

In Brief

Free blood test camp

Sivasagar: A free blood test camp was recently held in Sivasagar by the Marwari Sammilan, Sivasagar Branch, in collaboration with KD Diagnostic Centre, commemorating the first death anniversary of social worker Shubhakaran Sharma. Over a hundred participants received health check-ups, including blood sugar and hemoglobin tests, at no cost. The initiative was led by Sharma's family, honoring his legacy as a respected businessman and literary figure who translated numerous religious texts into Assamese. Sharma passed away on November 8, 2024, and was also a former President of the Sivasagar Marwari Panchayat.

Tripura BJP to launch statewide 'Unity March' from November 10

Agartala: The Tripura unit of the BJP will launch a "Unity March" on November 10 to promote national integration under the theme "One India, Best India – One Tripura, Best Tripura." Announced by BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee, the march coincides with the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, emphasizing his role in Tripura's merger with India in 1949. The march will span all 10 districts, covering 8 to 10 kilometers, with participation from ministers, MLAs, and citizens. It will commence in West Tripura district, flagged off by Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha at Ujjayanta Palace, ending at Hapania Mela Ground.

Drugs amounting to Rs 4.29 crore destroyed in Aizawl

Aizawl: The Central Young Mizo Association's Central Anti-Drugs Squad held a Drug Disposal Programme in Aizawl, marking the destruction of narcotics seized between March 15 and June 2025. Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma attended the event and emphasized the need for a compassionate, community-driven approach to combat the drug menace. He stressed the importance of proper rehabilitation homes, skill training, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for recovering individuals. Discussions are underway with various church organizations to establish quality rehabilitation centers. He praised the YMA's pivotal role in community well-being.

Assam CM mocks Assam Congress chief, calls party's moves 'child's play'

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma criticized the Congress party during the launch of a welfare scheme in Guwahati, labeling their political actions as "child's play." He dismissed Congress's claim of gaining new supporters as lacking real leadership and substance. Sarma emphasized that while Congress seeks publicity, the BJP focuses on governance and welfare, exemplified by their new scheme providing subsidized essentials like masoor dal and sugar to low-income families under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The initiative aims to alleviate household costs and ensure food security, reflecting the government's commitment to economic relief.

NEHU hosts International Conference on sustainable development

Shillong, Nov 10: The Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), in collaboration with the Society for Pathways to Sustainability (PathS), the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati, and the ICSSR-North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, inaugurated a two-day International Conference on "Sustainable Development: Theory, Practice, Approach and Policy" today at NEHU, Shillong. The inaugural function, held at Raj Bhavan, was graced by the Governor of Meghalaya, who attended as the Chief Guest. The event brought together eminent scholars, policymakers, and researchers to deliberate on key aspects of sustainability in theory and practice. Following the inaugural session, Prof. A. C. Mohapatra, Retired Professor of Geography, NEHU, delivered the highlighting the intricate balance between environmental conservation and socio-economic growth. The session also featured a Panel Discussion on "Sustainable Development and the North East India: Challenges and Opportunities" where experts discussed pathways to promote inclusive and region-specific sustainable policies. The conference aims to foster dialogue and collaboration towards achieving sustainable development goals in the North Eastern region and beyond.



GDC Chairman Prem Tamang expressed the sentiment and said, "We want more Uma Chetry in Assam"

Guwahati, Nov 10: In a day filled with pride, joy, and celebration, the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) felicitated Uma Chetry, the first cricketer from Assam and the entire Northeast to be part of India's ICC Women's ODI World Cup-winning team, at a grand ceremony held at Barsapara Cricket Stadium. The 22-year-old wicketkeeper-batter, who has already carved her name in history, received a cash award of Rs 51 lakh for her achievements, along with an overwhelming reception from fans, fellow cricketers, and her community. Gorkha Development Council (GDC) Chairman Prem Tamang expressed the sentiment of the entire Gorkha community and said, "We want more Uma Chetry in Assam and in our Gorkha community. Uma Chetry not only made us Gorkha proud but made the entire nation proud." Adding to the festive atmosphere, around 500 Gorkha women, dressed in traditional attire, participated in the celebrations to felicitate Uma Chetry. "It is something that has truly filled my ears," Tamang added. The ACA,

with support from BJYM Assam, Guwahati BJP, and Bokakhat District Sports Association, held a felicitation ceremony at its office. ACA President Taranga Gogoi and Secretary Devajit Saikia were present, alongside Uma's parents, coaches, and district sports representatives.

The event celebrated Uma Chetry as the first player from Northeast India in a Women's ODI World Cup-winning team. Speaking on the occasion, Tamang said, "The Assam Cricket Association has honored us today. Being from the Gorkha community, we wanted to receive special recognition, and today the ACA has extended such an honor to us." He also spoke about Uma's potential, saying, "Her participation has inspired many talented individuals, and in the coming days, Ms. Chetry has the potential to become the captain at the national level in India." Following the indoor ceremony, Uma Chetry was celebrated at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, also known as Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium, with a massive public gathering



estimated at 5,000–10,000 attendees. Uma Chetry, in her Indian jersey, was garlanded and honored, joined by her mother, Dipa Chetry, in emotional moments. The ACA presented her with a ₹51 lakh reward, celebrating Assam's pride in her World Cup triumph. Taranga Gogoi, ACA President, praised Uma as "Assam's promising cricketer" and reiterated the association's commitment to nurturing talent from the Northeast.

ACA Secretary Devajit Saikia added that Uma's success should not be politicized, calling it a "proud moment for Assam." Uma Chetry, from Bokakhat, Assam, overcame early hardships, including childhood floods, to make her international debut at the World Cup opener on September 30, 2025, marking a breakthrough for women's cricket in Northeast India.

Uma Chetry's achievements have already had a measurable impact. Enrollment in women's cricket programs in Assam has risen by nearly 30% since her debut announcement.

ACA will support young athletes with scholarships and training, while upcoming IPL matches at Barsapara Stadium are set to inspire future cricketers through Uma's legacy.

Seoul Fashion event features Arunachal's Textile Heritage



Itanagar, Nov 10: Designer Yajir Mara from Arunachal Pradesh brought the state's rich textile tradition to global attention by showcasing her creations at the 21st "Celebrating India" fashion event held in Seoul, South Korea. The two-day event, organised on November 6 and 7 at the Textile Center in Gangnam, celebrated India's diverse cultural and design heritage. Supported by the Embassy of India in Seoul, the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, and the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI), the show featured designers from across India, but Yajir Mara's Arunachal-inspired collection stood out for its authenticity and craftsmanship. Representing India, Mara presented a collection that beautifully combined the traditional handwoven fabrics and tribal motifs of

Arunachal Pradesh with modern fashion sensibilities. Her designs carried the theme "Weaving Heritage into Modern Elegance," reflecting her commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous craftsmanship on a global stage. Adding glamour and local pride to the event, Miss Arunachal Taba Jumshi walked the ramp as the showstopper, embodying the state's strength, grace, and cultural identity. Several dignitaries from Arunachal Pradesh were represented at the event by key officials including Nyato Dukam and Kento Jini, affirming the state government's support for local artisans, weavers, and designers who showcase Arunachal's cultural identity globally. Senior officials like Mamung Tayeng and Dorjee Phuntso also attended, highlighting the government's commitment to this sector.

Tourism in Mizoram booms as over 1.27 lakh visitors arrive in August–September

Aizawl, Nov 10: Mizoram has recorded a strong surge in tourist arrivals, with more than 1.27 lakh visitors exploring the state between August and September 2025, according to data released by the Mizoram Tourism Department. The figures highlight the state's growing appeal among both domestic and international travellers. The official report stated that a total of 1,27,458 tourists visited Mizoram during the two-month period. Among them, 1,25,250 were domestic visitors, while 2,208 were foreign tourists, marking a significant milestone for the state's tourism sector.

Officials said the rise indicates that Mizoram is steadily emerging as one of Northeast India's most attractive destinations for cultural, eco, and adventure tourism. In September alone, 128 accommodation units across 11 districts submitted reports on tourist arrivals. Aizawl District led the list as the most-visited destination, hosting 112 foreign tourists through 59 registered establishments. The district's scenic beauty, urban amenities, and cultural heritage continue to make it a major draw for travellers. Lawngtlai District also reported a growing number of international visitors.

The department's data revealed that 1,250 foreign tourists entered Mizoram in August, followed by 407 in September. A majority of them came from Myanmar's Rakhine State, reflecting the strong cross-border cultural connections between Mizoram and Myanmar. Key entry and exit points for tourists included Lengpui Airport (ILP counter), Security FRO in Mamit District, and the border points at Kanhmun, Bairabi, and Vairengte in Kolasib District. Sairang Railway Station also saw a rise in tourist movement, underscoring the growing importance of improved connectivity within the state.

Over 1,000 bighas reclaimed in Goalpara's Dahikata Reserved Forest, returned to elephants

Guwahati, Nov 10: The Goalpara District Administration, in coordination with the Assam Forest Department, successfully cleared 1,140 bighas of encroached land in the Dahikata Reserved Forest under the Matia Revenue Circle on Sunday. The reclaimed area, a crucial habitat for wild elephants, was returned to its natural occupants as part of a larger forest restoration initiative. The eviction drive began early in the morning at 5:30 a.m. and was carried out peacefully, officials said. Over 20 excavators and more than 100 security personnel were deployed to ensure smooth operations. According to authorities, 588 families who had been illegally residing within forest limits were evicted, with nearly 70 percent of them having vacated voluntarily following notices served a month ago. Addressing the press at the site, M.K. Yadava, Special Chief Secretary of the State Forest Department, called



the operation a significant step towards protecting Assam's forest reserves. "We have successfully cleared 1,140 bighas of encroached land from the Dahikata Reserved Forest. This land is not only ecologically important but also linked to the Sri Sri Surya Pahar heritage site," he said.

Yadava added that the area serves as a critical habitat for wild elephants, whose migratory routes have been disrupted due to human encroachment. "Today, we have returned this land from human occupation back to the elephants. From tomorrow, we will begin installing fencing and initiate

reforestation to restore the natural ecosystem," he said. Officials said that about 30 percent of the remaining encroachers were evicted during the final phase of the operation. In the coming weeks, invasive vegetation will be removed, and new trees will be planted to help regenerate the forest.

Tai Ahom Group Stages ST Status Protest in Bishwanath

Bishwanath, Nov 10: In order to force the government to grant the Tai Ahom community in Bishwanath Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, the members of the Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad (TAYPA) displayed solidarity and resolve.

The community's dissatisfaction with the government's refusal to acknowledge the Tai Ahom as a Scheduled Tribe, despite years of advocacy and constant assurances that the federal and provincial governments would do so, was expressed in the rally's fervent slogans and placards.

The community's mounting dissatisfaction over years of broken promises and delayed acknowledgment was reflected in the rally's impassioned slogans and posters. Demanding constitutional recognition, which they believed was crucial for the social, educational, and economic advancement of the Tai Ahom people, protesters marched



through the main parts of Bishwanath. In order to ensure their proper position under India's Scheduled Tribe structure, both young people and elders took part in the rally.

The leaders of the Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad (TAYPA) stated that no tangible action has been taken thus far by succeeding governments, despite repeated pleas and promises. They said that the Tai Ahom community's inclusion on the ST list was a demand for equality, identity, and tradition rather than for rewards. The protesters

vowed to step up their efforts until they were heard, and the demonstration ended peacefully. Additionally, they warned that further inaction could result in more widespread protests throughout the state in the future and urged the Assam government and the Center to act immediately. As the demonstration brought to mind a community's decades-long fight for recognition—a tribute to both their tenacity and the urgent need for state action—cries for justice and chants of solidarity reverberated throughout Bishwanath.

NATIONAL

Stalin raises issues with Tamil Nadu's SIR procedure

Chennai, Nov 10: On November 11, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin expressed serious concerns regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, highlighting procedural flaws that could undermine the electoral process. During a video conference, he emphasized the importance of proper performance by booth-level officers (BLOs) to avoid jeopardizing the revision exercise, noting a lack of coordination between BLOs and the political party's booth-level agents (BLAs), despite promises from the Election Commission (EC). Stalin underscored the need to ensure that all eligible voters are included while ineligible ones are excluded from the rolls.

Stalin announced that the DMK has challenged the SIR in the Supreme Court, labeling the current process a threat to the voting rights of Tamil Nadu's citizens and warning that it could result in widespread voter deletions. He criticized the hurried execution of the revision, which he believes is anti-democratic, especially with the 2026 assembly elections approaching.

To assist those affected by the SIR, the DMK established a helpline for citizens seeking clarification and guidance. Stalin called for vigilance and unity among the people of Tamil Nadu to protect their voting rights against the perceived conspiracy of the SIR initiative, a sentiment echoed by leaders from the Congress party and other states, including Kerala and West Bengal. He outlined urgent actions for DMK members to take in coordinating protests against the SIR. In response, Edappadi Palaniswami, leader of the opposition AIADMK, suggested that Stalin's concerns stem from a fear of a fair voter list ahead of the elections.



A significant terror plot in Faridabad is foiled by J&K Police

Faridabad, Nov 10: The Jammu & Kashmir Police, in collaboration with the Intelligence Bureau and Faridabad Police, thwarted a terror plot by seizing approximately 350 kg of explosives, an AK-47 rifle, and significant ammunition from a rented house in Dhauj village, Faridabad.

The operation was informed by interrogations of suspects in Jammu & Kashmir. The police recovered ammonium nitrate and other components potentially for assembling improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from Dr. Muzammil Shakil, a teacher originally from Jammu & Kashmir.

Following initial reports, police clarified the explosive material was ammo-

VIP stops supporting RJD in Kaimur

Bal Govind Bind, the VIP state and district chief, announced a decision following RJD chief Tejashwi Yadav's refusal to endorse the VIP candidate from Chainpur.

Patna, Nov 10: The Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP), part of the Opposition bloc in Bihar, has decided to withdraw its support for the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidates in four Kaimur district seats ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, specifically in the second phase scheduled for Tuesday. The announcement was made by VIP state and district chief Bal Govind Bind following RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's election rally in Bhabua. This decision was influenced by Yadav's refusal to back the VIP candidate from Chainpur, highlighting tensions within the alliance.

During the electoral dynamics, both parties were engaged in what was initially portrayed as a friendly competition for the Chainpur and Gaura Bauram seats. However, an agreement was eventually reached where the RJD offered to withdraw its candidate, former BJP member Brij Kishor Bind, in favor of VIP's Bal Govind Bind in Chainpur. This arrangement was pub-



licly confirmed by Mukesh Sahni during an election rally.

The situation escalated on November 4 when Santosh Sahni, Mukesh's brother, was removed from candidacy for Gaura Bauram in an effort to support RJD's Afzal Ali Khan. Nevertheless, RJD's candidate proved resistant, refusing to step aside as directed by Yadav, which complicated the alliance's strategy further. Subsequently, the VIP stated that engagement with the RJD was no longer tenable for the four Kaimur seats, signaling a strong opposition from their Mallah and Bind voter base against the RJD candidates.

Furthermore, due to the evolving tensions, Mukesh Sahni's planned rallies in Motihari supporting RJD candidates were abruptly canceled, attributed to what he termed "technical reasons." RJD has yet to respond to these significant shifts in the political landscape within the alliance.

Panjab University Police clash at the gate as they attempt to prevent groups from joining the protest

Chandigarh, Nov 10: The Chandigarh UT Police attempted to prevent protesting students, activists from Sikh organizations, and farm unions from entering Panjab University to support ongoing protests demanding a schedule for delayed PU senate elections.

The demonstrations come in response to the Centre's previous move to convert elected governing bodies into appointed ones, which many protesters viewed as an infringement on the university's autonomy and the principles of federalism in India.

The education ministry rescinded its earlier notification on restructuring but protest leaders, notably from the Panjab University Bachao Morcha, insisted they would continue their demonstrations until a clear election schedule is announced, emphasizing that the rollback of the previous mandate was insufficient without concrete electoral dates.

On November 10, demonstrators planned a shutdown and clashed with police at the campus gates, leading to confrontations where protesters managed to breach police barricades. Heavy police presence surrounded the



university due to the mass mobilization effort involving support from various political factions. It was indicated by student leaders like PUCSC general secretary Abhishek Daggar and vice-president Ashmeet Singh that plans for a peaceful protest would continue, asserting that many students were being barred from accessing the campus. The university has already suspended classes for two days, restricting entry to those with ID cards.

The background to the unrest includes the amended Panjab University Act of 1947, which significantly reduced the Senate's elected membership, raised concerns among various political leaders who criticized the federal government's intentions as an attempt to exert control. Several political figures including Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and various

members of the Congress Party voiced their endorsement for the student protests against the Centre's actions.

Previous attempts to construct a draft election schedule by the university administration have been ignored by the Chancellor's office, exacerbating frustrations and contributing to ongoing demands for democratic governance at the university. During the protests, dialogue occurred between student leaders and university officials, aiming to address grievances while maintaining campus safety.

The assembly of political leaders from complex backgrounds showcases a united front around the student body's demands for a re-establishment of democratic procedures at Panjab University, underscoring the contentious intersection of educational governance and political power in the state.

Appeal against delay in depiction of 33% women's quota

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court has requested the government's response to a petition challenging the delay in implementing the 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies, as mandated by a constitutional amendment. The amendment is contingent on a delimitation exercise that is yet to be scheduled. Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan issued a notice concerning the public interest litigation filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur. The court emphasized that while it cannot compel the executive or Parliament to enforce a law, it can inquire about the timeline for the delimitation process.

Thakur's petition, submitted in May, argues that the reservation can be enacted without waiting for delimitation, suggesting that one-third of the seats in the legislatures could be reserved immediately. The court highlighted that women constitute nearly 48.4% of the population and pointed out the declining representation of women in Parliament, where they currently occupy only 75 out of 543 seats in the Lok Sabha and 42 out of 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Thakur contended that the opportunity for women to benefit from the 2023 amendment is being unfairly hindered by the indefinite postponement linked to the delimitation exercise, which will be based on census figures following the law's enactment notified in September 2023. Senior advocate Shobha Gupta, representing Thakur, stressed that the law explicitly requires one-third of seats to be reserved and rotated and criticized the delay, noting that the push for women's reservation dates back to a bill introduced in 1987.

The bench acknowledged that the constitutional amendment aims to provide political justice to women, perhaps necessitating data for constituency reservations and adjustments to the number of seats in Parliament. Gupta pointedly argued that the absence of a timeline for the delimitation process—two years post-law approval—was concerning. T

he court allowed Thakur to send a copy of her petition to the government but did not set a specific date for further proceedings. Additionally, the petition raises issues regarding the necessity of census data for women's reservation, questioning why similar reservations for scheduled castes and tribes were implemented without such prerequisites. The postponement due to delimitation was described as a barrier to achieving the goal of increasing women's representation in the democratic process.

According to Bhagwat, RSS has always respected and defended the Tricolor since its founding

Bengaluru, Nov 10: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat emphasized the organization's respect for the national flag, the Tricolour, during a lecture in Bengaluru.

He clarified that the RSS, which adopted its saffron flag in 1925, values both the Tricolour and its own flag, stating that like other political parties, it identifies with its flag while maintaining respect for the national emblem.

Addressing the Congress government's inquiries about the RSS's registration status, Bhagwat highlighted that the RSS operates as a "body of individuals" and has no legal requirement to be registered or pay taxes, a status recognized by tax authorities and courts.



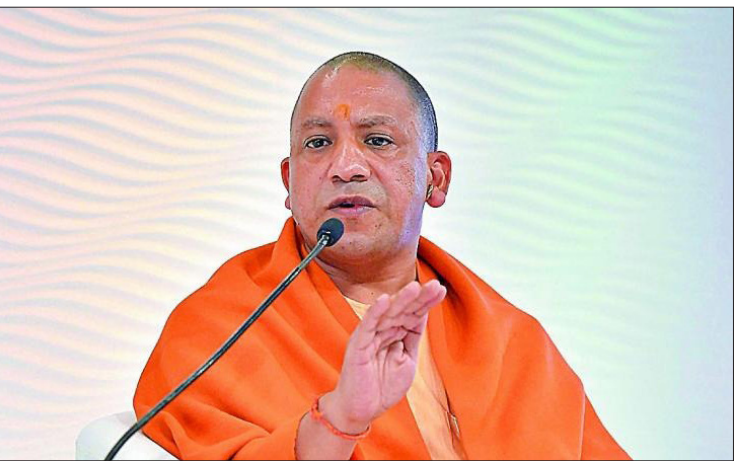
Bhagwat also noted inclusivity in RSS activities, asserting that individuals from various faiths, including Muslims and Christians, can participate without their identities being emphasized, viewing all as part of "Bharat Mata." He

stressed that the RSS does not promote outreach specific to any community and has historically engaged with diverse religious figures.

"Vande Mataram" must be taught in all UP schools, according to Yogi: "No new Jinnahs should rise"

Lucknow, Nov 10: Singing of 'Vande Mataram' will be made mandatory in all educational institutions in Uttar Pradesh, as announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during an 'Ekta Yatra' (Unity March) event in Gorakhpur. Adityanath emphasized that this initiative aims to instill respect and pride for Bharat Mata among citizens. He noted the importance of recognizing and addressing divisive forces that threaten national unity, stating, "We must ensure no new Jinnah ever arises in India again... we must bury divisive intent before it can take root."

The announcement comes in the context of escalating political tensions concerning the national song, especially following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent claims that key stanzas of "Vande Mataram" were dropped by the Congress in



UP CM Yogi Adityanath emphasized the importance of respecting the national song Vande Mataram.

1937, which he suggested contributed to the partition of India.

The Congress party has demanded an apology from Modi, arguing that

his comments insulted the Congress Working Committee (CWC) of that era, which included prominent leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and

Clip of Kerala kids singing RSS anthem prompts govt probe

• Kerala's education department is investigating an incident involving students singing an RSS anthem on a train, amidst allegations of the students being exploited for political purposes.

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 10: The Kerala general education department initiated an investigation into the alleged participation of private school students in singing the RSS anthem aboard the Vande Bharat Express, following its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A video of the event circulated online, prompting backlash and leading to the video's temporary removal before being reposted. General Education Minister V Sivankutty described the in-



cident as a serious violation of constitutional principles, asserting that it reflects an attempt to politicize students and misuse the Railways for political ends.

He instructed the general education director to conduct a thorough inquiry regarding whether the event breached Kerala Educational Rules. Meanwhile, the principal of the associated school claimed the students

voluntarily sang a patriotic song. Defense from two BJP union ministers highlighted the children's right to choose their song, while opposition leader VD Sathesan called for accountability from the school management, arguing that official engagements should remain free from political affiliations, asserting that the RSS anthem does not represent patriotism.

At Jantar Mantar in Delhi, a man shoots himself to death

New Delhi, Nov 10: A man shot himself dead at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Monday. Authorities, including police personnel, responded to the scene, which has been cordoned off.

The identity of the deceased is still unknown, and efforts are being made to confirm it. Police officials stated that the body will undergo a post-mortem examination following the completion of legal procedures.

The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are currently under investigation, with a case registered for further inquiry.

Bihar's second phase of the assembly election is under strict security

Patna, Nov 10: Security measures in Bihar have been significantly intensified for the second phase of assembly polls scheduled on November 11, with over 400,000 personnel assigned to election duties across 45,399 polling stations, including 40,073 in rural areas. An Election Commission official

stated that this deployment aims to ensure free and fair elections.

The security force includes around 500 companies (approximately 50,000 personnel) from the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), with an additional 500 companies having been mobilized recently. Moreover, more than

60,000 members of the Bihar Police and around 2,000 personnel from reserve battalions from different states have been engaged, along with 30,000 Bihar Special Armed Police, over 20,000 home guards, and nearly 19,000 new constables currently in training. Rural police, referred to as 'chowk-

idars', also add up to about 150,000 for both phases of polling.

Regarding the sensitivity of polling centers, the officer indicated that all booths are considered equally important for security purposes. Notably, the first phase of polling saw a historic voter turnout exceeding 65% across 121



assembly constituencies.

A man who assaulted a female doctor during the 2021 pandemic was sentenced to seven years in prison

Mumbai, Nov 10: A Thane court has sentenced Rashid Shakil Khan to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for the assault and robbery of Dr. Gayatri Nandlal Jaiswal in January 2021. The sentencing, announced on October 31, also includes a fine of ₹20,000, of which ₹10,000 is to be paid as compensation to the victim for her injuries and trauma. The attack occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic when the accused entered the doctor's clinic under

the guise of inquiring about an RT-PCR test. Following a brief wait, Khan returned and violently assaulted Dr. Jaiswal with an iron hammer, inflicting serious injuries, including a small acute subdural hemorrhage, and stole her valuables, including gold jewelry and cash. The court emphasized the severity of the injuries and the potential fatal nature of a subdural hemorrhage, reinforcing the message that violence against medical professionals will not be tol-

erated. Khan was convicted under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Violence Against Doctors Act, 2019, as the case exemplifies the violence the legislation aims to prevent. The judge articulated the necessity for exemplary punishment to serve justice and deter similar crimes, stressing the importance of upholding the rule of law. Fourteen prosecution witnesses were presented to substantiate the charges against him.

Tripura BJP to launch statewide ‘Unity March’ from November 10

Agartala, Nov 10: The Tripura unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to launch a large-scale “Unity March” across the state from November 10, aimed at promoting national integration and strengthening the message of “One India, Best India – One Tripura, Best Tripura.” The announcement was made by Tripura BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee during a press conference at the party’s state headquarters on Saturday.

Bhattacharjee said the Unity March, known as the “Ekta March,” is part of a nationwide campaign to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. He highlighted that Patel’s contribution to India’s unity remains deeply significant for Tripura, recalling how the leader played a key role in ensuring Tripura’s merger with India in 1949. “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,



born on October 31, 1875, was a great freedom fighter who played an important role in India’s integration. His efforts, along with Maharani Kanchanprabha Devi, ensured that Tripura became part of India and not East Pakistan,” Bhattacharjee said.

Spectacular IAF air show captivates Guwahati, brings city to a standstill

Guwahati, Nov 10: The skies above the Brahmaputra turned into a stunning spectacle of aerial skill and precision today as the Indian Air Force (IAF) staged its first-ever full-scale air show in Guwahati to mark the 93rd anniversary of Air Force Day. The event, held at Lachit Ghat, drew thousands of spectators from across the city and surrounding areas, making it a historic moment for Assam and the entire Northeast. The air show featured over 75 aircraft from seven bases, including Guwahati, Tezpur, Jorhat, Chabua, Hasimara, Bagdogra, and Panagarh. Iconic fighters like the Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Mirage, and MiG-29 took to the skies alongside Apache helicopters, IL-78 refuellers, and heavy transport aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules. The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) wowed the audience with synchronized formations, loops, and heart-stopping stunts that left spectators in awe.

This year’s celebration, themed “Infallible, Impervious and Precise,” reflected the discipline, resilience, and operational excellence of the Indian Air Force. The event also marked a first for Assam, making it a landmark occasion for the Northeast region. Special arrangements were made to allow students and residents of old-age homes to witness the show up close, while others enjoyed the spectacle from public viewing points like Sati Radhika Shaanti Udyan. Notably, one of the flypasts featured the popular song “Mayabini” by Zubeen Garg, adding a cultural touch to the thrilling performance. The two-hour-long show, filled with daring maneuvers, precision flying, and the thunderous roar of engines, impressed officials and citizens alike. Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his wife, senior Air Force officers, and state dignitaries were present to witness the historic event.

Assam govt to issue firearm licences to indigenous people from Feb 2026

Guwahati, Nov 10: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the state government will begin issuing the first batch of firearm licences to indigenous people living in “vulnerable and remote” areas from February 2026. Sarma said the move aims to strengthen the sense of security among local residents in areas such as Dhubri, Morigaon, Barpeta, Nagaon and South Salmara-Mankachar, as well as localities like Rupahi, Dhing and Jania. The decision comes months ahead of the state assembly elections, likely to be held in March–April next year. “We have received a lot of

applications for firearm licences from indigenous people. The government will issue them very selectively,” Sarma said at a press conference following a cabinet meeting in Guwahati. The state cabinet had first decided on May 28 to allow firearm licences for residents of “vulnerable and remote” regions. Sarma also claimed that Assam is undergoing an “economic shift”, with sections of the Muslim population becoming more prosperous. “I have noticed that demographic change has taken place rapidly in the economic aspect as well. In a way, a chapter of the Assamese people’s surren-

der has begun,” he said. Citing data from 2001–2011, Sarma stated that the Hindu population’s growth rate is declining, while the Muslim population is increasing across every block in the state. He linked this with changes in land ownership patterns. “We are seeing that the sale of land from Hindus to Muslims is very high, while the vice versa is less,” he said, adding that land transactions now require prior government permission under a directive issued last year. Sarma clarified that the policy does not target any community. “A lot of Assamese and indigenous Muslims are involved, and

we have no problem with that,” he said, noting that the government is studying the changing patterns of wealth and land ownership. On another major decision, the Chief Minister announced that the cabinet has approved the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, which will be tabled in the assembly on November 25. The proposed law seeks to ban the practice of polygamy, with offenders facing up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment. Sarma said the offence would be cognisable and non-bailable. The Bill will not affect Scheduled Tribe populations or areas under the Sixth Schedule, including

the Bodoland Territorial Region, Dima Hasao, and Karbi Anglong. Muslims residing in these areas prior to 2005 will also be exempt. A compensation fund for women affected by polygamy will be established to aid victim women financially. Specifics regarding compensation and children’s welfare will be detailed in the law’s rules, and the legislation will take effect after assembly passage without retroactive application. Chief Minister Sarma indicated he will provide demographic and economic trend data in a future briefing, highlighting concerns over economic shifts.

Himanta Biswa Sarma mocks Assam Congress chief, calls party’s moves ‘child’s play’

Guwahati, Nov 10: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday took a dig at the state Congress leadership, saying the party’s actions look more like “child’s play” than serious politics. Speaking to reporters during the launch of a new welfare scheme in Guwahati, Sarma mocked the Congress’s recent claim that new supporters have been joining the party every month.

The Chief Minister dismissed it as a meaningless show without real leadership or political understanding. “This is not joining. If someone joins a party, there must be a leader’s name attached to it. The Congress president here does not understand politics — this is mere child’s



play,” Sarma said, drawing laughter from those present. He stated that while the Congress party focuses on publicity, the BJP government prioritizes governance and welfare improvements. This was in the context of launching a government scheme offering subsidized masoor dal, sugar, and salt under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to sup-

port low-income families. The scheme aims to reduce household expenses and ensure food security.

During the launch event, the Chief Minister distributed the subsidized items to beneficiaries, highlighting the state government’s ongoing commitment to economic relief and welfare enhancement in both rural and urban areas.

Manipur students’ body slams MPSC for serious lapse in civil services mains, demands accountability

Imphal, Nov 10: The Socialist Students’ Union of Manipur (SSUM) has come down heavily on the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC), accusing it of “unprecedented negligence” in conducting the MPSC Civil Services Mains Examination 2025 held on November 9. According to SSUM, a serious procedural error took place during the forenoon session of the exam when candidates were handed question booklets that were correctly titled but contained the wrong set of questions — those meant for the afternoon session.

The student body described the incident as a “shocking administrative failure” and said it exposed a major breakdown in the Commission’s internal verification and quality control system. “This lapse reflects a complete failure in quality control and exam security, gravely undermining the credibility and integrity of the examination,” the SSUM said in a statement.

The organisation also questioned the role of the Commission’s designated printing partner, demanding that responsibility be clearly fixed for the blunder. The SSUM pointed out that this is not the first time the MPSC has faced criticism for mismanagement. It recalled the infamous 2016 examination fiasco that led to widespread protests and court interventions, saying



that “such recurring failures show institutional incompetence and have eroded public trust in the MPSC.” Calling for strict action, the students’ body laid out a three-point demand — a public apology and detailed clarification from the Commission, a high-level inquiry to identify and penalise those responsible, and the implementation of firm preventive measures to ensure that such mistakes are never repeated.

Akash credits world record knock to coach

Shillong, Nov 10: Meghalaya batter Akash Chaudhary said his record-breaking burst of eight consecutive sixes came from a simple message from his coach — to go out and attack before the team’s declaration.

The 25-year-old, who smashed an 11-ball half-century in the Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh, said the instruction gave him complete freedom to express himself at the crease. “We had to declare quickly, that’s why the coach messaged us to go and attack,” Akash told reporters.

“That gave me the licence to play openly. It was a lucky day for me that I got good shots. My intentions are always right — I always give 100% in cricket. The statement highlights Akash’s commitment to integrity and effort in cricket, emphasizing his dedication to team contributions regardless of circumstances.

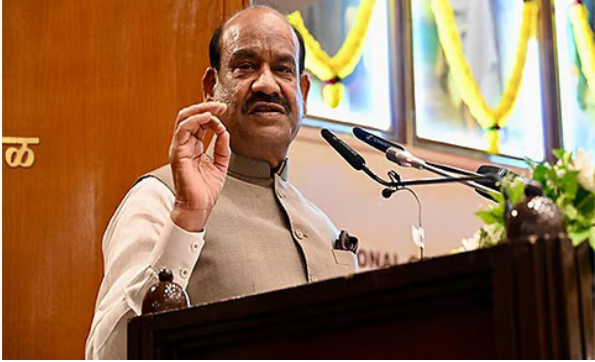
He expressed deep emotional pride in India’s Women’s World Cup victory, which he believes will inspire growth in women’s cricket, particularly in his home state. Akash noted the significance of this achievement, stating it will encourage grassroots participation among girls and convey immense pride for women’s cricket. His remarks reflect both a confident player and one who recognizes the larger impact of the sport.



Om Birla to inaugurate Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Nagaland

Kohima, Nov 10: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the 22nd annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III in Nagaland’s capital Kohima today.

The two-day event aims to strengthen democratic cooperation, legislative dialogue, and regional collaboration among the northeastern states. The conference, being hosted by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, carries the theme “Policy, Progress and People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change.” It will bring together pre-



siding officers, legislators, and officials from eight northeastern states to exchange ideas and discuss policy priorities that can shape the region’s future. Prominent leaders attending the event include Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio,

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, and Nagaland Assembly Speaker and CPA Zone-III Chairman Sharingain Longkumer. The presence of Om Birla and other senior lawmakers underlines the importance of this conference

as a platform for fostering legislative best practices and strengthening the roots of democracy in the region. Discussions during the conference will focus on two major sub-themes — the role of legislatures in achieving Viksit Bharat (Developed India) and addressing the growing challenges posed by climate change. Given the recent natural calamities such as cloudbursts and landslides across the Northeast, participants are expected to explore legislative measures and regional strategies to improve disaster preparedness and environmental resilience.

RGU holds international conference in collaboration with Springer Nature & GRF

At RGU, 1st International Conference on Smart Systems & Social Management held

Guwahati, Nov 10: A three-day long international conference on “Smart Systems and Social Management” was held successfully at The Assam Royal Global University (RGU) from November 6 to 8, 2025. The conference was organised by RGU with support from GR Foundation, India, and in collaboration with Springer Nature as publication partner. Sponsored by Drillbit, 2CQR and Libkart, the institutional collaborators of the Conference were: Arya Vidyapeeth College, Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya and Morigaon College. With seven broad research tracks and several themes under each track, the conference had 122 paper presentations in both physical and digital modes and researchers from across the globe, including USA, UK, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Morocco, and Croatia participated. The inaugural session of the conference was graced by Prof. Anupam Basu, Keynote speaker and Raja Rammanna Chair Professor, Jadavpur University; Dr Nabi Hasan, Central Librarian, IIT Delhi; Prof. AK Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, RGU, Dr Lila Kanta Borthakur, Principal, Morigaon College, Dr Manisha Bhattacharyya, Principal, Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Prof. Shiela Bora Advisor, RGU and academicians from participating higher educational institutions. Delivering the



keynote address, Prof. Anupam Basu said, “Are our cities—and our society—becoming empathetically smart?” He traced the conceptual development of cybernetics since the 1960s and identified key dimensions of smart living. Dr. Amit Joshi, Director of GR Foundation, stressed the need for technology research addressing India-3 for inclusive growth, while Prof. A.K. Buragohain warned of ‘intellectual darkness’ in the AI era and cautioned against over-reliance on machines. The Plenary Sessions featured eminent participants like Prof. Bhagirathi Panda, Honorary Director, ICSSR, NE region, Prof. Mukut Sarmah, Head, Department of Library and Information Sci-

ence, Assam University; Sri Aranyak Saikia, IAS and Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Assam; Dr. Uzal Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, Birangana Sati Sadhini Rajyik Viswavidyalaya, and Dr. Utpal Barman, Associate Professor, Department of Information Technology, Assam Skill University. The technical sessions featured senior academicians and luminaries from academia as Chairpersons, and this includes Prof. Rajib Handique, Academic Registrar, Gauhati University, Prof. Jeanne Coetzer, Central University of Technology, Free State, South Africa, Dr. Priya Rai, National Law University, Delhi, Prof. Ratul Mahanta, Gauhati University, Prof. Ya-

hya Fikri, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco, Prof. Shubhrajeev Konwer, Gauhati University, Dr. F.R. Sumer, University NEHU Shillong, Prof. Prasenjit Das, KK Handiqui State Open University. Dr. Hirak Jyoti Hazarika said the conference aimed to explore how emerging technologies can drive social transformation, while Dr. Stuti Goswami expressed delight at the strong response it received. She said that all accepted and presented papers from ICSSSM 2025 would be published by Atlantis Press, Springer Nature in the series Advances in Intelligent Systems Research in open-access mode, thereby facilitating wider dissemination of the research contributions.

Kaziranga mourns brave K9 ‘Jubi’ after years of dedicated wildlife service



Guwahati, Nov 10: Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP&TR) is mourning the loss of Jubi, a courageous and loyal Belgian Malinois from Aaranyak’s K9 Sniffer Dog Squad, who passed away on November 7 after eight years of distinguished service. The skilled canine played a vital role in combating poaching and wildlife crime across the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jubi, who was stationed at the Bagori Range with her handler Sanatan Mali for over seven years, was known for her sharp instincts, discipline, and unwavering loyalty. Her contributions were instrumental in tracking poachers, uncovering illegal wildlife parts, and assisting forest and police patrol teams in several high-profile cases. Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of KNP&TR, expressed deep sorrow over the loss. “Salute to our braveheart for tireless service in protecting the park. Your keen nose and loyal heart kept wildlife safe and guarded our sanctuary,” she said. “Jubi will be forever remembered, forever missed.” Jubi joined Aaranyak’s elite K9 unit in 2017 with support from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) and park authorities. Over the years, she contributed to numerous operations, including tracking a poacher’s hideout in Agoratoli in 2018, assisting police in solving a murder near Geleki the same year, recovering stolen valuables in Bagori in 2020, and locating poachers near Burapahar in 2023. Earlier this year, she also participated in the Republic Day Dog Parade at Bagori Range. Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Executive Director of Aaranyak, said, “Jubi was one of our most skilled and energetic K9 members for the past eight years. Her sudden loss is heart-wrenching.” Handler Sanatan Mali added, “I have lost my companion — loyal, skilled and brave. Her bravery and memories will forever remain in our hearts.”

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles, first online with classic bikes on Flipkart, now live on Amazon across 40 cities

Kolkata: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has taken another decisive step in reshaping how India buys premium motorcycles. After pioneering the sale of high-performance classic bikes on Flipkart last year, the brand now goes live on Amazon, the country’s largest e-commerce marketplace, covering over 40 cities, with plans to reach more than 100 cities this festive season. Jawa Yezdi was the first to see the promise of online retail of premium 350cc motorcycles, creating a trailblazing template. When the brand debuted on Flipkart in October 2024, it didn’t just list motorcycles online, it created the premium-classic motorcycles category in e-commerce. Within the very first month, it delivered a record conversion rate, double the previous industry-best in online two-wheeler sales, setting a benchmark for the entire sector. Sharad Agarwal, Chief Business Officer, Classic Legends, “Starting with Flipkart and now expanding to Amazon, we’re making the ownership journey easier and more transparent while keeping the soul of motorcycling intact.” Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has already expanded its dealer network to over 450 touchpoints across India and passed 100 percent GST 2.0 reform benefits to buyers. Shoppers can complete the entire process, from model selection to booking, without stepping out of their homes. Amazon is offering easy EMI options and a 5 percent cashback for Amazon Prime customers on Amazon Pay ICICI co-branded credit cards. Flipkart is offering a 24-month, no-cost EMI, and 5 percent cashback (up to Rs 4,000) on co-branded



credit cards such as Flipkart Axis and Flipkart SBI credit cards. Riders will be eligible for the Jawa Yezdi Ownership Assurance Programme, an industry-first after-sales support, accessible at each of the company’s authorised service centres. Jawa Yezdi Ownership Assurance Programme: 4-Year/50,000 km standard warran-

ty, Extended warranty options up to six years, Five-year comprehensive AMC package. The models which are retailing on both Amazon and Flipkart include the Jawa 350, 42, 42 FJ, 42 Bobber, and Perak, and the Yezdi Adventure Single Headlight. Additionally, Amazon has listed the Yezdi Scrambler.

Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day losing streak amid buying in IT

Mumbai: The domestic equity indices closed higher on Monday, snapping a three-day losing streak amid buying in IT, auto and selected banking stocks, along with optimism around the potential resolution of the US government shutdown.Sensex ended the session at 83,535.35, up 319 points or 0.38 per cent. The 30-share index started the session flat at 83,198.20 against last session’s closing of 83,216.28. However, the index rallied around 500 points to hit an intra-day high of 83,754.49 amid heavy buying in tech and automobile heavyweights.Nifty closed at 25,574.35, up 82 points or 0.32 per cent.“The potential resolution of the US government shutdown, coupled with renewed FIIIs buying driven by a favourable Q2 earnings season, supported a positive sentiment in the market. The rise in the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield reflects improving risk sentiment toward equities with the reopening of the federal government,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.Domestically, strengthening macroeconomic indicators are expected to underpin upward revisions in earnings estimates for H2 FY26, he added. Infosys, HCL Tech, Asian Paint, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle, TCS, Bharti Airtel, Titan, L&T, Tech Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki were the top gainers from the Sensex basket. Trent, Eternal, PowerGrid, Ultratech Cement, Mahindra and Mahindra and Axis Bank ended the session in negative territory.The ma-



jority of sectoral indices ended the session green amid value buying. Nifty IT rose 570 points or 1.62 per cent, Nifty Auto increased 80 points or 0.30 per cent, Nifty Fin Services jumped 66 points or 0.24 per cent, and Nifty Bank ended the session 60 points up or 0.10 per cent. Nifty FMCG closed in negative territory.Broader indices followed suit as well. Nifty Midcap 100 escalated 281 points or 0.47 per cent, Nifty Small Cap 100 rose 62 points or 0.35 per cent, and Nifty 100 jumped 86 points or 0.33 per cent. Rupee traded flat near 88.66, as weakness in the dollar index was offset by continued FII selling, resulting in a muted session for the currency. “The RBI’s likely intervention near the 88.75–88.90 zones helped cap further downside, keeping rupee movement within a narrow range. Market participants now await key CPI data releases from both the U.S. and India this week, which are expected to guide short-term direction. The rupee is likely to remain in a small but volatile band, with the trading range seen between 88.45–88.90,” said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

In Q2 earnings, exchange sets Rs 1,300 cr SEBI settlement NSE IPO in the near future



Mumbai: National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) appears to be all set to launch its much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) in coming months. The leading exchange has made provision of nearly Rs 1,300 crore for one-time settlement fees with the capital markets regulator SEBI in the co-location case. This will clear the major roadblocks in the exchanges’ IPO, subject to necessary approvals. NSE reported a 33 per cent fall on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in its consolidated net profit at Rs 2,098 crore, which included a given provision. Excluding this provision, its net provision stood at Rs 3,396 crore for the quarter. NSE’s revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 3,677 crore, down 18 per cent YoY. NSE continues to focus on product innovation, with electricity and commodity derivatives witnessing significant traction and expected to meaningfully contribute in the long term. Its long-term growth trajectory remains intact, with a recovery in trading volumes, sustained leadership across market segments, a strong pipeline of primary market issuances and an expanding investor base.Unlisted shares of NSE are currently trading at Rs 1,850-1,900 range, commanding a total market capitalization of Rs 4.58-

4.70 lakh crore. The stock has been facing turbulence, falling nearly 23 per cent from its peak amid the falling volumes in the F&O segment, particularly after the weekly expiry was taken out of the picture.NSE’s Q2FY26 performance was weighed down by a one-time Rs 1,300 crore provision related to the colocation and dark-fibre cases, leading to a 23 per cent YoY decline in net profit to Rs 2,100 crore, though underlying profitability remained healthy. NSE booked Rs 1,200 crore in investment gains from its NSDL divestment and now holds a 15 per cent stake, said Centrum Broking.Sandip F&O trade volumes. “The provisioning for settlement clearly indicates that the company is fully prepared for the IPO in FY27 and we believe that issue may be launched by H1FY27,” he said.The settlement fee was a one-time hit on profitability. Going forward, we believe transaction revenue will be boosted by a gradual recovery in volumes and non-transaction revenue will maintain momentum, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services. However, the possibility of further tightening of F&O regulation remains a key risk. Overall, we expect a CAGR of 6 per cent/4 per cent/7 per cent in revenues/EBITDA/reported PAT over FY25-28.”

HDFC Bank cuts lending rates by 10 basis points, to affect select loan tenures

Mumbai: HDFC Bank has implemented a reduction in its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by up to 10 basis points for select loan tenures, impacting borrowers whose loans are linked to this internal benchmark. This adjustment, effective from November 7, means the bank’s MCLR now ranges between 8.35% and 8.60%, compared to the previous range of 8.45% to 8.65%. Borrowers with home, auto, or personal loans connected to the MCLR will see their interest rates adjusted at the time of their next reset period, in line with the revised rates. Customers whose loans are tied to external benchmarks, such as the Reserve Bank of India’s repo rate, will not be affected by this change. The newly revised MCLR rates by tenure are as follows: Overnight and

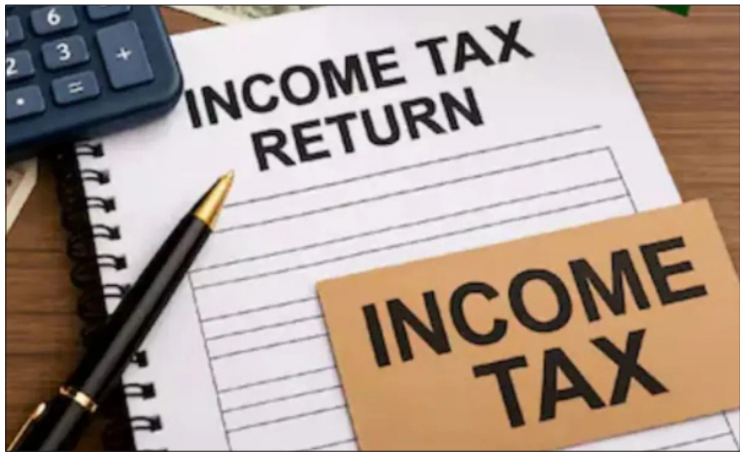


one-month tenures at 8.35%, three months at 8.40%, six months at 8.45%, one year at 8.50%,

two years at 8.55%, and three years at 8.60%. The Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate, introduced by the RBI in 2016, is the internal reference rate used by banks to set lending rates for loans, considering the marginal cost of funds, operating expenses, and a tenure premium. This mechanism aims to ensure greater transparency in transmitting monetary policy changes to borrowers. Borrowers with loans tied to the MCLR will experience rate changes during their upcoming reset periods, while those on external benchmarks remain unaffected. The revision reflects HDFC Bank’s response to internal and regulatory considerations around lending rates and follows the established practice for rate adjustment in line with MCLR methodology.

Fix ITR errors faster CBDT’s latest move speeds up your tax refund

Mumbai: In a move aimed at speeding up tax refunds and simplifying the process of correcting income tax return (ITR) errors, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has announced new powers for the Commissioner of Income Tax (Centralised Processing Centre, Bengaluru). The change, formalised through Notification No. 155/2025 issued on 27 October 2025, allows the Commissioner and authorised officers to directly rectify mistakes in taxpayers’ records — a reform expected to make the system faster, more efficient, and less dependent on multiple layers of approval. The notification marks a significant shift in how income tax rectifications will be handled. Until now, taxpay-



ers often had to approach different officials for issues such as incorrect tax credit, delayed refunds, or mismatched details between the return

and assessment order. With the new framework, the CPC in Bengaluru — which already manages large-scale return processing — can now

address computational errors and omissions directly, without waiting for jurisdictional assessing officers to intervene.Under the revised mechanism, the Commissioner of Income Tax (CPC) will have concurrent powers with assessing officers to fix mistakes that are apparent from records, quicker refunds and accurate interest calculations. Common mismatches — such as those related to tax deducted at source (TDS), advance tax, or incorrect refund computation — can now be addressed without lengthy correspondence or manual follow-ups. The outcome is expected to be a more predictable and user-friendly experience for those seeking to correct their ITRs.

Bajaj Auto has no plans to pull the plug on CNG motorcycles

Mumbai: Bajaj Auto Ltd remains confident about its CNG-powered motorcycles despite tepid volumes. Sales of the Bajaj Freedom 125, the only gas-run two-wheeler in the country, declined 65% year-on-year to 3,874 units in October, according to the government’s VAHAN registration portal.“I don’t think we are pulling the plug on that (Freedom 125). Some of these new innovative disruptions take time to land... We are very much going to stay the course on it,” Dinesh Thapar, chief financial officer of Bajaj Auto, said during a media conference call after the company announced its second-quarter earnings. While Bajaj Auto is optimistic about its CNG motorbike, the Pune-based automaker is also working on electric motorcycles. “There is work underway on the electrification of the Pulsar and the Boxer,” said Thapar.



Electrification of motorcycles is critical to realizing the government’s ambition of increasing electric vehicle penetration to 30% by 2030, as motorbikes account for two-thirds of total two-wheeler sales.However, a lack of localisation in the EV supply chain, particularly rare earth magnets, disrupted EV production in the second quarter. Bajaj Auto had to reduce its EV production in the second quarter due to rare earth magnet curbs imposed by China. To address the shortage, the automaker adopted Less Rare-Earth (LRE) permanent magnet grades instead of Heavy Rare-Earth grades. “We have re-homologated the entire traction motor range with LRE. There is work underway on de-risking ourselves from rare earths entirely and looking at motors that are rare-earth-free,” said Thapar.

Elon Musk wins shareholder approval for record \$1 trillion Tesla pay package

Mumbai: Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, received shareholder approval on Thursday for the highest corporate compensation package in history as investors supported his plan to transform the electric vehicle manufacturer into a robotics and artificial intelligence powerhouse. Musk leaped to the stage of the company’s annual meeting at its Austin, Texas, factory, joined by dancing robots, when the proposal received more than 75% of the vote. Musk, already the world’s richest person, could get as much as \$1 trillion in stock over the next decade, although required payments would take the value down to \$878 billion. The vote is crucial for Tesla’s future and its valuation, which hangs on Musk’s vision of making vehicles that drive themselves, creating a robotaxi network across the U.S. and selling humanoid robots, even though his far-right political rhetoric has hurt the Tesla brand this year. “What we are about to embark upon is not merely a new chapter of



the future of Tesla, but a whole new book,” Musk told a cheering group of shareholders. Shareholders also reelected three directors on Tesla’s board and voted in favor of holding annual elections for all board members and a replacement pay plan for Musk’s services because a legal challenge has held up a previous package. Although conflict-of-interest concerns have arisen over Tes-

la’s possible investment in xAI, the move is seen as widely benefiting both companies as the EV maker’s self-driving ambitions hinge on critical AI prowess and xAI would gain from a major customer like Tesla. A win for Musk was widely expected as the billionaire was allowed to exercise the full voting rights of his roughly 15% stake after the automaker moved to Texas from Dela-

Tesla shareholders have overwhelmingly approved Elon Musk’s unprecedented pay package worth up to \$1 trillion. This signals strong support for his ambitious plans to transform Tesla into an AI and robotics powerhouse.

ware. Some major investors had opposed the plan, including Norway’s sovereign wealth fund and proxy firms Glass Lewis and Institutional Shareholder Services, saying the pay could decrease shareholder value. Tesla shareholders have given Elon Musk the green light for the largest corporate pay package in history — a deal worth up to \$878 billion — that reaffirms their faith in his ambitious plan to steer the company beyond electric cars and into the realms of artificial intelligence and robotics. The decision came at Tesla’s annual meeting in Austin, Texas, which looked more like a tech festival than a boardroom affair, complete with dancing robots and cheering investors.

Gurmeet, Debina Twin for Divisha's party



Mumbai: On November 8, popular television actors De-bina Bonnerjee and Gurmeet Choudhary celebrated their younger daughter Divisha's birthday with the media. For the event, Choudhary and Devisha, along with their daughters Lianna and Divi-sha, were twinning in beautiful red outfits. Currently starring in Pati, Patni aur Panga, which is a television reality game show, the two hosted a lavish birthday party for her daughter, which was attended by both family as well as friends.

The couple cut a cake with their daughters, Lianna and Divisha, as they sang 'Happy Birthday, Divisha' and re-joined. The cake was distributed among the media personnel as well. While Debina adorned a stunning red dress with a ponytail, her husband Gurmeet went with a shimmering red shirt with black trousers and shades. Their daughters, Divisha and Liana, were spotted in shimmering red frocks. The family looked adorable and smiled as they shared a warm moment. Debina is a mother of two beautiful daughters named Divisha and Lianna. She often advocates body positivity and challenges social norms on women. She often posts her family on her Instagram account, where she has a following of around 2.7 million.

Gurmeet Choudhary is a popular face of Indian television. He is not only a trained dancer but also a trained martial artist. He is best known for playing the character of Ram in Ramayana and Maan Singh Khurana in the show Geet-Hui Sabse Parayi. Born in Chandigarh, Choudhary made his Bollywood debut in 2015 with the movie Khamoshiyaan. Debina Bonnerjee and Gurmeet Choudhary met on the sets of the television series Ramayana. The two gained popularity by playing the characters of Sita and Ram. Their chemistry started garnering praise both off-screen and on-screen. The two decided to get married in 2011, after dating. Now, Choudhary and Bonnerjee are parents to two beautiful daughters and often share glimpses of their happy family moments on their social media handles.

Renner denies filmmaker Yi Zhou's claims



Agency: Actor Jeremy Renner, best known for playing Hawkeye in the Marvel Cinematic Universe's films and shows, has been accused of harassment by Chinese filmmaker Yi Zhou. She claimed that he sent her "unwanted/unsolicited pornographic images of himself" in DMs and WhatsApp. She also alleged that Jeremy threatened to contact U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during a dispute between them. The 54-year-old is now pushing back against the allegations. In a statement shared with Variety, Jeremy's representative denied all the accusations made by the filmmaker. "The allegations being made are totally inaccurate and untrue," the rep stated. The actor's lawyer has not yet shared any comment on the matter.

Ayushmann Khurrana's 'Thamma' Crosses ₹131 Crore Mark After Stellar Third Weekend

Mumbai: Thamma, a horror-comedy starring Ayushmann Khurrana, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Rashmika Mandanna, has continued to enthrall viewers and dominate the box office. Despite intense opposition from Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa's romance drama Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, Thamma debuted with a strong lead. The film is now in its third week and continues to maintain pace despite new releases.

Thamma continues to do well at the Indian box office, earning an amazing Rs 1.65 crore net on its third Sunday. According to Sacnilk's most recent projections, the film's total net collection is now Rs 131.50 crore. The film's sustained success is to the test, and Em-

raan Hashmi and Yami Gautam's Haq was released in theatres on November 7. Thamma's run should remain consistent till the arrival of Ajay Devgn's De De Pyaar De 2 on November 14. According to current market trends, Thamma's theatrical run might cost around Rs 140 crore net. While these figures are positive for the film's cast and production scale, industry expectations were initially greater due to the brand value and franchise pedigree associated with the title. Dinesh Vijan and Maddock Films' horror-comedy world now includes Thamma alongside Stree, Roohi, and Bhediya. Aditya Sarpotdar directs the fifth installment in the franchise. The film stars Rashmika Mandanna, Ayushmann Khurra-

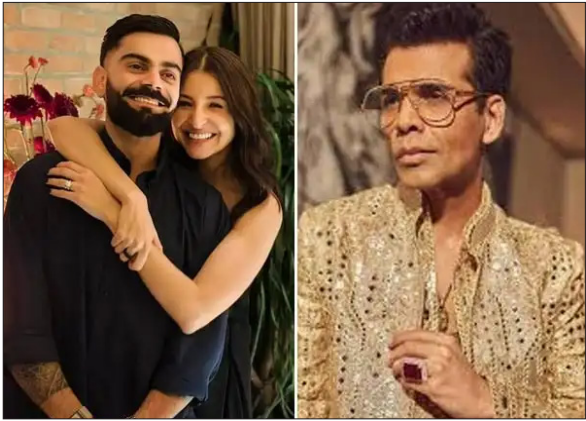
na, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Paresh Rawal.

Thamma, set in the realm of vampires, chronicles the surprising love tale of Ayushmann and Rashmika's characters, who are destined for each other. However, the presence of Nawazuddin Siddiqui adds levels of excitement and anxiety, keeping viewers interested throughout the film. Thamma, which was released on October 21 for Diwali, has been a thrilling and entertaining roller coaster journey. Varun Dhawan and Abhishek Banerjee made special appearances. Aneet Padda will next appear in Maddock Films' latest Horror Comedy Universe installment, Shakti Shalini. The film is set for release in December 2026.

Karan Johar Slams Door on Cricketers: Reveals Why Virat Kohli Will Never Be on Koffee With Karan

Mumbai: Karan Johar's popular talk show, Koffee With Karan, has featured many stars, yet Indian cricket star Virat Kohli remains one big name who never came on the show. Although Anushka Sharma has been a guest on multiple occasions, Karan has revealed that Virat's absence is linked to the well-known Hardik Pandya-KL Rahul controversy.

Recently, Karan was in a conversation with Sania Mirza on her podcast, Serving It Up With Sania, during which he explained why he has not yet invited Virat to appear on



the show. During their discussion, Sania asked about a celebrity he would like to have on the show who consistently

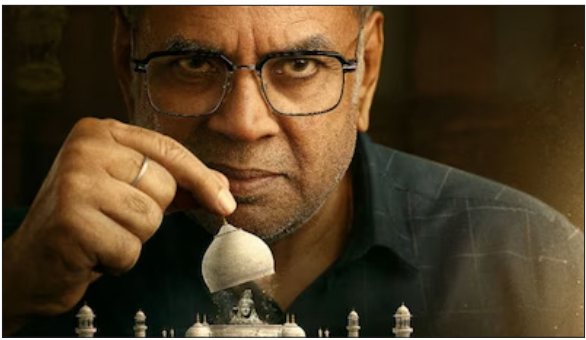
declines his invitations. Karan named Ranbir Kapoor as that individual. He shared, "He's come before, but for the last

three seasons, he's said no." Ranbir's last appearance was with Ranveer Singh in 2016. When Sania asked if Karan could name someone who has never been a guest on Koffee With Karan, he paused to think. Upon her mention of Virat, Karan admitted that he has not yet invited the cricketer to appear on the show. He revealed, "I have never asked Virat. And now, I am not asking any cricketers after what happened with Hardik (Pandya) and (KL) Rahul. There are many who I just felt wouldn't come, so I never asked them in the first place."

Steady 'Taj Story' Performance Keeps Paresh Rawal Film Strong

New Delhi: Released on October 31, The Taj Story has managed to hold its ground at the box office through its second weekend. Despite facing competition from Haq, starring Emraan Hashmi and Yami Gautam, the film continues to perform steadily. In 10 days, the Paresh Rawal-led film has collected Rs 15.80 crore, earning an estimated Rs 2.15 crore on Sunday alone, according to early figures, as reported by Sachnik.

With De De Pyaar De 2 arriving next week, it will be interesting to see how The Taj Story sustains its momentum. Along with Paresh Rawal, the film features Amruta Khanvilkar, Shishir Sharma, Sneha Wagh and Brijiendra Kala, among others and is directed by Tushar Amrish Goel. The film opened with a collection of Rs 1 crore on its first day. On Saturday, it showed growth and earned Rs 2 crore. Day 3 saw further improvement, with collections reaching Rs 2.75 crore. On its first



Monday, the film raked in Rs 1.15 crore. Days 5 and 6 brought in Rs 1.6 crore each, while Day 7 added another Rs 0.9 crore. This took the film's total first-week collection to Rs 11 crore. On Day 8, The Taj Story earned Rs 0.9 crore. Day 9 brought in Rs 1.75 crore and Day 10 collected an estimated Rs 2.15 crore, according to early figures.

The Taj Story has been surrounded by controversy ever since its announcement, with two public interest litigations filed against the film. In an interview with NDTV, the Hera Pheri actor stated that the director had done exten-

sive research around the film. He said, "I even checked with friends who confirmed the facts. From the very beginning, we made sure there would be no Hindu-Muslim jingoism in the film." He added further that the film is more about "shared history" and not about Hindu-Muslim conflict. Rawal broke his silence on the PILs surrounding the film, clarifying his position. He asserted, "That PIL wasn't filed to stop the film. They just wanted the judiciary to watch it once. But the film already has a CBFC certificate. The judiciary understands all this; they are not foolish."

Rhea Chakraborty Reveals Hanuman Chalisa Was Her Source of Healing During Sushant Singh Rajput Probe



Mumbai: After years of relentless scrutiny following Sushant Singh Rajput's death and a long CBI investigation that turned her life upside down, actress Rhea Chakraborty says her faith helped her survive. The actor, who spent time in jail and faced intense public backlash, reveals that it was the Hanuman Chalisa that gave her strength and peace when everything else fell apart. Rhea Chakraborty's life

changed forever in 2020. Once known for her easy charm and TV beginnings, she became the centre of one of India's most publicised investigations after the death of her ex-boyfriend, Sushant Singh Rajput. Years later, with the CBI giving her a clean chit in the case, Rhea is finally opening up about the mental and emotional storm she endured — and the one thing that kept her going. "I started reading it in 2020 and

now everyday at least once or twice a day I recite Hanuman Chalisa at least seven times in a flow, and that is kind of like a meditation," she shared in a chat with Hindustan Times. The actor admitted that faith became her lifeline during her toughest days. "I used to get up in the morning and before going to bed at night, say what I am thankful for, and sometimes it didn't even feel like there was anything to be thankful for. But I used to be

like I am walking, my hands and legs are functional, my eyes are functional, so thank you for that."

Rhea, who has also spoken about suffering from PTSD, said that her public ordeal unexpectedly made others open up to her. "What I went through was so public that a lot of people automatically felt comfortable sharing their problems with me because they believed that I understood mental health issues. Among my own friends, a few girls confessed to me regarding their husbands or family members after my incident, and I have known them for about 10 years," she said. Her experience also inspired her to start a podcast to encourage conversations around mental health. Addressing the stigma around mental health, she said, "There is so much stigma that they didn't even tell me. They were so scared that they finally opened up to me after they realised that I have gone through something bad too."

OTT This Week: Your Guide to the 5 New, Edgier Dark Humour Thrillers

Mumbai: Netflix has something truly special for viewers this week, bringing together an eclectic mix of films and series across genres, from heartfelt village tales to dark thrillers and intense family dramas.

South star Dhanush shines in Idli Kadai, a grounded, heartwarming film about an educated man who leaves his well-paying job to start an idli shop in his village. His decision not only changes his life but also reflects the power of following one's dreams. Through Dhanush and Nithya Menen's moving performance, the film captures the charm of rural simplicity, the dignity of labour, and the fulfilment that comes from meaningful work. A powerful and unconventional story, Human in the Loop follows a tribal woman from Jharkhand who, after her divorce, begins working as a data annotator at an artificial intelligence centre to regain custody of her children. The film explores the intersection of technology and humanity,



delving deep into themes of motherhood, identity, labour, and the emotional struggles of rural life in a modern world. This emotional family drama examines the fragility of relationships. It revolves around a newly married woman whose peaceful life turns complicated when her younger sister moves in with her. My Sister's Husband captures how love, jealousy, and emotional dependency reshape familial bonds, keeping viewers hooked with its heartfelt storytelling and layered characters. A dark comedy thriller with unexpected twists, Ek Chatur Naar tells the story of a young woman living in a slum who discovers a lost mobile

phone belonging to a corrupt broker, and decides to blackmail him. What begins as a reckless game soon spirals into chaos, blending humour, suspense, and fear in equal measure. With its sharp wit and unpredictable turns, the film promises an edgy, entertaining watch. Set against the haunting backdrop of Kashmir, Baramulla follows an officer investigating a series of child disappearances. What starts as a routine case soon unravels into a dangerous web of secrets, fear, and moral dilemmas. The film's chilling mix of social commentary, crime, and psychological horror keeps the audience deeply engrossed until the end.

Yami Gautam & Emraan Hashmi's 'Haq' Collects Approximately ₹9 Crore in Opening Weekend

Mumbai: After a decent start, Haq, starring Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi, showed impressive growth over the weekend. The film's box office collections soared on Saturday and maintained strong momentum on Sunday, suggesting that positive word-of-mouth is finally working in its favour. With audiences resonating with its emotionally charged narrative inspired by real-life courtroom drama, Haq now seems firmly on track for a successful run.

According to trade website Sacnilk, Haq collected an estimated Rs 3.75 crore net in India on Sunday, bringing its first weekend domestic total to Rs 8.85 crore. This is a significant increase in collection. The picture grossed Rs 3.35 crore on Saturday, a major jump from its Rs 1.75 crore debut. The film recorded an overall occupancy of 23.60% on Sunday. The highest footfall was observed during the evening shows (35.98%), while the morning shows saw a



modest 9.54% turnout. The afternoon and night shows registered occupancies of 24.56% and 24.30%, respectively.

Haq is inspired by the life and legal battle of Shah Bano Begum, whose landmark case in 1985 convinced the Supreme Court to grant divorced Muslim women the right to maintenance. The plot revolves around Shazia (Yami Gautam Dhar), a woman who marries Abbas Khan (Em-

raan Hashmi), a rich attorney. One day, Abbas unexpectedly brings home a second spouse. Not long after, he ended their marriage with triple talaq. The remainder of the film focuses on Shazia's legal battle for her rights. Sheeba Chaddha and Vartika Singh have prominent roles in the film, which also stars Emraan Hashmi and Yami Gautam. Haq, produced by Jungle Pictures in collaboration with Insomnia Films and

Baweja Studios, follows the company's legacy of creating controversial and topical films. Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi add another captivating performance to their filmography with Haq, which not only analyses gender and justice but also encourages essential dialogue about India's socio-legal development. The film's journey now depends on maintaining steady footfalls as it heads into its first full week of theatrical run.

How sleeping in old schools is reviving rural Japan

The morning sun filters through tall windows, illuminating rows of wooden desks where students once recited kanji writing symbols. But instead of attracting boisterous children, this classroom now lures travellers in search of deep relaxation and a unique immersion in rural Japanese culture. This is Hare to Ke, a former elementary school-turned-guesthouse nestled in the mountains of Miyoshi on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan’s four main islands. Hare to Ke occupies the former Deai Elementary School, which closed in 2005 after student numbers fell to just five. According to a local newspaper, in its heyday in 1945, the school had more than 500 pupils, but like many rural schools across Japan, it gradually emptied out as families have increasingly migrated to cities. After eight years standing vacant, the school was officially decommissioned in 2013. Today, Miyoshi’s population has declined from a peak of 77,779 in 1955 to around 20,000, and more than 40% of its residents are aged 65 or older. In the decades following Japan’s postwar economic boom, the decline of local industries and a steady exodus of young people left Miyoshi with an aging population and abandoned infrastructure. By 2012, Miyoshi had 28 unused schools, and local officials began actively seeking proposals to repurpose them. But Tokyo-based designer Shuko Uemoto had an idea. Uemoto first visited Miyoshi in 2014 with her then-two-year-old son and was struck by the quiet beauty of the place. “The water and air here are completely different,” Uemoto told the BBC. “When we stayed here for the first time, my son’s asthma symptoms just disappeared. That moment really stayed with me.” “I remember thinking, if my child grew up surrounded by this kind of nature, how would that shape him? I got really excited by the idea,” she said. When she



came across Miyoshi’s call for revitalisation proposals, she returned to tour several of the area’s other empty educational centres. The moment she stepped into Deai Elementary School’s quiet courtyard, she knew she had found something special. “The sound of the river, the sunlight, the silence, it all felt full of potential,” she said. Uemoto relocated from Tokyo, submitted a detailed three-year business plan and launched what would become Hare to Ke with support from local officials and residents. Alamy Uemoto was inspired to transform the school into an inn after visiting Miyoshi for the first time in 2014 (Credit: Alamy) “The school had been a local landmark, but it stood in darkness, closed off from the community. Now, the lights are back on, and people have regained a sense of emotional belonging. The fact that outsiders are now drawn here and find it appealing has helped locals regain their confidence. That, I think, is the greatest achievement,” said Yuko Oka, an official from Miyoshi’s Regional Revitalisation Division. Today, 13 of Miyoshi’s previously abandoned schools have been transformed into community cafes, satellite offices and guesthouses like Hare to Ke, which has become a model for how abandoned schools can breathe new life into Japan’s many dwindling communities. But will it be enough to avert the quiet crisis unfolding across Japan’s countryside? As the country continues to grapple with a rapidly aging population and one of the world’s lowest birth rates, it is losing nearly 900,000 residents each year. According to one estimate, more than 40% of Japan’s municipalities could one day cease to exist. As younger generations increasingly trade rural areas for cities, roughly 450 schools close every year, according to Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). In response, a growing number of these once-empty buildings are now being reimaged to revitalise Japan’s depopulated regions. At Hare to Ke, guests aren’t just staying in a repurposed classroom, they’re reconnecting with nature and themselves through

rest and relaxation. The hotel’s name nods to a traditional Japanese concept of time, with hare referring to special celebrations or festivals and ke denoting mundane, everyday life. Historically, the two existed in balance, but following Japan’s postwar economic growth, many believe that distinction has faded, with everyday life becoming dominated by “hare”-like stimulation and abundance. Hare to Ke invites guests to rediscover that ancient rhythm through simplicity and stillness. By embracing slowness and sensory awareness, it encourages guests to return to the depth of “ke”. Visitors are welcomed by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, they can sip herbal tea, nap to the soundtrack of rustling trees and wake to crisp mountain air. Guest Chill Kouri, who discovered Hare to Ke by chance during a road trip through Shikoku with a friend, echoed this sense of unexpected restoration. “The drive into the mountains was winding and narrow, but when we arrived, I was amazed. The atmosphere was nostalgic but fresh, and everything from the old school

building was thoughtfully preserved and run,” Chill said. “It’s not just a renovation; it’s a place where the whole concept feels alive.” Inspired by its bucolic setting, the hotel recently launched a specialised programme focused on deeper sleep improvement. Guests are asked about what typically disrupts their sleep, and based on their answers, they receive a custom-blended medicinal herbal tea. The experience incorporates aromatherapy, and soothing sounds and scents – engaging all five senses to guide visitors into ideal rest. The idea came after Uemoto relocated to Miyoshi and realised how deeply she slept. “I didn’t expect to feel such a difference, but the air and the silence helped me rest more deeply than I had in years,” she said. Recognising that many city dwellers rarely encounter true quiet or natural darkness, Uemoto saw an opportunity to create this “Sleep Trip” offering. “Many people struggle to sleep while travelling,” Uemoto said. “But if you can sleep deeply, just for one night, it transforms the entire journey. I want guests to

feel that. Surrounded by the mountain air, the cry of deer you can only hear if you stay overnight, the warmth from the sauna deep in your core, I hope people can truly relax here.” For more than 400 years, residents in the surrounding Nishi-Awa region have cultivated terraced fields on gradients as steep as 40 degrees, preserving not only agricultural practices but also the landscape and culture of these mountain communities. Guests who purchase the Sleep Trip option are served dinners featuring grains harvested from this challenging terrain, along with seasonal vegetables and locally sourced game meat. The design of Hare to Ke preserves the warmth and charm of the school’s past. Along the outdoor walkway leading to the entrance, graduation murals painted by former students remain. Class-

rooms feature playful nods to the past: eye charts, flasks and chalkboards evoke a nostalgic feel. Outside, locals who once attended the school as children now gather on the old sports ground to play gateball as guests look on. One of the former schoolhouse’s highlights is the sauna, which has become a destination in itself. “You’re wrapped in the aroma of herbs while gazing at the forest through the window,” said guest Mari Azumi. “The sauna room is lined with warm cedar, and the mountain scenery unfolds quietly in front of you. After the heat, you plunge into a cold bath filled with spring water from the mountains – crisp, clean, and refreshing.” Then comes the outdoor rest. You lie beneath the trees, and in that stillness, you begin to feel yourself blending into the landscape. It’s extraordinary, unfamiliar, yet deeply nostalgic. Like returning to something we’ve long forgotten. Like returning to nature.” According to Koji Kamizasa from Miyoshi’s tourism office,

rooms feature playful nods to the past: eye charts, flasks and chalkboards evoke a nostalgic feel. Outside, locals who once attended the school as children now gather on the old sports ground to play gateball as guests look on. One of the former schoolhouse’s highlights is the sauna, which has become a destination in itself. “You’re wrapped in the aroma of herbs while gazing at the forest through the window,” said guest Mari Azumi. “The sauna room is lined with warm cedar, and the mountain scenery unfolds quietly in front of you. After the heat, you plunge into a cold bath filled with spring water from the mountains – crisp, clean, and refreshing.” Then comes the outdoor rest. You lie beneath the trees, and in that stillness, you begin to feel yourself blending into the landscape. It’s extraordinary, unfamiliar, yet deeply nostalgic. Like returning to something we’ve long forgotten. Like returning to nature.” According to Koji Kamizasa from Miyoshi’s tourism office,

locally grown ingredients. In addition, every second Sunday of the month, Miyoshi holds a night market where residents not only sell food, but also teach visitors about Awa Odori, Tokushima’s iconic traditional dance. Guests interested in the region’s storied past shouldn’t miss the annual Mt Tsurugi Summer Festival (17 July), a sacred ritual believed to date back more than 900 years. Taking place at the 1,955m summit of the eponymous mountain, it features a dramatic procession in which white robe-clad residents carry a mikoshi (portable shrine) up the mountain’s steep paths. Their rhythmic chants echo through the forest, accompanied by the sounds of flutes and drums. As Miyoshi continues to grapple with depopulation, events like these where travellers can participate not only help preserve cultural identity, but also introduce visitors to the region’s enduring traditions. Nearby attractions like the Iya Valley and its iconic Kazura vine bridge also attract nature lovers. Many travellers combine these highlights with a night at Hare to Ke, making it a base for both reflection and adventure. For many in the community, Hare to Ke is more than a guesthouse – it’s a space where old memories resurface and new ones are made. “One day, an elderly woman in her 80s came with her niece,” recalled Uemoto. “She opened an old graduation album and pointed to her younger self, saying, ‘That’s me!’ She was so happy.” Even the former principal has come back to visit,” Uemoto added. This school isn’t just a building; it holds people’s stories. That’s why repurposing it wasn’t a light responsibility.

The design of Hare to Ke preserves the warmth and charm of the school’s past, with graduation murals painted by former students and nostalgic classrooms. Hare to Ke is a hotel that promotes slowness and sensory awareness, inviting guests to return to the depth of “ke.” The sauna, a highlight of the hotel, offers a serene retreat with its warm cedar room and mountain scenery. The hotel, located in the mountains of Miyoshi, is a result of the closure of the former Deai Elementary School, which closed in 2005 after student numbers fell to just five. Hare to Ke is a former elementary school-turned-guesthouse in Miyoshi, Japan, offering a unique immersion in rural Japanese culture. 13 of Miyoshi’s previously abandoned schools have been transformed into community cafes, satellite offices, and guesthouses. The hotel’s name nods to a traditional Japanese concept of time, with hare referring to special celebrations and ke denoting mundane, everyday life. The hotel invites guests to rediscover the ancient rhythm through simplicity and stillness. Transforming the school into an inn.

“Hare to Ke is part of a broader story – one where rural Japan is reclaiming its future not through flashy tourism, but by creating intimate, grounding and genuinely local experiences.” For instance, the hotel offers seasonal cooking workshops where residents teach guests how to prepare food with

her niece,” recalled Uemoto. “She opened an old graduation album and pointed to her younger self, saying, ‘That’s me!’ She was so happy.” Even the former principal has come back to visit,” Uemoto added. This school isn’t just a building; it holds people’s stories. That’s why repurposing it wasn’t a light responsibility.

The European nation pioneering ‘beer diplomacy’

Czech beer culture is a fascinating and diverse one, with the Czech Republic being one of the world’s great beer-making nations. The country has been known for its pivo (beer), which has been brewed since at least 993 CE. Czechs consume more beer per capita than any other nation on Earth and in many places, beer is cheaper than bottled water. However, Czech lager has long been relatively underrated among true beer aficionados, overshadowed by Belgian ales, Bavarian brews, and the global IPA boom. Since 2019, a network of diplomats and brewers have been working behind the scenes to advance the awareness of Czech beer and inspire foreign brewers to make authentic Czech-style lager. Since the government began welcoming brewers from around the world, Czech-style lagers from craft brewers have been popping up across North America. This strategy is similar to Thailand’s Global Thai Program, which was launched in 2002 to promote Thai restaurants and cuisine abroad. The Czech Republic is following in Thailand’s footsteps with its six-year-old mission of “beer diplomacy.” The Czechs are known for their beer, which is not exactly a big hit with foreigners, but they excel in making it. The Czech Ministry of Agriculture has invited 20 brewers from Australia, Canada, and the United States to spend five days soaking up Czech beer culture. In conclusion, Czech beer culture is gaining recognition as a popular and diverse beverage. The Czech Republic is working to advance awareness of Czech beer and inspire foreign brewers to create authentic Czech-style lagers. The Czech government’s beer diplomacy initiative aims to teach the world how to drink properly by promoting the beer-making process. The initiative, which began in 2015, involves brewers from Pioneer Beer in Zatec, a small craft brewery and taproom, and Lukr, an innovative beer tap-making company in Plzeň. The goal is to create a creamy, thick head of foam that is characteristic of Czech beer, which is sold up to 2,000 a year to bars and tap rooms across the US and Canada. Czech beer culture is all about respecting the process of serving the beer, and the



Czech government is trying to teach this to foreign beer makers and tapsters. Brewers at Holy Mountain Brewing Company in Seattle, Washington, and Ryan Moncrieff, owner and head brewer of Rafter R Brewing Company in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, agree that the only way to know the true taste of Czech beer is to go to the source. However, Czech beer doesn’t travel well, and while brewers can try their best to replicate authentic Czech brews, this hard truth debunks the great gospel of globalisation. To experience Czech beer as it was truly made, one must head to the Czech Republic. The Czech government’s programme will ultimately inspire a deeper curiosity from beer drinkers about what it’s like to drink Czech beer.



A technicolour visit to Morocco’s holiest town

Moulay Idriss, a small town in Morocco’s Rif Mountains, is known for its pastel-colored cement buildings and ties to Idris I, the founder of Morocco’s first Islamic dynasty. Despite being historically closed to non-Muslims and lacking a direct train line, the town’s sanctity has made it the country’s holiest pilgrimage site. The city opened to non-Muslims in 1912, and planned improvements to Morocco’s high-speed rail system will make it easier to visit. The town’s most sacred elements are still preserved for followers of Islam. Moulay Idriss, a town in Morocco, is known for its vibrant colors and traditional way of life. The Al-Santisi Mosque, built in 1939, features an emerald-green minaret with white Kufic-scripted Quranic verses, symbolizing the town’s connection to Islam. The town’s homes and shops are built into rocky hills connected by narrow alleys and tunnels, with white facades turning into technicolour paths. The dominance of white and green in Moulay Idriss is seen as a tribute to Islam, representing peace and the spiritual importance of the town. Cats are highly regarded in Morocco, as they are considered

pure and ritually clean. Prophet Muhammad was known for being gentle and caring towards cats, setting an example for Muslims. Donkeys are a primary form of transportation among local residents, helping with olive harvest and carrying groceries home up the mountain. Much of life in Moulay Idriss exists in the rocky hills above the town and among



the winding, colourful streets.



Bread sold in Texas urgently recalled over chemical linked to cancer



A popular packaged bread brand sold in Texas has been urgently recalled by FDA after its products were found to contain an undeclared chemical linked to cancer.A routine inspection by The State of Texas Health and Human Services found certain products of the brand had undeclared milk and Yellow 5 - a synthetic colour used in food and cosmetic industries. It is linked to cancer concerns and is banned in parts of Europe. However, US FDA allows it, although companies are required to list all ingredients on their label.More than 600 cases of Dense Brioche Pullman loaves and over 100 cases of its 4.5in Brioche HB Buns have been recalled by The Bakery Group.The affected products were sold between December 2024 and March 2025, and were distributed to local grocery stores in Fort Worth and Dallas. Health officials are urging consumers to check their bread packaging and discard or return the items due to potential health risks, especially for individuals with milk allergies or sensitivities to food dyes. Dense Brioche Pullman loaves have the product code 654293 and the Brioche Hamburger Buns are labeled 54500. Upon investigation it was found the issue happened due to human error in la-

beling and packaging. The same has been corrected as of March 19, said the FDA. The products had undeclared milk and Yellow 5, a synthetic dye derived from petroleum. Animal studies have found to carcinogens like benzidine (STOCK) in it. As for milk, people allergic to it can develop a life threatening reaction called anaphylaxis which may trigger skin rash, nausea, vomiting, difficulty in breathing, and shock. Yellow 5 food dye also known as tartrazine gives water a bright, lemon-yellow color when dissolved in water. It is used in many foods and drinks like cereal, sodas, gelatin, yoghurt, juices and spices. It is also found in products like lipsticks, mouthwash, shampoos, etc However, many food companies in the US continue to add food dye, but they are required to declare it on the label. Food recalls are categorized into different classes with Class I representing the highest category of risk as it's linked to severe and life-threatening allergic reactions.The bread recall was classified as a Class II, which means the use of or exposure to a product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences, and the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote,' as per FDA.

6 simple and easy ways to add ragi flour to kid's tiffin

Do you often find it confusing to give your kids the best of nutrition, then this one millet can be the best addition to their diet. However, it may tough for kids to adapt to the taste, but we have curated some easy ways fit in this nutritnet dense millet that too in some interesting ways. In fact, ragi, also known as finger millet is a nutrient-dense grain that deserves a spot in every kid's lunchbox as it naturally loaded with calcium, iron, fiber, and essential amino acids,, which helps in better bone development, digestion, and overall immunity. Here are six creative ways to include ragi flour in your child's lunch.Ragi cheelas are soft, savory pancakes made with ragi flour, curd, and finely chopped veggies like carrots, capsicum, or spinach. They're super quick to whip up and taste delicious with a side of chutney or ketchup. Add a pinch of ajwain or cumin for better digestion and extra flavor. Pack them warm and soft in their lunchbox for a filling midday meal. Ragi Roti/ ParathaReplace regular wheat flour with ragi flour (or mix both) to make soft rotis or stuffed parathas. You can fill them with mashed potatoes, paneer, or grated beetroot for added nutrition. Serve with curd or a small container of dal for a complete meal. To make it more appealing, use cookie cutters to shape the rotis into stars, hearts, or animals! Homemade or store-bought ragi noodles or pasta are becoming more popular and they are a great way to sneak in ragi without much fuss. Stir-fry with colorful vegetables, a mild tomato sauce or cheese, and pack it as a healthy alternative to regular noodles. Kids often don't notice the difference when the flavors are spot-on.For kids with a sweet tooth, ragi muffins made with jaggery, banana, and a touch of



cocoa can be a big hit. These are not only wholesome but also make a great lunchbox dessert or mid-lunch snack. They're eggless, naturally sweetened, and loaded with nutrients—perfect for growing bodies.South Indian staples like ragi idiyappam (string hoppers) and ragi puttu are soft, steamed, and easy to digest. They can be served

with grated coconut and a light jaggery syrup or a vegetable stew. These dishes are gentle on the stomach and great for younger kids or picky eaters. Make thin, crispy ragi dosas using a fermented batter of ragi, urad dal, and rice. Fill them with a tasty stuffing of scrambled paneer, mashed potatoes, or mixed veggies for extra protein and

fiber. Cut them into rolls or triangles to make them lunchbox-friendly and mess-free.



Yami Gautam on why she made the conscious choice to keep personal life off social media

In an era where celebrities often give fans a glimpse into their daily lives, Yami Gautam stands apart with her conscious decision to maintain privacy. The actor has made it clear that she prefers to keep personal details off social media, choosing to share only what truly matters to her. “I am very much aware of social media and of the times we are living in. I also have a social media account, but it's a very conscious decision that I don't want to tell you what I ate for breakfast, I don't want to tell you that I got injured at the gym yesterday, I don't want to tell you anything.” Yami shared in an interview with Instant Bollywood.She added that it is not about hiding things but questioning the need to share every detail of life. “Not because I don't want to tell you, but it's like who am I addressing? What is it going to do? Of course, there is going to be another story for different portals to pick up, but is it necessary? Do I want to be so accessible? Do I want people to come with preconceived notions about me. You know, I don't want to,” she said. Her perspective raises an important conversation about the culture of oversharing on social media. In a time when social media is often equated with transparency and relatability, Yami's approach challenges the norm. When Yami Gautam asks, ‘Who am I addressing?’ She's raising a question that many people overlook when posting online. Psychologist Rasshi Gur-



nani explains that social media can be a powerful tool for self-expression, networking, or career growth. However, without a clear purpose, individuals may fall into patterns of oversharing or seeking validation.“Many people feel pressured to constantly update their lives — whether it's about meals, workouts, or minor struggles. Taking a step back to decide what truly matters to share and with whom can make social media feel less like a chore and more like a meaningful space.” In a digital age where being relatable often means being highly visible, choosing privacy can sometimes be mistaken for being distant or unapproachable. However, Gurnani clarifies that keeping certain aspects of life private doesn't mean harming one's career or connections.“Many public figures who don't share every detail of their lives

create a sense of mystery, letting their work speak for itself. While frequent updates can foster connection, oversharing invites scrutiny and stress. Striking a balance — where you share meaningfully rather than out of obligation — helps maintain authenticity while protecting personal space.” Gautam consciously avoids sharing minor personal incidents, a practice Gurnani believes has significant mental health benefits. Constant posting can create a sense of obligation to always be “on,” leading to stress and burnout.“Setting boundaries — deciding which parts of your life are just for you — can help people feel more present and less overwhelmed. Social media doesn't have to be all or nothing; it's about engaging in ways that don't drain you. Privacy isn't about secrecy — it's about protecting your peace.”

With or without skin: The best way to have cashew nuts

When enjoying cashews, you might have wondered whether to eat them with or without their skin. So, here's some help from Dr Birali Swetha, chief dietician, Gleneagles Aware Hospital, LB Nagar, Hyderabad, who said that both have their benefits, but the choice depends on your health goals. Cashews that still have their brown skin, known as the testa, offer extra health benefits, said Kanikka Malhotra, consultant dietician and certified diabetes educator.“Cashews with skin are less processed and retain more natural antioxidants, including polyphenols, which help combat oxidative stress. The skin also adds a small amount of dietary fibre, aiding digestion and promoting gut health. However, the skin can taste slightly bitter, which some may find unappealing,” said Dr Birali. On the other hand, skinless cashews are more commonly consumed due to their mild, creamy flavour and smooth texture. “They are still rich in healthy monounsaturated fats, protein, and essential minerals like magnesium, zinc, and iron. While they lack the added polyphenols from the skin, they remain a great option for heart health and energy,” said Dr Birali.If taste and texture are a priority, skinless cashews are still a nutritious addition to your diet.They're incredibly versatile and can be used in everything from baking to savoury dishes. “The peeling process ensures that the nuts are safe to eat since the outer shell contains toxic substances if not handled properly. However, this process removes some of the beneficial compounds in the skin,” said Dr Malhotra. “Whichever you choose, moderation is key. Cashews are calorie-dense, so portion control is essential for balanced nutrition,” said Dr Birali. Cashews without skin are generally easier to eat and digest. “Cashews with skin can sometimes be messy, with the skin clinging to fingers or getting caught in teeth. Skinless cashews offer a more convenient and less messy eating experience,” said dietitian Vidhi



Chawla, founder of Fisico Diet and Aesthetic Clinic.Smooth texture: The smooth, creamy texture of skinless cashews makes them ideal for blending into nut kinds of butter, smoothies, and other recipes. “Skinless cashews can be easily incorporated into various dishes, such as stir-fries, salads, and baked goods, without affecting the overall texture or appearance of the dish,” said Chawla. Some people prefer the appearance of skinless cashews, finding them more visually appealing. “Skinless cashews tend to be more uniform in size and shape, which can be aesthetically pleasing, especially when used in garnishes or decorative elements,” said Chawla. Ultimately, choosing between cashews with or without skin is a personal preference.

Keema ranks 5th on TasteAtlas' best ground meat dishes list

Keema, a beloved Indian dish made from minced meat, has gained global recognition after securing the 5th spot on TasteAtlas' list of the 100 Best Ground Meat Dishes. In its post on Instagram, the travel guide mentioned: “These are the best ground meat dishes in the world.” This flavourful dish, commonly made with lamb or chicken, is cooked with a rich blend of spices, ginger-garlic paste, onions, and ghee. Often served with naan, pav, or as a stuffing for samosas and parathas, keema is known for its versatility and deep-rooted culinary significance. The name itself comes from the Urdu word for minced meat, reflecting its long-standing presence in Indian cuisine.While keema continues to be a staple in Indian households, its history and journey across cultures remain intriguing. Biraja Rout, food history expert and founder, Beamer Brands, tells indianexpress.com, “Keema, derived from the Persian word 'qeema,' meaning minced meat, has deep historical roots that trace back to the Mughal era. The dish was introduced to India through Persian and Central Asian influences, particularly during the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal periods. Mughals, known for their rich and aromatic cuisine, incorporated keema into their royal kitchens, often preparing it with a blend of fragrant spices and slow-cooking techniques to enhance its depth of flavour.” Over time, he states that keema became an integral part of Indian culinary traditions, especially in North India, Hyderabad, and Bengal,



where it was adapted with regional spices and cooking styles. It evolved from a royal delicacy to a household staple, commonly used in curries, stuffed breads like keema naan, samosas, and even street food variations like keema pav. The key

to keema's distinct taste lies in the balance of spices and the cooking method. “Traditional keema is slow-cooked to allow the minced meat to absorb the robust flavors of aromatic ingredients like onions, garlic, ginger, and a blend of whole

and ground spices. Commonly used spices include garam masala, cumin, coriander, cloves, cinnamon, and black cardamom, which add layers of warmth and depth to the dish,” explains Rout.Another defining element is the bhuna technique — where the meat is sautéed with onions and spices over low heat until it develops a rich, caramelised flavour. This ensures that keema achieves a tender yet slightly textured consistency, making it incredibly versatile, whether served dry or in a luscious gravy. The inclusion of green chilies, tomatoes, and even fresh herbs like coriander or mint further enhances its complexity, adding a balance of heat, acidity, and freshness. Keema's uniqueness lies in its adaptability and the way it seamlessly blends bold Indian spices with age-old cooking traditions. Unlike Western minced meat dishes such as Bolognese or Shepherd's Pie, which rely on simpler seasoning and slow-cooked sauces, keema is built on layers of aromatic spices that elevate its depth of flavour. What also sets it apart is its sheer versatility. “Keema is not confined to a single form — it is served as a standalone dish, stuffed into breads, used as a filling for snacks, or even repurposed into fusion dishes like keema tacos or keema biryani. Over time, keema has evolved from a Mughal-inspired delicacy to a dish that transcends regional boundaries, with variations like the mildly spiced Hyderabad keema, the robust and fiery Kolkata-style keema curry, and the street-style keema pav of Mumbai,” notes Rout.

Kyrgios admits to feeling pressure ahead of ‘Battle of the Sexes’ clash with Sabalenka

Nick Kyrgios and Aryna Sabalenka

New Delhi: Belarus’ Sabalenka, 27, and 30-year-old Australian Kyrgios - ranked 652nd in the world - are set to play each other at the Coca-Cola Arena in Dubai on 28 December. Tennis fans have been divided into two camps since rumblings of this exhibition began at the US Open in September. Some think it is a bit of harmless entertainment which will successfully attract the eyeballs of a newer, younger audience in the age of social-media content. Others believe it is a misguided venture - organised by the Evolve agency which the players both share - and sets up an opportunity for women’s sport to be belittled if Sabalenka is beaten by Kyrgios. The fact that Kyrgios pleaded guilty to



assaulting an ex-girlfriend in 2023, then later had to distance himself from controversial influencer Andrew Tate in 2024, is a big reason why that camp of people believe this exhibition could unnecessarily

and laughed as she pledged to “kick Nick’s ass”. While the financial reward and boost to her profile is likely to be significant, many wonder what Sabalenka stands to gain from an on-court perspective - especially if she loses to a man who has not been fit for a long time. Four-time 2016, has only played five matches this year since returning from a serious wrist injury that kept him out for 18 months. He has not played on the ATP Tour since losing in the Miami Open second round in March. “I have a lot of respect for Nick and his talent, but make no mistake, I’m ready to bring my A-game,” Sabalenka said. Listen now: The “Battle Of The Sexes” Tennis Match.

Tai Tzu Ying announces retirement from badminton PV Sindhu pens heartfelt tribute

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei on Friday announced her decision to call time on her international bad-



minton career. A beautiful chapter has come to an end. Thank you, badminton, for everything you have given me,” the 31-year-old wrote on her Instagram account. “Eventually, my injuries forced me to leave the court. I couldn’t end my career the way I had hoped, and it took me a while to come to terms with that. On the Tour and at global tournaments, one opponent Tzu Ying would often face off against was two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu of India. Semifinals of the 2020 edition (where the Indian won bronze).

Abhishek Sharma becomes second fastest Indian to register in T20Is

New Delhi: Abhishek Sharma became the second fastest Indian to register 1000 runs in T20Is on Saturday during the fifth match between India and Australia at The Gabba in Brisbane. The southpaw breached the four-digit tally in 28 innings. Virat Kohli holds the record for being the fastest Indian to reach the feat — he did it in 27 innings. Abhishek, however, became the fastest player to reach the mark in terms of balls (528) amongst the top 10 teams, going past his skipper Suryakumar Yadav’s record of 573 balls. In the ongoing tour of Australia, the Indian opener leads the



scoring charts in the T20Is, so far amassing 163 runs at an average of 40.75 and a strike rate of 161.38. In the ongoing tour of Australia,

the Indian opener leads the scoring charts in the T20Is, so far amassing 163 runs at an average of 40.75 and a strike rate of 161.38.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

Sanjay will captain the Indian men’s hockey team during the after the seniors rested

New Delhi: Defender Sanjay will lead the Indian men’s hockey team at the 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup with several senior players rested for the prestigious invitational tournament scheduled to be held in Ipoh, Malaysia, from November 23 to 30. Both of India’s first-choice goalkeepers, Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera, have been rested, and Pawan and Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar will take their places. Regular skipper Harmanpreet Singh, experienced midfielder Manpreet Singh, and

striker Mandeep Singh will also miss the tournament. Sanjay, Jugraj Singh and Amit Rohidas are three senior players who have been named in the defensive line. India will open its campaign against Korea on November 23, followed by matches against Belgium (November 24), host Malaysia (November 26) and New Zealand (November 27) and Canada (November 29). The tournament will be played in a round-robin format, with the top two teams qualifying for the final scheduled for November 30. India



last won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title in 2010 and finished as runner-up in 2019. India will open its campaign against Korea on November 23, followed by

matches against Belgium (November 24), host Malaysia (November 26) and New Zealand (November 27) and Canada (November 29).

Filip Nowacki Makes His Senior GB Debut 17 Are Selected for Short-Course Europeans

New Delhi: Aquatics GB has announced a 17-strong team for the European Short Course Championships that take place in Lublin, Poland, from 2-7 December. Olympic relay champions Matt Richards, Duncan Scott and Freya Anderson will all travel to Poland two years after winning titles at the previous edition in Otopeni, Romania. Freya Colbert, Luke Greenbank, Ollie Morgan and Katie Shanahan return for successive editions of the championships having stepped onto the podium as Great Britain topped the medal table in 2023. Also selected for his senior

GB debut is Filip Nowacki. He won the 100/200 breaststroke double at the European Junior Championships with a continental junior mark of 2:08.32 in the latter while his 59.59 PB in the 100 cthe 100/200 double at the world juniors, going 2:07.32 in the longer race to go within 0.02 to our senior team for the European Short Course in Poland. After a strong summer, particularly for our pathway, there was healthy competition for places with many athletes demonstrating a desire to participate. This meet plays an important role in refining skills and exposing athletes to international competition in short course



cycle. We will use it to build on our learning from last season in order to be best prepared for our long course priorities of Commonwealth Games and Europeans.”

BCCI and PCB discuss ways to resolve the Asia Cup trophy dispute while breaking the ice

New Delhi: The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to “break the ice” on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai. The Asia Cup Trophy wasn’t presented to India by Naqvi, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairperson, after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position. Suryakumar Yadav’s men defeated Pakistan in the final of the T20 event held in Dubai on September 28. “I was a part of both the informal and formal meetings of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi



was also present. During the course of a formal meeting, it was not on the agenda but ICC facilitated a meeting between myself and the PCB chief separately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official,” Saikia told PTI on Saturday. “It was really good to start the process of negotiation. Both sides cordially participated in the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the ICC board meeting,” he added, assuring that a solution will be worked out soon. The trophy has been lying at the ACC headquarters in Dubai with the staff there instructed by Naqvi to not move it without his permission. He has insisted that the Indians will have to accept the top prize from him.

All Assam Speed Skating Championship was organised by Assam Speed Skating Association

Guwahati: The 8th-9th November All Assam Speed Skating Championship was organised by Assam Speed Skating Association at Dispur Skating Rink and Vandya International School. More than 300 skaters took part in this mega event. The event witnessed active participation from Nagaon, Kamrup M, Kamrup R, South Kamrup, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Duliagan, Chandrapur, Morigaon, Doomdooma, and Nalbari. In the closing ceremony, Sa-



trughan Chauhan (president of Assam Speed Skating Association), Gangotri L. Baruah (vice president of Assam Speed Skating Association), Suman Deka

(general secretary of the Assam Speed Skating Association), and Dony Kashyap (general secretary of Youth AGP) were present.

Uma Chetry is congratulated by the Assam Cricket Association Historic World Cup glory

Guwahati: The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) on Sunday felicitated Uma Chetry, a member of India’s ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025-winning team, in recognition of her extraordinary achievement that brought immense pride to the nation and to Assam. Waiting for this tour. I was excited from the time the series was confirmed. In honour of her feat, the ACA announced a cash reward of Rs 51 lakh for Uma, who became the first woman cricketer from Assam and the entire Northeast to be part of a World Cup-winning Indian side.

Joint Secretary Rajendra Singh, Treasurer Anupam Deka, ACA Apex Council member Mukuta Nanada Bhattacharya, and several dignitaries were also present. On this occasion, affiliated district units and different sports associations also felicitated Uma. “I am feeling very happy... we became first time Women’s champions at an ICC event,” Uma told ANI. “We have a busy schedule for now, later maybe we will have a camp in Bengaluru,” she added.

Speaking at the event, Saikia lauded Uma’s inspiring journey, saying, “Uma’s achievement has not only made Assam proud but has also opened a new chapter for women’s cricket in the Northeast. Her journey from local grounds to the world stage is a story of determination, discipline, and dreams realised. The BCCI is committed to strength-



ening women’s cricket across all regions of India.” He also added, “I congratulate the Assam Cricket Association for honouring Uma in such a remarkable way.” ACA President Taranga Gogoi, in his remarks, said, “We are immensely proud of Uma’s success. She has made history by becoming the first woman cricketer from Assam to win a World Cup. Her dedication and passion for the game reflect the potential that exists in our region.

Smashes World Record Abhishek Sharma

New Delhi: History was made as Abhishek Sharma reached the 1,000-run milestone in T20 internationals, claiming both the world record for the fastest in terms of balls faced for a single country and becoming the fastest Indian to reach the mark in terms of matches. Abhishek achieved the record in the 5th T20I against Australia, reaching the 4-digit score in 528 balls at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. The left-handed batter shattered the previous global record, which belonged to Australia’s Tim David. David had reached 1,000 runs in 569 balls for Australia during his blistering knock of 74 off 38 balls in Hobart on 2 November. In comparison, India’s T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav previously held second place, having taken 573 balls, with New Zealand’s Finn Allen sitting third (611 balls). When it comes to overall balls faced in T20Is, David now stands 6th in the list, having faced 614 balls to reach 1000 runs in T20Is, but this record consists of matches played for both Singapore and Australia. What also has to be noted is that Abhishek Sharma was dropped twice, once before reaching the 1,000-run milestone and once after in the match, in the first 11 balls he had faced. India’s Sanju Samson (995 runs) and Tilak Varma (991 runs) are also on the cusp of reaching the 1,000-run milestone in T20I cricket, but neither of them was selected in the India playing XI for the 5th T20I against Australia.



Suspend team amidst Mohun Bagan SG

Mohun Bagan Super Giant have reportedly suspended first-team operations as the Indian Super League remains on hold due to unresolved commercial rights issues.

New Delhi: The top-tier Indian Super League is still on hold since the national organization, AIFF, is having trouble selling the competition’s commercial rights. As a result, Indian champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant have suspended their first squad. The AIFF said on Friday that it has received no proposals for the commercial rights to the ISL. A senior member of the club’s management told Reuters on Saturday that Mohun Bagan,

situated in Kolkata, will resume first team operations provided there is some clarification surrounding the ISL’s future. He also expressed his lack of faith that the league will begin before mid-January. Other ISL clubs, including Odisha FC and Bengaluru FC, also suspended their first teams or stopped paying salaries after the AIFF announced in July that the league was on hold. Bengaluru returned to action last month for the Super Cup. The AIFF cited stalled negotiations for a contract renewal with their commercial partners, Reliance-led Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), as the reason for postponing the league.