

In Brief

Steps to strengthen border security

Agartala: Newly appointed Inspector General of BSF Tripura Frontier, Aloke Kumar Chakravarty, emphasized measures to enhance border security amid the unstable situation in Bangladesh. He stated that all BSF battalions along the Bangladesh border are on high alert and focused on maintaining border fences. Chakravarty noted significant apprehensions in 2025 with 278 individuals detained, including a decline in cattle smuggling and narcotics seizures.

Mjor arms recoveries follow across state

Imphal: A series of intelligence-driven operations in Manipur have resulted in the arrest of KCP (PWG) insurgent Ronaldo Thoudam and the seizure of a substantial cache of weapons. The operation on November 24 included targeted surveillance, leading to recoveries on November 25 at multiple locations. In Songlung village, authorities seized a Heckler & Koch G3 rifle, various other firearms, grenades, and equipment. A larger recovery in Gelbung jungle yielded a CMG carbine, multiple pistols, ammunition, and other improvised devices. Additionally, in Churachandpur district, officials discovered a long-range rocket with explosives. These crackdowns are part of ongoing efforts to prevent armed groups from regrouping in Manipur.

NITI AAYOG-Mizoram Govt meet to strengthen ginger value chain

Aizawl: The NITI Aayog and the Mizoram government held a stakeholder consultation in New Delhi to enhance the ginger value chain, chaired by Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and Vinod K. Paul from NITI Aayog. Participants included government ministries, industry leaders, and value-chain experts. Key discussions emphasized quality assurance, scientific grading, and authenticity of Mizoram's ginger, recognized for its distinctive aroma and high oleoresin content. Stakeholders advocated for increased local value addition, modern processing technologies, market intelligence, and collaborations to establish Mizoram as India's ginger capital. The meeting aimed at promoting standardized branding and inter-ministerial support to unlock the state's export potential and develop a resilient ginger ecosystem.

As traffic deaths increase, a Mizoram minister urges group action

Aizawl: Mizoram's Transport Minister Vanlalhlana emphasized the need for collective responsibility in preventing road accidents at the launch of the 44th Road Safety Week by the Zoram Drivers' Union. He highlighted that careless driving remains a serious threat and stressed the importance of adhering to traffic rules. The campaign, running until December 1, aims to build awareness, and ensure vehicle safety amid alarming statistics: over 70 deaths from road incidents in the first nine months of 2024, with 124 accidents and 112 fatalities reported. Authorities aim for this initiative to reinforce safer driving habits and reduce the growing accident toll.

IIT-G Develops advanced epoxy coating

Guwahati: Researchers from IIT-Guwahati have created a corrosion-resistant epoxy coating for steel structures in seawater and saline environments, as detailed in the Advanced Engineering Materials journal. The innovative nanocomposite merges reduced graphene oxide (RGO), zinc oxide (ZnO), and polyaniline (PANI) to enhance performance compared to standard epoxy.

Massive protest erupts against satellite township project in Barduar Bagan

● A large protest took place at the Barduar Bagan Kalaghar Club in South Kamrup, where attendees demanded land rights and expressed opposition to the government's proposed satellite township project on Monday.

Palasbari, Nov 26: A significant protest assembly took place at the Barduar Bagan Kalaghar Club within the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) in South Kamrup on Monday. Organized by the Barduar Bagan Land Patta Demand Committee, the gathering focused on advocating for land rights and expressing opposition to the government's proposed satellite township project in the region.

The meeting highlighted the community's concerns regarding land ownership and development policies affecting their rights. The Assam Government has proposed the development of a satellite township by the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), which is to be constructed on land where the Borduar tea estate residents currently reside. These local inhabitants assert

that the government has begun eviction activities without resolving their longstanding requests for land pattas, highlighting their concerns regarding displacement given their deep-rooted connections to the region.

The recent government survey proposing an allotment of only 1 katha 5 lecha of land per family has sparked significant discontent among villagers, leading to a call for a large-scale protest. During a meeting, the chief coordinator of the organization, Gobinda Rabha, expressed that both the government's survey and the proposed allotment plan were deemed unacceptable, arguing that they failed to accurately reflect the actual settlement patterns present in the area.

Senior Congress worker Umakanta Rabha addressed a gathering, highlighting the his-



torical context of land leases by the British colonial government to the Borduar Tea Company for a duration of 99 years, which has since expired. He emphasized that the villagers were not originally part of the plantation but were subjected to manipulative measures that integrated their land into the

tea estate. Rabha criticized the current government for its failure to uphold its promises to safeguard Assamese land and identity, accusing it of facilitating the transfer of local land to external interests. He warned that if such actions persist, the local populace would respond decisively. Adivasi leader Ad-

itya Nag echoed similar concerns, indicating that residents of three revenue villages have been fighting for permanent settlement rights. He pointed out the government's proposal to allocate only 1 katha 5 lecha of land to tea garden workers under a restrictive line system, which he characterized as an at-

tempt to undermine the broader land rights movement.

Nag reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing land pattas for all residents, irrespective of their caste or community, and expressed readiness to continue their protest indefinitely if necessary. Aditya Rabha, a leader of the committee, has voiced strong criticism against the government's allotment method, referring to it as a "line system" that he deems disrespectful. He firmly rejects this approach and opposes the construction of a satellite township at Borduar Bagan. Additionally, Rabha insists that the government must cease misleading the populace and must issue pattas (land titles) to all legitimate residents without delay. He warns that there will be significant repercussions in the upcoming elections if these concerns are not addressed.

NITI AAYOG-Mizoram Govt meet to strengthen ginger value chain

Aizawl, Nov 26: The NITI Aayog and the Mizoram government co-hosted a high-level stakeholder consultation in New Delhi on strengthening the state's ginger value chain in a bid to enhance the competitiveness of the state's signature agricultural product.

Chaired by Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and Vinod K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, the meeting also saw participation from Union ministries, state departments, industry leaders, agri-export bodies, researchers and value-chain experts. The discussions focused on quality assurance, scientific grading and ensuring authenticity of Mizoram's ginger produce to help it capture premium segments in domestic and international markets.

Notably, ginger produced in the state is

known for its distinctive aroma and high oleoresin content.

Stakeholders at the consultation underscored the need to boost local value addition through modern processing technologies, strengthen forward linkages and market intelligence, deepen institutional and academic collaborations and form an expert-led State task force to drive reforms and partnerships.

Officials stated that coordinated reforms would enable Mizoram to position itself as India's ginger capital, backed by standardisation, branding and greater inter-ministerial support.

The consultation marked a crucial step toward unlocking the state's export potential and building a resilient, technology-enabled ginger ecosystem with global reach.

As the Center restricts funds for the Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam is one of 20 states under investigation

Guwahati, Nov 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has suspended new funding for the Jal Jeevan Mission following inspections that revealed significant discrepancies in reported water delivery. Despite states claiming completed tap connections, investigations found that actual supply was lacking, prompting the Centre to penalize several states, notably Assam, which along with six others, was flagged for irregularities. A total recovery of Rs 12.95 crore has been made from penalties of Rs 129.27 crore associated with procedural, financial, and quality violations.

Currently, 20 states and union territories have confirmed irregularities, with Assam submitting an action report after senior Central Nodal Officers conducted ground verifications. Launched in 2019 with an initial budget of Rs 3.6 lakh crore,

Finance Minister Sitharaman announced an extension of the scheme until 2028, contingent on states showing corrective measures.

the mission's expenditure has since risen to Rs 4.33 lakh crore, claiming to provide infrastructure to 19.36 crore households. However, inspections between 2022 and 2024 indicated that 14 to 16 percent of reported areas with tap connections do not receive regular water supply.

Gujarat is facing the largest recovery amounting to Rs 120.65 crore, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam, and Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister emphasized that no state will receive additional funding until they resolve existing complaints and demonstrate effective water supply.

In total, 607 cases have been initiated

against 62 officials, 969 contractors, and 153 third-party inspection agencies, leading to nine FIRs and multiple arrests, including a former minister and several officials. Officials attribute ongoing issues to poor operation and maintenance structures, especially in regions lacking technical capacity, with states like Kerala exhibiting significantly better results due to stronger local governance.

All 32 states and union territories have provided progress updates, with the government asserting that future funding will depend on transparency and actual water delivery, rather than simply reported infrastructure status. Although Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an extension of the scheme until 2028, further funding decisions will be contingent on states demonstrating corrective measures.

'Lost' Jews of Mizoram and Manipur Prepare for Return to Israel Under Aliyah Programme

Aizawl, Nov 26: For the Bnei Menashe community—one of the last remaining Jewish groups in Mizoram and Manipur that has not yet migrated to Israel—the decades-long yearning to return to the Holy Land is entering its final stage. By early next year, about 300 members of the community from Mizoram will depart for Israel, while another 300 people from Manipur are expected to leave around the same time.

For many, the long wait is finally over. "It feels like the journey our forefathers started long ago is finally reaching its destination," said community leader Jeremiah L. Nhamte, who will travel to Israel with his wife and children. "Our children are already in Is-

rael. They miss us, and we miss them."

The Bnei Menashe trace their ancestry to one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, believed to have been exiled more than 27 centuries ago. In Mizoram, many grew up hearing stories and songs about a distant homeland. Today, the emotional preparations are taking shape through farewell gatherings, prayers, and one-way tickets.

According to the Aliyah (Return to Zion) programme facilitated by the Israeli government, more than 2,000 members of this community have already migrated since 2006. New batches are expected to leave in early 2026.

Among those preparing is Ch-

hanii Nhamte, 29, who first heard stories of Israel from her grandparents. "I have never seen the land, but I feel deeply connected to it," she said.

Israel formally recognised the Bnei Menashe only in 2005, after extensive research confirmed their centuries-old traditions linking them to ancient Jewish practices. About 2,000 members now live in Nazareth Illit and Karmiel, with more settling in Israeli farming communities in the north.

The Israeli government's support package includes financial assistance, language training, job guidance, temporary housing, and community integration, especially for those adopting formal Judaism after generations of practic-

ing pre-rabbinic traditions.

According to the Bnei Menashe Council, around 5,000 members have already migrated since 2012, and at least 6,000 remain in India, hoping to move soon.

Despite the excitement, the departure is emotionally heavy for many families. "We grew up in these hills, worked on this land, and built our homes here. Leaving will be painful," said one elder during a recent prayer gathering.

Still, the community sees the moment as historic. "We will return to the land of our ancestors," said a community leader. "The journey continues—one generation, one farewell, and one homecoming at a time."

Human–Elephant Conflict Escalates in Golaghat

Bokakhat, Nov 26: The recent escalation of human-elephant conflict in Golaghat district, Assam, has tragically culminated in the death of Ghankanta Saikia, a resident of Napathar village, highlighting the urgent necessity for enhanced mitigation strategies. The incident occurred when Saikia, returning home from work, unexpectedly encountered a wild elephant, which charged at him before he had a chance to react. Although locals promptly transported him to the Golaghat Swahid Kushal Konwar Civil Hospital, his condition critically worsened, and he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. This fatality is indicative of a growing trend in violent encounters between humans and elephants in the region, particularly in Golaghat, which is situated near established elephant corridors. Recent months have witnessed a significant rise in such conflicts, attributed primarily to severe habitat loss, decreasing forest areas, and the encroachment of human settlements into wildlife zones. As a result, residents are increasingly living in fear and have urged forest officials and district authorities to implement immediate interventions. They are calling for better management of elephant movements, enhanced public awareness campaigns, and the introduction of essential safety measures for communities residing on the fringes of forest areas to reduce the risks associated with these recurring confrontations.

The Sivasagar administration starts the electoral roll's special revision

Sivasagar, Nov 26: A meeting was convened at the Sukafa Conference Hall of the Sivasagar District Commissioner's Office to brief political parties regarding the Special Revision of the Electoral Roll, targeting January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. Chaired by District Election Officer and District Commissioner Aayush Garg, the session included representatives from various registered and recognized political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian National Congress, and Asom Gana Parishad. Additional District Commissioner Meenakshi Parmey and Election Officer Aditi Neog were also in attendance.

The discussion focused on the procedures and timelines asso-

ciated with the electoral roll revision. Officials announced that the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have commenced a door-to-door verification process starting November 22, which is set to continue until December 20. The draft of the electoral roll will be published on December 27, with a window for claims and objections open from that date until January 22. The final version of the electoral roll is expected to be published on February 10.

Key points addressed during the meeting included the responsibilities of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and the critical role of BLOs in ensuring accurate verifications. The officials emphasized the need for public cooperation, urging eligible citizens to assist BLOs during



the verification process and to submit any claims or objections

timely. This collaboration is deemed essential for maintain-

ing an error-free electoral roll as the deadline approaches.

Steps to strengthen border security

Agartala, Nov 26: Newly appointed Inspector General of BSF Tripura Frontier, Aloke Kumar Chakravarty, emphasized measures to enhance border security amid the unstable situation in Bangladesh. He stated that all BSF battalions along the Bangladesh border are on high alert and focused on maintaining border fences. Chakravarty noted significant apprehensions in 2025 with 278 individuals detained, including a decline in cattle smuggling and narcotics seizures.

NIA Arrests 7th Accused for Aiding Logistics

New Delhi, Nov 26: A 32-year-old Faridabad resident has been detained by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on suspicion of giving Umar Un Nabi, the driver of the vehicle that exploded on November 10 close to Delhi's Red Fort, shelter and logistical support. Mohammad Soyab, a native of Dhauj village in Faridabad, is suspected by investigators of providing Nabi with "critical logistical arrangements," such as movement and concealment, in the days leading up to the attack. He is currently the seventh person detained in the case. "After NIA agents took up Soyab during coordinated operations in the National Capital Region on Tuesday, the arrest was made based on new leads. "We have filed a case against him," an NIA agent who wished to remain anonymous stated. Six accused Nabi associates who allegedly assisted with planning, reconnaissance, or logistical facilitation

have been detained by the NIA thus far. Investigators are looking into whether the bomber had material or financial support from a bigger network, as well as whether handlers outside of India led the group. A comprehensive multi-state investigation including searches in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir were spurred by the incident. Handwritten documents, digital devices, and communication records have been recovered and are undergoing forensic analysis. The scheme was "multi-layered," according to a second NIA officer, who stated that finding each link was crucial. "We are looking into every possibility, including cross-border connections and potential reasons for the suicide attack. He predicted more arrests. One of the deadliest attacks in the capital in recent memory was the improvised explosive device explosion that occurred on November 10.

Belagavi, Nov 26: State BJP chief B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday urged the Congress government to resolve its internal leadership dispute before the legislature's winter session starts in Belagavi next month. He claimed that the administration would find it challenging to address the issues raised by farmers and citizens throughout the state due to the ongoing political unrest. Vijayendra cautioned that if the ruling party continued to prioritize internal rivalry over legislative activity, the next session, which is set to start on December 8, would not accomplish its goals. "From December 8, the winter session of the state legislature will begin in Belagavi, and people are waiting with frustration to get a response to several issues faced by the state, especially in the north Karnataka region and by farmers during the session. But the compe-

tion is going on in the ruling party for the chief minister's chair," he said. He urged chief minister Siddaramaiah to resolve the leadership question before the session begins. "I want to tell the chief minister that the state doesn't want an acting or outgoing chief minister. Before coming for the Belagavi session, resolve the ongoing fight for the CM chair in your party. If the fight continues during the session, you will not be able to respond to or address the issues faced by the farmers and the state," he said. Vijayendra questioned the effectiveness of holding the session under the current circumstances and suggested the government either come prepared or "postpone the session." He also said the government had "failed" to address the concerns of sugarcane and maize farmers. Meanwhile, according to people familiar with the developments, state IT-



BT, rural development and panchayati raj minister Priyank Kharge held a private meeting with Rahul Gandhi to explain the internal situation in Karnataka. After returning to Bengaluru, he met chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister Shivakumar separately and conveyed the message delivered by Rahul Gandhi.

Opposition leader R Ashoka said the ruling party's internal issues were becoming increasingly visible. "This government is guaranteed to fall, this chair fight has been going on in the room for so long, and now it will come out on the road," he said. Speaking in Kalaburagi, Ashoka said Siddaramaiah had shifted from saying he would be chief minister for five years to now saying he would follow the high command's decision. He also said, "Dodda Kharge has a dream of becoming the CM." Ashoka criticised the government's handling of rural distress. He said no one was listening to the problems of farmers facing crop damage, inadequate compensation, and delays in finalising sugarcane prices. He added that senior officials had not visited affected districts and also questioned the overall stability of the government.

Nigerian held as Police recover drugs worth ₹23 Crore

Agency: A team from the central criminal branch detained a Nigerian national on Sunday, according to police on Tuesday. The accused was then presented in court on Monday and placed under four days of police custody. A consignment of synthetic drugs valued at ₹23 crore, which included 1,040 Ecstasy tablets and 11.5 kg of MDMA crystals. According to authorities, the accused, 42-year-old AGK Naigoo Okafor, entered India on a business visa in 2017 and continued to live in a rented home inside the city boundaries long after his visa expired. According to investigators, he sourced drugs from Delhi and stored them at his residence, supplying them to networks that extended across Karnataka, Chennai and Hyderabad. Police believe he had established a steady clientele among students and peddlers who maintained strong links to nightlife circuits. "The seized drugs

were part of a large consignment prepared specifically ahead of New Year celebrations, with the intention of doubling profits," CCB ACP B Anand. He added that Okafor "had allegedly stored the entire stock in a single room, expecting a surge in orders a month before the festivities. He had planned to push the drugs aggressively among youngsters by coordinating with local peddlers. Acting on a tip off, we raided and seized the goods." Investigators said the distribution network appeared to be well mapped out. The stock was intended for resorts on the outskirts of Bengaluru as well as pubs, bars and restaurants in the city, they said. Authorities suspect a portion of the consignment had already been designated for delivery to venues expected to host large gatherings in the final week of December. Despite overstaying his visa, Okafor continued to expand his oper-



ations, and early findings indicate he handled a coordinated supply chain that moved narcotics in and out of Karnataka. The police are now questioning him to identify associates, determine how long they have worked with him and trace the routes used to transport

drugs into the city. The CCB is also examining links to supply lines originating in Delhi and Mumbai, officers in the know said. Senior officers said the arrest marks one phase of a broader effort to disrupt the drug flow before holiday celebrations reach their peak later this month.

Shivakumar confirms secret pact on State Leadership

● During a visit to Kanakpura, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar acknowledged a "secret deal" among a few Congress members regarding the chief minister's position but refrained from discussing it publicly to avoid embarrassment to the party.

Karnataka, Nov 26: During a visit to his constituency Kanakpura on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar acknowledged that there was a "secret deal" between "five-six" Congressmen regarding the chief minister's position, but he did not want to "speak publicly on it" in order to avoid embarrassing or weakening the party. Shivakumar said everything there was to say about the ongoing power struggle in the state without really saying anything. His remarks coincided with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's request that the central

leadership of the Congress "take a decision" in order to "end the confusion." Ever since the Congress won the Karnataka assembly elections in March 2023, there has been buzz of an agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, blessed by the party's central leadership, on a power transfer after two-and-half-years. Talk of this agreement has intensified in recent months with the chief minister speaking of a reshuffle, but insisting that he would remain in charge, and supporters of the deputy chief minister pushing his cause, locally and in Delhi. People familiar with the matter say the agreement was arrived at in March 2023 at the residence of Congress national president, Mallikarjun Kharge, in presence of Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar, Kharge himself, general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal and general secretary, AICC Randeep Surjewala.

Bangladeshi held for Staying illegally with forged identity

Dehradun, Nov 26: A Bangladeshi lady who reportedly used false documents and a Hindu name to enter India illegally has been detained by Dehradun police. The 28-year-old Babli Begum was discovered living in the Patel Nagar neighborhood of Dehradun under the false identity of Bhoomi Sharma during Operation Kalnemi, a campaign against people living under fraudulent identities, according to the police. Begum, a resident of Bangladesh's Gaybanda district, admitted to the police during questioning that she had entered India illegally during the COVID-19 epidemic and had lived in several places before arriving in Dehradun in 2021. She claimed to have obtained fictitious Indian credentials under the name Bhoomi Sharma and

married a man from Dehradun in 2022. The police allegedly recovered an Aadhaar card, Ayushman card, ration card, voter ID card, and other fake Indian documents in the name of Bhoomi Sharma, along with a Bangladeshi identity card in the name of Babli Begum from her possession. A case was registered under relevant sections against the Bangladeshi woman for illegally residing in India by creating fake documents, and she was arrested. The police said that they are gathering information about the individuals who assisted the accused in creating the fake documents and strict action will be taken against them. Last week, the police had arrested Mamun Hasan, a Bangladeshi national living in Dehradun under the false name and identity of Sachin Chauhan.

Man arrested for Driving woman to Suicide

Mumbai, Nov 26: According to an official, Mumbai Police have detained a man for reportedly encouraging a female friend to commit suicide by blackmailing her and threatening to post her altered, pornographic photos on social media. The accused and the victim, who resided in Goregaon, Mumbai, with her family, had frequent communication. The two often had lengthy conversations over the phone and on WhatsApp. She kept in contact with him despite her parents' advice to keep a distance after learning of this, according to a Goregaon police official. The victim seems to have been under a great deal of mental stress for the previous few weeks. Despite giving him money on multiple occasions, the accused continued to threaten her. The victim had also lodged a complaint with the police and they warned the accused to stay away from her.

Kerala actress assault case: verdict on Dec 8

Kerala, Nov 26: On December 8, the Ernakulam Principal District and Sessions Court will render a decision in the 2017 actress kidnapping and sexual assault case, in which Dileep, a Malayalam actor, is the eighth accused. Eight years after the trial started and following several cautions from the Supreme Court to move the case along quickly, Principal Sessions Judge Honey M. Varghese is scheduled to deliver the decision. Disruptions resulted from the complainant's two requests to the higher courts for the judge's replacement. The case pertains to the kidnapping and rape of a woman actor in a moving car on the outskirts of Kochi on February 17, 2017 by a gang led by Sunil Kumar, alias 'Pulsar' Suni, the first accused in the case. The sexual assault was also allegedly videographed. Actor Dileep, who faces charges of criminal conspiracy, kidnapping among others, is accused of orchestrating the attack on the

woman actor as a result of a grudge he held against her for allegedly being involved in his break-up and eventual divorce with actress Manju Warriar. There was also allegedly an altercation between Dileep and the woman actor on the sidelines of a rehearsal of a stage show. Dileep was arrested in July 2017 by the Kerala police and spent 88 days in prison before securing bail in the case. The trial in the case was also rocked mid-way by revelations by director Balachandra Kumar that he saw Dileep watching the visuals of the sexual assault on his phone at his residence in Aluva. He had also testified and told the media that he had seen Sunil Kumar at Dileep's residence and that the actor had conspired to endanger the lives of police officers including Dy SP Baiju Poullose, who was in-charge of the case at the time. A new FIR was lodged against Dileep based on the director's claims. Apart from Dileep and

Sunil Kumar, the other accused in the case are Martin Antony, B Manikandan, VP Vijeesh, Salim, Pradeep, Charley Thomas and Sanil. The court considered around 1700 documents and 261 witnesses, many of whom turned hostile. The proceedings were conducted in-camera, considering the sensitivity of the case. The case brought sweeping changes in the Malayalam film industry including the ouster of Dileep from the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), and the formation of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC). The Justice Hema committee was established as a result of the WCC's request that the government look into the issues that female actors and technicians were facing. In a study published last year, the committee stated that an all-male power elite controlled the industry and that there was widespread sexual abuse of female actors and technicians.

PM Modi Opens Safran Engine Facility in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov 26: The French company Safran's LEAP engine maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility was virtually inaugurated on Wednesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When the city's Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) plant opens in 2026, it will significantly strengthen the nation's domestic capabilities in the rapidly expanding aviation industry. The LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engines that power the narrow-body Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are housed at the factory, which was established with an initial expenditure of ₹1,300 crore. LEAP engines are manufactured by CFM International, an equal joint venture between Safran Aircraft Engines and GE Aerospace. India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and domestic carriers have placed orders for over 1,500 planes. Designed to service up to 300 LEAP engines annually, SAESI facility will employ over 1,000 highly skilled Indian technicians and engineers upon achieving full operational capacity by 2035, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had said in a release on Tuesday. It had also said that developing indigenous capabilities in MRO will reduce foreign exchange outflows, create high-value employment, strengthen supply-chain resilience and position India as a global aviation hub.

SC asks Centre to Ensure Immigrants' Return for Holistic Trial

New Delhi, Nov 26: On Tuesday, the Supreme Court questioned the Centre about whether it was willing to return six individuals who had been deported to Bangladesh due to their unlawful immigration status as a "temporary measure" so they may have a full hearing to demonstrate their Indian nationality. "If the person is an illegal migrant from Bangladesh, we will not dispute that," stated a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant. However, if someone can demonstrate that they are an Indian citizen and provide proof, they have a right to be heard. The Centre filed two appeals against two different judgments from the Calcutta High Court that called for the return of six deported individuals within four weeks. Posting the matter for Monday to enable the Centre to take instructions, the bench said, "The allegation is that they are foreigners. These are evidences of probability. Why don't you (Centre) as a temporary measure bring them back and have a holistic hearing conducted. You have your agencies to verify the documents that they produce. Take instructions on this by Monday." Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Sanjay Hegde who represented the petitioners before the high court agreed to the court's suggestion. The Centre had approached the top court against two sets of orders passed on September 26 by the Calcutta high court filed by Bhodu Sekh and Amir Khan. While Bhodu filed a habeas corpus petition to know the whereabouts of his daughter, her husband and grandson



after they were deported by the Delhi police to Bangladesh in June. The other petition filed by Khan presented a similar case involving his cousin sister and her two minor sons, who were similarly deported from Delhi to Bangladesh around the same time. They used to stay near Rohini and used to work as maids. The high court in its order noted the "hot haste" with which the police acted by arresting them on June 21 and within a week, produced them before the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO),

Delhi. On June 26, FRRO ordered their deportation without a proper hearing. The Union government claimed that the deportation followed as a result of their inability to show documents of their identity and Indian origin. However, the high court had found the names of their grandfathers in the electoral roll of West Bengal. Convinced by this, the high court directed them to be brought back and be given a full opportunity of hearing. The HC further cited a memo of May 2025 of the ministry of home affairs which

allows immediate deportation only in an "emergent" situation and on completion of enquiry. The HC found no "emergent" situation in the present case. Going by the worst case scenario that the detainees were not Indian citizens, even then, the HC said that the steps and procedures laid down in the memo ought to have been followed. "Not following such procedure and acting in hot haste to deport them is a clear violation which renders the deportation order bad in law and liable to be set aside."

CISF foils attack on Uri Hydropower

Agency: Pakistan attempted an attack on India's Uri hydroelectric plant near the Line of Control (LOC) shortly after the launch of Operation Sindoor by India, which was aimed at terrorist hide-outs in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The attack was successfully thwarted with no damage reported, as confirmed by India's Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). On the evening of the incident, 19 CISF personnel were awarded the Director General's disc for their efforts in neutralizing hostile drones aimed at the installation and carrying out civilian evacuations amidst Pakistani gunfire. Operation Sindoor, conducted on May 6-7, 2025, elicited intense retaliatory shelling from the Pakistan Army on Indian territory, particularly threatening the Uri hydro-power projects. CISF forces, under Commandant Ravi Yadav, initiated protective measures, including redistributing weapons to secure critical national assets. They executed a door-to-door evacuation in residential areas, ensuring the safety of civilians despite the ongoing military conflict. The Uri projects were specifically targeted due to their proximity to the LOC, but effective intelligence and preparedness prevented any loss of life during the evacuation. Operation Sindoor was a response to a prior terror attack that claimed 26 lives, demonstrating India's commitment to safeguarding its infrastructure and citizens.

Following the arrest of an Arunachal woman at Shanghai Airport, Pema Khandu denounces China

■ **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu criticized Chinese immigration authorities for their “unacceptable” and “appalling” treatment of a woman from the state.**

Itanagar, Nov 26: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu criticized the treatment of Indian citizen Prema Wangjom Thongdok by Chinese immigration officials at Shanghai Pudong Airport, where she was detained for nearly 18 hours. Khandu expressed his shock and termed the incident as “unacceptable,” describing it as a form of humiliation and “racial mockery” based on the refusal of officials to recognize her valid Indian passport because it listed Arunachal Pradesh as her birthplace, which they claimed was Chinese territory.

Thongdok, who was traveling from London to Japan, alleged that she was held without proper food or facilities, and her passport was confiscated, preventing her from boarding her connecting flight until she contacted the Indian consulate for assistance. Khandu deemed the incident as a violation of international norms and an affront to Indian



dian dignity, and he expects the Ministry of External Affairs to act swiftly to prevent recurrence. Thongdok has reached out to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged for strong diplomatic action against China, including accountability for those

involved, and compensation for her distress.

This incident underscores the ongoing tensions between India and China over Arunachal Pradesh, claimed by China as “South Tibet,” leading to diplomatic disputes over issues such as

stapled visas for residents of the state. The situation has alarmed officials who fear that China may extend its controversial visa practices to international transit points, impacting travelers from Arunachal Pradesh during layovers.

East Kameng Social Welfare & Cultural Organisation flags ‘serious lapse’ in frontier highway probe

Itanagar, Nov 26: The East Kameng Social Welfare & Cultural Organisation (EKSWCO) has called on Transport Commissioner Saughat Biswas to conduct immediate field verification of Packages 1 and 3 of the Lada-Sarli Arunachal Frontier Highway. Allegations indicate that these two segments have been ignored in the ongoing investigation into compensation and alignment issues. In a memorandum presented on Tuesday, Chopa Cheda, chairman of the EKSWCO’s ‘Lada-Sarli Arunachal Frontier Highway Scam’ committee, criticized the fact-finding committee’s oversight, which has already inspected Packages 2, 4, and 5, but did not address Package 3 despite requests from affected villagers.

Cheda described this omission as a “serious lapse” that has generated anxiety among beneficiaries and stakeholders, raising concerns about the fairness, transparency, and credibility of the eventual report. Emphasizing the importance of scrutinizing Packages 1 and 3, he argued that it is crucial for ensuring appropriate compensation, preventing future land disputes, and avoiding potential complications for the government, which could necessitate the reopening of this issue and introduce further delays.



The organisation urged Biswas to perform a field verification within two to three days, ahead of the November 30 deadline for the final report submission.

EKSWCO highlighted that immediate intervention is vital to protect public interests and maintain trust in the inquiry into alleged irregularities regarding the Lada-Sarli Frontier Highway compensation process. They reported that the Commissioner has committed to conducting a re-verification survey shortly. The Fact-Finding Committee, which includes representatives

from various departments such as land management, forest, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, and public works, is tasked with finalizing and submitting its report by November 30, 2025.

Additionally, Cheda announced a meeting of EKSWCO executive members, along with clan groups, social workers, activists, student bodies, and affected landowners, scheduled for November 29. This gathering aims to discuss collective grievances and develop a unified resolution to present to the government for necessary action.

Due to the Arunachal portion of her passport, an Indian woman was hounded at the airport in China

Itanagar, Nov 26: Prema Wangjom Thongdok, traveling from London to Japan on November 21, experienced an 18-hour ordeal after immigration officials deemed her passport “invalid” due to her birthplace being listed as Arunachal Pradesh, which they claimed is part of China. During her confinement in the airport’s transit area, she was reportedly mocked by officials and airline staff, denied essential information, food, and basic facilities, and prevented from boarding her onward flight despite having a valid visa.

Upon being told she might not get her passport back unless she purchased a new ticket with China Eastern Airlines, she faced significant financial losses from missed flights and hotel bookings. After contacting the Indian Consulate in Shanghai through a friend, Indian officials intervened, allowing her to depart late at night.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she condemned the incident as a “direct insult to India’s sovereignty” and called for the Indian government to address the matter with Chinese authorities, seek accountability for the airport staff, and ensure that travelers from Arunachal Pradesh are not subjected to similar challenges in the future.



IIT-G Develops advanced epoxy coating to protect steel in marine conditions

Guwahati, Nov 26: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G) have developed a corrosion-resistant epoxy coating for protecting steel structures exposed to seawater and high-salinity environments.

“The findings of the research have been published in the Advanced Engineering Materials journal, in a paper co-authored by Prof. Chandan Das, department of chemical engineering, IIT-Guwahati, along with research scholar Anil Kumar,” a statement issued by the institute on Wednesday said.

Corrosion is a natural and gradual process that weakens metal surfaces and shortens the lifespan of essential structures, particularly those exposed to saltwater environments, such as offshore platforms, coastal bridges, port infrastructure and marine pipelines.

Researchers at IIT-G have combined graphene oxide (RGO), zinc oxide



(ZnO) and polyaniline (PANI) into one coating system.

The novel nanocomposite has been developed by attaching zinc oxide nanorods to reduced graphene oxide and then wrapping this structure with polyaniline. The composite was then blended into an epoxy coating and evaluated using several characterisation methods. “The developed epoxy coating has shown improved performance compared to standard epoxy. It formed a denser and more uniform barrier, showed stronger

adhesion to the steel surface, and slowed the movement of corrosive elements more effectively,” the institute claimed. Speaking about the research, Prof. Das, said, “The incorporation of RGO-ZnO-PANI nanocomposite into epoxy coating offers a promising strategy for achieving long-term corrosion resistance in harsh marine environments. As the next step, we are working towards assessing the long-term durability, real-world performance, and life-cycle impact of this coating.”

As traffic deaths increase, a Mizoram minister urges group action

Aizawl, Nov 26: Mizoram’s Transport Minister Vanlalhlana emphasized the need for collective responsibility in preventing road accidents at the launch of the 44th Road Safety Week by the Zoram Drivers’ Union. He highlighted that careless driving remains a serious threat and stressed the importance of adhering to traffic rules. The campaign, running until December 1, aims to build awareness, and ensure vehicle safety amid alarming statistics: over 70 deaths from road incidents in the first nine months of 2024, with 124 accidents and 112 fatalities reported. Authorities aim for this initiative to reinforce safer driving habits and reduce the growing accident toll.

Amidst the upheaval in Bangladesh, fear of infiltration increases as Mawsynram MLA raises security worries

Shillong, Nov 26: Amid ongoing unrest in Bangladesh, concerns about potential spillover effects into Meghalaya have intensified, prompting security agencies to enhance vigilance along susceptible segments of the international border. The instability, particularly as Bangladesh approaches its February elections, has heightened fears of infiltration among border communities and local leaders. Mawsynram MLA Ollan Singh Suin highlighted recent instances of attempted illegal entries that have been intercepted, urging for rigorous surveillance measures due to the vulnerabilities posed by unfenced riverine areas.

Suin pointed out that the safety and security of Meghalaya necessitate continuous monitoring by the Border Security Force. He noted that the turmoil in Bangladesh has necessitated the closure of border haats—local trading posts critical for commerce among



Concerns are rising about potential unrest from Bangladesh affecting Meghalaya, prompting security agencies to heighten their vigilance.

approximately 15,000 residents along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Specifically, the Lalpani and Rinku border haats in Mawsynram have remained

shut since the onset of the unrest, drastically affecting local trade and the livelihoods of those involved in cross-border transactions.

Highlighting the importance of restoring normalcy, Suin expressed hope for the reopening of these haats following the establishment of a new government in Bangladesh post-elections. He emphasized that while current border protocols are generally effective in preventing infiltration, the challenges persist particularly at river junctions without fencing. The ongoing closure of these economic hubs has led to significant disruptions in traditional trade links and has heavily impacted the border economy, as increased security measures remain in place due to the instability across the border.

To protect Satra lands, the Assam government is forming a quasi-judicial body

Guwahati, Nov 26: The Assam government has introduced a Bill in the state assembly on November 25, proposing the establishment of a quasi-judicial body dedicated to the protection of the state’s Vaishnavite monasteries, known as ‘satras.’ Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Keshab Mahanta presented ‘The Assam Satra Preservation and Development Commission Bill, 2025,’ highlighting the various challenges faced by these monasteries, including encroachment, fragmented land records, and weak institutional coordination, which impede their lawful protection and sustainable management.

The proposed Assam Satra Pres-



ervation and Development Commission will be a specialized authority equipped to safeguard, manage, and regulate the satras and their lands, acting as an appellate authority for decisions made by district commissioners. The commission will have the authority to conduct surveys and investigations

into encroachments and propose conservation measures for heritage structures and artifacts within the satra ecosystem. To facilitate effective enforcement, it will possess powers comparable to those of a civil court and will maintain exclusive jurisdiction over matters under its legislation.

Officials of the commission will be appointed on a temporary basis to prevent imposing a permanent financial burden on the state. The Bill will also empower the government to issue policy directions, delegate additional responsibilities, and protect actions taken in good faith, while allowing for some flexibility to resolve implementation-related challenges.

The overarching goal of the Bill is to create a comprehensive and legally sound framework that ensures the preservation of Assam’s Vaishnavite heritage, protects satra lands from encroachment and misuse, and fosters planned, culturally sensitive development for the benefit of the public at large.

In Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Army saves tourists who are stuck in deep snow



Itanagar, Nov 26: Eight senior citizens were rescued on Monday after heavy snowfall rendered their vehicle immobilized along the Old Sela Route near NH-13 in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh. This incident occurred amid reports of the season’s first widespread snowfall affecting several high-altitude districts, including Tawang, West Kameng, Shi-Yomi, and parts of Upper Subansiri, which enhanced the region’s scenery but also worsened travel conditions due to slippery roads.

The stranded group, all aged over 60, was traveling to Bomdila in the West Kameng district when they became stuck in a snow-laden stretch of the Old Sela Route, an area known for its unpredictable weather patterns. As temperatures plummeted and visibility declined, they reached out for assistance, leading to a prompt response from the Gajraj Corps troops.

Despite challenging terrain and continuous snowfall, the rescue team successfully reached the stranded individuals, providing essential medical assistance and ensuring they warmed up before beginning their evacuation. All eight members of the group were safely escorted from the snowbound region and allowed to continue their journey.

Authorities highlighted that the timely intervention of the Army averted a potentially perilous situation, particularly given the travellers’ advanced age and the severity of the weather conditions. The Army reaffirmed its readiness to support civilians in high-altitude areas when needed.

With forecasts indicating further snowfall in the upcoming days, officials have urged travelers to exercise caution and stay updated on weather conditions prior to embarking on journeys through mountainous routes.

Sebi signs MoU with NFSU to strengthen, cyber capabilities

New Delhi: Securities and Exchange B oard of India (Sebi) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) to enhance cooperation in forensic science, digital investigation and skill development. NFSU, established under the National Forensic Sciences University Act, 2020, will work with the capital markets regulator to expand research, education and training support across several specialised domains. Under the MoU, both institutions will collaborate on capacity building and skill enhancement of Sebi officers in areas such as digital forensics, forensic accounting and cybersecurity. The

agreement also includes designing customised courses and training programmes to improve the efficiency and output of Sebi personnel. The regulator and NFSU will jointly organise training sessions, seminars, conferences and workshops on topics of mutual interest and allow participation of each other's officers and faculty members. The partnership further enables the use of each other's expertise, facilities and resources.

A key element of the MoU focuses on strengthening Sebi's digital forensic capabilities. This includes developing or providing consultancy for setting up state-of-the-art infrastructure at the regulator's Mumbai office or any other loca-

tion as required. The collaboration also includes setting up specialised laboratories in cybersecurity, digital forensics, forensic accounting, data analytics and related fields under NFSU's consultancy framework. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) to strengthen its technological, investigative, and forensic capabilities. Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), aimed at strengthening its technological, investigative and



forensic capabilities. The MOU was signed on November 24, 2025. NFSU, established under the National Forensic Sciences University Act, 2020, is country's premier institution for forensic science education and research.

Indian lenders to finance Russian oil trade sanctions

New Delhi: Indian banks are now willing to consider financing trade in Russian oil if it is sourced from non-blacklisted sellers and transactions are sanctions-compliant, indicating that the country's biggest energy supplier of the last four years may retain a toehold in India's import mix. That's a shift from a few weeks ago — before the latest US curbs, which took effect on Friday — when lenders were wary of clearing payments for any Russian cargoes, citing difficulties in verifying the supply chain, Bloomberg reported quoting unnamed sources. India had found itself collateral damage in President Donald Trump's bid to tighten the screws on Moscow to end war in Ukraine, facing a punitive 50 per

cent tariff on roughly two-thirds of its exports to the US because of its sourcing of Russian barrels. Bank's willingness to fund comes at a time when the Indian government is looking for a reprieve from high tariffs from the US on the basis of its massive projected cut in Russian oil sourcing. There is an expectation that 25 per cent penalty duty would be revoked at the least, if there is demonstrative reduction in purchase. India has been the second largest customer for Russian crude after China, although local refiners have been able to source alternative, pricier barrels post sanction from West Asia, North Africa and Latin America due to abundant supply in the global market.

Due to significant turnover, stock falls 3%; seller's details and more

New Delhi: Shares of Bharti Airtel Ltd tanked 3 per cent in Wednesday's trade as Rs 7,600 crore worth company shares changed hands on likely stake sale by a promoter group entity. As per the term sheet seen by Business Today, a total of 3.43 crore shares were to change hands at an offer price of Rs 2,096.70 apiece, which were at 3 per cent discount to Tuesday's closing price of Rs 2,161.60 on NSE. Indian Continent Investment (ICIL) was looking to offload shares. As per media reports, 3.5 crore Airtel shares, accounting for 0.6 per cent equity, got change hands at Rs 2,108 per share in block deal window, for Rs 2,108 apiece. On NSE, Bharti Airtel shares were trading 2.20 per cent lower at Rs 2,114, after falling to a low of Rs 2,097.50 apiece earlier today. ICIL held 1.48 partly paid-up shares, as of September It had in August sold 6,00,00,000 Bharti Airtel shares at around Rs 1,870.40-1,871.95 apiece on NSE. More recently, in November, Pas-



tel Ltd, an investment arm of Singtel of Singapore, sold 5,10,00,000 shares at Rs 2,030.37 apiece. Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited is the sole placement agent for Wednesday's deal. The deal was made via bulk sale - by way of one or more share sales on the screen-based trading platform of Indian stock exchanges. In the broader market, the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty gained 0.4 per cent each, The

gains were seen as oil prices slipped to \$57.2/barrel on reports of a revised Ukraine-Russia peace framework, and as FII's turned net buyers to the tune of Rs 785.30 crore. Wall Street's strength, revived hopes of a December Fed rate cut, renewed confidence in the AI trade, optimism over a possible US-India agreement, and India's inflation cooling to 0.25 per cent added to the supportive backdrop.

Energies shares in focus as income tax officials complete investigation

New Delhi: Shares of Waaree Energies Ltd are in focus on Wednesday after the company informed stock exchanges that income tax officials have completed investigations at some of its offices and facilities. Waaree Energies said all its plant operations and offices functioned uninterrupted during the period and continued to operate normally. To recall, the company had earlier intimation stock exchanges on November 18, 2025, relating to investigation under the Income Tax Act, 1961 by the Income Tax Department at its facilities in India. "We hereby inform that the said action is completed today, and the company had extended its full co-operation on the matter. All the plant operations and offices functioned uninterrupted during the period and continues to operate so," it said.

Waaree Energies recently said Sangam Solar One Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the company, has set up 2 solar module line manufacturing facility having annual capacity of 750 MW each totaling to 1500 MW at its factory at Samakhiali-Kutch, Gujarat. It commenced operations at such facility with effect from November 15, 2025, Waaree Energies said. This month only, Waaree Energies received an order for supply of 360MW solar modules from a renowned customer who is a developer and owner-operator of utility scale solar and energy storage projects.



Also, Waaree Power Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Waaree Energies Limited informed the company that it has today acquired 76 per cent stake in Racemosa Energy (India) Private Limited for an aggregate consideration of Rs 53.20 crore. Consequently, Racemosa Energy (India) Private Limited has become step-down.

In just two months, Kaynes Technology's stock fell 20%

Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said the two-month, 25% decline in Kaynes Technology shares now appears to be seeking an opportunity to stage a reversal.

New Delhi: Kaynes Technology has had a volatile run in 2025, with the stock losing more than 20 per cent over the past two months even as brokerages remain divided on the road ahead. Brokerage firm JM Financial has turned bullish on electronics manufacturing services (EMS) player Kaynes Technology, upgrading the stock to a 'Buy' rating, citing a favourable risk-reward ratio following a recent correction. per cent from the



previous close. JM Financial highlighted that the stock has "corrected ~24 per cent from its Oct'25 highs," making valuations attractive relative to the company's growth prospects. While JM Financial factored in an earnings per share (EPS) cut of 4-13

per cent through FY26-28E due to upside. Nomura reiterated 0.47 per cent higher at Rs 5,800 on the BSE, compared with the previous close of Rs 5,772.90. The counter climbed as much as 3.2 per cent intraday to hit a day's high of Rs 5,960.

'Godrej Jersey India Lactograph Findings FY25-26' is revealed by Godrej Jersey

Guwahati: Godrej Jersey has unveiled the 'Godrej Jersey India Lactograph Findings FY25-26,' a study mapping how milk consumption patterns, occasions, and motivations continue to evolve across the country. Research was conducted across eight key cities, uncovering how milk integrates into daily routines while adapting to new lifestyle choices. In East India, the findings spotlight a region where milk is remembered as much as it is consumed. 78% in the East say milk reminds them of childhood, compared to a national average of 57%, making it the

strongest "memory-led" milk market in the country. Around 78% also link milk to comfort or habit, ahead of other regions, showing that milk is still seen as an emotional anchor. When it comes to occasions, 75% of East Indians choose flavoured milk during festivals and special celebrations, vs roughly 30-41% in other zones, and 50% prefer it during the rains, almost twice as high as some other regions. 67% in the East drink milk at breakfast, and 66% also have it as an evening snack, showing that milk often book-ends the day. 54% parents worry that their child's growth lags



compared to their own childhood, and 64% fear lower bone strength due to reduced

milk intake. At the same time, protein is becoming a priority, with 62% of parents relying on milk for protein and all-day energy. Commenting on the findings, Shantanu Raj-Marketing Head-Godrej Jersey, said, "For a brand like Godrej Jersey, this is both a responsibility and an opportunity. Our ambition is to ensure that consumers never have to choose between taste, convenience and nutrition." Even beyond beverages, dairy remains a household staple across the country, with dahi (80%), paneer (76%) and butter (74%) continuing to anchor meals.

The Nifty and Sensex are close investor portfolios are declining

New Delhi: Indian benchmark indices, BSE Sensex and Nifty50 are hovering near their 52-week high and both the barometers appear to be marginally away from their all-time highs. However, the recent rally in the benchmark indices is being translated to the broader markets. BSE's midcap and smallcap indices are up to 10 per cent from their respective 52-week highs. The pain is more severe on a stock-specific basis. According to the data from Ace Equity, 250 stocks of the BSE500 index are in the bear grip, which means they are down 20 per cent or more from their recent 52-week highs. It means that 50 per cent of India's top 500 stocks, representing over 90 per cent India's market capitalization, have tanked up to 66 per cent from their recent peaks. A 'bear grip' is a term describing a persistent downward trend in the stock market where prices fall significantly, and it is often confirmed when a stock or index declines 20 per cent or more from its most recent high. This indicates a pessimistic market sentiment, where sellers are in control and buyers are hesitant. According to the analysts from Centricity WealthTech, more than 150 stocks in the NSE Smallcap 250 index are down by more than 20 per cent from their all-time highs, and more than 65 stocks in the NSE midcap 150 index are down by more than 20 per cent from their all-time highs. In Nifty 50, 10 companies have led to



an up-move of more than 370 points in November's rally. Stocks including Tejas Networks, Praj Industries, SKF India, Ola Electric Mobility, Vendant Fashions have tumbled 60-66 per cent from their respective 52-week highs. Similarly, Cohance Lifesciences, Sterling and Wilson Renewable, Jindal Saw, Brainbees Solutions, KNR Constructions, Newgen Software Technologies and Jupiter Wagons are among the stocks, down over 50 per cent from their recent peaks. Select market participants believe that the impact is not limited to broader markets as only select largecap names have participated in the rally and

mostly index heavy bluechips stocks have pushed the benchmark indices higher, contributing more than half of the gains. Pradeep Gupta, Executive Director- Head of Investments India at Lighthouse Canton said that select large cap counters have largely contributed nearly 60 per cent of it. The mixed performance in mid and small caps suggests that market participation continues to be selective, possibly awaiting clearer signals from global markets and domestic economic data. Ongoing momentum is yet to earn full conviction and broader market behavior in near term will signal out true strength & bullish structure. Current broader market dynamics reflect both consolidation and cautiousness. While pockets of strength persist, ongoing shifts in several small-cap stocks point to evolving market assessments, he added.

Names like HFCL, Sonata Software, Ramkrishna Forgings, NCC, Cyient, ITI, Zen Technologies, KIOCL, KEC International, Punjab & Sind Bank, PG Electroplast, Network 18, Swan Corp, Natco Pharma, Sheela Foam, Finolex Cables, Trent, Deepak Nitrite, Concord Biotech, Thermax, Relaxo Footwears, Carborundum Universal, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra), Clean Science, Aditya Birla Real Estate, UCO Bank, BLS International, Chambal Fertilisers, IREDA and Whirlpool of India are down 40-50 per cent from their 52-week highs.

Revenue growth in India slows as tax cuts room for fiscal policy support

New Delhi: India's revenue growth has come under pressure in the current financial year with tax sops, limiting the room for further fiscal policy support, analysts at Moody's and Morgan Stanley said on Tuesday.

Martin Petch, vice president — senior credit officer (sovereign risk) at Moody's Ratings, said at a webinar that revenue performance has been noticeably weak. "Revenue growth has been fairly weak, and there are probably some constraints in terms of fiscal consolidation ... We have seen some tax cuts as well, and that is additionally weighing on revenue growth. There is probably less scope for fiscal policy support for the economy," Petch said. A Morgan Stanley report by chief India economist Upasana Chachra and economist Bani Gambhir echoed this concern, noting that government revenue growth in the first half of FY26 is significantly below expectations. "Government (total) revenue growth is lagging budget estimates by a wide margin as growth in H1FY26 stands at a meagre 4.5 per cent year on year (YoY), driven by broad-based moderation in

tax collection while non-tax revenues have surprised positively (with record RBI dividend transfer of ₹2.68 lakh crore)," the economists said. CGA data show that net tax revenue at end-September stood at over ₹12.29 lakh crore, lower than ₹12.65 lakh crore in the same period last year, and a 43.3 per cent achievement of the budget target, compared with 49 per cent in the corresponding period of FY25. The FY26 union budget had increased income-tax exemption limits to ₹12 lakh to boost disposable income.

In addition, GST rates were cut on around 375 items from September 22, making mass-consumption goods cheaper. These measures, while aimed at spurring consumption, have also weighed on revenue inflows. As of September, total expenditure has reached ₹23 lakh crore, rising 9.1 per cent year-on-year, driven by accelerated capital spending. Morgan Stanley noted that expenditure has remained broadly in line with the budgeted share but there is a sharper tilt towards capex compared with the previous fiscal, when revenue expenditure had



Analysts from Moody's and Morgan Stanley highlight weak H1FY26 revenue, expenditure trends, and potential reliance on monetary policy to sustain economic growth.

dominated. The widening gap between revenue receipts and spending has sharpened concerns over meeting the fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP. With an anticipated pickup in tax collection in the October-December quarter, the economists estimate that tax revenues would need to grow by around 30.3 per cent in H2FY26 to meet budget projections—an ambitious target that signals the risk of slippage. Tight fiscal space is expected to shift attention back to monetary policy. With inflation on a downward trajectory, the Reserve

Bank of India may consider additional rate cuts to support growth. RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday said that macroeconomic developments since the October review have preserved the room for policy easing. Moody's Petch said that easing inflation and monetary policy would help raise household purchasing power and support consumption. "We are looking at sustained, but easing economic growth over the next year," he said, cautioning that persistently high tariffs could discourage investment.

Tanya's businesses confirmed real

Mumbai: Tanya Mittal has quickly turned into one of the most buzzworthy personalities on Bigg Boss 19, with her clips circulating widely across social media. Whether it's her statements about her luxurious lifestyle or the ambitious businesses she frequently mentions, Tanya has consistently remained in the spotlight and sparked endless online discussions. Amid the curiosity surrounding Tanya's lavish image, her manager Manish Sharma has finally spoken up about her journey inside the Bigg Boss house and the ongoing talks about her businesses. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, he addressed the big question everyone has been asking. According to him, the businesses Tanya has mentioned on the show are real and do exist, though he avoided revealing their financial details. He shared that while he cannot disclose turnovers, viewers should know that Tanya does indeed operate multiple ventures. Another aspect of Tanya's journey that has gained massive attention is her connection with singer Amaal Mallik.

Priyanka wraps Varanasi, flies home



Agency: Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been actively involved in the shooting of SS Rajamouli's upcoming film Varanasi, with most of the filming taking place in Hyderabad, and previous schedules in locations like Kenya and Odisha. Despite her hectic schedule, Priyanka recently managed to return home to Los Angeles, as she shared in her latest Instagram Story with the caption: "Heading home... finally!"

It is speculated that the trip may be related to both personal commitments and promotional tasks as the international celebrity juggles her Hollywood life with her return to Indian film, even if the specific details for the trip are not known. The Quantico actress, who recently wrapped another schedule for filmmaker SS Rajamouli's upcoming film Varanasi, was spotted at Hyderabad airport looking relaxed and effortlessly stylish. Keeping it low-key in comfortable loungewear, she navigated the airport with ease. During her preparation for Varanasi, the actress made headlines by confirming she will dub her own Telugu dialogues in the film. In response to a query from a fan on Instagram, she only said, "Yes, I am. Practising hard." Backstage footage from a launch event in Varanasi shows her practising lines, working with a language teacher, and even visiting Hyderabad temples to understand the local culture better. She has acknowledged that Telugu is not her native tongue, but with support from Rajamouli and his crew, she is challenging herself to fully immerse herself in the role, which has pleased many. Priyanka is making her much-anticipated comeback to Indian cinema with Varanasi, and her participation has already created a lot of excitement. Priyanka plays a character named Mandakini in Rajamouli's sci-fi action-adventure, which also stars Telugu superstars Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Vijay Varma on His Romantic Avatar in Gustaakh Ishq

Mumbai: Vijay Varma has, over time, proved himself as an actor through his various roles. The actor who ventured into Bollywood with a negative character continued to stick to the genre consciously. The actor is now all set to break through his negative on-screen image and step into the world of old-school romance as a lovable boy in Manish Malhotra's Gustaakh Ishq.

Talking to IANS, Vijay spoke about consciously breaking his image as an antagonist and stepping into the world of love and romance. He said, "It was a break that I wanted from the negative parts because they tend to weigh down on you. I was constantly told by fans, 'We hated you in that film; we hated you, but you are a brilliant actor.'" So I wanted to get rid of

the word "hate" and call it something else. So be it IC-814 or Jaane Jaan or Murder Mubarak or anything else, I just wanted to take a break from that." Talking about Gustaakh Ishq, Vijay shared, "It is a sweet, romantic film. It has love, it has worship, it has sin.

There are a lot of things in it that were there for me to explore as an actor." He also elaborated on making a

conscious shift from playing negative characters to soft and positive ones. He said, "Anything that you do new tends to take a bit of time to adjust to, and it can be difficult. I remember when I was in Pink, it was a very dangerously written scene and was a very gruesome scene in the car."

He added, "Here, in Gustaakh Ishq, I would say that the challenge was to pull off

such poetic dialogues and to stand in front of 'THE' Naseeruddin Shah, the legend, and to not shiver, yet manage to be believable, and to convey all the emotions correctly. It was a new challenge. Whenever you switch or change yourself, it can be a bit challenging. But it's fun. And then you keep doing it for a while, and then you feel like doing something new. So my next step



will be to try to go towards comedy."

Box Office Alert: 120 Bahadur Sees Sharp Drop in Weekday Collections

Mumbai: Farhan Akhtar's 120 Bahadur, which released on November 21 is slowing down at the box office. The film did see a rise over the first weekend, but it could not carry that momentum forward as the week began. Directed by Razeesh Razy Ghai, this war drama tells the real story of the 120 brave soldiers from the Kumaon Regiment, led by Major Shaitan Singh, a role Farhan plays with complete honesty.

Even with strong word of mouth, the film's limited commercial appeal seems to be stopping a wider audience from coming to the theatres. The story brings the Battle of Rezang La from the Sino Indian war to the screen with emotional moments



and powerful performances, and many viewers have appreciated that effort. Still, the praise has not turned into the numbers the makers were hoping for. The film opened with a collection of Rs 2.25 crore on day one according to Sacnilk. The weekend looked promising

when the earnings jumped to Rs 3.85 crore on Saturday and went up to Rs 4 crore on Sunday. Things slowed down on Monday with the film collecting only Rs 1.4 crore, a drop of sixty five percent, and Tuesday saw only a slight rise with Rs 1.5 crore.

20 Years Later: DDLJ Proof of Enduring Popularity as IFFI Goa Show Hits Housefull

Mumbai: A wave of nostalgia swept through the Kala Academy campus on Tuesday evening as PictureTime's inflatable theatre erupted with cheers the moment Simran ran into Raj's arms. Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's timeless classic Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge made its first-ever mobile cinema debut at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), drawing a houseful audience and transforming the venue into a stadium-like celebration.

Picturetime Digiplex — known for bringing cutting-edge inflatable cinemas across the country, and especially in underserved regions where theatres can't reach — has set up a state-of-the-art theatre at the prestigious Kala



Academy campus for the 2025 edition of IFFI in Goa. The Aditya Chopra-directed romance was among the festival's marquee screenings and drew an overwhelming response, with all 130 seats sold out well before showtime. Couples, families, school-children and even on-ground security personnel packed the theatre, with many experienc-

ing DDLJ on the big screen for the first time. Whistles, applause and shout-outs punctuated the screening as the audience relived some of Indian cinema's most beloved moments. "We anticipated strong interest, but witnessing the inflatable theatre turn into a stadium was extraordinary," said Surajit Roy, COO & President, PictureTime. "The

show went houseful within minutes. People of all ages were laughing, singing, and saying the dialogues in unison. This is exactly what PictureTime strives for, bringing the magic of the big screen to everyone, everywhere." Beyond DDLJ, PictureTime's inflatable theatre at IFFI also hosted screenings of two more Shah Rukh Khan classics — Darr and Chak De! India — as well as a diverse slate including Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail, the Malayalam blockbuster Manjummel Boys, Rajkummar Rao's Srikanth, Rani Mukerji's Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway, Sooraj Barjatya's Uunchai, Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay! and Irrfan Khan's Qissa among others.

Confirmed: Akshay Oberoi Boards SRK's King in a Role He Calls His 'Dream'

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan's King has been grabbing attention ever since its announcement. And with the title reveal, it has only increased the excitement. Actor Akshay Oberoi has also officially confirmed his role in Shah Rukh Khan's much-anticipated film, directed by Siddharth Anand. This marks Akshay's third collaboration with director Siddharth Anand post Fighter and their OTT series, Flesh

Expressing his excitement, Akshay Oberoi shared, "It's a dream come true, my checklist is complete now that I've got the chance to work in a King Khan film and share screen space with him. Growing up, Shah Rukh Khan has been one of my biggest inspirations not just as an actor, but as someone who redefined charisma and hard work in Indian cinema. To be a part of a film that stars him feels surreal. I've admired his discipline, his energy, and his generosity as a performer for years, and to finally experience that in person is something I'll always cherish. Also Sid and Mamta are like family to me now in this



industry and when Siddharth called me to be part of this magnum opus, I had to jump in and immediately said yes. My association with them is truly special. I'm soaking in every moment and learning as much as I can from him on set." Adding to its grandeur, King features a stellar ensemble cast including Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Rani Mukerji, Jaideep Ahlawat, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Arshad Warsi, Raghuvar Jayal, Saurabh Shukla, Abhay Verma, Karanvir Malhotra, and Suhana Khan. The film, currently in production, is slated for a grand release in 2026. Marflix Pictures and Red Chillies Entertainment revealed the title of their film, 'KING', in grand style on Shah Rukh Khan's birth-

day, with an action-packed glimpse unveiled by director Siddharth Anand. November 2, celebrated worldwide by the superstar's fans as SRK Day, just got grander. On Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, director Siddharth Anand unveiled the title reveal video of their much-awaited film KING, showcasing SRK's look from the film that marks their second collaboration after Pathaan.

Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, KING is set to release in 2026 and promises to be a new SRK experience, with Shah Rukh Khan presented like never before — it is sure to thrill fans across the globe. The film promises to be a slick, high-octane action entertainer that aims to

redefine style, charisma and thrills — and is touted to be Siddharth Anand's 'massiest' film yet, taking his signature action storytelling to a whole new dimension. The KING title reveal feels like a celebration of Shah Rukh Khan's legacy and a big treat for fans from director Siddharth Anand. Released as a birthday surprise for SRK lovers, the video shows King Khan stepping into the role with fierce intensity — a man whose name doesn't just command respect, but sparks fear across borders. He says, "Sau deshon mein badnaam, duniya ne diya sirf ek hi naam" — 'KING'. According to a report by Bollywood Hungama, King is being mounted on an unprecedented budget of ₹350 crore, positioning it among the costliest action films ever produced in India. Director Siddharth Anand — who previously redefined Bollywood action with Pathaan and War — is said to be approaching the project with the ambition of creating an Indian blockbuster that can rival Hollywood's best, but on a fraction of the cost.

Shocking Revelation About Dhurandhar's Arc Changes Everything

Mumbai: Talks on the real-life influences of Ranveer Singh's upcoming film Dhurandhar have been more intense as anticipation grows, especially the notion that the main character primarily pulls from the remarkable life of Ashok Chakra awardee Major Mohit Sharma. Under the codename "Ifukhar Bhatt," the Para Special Forces officer notably infiltrated Hizbul Mujahideen in the early 2000s, operating with unparalleled bravery and accuracy deep inside militant networks.

In a past interview, Major Sharma's brother Madhur Sharma recounted one of the most remarkable and chilling stories from that covert period. In an interview with Lt. Cdr. Bijay Nair on YouTube, he described how, during an operation, Mohit quietly sipped kahwa while shooting two terrorists at close range with their own weapons. The family didn't find out about this incident until years later, and even then, Madhur thinks the version that was given to them was substantially suppressed because of how delicate the mission was. According to Madhur, Mohit



had become well-integrated into the Kashmiri society, developing relationships and trust that enabled him to obtain intelligence. He became aware of two suspects who regularly frequented a specific home thanks to one such contact, which ultimately led him directly into their social circle and set off the audacious encounter.

Dhurandhar's remarkable real-world analogies have made it one of the year's most talked-about movies. Major Mohit Sharma, who ultimately gave his life in Kupwara during a 2009 operation, is reminiscent of Ranveer Singh's role, a secret agent balancing identity and duty.

The film also features several characters inspired by real figures from counter-terror and underworld histories. While R. Madhavan's Ajay Sanyal invokes aspects of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Arjun Rampal's Major Iqbal depicts the mysterious presence of militant commander Ilyas Kashmiri. Sanjay Dutt's SP Aslam captures the brave spirit of Karachi's late police officer Chaudhry Aslam Khan, while Akshaye Khan's Rehman is reminiscent to Abdul Rehman Baloch, a member of the underworld. Dhurandhar promises action grounded in true stories of bravery. The film is set to release on December 5, 2025.

Kriti Sanon Trolls Aanand L Rai with Hilarious Pic Ahead of 'Tere Ishk Mein' Release

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon is gearing up for her next romantic thriller, Tere Ishk Mein, with Dhanush. As the film heads for release, the star actors are busy with promotion. And amid this, she shared a hilarious picture of filmmaker Aanand L Rai. She couldn't resist poking fun at the director's calmness despite the fast-approaching release date.

Taking to her Instagram stories, Kriti shared a photo of Aanand L Rai, who is sleeping while traveling for the promotions. "Pretty calm for a director who's film is about to release in 2 days!" read the caption. The film marks the first collaboration of Dhanush and Kriti Sanon. It is all set for release on November 28. With just two days remaining, the film has already recorded strong pre-booking numbers. The initial response looks promising, indicating solid potential for another box-off-



ice hit. Meanwhile, Aanand L Rai's film has also received clearance from the Central Board of Film Certification. On the censorship front, the process went smoothly. The Central Board of Film Certification did not require any visual cuts, preserving the film's intense romantic and action sequences. Only one dialogue containing a single word was modified. With this minor change, the film was granted a U/A 16+ certificate on November 24. The2 certificate lists the runtime as 169 minutes and 17 seconds, that

is, 2 hours, 49 minutes, and 17 seconds. Since the release of the trailer, Tere Ishk Mein has been creating waves among the audiences, and A.R. Rahman's music has only made the buzz stronger, contributing to a strong start in pre-sales.

At the trailer launch event, Dhanush spoke highly of the strong creative synergy he shared with Kriti on set. He said they built their characters together and described her as a "beautiful, talented, and focused" co-star. He even said that their collaboration

was one of the most fulfilling aspects of the film. He shared, "I really do feel like we've made a beautiful film, and I had such a beautiful, talented and focused co-star. It was so beautiful creating it together. Shankar and Mukti, we created both of them together, I feel, and it was such a beautiful experience doing that." Kriti Sanon opened up about the layers of her character, Mukti, and revealed that she personally connected with many aspects of the role. She shared, "There are some things that did connect, though a lot of things that Mukti does I wouldn't do, but I think in the beginning there is a certain purity, you know, she's almost naive." The Mimi actress added, "Where she believes in good, she believes in the good in people. That sometimes other people can't even see toh woh jab bolti hai ki m tumhe acha non violent insaan bana sakti hu.

'Tere Ishq Mein' Advance Booking Soars, Hits ₹2 Crore Pre-Release

Mumbai: Tere Ishq Mein, directed by Aanand L Rai and starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, is set to hit theatres this week. The film has already gained significant momentum, with advance bookings surging rapidly. Fans are eagerly awaiting its release, and early indications suggest a strong opening on Friday, as pre-sale numbers look very promising.

According to Sacnilk, Tere Ishq Mein has sold approximately 44,320 tickets across 4,950 shows in India, with pre-sales totalling Rs 2.53 crore. The initial response looks promising, suggesting the film has a strong chance of becoming another box-office success this year. While it's still early, if the current excitement continues, the movie could secure significant collections even before its release. Since the trailer's launch, Tere Ishq Mein has generated considerable buzz among fans, with AR Rahman's music further fueling the anticipation.

According to reports, the Central Board of Film Certification requested no visual edits and kept the strong romance and action passages intact. Only one word was changed in the discourse. On November 24, the picture acquired a U/A 16+ certificate once this amendment was implement-



ed. The certificate also certifies a runtime of 169.17 minutes, which is 2 hours, 49 minutes, and 17 seconds. Tere Ishk Mein's trailer takes us deeper into Shankar and Mukti's raw, passionate, and unpredictable universe, a love story that defies reason, time, and fate. The new graphics provide a riveting look at the film's basic themes of love, sorrow, and forgiveness, showing darker, deeper aspects of the story that the teaser and songs had previously hinted at. Aanand L Rai's distinctive storytelling style, combined with the emotional depth of Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav's screenplay, promises a powerful cinematic experience. Tere Ishq Mein is set to release worldwide in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu on November 28, 2025.

TRAVEL

For many, a modern-day ski resort might include towering peaks cloaked in fluffy snow, high-tech lift lines, luxurious hotels with fabulous spas, buzzing apres-ski bars and shops filled with the latest in cold-weather fashion. These days, top mountain destinations are bustling winter wonderlands that cater as much to non-skiers as they do to powder hounds. But tucked away in the Chilean Andes is Ski Portillo, a remote, all-inclusive resort that’s only open during the South American winter. There’s little to do but ski – and for its devoted fans, that’s exactly the point. Spread across 5 sq km and home to 35 trails serviced by 14 lifts (including several drag lifts), Portillo was the first ski resort in South America. While it is not as massive as what you’ll find in the Rockies or Alps, its off-piste terrain and advanced-level challenges have made it a bucket list destination. Just as important is the atmosphere: Portillo feels frozen in time – in the best way. While other resorts have aggressively modernised, Portillo has held fast to its old-school charm. Getting here requires a two-hour drive north-east from Santiago on the same narrow mountain highway as transport trucks. The bright yellow hotel – where visitors gather for meals and bardside revelry – has barely changed. Overnight capacity has only grown ever-so-slightly to 450 since it opened. There’s no town to hang out in, and not much for non-skiers to do. Launched by the Chilean government in 1949, Portillo’s modern era began in the 1960s when Bob Purcell, a New York finance hotshot, won it at auction (he was the sole bidder). He then asked his nephew Henry, then 26 and making his way up at Hilton Hotels, to become its general manager. Skiing in the area goes back even further: Norwegian engineers traversed the



The ski resort Olympians flock to each summer

mountains on skis in the 1880s while working on the railway linking Chile to the Argentine city of Mendoza on the other side of the Andes. After its completion in 1910, locals would ride the train – as if it were a ski lift – before skiing back down the peaks. That railway is long gone, but Portillo, equipped with real ski lifts now, is still going strong, with the Purcells still at the helm. According to Ellen Guidera Purcell, Henry’s wife and a key figure in Portillo’s day-to-day operations, the early days mostly involved the Purcells inviting their famous friends here for ski parties. “The parties were an omen of the future,” Guidera said. “Because Portillo has continued not only as a place for beautiful skiing but also as a place for good times with family and friends, a place of happy dinners, parties, bar dancing and making memories.”Carolina Mendoza, a retired business owner, first visited Portillo in the

mid-1970s as a teenager growing up in Venezuela. She’s returned nearly every year since, only missing a Portillo season during the pandemic or while living in Europe. For Mendoza, whose mother is Chilean, there’s a magic to this little mountain hamlet. “There’s such a sense of community here,” she said. ‘It almost makes you feel like you’re with family.”But Portillo has also become synonymous with serious skiing. Known for its challenging alpine terrain, it hosted the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in 1966, which established its reputation as a hardcore winter sports destination. Today, both the convivial atmosphere and the hair-raising slopes remain critical to Portillo’s cult-favoured status. Every year from June to September, when the northern hemisphere is in the throes of summer, snow-chasers from the US, Canada, Europe and Latin America head here to enjoy an endless winter. Many,

like Mendoza, are repeat visitors. Others are world-class athletes in training for big-ticket events like the Olympics. US Olympian Breezy Johnson, a World Champion ski racer, has been to Portillo five times. Her first visit, in 2015, included training runs with skiing legends like Julia Mancuso, Laurence Ross and Leanne Smith. “Portillo is a very unique place. I call it the cruise ship because it’s kind of the only thing for a ways around,” she recalls. “When I first came I was a bit – a lot – intimidated by the stark world that is Portillo.”That starkness turns out to be a perk. Johnson, who is now based in Jackson, Wyoming, says the compact layout is ideal. “We can literally walk down to breakfast, head to the slopes, put our seven pairs of skis out on the snow and get going,” she says. “That convenience as opposed to multiple trains in Europe, long drives in New Zealand or a snowmobile



ride down in Corralco, [Chile] makes the training super beneficial because you can maximise energy

for skiing.” And its not just Olympians who love the challenging terrain and no-fuss nature of skiing

luxury winery hotel located four hours south. But, “Portillo is about skiing,”

After all, as she says, “It is a small community nestled in the mountains.”

Where to go instead of the big US parks this summer



Winding through one of the wildest corners of Colorado, 210,000-acres deep in Dinosaur National Monument, I found myself balancing sideways on the crest of the biggest wave in the river – somehow staying upright through the whirling Class IV rapids. That week, I paddled 71 miles down the Yampa River, Colorado’s last free-flowing river, camping beneath towering red-and-orange striped canyons etched by ancient peoples. The experience left me with something rare: space to breathe and trust in the river to take its course. Unlike marquee parks that strain under the pressure of mass tourism, Dinosaur has quietly struck a balance between visitation and protection. The original head of the Sierra Club, David Brower, saw its value back in the 1950s when he fought to stop a proposed dam on the Yampa. Without him, many of these canyons would now be underwater. “The riparian zone on the Yampa River is the most natural stretch of river in Colorado,” says Tom Kleinschmitz, director of Visit Moffat County. “Preservation of this resource is crucial for the natural habitat, and it is one of the last natural river sections that visitors can observe, enjoy and play in.” From Acadia’s rocky coast to Yosemite’s soaring peaks, the US has no shortage of iconic national parks.

But visitation numbers continue to climb, often outpacing infrastructure and threatening the very environments they showcase.To protect these wild places – especially as US national parks, forests and wildlife habitats are under threat of cuts and understaffing – long-time nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, Western National Parks has launched new itineraries spotlighting 72 lesser-known US parks and monuments.“Our lesser-known parks are truly hidden gems,” says Marie Buck, the association’s president and CEO.“They often offer a more intimate experience and an opportunity to understand the under-told stories that have shaped the nation. And they do all this often with fewer crowds.” Since its founding, the nonprofit has contributed \$162m to responsible visitation of US public lands.Others are also encouraging off-the-beaten-path exploration. Former park ranger Ashli Nudd curates personalised national park itineraries; while Outdoorable, a company formed in the wake of potential NPS layoffs, is hiring former rangers to create custom trip itineraries and offer traveller tips. Even adventure travel company Intrepid Travel recently launched Active-ism tours through Zion and the Grand Canyon – with routes designed to avoid high-traffic areas and proceeds going to the National Parks Conservation Association and the Grand Canyon Conser-

vancy. Here are four underrated spots that prove you don’t need to sacrifice beauty, biodiversity or a sense of wonder to travel responsibly this summer. This rugged desert landscape spans 210,000 acres across Colorado and Utah, blanketed with of purple park rockcress and rich with prehistoric fossils – including 1,500 dinosaur specimens from the 23 species unearthed here since 1909. The findings, some of the most significant in the field, transformed paleontology – with the earliest-found bones even reaching the living room of Scottish industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who helped secure national monument status in 1915. Today, visitors can raft between spectacular towering canyon cliffs under certified International Dark Skies. The Yampa River remains one of the country’s last undammed rivers and among the hardest river rafting permits to obtain, while the connecting Green River offers more accessible rafting routes, with stops for day hikes to waterfalls and ancient rock carvings. If rafting isn’t for you, drive through canyon country to Echo Park to marvel at some of the monument’s most dramatic scenery. Don’t leave without seeing the wild horses grazing at nearby Sand Wash Basin and the largest wild mustang sanctuary in the US, the new Wild Horse Refuge, just outside the park. Accessible only by boat or seaplane, Isle Royale is one of the US’s least-vis-

ited national parks – and one of its most peaceful. Located 56 miles from Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula, the archipelago of 450 islands floats in the cool expanse of Lake Superior and is only open from mid-April through October each year. To get here, catch the ferry from Copper Harbor or Grand Portage – your luggage will be ferried by wheeled carts to the lodges and campsites. There are no cars allowed on this Unesco-designated wilderness, so be prepared to explore by foot, canoe or kayak (rentals available at the Rock Harbor Marina and Lodge).On Isle Royale, one of the world’s largest lake islands, see where native Americans extracted copper to hand shape tools, weapons and ornaments 8,000 years ago. Then hike the island’s trails to see moose and beaver and to find hidden fishing spots, like the Indian Portage Trail on Lake Richie. On your next New England trip, skip the crowds at Acadia National Park and head inland to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument instead. In the towering shadow of the state’s highest peak, Mt Katahdin, lies a network of rivers and streams that once moved logs – Maine’s primary heritage industry – from the woods to the mills. The mountaintop, which Henry David Thoreau called “vast, titanic, inhuman” marks the end of

the world’s longest hiking-only footpath, the Appalachian Trail. The monument was established in 2016 following an 87,500-acre land donation by environmentalist and Burt’s Bees co-founder Roxanne Quimby. Visitors can explore the 11,000-year-old land and waterways of Maine’s native Wabanaki people, who relied on the woods and waterways for sustenance, transportation and cultural practices. There’s also cross-country skiing, snowshoe hiking, biking and fishing in deep river valleys. Watch out for moose (Maine has the most moose of any state except Alaska) and embrace the rustic solitude at one of the park’s campgrounds or cabins. Just 2.5 hours from Seattle, North Cascades offers soaring mountains, alpine lakes and more than 300 glaciers on half a million acres of wilderness – yet receives just 1% of the visitors to nearby Olympic National Park. While spring brings roaring waterfalls after the snowmelt, summer fills trails with vibrant lupine, paintbrush, columbine and glacier lilies. Adventurous travellers can paddle pristine lakes or hike through wildflower-filled meadows on the Maple Pass Loop. For a more challenging trek, the Cascade Pass and Sahale Arm trail provides breathtaking vistas of glaciers and rugged peaks. If you prefer a scenic drive, the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20), winds through the park offering dramatic views and quiet picnic spots.



Rachel Roddy’s rice salad with red peppers, celery, herbs and egg – recipe

A few weeks ago, when the weather turned boiling and the tarmac became soft, I made a bad rice salad. The principal reason for this was the overcooked rice, which was my fault for three reasons: I was using a brand I have never used before and didn’t read the packet; I forgot to set the kitchen timer; and I ignored my instinct to tip it out (dog? Cake? Compost? Bin?) and start again. To my overcooked rice I added not-tasty tomatoes, tough minced parsley, extra-virgin olive oil, a bit too much vinegar, olives, capers and hard-boiled eggs; I also added an expensive tin of tuna, which did a brilliant job of making the whole thing taste better, although still not good. Everyone agreed that it was a depressing dinner, then we went out for ice-cream. The good thing about making a bad rice salad is the need to redeem and reassure myself that I am capable of making not only a good one, but a great one, though I do appreciate that today’s first paragraph might make you doubt this. A good rice salad begins with well-cooked long-grain rice and involves a good balance of four vegetable elements: raw (tomatoes, red pepper, cucumber, celery, say), cooked (beans, courgettes, peas, sweetcorn), vegetables preserved in oil (peppers, mushrooms, artichoke hearts, aubergine), and pickled or salted vegetables (dill pickles, olives, capers, caper berries). There should also be some form of protein, whether that’s tuna, cheese, tofu, salami or wurstel; possibly involve (tender) herbs; be dressed with oil and a little vinegar; and always be finished with egg (slices, wedges or chopped – you decide).

Just as important as the balance of ingredients is the balance of temperatures. Many people like their rice salad fridge-cold – in fact, another name for insalata di riso in Italy is riso freddo



(cold rice). I prefer the rice, cooked vegetables and tomatoes to be at room temperature, and the raw and picked vegetable elements to be fridge-cold. Celery and dill pickles are particularly good chilled additions when added just before serving, then the room-temperature hard-boiled eggs can be arranged on top. A note about the herbs: I think the clean, slightly black pepper taste of parsley is great here (although taste if it has been sitting in the fridge for a while), along with a few aniseed fronds of dill, plus fresh marjoram, with its gentle pine taste and sweetness. My mother-in-law believes that a transparent bowl (plastic or glass) plays a key role in the flavour of rice salad, and I think I agree. Of course, the most important advice for rice salad is to

make it in exactly the way you like it, and serve it at a temperature you like, and to ensure that there is plenty of ice-cream (cold but at scooping temperature) for afters.

Rice salad with red peppers, celery, herbs and egg

Salt and black pepper
300g long-grain rice
Extra-virgin olive oil
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
Red-wine or sherry vinegar (optional)
1 very big handful minced herbs (parsley, marjoram, chives, mint, dill)
1 350g jar preserved red peppers, drained and chopped into bits
300g cooked green beans, chopped into short lengths
145g (1 tin) tuna in olive oil (optional)
2 celery sticks, strings pulled away and discarded, flesh finely diced
A few dill pickles, diced
4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and each cut into 8 wedges or finely chopped

Bring a large pan of water to a boil and season with salt. Add the rice, cook for 10 minutes, then drain into a sieve, shake well and leave to cool for 15 minutes. In a large bowl, mix six tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil, a pinch of salt, a few grinds of black pepper, the lemon zest, a dash of vinegar and the minced herbs. Add the rice, toss gently so that all the grains are coated, then add the peppers, beans, tuna, if using, and mix again to combine. Taste and adjust the seasoning. The salad can now sit until you are ready to eat, in or out of the fridge – you decide. Just before serving, add the celery and dill pickles, toss again, and top with the hard-boiled egg. Zigzag with little more olive oil and serve.

Summer Entertaining Made Easy: The Magic of Batch Cocktails

Stand down that cocktail shaker. When you have more than a handful of people over, you need drinks that scale up easily. And a paloma never fails to hit the hot weather happy-hour spot, says Max Venning, director of Three Sheets bars in London and co-author of Batched and Bottled Cocktails. “It’s great for a garden party, because you just whack it all in a jug and into the fridge in the morning, then all you need are iced glasses and soda water.” Combine 350ml good-quality blanco tequila, 250ml fresh pink grapefruit juice, 10ml tomato vinegar and two tablespoons of caster sugar, stir until the latter dissolves, then chill. “While you’re waiting for your guests, coat half the rim of your glasses with a mix of salt, a touch of ground black pepper and a sprinkle of ground cumin: wipe half the outside rim with grapefruit, put the salt mix on a small plate and gently press the wet part of the glass into the salt, so it sticks.” When you’re good to go, fill each glass with ice, fill halfway with the paloma mix, top with soda and stir gently: “Garnish with edible flowers or a grapefruit slice.”

Another party starter, says Alex Lyonness, bar manager at Luca in London, is a naked and famous, which, happily, is “quick to batch because it’s equal parts mezcal, Aperol and yellow chartreuse, and quick to

build because it’s 60ml of that mixed with 20ml lime juice”. Sandia Chang, meanwhile, would lean more towards a “lighter” negroni: “We often pre-batch a cocktail that’s a cross between an americano and a white negroni, which is equal parts Lillet Blanc and Suze,” says the co-founder of Bubbleshop and Kitchen Table, who serves that mix of classic French aperitifs over ice and topped up with soda. If you’re looking to bung things together a little further in advance, try a cherry americano, Venning says: “Mix 300ml Campari, 300ml sweet vermouth and 100ml cherry cordial, and store in a clean, sealed wine bottle in the fridge.” To serve, pour 50ml of the mix over ice, top with soda water and garnish with an orange slice. Or, if you’re feeling fancy, pour 30ml into a flute, top with sparkling wine and garnish with an orange twist. If you’re heading out, Venning’s batch drinking concept (to be consumed in moderation, naturally) would be a “British coastal negroni”: It’s lighter than the classic, and a perfect sundowner. Mix 200ml Campari, 200ml red vermouth (“I use Vault Aperitivo’s Forest”, staying on the British theme), 200ml gin (“Hepple, for preference”), 20ml blackcurrant cordial, 100ml water and two drops of optional orange flower water, then tip that into a Thermos with a handful of ice cubes.



Beyond the Glam: Kareena Kapoor Khan’s Simple, Sentimental Hair Care Story

Kareena Kapoor Khan not only loves a simple home-cooked meal but follows the same formula for her hair, too. In fact, in a recent rapid-fire conversation with impact entrepreneur and wildlife conservationist Akash Mehta, she shared a memory associated with her grandmother. She would always love oiling warm it up nicely, and put it in my hair,” remains a relevant practice in many Dr Shareefa Chause, a dermatologist in Mumbai, agreed that hair to nourish the scalp and strength-like coconut, almond, and Argan acids that tend to hydrate the add shine. The key is to tailor it added Dr Chause. Dr Chause frizzy hair, a deep overnight oil “ Like our grandmothers, al-for better absorption and mas-flow. “Don’t overdo it—once or sure to wash it off thoroughly Chause. Avoid oiling dirty hair; nev-it may clog pores. “Oiling can still be hair,” said Dr Chause. You can also choose expert.According to Dr Chause, excessive hair people, inviting unpleasant problems such as dandruff, itchiness, or even hair loss. “It may also attract dirt and require frequent washing, which can strip natural oils and cause dryness. So, it is better not to go overboard at all,” said Dr Chause.



childhood. “My favourite memory is with my nani my hair. Granny would come, make the oil, said Khan. Let’s understand how oiling households. ologist at Dr Shareefa Skin Care oiling remains an effective way en the strands. “Natural oils contain vitamins and fatty scalp, reduce breakage, and to your hair type and needs,” mentioned that “for dry, massage can work wonders. ways warm the oil slightly sage gently to boost blood twice a week is enough. Make with a mild shampoo,” said Dr. er leave heavy oil on for days, as your go-to ritual for healthy, happy an appropriate oil with the help of an oiling may also clog scalp pores in many itchiness, or even hair loss. “It may also attract dirt and require frequent washing, which can strip natural oils and cause dryness. So, it is better not to go overboard at all,” said Dr Chause.

Ginger Power! 5 Drinks to Boost Weight Loss and Overall Health

Looking weight to lose ly grated ginger. Let it steep for 5 minutes. Squeeze in your body good? This cucumber ginger water is perfect for sipping through the day. It keeps you hydrated and may help curb unnecessary

to lose ly grated ginger. Let it steep for 5 minutes. Squeeze in your body good? This cucumber ginger water is perfect for sipping through the day. It keeps you hydrated and may help curb unnecessary



half a lemon and drink it warm.Optional: Add a pinch of cinnamon or black pepper if you like a little extra warmth and flavour

2. Apple Cider Vinegar and Ginger Shot: This tiny shot packs a punch. Apple cider vinegar is often linked with blood sugar control and improved digestion, and when paired with ginger, it can help reduce bloating and support fat metabolism. How to make it:Mix 1 tablespoon of apple cider vinegar with half teaspoon of ginger juice.Add a tablespoon or two of lukewarm water. Drink before meals once a day.Note: It’s strong in taste - and in effect - so start with small quantities and rinse your mouth afterwards to protect your teeth.

3. Cucumber Ginger Detox Water: Looking for a refreshing drink that also does

snack-ing.How to make it:Slice a cucumber and a small piece of ginger. Add to a litre of water with a few mint leaves.Let it sit in the fridge for a few hours or overnight.It’s light, refreshing, and easy to carry around in your water bottle.

4. Ginger Green Tea: If green tea is already part of your routine, adding ginger makes it even better. This combination can help support fat burning and improve digestion, especially if you’re cutting back on heavy meals. How to make it:Steep a green tea bag in

hot water.Add about half teaspoon of grated ginger. Let it sit for a few minutes before drinking.Enjoy it mid-morning or before a workout to feel more energised.

5. Turmeric Ginger Latte: This calming drink is ideal before bedtime. It’s warm, soothing, and the blend of ginger and turmeric may help reduce inflammation and support overnight digestion. How to make it:Warm 1 cup of almond or oat milk. Add half a teaspoon each of turmeric and ginger (fresh or powdered).Stir in a pinch of black pepper and cinnamon.Simmer for a few minutes and sweeten lightly with honey, if needed.It’s a nice way to wind down - and nourish your body while you do.

Adding ginger to your day doesn’t have to mean big changes. These drinks are simple, natural, and easy to work into your routine. While they aren’t a magic fix, they can be a helpful and healthy companion to a balanced diet and regular movement.

Fridgescaping’ Risks: Expert Sounds the Alarm



The viral decor trend known as ‘fridgescaping’ is taking social media by storm, encouraging individuals to transform the interior of their refrigerators into aesthetically pleasing spaces, much like decorating a room in their homes. While the concept of a clean and organised fridge is appealing, health experts are raising alarms about the potential dangers associated with this trend. “The inside of a refrigerator is no place for decorating,” said Dr Marc Siegel, senior medical analyst for Fox News and clinical professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center. The practice often involves placing non-food decorative items inside the fridge, including photo frames, plants, baskets, showpieces, and lights, which can lead to a host of health concerns. He adds, “One major concern is cross-contamination. When decorative

items such as plants, baskets, or clothes are placed near perishable food items, they can harbour bacteria or mould that could potentially contaminate the food. Additionally, storing food in open containers or improperly sealed jars for aesthetic purposes increases the risk of food spoilage and bacterial growth, as harmful pathogens can thrive in improperly stored or exposed foods.” The practice of fridgescaping might also lead to poor food hygiene if it encourages the use of non-food-safe materials in the fridge, he stresses. The focus on aesthetics can cause people to overlook expiration dates or proper food rotation, which can lead to the consumption of spoiled or unsafe food. According to Dr Reddy, refrigerators are designed to allow airflow that keeps the entire unit at the appropriate temperature, ensuring food safety. Adding unnecessary items

to the fridge can block vents or cause uneven cooling, resulting in some areas becoming too warm and increasing the risk of spoilage and bacterial growth in perishable foods. “Additionally, decorative items may absorb moisture, leading to increased humidity levels inside the fridge, which can further encourage the growth of mold and bacteria. This can compromise the freshness of fruits, vegetables, dairy, and other items that require consistent, low temperatures,” he states. To maintain a clean and organised refrigerator while ensuring food safety, Dr Reddy recommends considering the following tips: Use Food-Safe Containers: Store food in airtight, food-safe containers that are easy to clean and properly labelled with expiration dates. This prevents cross-contamination and ensures food stays fresh. Keep Non-Food Items Out: Avoid placing non-food items like decorative baskets or plants in the fridge. Stick to functional organisation methods, such as using clear plastic or glass containers for easy visibility. Organise Based on Temperature Zones: Place perishable items, like meat and dairy, in the colder zones of the refrigerator (generally the back or lower shelves), and store produce in crisper drawers to maintain optimal freshness. Avoid blocking vents to ensure air circulation. Clean Regularly: Wipe down shelves and drawers with a mild disinfectant at least once a month. This helps eliminate bacteria or mould growth and ensures a sanitary environment for food storage. Rotate Food: Practice the ‘first in, first out’ method. Ensure older items are placed at the front so they’re used first, reducing the risk of consuming expired food.

‘Humans need solitude’: How being alone can make you happier

In Wim Wenders’ recent film Perfect Days, the main character, a Tokyo toilet cleaner, spends many of his hours in solitude; watering plants, contemplating, listening to music and reading. While more characters are introduced as the film develops, for many viewers its earlier moments are, indeed, perfect; described by the BBC’s own Nicholas Barber as a “meditation on the serenity of an existence stripped to its essentials”, it really struck a chord. No wonder. Thoughtful and positive outlooks on solitude have been taking up more and more space on our screens, bookshelves and smartphones, from podcasts to viral TikToks. Seemingly, there’s never been a better time to be alone. In the past couple of years, several titles on the topic have been released, with a few more in the works. Solitude: The Science and Power of Being Alone, and Solo: Building a Remarkable Life of Your Own hit the shelves in 2024, and Nicola Slawson’s Single: Living a Complete Life on Your Own Terms was published in February. Then last month saw the release of Emma Gannon’s much-anticipated novel Table For One; having made her name with non-fiction books questioning traditional ideas of success and productivity, Gannon is now reconsidering modern relationships, in a love

story focusing on a young woman finding joy in being alone, rather than with a partner.Later this year, two more self-help guides, The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World and The Joy of Sleeping Alone, are coming out, as well as a paperback, English translation of Daniel Schreier’s Alone: Reflections on Solitary Living, which originally came out in Germany in 2021. Packed with keen observations and helpful tips, this new wave of books aims not only to destigmatise solitude, but also to make a case for its benefits and pleasures. Such a powerful stream of publications might come as a surprise, at first, to everyone who has lived through the pandemic and inevitably heard of – or got a bitter taste of – the so-called “loneliness epidemic”, a term popularised in 2023 by then US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. “Post pandemic, there [was] a huge focus on loneliness, for a really good reason,” says Robert Coplan, a professor in psychology at Carleton University in Ottawa and author of The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World. But because of the concerns about the effects of loneliness, he says, solitude ended up “with a bit of a bad reputation – throwing the baby out with the bath water, so to speak”.



Graham Thorpe’s widow claims late cricketer if England cricket

New Delhi: Former England batter Graham Thorpe’s widow has claimed her late husband would still be alive today if he had received stronger support from English cricket authorities following his dismissal as assistant coach.Thorpe died by suicide in August last year, just two-and-a-half years after being sacked by the ECB. Speaking to TalkSPORT, his wife Amanda said the loss of his coaching role left him feeling isolated and devastated, believing he had been cut off from the sport that had shaped his entire life. “Graham’s passing is a heartbreaking reminder of the mental health challenges many people face. His death was examined by a coroner with full support from the ECB. We have met with Amanda to discuss her concerns and remain in regular contact with her and the wider family.” It was too late. After the crisis in May he was very ill,” she said.

Usman Khawaja’s golf post sparks fresh debate amid injury row

New Delhi: Veteran Australian opener Usman Khawaja has intensified scrutiny of his Ashes preparation after posting a golf-course image to Instagram in the aftermath of a difficult first Test in Perth. The 38-year-old opener struggled with back spasms throughout the match and did not take his usual place at the top of the order in either innings of Australia’s eight-wicket win. He made almost no impact with the bat, while Travis Head’s blistering century as a stand-in opener helped set up a comfortable victory. Questions over Khawaja’s readiness grew louder when it emerged that he had played golf on three consecutive days in the build-up to the Test. That included the day before the match, when he skipped an optional training session to take part in a round linked to a pro-am appearance. By the time the series began, his back was in such discomfort that he batted at four in the first innings and did not appear at all during the fourth-innings chase of 205.The sequence of events around his preparation and subsequent injury had already prompted murmurs within the cricket community. His Instagram post on Monday evening transformed those murmurs into a pointed debate. Khawaja uploaded a series of images from the week, including a tranquil shot of a lakeside fairway, paired with the caption: “What a week! It had it all.” Inside the Australian



dressing room, the reaction appeared joking and relaxed. Pat Cummins replied with a golf-swing emoji, David Warner offered a long “Foreeeeeee” and former seamer Trent Copeland added laughing emojis. To those within the bubble, it looked like familiar banter about Khawaja’s love of golf. The response outside that circle has been far more severe. Former fast bowler Mitchell Johnson criticised both the optics and the judgement, suggesting the preparation was inappropriate for a senior player during an Ashes series.“Everyone has their way of preparing and I am not against players using golf as a way to switch off,” Johnson wrote in The Nightly. “But you have to be professional too. From the outside it does not look great. You could reasonably argue that the preparation contributed to the back spasms and if that is the case then that is not doing your job properly for Australia.”

India vs South Africa Highlights, 2nd Test Day 4: India Reach 27/2 At Stumps

New Delhi: India vs South Africa Live Updates, 2nd Test Day 4: India lost their second wicket as KL Rahul was dismissed by Simon Harmer for 6 on Day 4 of the second Test against South Africa. Sai Sudharsan has now been joined by nightwatchman Kuldeep Yadav as two-down India look for a stable partnership in the run chase of 549. Earlier, Tristan Stubbs (94) and Tony de Zorzi (49) defied India’s spin attack before South Africa declared their second innings at 260/5, giving the hosts a mammoth 549-run target for victory on day four of the second Test. After Ravindra Jadeja (4/62) and Washington Sundar (1/67) got early breakthroughs in the morning session, reducing South Africa to 77/3, Stubbs (94 runs off 180 balls) and de Zorzi (49 off 68 balls) batted resolutely to stitch together a 101-run stand to consolidate their team’s position. (Live Scorecard)Ohhh!!! That’s close. Simon Harmer strikes on the pads of Sai Sudharsan and appeals for LBW. However, the on-field umpire turns his request down and signals not out. South Africa quickly



opt for DRS, which gives a result as the umpire’s call. Resulting which, Sudharsan survives as SA also retain their review.

At the Deaflympics, Pranjali Prashant Dhumal wins a 25m pistol gold

New Delhi: Pranjali Prashant Dhumal claimed gold in the women’s 25m pistol event on Monday, marking her third medal of the Deaflympics.

She previously secured gold in the mixed pistol event alongside Abhinav Deshwal and won silver in the women’s air pistol. Mosina Halyna of Ukraine took silver in the 25m pistol, while Korea’s Jeon Jiwon earned bronze. Anuya Prasad, the women’s air pistol gold medallist, finished fourth in this event.Pranjali advanced to the final after setting a new world and Deaflympic qualification record with a score of 573 out of 600.A day earlier, Abhinav Deshwal had captured India’s 15th shooting medal of the Games by winning gold in the 25m pistol event, also setting a qualification record.

With this, Team India has surpassed its previous best perfor-



mance of 16 medals at the Brazil Deaflympics 2021 (held in 2022), where the country secured 8 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze.With two days of competition still remaining, India has the opportunity to further improve its medal tally. Meanwhile, Loma Swain won India’s first-ever medal in Karate at the Deaflympics. She won a bronze medal in Women’s Ku-

mite -50 kg.India fielded its biggest ever 111-member contingent, comprising 73 athletes and 38 coaches among others, for the Deaflympics in Tokyo, Japan.The Deaflympics are conducted by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). Recognised by the International Olympic Committee, ICSD has been functioning independently since Au-

gust 1924. ICSD is not involved with the International Paralympic Committee. The Deaflympics, under the patronage of the IOC, are the second-oldest international multi-sporting event in the world. India has been participating in the International Deaf Games since 1965. Seven male athletes and five officials took part in India’s maiden appearance in Washington. In 1985, three female athletes took part for the first time. In the last Deaflympics 2021 held in Caxias Do Sul in Brazil, in May 2022, India was represented by 39 male and 26 female athletes. India won a best-ever 16 medals – eight gold, 1 silver, and seven bronze to finish 9th among 77 participating nations.Overall, India has won 26 gold medals, 9 silver, and 17 bronze. In the last Summer Games in Brazil, India sent 65 athletes to compete in 11 sports.

T20 World Cup 2026 Schedule Announcement Says India To Face Pakistan On This Date

Mumbai: T20 World Cup 2026 Schedule Announcement Live Updates: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to announce the schedule for the 2026 T20 World Cup today. The mega event, set to be played in February-March, will be hosted by India and Sri Lanka. Defending champions India and their arch-rivals Pakistan have been kept in the same group, with the teams facing each other on February 15 in Colombo, claimed



multiple reports. The format of the tournament is unchanged, with 20 teams divided into four groups of five teams each. According to several reports, the USA will be placed in the same group as India and Pakistan, and that could be a big test for the two Asian giants. Remember, the USA were also in the same group as India and Pakistan in the T20 World Cup 2024. India were given a few scares, while Pakistan were outright de-

feated by the USA. T20 World Cup 2026 Schedule Announcement Live: The format of the tournament is unchanged, with 20 teams divided into four groups of five teams each. 20 teams divided into groups of four with five teams each. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super Eight stage, where the teams will be divided into groups of four. The top two teams from each will move to the semifinals.

FIH Women’s Junior Indian women leave for Santiago Hockey World Cup

Mumbai: Jr Hockey World Cup: Indian junior women’s hockey team, led by Jyoti Singh, left for Santiago, Chile, for the prestigious FIH Women’s Junior Hockey World Cup 2025, scheduled to begin from December 1 to 13. The 20-member team, including two alternate players, left Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday night. India have been placed in Pool C, alongside Germany, Ireland and Namibia. The Indian team will begin their campaign against Namibia on December 1, followed by matches against Germany on December 3 and Ireland on December 5. The top teams from each pool will progress to the knockout stages, which will be played from December 7 to 13. Other teams in the fray include the Netherlands, Japan, Chile and Malaysia in Pool A. Argentina, Belgium, Zimbabwe and Wales are in Pool B, while Pool D features England, South Africa, China and Austria. Pool E will include Australia, Spain, Canada and



Scotland, while Pool F will have the United States of America, Korea, New Zealand and Uruguay. On the team’s mindset before departure, the coach had said, “We are all ready and very excited to travel to Chile. The girls are fully motivated to perform their best at the World Cup.”

The team will continue to be led by Jyoti Singh as captain and Tushar Khandker as chief coach. The goalkeeping duties will be shared between Nidhi and Engil Harsha Rani Minz, while the defen-

sive responsibilities have been assigned to Manisha, Lalthanlualangi, Sakshi Shukla, Puja Sahoo, and Nandini.Other teams in the fray include the Netherlands, Japan, Chile and Malaysia in Pool A. Argentina, Belgium, Zimbabwe and Wales are in Pool B, while Pool D features England, South Africa, China and Austria. Pool E will include Australia, Spain, Canada and Scotland, while Pool F will have the United States of America, Korea, New Zealand and Uruguay.

India Coach Ridiculed By Cricket Amid Test

Mumbai: India head coach Gautam Gambhir’s future looks in jeopardy as the team stands on the cusp of a 0-2 series defeat against South Africa in Tests. Gambhir, who coaches the team in all three formats, could see the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) contemplate different options for the longest format, considering how poor the Gambhir’s future as India’s Test coach intensifies, Iceland Cricket didn’t hesitate to mock the former opening batter.

Italy wins Davis Cup for third straight year by beating Spain in final

Mumbai: Italy remains the king of the Davis Cup – and didn’t even need Jannik Sinner this time.Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli were the stars for the Italians without the absent Sinner, both winning their singles matches to earn an unassailable 2-0 lead over Spain in the final on Sunday.It’s a fourth Davis Cup title for Italy, and a third in a row. The last nation to win three straight titles was the United States, which won five on the bounce from 1968-72. The second-ranked Sinner, who led Italy to men’s tennis biggest team trophy the past two years, opted out of playing this week, preferring to prepare for next season instead. No. 8-ranked Lorenzo Musetti wasn’t playing, either.Italy didn’t need them, winning all three of its matches 2-0 this week in the SuperTennis Arena in Bologna after eliminating Austria in the quarterfinals and Belgium in the semifinals. Spain was also without its star player — top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz.In Sunday’s final, Berrettini beat Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 6-4 before Cobolli fought back to beat Jaume Munar 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5 and clinch the winning point — as he has all three times this week. Cobolli dropped his racket to the ground and was lifted



in the air by his Italy teammates.Italy first won the Davis Cup in 1976, before wins in Malaga in 2023 and ‘24. This is the first time it has won on home soil. Six-time champion Spain was playing in the title match for the first time since 2019.

Virat Kohli Told “Should’ve Continued Playing Tests”India

Bengaluru: Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru wicket-keeper batter Shreevats Goswami believes that Virat Kohli should have continued playing Tests and retired from ODIs instead. He further said that the current Indian cricket team missed the energy and belief that they used to enjoy under Kohli’s captaincy. The comments came after India’s disappointing show in the ongoing Test encounter against South Africa in Guwahati. India were handed an embarrassing Test series defeat by New Zealand last year and if the Rishabh Pant-led side loss the second Test, they are starting at another home series loss against South Africa. “Ideally, Virat should have left playing ODIs & continued playing test cricket until he had nothing to give. Test cricket misses

him. Not just as a player but just the energy he brought, the love & passion playing for India where he made the team believe that they can win in any condition,” he posted on X. Coming to the match, after taking a 288-run first innings lead, South Africa were 26 for no loss in their second essay at stumps on Day 3 as the visitors took control of the second Test against India.Openers Ryan Rickelton and Aiden Markram were batting on 13 and 12 respectively at the end of the day’s play. Washington Sundar (48 off 92 balls) could contribute substantially as the home team suffered a batting collapse after starting the day at 9 for no loss.Four Indian wickets tumbled in the opening session, reaching 102 for 4 at tea. Three more Indian batters fell in the second session.

CSCAA Dual Meet Challenge: Virginia Women, Arizona State Men Claim Titles

New Delhi: The 2025 season has given the world of swimming incredible races, times and duels from which a handful of swimmers managed to record undefeated runs between the World Championships last summer in Singapore, and the recent World Cup circuit in North America. Here are the five athletes who claimed a gold medal in an individual event at the World Champs, and then swept the discipline at all stops of the World Cup Tour. The Hungarian star and reigning Olympic champion in the 200 backstroke is part of Bob Bowman’s elite training group at the University of Texas. After claiming the world title in the 200 backstroke again, after initially winning in 2023, Kos went undefeated in all three backstroke events at the World Cup, and set short-course world records in the 100 and 200 distances. After winning the world title for the first time in Fukuoka in 2023,



the Australian followed with an Olympic crown in the 200 freestyle and another world championship in Singapore. But the 21-year-old wasn’t quite sure

how fast she could perform in the short-course pool. Well, she provided an impressive answer, as she set two world records during the World Cup and swept the event’s three stops two world records before the World Championships, and then she won her first ever world titles in the 50 and 100 butterfly in Singapore. Afterward, she turned her focus to her short-course excellence and the results were as everyone expected. Walsh was dominant at the World Cup, with sweeps arriving easily in both butterfly events. The Australian superstar, who has won back-to-back Olympic crowns in both backstroke events, captured the 200 backstroke title at the Singapore World Champs. At the World Cup, the two stops featured spectacular duels with American Regan Smith, and McKeown staying unbeaten with world records at the last two legs.