of lodges and small guest houses have also been booked for failing to follow the verification norms, he added. Police said the step was necessary since the blast was triggered in a high-footfall area, prompting the authorities to tighten checks. “Multi-agency search and verification drives were launched on a war-footing

*On Tuesday, the Delhi Police filed complaints against 250 individuals in the North district due to a verification campaign following a November 10 explosion near the Red Fort that killed fifteen and injured many.*

(after the blast). Police teams have visited more than 2,500 houses, checked ID proofs of the occupants, and questioned several people. The process will continue,” the DCP said.

## Supreme Court to Review Kerala’s Appeal to Defer SIR on Nov 21

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** The Supreme Court is set to hear on November 21 the Kerala government’s case seeking postponement of the special intense revision (SIR) of the state’s electoral records. The matter was listed on Tuesday before Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai, who indicated that the case would be taken up on Friday. The state has sought the court seeking a directive to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to defer the SIR, slated from November 4 to December 4, citing that the “cumbersome” revision process overlaps directly with the approaching local body elections in Kerala. Such simultaneous exercises, it said, would stress administrative capacity to breaking point and risk generating a “administrative impasse.” Kerala said un-



dertaking both processes at once would be a “near-impossibility,” highlighting the scale of manpower required. “The SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties and further 68,000 police and other security personnel. The SIR is also a comprehensive process with cumbersome procedure, requiring the services of additional personnel numbering

## Terror Suspect Ahmed Jilani Attacked by Fellow Inmates in Gujarat Jail

### Ricin terror accused

**Ahmedabad, Nov 19:** A terror accused, Ahmed Mohiuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani, imprisoned in Sabarmati Jail, was allegedly assaulted by fellow inmates on Tuesday morning, triggering a probe into the incident, a police officer said.

According to Police Inspector K Y Vyas, the event included one of the accused in the ATS case, registration no. 10/2025, which involves three individuals: Ahmed Mohiuddin Abdul Qadir Jilani, Azad, and Mohammed Salim. All three have been transferred to Sabarmati Central Jail after their arrest.

Inspector Vyas reported that on Tuesday morning, Jilani was attacked by another convict, resulting in a damage to his eye. Jail authorities offered prompt medical care before transporting him to the Civil Hospital for further treatment. “On the morning of 18 November, Jilani was attacked by a fellow inmate, resulting in injury to his eye. He was given medical attention and subsequently sent to Civil Hospital... The primary investigation revealed that Anil Kumar, Shivam Sharma, and one more individual were involved in the attack. Further investigation is ongoing,” Vyas said. Meanwhile, before the Delhi Blast, which occurred near



the Red Fort, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on November 9 arrested three suspects, namely Ahmed Mohiuddin Syed, Mohd Suhel and Azad, in connection with the conspiracy to plan terrorist attacks across the country, officials said. According to the ATS, two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges, and 4 litres of castor oil were recovered from their possession.

“Gujarat ATS arrested Dr Ahmed Mohiuddin Syed, Mohd Suhel, and Azad from near Adalaj Toll Plaza. Two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges, and 4 litres of castor oil were recovered from them. All three were arrested while supplying weapons. They were planning to

● *Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, founder of Al Falah University, was placed under 13 days of Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by a Delhi court due to allegations of generating over ₹415 crore through fraudulent means and posing a flight risk.*

carry out terrorist attacks in various parts of the country,” Gujarat ATS said in their statement. The three arrested men, including a doctor, were attempting to produce a lethal chemical compound called Ricin. Dr. YK Gupta, the former Chief of the AIIMS National Poison Information Centre, warned that Ricin is extremely toxic and even a small amount, as little as 1 milligram, can be dangerous.

## Al Falah University Under Lens for Faculty’s Delhi Blast Link

**Faridabad, Nov 19:** A major explosives haul in Faridabad followed by a bomb near Delhi’s landmark Red Fort that claimed over 10 lives are among the key events of last week which has thrown Haryana-based Al Falah university into the spotlight.

Dr Muzammil Shakil, the Kashmir-based doctor from whose leased house in Faridabad’s Dauj hamlet the explosives were seized, taught at Al Falah. Dr Umar Un Nabi, the alleged suicide bomber behind the wheels of the explosives-laden car near Red Fort has also been linked to the institution, along with several others who have been arrested in connection with last week’s Delhi incident. The probe agencies earlier summoned university’s chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui as investigators found that his statement was crucial for clarifying several inconsistencies linked to the functioning of the university and the activities of individuals associated with the institution. The university is now facing allegations of fraudulent and misleading

claims of National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation with an intention to deceive students, parents, and stakeholders for wrongful gains. On Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate arrested Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman of Al Falah group, in a money laundering case. Al Falah is under investigation for financial irregularities and connections to suspects in a Delhi car blast. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recorded an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) concerning the Al Falah Group. Siddiqui was arrested following evidence gathered during a search at Al Falah premises. The investigation stemmed from two FIRs filed by the Delhi Police’s Crime Branch, alleging fraudulent claims of NAAC accreditation by the university. The ED claims substantial proceeds of crime have been generated, with evidence pointing to significant funds being diverted to family-owned entities.

### Murder

## Murder of Truck Driver Reported; Truck Found Deserted in Dumka

**Giridih, Nov 19:** Police have located the missing iron rod-loaded vehicle from near Saraiyahat in Jharkhand’s Dumka district, an officer said. The body of the truck driver had been retrieved earlier from Giridih district on November 16, officials added. “It was only after the vehicle was discovered at Dumka that we could receive the clue about the identity of the truck driver, identified as Dhiraj Kumar, a native of Khagaria area in Bihar. We are researching the situation, and the thieves might have murdered the driver to steal the iron

rod-laden truck, but had to ditch the truck near Dumka after fearing getting caught by police,” said Yadav. The police officer said the truck owner, Ranjit Roy, a native of West Bardhaman district of West Bengal, had told them that the truck was loaded at Raniganj on November 15 and was going to Banaras in Uttar Pradesh when the incident happened. The truck owner further claimed that they lost contact with the driver on November 16 as his mobile was found switched off. “The truck owner got in touch with us. We have seized the truck and got in

touch with Bagodar Police, who informed us about the recovery of the driver’s body. A case has been registered at Bagodar Police Station, and we will hand over the truck to Bagodar Police,” said Das. Police sources said that the criminals had planned to take the truck to Bihar after murdering the driver in Bagodar. However, they had to abandon the truck near Bhalua Mode on Monday late at night, fearing being caught by police after seeing the police inspection at the spot following the death of two persons in a road accident at the same spot.

## Founder of Al Falah University Accused of Massive ₹415-Crore Student Scam

● *Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, founder of Al Falah University, was placed under 13 days of Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by a Delhi court due to allegations of generating over ₹415 crore through fraudulent means and posing a flight risk.*

**Agency:** Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, the founder and chairperson of Al Falah University, was placed under 13 days of Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by a Delhi court on Wednesday. The agency said that Siddiqui generated over ₹415 crore in “dishonestly” obtained cash and posed a flight risk because of family ties in Gulf countries. After a day of searches at locations connected to the Faridabad-based Al Falah group, which has come under investigation in the investigation into the November 10 Red Fort area blast that killed 15 people and injured numerous more, Siddiqui was taken into custody late on Tuesday night. Around one in the morn-

ing, he was brought before Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan at her home, where the ED requested a 14-day remand. Thirteen days, until December 1, were given by the court. In its remand application, the ED told the court that Siddiqui had “significant financial resources and influence”, and that his family’s presence in the Gulf gave him clear “incentives to flee India”. The agency said Siddiqui and the Al Falah charitable trust—under his direction—generated ₹415.10 crore as proceeds of crime by misleading students and parents with false claims of NAAC accreditation and UGC recognition. “The accused has a history of serious economic offences... Given the gravity of the present allegations and the potential consequences under PMLA, there is reasonable apprehension that if not arrested he may abscond, relocate assets, or obstruct the investigation,” the agency submitted. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has acknowledged



two FIRs against Al Falah University by the Delhi Police Crime Branch, alleging the university faked accreditation to attract students. The ED accused the institution of forging NAAC and UGC credentials, leading to the enrollment of students and collection of over ₹400 crore in fees through deceit. Funds were allegedly diverted for personal interests by Siddiqui, who controlled admissions and financial systems, complicating the tracing of funds. Investigations into benami deposits and off-balance-sheet assets are ongoing, with claims that only a small portion of the proceeds of crime has been identified. Siddiqui’s defense claims wrongful implication, but the court has upheld his custodial remand due to the severity of the charges.

### Portfolio Buzz Grows in Bihar Ahead of CM Oath

**Patna, Nov 19:** While allies Janata Dal (United) and Bharatiya Janata Party negotiated for important portfolios and the position of speaker ahead of their respective legislature party meetings, Nitish Kumar on Tuesday assessed the state of preparations for the oath-taking ceremony set for Thursday at 11 a.m. at Patna’s historic Gandhi Maidan. The ceremony, which will mark Kumar’s fifth consecutive term, is anticipated to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, a number of central ministers, and chief ministers of states ruled by the National Democratic Alliance. The NDA stormed to power in Bihar in the recently concluded assembly polls, winning 202 seats in the 243-member assembly, with the BJP bagging 89, the JD(U) 85, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) 19, the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) five and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha four. The maximum number of cabinet berths is constitutionally capped at 15% of an assembly’s strength. Bihar, which has 243 assembly seats, can have up to 36 ministers, including the chief minister.

## PM-Kisan Scheme: Modi to Unveil Next Round of Payments

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the next phase of PM Kisan, a cash-transfer scheme for farmers, on November 19 in Coimbatore,

Tamil Nadu, giving almost ₹18,000 crore to 90 million qualified growers. According to an official statement, Modi will start the South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 in Coimbatore after traveling for a day to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

From there, he will digitally transfer the funds. Modi is slated to first arrive in Andhra Pradesh, where he will visit and take part in the centenary celebrations at the shrine of spiritual guru Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Puttaparthi. In

Coimbatore, the PM will address over 50,000 farmers at a conclave to accelerate a push towards sustainable and natural farming practices. The event is being organized by the Tamil Nadu Natural Farming Stakeholders’ Forum.

# International Drug Syndicate With Pakistan Link Busted; Cocaine Worth ₹8 Crore Seized

**Agartala, Nov 19:** In a major breakthrough against transnational narcotics trafficking, security forces in Tripura have dismantled an international drug syndicate with links to Pakistan. The operation — jointly conducted by the Assam Rifles and the Customs Department — led to the seizure of 800 grams of high-purity cocaine worth nearly ₹8 crore and the arrest of two Indian nationals, officials said on Tuesday.

Pakistan-Based Network Smuggling Drugs Via Punjab

A Customs Department official revealed that the syndicate had been smuggling cocaine from Pakistan into India through the Punjab border. The high-grade contraband was then transported via surface routes to Tripura and

other Northeastern states, from where it was further trafficked into Bangladesh and South-east Asian countries through Mizoram. Acting on specific intelligence, the Agartala Customs Division launched a coordinated operation on November 17. Two individuals were intercepted in Agartala while carrying 800 grams of cocaine. The Assam Ri-

fles provided surveillance support and secured the operation area. Preliminary investigations suggest the involvement of Pakistani nationals, along with Indian operatives from multiple states who facilitated the trafficking chain.

A Defence spokesperson confirmed that this seizure marks one of the largest cocaine recoveries in the Northeast in recent months.

Authorities underscored that the operation reflects the sustained efforts of the Assam Rifles and Customs Department to combat international drug syndicates exploiting the region's porous borders. An official statement said the forces remain committed to protecting youth from drug-related hazards and ensuring the safety and stability of the region.

# Mizoram raises employee DA to 44%

**Aizawl, Nov 19:** The Mizoram government has approved a 4% increase in the dearness allowance (DA) for its employees, moving it from 40% to 44% of their basic pay effective November 1. This decision was made during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Lalduhoma. Furthermore, a subsequent 2% increase is set to occur on April 1 next year, raising the DA to 46%. The last DA adjustment took place in October 2023 when it was raised from 36% to 40%. Additionally, the Council of Ministers sanctioned a special incentive allowance for police personnel and staff in the assistant sub-inspector rank and below who are working under the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on deputation.

## A key tool for increasing tourism is the Sangai Festival

**Imphal, Nov 19:** Manipur's Tourism Director Lourebam Bikram highlighted the Sangai Festival as a key platform to utilize the state's tourism potential during a workshop on "Tourism Potential in Manipur." Emphasizing substantial untapped opportunities, he referenced a survey revealing 135 identified tourist destinations in the state. The Sangai Festival 2025, scheduled for November 21-30, will celebrate local cultural heritage and community traditions. Addressing concerns from civil society and internally displaced persons (IDPs), Bikram assured that the festival aims for economic recovery and will include participation from indigenous communities. Special arrangements for IDPs include free stalls and entry. He also stressed the importance of a supportive tourism environment, supported by good hospitality and community involvement. The workshop included representatives from various media organizations, discussing Manipur's potential as a noteworthy tourism destination.



## India-Germany High Defence Committee meeting held in New Delhi

**New Delhi, Nov 19:** Defence Secretary & State Secretary, German Ministry of Defence emphasise on the need for a closer defence partnership and industry collaboration. Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh co-chaired the India-Germany High Defence Committee meeting with the State Secretary, German Ministry of Defence Mr Jens Plötnr in New Delhi on November 18, 2025. They discussed a range of bilateral security and defence issues including priority areas for co-development & co-production of defence equipment. The co-chairs reaffirmed commitment to enhance military-to-military cooperation with a focus on developing defence ties as a key pillar of the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany. They also exchanged views on the regional security situa-



tion and discussed intensifying bilateral exchanges including institution of military exercises. Germany will be participating in TARANG SHAKTI (multinational air combat exercise) and

MILAN (multinational naval exercise) which is planned in 2026. India is the 'First Responder' and 'Net Security Provider' for countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The Defence Secretary in-

formed the visiting German delegation that India's approach to the region is guided by its vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement of Security and Growth Across Regions).

India has been working closely with countries in the IOR on a range of areas from development partnership, defence and maritime security, capacity building and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. The German side acknowledged India's role in the Indian Ocean Region. The two sides emphasised on the need for a closer defence partnership and connecting the industries of both nations, especially in the field of niche technology. India and Germany have a long-standing relationship, which is underpinned by common values and shared goals. Both countries are celebrating 25 years of 'Strategic Partnership' this year. The importance of strengthening defence and security aspects of the relationship has increased manifold which reflects the mutual trust that has been nurtured across decades.

## Tripura Cabinet Approves Creation of 400+ Posts, Upgrades Two Key Institutes to Universities

**Agartala, Nov 19:** The Tripura government has approved the creation and filling of over 400 posts across major departments, while also clearing proposals to upgrade two leading educational institutions into full-fledged universities. Cabinet spokesperson Sushanta Chowdhury announced the decisions on Wednesday following a cabinet meeting. According to Chowdhury, the Cooperative Department has received approval to fill 97 vacant Group-C posts — including auditor (operation), investigator (operator), and statistical investigator — through the Joint Recruitment Board of Tripura (JRBT). The cabinet has also cleared the direct recruitment of 28 supervisors under the Integrated Child Develop-

ment Services (ICDS) through the Social Welfare and Social Education Department and the Tripura Public Service Commission (TPSC). In addition, the Urban Development Department has been permitted to create 14 new technical positions spanning civil, mechanical, public health and electrical engineering. Under the ICA Department, eight faculty members and support staff will be hired on a contractual basis for the Tripura Film and Television Institute. The Directorate of Secondary Education has received approval to recruit 22 night guards under fixed-pay Group-D posts. In a major boost to higher education, Chowdhury announced that the Tripura Institute of Technology (TIT) will be upgraded to a Technical Uni-

versity, enabling all technical institutions in the state to function under a unified administrative and academic framework.

The Government Women's College will also be elevated to Tripura Government Women's University to expand access to higher education for women. The cabinet has further sanctioned the opening of 119 new Anganwadi centres. Correspondingly, 119 Anganwadi worker posts and 119 Anganwadi helper posts will be created and filled to support the expansion. Chowdhury added that amendments to the Tripura Journalist Pension Scheme have also been approved to simplify the application process and bring more working journalists under its coverage.

## RSS head Mohan Bhagwat will visit Manipur for first time after 2023 ethnic violence

**Imphal, Nov 19:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is scheduled to visit Manipur on November 20, marking his first trip to the state since the onset of ethnic violence in May 2023. As confirmed by RSS state general secretary Tarunkumar Sharma, Bhagwat's visit will span three days and coincides with the centenary celebrations of the organiza-



tion. During his visit, the RSS chief is scheduled to engage in multiple interactions with a variety of groups, including citizens, entrepreneurs, youth leaders, and members of the Janajati (tribal) community. Upon his arrival, he will participate in an event at Konjeng Leikai in Imphal, where he will meet with entrepreneurs and notable figures. Additionally, on November 21, he is set to hold a distinct session specifically with tribal leaders from the hill districts. RSS functionaries have clarified that upcoming visits to relief camps, which have

been home to thousands displaced by the ongoing violence for two years, are not included in the current schedule.

The purpose of the trip is mainly for internal organizational matters. Since 2023, Manipur has experienced intense ethnic conflicts between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, leading to over 260 fatalities and extensive displacement of individuals. Furthermore, the state is currently under President's Rule, with the legislative assembly in a state of suspended animation following the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

## November will see the depiction of new electricity tariff prices

**Agartala, Nov 19:** The Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission (TERC) has announced that the power tariff for the financial year 2025-26 will not see significant changes in electricity bills for various consumer categories. This update was confirmed by a senior official from the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) on November 19. The revised tariff impacts approximately 10.50 lakh consumers and has taken effect starting November 1. In a recent announcement, the average cost of power supply for the fiscal year 2025-26 has been approved at ₹7.61 per kW, showing a small increase from the previous year's rate of ₹7.56 per kW. For single-phase domestic consumers, the fixed charge has been unified to ₹16 per kW per month, replaced from the varying slabs of ₹25 and ₹75. For commercial consumers, the fixed charge will be set at ₹18 per kW per month.

To bolster industrial and social development, the new tariff structure includes a 10% rebate on energy charges specifically for IT industries, as well as for women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and mobile towers located in remote regions. The TERC has also revised the criteria for the Kutir Jyoti category, increasing the maximum connected load limit to 0.5 kW (500 watts) and doubling the maximum permissible monthly consumption from 15 kWh to 30 kWh. However, any consumer who exceeds the 30 kWh threshold for three successive months will be automatically transitioned to the regular domestic category. Moreover, the Commission has laid out significant directives aimed at improving the efficiency of the power sector. These directives include the continued rollout of smart meters to enhance billing accuracy and energy efficiency. Furthermore, TSECL has been tasked with submitting a proposal for a green tariff in its upcoming tariff petition, granting consumers the option to utilize green energy at a premium price.

## Jakir Hussain Laskar, an expelled AIUDF MLA, suggests joining the BJP



**Silchar, Nov 19:** Jakir Hussain Laskar, currently the MLA from Hailakandi, is poised to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following his expulsion from the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) due to his interactions with the BJP during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Laskar has expressed his willingness to join the BJP if Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma accepts him into the party, mentioning that he would finalize his decision during the CM's visit to Hailakandi on November 30. Amidst these developments, he was observed at the BJP office alongside Minister Krishnendu Paul, although district BJP President Kalyan Goswami stated that he was unaware of Laskar's potential affiliation with the party.

Laskar is reportedly eye-

## CCTOA moves national commission over protection of ST rights in Assam

**Guwahati, Nov 19:** The Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam (CCTOA), an umbrella organisation of Scheduled Tribes (Plains), on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, demanding protection of the rights and interests of the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community of Assam. A delegation of CCTOA, represented by the All-Assam Tribal Sangha, All Bodo Students Union, All Rabha Students Union and Takam Mising Porin Kebang, submitted the memorandum to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes chairman Antar Singh Arya. "In any event of taking any policy decision concerning, directly or indirectly, the rights and interests of the Scheduled Tribe people of Assam, the CCTOA must be taken into confidence and be given an opportunity of being heard," the CCTOA stated in the memorandum. "The list of Scheduled Tribe (plains) relating to the plains of Assam should be frozen for good. However, the government should take initiative to resolve the problems of the six communities (Koch-Rajbangshi, Tai-Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motok, Tea Tribes) and provide



protection and privilege to all ethnic groups of Assam in any other manner which will in no way hamper the rights and interests of the plains tribal people of Assam," the committee stated. It further stated that the quota of reservation for the ST (Plains) should be enhanced based on the latest census data as five more tribes have already been added to the category after 2001 census. "Communities enlisted as OBC in Assam namely - Tai Ahom, Moran,, Motok, Chutia and Tea-tribes - have also raised

demand for inclusion into the list of Scheduled Tribe (plains) of Assam that amounts to more than half of the population of Assam demanding ST status," the committee stated. It expressed concern that in the event of granting ST status to almost all the OBC communities, the genuine Scheduled Tribe population would be overwhelmed and thoroughly deprived from all kinds of protection and special provisions given by the Indian Constitution," the CCTOA stated in the memorandum. "The fact remains that the

Koch-Rajbangshi, the Tai Ahom and the Tea Tribes are very large communities, each claiming to have 50 lakh plus population and the Koch-Rajbangshi is and the Tai Ahoms are very advanced community having considerable political and economic clout over the state," it stated. The CCTOA further pointed out that earlier the ST (Plains) category of people was enumerated at 9.8 percent of the total population of Assam and were provided a quota of 10 percent reservation in all spheres - education, employment etc.

"But subsequently, five more communities, although small, were added to the ST (plains) list without simultaneous increase in the quota of reservation based on increase in ST (plains) population on the ground that total quota of reservation should not exceed 50 percent as per the Supreme Court directive. The 50 percent benchmark has been already saturated in Assam with 10 percent for ST (plains), 5 percent for ST (hills), 7.5 percent for SC and 27 percent for OBCs," the Committee stated in the memorandum.

BUSINESS

# Nifty falls below 26,000 as profit-taking is prompted by global weakness

## The Sensex drops 278 points



**New Delhi:** Snapping the six-day winning streak, benchmark Sensex dropped by nearly 278 points and the Nifty closed below the 26,000-mark due to profit-taking in IT, metal and capital goods shares amid a weak trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 277.93 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 84,673.02. During the day, it dropped 392.59 points or 0.46 per cent to 84,558.36. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 103.40 points or 0.40 per cent to 25,910.05. Among Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Eternal, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever and Bharat Electronics were the major laggards. However, Bharti Airtel,

Axis Bank, Asian Paints and Titan were among the gainers. “The domestic equity market edged lower as investors booked profits after the recent rebound, mirroring weak global sentiment. Expectations of a US Fed rate cut in December have diminished, weighing on sentiment, with IT, metal, and realty stocks declining amid a stronger dollar,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 0.85 per cent and midcap index declined 0.70 per cent. Among sectoral indices, realty tanked 1.98 per cent, followed by BSE Focused IT (1.16 per cent), IT (1.15 per cent), metal (1.07 per cent), commodities (0.95 per cent) and industrials (0.93

per cent). Consumer Durables index emerged as the only gainer. A total of 2,740 stocks declined while 1,463 advanced and 138 remained unchanged on the BSE. In Asian markets, South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index, and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index settled sharply lower. “A sharp sell-off in global equities, driven by concerns over stretched valuations in the technology sector, sparked broad-based profit booking on the domestic bourses as well. However, Indian markets managed to limit their losses, especially when compared with over 3 per cent declines witnessed in Japan’s Nikkei and South Korea’s Kospi. “The relatively re-

silient performance highlights the strong buying support from domestic institutional investors at lower levels, which helped cushion the downside,” Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. European markets were trading in the red. US markets ended in negative territory on Monday. You will hear good news” on the proposed trade pact between India and the US once the deal is fair, equitable and balanced. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 442.17 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought stocks worth Rs 1,465.86 crore in the previous trade.

# Paras Defence bags Defence Ministry order for optronic

**New Delhi:** Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd on Monday received an order from the Ministry of Defence to supply two optronic periscopes for submarine applications, valued at around Rs 71.68 crore, including GST. The contract is slated for execution between August and September 2026. Despite the order win, the stock slipped 1.55 per cent to hit a day low of Rs 754. In terms of earnings, the private defence and space engineering firm posted a 50 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit at Rs 21 crore, compared with Rs 14 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Revenue for the quarter came in at Rs 106 crore, marking a 21.8 per cent YoY increase, driven by steady execution across its optics, defence electronics and space engineering segments. Operational performance also strengthened during the quarter. EBITDA rose 32 per cent YoY to Rs 30 crore, against Rs 22.7 crore a year earlier, signalling improved operating leverage and efficient cost management. The EBITDA margin expanded to 28.3 per cent from 26.1 per cent in the same period last year, highlighting better profitability across divisions. On the technical front, the stock traded above its 5-, 10-, 20-, 30-, 50-, 100-, 150-day and 200-day simple moving averages (SMAs). The counter’s 14-day relative strength index (RSI) stood at 64.39. A level below 30 is defined as oversold while a value above 70 is considered overbought.

According to BSE data, Paras Defence commanded a standalone/consolidated P/E ratio of 85.38/68.13, with a P/B value of 12.73. Its EPS stood at 8.85/11.07, while the company reported a return on equity (RoE) of 14.92 per cent. Trendlyne



data showed a one-year beta of 1.2, indicating higher volatility. Paras Defence operates in five key verticals: defence and space optics, defence electronics, heavy engineering, electromagnetic pulse protection solutions and niche technologies. promoter shareholding stood at 53.20 per cent, marking a 0.54 per cent decline from the previous quarter.

## Avanti jumps 10% on huge volumes, Apex sets 52-week high

**New Delhi:** Avanti Feeds and Apex Frozen Foods share prices today were in demand, jumping by up to 10 per cent on the BSE intra-day trade on the assumption of improvement in business outlook. Among the individual equities, Avanti Feeds shares jumped 10 per cent to ₹841.50, its highest level since June 2025, on the BSE in intra-day trade. The average trading volumes on the counter surged almost ninefold, with a combined 5.14 million equity shares representing 3.8 per cent of total equity of Avanti Feeds have changed hands on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE. In the past seven trading days, the stock has risen 21 per cent. According to the Business Standard article, the first phase of the trade pact between India and the US is “more or less near closure”, and it would address the reciprocal tax imposed by Washington on many Indian items. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said positive news on the planned trade pact between India and the United States (US) can be heard once the accord is fair, equitable, and balanced. Effective August 27, 2025, the United States slapped a 50 per cent reciprocal duty on shrimp imports from India (comprising a 25 per cent base levy plus a 25 per cent penalty). This is in addition to the existing antidumping duty of 2.49 per cent and countervailing duty of 5.77 per cent, boosting the effective duty burden on Indian shrimp exports to 58.26 per cent. The USA remains India’s most significant export destination for Shrimp, accounting for 48 per cent of export value and 40 per cent of export volumes in calendar year 2024. Due to growing health consciousness and its promotion as a healthier substitute for red meat, seafood consumption is still rising globally. The demand for shrimp and a variety of seafood options is being further fueled by changing dietary tastes and rising spending power, particularly among the expanding middle class.



## After GQG Partners increases its position through block deals, attention is focused on Adani Power, Adani Green, and other Adani Group equities



**New Delhi:** Following a block deal by Rajiv Jain-led GQG Partners to enhance its share in the five Adani Group firms, Adani Power, Adani Green Energy, Adani Ports, and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), among other Adani Group stocks, saw uneven trading on Wednesday. According to NSE block trade data on November 18, GQG Partners has expanded its ownership in Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Adani Power, Adani

Green Energy, and Adani Energy Solutions. In three block agreements, GQG Partners purchased 53.42 lakh shares of Adani Enterprises at a price of ₹2,462 each. A total of ₹1,315.20 crore was exchanged. Conversely, an equivalent quantity of Adani Enterprises shares were sold by Reliance Institutional Retirement Trust Series Eleven. At ₹1,507.6 per share, the investment firm supported by Rajiv Jain purchased 73.17 lakh equity shares of Adani Ports & SEZ in two install-

ments. The deal was worth 1,103.14 crore in total. Reliance Trust was the vendor. For a total of ₹842.53 crore, GQG Partners purchased 77.39 lakh shares of Adani Green Energy at a price of ₹1,088.6 per. Additionally, it paid ₹1,281.57 crore for 83.61 lakh Adani Power shares at ₹153.28 each, according to block deal data on the NSE. In two transactions, approximately 53.94 lakh shares of Adani Energy Solutions, valued at ₹551.08 crore, were also acquired at a price of

₹1,021.55 per share. At the end of the September quarter, GQG Partners held 2.46% stake in Adani Green Energy, 2.42% stake in Adani Ports, 1.86% stake in Adani Energy Solutions, 1.75% shareholding in Adani Enterprises, and 1.54% stake in Adani Power. GQG Partners had earlier invested in Adani Group stocks after the release of the Hindenburg report in January 2023. The allegations in the report had led to a sharp crash in the shares of billionaire Gautam Adani-led companies, wiping out Adani Group’s total market capitalization by nearly \$150 billion. With a “Buy” rating and a target price of ₹1,195 per share, IDBI Capital has started covering Adani Energy Solutions shares. Adani Energy Solutions, according to the brokerage firm, is well-positioned in the smart-metering industry and pursuing expansion through the energy solutions business. IDBI Capital anticipates an EBITDA CAGR of 33% over FY23-27E due to a robust order book in the smart meters division and work-in-hand in the transmission divisions. It thinks the Adani group company has a promising future for EBITDA. “We are bullish on Adani Energy Solutions’ strong execution and industry tailwinds. Future strong cash flows are anticipated as a result. According to IDBI Capital, Adani Energy Solutions maintains a BBB-credit rating and has effective capital management.

# The demerger of HUL’s ice cream business

**New Delhi:** Following the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) giant’s announcement that December 5, 2025, will be the record date for the demerger of its ice cream division, Kwaliti Wall’s (KWIL), Hindustan Unilever (HUL) shares were rising on Wednesday. HUL’s share price was up 1.69 percent at ₹2,444.3 per share on the BSE at 12:38 PM. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was up 0.44 percent at 85,048.04. According to Nuvama Institutional Equities, HUL’s ice cream company will probably be valued at a lower multiple than the main franchise due to its smaller scale and lower profitability. The ice cream division is thought to be responsible for between 50 and 55 percent of HUL’s current share price, or about ₹2,400. At the moment, HUL is trading at roughly nine times its enterprise value to sales (EV/sales). Analysts peg Kwaliti Wall’s (India) market capitalisation in the range of ₹1,200 crore–₹1,500 crore. Nuvama has maintained a ‘Buy’ rating on HUL with a target price of ₹3,195 per share. Nuvama claims that the demerger will give current HUL shareholders direct ownership in a pure-play ice cream company with a portfolio of well-known brands like Magnum, Cornetto, and Kwaliti Wall’s, an annual revenue of about ₹2,000 crore, and a strong 15–20% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) potential. The demerger will follow a mirror-image shareholding pattern at a 1:1 ratio—each HUL shareholder will receive one share of the ice cream company for every one share of HUL held.



According to Nuvama, the move will help the company reach its full potential by creating a top listed ice cream franchise in India with a concentrated management team and more freedom to implement strategies catered to its unique business model and competitive dynamics. The brokerage stated, “The business will continue to be equipped with the portfolio, brand, and innovation expertise of the largest global ice cream business, The Magnum Ice Cream Company, enabling it to continue winning in the marketplace.” The new ice cream company is expected to list in Q4FY26, according to HUL’s Q2FY26 earnings call. The ice cream company will be reported as a discontinued operation and will not be included in HUL’s earnings starting in Q3FY26.

## Morgan Stanley and Dolat Capital start covering LG Electronics, which adds 3%



**New Delhi:** Despite the poor September quarter earnings, LG Electronics shares increased by more than 3% on Wednesday thanks to coverage initiation and optimistic calls from many brokerages. The stock of the manufacturer of household appliances increased by 3.44 percent during the day to ₹1,680 per share, marking the largest intraday increase since November 13 of this year. As of 11:13 AM, the Nifty 50 was up 0.07%, while the LG Electronics stock was up 2.8% at ₹1,670. According to Bloomberg, the company’s shares are currently trading at 0.4 times the typical 30-day trading volume. Since its IPO on October 14 of this year, the counter has dropped by around 2.3%, while the benchmark Nifty 50 has increased by 2.8%. The market capitalization of LG Electronics is ₹1.13 trillion. The household appliance manufacturer’s stock was given a “Overweight” rating by a global brokerage, with a target price of ₹1,864

per share. According to sources, the company is the leading consumer durables franchise in India. In a fiercely competitive consumer durables sector, analysts observed that LG distinguishes out in numerous categories and boasts “industry-leading margins and best-in-class capital efficiencies.” It anticipates that its expanded capacity will drive sales and margins, and exports and business-to-business transactions will contribute more. On November 17, Dolat Capital analysts assigned it a fresh “Accumulate” rating, stating that it is “India’s most trusted consumer durable brand.” Additionally, it stated that LG Electronics has a broad range of products and continues to lead the market in important categories such as refrigerators, washing machines, panel TVs, and inverter air conditioners. The company is as well-positioned for growth, supported by its large distribution network, advanced manufacturing and product innovation capabilities, and

strong parentage, the brokerage said. Due to market challenges in Q2FY26, LG Electronics India’s net profit decreased by 27.3%. In the July-September quarter, its net sales increased by 0.9% to ₹6,170.4 crore. During the quarter, the appliance company’s PBIDT (profit before interest, depreciation, and taxes) fell 23.8% to ₹627.3 crore. In order to support its distributors under challenging market conditions, the business said it saw margin constraints as a result of the combined effects of higher commodity prices and further investments in festive go-to-market operations. In Q2FY26, the H&A segment continued to lead the market and saw growth in several important categories. According to the company’s results report, “LG EIL’s strong brand equity and resilient distribution network helped strengthen its premium market share, even though the GST revised rate announcement temporarily postponed consumer purchase.”

## Arjun Kapoor: Bollywood investment fails, ₹500 Cr films yield ₹150 Cr return

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has, to some extent, broken down the math behind making a film. The actor has revealed that a Rs 500 crore film will eventually only get you Rs 150-200 crore as the rest is spent on exhibition, advertising and taxation. The actor added that to an outsider, the movie-making business will look like gambling, as no amount of business studies fully helps one flourish in films since it's based a lot on emotions.

"There's no upside to making films. Those who come from the outside would think it's Russian Roulette, it's gambling, not a business. I think the first thing to note is don't look at it like an Excel sheet because it's a very gut and impulsive profession. You've to keep a lot of your education aside when you want to do something," said Arjun in a session at a FICCI event. "In that chaos, to find some structure and order, some numbers come in. You can't rely on your MBA degree to make a movie. You can use your MBA in the process of making the movie, but the choice to make that movie should come from you, as the audience, and why the directors, writers, and actors have that vision. Those numbers are important because, at the end of the day, it's a business. You have to safeguard the people who invest in the film," he added. "Theatrical is your core business revenue; it decides the budget of the film. Earlier, sat-



ellite used to be your biggest post-theatrical revenue, but now the advertisements have shifted to social media and YouTube. Then there's music and digital," he explained. "Theatrically, when you hear the film did Rs 100 crore, the distributor share is only Rs 50 crore. The rest goes to exhibition and taxation. The distributor would usually pay you the Minimum Guarantee upfront so that you have the cash flow to make the film. Eventually, when you make Rs 500 crore in theatrical, you actually earn only Rs 150 to Rs 200 crore. Overseas can be another revenue, but the revenue sharing is very different there. It can be 45-55% or 40-60% depending on the model," said Arjun. "The OTT platforms only what a certain number of films to be there. The satellite doesn't work because the advertising has shifted to YouTube and social media. And the music is downloadable. So, one doesn't know exactly where to recover the money from," he added, reflecting on why the theatrical model is suffering today.

## Deepika Padukone Has THIS to Say After Watching Ranveer Singh Starrer Dhurandhar's Trailer

**Mumbai:** Deepika Padukone only has the best things to say about husband Ranveer Singh! After the official launch of his upcoming movie Dhurandhar's trailer, the actress penned a loving comment for Singh. She wrote, "'The Chameleon' is back!!!" with three 'fire' emoticons. Fans were quick to notice Deepika's reaction and many lauded her for supporting Ranveer through and through.

Priyanka Chopra also reacted to the 4-minute long trailer. She wrote, "Woah" with a firecracker emoticon. Both Deepika and Priyanka commented under Ranveer's trailer post. The intense trailer was unveiled at Dhurandhar's trailer launch today in Mumbai. It showed intense confrontations and raw visuals, as Ranveer's character deals through an India and Pakistan conflict. Apart from Ranveer, Dhurandhar also stars Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal and Sara Arjun in leading roles.

During the trailer launch, Ranveer added, "We wanted to create a feature presentation that's at par with any film in the world. Our attempt was to level up in every aspect of the cinematic process to create a film that we



as Indians can be proud of. Its raw, its gritty and is unapologetically Indian. Aditya has pitched it perfectly. It's an incredible and complex story, with world class technical execution and intense performances." He further shared, "We wanted to make an unapologetically Indian film that gets counted amongst the most elite instalments in this genre worldwide. I believe it is India's moment to shine

on the global stage. And we aim to be at the heart of that moment and that phenomenon whilst honouring and staying true to our roots. It's been an experience of a lifetime collaborating with Aditya on this courageous endeavour. We are grateful to be partnering with Jyoti at Jio Studios who has flexed her might and left no stone unturned in backing this brave leap in Indian cinema."

## Kemmu's 'Single Papa' Out December



**New Delhi:** Single Papa is set to bring audiences a warm, funny and very relatable story on December 12. The comedy drama follows Gaurav Gehlot, also known as GG, played by Kunal Kemmu. GG is a sweet but slightly immature man who often behaves younger than his age. His life takes a surprising turn when, right after his divorce, he decides to adopt a baby. His family is completely shocked, wondering how a man who cannot keep track of his socks plans to raise a child. From this moment, a series of emotional and hilarious situations begin, showing the chaos and charm of a modern Indian household.

The show is created by Ishita Moitra and Neeraj Udhwani, with Shashank Khaitan as executive producer. It is directed by Shashank Khaitan, Hitesh Kewalya and Neeraj Udhwani, and produced under the Juggernaut Productions banner. With a strong cast and a fresh concept, Single Papa aims to present parenting in a way that feels light, real and rooted in everyday life. Talking about the project, showrunner Shashank Khaitan said, "I am so excited to create a family entertainer again. Single Papa is full of heart, laughter and a lot of fun. Working with this amazing team has been wonderful, and I can't wait for audiences to enter this colourful world of an unexpected father and a tiny baby who steals every scene." Kunal Kemmu shared his own experience playing GG, saying, "This role made me smile, laugh and even tear up at times. Parenting is not perfect, but it is full of love and learning. I hope audiences enjoy GG's journey as much as I enjoyed playing him." In a statement, Kunal Kemmu shared his enthusiasm for the role: "Single Papa' shows the messy, colorful chaos that makes a family special. Playing Gaurav, who is figuring out how to be a dad, made me laugh, cry, and reminded me how much parenting is trial and error, and a whole lot of love." Single Papa also features Manoj Pahwa, Ayesha Raza and Prajakta Koli, who bring their own charm to the story. The series will stream from December 12 on Netflix.

## Rai Meets PM at Ceremony



**Agency:** On Wednesday, November 19, Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan attended the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Puttapparthi, Andhra Pradesh. Along with her, the event was graced by many high-profile people, including former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Union Ministers Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu and G. Kishan Reddy, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the event, Aishwarya delivered a powerful speech recalling the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. After her speech, the actress greeted PM Modi by touching his feet and receiving blessings from him. As Aishwarya touched the PM's feet, he placed his hand on her head to bless her and then joined hands with her in a warm gesture. Aishwarya Rai got married to actor Abhishek Bachchan in April 2007. The two first met in 1999 during a photoshoot for Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke and became close while shooting Umrao Jaan in 2006. The couple are proud parents to a girl, Aaradhya Bachchan, who was born on November 16, 2011. Recently, Aishwarya hit headlines when rumours of trouble in her marriage with Abhishek Bachchan circulated, but neither addressed the speculation.

## Ajay Devgn's De De Pyaar De 2 Holds Strong: ₹44 Crore Earned in Just 5 Days

**Mumbai:** Ajay Devgn, R. Madhavan, Rakul Preet Singh and Gautami Kapoor's De De Pyaar De 2 hit theatres on Friday. The first instalment, released in 2019, performed well at the box office. While the sequel opened to good numbers, it witnessed a dip in collections on its first Monday.

The film is now steadily inching towards the Rs 50 crore mark. Here's how it fared. De De Pyaar De 2 has maintained a steady pace at the box office over its first five days. The film opened at Rs 8.75 crore on Friday. It collected Rs 12.25 crore on its second day and reached its highest single-day collection on Sunday at Rs 13.75 crore. As expected, Monday



saw a notable dip with earnings of Rs 4.25 crore, but the film regained momentum on Tuesday, bringing in around Rs 5 crore, according to early estimates from Sacnilk. This brings the film's five-day total to approximately Rs 44 crore. The sequel picks up right after Ashish and Ayesha's story from the first film. This time, Ashish Meh-

ra (Ajay Devgn), a 52-year-old London-based NRI, once again finds himself entangled in the challenges of an age-gap relationship. But instead of convincing his own family, he now has to win the hearts of his young girlfriend Ayesha Khurana's (Rakul Preet Singh) father, Rajji (played by R. Madhavan).

Rajji, who is almost Ashish's age and fiercely protective of his daughter, becomes the biggest hurdle in their love story. The situation turns even more chaotic with the arrival of Meezaan Jafri's character, a young man closer to Ayesha's age, someone her parents encouraged in hopes of steering her away from Ashish. The film also stars Ishita Dutta and Jaaved Jaaferi in key roles. Directed by De De Pyaar De 2 is written by Luv Ranjan and Tarun Jain. The film is produced by T-Series Films and Luv Films. The film offers a blend of love, humour and family drama. Catch the Ajay Devgn and R Madhavan-starrer romantic comedy on the big screen.

## Malik Brothers' Emotional Reunion Rocks 'Bigg Boss 19

**Mumbai:** Family Week on Bigg Boss 19 has been packed with surprises, but the most heartfelt moment so far came when Armaan Malik walked into the house, catching his brother Amaal Malik completely off guard. What unfolded next was one of the season's most emotional scenes.

The latest promo on Jio-Cinema shows a deeply moving reunion between the two brothers. Amaal, who has been navigating the high-pressure environment of the house for weeks, broke down the moment he saw Armaan walk towards him. The two shared a long, tight hug, capturing the kind of sibling bond that instantly hit home for viewers. The reaction online was immediate. Fans



flooded social media with posts praising the promo, calling the moment "real", "raw", and "the kind of emotion Bigg Boss rarely gets right anymore." Many said these family arrivals give the show a softer touch, balancing the heated arguments and tense tasks. Armaan shared the song on his Instagram stories and wrote a note praising Amaal. "Amaal's genius is undeniable, and we as a family are beyond thrilled to bring this song to life for his devoted fans who've been eagerly awaiting new music from him," he wrote.

## Parineeti and Raghav Chadha Share Wholesome Pics, Reveal Baby Boy's Name

**Mumbai:** Parineeti Chopra and her husband, Raghav Chadha, have announced the name of their son, Neer, approximately one month after his birth. The couple welcomed their child on October 20, 2025, and shared the news on Instagram with a heartfelt message that read, "He's finally here! Our baby boy. And we literally can't remember life before."

Many fans had been eagerly waiting for more details about the couple's newborn, and the wait is finally over. Today, Parineeti and Raghav shared a wholesome picture on Instagram, offering their followers a long-awaited first look at their baby and revealing his name, Neer. Their joint caption read, "Jalasya rūpam, premasya svarūpam — tatra eva Neer. Our hearts found peace in an eternal drop of life. We named him — pure, divine, limitless." The post was quickly flooded with



messages of congratulations from both friends and fellow celebrities.

Gauhar Khan commented, "Congratulations," while Bhar-

ti Singh wrote, "aleeeee." Fans across social media have said that

the name is both beautiful and meaningful. Arbaaz Khan and Sshura Khan also shared the first glimpse of their baby girl, Sipaara Khan, making it a special day for celebrity baby reveals. Parineeti and Raghav got engaged in May 2023, with a ceremony held at Kapurthala House in New Delhi. The couple later tied the knot in September 2023, at The Leela Palace, Udaipur, in a traditional ceremony attended by their close friends and family. They announced their pregnancy in August 2025 through an Instagram collab post that featured them holding hands, captioned simply with a heart emoji. Now, as Parineeti and Raghav begin a new chapter as parents, their fans are truly delighted by the arrival of baby Neer. On the work front, Parineeti was last seen in the 2024 movie, Amar Singh Chamkila which also starred Diljit Dosanjh in the lead role.

## Taha Shah Badussha Believes It's Time Men Were Allowed to Show Their Emotional Side

**Mumbai:** Taha Shah Badussha's portrayal of Nawab Tajdar Baloch in Heera-mandi: The Diamond Bazaar made him the talk of the town. Since then, the actor has been busy with a number of events and projects. The actor, who celebrates his birthday today, reflected in an interview recently on why it is different for him this year.

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, Taha Shah said, "Previous years, it has always been about the career, but this year, it's not just about career but also about self growth, self-awareness, work on my inner self and becoming a bit more connected to the universe." He added that he would spend the day with his family: "It's all about keeping the right people next to you instead of more people." Taha Shah Badussha's birthday coincides with International Men's Day, and he takes an introspective look at the growth of males over time. He shared that there used to be a lot of hard-core men, especially for at least 30 years following partition, be-



cause their experiences throughout time had shaped them that way. But in our generation, everyone is really open.

Contrary to the stereotype that men should be strong and stoic, Taha feels that men's vulnerability is now welcomed and valued. He mentioned, "I don't think that a man should be separated from his vulnerable side. He should be in touch

with that side and be able to control that, and not completely ignore or sideline it. In today's world, you have to be a bit both strong and vulnerable to survive." Taha starred with Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari and Richa Chadha in Heeramandi. Apart from that, he has acted in films such as Luv Ka The End, Baar Baar Dekho and Kabzaa.

## Bollywood Star Saif Ali Khan Makes Major Real Estate Investment in Mumbai

**Mumbai:** Saif Ali Khan has bought two new office spaces in Mumbai, adding another big purchase to his growing list of properties. The actor spent Rs 30.75 crore on the units, which are located in Andheri East.

The registration details show that the offices together cover 5,681 sq ft inside the Kanakia Wallstreet building, a well-known commercial spot in the area. The deal also includes six parking spaces. The spaces were sold by Apiore Pharmaceutical, a US-based pharma company, suggests reports. Andheri East is one of Mumbai's busiest office zones because it's well-connected and close to major business areas like BKC, SEEPZ, and Lower Parel. Several Bollywood



actors have been investing in commercial property here, and Saif has now added his name to that list again. A stamp duty of Rs 1.84 crore was paid for the purchase, along with a registration fee of Rs 60,000. The deal was officially registered on November 18, 2025.

Rohan Sheth, Founder at Volney, a real estate advisory and Investor Network

firm said, "Andheri East has transformed into one of Mumbai's most active commercial corridors, combining accessibility, infrastructure, and strong rental yields. With seamless connectivity to the airport and key business districts, it continues to attract both institutional and individual investors seeking long-term value." "In recent years, we've seen growing

interest from celebrities and high-net-worth individuals diversifying into Grade-A commercial real estate. It's viewed as a stable, appreciating asset class that complements other investment avenues." Volney Manages 3 Prominent Commercial building in Mumbai – Kanakia Boomerang at Chandivali, Andheri, Trade Centre at BKC & Kanakia Wallstreet at Powai, Andheri," Sheth said. In the same broader area where Saif Ali Khan has bought his office units, Elon Musk's satellite internet company, Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited, recently leased a 1,294 sq ft office space in Mumbai's Chandivali for five years, with a total rental value of Rs 2.33 crore.

# Scotland's most remote railway adventure

As the train pulls out of Inverness Station, bound for the utmost reaches of the Scottish Highlands, a familiar thrill tingles through my fingers. Having once called the area home during four summer work seasons, I still feel an unshakable connection to this remote, untamed scenery. And now, at last, I have returned to unite two of my great passions – the romance of rail travel and the peaty moorlands of northern Scotland – in one journey. It's 07:00 and I'm on the Far North Line that stretches from Inverness to Thurso and Wick at the very tip of mainland Britain. Covering 168 miles and taking around four hours, it's the northernmost railway in Scotland, cutting through the Flow Country; a blanket peat covering much of the northern Highlands. Studded with bog pools and home to a vast array of unique flora and fauna, the Flow Country is the largest and most intact peat system in the world. In 2024, it was named the world's first and only peatland Unesco World Heritage Site. But, for me, the Flow Country's true appeal is its ethereal remoteness. The sun has blanketed the Highlands for most of my visit, but now, the ground is covered with a dusting of frost that twinkles lightly in the early morning glow. As the train chugs past the village of Conon Bridge and the quaint port town Invergordon, the landscape stays gentle, with hills and farmland rolling past my window. There's no convivial chatter; an early morning start in northern Scotland means people silently clutching their takeaway coffee cups, perhaps preparing mentally for the day ahead. Gazing out of the window, I see a train passing, heading to Inverness. I am going in the opposite direction, deeper into the Highlands, where hurry always seems to fade away. The Far North Line was built in stages in the late 19th Century, driven by a more pragmatic goal than my quest for remote landscapes. The tracks were created to boost trade, particularly in fishing and agriculture. The first terminus, Dingwall, opened in 1862, followed by Invergordon the next year. Golspie was reached in 1868, Helmsdale three years later, and finally, Thurso and Wick in 1874. However, the line's creation was not without its struggles. Harsh weather, tricky terrain and financial difficulties threatened its completion. Enter the third Duke of Sutherland. A passionate railway enthusiast, the duke had once completed an apprenticeship with the London and North Western Railway to better understand the workings of steam locomotives, writes Michael William in his book, *On the Slow Train Again*. The Duke was eager to build a railway that, conveniently, would run close to his doorstep, Dunrobin Castle. On 20 June 1870, an Act of Parliament granted him permission to extend the line from Golspie to Brora and on to Helmsdale. But construction had already



begun in anticipation, and by 1 November that year, the Dunrobin-to-Helmsdale section was operational. Today, Dunrobin Castle Station is one of the Far North Line's most enchanting stops. Designed in 1902 by L Bisset, its Alpine cottage-like architecture evokes scenes from a Grimm Brothers fairy tale. But on my journey, the train swishes past the station, a humble request stop where passengers press a button should they wish to board. Soon after Dunrobin, the train reaches the sea-side. The 10 miles between Brora and Helmsdale are among the journey's most scenic. I see waves crashing against the shoreline's jagged black stones, sheep grazing on the green fields and a man with two border collies on their morning walk. Then, after Helmsdale, the tracks turn inland, deeper into the Highlands. We are now approaching the Flow Country. The blanket bog covers 1,544 sq m, about 2.5 times bigger than the metropolitan area of London. When it was inscribed by Unesco, it joined other natural

marvels like Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Galápagos islands on the Unesco list because, as the organisation states, it's "home to a distinct combination of bird species and displays a remarkable diversity of features not found anywhere else on Earth". Earlier that week, I met with Dr Roxane Andersen, a professor of Peatland Science at the University of the Highlands and Islands, in the village of Lochinver, to discuss the landscape and its recently acquired Unesco status. As someone who has been studying the area for more than a decade and was closely involved in securing its World Heritage status, Andersen knows the bogland through and through. It is a land of striking contrasts – hauntingly beautiful, even mysterious at times, stretching from the hills of the west coast to the gentler terrain of the east. Moreover, this vast bogland plays an indispensable ecological role. "Like all peatlands, the Flow Country plays a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate because it slowly but steadily takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and stores it as dead vegetation, or peat, for millennia. In doing so, it cools the climate," said Andersen. Along



the Far North Line, Forsinard is the best stop to explore this unique landscape. Here, the old train station serves as Fors-



inard Flows Visitor Centre, open from April to October. From the train station, I stroll the 1 mile Dubh Lochan Trail along a wooden platform to the Flows Lookout Tower, which is open year-round. The platform is dotted with information posts about the landscape, from the trees that used to grow here to the workings of the bog's pool systems. "There are places where one can actually walk for tens of kilometres in one direction without seeing another person, without crossing a road," said Graham Thompson,

a local resident and tour guide. "It truly is magnificent to still be able to experience this in the UK." Reaching the wooden two-storey lookout tower, I remember Thompson's words; indeed, there is no one around but relentless wind and an occasional gust of drizzle to keep me company. I climb the tower and take in the

view. The brown peat dotted with dark pools of water extends over the horizon. In its bleakness, the landscape has a strong impact. Here, amidst the bog and water, the creatures that thrive – insects, birds and the occasional mammal such as otters and red deer – form a delicate balance that makes this place truly one of a kind. "It is Britain's last remaining wilderness," Thompson told me. And as I stand there, I can feel it. But the Flow Country is no Paradise Lost. For centuries, it has struggled against the pressures imposed by human actions. On a riverside bench in Lochinver, I lis-

tened as Andersen explained how the area was shaped by the aftermath of the Jacobite uprising and the Highland Clearances, when this remote landscape was reshaped into vast estates dedicated primarily to sheep grazing. Once-peopled valleys and straths were emptied, with communities pushed to the coast, leaving behind the bogs and hills. A more recent struggle dates to the 1980s, when commercial forestry introduced non-native trees and large sections of the bog were drained. While Thompson believes things are getting worse, with wind farms springing up everywhere, Andersen takes a more optimistic view, highlighting the transformation of both the landscape and the people. "Now all these people sit around the table together and have a shared vision of what could happen in this landscape for the future. And I think that, as a society, the shift from 40 years ago to where we are today in such a short time is truly inspiring." I leave the viewing tower and Forsinard behind, Andersen's words of hope lingering in my mind, and hop back onto the Far North Line, continuing my journey to the small harbour town of Thurso. As the train pushes further north, keeping away from the coast, I reflect on the sights I've seen. The Far North Line has delivered most of the typical Scottish imagery, from border collies and sheep to dramatic coastlines and wild bog landscapes. It has been a great alternative to the NC500, a popular and often over-crowded drive around the Highlands, offering a romantic way to experience the wild beauty of the region. We pass Georgemas Junction, where the line splits towards Thurso and Wick, before finally reaching Thurso, the last train stop before the sea. Along the way, we've passed Beaulay Station, home to Scotland's shortest train platform – at just 15.06m long, only one carriage door can be opened for people to exit or enter the train – and we've also passed Altnabreac, the country's most remote station; surrounded by boglands and located 10 miles from the closest road. Georgemas itself is the UK's northernmost junction. But more than these superlatives, this journey has been about slowing down and allowing the mind to wander.

## Bites on gladiator bones prove combat with lion



Bite marks found on the skeleton of a Roman gladiator are the first archaeological evidence of combat between a human and a lion, experts say. The remains were discovered during a 2004 dig at Driffield Terrace, in York, a site now thought to be the world's only well-preserved Roman gladiator cemetery. Forensic examination of the skeleton of one young man has revealed that holes and bite marks on his pelvis were most likely caused by a lion. Prof Tim Thompson, the forensic expert who led the study, said this was the first "physical evidence" of gladiators fighting big cats. "For years our understanding of Roman gladiatorial combat and animal spectacles has relied heavily on historical texts and artistic depictions," he said. "This discovery provides the first direct, physical evidence that such events took place in this period, reshaping our perception of Roman entertainment culture in the region." Experts used new forensic techniques to analyse the wounds, including 3D scans which showed the animal had grabbed the man by the pelvis. Prof Thompson, from Maynooth University, in Ireland, said: "We could tell that the bites happened at around the time of death. So this wasn't an animal scavenging after

the individual died - it was associated with his death." As well as scanning the wound, scientists compared its size and shape to sample bites from large cats at London Zoo. "The bite marks in this particular individual match those of a lion," Prof Thompson told BBC News. The location of the bites gave researchers even more information about the circumstances of the gladiator's death. The pelvis, Prof Thompson explained, "is not where lions normally attack, so we think this gladiator was fighting in some sort of spectacle and was incapacitated, and that the lion bit him and dragged him away by his hip." The skeleton, a male aged between 26 and 35, had been buried in a grave with two others and overlaid with horse bones. Previous analysis of the bones pointed to him being a Bestiarius - a gladiator that was sent into combat with beasts. Malin Holst, a Senior Lecturer in Osteoarchaeology at the University of York, said in 30 years of analysing skeletons she had "never seen anything like these bite marks". Additionally, she said the man's remains revealed the story of a "short and somewhat brutal life". His bones were shaped by large, powerful muscles and there was evidence of injuries to his shoulder and spine, which were associated with hard physical work and combat. Ms Holst, who is also

managing director of York Osteoarchaeology, added: "This is a hugely exciting find because we can now start to build a better image of what these gladiators were like in life." The findings, which have been published in the Journal of Science and Medical Research PLoS One, also confirmed the "presence of large cats and potentially other exotic animals in arenas in cities such as York, and how they too had to defend themselves from the threat of death", she said. Experts said the discovery added weight to the suggestion an amphitheatre, although not yet found, likely existed in Roman York and would have staged fighting gladiators as a form of entertainment. The presence of distinguished Roman leaders in York would have meant they required a lavish lifestyle, experts said, so it was no surprise to see evidence of gladiatorial events, which served as a display of wealth. David Jennings, CEO of York Archaeology, said: "We may never know what brought this man to the arena where we believe he may have been fighting for the entertainment of others, but it is remarkable that the first osteoarchaeological evidence for this kind of gladiatorial combat has been found so far from the Colosseum of Rome, which would have been the classical world's Wembley Stadium of combat."

## Area burned by UK wildfires in 2025 already at annual record

The area of the UK burnt by wildfires so far this year is already higher than the total for any year in more than a decade, satellite data suggests. More than 29,200 hectares (292 sq km or 113 sq miles) has been burnt so far, according to figures from the Global Wildfire Information System, which has recorded burnt area since 2012. That is more than the previous high of 28,100 hectares for the whole year of 2019. The prolonged dry, sunny weather in March and early April helped to create ideal conditions for widespread burning, according to researchers. Wildfires are very common in the UK in early spring, with plenty of dead or dormant vegetation at the end of winter that can dry out quickly. The switch back to wetter conditions over the past couple of weeks has largely brought an end to the spell of fires for now, but not before reaching record levels. The figures from the Global Wildfire Information System only capture fires larger than roughly 30 hectares (0.3 sq km). More than 80 such fires have been detected across the UK since the beginning of the year. Most fires are deliberately or accidentally started by humans, but favourable weather conditions can make it much easier for fires to ignite and spread quickly. "We had an exceptionally dry and sunny March," said Will Lang, head of risk and resilience services at the Met Office. "This followed quite a wet autumn and winter, which can have the effect of increasing the vegetation that acts as fuel for any fire that does start." A lack of rainfall in March and April can be particularly conducive to fires. "The vegetation is coming out of the winter and it has gone dormant, so it's not growing, and therefore it's very dry and doesn't have water," explained Guillermo Rein, professor of fire science at Imperial College London. "Then in the spring, before you start to collect the water into the live tissue, there is a period where it's very flammable." The seven days from 2 to 8 April saw more than 18,000 hectares (180 sq km) burnt, the highest weekly figure on record. The BBC has also analysed satellite images to illustrate two of the biggest burns this year. In Galloway Forest Park, in south-west Scotland, an estimated 65 sq km burnt, nearly a quarter of the UK total. A fire in mid-Wales, about 25 km (16 miles) from Aberystwyth, also burnt a large area of roughly 50 sq km. Fires have also been detected by satellite imagery on the Isle of Arran, the Isle of Bute and the Isle of Skye in Scotland, as well as in the Mourne Mountains in south-east Northern Ireland. All occurred in early April. These early season burns - predominantly grass, heath and shrub fires - have created great strain on fire services, but their ecological impacts can be complicated. Not all fires, particularly smaller, lower-intensity burns, are necessary to long-term vegetation. Certain plants, such as heather, are adapted to fire-prone environments. But increasingly severe blazes can ability to naturally regenerate. But researchers are concerned the second peak of the year, which typically occurs in the summer when vegetation is high and dried out again. "My worry is what is going to happen in the summer," said when "there are fewer but they are bigger fires actually be seriously concerning." "You can have



wildfires across the whole country and all of them can be handled in one day, or you could have one summer wildfire that actually cannot be stopped in a week and actually goes on to burn houses." The recent widespread burns don't necessarily mean this summer will be a busy fire season. But scientists expect the UK to see an increase in weather conditions conducive to extreme wildfires in a warming world, even though there's lots of variation from year to year. A study led by the Met Office found that the extreme "fire weather" that helped spread the destructive blazes of July 2022 were made at least six times more likely by human-caused climate change. Shifts in the way land is used can also play a key role in shaping fire risk. "One thing that seems to have consensus is that we are likely to see more fires and possibly worse fires with climate change," said Rory Hadden, senior lecturer in fire investigation at the University of Edinburgh.

ly catastrophic tation health. as heather, are environments. frequent or impair their recover. Some cerned about the fire sealy comes later temperatures etation has number one ing to happen Prof Rein, er wildfires and they can catastroph- 100 [small]

# Giving the Gift of Sight: The Lasting Impact of Eye Donation

Eye donation is an act of kindness and humanity that can restore sight to two or more blind individuals. It is a way to live beyond life, giving others the gift of vision even after death. The process is simple, safe, and dignified, and eyes can be donated up to six hours after death. Most religions support, and even encourage, organ and eye donation as a selfless act of charity. Dr. Amod Nayak, Head, Clinical Services, Whitefield, Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital, shares all. There are certain doubts and uncertainties regarding who can donate eyes. A common question asked is whether



patients with diabetes, cataracts, or a history of cancer can donate their eyes. **Diabetes:** People with diabetes can donate their eyes. Diabetes does not affect the cornea, which is the part of the eye used for transplantation. The condition of the cornea is checked, and only

healthy corneas are used. **Cataracts:** Cataracts affect the lens, not the cornea. Therefore, people with cataracts can also donate their eyes. Prior cataract surgery may have some impact on corneal condition, but donated corneas are evaluated preoperatively and used ac-

cordingly. **Cancer:** Corneas are avascular (contain no blood vessels), so the risk of cancer transmission through corneal transplant is extremely low. People who had localized cancers (such as breast, prostate, skin, or thyroid cancer) and are now cancer-free can donate their corneas. However, corneas cannot be used for transplantation in the following cases: People with blood-related cancers (leukemia, lymphoma, or multiple myeloma) People with eye tumors Cases where cancer had spread widely in the body at the time of death.

# A Doctor's Guide: 10 Protein-Rich Foods to Add to Your Diet

Protein is one of the most essential nutrients required by the human body, but time and again, surveys reflect that the majority of India's population falls short in adequate protein consumption. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Aniket Mule, consultant, internal medicine, KIMS Hospitals, Thane said, "Not only does protein deficiency impact muscle power, but it can also affect immunity, wound healing, energy generation, and even hormonal balance." "The body requirement differs by age, gender, and lifestyle, but on average, an adult need approximately 0.8-1 gram of protein per kilogram of body weight. Indian diets, however, particularly vegetarian diets, usually fall

short. The silver lining is that with vigilant food choices, it is easy to cover the deficiency without relying heavily on supplements," the doctor explained. **Eggs:** A complete protein containing all the essential amino acids, perfect for breakfast or snacks. **Milk and curd:** Offer protein and calcium too; curd also maintains digestive health. **Paneer:** A filling, versatile dairy item, high in protein and easy to incorporate in curries or salads. **Pulses and lentils:** Dal, moong, chana dal not only provide protein but also fibre for easier digestion. Soybeans and tofu: Richest vegetarian protein source, great for heart health.



**Chickpeas (chana):** Richest and most filling of all beans, with lots of fibre, keep you full and balance blood sugar. Nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts): Tiny but mighty snacks packed with protein and healthy fat. **Seeds (pumpkin, sunflower, chia, flax):** Simple to sprinkle on salads, smoothies, or roti for a protein burst. **Fish:** Low-fat protein rich in omega-3 fatty acids that promote brain and heart health. **Chicken:** Readily available, lean protein source of high-quality protein that is ideal for main meals. Combine cereals and pulses (e.g., dal and rice or khichdi) for an overall protein profile. Spread protein consumption throughout meals rather than loading all at once. Keep protein balanced with sufficient carbs, healthy fats, and micro-nutrients.

## 7 Diet Tips from a Diabetologist to Prevent Diabetes and Hypertension



Diabetes and hypertension are often triggered due to lifestyle patterns and diet mistakes. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Pranav Ghody, consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central said, "Diabetes and hypertension are no longer ailments of old age. They're affecting young adults today, most often triggered by lifestyle and diet. Good news is that there are foods that can quite strongly reduce your risk." Dr Pranav Ghody further shared a few diet tips to stay healthy and keep diabetes and hypertension at bay: Instead of white rice or maida, use millets, oats, and brown rice to keep the blood sugar levels stable and prevent spikes. Whole grains are rich in fiber, which also

keeps the weight in control. Fresh fruit and vegetables, particularly colored ones in season, provide antioxidants, potassium, and soluble fiber. These help to keep blood pressure in check and offer antioxidants. The secret is variety—greens, citrus, and berries all add a range of protective effects. Legumes, lentils, eggs, lean meat cut back on carb indulgence and serve as energy source for cells. Too much salt in packaged foods, fizzy drinks, fried foods, and trans

fats are more harmful than single categories of food. They activate obesity, insulin resistance, and vascular disease. They cannot be cut back on. Nuts, seeds, olive oil, and foods rich in omega-3 like flaxseeds or fish protect heart health. They replace bad fats without increasing sugars. Even nutritious foods will raise sugars if consumed in excess. The simplest rule to follow is a balanced plate- half vegetables, a quarter lean protein, and a quarter whole grain. The endocrinologist added, that while food may not cure the condition for the ones already diagnosed, it can delay the onset and severity of the diseases. "We cannot change our genes, but we can absolutely change our food choices. Small daily changes make a big difference in preventing lifestyle diseases," Dr Pranav Ghody added.



# Preventing Kidney Stones: Foods to Avoid for a Healthier You

Kidney stones leave individuals with severe abdominal discomfort and pain that must be immediately treated to avoid extensive medical challenges. For individuals who have in the past had renal calculi, the hard deposits of minerals and salts that bind to form stones in the kidneys, there is an additional fear of developing a recurrence. Panic may set in for such patients. The good news is that you can prevent the recurrence of kidney stone formation by following a well-planned diet and avoiding certain food items that seep in calcium oxalate and uric acid in your kidneys. One doesn't have to let go of their favourite delicacies, just be mindful not to take these food items for healthy and well-functioning kidneys.

### High-Oxalate Foods

Foods such as spinach, beets, nuts and chocolates contain a high dosage of oxalates that combine with calcium in your body and pave the pathway for those painful stones that give you a nightmare. Replace these with low-oxalate fruits and veggies, including cucumber, bananas, cauliflower, grapes and watermelon.

### High-Sodium Foods

Ensure your dishes have only a balanced amount of salt and spices. Whether or not you've had stones before, a high dosage of sodium in the body is bound to raise the calcium excretion into the urine and lead to kidney stone formation. Especially avoid the processed, canned and fast food items and replace those with home-cooked meals that are seasoned with herbs and mild spices.

### Animal Protein

Animal-based protein consumed from red meat and shellfish may be good for muscle and bone density, but such dishes often contain high amounts of purines, which lead to uric acid stones.



Lentils, beans, chickpeas and moderate portions of poultry or fish are considered healthier alternatives.

### Beverages

Packaged beverages such as sodas and juices contain too much sugar, posing a risk of a sudden high fructose and blood sugar boost in one's body. While processed sugar raises calcium excretion, sweet sodas contain phosphoric acid. Both are bad for your kidneys. Replace them with plain water or fresh lemon juice for better hydration.

### Colas and Caffeine-Filled Drinks

Talking of the phosphoric acid, a bottle of cola isn't short of it. Other caffeine-based drinks may boost your energy, but excess consumption also concentrates minerals in urine. Steer clear of colas and energy drinks to prevent kidney stone recurrences.

### Vitamin C Supplements

While Vitamin C is great for the body, many in their busy lifestyles today opt for supplements to cut down on its deficiency. A high dosage of these Vitamin C supplements, however, can raise the body's oxalate levels and pave the way for the development of kidney stones. Instead of these supplements, opt for whole foods like oranges, strawberries and bell peppers.

### High-Purine Foods

Food items such as sardines, anchovies, organ meats and beer raise the body's uric acid levels and subsequently, cause uric acid stones in the kidney. Swap them with plant-based proteins and moderate amounts of animal-based proteins while revisiting your hydration choices.

# The Environmental Cost of COVID-19 Masks, According to New Research



A recent study revealed that the use of around 129 billion disposable face masks per month during the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly contributed to land and water pollution, as there was no effective plan for their recycling and disposal. Disposable masks release four times more microplastic than standard surgical masks. When these masks are discarded, they become waste that pollutes the environment. As they break down, they can release microplastics and harmful chemicals, raising concerns for both human health and the ecosystem. Some of the chemicals found in masks may disrupt hormones and negatively affect human health. A new study led by Coventry University

investigated the release of microplastics and chemical additives from various types of disposable face masks, including surgical masks and filtering facepieces, which are commonly used for personal protection in healthcare settings or areas with poor air quality. Dr. Anna Bogush and Dr. Ivan Kourtechev from the university's Research Centre for Agroecology, Water, and Resilience placed unused masks in glass beakers containing ultra-pure water and left them undisturbed at room temperature for 24 hours. The water was then filtered and analysed in the lab using advanced laboratory techniques to identify the types and quantities of microplastics and chemicals released,

with strict controls in place to avoid contamination. Even without any wear or movement, the masks were found to release microplastic particles and chemical additives into the water, suggesting that these pollutants are already present from the manufacturing process. The study found that filtering facepieces released three to four times more microplastic particles than standard surgical masks. Most particles were extremely small – less than 100 micrometres in size, roughly the width of a human hair – and made primarily of polypropylene, a common plastic used in mask production. Other plastics such as polyethylene, polyester, nylon and PVC were also detected, especially in the filtering

facepieces. As these materials don't easily break down, they can accumulate in the environment, causing harm to ecosystems and wildlife that may ingest or become entangled in them. Some of these materials can also contain chemical additives that, once ingested, may disrupt hormones or negatively impact human health. In addition to microplastics, the researchers discovered that chemicals including Bisphenol B were released from some types of masks into the water. These substances are known to harm fish and other aquatic organisms, and could also affect humans if they enter the food chain, pollute water sources, or accumulate in the environment over time. One of the researchers, Dr. Anna Bogush, has underlined the urgent need to rethink how we produce, use, and dispose of face masks. "We can't ignore the environmental cost of single-use masks, especially when we know that the microplastics and chemicals they release can negatively affect both people and ecosystems," said Bogush. "As we move forward, it's vital that we raise awareness of these risks, support the development of more sustainable alternatives, and make informed choices to protect our health and the environment," said Bogush.

# Understanding the Spread: The Cognitive Biases Behind Cancer Misinformation

When TV personality Danielle Lloyd was diagnosed with melanoma earlier this year, she faced not only the anxiety of cancer treatment but also a disturbing reality: influencers spreading dangerous misinformation about sun protection. After having a suspicious mole removed and awaiting results from a second biopsy, the 41-year-old has become an outspoken critic of social media personalities who lie to their followers about sunscreen products. Cancer misinformation can have serious consequences, such as leading people to delay or even avoid life-saving treatments, and eroding trust in medical professionals. Misinformation spreads easily because it taps into people's emotions and reasoning about health. When faced with a cancer diagnosis, fear, confusion and a desire for control can drive people to seek remedies that offer hope – even if that hope comes from sources that don't use credible evidence.

Misinformation often offers simple, comforting answers, while real medicine is complex, uncertain and sometimes difficult to accept. Fake cancer claims can feel convincing because they seem to eliminate the uncertainty about whether treatment will work, or if the cancer will return. Social media platforms can amplify false cancer messages, making them appear more credible or popular than they actually are. This is compounded by the role of influencers and unqualified practitioners, who often profit from promoting pseudoscience. Message framing plays a significant role in the spread of cancer misinformation. Studies show that we respond more to messages focused on what we might lose rather

than what we could gain. This happens because of loss aversion – our psychological tendency to fear losses more than we value equivalent gains. Cancer messages that highlight potential losses – such as health, comfort or life itself – feel more urgent, personal and motivating than those focusing on potential gains, like improved survival or better quality of life. Cancer misinformation that emphasises scary losses can be especially persuasive because it taps directly into people's fears. False claims warning about dangerous side-effects of treatments, hidden risks or conspiracies suggesting doctors want to harm patients strike a deep emotional chord. This makes people more likely



to believe and share these messages, even when untrue. For instance, misinformation claiming that chemotherapy doesn't cure cancer – and instead causes it to spread and shortens your life – can trigger fear and resistance to treatment. In contrast, truthful messages stating that chemotherapy can have side-effects, but it greatly increases your chance of survival, may seem less frightening and, sometimes, less compelling because they focus on potential gains rather than losses. Cancer is an emotionally charged and high-stakes diagnosis. Loss-framed misinformation spreads quickly and

can influence decisions that can put people at risk. Even when presented with correct medical information, the emotional weight of loss-informed cancer misinformation can override rational thought. The psychological principle that bad is stronger than good (also called "negativity bias") explains why cancer misinformation that triggers fear or anxiety often sticks more than hopeful, fact-based messages. Negative information simply has a bigger impact on how we think and feel in times of uncertainty. One effective way to help people avoid falling victim to cancer misinformation is through prebunking. This approach involves teaching people how to spot and resist false or misleading messages before they take hold. In particular, it focuses on exposing the tactics people use to deceive or scare others, so they're easier to recognise and dismiss when encountered. The tactics people can learn to look out for – and prebunk – include fear-mongering, where messages exaggerate risks to induce anxiety, or promises of miraculous cures lacking scientific evidence and misleading statistics that distort facts to support false claims. By being aware of these common techniques, people with cancer can become more vigilant and sceptical when they encounter suspicious information online, on social media, or through word of mouth. Research suggests that when people understand the strategies behind misinformation, they are less likely to accept false claims at face value. This increased awareness empowers them to pause, question and seek reliable advice before making important decisions about their health.

## Will South Africa bring back Kagiso Rabada for Guwahati Test

**New Delhi:** Fans and commentators alike couldn't help but anticipate the chaos Kagiso Rabada might have caused on the exciting ground at Eden Gardens as the Kolkata Test progressed. The South African fast would have had an absolute blast on a track that rewarded athletes like Jasprit Bumrah and Marco Jansen, encouraging every bit of swing and bounce. Rabada's presence might have made the game a nightmare for the hitters with every short ball and every sharp seam movement. However, a rib injury prevented him from participating in what could have been a spell that would have made headlines. Now that South Africa is leading 1-0 and poised to win the series, the focus moves from the field to selection tactics. If Rabada recovers in time, will the



*IND vs SA: Kagiso Rabada didn't play the Kolkata Test, but will the Proteas bring him back for the Guwahati Test with a chance to win a Test series on Indian soil after 25 years.*

specifically, he has been a genuine handful, claiming 55 wickets in 14 encounters, including a memorable five-wicket haul. His knack for striking at key moments cannot be ignored. When it comes to the broader subcontinent, the numbers tell a different tale. 14 Tests have yielded 40 wickets—a respectable haul, but far from the terror he unleashes on pitches that favour pace and bounce. In conditions that are slower, Rabada's menace is naturally tempered, and he rarely achieves the same jaw-dropping spells that make him a match-winner elsewhere.

Proteas stick with the winning combination that dominated in his absence, or will they roll the dice and unleash their ace pacer, reshaping the balance of power once again? The decision promises drama almost as intense as cricket itself. Kagiso Rabada's record in India may not be eye-popping—just nine wickets in six Tests—but dig a little deeper and the story becomes more nuanced. Against India

## Gurpreet Singh Fetches Silver In 25m Centre Fire Pistol Shooting World Championships

**New Delhi:** Olympian Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol event but eventually got a silver after losing on inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov at the Olympic Shooting Range here. This was Gurpreet's second individual medal in the World Championships, the first also being a silver won back in 2018 at Changwon in the 25m Standard Pistol event. Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici of France won the bronze here. India thus ended their World Championship campaign in third place with a total of 13 medals, including three gold, six silver and four bronze behind China. The Chinese team mustered 12 gold, seven silver and two bronze. South Korea secured seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals to end third in the overall standings. Gurpreet shot a total of 584-18x over two days of com-

petition in the precision and rapid stages, while Korostylov shot 29 inner 10s and a perfect score of 100 in the final rapid round to edge away with the gold medal. The Indian shooter, who was placed ninth after the precision stage with a score of 288-8x (95,97,96), bounced back on the second day to shoot a brilliant score of 296-10x (98,99,99) in the rapid stage to clinch the silver medal. The Ukrainian, who was leading after the precision stage with a score of 291-14x, shot 293-15x in the rapid stage to level Gurpreet's score and win the gold on inner 10s. Harpreet Singh, who was in 291-10x that placed him second, could only manage 286-6x in the rapid stage which saw him eventually finish in ninth place. The other Indian shooter in fray, Sahil Choudhary, finished 28th with a total score of 561-14x (Precision – 272-4x, Rapid – 289 – 10x). The three shooters



also finished outside the team medal places, ending fifth. Samrat Rana (10m Air Pistol), Ravinder Singh (50m Standard Pistol and 10m Air Pistol Team) won the gold medals. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (50m Rifle 3 Positions Men), Anish Bhanwala (25m Rapid Fire Pistol), Gurpreet Singh (25m Centre Fire Pistol), Esha Singh and Samrat Rana (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team, 10m Women's Air Pistol Team and 50m Men's Standard Pistol Team) secured the silver medals.

## The long apprenticeship of South African spinner Prenelan Subrayen

**Mumbai:** Prenelan Subrayen's career as a journeyman has been fairly successful. The South African eventually got his Test and ODI caps in 2025, over 14 years after making his senior debut in the CSA Provincial One Day Cup in 2010 at the age of 17. His patience was put to the test during those years, which also helped to mold him as a person and a cricket player. During this period, he remained a consistent performer on the domestic circuit, picking up 256 First-Class wickets, along with 97 List A and 110 T20 scalps. When he received his Test cap in Bulawayo and played his maiden ODI in Cairns, Australia, Subrayen, then 31, felt more relieved than anything else. "It was a long process, but one of growth and maturity," Subrayen told Sportstar. "Over time, it shaped me into who I am today. It was a proud feeling. I would've loved my parents to be there, but it was

a relief to have finally made the step up after such a long time." The journey also brought frustrating stretches. He was reported for a suspect action multiple times, most notably in 2012, when he had to remodel his action. Even after that, he needed to clear tests periodically. After his ODI debut in Australia, where he took one for 46, South Africa A side for two multi-day Tests against India A, a series featuring players such as Rishabh Pant, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, and K.L. Rahul. "The last few months have been quite busy for me. Coming to India, it's always positive, especially to play cricket here. It's a good gauge of how to operate in these conditions because they differ somewhat from South Africa, although not so much from Durban, where I come from. It's been a good learning experience," Subrayen said.

## Cricket's biggest names gather ahead of the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 season opener

**New Delhi:** Star power lit up the Zayed Cricket Stadium as the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 lifted the curtain for its latest edition. The 'Global Legends' and 'Icon' players of all eight franchise teams gathered at the venue ahead of the tournament, including Kieron Pollard (UAE Bulls), Thisara Perera (Northern Warriors), Angelo Mathews (Royal Champs), Faf du Plessis (Vista Riders), Sam Billings (Aspin Stallions), Thisara Periera (Quetta Qavalry), Nicholas Pooran (Deccan Gladiators), and Moeen Ali (Ajman Titans), according to a release from Abu Dhabi T10. Speaking ahead of the season opener, Kieron Pollard of The UAE Bulls stated, "It's great to see the local talent developing, and being part of this tournament alongside them is something special. I'm looking forward to playing with the likes of Rohid," as quoted from a release by Abu Dhabi T10. Talking about the UAE as a top cricketing destination, Moeen Ali, Captain of the Ajman Titans, said, "The UAE has established itself as a global cricket hub, and you can see that with tournaments like the Abu Dhabi T10. The facilities here are world-class, and the passion for cricket is growing every year. It feels great to be part of something that's putting UAE cricket on the map and attracting the best players from around the world." The tournament will feature a total of 32 high-octane matches across 12 playing days, showcasing the fastest format in cricket where each team bats for just 10 overs, deliver-



ing explosive 90-minute contests. The opening match will see new entrants Quetta Qavalry take on Northern Warriors, followed by an exciting clash between the defending champions, Deccan Gladiators, and the UAE Bulls. "I've always loved playing cricket in the UAE. I've been coming here since I was very young, and it holds a special place in my cricketing journey. here just feels right. It has been a home away from home for me, and I'm always excited to be playing cricket in this region," said Nicholas Pooran, captain, Deccan Gladiators.

## World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 Boxers Sumit Kundu and Jadumani Singh from India are making headlines

**New Delhi:** India's scintillating run at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 roared with strong performances from Sumit Kundu and Jadumani Singh. Sumit (75 kg) and Jadumani Singh (50 kg), ensured India completed a perfect medal sweep across both sessions, along with Pawan Bartwal (55kg) and Hitesh Gulia (70 kg,) delivering two of the tournament's biggest results. Indian Boxer Sumit Kundu said, "My performance was not that good in the first round. But it was very good in the 2nd and 3rd rounds... I was injured, and it took me around 2 years to make a comeback... I have reached the semifinals and I am happy about it. Sumit followed Pawan's lead with an equally assured 5:0 win over South Korea's Kim Hyeon-tae in the 75kg quarterfinals. A sharp punch to the face early in the bout

World Boxing Cup 2025. Saweety Boora (75 kg) takes on Australia's Emma-Sue Greetree, with Narender, Naveen, and Ankush also chasing finals spots. opens his campaign against Ukraine's Elvin Aliiev.

set the tone for a relentless display where the Indian pugilist married aggression with tactical control. He pressed forward throughout, Naveen, a Strandja 2024 medalist, completed the trio of wins in Session 2 with a composed and intelligent performance against Kazakhstan's Bekzat Tangatar. Indian Boxer Jadumani Singh said, "... Today's match was against Kazakhstan. It was a good game. I learnt a lot about how I should play further in the semifinals..." In session 3, Jadumani opened his World Boxing Cup Finals 2025



campaign with a unanimous decision win over Kazakhstan's Nurzat Ongarov, displaying his blistering attacking intent from the get-go and pinning his opponent to the ropes throughout the contest. In the day's other results, Taiwan's Paris Olympics medalist Wu Shih-Yi delivered one of the standout wins of the session, dominating Uz-

bekistan's Sitora Turdibekova 5:0 in the women's 57kg division. In the men's 55kg and 75kg brackets, Uzbekistan's Samandar Olimov, England's Ellis Trowbridge, and Uzbekistan's Javokhir Abdurakhimov advanced, while Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Poland also secured key victories across the afternoon session

### Bangladesh Captain Breaks Silence On Physical Allegations

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh women's team captain Nigar Sultana has responded to the allegations made by pacer Jahanara Alam, who accused her of physically assaulting "Why would I hit anyone that Sultana had beaten up her teammates. "This is nothing new. Joty beats up the juniors a lot," Alam told Bangladesh daily Kaler Kantho. However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) strongly refuted the allegations, saying that they have full trust in Sultana, the players, and the management.

## Shubman Gill Misses Team India Practice, Likely To Miss 2nd Test

**New Delhi:** India's preparations for the second Test against South Africa at Guwahati began with a cloud of uncertainty over captain Shubman Gill's availability. As the Indian team hit the nets on Tuesday, Gill was nowhere to be seen, raising concerns about his fitness and participation in the crucial match starting on November 22. The skipper missed almost all of the series opener against South Africa in Kolkata after sustaining a neck injury in the first innings.

The batter wasn't even with the team in the second innings, leaving the captaincy responsibilities to his deputy, Rishabh Pant. Team sources have told NDTV that Gill is unlikely to travel with the squad to Guwahati, leaving the leadership role open. In such a scenario, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is expected to step in as captain again. With Gill missing from the team, the leadership role does become more challenging for Pant, especially with India trailing 0-1 in the two-Test series after a 30-run defeat in the opener. Meanwhile, the Indian camp continued its training routine. Youngsters Dhruv Jurel, Akash Deep, Wash-

ington Sundar, and Sai Sudharsan were among those spotted in practice, working under the watchful eyes of the coaching staff.

Their involvement highlights the team's focus on building depth and readiness, as the hosts look to bounce back strongly in Guwahati. With the series on the line, Gill's absence is a major setback for India, who will need to bank on Pant for both tactical clarity and batting resilience against the World Test Championship winners.

The spotlight now shifts to the wicket-keeper batter, whose aggressive style and leadership will be tested in a high-pressure situation. It would also be interesting to see which batter replaces Gill at the No. 4 role, if the skipper fails to make the cut.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, the pace-bowling all-rounder who was released from the squad ahead of the start of the first Test, could be drafted back into the side in Gill's absence. Sai Sudharsan, however, is the No. 1 candidate to replace his Gujarat Titans teammate in the playing XI for the second Test.

## West Indies series, New Zealand loses Daryl Mitchell due injury

**New Delhi:** New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell to sit out the rest of the ODI series against the West Indies due to a groin injury, as per the official website of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Mitchell hurt his groin during the opening ODI against the West Indies in Christchurch and subsequent scans have revealed a minor tear and a two-week rehabilitation period. It means Mitchell will miss the final two matches of the ODI series against the Caribbean side, but will be aiming to return for the three-match Test series that commences on December 2. Fellow batter Henry Nicholls will remain with the squad after he was called up to the playing group on Monday and could be in contention to feature in the second match of the series in Napier on Wednesday. Mitchell scored his seventh ODI century in the opening ODI of the series with the West Indies, with the right-hander able to overcome any discomfort from the injury to help the Black Caps register a narrow sev-



en-run victory at Hagley Oval. New Zealand coach Rob Walter said it was disappointing to lose Mitchell to injury when he was in such good form with the bat. "It's always tough being ruled out of a series early on with injury, particularly when you're in hot form like Daryl is," Walter said, as quoted from the official website of ICC. "He has been our stand-

out performer in the ODI format so far this summer, so he'll be missed for two important matches," he added. "The positive is that the injury is only minor, and we should see Daryl recovered and fit for the Test series," he noted.

Walter believes Nicholls can fill in admirably for Mitchell should he be given a chance during the final two matches of the series. "Henry has been in top form in the Ford Trophy and is an experienced international cricketer, so it's great to welcome him back into the side," Walter added. "It's always pleasing to be able to reward players who are in good touch, and we know Henry will be raring to go if given an opportunity," he said. New Zealand ODI squad: Mitchell Santner (captain), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Will Young.

## Satwik-Chirag pair advances to second round Australian Open

**New Delhi:** Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles second round with a tough straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world No. 3 Indian pair, who reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750, prevailed 25-23, 21-16 in a fighting 48-minute opening-round clash against Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei. In women's doubles, however, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 10-21, 14-21 defeat to Indonesia's F Kusuma and M Puspitasari in their opening match. Top seeds Satwik and Chirag fell 2-6 behind early in the opening game, with the Taiwanese pair maintaining a slender lead until 16-14. The Indians turned the tables to go up 19-17, but the game went down to the wire thereafter. A sharp



net shot after a fierce rally gave the Indians a game point, which the Taiwanese saved with a brutal smash. Chirag then missed a chance to give

Ko-Chi and Li-Wei another game point, only for them to find the net. Satwik's error handed the Taiwanese their third game point, which the Indians promptly saved. The Indians earned another game point when their opponents hit the net and finally converted as the Taiwanese faltered again at the net. Satwik and Chirag opened up a 7-4 lead after the change of sides, but two net errors and a strong smash from the Taiwanese allowed them to catch up. The pairs split the next six points before an attempted smash went long, giving the Indians a one-point lead at the interval.

Satwik and Chirag maintained their momentum after the restart, stretching the advantage to 18-15, and closed out the match comfortably with two superb smashes. India's singles players such as Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth, Ayush Shetty and others will start their campaign on Wednesday.