

## Assam tops India in utilising special central fund, Sitharaman lauds state's development push

**Guwahati, Nov 09:** Assam has emerged as the leading state in India in effectively utilising the Centre's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) fund, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday. Speaking at the inauguration of the Brahmaputra Riverfront project in Guwahati, she praised the state government for its prompt and efficient deployment of 50-year, interest-free central loans earmarked for infrastructure development, including hospitals, roads, and other critical capital assets. "The way Assam is planning and creating assets, it is utilising the central fund to the maximum level. Assam tops the list," Sitharaman said. "While all states are creating assets, nobody is doing it like Assam is working." During her visit, the Finance Minister inaugurated two major urban projects in the state capital: the Gateway of Guwahati, which includes a terminal and jetty on the Brahmaputra riverbank built at a cost of ₹305 crore, and the Brahmaputra Riverfront project at Sati Radhika Udyan, developed for ₹327 crore. Highlighting



the balance between infrastructure growth and local livelihoods, Sitharaman noted, "I heard there was a fish market beneath this riverfront project. The Chief Minister told me that it still exists and people can still go to the river to catch fish. This is a good blend between livelihood and development." The minister emphasised that urban development must progress "without displacing people," adding, "Bringing in changes by not disturbing the livelihood of people is an example of good governance." Sitharaman, on a two-day visit to Assam, also inspected the upcoming Tata Electronics Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Jagiroad in Morigaon district. She described the Rs 27,000-crore semiconductor plant as a milestone project that would place Assam "in the driver's seat of the engine for developed India." On Saturday, she is scheduled to visit Gohpur in Biswanath district to lay the foundation stone of the Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University, approved by the Assam Cabinet in June at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore.

### In Brief

#### Joint fight against drugs

**Aizawl:** At a combined interactive session on November 7 at the CYMA Committee Room, leaders of the Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) and the Mizoram Journalists' Association (MJA) committed tighter cooperation to address the state's poor road infrastructure and growing drug problem. R Lalnggheta, president of CYMA, issued a warning that the drug problem had reached a critical point and called on the media to help spread awareness and promote preventative measures. MJA president C. Lalrambuatsaiha backed CYMA's stance, stressing the need to confront the drug crisis while safeguarding Mizo culture and identity.

#### Tura Maternity and Child Hospital

**Shillong:** In an effort to improve health outcomes throughout the Garo Hills region, the Tura Maternity and Child Hospital (MCH) is getting ready to open a fully renovated wing before Christmas that will include improved maternity and newborn care facilities. Senior representatives from the Health and Family Welfare Department, under the direction of Commissioner and Secretary Joram Beda and Principal Secretary Sam-path Kumar, reviewed the hospital.

#### Potato cultivation scheme

**Agartala:** In a bid to boost potato production and strengthen agricultural self-reliance, the Tripura government has announced substantial financial and material support for farmers adopting the Aeroponic Rooted Cutting (ARC) method of cultivation. Addressing the media at the Secretariat, Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath said that a total of 6,000 farmers will benefit under the scheme this year. Each farmer will receive Rs 2,000 in direct financial support, along with agricultural materials worth Rs 1,000, bringing the total government expenditure to Rs 1.8 crore.

## Kohima Lotha Hoho celebrates Golden Jubilee, emphasises unity and future preparedness

**Kohima, Nov 09:** The Kohima Lotha Hoho marked its 50th anniversary on November 7 with a grand celebration that coincided with Tokhü Emong, the major festival of the Lotha community. Held at the NBCC Convention Centre under the theme "future-ready reasoning," the event brought together tribal leaders, community members, and officials from across Nagaland, highlighting the organisation's enduring legacy and commitment to community development. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, the chief guest, congratulated the organisation for reaching this significant milestone and praised the gathering for uniting Lothas from various districts alongside leaders from other communities. He described the occasion as a strong testament to unity and emphasised the importance of preserving Lotha traditions for future generations. Highlighting



Wokha district's rich natural resources and the community's high ranking in per capita income and human development indices, Rio credited the Lotha people's hardworking and innovative approach for their progress. He called for sustained peace and urged citizens to channel their energies toward constructive goals. Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, guest of honour, encouraged the youth to pursue education while maintaining unity and harmony, rejecting divisive attitudes. He acknowledged the significance

of the golden jubilee coinciding with Tokhü Emong and expressed gratitude for the Lotha community's continued support to the state government. During the event, Rio launched "The Divine in the Ordinary", a book authored by Sentienla P Ezung. Kohima Lotha Hoho chairman K.N. Mhonthung Lotha traced the community's history in Kohima back to 1878, noting that the first Lotha settler married an Angami woman, laying the foundation for goodwill between the two communities. He described the golden jubilee as an opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate present achievements, and prepare the younger generation to adapt to rapid changes responsibly. The programme featured the jubilee song "A Lotha" by Eyilobeni Kikon, performances by the jubilee choir, and cultural dances by the Lotsu village troupe.

## Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma inaugurates 49th Wangala Festival at Chibragre

**Shillong, Nov 09:** Today at Chibragre Wangala A'dam near Tura, the 49th edition of the Wangala Festival, Meghalaya's most renowned cultural festival for the Garo population, began. As Chief Guest, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma officially opened the colorful celebrations. Wangala is a traditional harvest celebration that honors Saljong, the Sun God of fertility and prosperity. It is also known as the "100 Drums Festival."

The celebration celebrates the arrival of winter in the Garo Hills, concludes the farming season, and shows thankfulness for a plentiful crop. The two-day festival—or sometimes extended to a week—begins with the "Ragula" ritual in the village chief's



residence, followed by the "Kakkat" ceremony.

Men and women don traditional attire and feathered headgear to perform the iconic Wangala dance, moving in two parallel lines to the resonant beats of long oval-shaped drums, gongs, and buffalo-horn flutes.

The powerful rhythm of the 100 drums fills the hills, creating an atmo-

sphere of joy, unity, and cultural pride. Beyond celebrating the harvest, Wangala is a platform for preserving and promoting Garo traditions, music, and rituals, showcasing the community's rich cultural heritage. The festival serves as a living testament to Meghalaya's tribal diversity and enduring heritage, drawing attention from across the Northeast.

## Arunachal CM launches soft loan scheme to empower ITI graduates



**Itanagar Nov 09:** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday launched the Chief Minister Soft Loan Scheme (CMSLS), a new initiative aimed at empowering technically skilled youth from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to become entrepreneurs and contribute to a self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. The announcement was made through a social media post, highlighting the government's focus on skill development, youth empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. Under the CMSLS, ITI graduates from the last three years (starting from 2021) are eligible to apply for soft loans in two tranches — up to ₹1 lakh in the first tranche and up to ₹2 lakh in the second. Beneficiaries will also receive a toolkit incentive of ₹15,000 to help them establish independent ventures in trades ranging from electrical works, welding, carpentry, and automobile repair to tailoring and other skill-based sectors. The scheme offers a 25% loan subsidy along with a 7% interest subsidy to ease the financial burden for young entrepreneurs. "When we invest in skills, entrepreneurship, and in our youth, we invest in the future of this land," Khandu said, emphasising that the initiative aims to turn skilled youth into job creators rather than job seekers, in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Arunachal. Officials from the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said the programme will complement existing initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and Startup India Mission, strengthening Arunachal Pradesh's overall skill development and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Application forms are available on the state's official skill development portal and must be submitted to the principals of respective ITIs by December 31, 2025. Itanagar Market Perspective: Local business experts in Itanagar anticipate that the CMSLS will invigorate the small-scale entrepreneurship sector, fostering a wave of youth-led enterprises across the city. By providing financial support and skill-based incentives, the scheme is expected to stimulate local trade, increase employment opportunities, and enhance the overall economic dynamism of the capital city.

## Arunachal CM introduces a soft loan program to empower ITI graduates

*Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday announced the launch of the Chief Minister Soft Loan Scheme (CMSLS), a new initiative aimed at empowering technically skilled youth from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to become entrepreneurs and contribute to a self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh.*

**Itanagar, Nov 09:** The Chief Minister Soft Loan Scheme (CMSLS), a new program designed to enable technically skilled youth from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to become entrepreneurs and contribute to a self-sufficient Arunachal Pradesh, was announced by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday. announced the program on social media, stating that it will be run by the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and will help ITI alumni who graduated within the previous three years beginning in 2022. The Chief Minister declared, "We invest in the future of this land when we invest in skills, entrepreneurship, and in our youth." Soft loans up to ₹1 lakh in the first and up to ₹2 lakh in the



second are available to qualified applicants under the CMSLS.

The government will offer a 25% loan subsidy in addition to a 7% interest subsidy to further reduce the financial strain. Khandu emphasized that the program's goal is to help young people turn their technical expertise into sustainable livelihoods rather than merely providing loans. "Our focus is to turn skilled youth into job creators rather than job seekers," he stated, describing it as a crucial step in realizing Atmanir-

bhar Arunachal's vision. Officials from the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department said the scheme will nurture small-scale entrepreneurship across trades such as electrical works, welding, carpentry, automobile repair, tailoring, and other skill-based sectors. They added that the programme will complement existing initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and Startup India Mission, strengthening the state's overall skill development and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

## The Meghalayan government calls the blockade unlawful and clarifies its stance on the truckers' strike

**Shillong, Nov 09:** Regarding the ongoing strike by the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA) against local cement industries, the East Jaintia Hills District Administration has provided a thorough explanation. The ongoing barricade along National Highway-6 has been described by authorities as "illegal," and they have issued a warning that no group would be permitted to enforce the law on its own. After the October 27, 2025, strike call, officials called a number of meetings to try to settle the

conflict amicably. Representatives from the Jaintia Hills Truck Owners Association (JH-TOA), East Jaintia Hills Truck Owners and Transporters Association (EJHTOTA), and Jaintia Hills Cement Manufacturers Association (JHCMA) attended the first coordination meeting, which took place on October 30 at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Khliehriat. MCTODA declined to attend the meeting even though they were invited. The other two associations affirmed that they were not involved in the strike and that they were con-

ducting business with cement manufacturers as usual. These organizations reaffirmed in written filings their commitment to uninterrupted transportation operations. The Deputy Commissioner chaired additional talks between MCTODA and the JHCMA on October 31 and November 3 to resolve the requests of the truckers. MCTODA had demanded that freight rates be enforced, that overloading be avoided, that local trucks be given priority loading, that parking facilities be provided, that payments be made on time, and that labor



## Adil Hussain appointed festival ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2025

**Tezpur, Nov 09:** National award-winning actor and theatre veteran Adil Hussain has been named the Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2025, the state's premier celebration of performing arts and cultural heritage. The announcement comes as the festival gears up to showcase the Northeast's rich tradition in theatre, music, and dance, attracting visitors from across India. A native of Goalpara, Assam, Hussain has earned acclaim for his remarkable versatility on stage and screen. He has appeared in films like Ishqiya, English Vinglish, Lootera, and Mukti Bhawan, as well as international productions such as Life of Pi, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, and What Will People Say. His performances have been celebrated at major film festivals including Venice, Toronto, and Berlin.



laws be followed.

NATIONAL

The BrahMos missile deal between Indonesia and India is almost final

New Delhi, Nov 09: According to defense insiders who spoke, India and Indonesia are prepared to complete a significant defense agreement for the acquisition of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, subject to final approval from Russia. Officials say that all talks and negotiations between Jakarta and New Delhi have been finished, and once Moscow agrees, the deal is ready to be signed.If accepted, the agreement would represent a major turning point in India’s aspirations to export defense, highlighting its expanding capacity to provide important allies with state-of-the-art military equipment.

The potential deal comes after India’s historic USD 375 million BrahMos deal with the Philippines in April 2023, which calls for the delivery of three missile batteries to Manila. With a 290-kilometer range and a Mach 2.8 speed, the BrahMos system has significantly improved the Philippines’ coastal defense capabilities. Indonesia’s desire to



purchase the BrahMos is consistent with its larger defense modernization initiatives and goals for regional security. Additionally, the proposed agreement is anticipated to improve bilateral defense relations, particularly after Indonesia joined the BRICS group in January 2024, strengthening its strategic alliances with India and other members. Jointly developed by India’s Defence Re-

search and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia’s NPO Mashinostroyeniya, the BrahMos missile is among the fastest supersonic cruise missiles in the world. Renowned for its precision, versatility, and ability to be launched from land, sea, and air platforms, the system has attracted growing interest from Southeast Asian nations amid evolving geopolitical dynamics.

11 airports were shut down as part of the Center’s UDAN scheme

New Delhi, Nov 09: Due to a number of operational problems, low attendance, airline apathy, and technical difficulties, eleven airports that the Center launched under the UDAN initiative over the previous ten years—seven of them in Uttar Pradesh—have fallen silent. The Narendra Modi administration introduced the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on October 21, 2016, with the goal of lowering the cost of air travel for the average person by offering airline services in minor cities at reduced prices. Many airports have since opened to great fanfare. The government claims that there are 126 active civilian airports in the nation. Eleven further

airports that launched under the UDAN program have discontinued flight operations for various reasons; some have done so since 2023, while others have done so since 2024. Operations at the airports in Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, and Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh, Bhavnagar in Gujarat, Ludhiana in Punjab, and Pakyong in Sikkim have been suspended for the winter schedule, effective October 26, 2025, to March 28, 2026, according to a government media release. The airports at Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Moradabad and Shravasti were among those inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi ahead of the 2024 general election.

The last flight to take off



from Kushinagar airport was on November 7, 2023. For Azamgarh, this was November 23, 2024; for Aligarh, April 2025; Chitrakoot, December 16, 2024; Moradabad, November 2023; Shravasti, December 2024; and Ludhiana, September 27. There is no data in the public domain on any flight having ever

landed at or taken off from Saharanpur airport. With not a single commercial flight taking off from or landing at many of these 11 airports for months or even years, the government’s plan to transform the regional connectivity landscape and make flying accessible and affordable for all has come under question.

Rahul Gandhi asserts that one in eight Haryana voters are fraudulent



New Delhi, Nov 09: Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, asserted on Wednesday that his party had discovered at least 25 lakh fraudulent voters in Haryana, the state where the Congress was defeated in the Assembly election. “The Congress lost by 22,000 votes in Haryana despite one in eight voters being fraudulent. At least 25 lakh of the two crore voters in Haryana are fraudulent, and there may be more, Rahul stated during a press conference. The Congress leader accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission (EC) of committing “a huge criminal fraud” in the polls on August 7. Presenting what he described as findings of a Congress investigation in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency part of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka he alleged that votes were “stolen” in multiple ways. At a media briefing at the AICC headquarters, he said the

Congress had won all Assembly segments in Bangalore Central except Mahadevapura and lost the parliamentary seat by 1,14,046 votes. “We started looking at this number. Why does this imbalance come from one seat? We found that 1,00,250 votes were stolen out of a total of 6.5 lakh,” he said. On September 18, Rahul levelled fresh allegations, this time focusing on large-scale additions and deletions of votes. He claimed that voters particularly from Opposition-supporting communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and OBCs were being systematically targeted and their names deleted. He accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of protecting “vote chors” and “those killing democracy”. “This is not something I say lightly. I am the LoP in the Lok Sabha. I have solid proof in black and white that the CEC is protecting people who have destroyed Indian democracy,” he said.

Kerala CM slams Railways over RSS song at Vande Bharat event

Lucknow, Nov 09: Pinarayi Vijayan, the chief minister of Kerala, criticized Southern Railway on Saturday for reportedly forcing schoolchildren to sing the RSS Gana Geet at the launch of the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat train service. Vijayan, who expressed worries about upholding political and religious neutrality in official programs, has harshly criticized the occurrence, which happened during a government function.



Vijayan called for protest, saying the Southern Railway’s practice of forcing students to sing the RSS Gana Geet during the opening of the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat service “unacceptable.” “The inclusion of the RSS song, which constantly spreads hatred against other religions and communal divisive politics, in the official program of the government is a violation of constitutional principles,” he added.Vijayan continued by asserting that such acts compromise the secular nature of official gatherings. “Extreme Hindutva politics were sneaked in at Vande Bharat’s launching event. He called for widespread protest, saying, “Behind this was a narrow political mindset aimed at destroying secularism.” “It is unacceptable that the Sangh Parivar is using even the country’s largest public sector enterprise, the Railways, for their communal political propaganda. By sharing this Gana Geet on

social media with the caption ‘a patriotic song’, the Southern Railway not only made a mockery of itself but also mocked the Indian national movement. The Railways, which served as the cornerstone of India’s secular nationalism during the freedom struggle, are now supporting the communal agenda of the RSS, which betrayed the freedom struggle,” he added. Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said that Indian Railways had “stooped to new depths” as he shared a video showing children singing the RSS song at the inauguration of the new Vande Bharat service. “The RSS Ganageetham formed an integral part of the highly politicised between Ernakulam and Bangalore. Indian Railways has stooped to new depths, as even the announcement of new services is now marked by political fanfare while sidelining people’s representatives,” he tweeted while posting the video.Last month, Chief Minister Vijayan drew a parallel between the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Zionists in Israel, calling them “twin brothers” who “might agree on many things.” He made these remarks at a remembrance meeting in Kannur.In response to the Centre’s decision to commemorate the RSS centenary, Vijayan criticised the move on social media, saying issuing a postage stamp and a Rs 100 coin is “a grave insult to our Constitution.”

Delhi records first deaths linked to dengue this year

New Delhi, Nov 09: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported two deaths due to complications from dengue in the city — firsts this year. The total dengue tally currently in the city is 1,136. “The two cases are a 9-year-old boy from Shalimar Bagh and a 48-year-old man from the Dilshad Garden.

The death audit committee has confirmed that both these deaths occurred due to dengue,” said a senior official from the corporation’s health department. While the health department committee is reviewing deaths of 13 other people, the exact dates of the two confirmed cases is not known. Officials said these are not recent deaths. When a hospital reports a dengue or a malaria death, the committee audits all the documents related to the case to determine if the death was caused by the vector borne disease, and if the origin of the disease was Delhi.

It is also analysed if a dengue-positive patient is a resident from a neighbouring state undergoing treatment in Delhi. Only those cases which originated in the city are officially counted as Delhi-based dengue deaths. Delhi had recorded a total of 11 dengue deaths in 2024, 19 in 2023, 9 in 2022, and 23 in 2021.

Vijay hosts the TVK meeting, raises concerns about women’s security and farmers, and requests a halt to SIR

Chennai, Nov 09: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay made his first public appearance at the party’s general council meeting on Wednesday, following 38 days of silence in the wake of the Karur stampede tragedy. Twelve important resolutions addressing everything from women’s safety and law and order to farmers’ losses and environmental concerns were passed at the conference, which was attended by district secretaries and top officials. The first resolution honored the victims and was read aloud by Karur District Secretary Mathiazhagan, who was mentioned in the FIR about the stampede tragedy. The Karur stampede was described as “a conspiracy and an unimaginable tragedy” in the resolution. The party strongly condemned the Coimbatore gang rape of a woman student, urging the government to ensure maximum punishment for the accused. Accusing the DMK government of “failing in law and order” and “putting women’s safety at

TVK chief Vijay made his first public appearance after the Karur stampede tragedy as the party passed 12 resolutions targeting the DMK and Centre, demanding security, women’s safety, farmers’ relief, and voter roll fairness.



risk,” TVK questioned if the Chief Minister would “wake up from his slumber.” In another resolution, TVK criticised the BJP-led Centre over the repeated arrests of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, demanding stronger intervention to protect their rights.

The party also opposed the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR) exercise in Tamil Nadu, citing “bulk removal of voters” in Bihar and calling it “improper to conduct SIR in haste when a case is pending before the Supreme Court.” TVK slammed the DMK government for losses incurred by farmers during paddy procurement in the Delta region amid heavy rains. The party alleged the government’s

“inaction led to a 20 lakh tonne loss” and demanded compensation for affected farmers. Another resolution highlighted the North-East monsoon’s impact on Chennai, stating that it had “exposed incomplete stormwater drains.” The party urged the government to expedite the Rs 4,000 crore project on a war footing to prevent flooding.

Ganga cleanup efforts are resumed by Uma Bharati

Lucknow, Nov 09: BJP leader Uma Bharati has resumed her independent campaign to clean up the holy Ganga since she is unwilling to explicitly condemn the Pushkar Singh Dhami and Yogi Adityanath administrations in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh as well as the Narendra Modi government at the federal level. Additionally, the national vice president of the BJP stated that she would like to run from Jhansi in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Along with more than 2,000 others, she took a bath in the Ganga at Sangam in Allahabad on Tuesday and made a commitment to clean it up with the aid of regular people. “I gave the people an oath promising to work toward maintaining the Ganga’s cleanliness. The program is not a one-day event. She stated in Allahabad, “Everyone who attended today’s (Tuesday) event must work continuously wherever they are,” adding that she herself had chosen not to take on any assignments since she wanted to spend her time with the Ganga and cows. The Namami Gange project was initiated by the Modi administration shortly after he was appointed prime minister. Since then, Modi and Adityanath have often asserted that the Ganga has been cleaned.

An Odisha farmer was detained for shooting an elephant

Bhubaneswar, Nov 09: A young tusker was shot and killed by a farmer in the Ganjam area after the animal refused to leave his property despite numerous attempts to frighten it away.The incident happened on October 31, but it wasn’t until forest officials found the carcass in the Bailballi Reserve Forest region and started an inquiry that it became public. Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty, the Ghumsur North Division’s divisional forest officer (DFO), stated that the accused, Umakanta Pradhan, 45, also known as Landa, was taken into custody and appeared in court on Monday. Pradhan claimed he fired at two elephants that had invaded his field during



questioning. After using firecrackers, one of them ran away, but the other wouldn’t go, so he had to shoot it with his homegrown pistol. Before falling, the tusker ran roughly fifty meters, according to Mohanty. The DFO made it clear that poaching had nothing to do with the murder. He would have attempted to remove the tusks if he had killed for them. He took action to safeguard his crops and out of fear, he continued.

One of two people detained in Punjab is connected to a terrorist cell in Khalistan

New Delhi, Nov 09: In a significant development related to Malkit Singh’s murder in Italy, Punjab Police on Saturday detained two men, one of them was allegedly affiliated with the terrorist group Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), according to sources.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav

claims that one of the individuals detained, Bikramjit Singh, is connected to the LKF and has a lengthy criminal record that includes incidents under the Arms Act, the Explosives Act, and the Attempt to Murder Act.

“Bikramjit Singh is associated with the terrorist organisation Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and

has a criminal history with cases registered under the Explosives Act, attempt to murder, and the Arms Act,” Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X. He was also involved in the 2018 grenade attack on a religious site at Raja Sansi town in Punjab. Preliminary investigation revealed that Bikramjit,



acting on directions from foreign handlers, had procured illegal weapons from across the border to carry out sensational crimes in Punjab.

An airline captain’s petition in a sexual harassment complaint is dismissed Bombay High Court

Mumbai, Nov 09: A senior pilot of a private airline disputed the findings of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) that found him guilty of inappropriate behavior toward a trainee captain, but the Bombay High Court dismissed his appeal on Monday. Given that the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013 already offers a statutory appeals process, Justice NJ Jamadar noted that a writ petition under Article 226 could not be used against private businesses in such situations.

The captain was found guilty of inappropriate behavior by the airline’s ICC, which also suggested disciplinary action. The committee ordered the issuance of a warning letter emphasizing the need of upholding professionalism and guarantee-

ing a courteous workplace. It also prohibited the pilot from advancing in his career for six months and suggested that he receive refresher training on the POSH Act. After the warning, his employee leisure travel benefits were to be suspended for 45 days. The captain claimed in his plea that the investigation went against natural justice principles and asked for the ICC’s report to be quashed. He said the committee disregarded his written contributions, denied him a personal hearing, and prevented him from cross-examining witnesses. He further argued that the ICC’s findings were unreasoned and that he had not been allowed to present witnesses in his defence. The petitioner urged the court to set aside the report and order a fresh enquiry. Advocates Payel Chattarjee and Suchita



Choudhry, representing the airline and the ICC, opposed the plea, contending that the company was a private entity not subject to writ jurisdiction. They submitted that the POSH Act’s Section 18 provides an appeal mechanism, which the petitioner should pursue instead of approaching the High Court. They also maintained that the enquiry was fair and conducted with due opportunity to the accused. Dis-

missing the petition, Justice Jamadar held that since the respondent company was a private body, the writ petition was not maintainable. The court said that the proper recourse for the petitioner was to file an appeal before the competent authority under the POSH Act rather than bypass the statutory process. With the order, the ICC’s findings and disciplinary directions against the captain remain in force.

# 4 militants killed in Manipur Army operation

## Kuki bodies want moderation

**Imphal, Nov 09:** In Khanpi village in Manipur, around 80 kilometers west of Churachandpur, four armed members of the United Kuki National Army (UKNA) were slain by security personnel during an early-morning raid on Tuesday. The UKNA is an insurgent Kuki group that does not participate in Suspension of Operation (SoO). The conflict started when militants unprovokedly opened fire on an Army team carrying out a search operation, according to the Assam Rifles. Four cadres were immediately killed by security troops in retaliation.

Throughout the day, the Indian Army and Assam Rifles resumed their joint operation, conducting combing operations in nearby forested regions. The action, according to officials, came after a series



of violent acts reportedly involving UKNA members, such as the assassination of a village leader, threats against locals, and attempts to destabilize the area. According to an official release, “the success-

ful neutralization of these terrorists underscores the commitment of the Indian Army and Assam Rifles to safeguard civilians and restore peace in Manipur.” Numerous Kuki civil organizations, including the Kuki

Inpi Churachandpur, Kuki Chiefs Association, Kuki Women’s Union, and Kuki Students’ Organization, reacted sharply to the killings and released a joint statement denouncing the event. They called it “tragic” and urged armed groups and the security establishment to exhibit moderation and stop the situation from getting worse. The groups also announced a district-wide shutdown in Churachandpur on the day of the funeral as a mark of mourning. Reiterating their long-standing demand for a political settlement, the organisations urged the government to open dialogue and consider a separate administrative arrangement for Kuki-Zo areas. Security has been stepped up across Churachandpur in view of the encounter and the shutdown call, officials said.

# Tripura gets 100 new MBBS seats as NMC clears expansion for TMC and Ambedkar Hospital

**Agartala, Nov 09:** Tripura has taken a major step toward strengthening its medical education and healthcare system, with the National Medical Commission (NMC) approving 50 additional MBBS seats each for Tripura Medical College (TMC) and Dr B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Teaching Hospital in Agartala. Chief Minister Manik Saha announced the development on Wednesday, calling it a significant milestone for the state’s health sector. With this approval,

TMC’s intake will rise from 100 to 150 seats, taking the total number of MBBS seats in Tripura to 450. The Chief Minister said the decision reflects the



state’s growing focus on improving medical infrastructure and ensuring a stronger healthcare workforce. “This is a big achievement for Tripura. Over the last three years, the state has received 225 additional MBBS seats. This shows our continuous progress in boosting medical education and health facilities,” Saha

said in a statement posted on social media. Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, the Chief Minister said the central government has played a key role in helping Tripura build modern health services and create more opportunities for aspiring doctors.

# Rahul Gandhi brings defeat wherever he goes

## Himanta Biswa Sarma

**Guwahati, Nov 09:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a poll campaign in Bihar, describing him as a “symbol of bad luck” for his party and claiming that his presence weakens the Congress’s chances in any election. Addressing a public meeting in support of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates, Sarma said that every time Rahul Gandhi campaigns somewhere, the Congress ends up facing disappointment. Speaking to reporters after the rally, the Assam Chief Minister remarked that the Congress leader has become an electoral liability for his own organisation. “Wherever Rahul Gandhi goes, defeat

follows,” Sarma said. “I always tell people in Assam—ask Congress to bring Rahul here more often. The more he campaigns, the smaller the party’s chances become. Even whatever little hope they have disappears.” Sarma’s comments drew loud cheers from the crowd as he continued his series of campaign events in Bihar ahead of the crucial state elections.

The BJP leader, known for his outspoken criticism of the Congress leadership, said the opposition camp is struggling to present strong leadership at the national level while the NDA remains focused on development and governance. Political activity has intensified across Bihar as senior leaders from both the BJP and Congress are making frequent visits to



the state, addressing rallies, meeting local workers, and attempting to sway undecided voters. With polling day approaching, parties are stepping up their outreach efforts and sharpening their rhetoric to energise their respective support bases. Sarma, who has emerged as one of the BJP’s key campaigners out-

side the Northeast, has been travelling through multiple districts, participating in public meetings and media interactions as part of the party’s wider poll strategy. His remarks on Rahul Gandhi reflect the BJP’s continued attempt to corner the Congress leadership during the high-stakes election season.

# Nagaland advisor, reiterates his dedication to public service and development



**Kohima, Nov 09:** Advisor for IPR and Soil & Water Conservation, Imkong L Imchen, conducted an extensive tour of Chungtia, Sabangya, and Aliba villages on Wednesday, engaging with village council members and local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) units while assessing developmental prospects in the region. During his interactions, Imchen expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Koridang Constituency for entrusting him with representa-

tion for five consecutive terms.

He emphasized that his dedication to public service is sincere and rooted in a commitment to the welfare of the community. Addressing concerns related to political identity, the advisor clarified that while certain communities may support a particular party, the party itself does not belong to any religion, urging citizens to distinguish between political affiliation and faith. Responding to requests

from local councils, Imchen shared that road upgradation projects under the ‘Other Roads Plan’ are set to begin soon in Chungtia village. He noted that all necessary equipment and materials are ready, and the project will be supervised by Executive Engineer (R&B) Mokochung. Er. Toshikaba, with the support of Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio. At Aliba village, Imchen assured council members that the proposed rest house and multi-purpose building will be implemented in a phased manner in the near future, reflecting the government’s commitment to infrastructure and community development. The tour underscored Imchen’s focus on strengthening local governance, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering public trust, reinforcing his pledge to serve the people of Koridang with transparency and dedication.

# Arunachal Governor requests a quality improvement



**Itanagar, Nov 09:** At a meeting on Tuesday at Raj Bhavan between the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and leaders from Himalayan University and the Department of Higher Education (RUSA), strengthening the state’s framework for education and development took center stage. The governor emphasized how critical it is to improve higher education in both public and private institutions. He urged colleges to implement skill-based and leadership-focused programs that are in line with national growth objectives, emphasizing youth empowerment as a top priority. The governor highlighted prospects in vegetable exports and agro-based businesses during discussions about the state’s agricultural and industrial potential. In order to promote research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, he advocated for increased cooperation between academic institutions, governmental organizations, and business players.

# Arunachal steps up preparations for panchayat, urban polls



**Itanagar, Nov 09:** The Arunachal Pradesh State Election Commission (APSEC) has begun full-scale preparations for the panchayat and urban local body elections scheduled for December, with top officials reviewing security arrangements and administrative readiness across the state. State Election Commissioner Rinchen Tashi on Tuesday held a high-level meeting with senior government and police officials to assess logistics, personnel deployment and inter-departmental coordination needed for the polling exercise. The Commission reviewed the availability of polling materials, staff strength, transport arrangements, and communication systems required for peaceful and efficient voting. In its statement, the Commission noted that special attention is being given to sensitive districts, particularly Tirap, Changlang and Longding, where security concerns have traditionally been higher. Officials stressed

the need for increased vigilance, enhanced personnel deployment, and close monitoring to ensure free, fair and violence-free elections in these areas. Chief Secretary Kaling Tayeng and Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) Chuku Apa assured the Commission of full co-operation, saying the administration would provide all required manpower, funds, and security forces. They also briefed the Commission on district-level preparations and steps being taken to maintain law and order during the polling period. State Election Commissioner Tashi called for seamless coordination among departments, emphasising the Commission’s commitment to conducting elections with transparency and efficiency. “The safety of voters and the smooth conduct of the polls remain our top priority,” he said, urging officials to remain proactive and responsive as the state heads toward the election month.

# AGP will only run in the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council election

**Guwahati, Nov 09:** As the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council elections draw near, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) has stepped up its preparations and declared that it will run independently, severing its ties to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The regional party has made the decision to run candidates in each of the Council’s 32 seats. AGP organized a workers’ meeting on Wednesday at the Khowang Sonowal Bhawan in the Dibrugarh district as part of its campaign. Putul Sonowal, Vice President of the

AGP Central Committee and Chief Convenor of the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council Election Committee, AGP Central Secretaries Sunil Rajkhowa and Parag Jyoti Barua, as well as a number of district and regional leaders and party employees, attended the meeting. The party formally declared Jun Saikia to be its candidate for the Khawhang constituency during the conference. Speaking to the assembly, AGP representatives said that corruption had grown during the Congress and BJP governments, imped-

ing the Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council’s real progress. stated that the public is now turning to AGP with renewed hopes for progress and openness after becoming disillusioned with the current government. It is noteworthy that despite being an ally in the Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government, where AGP holds ministerial representation, the party has chosen to contest the autonomous council elections independently this time, signalling a new political strategy in Assam’s regional landscape.

# Mizoram sets December 3 for Lai Autonomous District Council polls

**Aizawl, Nov 09:** The Mizoram State Election Commission (SEC) has announced that the General Election to the Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC) will be held on December 3, formally initiating the electoral process in the Lai region. The official notification was issued on Thursday, bringing the Model Code of Conduct into immediate effect, which will remain in force until the conclusion of the election process on December 12, 2025. The term of the current Members of District Council (MDCs) ends on December 18, 2025, and the upcoming elections will fill all 25 constituencies of the LADC for a new five-year term. According to SEC figures, 56,873 voters are registered for the election, comprising 27,854 men and 29,019 women. Among the constituencies, Sakeilui has the highest number of voters at 3,993, while Cheural has the fewest at 1,381. To facilitate voting, a total of 111 polling stations will be set up across the district. Of these, four stations are categorised as unmotorable, with three accessible only on foot and one reachable by boat, highlighting the logistical challenges of conducting elections in hilly and riverine areas of Mizoram. The election will be conducted under the provisions of the Lai Autonomous District Council (Constitution, Conduct of Business, etc.) Rules, 2010, as amended, and the constitutional powers granted to the SEC under Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Indian Constitution.

# Meghalaya CM lays foundation stone for World War I memorial restoration in Tura

**Shillong, Nov 09:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction and beautification of the historic Cenotaph in Tura on November 7, marking the start of a project to honour the Garo Labour Corps who served during the First World War. The initiative aims to preserve the historical significance of the site while creating a lasting tribute to the sacrifices of the Garo community during the global conflict. A dedicated committee, formed to oversee the site’s preservation and development, approved the final restoration plan after extensive consultations with civil society groups and prominent citizens of the Garo Hills.

The project seeks to blend historical accuracy with enhanced aesthetic appeal, ensuring that the memorial stands as a beacon of heritage



and remembrance for future generations. Expressing gratitude to the descendants of the Garo Labour Corps, Chief Minister Sangma wrote on X (formerly Twitter), acknowledging their presence and support during the foundation stone ceremony. He also noted that the state government would provide research assistance to historians and scholars documenting the history and contributions of the Garo Labour Corps. The committee has been tasked with preparing a comprehensive historical document, supported by government resources, to accompany the restoration. This document will highlight the wartime experiences, challenges, and sacrifices of the Garo Labour Corps, ensuring that their legacy is formally recorded and preserved.

# Mega medical camp brings healthcare relief

**Imphal, Nov 09:** A large-scale medical outreach was organised at the Leikop DIET Centre in Kangpokpi district on Friday, providing critical healthcare services to hundreds of internally displaced tribal families. The initiative, conducted as part of the upcoming Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025, marked a significant step in improving healthcare access for displaced communities in Manipur. The camp was organised by the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Government of Manipur, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Kangpokpi, and supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, observed annually on 15 November, honours India’s tribal freedom fighters, including Bhagwan Birsa Munda, and celebrates the enduring contributions of tribal communities to India’s cultural and national identity. This year’s event also coincides with the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The medical camp offered free consultations, treatment, and medicines to displaced persons sheltering at the facility.

# The commander of the Eastern Army examines border security in Dhubri

**Dhubri, Nov 09:** In order to assess the operational preparedness and internal security situation along the international border, Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen R C Tiwari visited the India-Bangladesh border areas in Assam’s Dhubri district on November 7. Lt Gen Tiwari, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Eastern Command, also laid the foundation stone for the Lachit Barphukan Military Station, a new Army facility intended to improve operational capabilities and defense infrastructure in western Assam. According to a statement from Defense PRO Lt Col Mahender Rawat, the Army Commander evaluated ongoing security measures, evaluated the formation’s infrastructure development projects, and evaluated the ground situation. The Eastern Command chief also visited the Gajraj Corps deployed in the border areas and appreciated the troops for their professionalism and preparedness. “Named after the legendary Ahom



commander Lachit Barphukan, the new military station embodies the indomitable spirit of courage, leadership, and resilience that defines the heritage of a resurgent Assam,” Lt Col Rawat said. The establishment of the new military station, he added, marks a significant step in bolstering the Army’s operational effectiveness and logistical reach in the region. Lt Gen Tiwari expressed gratitude to the Assam Government and the civil administration for their proactive support in facilitating the establishment of the military station.

He also lauded all ranks of the Gajraj Corps for their collective efforts toward ensuring the early operationalisation of the project.

BUSINESS

A huge \$38 billion contract for Nvidia chips is signed by Amazon and OpenAI

**New Delhi:** To deliver computing capacity powered by Nvidia chips, Amazon Web Services (AWS), the cloud business of Amazon.com Inc., has inked a \$38 billion agreement with OpenAI. The seven-year contract is one of the biggest cloud infrastructure agreements in artificial intelligence (AI) history and reflects OpenAI's expanding need for high-performance computing as it expands its business internationally. As part of the agreement, hundreds of thousands of Nvidia GPUs, including the newest GB200 and GB300 AI accelerators, will be made available to OpenAI by AWS. To enable ChatGPT produce quicker and more intricate responses and train upcoming AI models, these chips will be placed in specialized clusters. According to Amazon, OpenAI will start utilizing AWS's computing infrastructure right away, with the entire capacity anticipated to be accessible by the end of 2026. An option to increase OpenAI's usage of AWS services in the upcoming years is also included in the agreement. Frontier AI scaling calls on a lot of dependable computing power. In a statement, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said, "Our collaboration with AWS enhances the wide-ranging computing ecosystem that will drive this next



era and make advanced AI accessible to all." According to Amazon, OpenAI will start utilizing AWS's computing infrastructure right away, with the entire capacity anticipated to be accessible by the end of 2026. An option to increase OpenAI's usage of AWS services in the upcoming years is also included in the agreement. Frontier AI scaling calls on a lot of dependable computing power. In a statement, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said, "Our collaboration with AWS enhances the wide-ranging computing ecosystem that will drive this next era and make advanced AI accessible to all." According to Amazon, OpenAI will start utilizing AWS's computing infrastructure right away, with the entire capacity anticipated to be accessible by the end of 2026. An option to increase OpenAI's usage of AWS services in the upcoming years is also included in the agreement. Frontier AI scaling calls on a lot of dependable computing power. In a statement, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said, "Our collaboration with AWS enhances the wide-ranging computing ecosystem that will drive this next

tracting large-scale AI partnerships. Following the announcement, Amazon's shares rose 4% on Monday, closing at a record high. The stock has gained 14% over the last two trading days, marking its strongest two-day performance since November 2022. For Amazon, the agreement is seen as a strong endorsement of AWS's capacity to manage vast and complex data networks at a time when competition for AI infrastructure is heating up. Amazon remains the world's largest provider of rented computing power, but it had so far stayed on the sidelines as other major cloud companies signed billion-dollar AI hosting deals. The OpenAI-Amazon partnership follows a string of high-value infrastructure deals as the company expands its computing network beyond Microsoft's Azure cloud, its original partner. Microsoft, OpenAI's biggest investor, recently announced a \$250 billion deal for continued collaboration on Azure. Oracle Corp. signed a \$300 billion agreement to provide data centre support. Alphabet's Google Cloud Platform has also joined the list of providers powering ChatGPT. Additionally, CoreWeave Inc., a specialist AI cloud provider, has a \$22.4 billion contract with OpenAI.

IndusInd Bank aims for market-level growth, according to its new CEO

**New Delhi:** Following attempts to clean up its books and finish an organizational restructure prompted by accounting mistakes earlier this year, India's IndusInd Bank anticipates growing in tandem with the nation's banking industry next year, according to its new chief executive. The bank, whose biggest stakeholder is the Hinduja family from the UK, was in the middle of a crisis when its former CEO Sumant Kathpalia and deputy Arun Khurana left due to governance and accounting errors. In the quarter that concluded on March 31, the bank recorded its biggest-ever loss and suffered a \$230 million damage to its accounts. As its loan and deposit portfolios contracted, the bank posted a net loss in the September quarter, the first under new CEO Rajiv Anand. In an interview with Reuters in Mumbai, Anand stated, "We start to grow broadly in line with the market, particularly on the deposits side, in the financial year 2026-27." In its third year of recovery, the bank will aim to



increase its market share the following year and finally take control of a few selected segments, he said. Over the next 12 to 18 months, IndusInd wants to reach a return on assets (RoA), a measure that illustrates how well a bank uses its assets to produce profits, of 1%, according to Anand, a seasoned banker who was formerly with Axis Bank. Prior to the accounting and governance errors that resulted in a negative RoA, its RoA was nearly at this level. These oversights have hurt the bank's stock this year, which has fallen 18% so far in 2025 while the benchmark Nifty 50 has increased 8%. However,

unlike some Indian lenders who recently raised foreign capital, which caused stock prices to rise, IndusInd is unlikely to exploit a capital raise from well-known investors as a means of bolstering investor confidence. "From a growth or safety perspective, we don't now require financing. "We have enough money to sustain us for a few more years," Anand stated. "I do believe that bringing in money at this point in time, when the bank does not require capital, could potentially backfire." The bank will continue to grow its "crown jewel" of commercial vehicle financing, a sector it dominates with

*In the September quarter - the first under new chief executive Rajiv Anand - the bank reported a net loss as its loan and deposit portfolios shrank.*

a loan book worth ₹35,880 crore (\$4.08 billion). However, it plans to pare its microloan portfolio because of the volatility in the business, according to Anand. The bank is comfortable maintaining a market share of 6-8 per cent in the microloan industry, down from over 10 per cent currently, he said. IndusInd Bank will also explore new business opportunities, such as wealth management, acquisition financing and loans against shares, once regulatory norms are in place, he added. "Some of the newer businesses will certainly be of interest after regulatory easing, such as the loan against shares business, particularly given the investors coming into the market and the strong HNI (high net worth individual) business we have. That is certainly attractive to us," he said.

EPFO and IPPB collaborate to provide doorstep services for Digital Life Certificates

**New Delhi:** To make retirees' lives easier, the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have cooperated. Pensioners will no longer need to go to a bank or EPFO office in order to submit their Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) thanks to a recent agreement. Pensioners nationwide will receive the Digital Life Certificate service from IPPB thanks to this initiative. Since EPFO will cover the full cost of issuing the certificates, the service will be entirely free. A major role will be played by the India Post network, which consists of more than 1.65 lakh post offices and more than three lakh postal service personnel, including Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks. Using fingerprint or facial authentication, postal workers equipped with Doorstep Banking equipment will assist retirees in completing the process. Seniors are anticipated to profit from the program, particularly those who reside in rural or semi-urban areas with limited



access to banks and EPFO offices. They will no longer have to stand in lines or travel great distances to have their life certificates verified. According to IPPB's MD and CEO, R. Viswesvaran, the partnership bolsters the bank's objective of providing financial and civic services to all. He stated that by facilitating easy access to pension and financial services for all citizens via IPPB's reliable postal network, the collaboration with EPFO advances the government's "Digital India" and "Ease of Living" goals. Jeevan Pramaan, a digital certificate that verifies a pensioner's

life status using Aadhaar-based biometric verification, is the foundation of the Doorstep Digital Life Certificate service. In 2020, IPPB introduced this service, which enables seniors to call Gramin Dak Sevak or their local postman, or visit a post office. The certificate is made available online the following day after verification, and the pensioner receives a confirmation SMS. For thousands of elderly people with restricted mobility, the program has already saved time and effort. The latest partnership with EPFO will now expand its reach to millions under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Arbitration is used by Adani Power, Bangladesh

**New Delhi:** According to news agency Reuters, Adani Power announced Monday that it and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) would go to international arbitration to settle disputes over power supply payments. Regarding the calculation and billing of specific cost components under the power purchase agreement, the two parties have been embroiled in a dispute. The business emphasized that it is still fulfilling its contractual duty to provide power to Bangladesh and that it is getting monthly payments, as confirmed by BPDB. However, the unresolved differences over cost calculations have led both parties to formally trigger the dispute resolution mechanism outlined in their agreement. "There are disagreements in the way certain cost elements are calculated and billed. The company and the Bangladesh Power Development Board agreed to invoke the dispute resolution process," Adani Power said.



SMBC to invest \$200 million in Indian startups

**New Delhi:** A fund co-managed by Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc.'s banking division intends to invest the majority of the \$200 million it has raised in Indian companies in the hopes that the nation's thriving initial public offering (IPO) market will present cash-out opportunities. So far this year, the nation's initial public offerings have surpassed \$16 billion due to a surge in purchases by local mutual funds and insurers, as well as a surge in demand from small investors. This is increasing the likelihood that more private equity and venture capital firms would use the stock market as a platform for stake reductions or exits. According to Rajeev Ranka, a partner at the SMBC Asia Rising Fund, "the ability for these companies to tap into public markets upon maturity creates a valuable



liquidity event for potential investors." The fund has invested \$100 million in twelve Indian and Southeast Asian firms since its founding almost two years ago, including Vayana Pvt, Modifi, and M2P Solutions Pvt. According to Ranka, a couple more investments are being finalized. By the second half of 2026, SMBC plans to deploy the entire fund, with roughly 25% of the money going to businesses in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Singapore. Several factors stand out in India's fintech ecosystem, with the level of innovation and scalability unparalleled among Asian countries, he said. The latest investment strategy reinforces SMBC's increased focus on India, following the Japanese giant's recent \$1.58 billion purchase of a 20 per cent stake in local lender Yes Bank Ltd.

NTPC Green Energy would fund Rs. 1,500 crore through an NCD offering

**New Delhi:** NTPC Green Energy said that on November 11, 2025, it will issue unsecured non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis in order to raise Rs 1,500 crore. The company stated in a regulatory filing that the proceeds would be used, among other things, to finance capital expenditures, including refinancing

and recovering capital expenditures already incurred by the business, as well as to extend such financing for capital expenditures to its subsidiaries and joint ventures through inter-corporate loans, and for other general corporate purposes. According to the filing, NTPC Green Energy Ltd has decided to issue un-



secured non-convertible debentures

of Rs 1,500 crore on November 11, 2025, through private placement at a coupon of 7.01 per cent per annum for a tenor of 10 years 1 day, maturing on November 12, 2035, under the board resolution dated April 29, 2025. This is the first issue of debentures under the mentioned approval. The debentures are proposed to be listed on NSE.

NSE to launch pre-open session for F&O segment

**New Delhi:** Beginning on December 8, 2025, the National Stock Exchange will offer a pre-open session for equities futures and options (F&O). Similar to the pre-open call auction that already takes place in the equities cash market, the goal is to let the market find opening prices in index and stock futures before regular trading starts. This is intended to provide traders a better understanding of overnight sentiment and lessen abrupt price movements at market opening. The pre-open will take place from 9:00 am to 9:15 am and last for fifteen minutes. Traders can place, edit, or cancel orders in the first section of this window.



To stop last-minute manipulation, that phase will end at random between 9:07 and 9:08 am. Once the order entry period ends, the system will work out a single opening price based on demand and supply. Orders will then be matched at that price. This price discovery and matching phase will end at 9:12 am.

Adani Power wins the 2,400 MW project tender in Bhagalpur

**New Delhi:** Following a competitive bidding procedure in which the Ahmedabad-based business submitted a lower energy rate than three other bidders, including Torrent Power and JSW Energy, the Bihar government awarded the 2,400 MW Bhagalpur (Pirpainti) power project to Adani Power Ltd., according to sources. The Bhagalpur project, which is expected to quadruple the state's energy consumption to around 17,000 MW by 2034-2035, was put out to bid by the Bihar government. According to individuals with firsthand knowledge of the bidding procedure, Adani Power offered the lowest power cost of Rs 6.075 per kWh (or per unit) out of four eligible bidders. With a tariff of Rs 6.075 per kWh, which included a fixed charge of Rs 4.165 and a fuel charge of Rs 1.91 per unit, Adani Power was the lowest bidder (L1). The rate was



deemed "highly competitive" by the state administration, which pointed out that comparable recent bids in Madhya Pradesh offered higher fixed charges. At Rs 6.145 per unit, Torrent Power was the second-lowest bidder, followed by Lalitput Power Generation Co. Ltd. at Rs 6.165 and JSW Energy at Rs 6.205. According to sources, all offers were assessed using the e-bidding technique, guaranteeing complete openness and equal opportunity. The e-bidding process was

carried out in accordance with established government processes to ensure transparency. Adani's planned investment of around Rs 30,000 crore in the power project is expected to play a key role in boosting industrial activity and creating jobs. The award of the project has kicked up a political row in Bihar, which is in the midst of electioneering to elect a new government. The Congress has latched on to former union minister RK Singh's claim of a "scam" in the power purchase to attack the ruling BJP. Congress leader KC Venugopal, on Friday, in a post on X, alleged that the Adani Group was receiving "red carpet treatment" in Bihar. "The proposal for Bihar to purchase power at an inflated price of Rs 6/unit is yet another example of a complete drain of wealth from the poor and middle classes into the coffers of Modi's cronies," he alleged.

Pfizer's \$10 billion takeover offer is accepted by Metsera in the continuing M&A dispute

**New Delhi:** In what may be the conclusion of a bidding war between the New York-based pharmaceutical giant and rival Novo Nordisk that erupted over the last week, obesity medicine producer Metsera announced on Friday that it has accepted Pfizer's \$10 billion buyout offer. A strategic battle for a sought-after asset in the expanding weight-loss market began last week when Novo made an unsolicited approach after Pfizer seemed to have secured the acquisition in September. In order to overcome previous internal failures in the development of weight-loss medications, Pfizer is attempting to establish a presence in that market. According to Metsera's statement, Pfizer would pay \$86.25 per share in cash,

which is 3.69% more than Metsera's Friday closing. In addition to a contingent value right that entitles holders to additional payments of up to \$20.65 per share in cash, the offer includes \$65.60 per share in cash. Over the past week, Metsera's shares have surged due to the intensifying M&A game. Metsera's stock increased by about 60% between the time Novo intervened with its proposal and Friday's close, bringing its market worth to \$8.75 billion. Novo seemed to have the inside track for a while. After losing to Eli Lilly, Novo has been attempting to regain its dominant position in the obesity medicine market. It is unclear if it will make another offer, or if Metsera would entertain another bid.



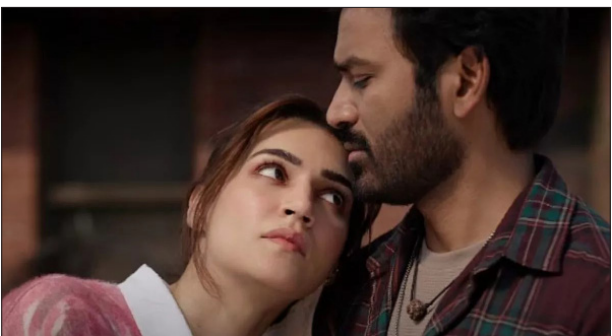
Metsera, in its Friday statement, said Novo's proposal presented "unacceptably high legal and regulatory risks" compared to the proposed merger with Pfizer, citing a call from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to discuss the risks of a transaction with Novo. The regulator sent a letter earlier this week to Novo

and Metsera, saying their proposed deal ran the risk of violating U.S. antitrust laws. Novo did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In a statement, Pfizer said it was pleased to have reached a revised agreement with Metsera, and expects to close the merger soon after Metsera's November 13 shareholder meeting.

## Usey Kehna is Dhanush, Kriti Sanon’s heartache anthem

### Tere Ishk Mein

**Mumbai:** “Tere Ishk Mein” is new song, which follows the title track, combines passion and tragedy. A new dimension of Dhanush and Kriti Sanon’s relationship in the movie is introduced via the song “Usey Kehna.”As the song begins, Mukti, played by Kriti, is moved to tears as Dhanush’s Shankar asks her whether she has ever loved him. The emotional toll that the poisonous romance has on their lives is then depicted. The spiritual follow-up to ‘Raanjhana’ provides a glimpse inside the unconventional love tale, complete with smoking, shouting, screaming, and being beaten by the police. The song pri-



marily highlights the problematic relationship, despite a few humorous images of the main protagonists grinning at one another and having a few good times. Kriti’s admission that every girl longs for a prince was the result of Dhanush’s fascina-

tion with her. ‘Usey Kehna’ ends with Dhanush begging Kriti to shoot him with a revolver, while she later tells a man to get married. She continues, “Such kind of men go far away if they see the girl with someone else.” ‘Usey Kehna’ has vocals by Nitesh

Aher and Jonita Gandhi, lyrics by Irshad Kamil and music by AR Rahman. Rahman, while sharing the inspiration behind the melody said, “This next song, ‘Usey Kehna’, was inspired from when we travelled to Himachal and witnessed the reflection of the mountains in the Ganges. Everything around inspired the creation of the melody, inspiring our teams, Aanand L Rai, Irshad Kamil, Himanshu and it evolved into something which is just the bare minimum of just the piano, strings and a newfound voice of Nitesh. ‘Usey Kehna’ is another gem, straight from our hearts.

## Shah Rukh Khan claims that K3G took advantage of him



**New Delhi:** In an interview with fans on Sunday, Shah Rukh Khan talked about how he filmed the song “Suraj Hua Maddham” from “Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.” He chuckled and acknowledged feeling uncomfortable when a still from the song played on the screen behind him. He joked that he felt “exploited” after noticing how transparent his shirt appeared on film. ‘Suraj Hua Maddham,’ sung by Sonu Nigam, features the actor romancing Kajol while looking like a handsome leading man. SRK responded to a fan’s question regarding his recollections of the song with his trademark sense of humor. “[I had no idea my shirt

would look so transparent on screen. When I saw it on the big screen, I was like — ‘What is this? I’m practically naked!]” The actor added, “That was odd. Mere toh muscle bhi aise nahi the, jaise ab hai. Jab bhi main ye dekhta hoon, thoda sa shy ho jata hoon. Mujhe lagta hai ki is film me mujhe exploit kiya gaya tha.” “[It felt odd. I didn’t even have the kind of muscles I have now. Whenever I

watch that scene, I feel a little shy. I think I was exploited in that film].” ‘Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham’ remains one of the most iconic films in Shah Rukh Khan’s career. Directed by Karan Johar, the film is celebrated for its grand emotions, memorable music, and timeless on-screen moments. SRK turned 60 on Sunday, and celebrated with around 200 fans at a special interaction session in Mumbai. He spoke about the failure of ‘Ra.One’ (2011), convincing his son Aryan Khan to direct a show like ‘The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood’, and his upcoming film ‘King’, which also marks the big-screen debut of his daughter Suhana Khan.

## Oscar-nominated actor Diane Ladd dies at 89

**New Delhi:** At the age of 89, veteran Hollywood actor Diane Ladd passed away. Ladd’s Oscar-nominated roles in “Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore,” “Wild at Heart,” and “Rambling Rose” are what made her most famous. Actress Laura Dern, her daughter, confirmed her death on Monday, November 3, People



reported. Ladd’s passing signified the end of a lengthy career in the movie business for an actress who was recognized for her skill and significant parts. “My profound gift of a mother and my amazing hero, Diane Ladd, passed with me beside her this morning, at her home in Ojai, California,” said Laura Dern, Ladd’s daughter, in a statement that was acquired by the worldwide magazine. She was the best actress, artist, grandma, daughter, mother, and compassionate soul that only dreams could have supposedly produced. She was a blessing to us. She is currently flying with her angels. She was married to actor Bruce Dern from 1960 to 1969, and the couple had two daughters, Oscar-winning actress Laura Dern and Diane Elizabeth Dern, who tragically died in 1962 at just 18 months old.

## Harshvardhan Rane, Sonam Bajwa film mints Rs.100 crore

**New Delhi:** Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, the love drama starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, is doing really well at the box office. Even in its second week, the Milap Zaveri movie is thriving thanks to positive word-of-mouth. According to the film’s makers, it has already crossed ₹100 crore in global box office receipts in just 12 days, making it one of the year’s most successful Indian productions. Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat has earned ₹66 crore nett in India in its 14-day run at the box office, according to trade analysts. The film’s producers put



the figure at ₹86 crore gross. In a social media post on Monday, Desi Movies Factory, one of the production houses behind the film, stated that Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat had earned ₹86.1 crore in India and ₹15 crore overseas by the end of its second weekend. This takes its global earnings to ₹101 crore.

According to trade sources, the figure may still be around ₹92 crore, though, and will cross ₹100 crore in a few days’ time. The year 2025 has been good for romantic dramas in Hindi cinema. While Saiyaara has been the obvious winner, minting over ₹575 crore, other films have done well too.

## Baramulla producer on how Indian storytelling is evolving



**New Delhi:** According to producer Lokesh Dhar, Indian cinema is about to embark on an exciting new chapter. Authenticity is at the forefront of storytelling, and regional boundaries are becoming less distinct. Before ‘Baramulla’ was released, he and the film’s director, Aditya Suhas, discussed the audience’s need for quality filmmaking. “I don’t think we should draw boundaries between the South, North, East, or West — it’s one country, and it’s one cinema,” Lokesh stated in an exclusive interview. From Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra in the north, there are amazing filmmakers in every region of India who are delivering something special to the big screen. All of the current trends make it very evident that the audience is looking for something real, grounded,

entertaining, and sincere. That has always been the case, but with so many options available to viewers, it’s even more obvious now,” he said. “So, filmmaking has to elevate itself — to be more authentic, more entertaining, and world-class. We’re exposed to everything today, and that’s a great challenge to rise to. I truly believe there should be no boundaries between any of our film industries. It’s one cinema, and our goal is to support

and make films that are deeply rooted in our country,” Dhar added. The producer, who is backing ‘Baramulla’, said the team’s intent was clear from the start. “We don’t want to create something just for the sake of being ‘intellectual.’ As long as the film entertains, that’s what matters most. If it also manages to educate or spark thought, that’s a bonus. Our primary goal is to tell an authentic story that keeps the viewer engaged,” he said.

## Tu Meri Main Tera, starring Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday, has been preponed

**Mumbai:** The movie “Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri,” which stars Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday, has been re-scheduled for release on December 25. Originally, Sameer Vidwans’ film was scheduled to debut in theaters on December 31. Due to the change, the movie will now be released on Christmas Day, generating excitement among viewers for the holiday season. On Monday, officials of the production company announced the revised release date. The updated itinerary was shared on Instagram by Panday and Aaryan.

The movie poster was released along with the announcement. “I’m coming again!!” was the

caption. On this occasion, December 25th is Christmas. #TuMeriMainTeraMainTeraTuMeri. The movie reunites Aaryan and Panday, who previously worked together on the Mudassar Aziz-directed 2019 film “Pati Patni Aur Woh,” which also starred Bhumi Pednekar. The movie made over Rs 100 crore at the box office, making it a commercial triumph. Sameer Vidwans, who directed “Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri,” is well-known for his film “Satyaprem Ki Katha,” in which Kartik Aaryan played the lead. Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta also join the cast in important roles, adding further experience and appeal to the ensemble. The cast



and crew are expected to begin promotional activities soon, with the film’s new release date placing it in direct competition with Agastya Nanda-starrer ‘Ikki’s’. Interest in the Christmas Day release is high, as the festive period

is often a major draw for filmgoers in India. The move to a holiday date suggests an increased expectation for strong box office performance, as previous films with major stars have performed well during this period.

## Rashmika flashes her “important” ring in the midst of Vijay Deverakonda engagement rumors



**Mumbai:** During her recent visit on the chat show “Jayammu Nischayammu Raa,” Rashmika Mandanna attracted a lot of attention because she was spotted sporting a large ring that was presumably from her engagement to Vijay Deverakonda. The episode, which was shot in Hyderabad,

comes after rumors circulated that the two actors had a private engagement ceremony, however they have not made the announcement public.

The show’s host, Jagapathi Babu, made lighthearted remarks to Rashmika Mandanna throughout the episode, referring to the rings she was

wearing. They are ‘chala (extremely) important’ rings, according to the ‘Thamma’ actor. When he inquired, “Among them is your favorite ring, and it has a history to it,” the discussion took a significant turn. The audience cheered and applauded, which caused Rashmika to react visibly.

Rashmika addressed the excited audience directly, grinning at the attention. In response to the enthusiasm, she said, “I am enjoying it.” The scene swiftly emerged as the episode’s high point and was extensively disseminated on social media, which helped the show’s promo become viral. Reportedly, Rashmika and Vijay’s engagement took place in the presence of their family members and close friends. It is being speculated that the two will get married in a destination wedding in February. However, an official announcement is still awaited.

## Shah Rukh Khan’s 60th birthday brings a furious new avatar



**New Delhi:** Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan gave his fans a royal surprise on his 60th birthday by revealing the eagerly anticipated title of his next movie, King. The actor’s brief social media teaser, which revealed a taste of his passionate new persona, immediately went viral. “Sau deshon mein badnaam, Duniya ne diya sirf ek hi naam — #KING #KingTitleReveal,” SRK tweeted when sharing the video on X. It’s Time for the Show! In theaters in 2026.

The post sent fans into a frenzy, implying a high-octane, spectacular return. Social media sites were inundated with responses in a matter of minutes. “Finally, my King is back,” remarked one fan, while another wrote, “King is always a King.” “One man, countless emotions — Happy Birthday King,” a third person said. Industry insiders indicate that King represents a new, action-packed stage in Shah Rukh Khan’s career, building on the momentum from his recent blockbusters, even if the premise of the movie is yet unknown. King, which will be released in theaters in 2026 and is directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment, is expected to be one of SRK’s most ambitious films to date.

## Raat Akeli Hai Nawazuddin is investigating a fresh murder case in The Bansal Murders

**New Delhi:** In the recently revealed “Raat Akeli Hai” sequel, Nawazuddin Siddiqui will play Inspector Jatil Yadav again. ‘Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders’ is a crime-thriller that also stars Radhika Apte and has a new cast that plays new roles. Smita Singh and Honey Trehan will return as writer and director, respectively, in the second part of the Netflix crime-thriller.

‘Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders’ centres on Jatil Yadav as he becomes entangled in yet another intricate investigation—a terrifying case of cold-blooded murder—set a few years after the events of the first movie, which was released in 2020 to a resounding reception. As a result, long-kept secrets within a prominent family are revealed. Jatil is forced to face the difficult balance between truth and consequence once more as the mystery becomes more complex.”



Jatil Yadav is a character very close to me, flawed and restless, yet relentless in pursuit of justice,” Nawazuddin said, reprising his role in the sequel. ‘Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders’, the sequel, presents him with a case that challenges all of his convictions.

Every clue conceals a secret in the universe that Smita and Honey have

built, which seems genuine and unvarnished. “Coming back as Inspector Jatil Yadav feels like returning to unfinished business. I’m grateful to RSVP, MacGuffin Pictures, and Netflix for giving me the chance to explore new layers of this character. I am excited for audiences to see more from the man behind the uniform,” he added.

## HAQ creators receive a legal notice from Shah Bano’s family

**Mumbai:** ‘HAQ’ director Supam Verma, Jungle Pictures, Baweja Studios, and the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) received a legal notification on Monday from Shah Bano’s daughter and heir, Siddique Begum. The letter asked for “immediate restraint on the publication, screening, promotion or release of the upcoming film,” claiming a “unauthorised depiction of her personal life without the consent of her legal heirs.” Both Emraan Hashmi and Yami Gautam appear in the movie; the latter portrays Shah Bano. The movie re-examines the Supreme Court’s historic ruling in the Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum case, which sparked public discussion more than 40 years ago and is still relevant today. Equal access to justice and the continuous conflict between individual religious rules and more general secular ideals were raised by the case. Siddique’s attorney, Tauseef Warsi, told



news agency ANI, “The movie ‘HAQ’ will be out on November 7. In the MA Khan vs. Shah Bano Begum case, this movie is a milestone case. A Muslim lady successfully battled for maintenance for the first time in Indian history. He added, “It is mandatory to obtain someone’s consent before using their personal life or name, as this falls under the right to privacy. This is a fundamental right. Shah Bano Begum’s biological daughter, Siddique Begum, is alive and had no knowledge of this film. She learnt about it as

soon as the teaser was released. Therefore, we have filed a petition against it in the High Court. We have asked for a stay on the movie.” Earlier, the family had filed a petition in Indore High Court seeking an immediate stay on the release of the film. During the launch of the film, the makers highlighted the reason behind bringing this forth to the audience. The film’s creators highlighted the broader social questions raised by the case. They asked: “Shouldn’t the opportunity of justice be equal for all? Where do

we draw the line between personal belief and secular law? And should there be a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?” In ‘HAQ’, Yami Gautam Dhar plays a Muslim woman wronged and abandoned by her husband. She decides to fight for her rights and those of her children under section 125. The narrative begins as a personal story but grows into a courtroom drama exploring critical issues of law, religion, and identity. The film also features Sheeba Chaddha, Danish Hussain, and Aseem Hatangady.

# The Veggie Table: Vegetarian Bagged Lunches

Growing up, I always brought a bagged lunch to school and stuck with what I liked: a turkey sandwich, apple, pretzels and a drink. I still pack my lunch daily, but these days it's to bring to work, and it's always vegetarian. Here are some of my favorite veg lunches to try if you're looking for new meat-free bagged lunch options to bring to work, or to pack for your kids as a new school year is upon us. Don't forget to include an ice pack or frozen beverage to keep your lunch cool.

## Sandwiches, Roll-Ups, Wraps and Pockets

I like variety when it comes to my sandwiches, both on the inside and outside. So instead of the standard slices of whole wheat bread, I use whole wheat tortillas, pita pockets, English muffins, and sandwich thins to stuff with sandwich fillings. Love making wraps? Roll one with spicy hummus, soy cheese, and layers of veggies like roasted red peppers, spinach, and zucchini slices. Try a tomato basil sandwich on crusty bak-



ery bread using fresh tomato slices, thin strips of basil, and a slice of mozzarella cheese or babaganoush spread, if you don't eat cheese. Use leftover grilled veggies in a pressed panini with pesto spread. Or stuff a pita pocket with homemade tofu salad and some crunchy romaine lettuce. If you love using leftovers like I do, roll rice and beans into a burrito topped with spicy salsa, or use last night's stir fry to

make an Asian wrap.

## Pack a Platter

Sometimes packed lunches feel fancier if you make a spread of healthy ingredients. I like packing small containers of hummus, cut veggies, whole wheat crackers, grapes, and edamame to eat when I'm not in the mood for a standard sandwich. Kids love lunch like this too since they get to eat with their hands!

## Soups and Stews

When the weather starts to cool down, I crave steamy, hearty soups and stews. I bring my favorite minestrone or lentil soup to lunch in an insulated thermos that keeps it hot until my lunch break. Or you can pack your soup in a microwavable glass container to heat when you're ready to eat. When you're packing your veg lunch, think outside the lunch box to make a mid-day meal that satisfies you.

# Best fruits to mix with chia seeds for a filling meal

If you're looking for a way to boost your meal with fiber, healthy fats, and loads of nutrients, chia seeds are your new best friend. These tiny little powerhouses are packed with omega-3s, protein, and fiber, making them perfect for creating a filling, energizing meal. But what's even better is mixing them with fruits that are both delicious and nourishing! Here are some of the best fruits to pair with chia seeds for a satisfying meal. Berries—blueberries, strawberries, raspberries—are a delicious and juicy way to add some extra nutrients to your meals. Packed with antioxidants, they make the perfect pairing for chia seeds. Together, they create a sweet-tart burst of flavour that's as refreshing as it is healthy. Add them into a chia pudding or smoothie for a satisfying, guilt-free treat that feels like dessert! If you're in the mood for something crunchy and refreshing, apples are a fantastic choice. Their natural sweetness pairs perfectly with the slight nutty taste of chia seeds. Slice up your favourite apple and toss it into a chia bowl, or chop it into pieces and blend it into a smoothie. Apples are full of fibre, which helps keep you full longer—so this combo is perfect for a satisfying midday snack or breakfast. Mangoes are like sunshine in fruit form, bringing

a sweet tropical flavour that goes perfectly with chia seeds. Packed with vitamin C to boost your immune system, mangoes create a creamy, pudding-like texture when mixed with chia. It's a delicious and nutritious combo! Blend fresh or frozen mango into a chia pudding or smoothie for a delicious and filling tropical treat that will transport you straight to paradise. Kiwi is a little tangy, sweet, and full of vitamins and fibre. Its bright, zesty flavour is the perfect complement to chia seeds' neutral taste. Plus, it's packed with vitamin C and antioxidants that help keep your skin glowing and your body feeling fresh. Chop up some kiwi and mix it with your chia seeds for a refreshing breakfast or snack, or blend it into a smoothie for a tangy, energising boost! Peaches are the perfect addition to your chia seed meal if you want something juicy and slightly sweet. Packed with vitamins A and C, peaches help keep your skin healthy and sup-

port your immune system. Their natural sweetness blends wonderfully with chia seeds, so whether you're mixing them into a smoothie, chia pudding, or yoghurt parfait, you'll have a satisfying, refreshing meal every time. Pineapple isn't just tasty—it's packed with nutrients! Its perfect mix of sweetness and tartness makes it a great match for chia seeds. When combined, they create a flavorful burst in your mouth. Pineapple is full of vitamin C, which boosts your immune system, and bromelain, an enzyme that helps with digestion. Whether you're in the mood for something sweet, juicy, creamy, or tangy, there's a perfect fruit combo here for every craving. The best part is Chia seeds pairs with just about any fruit, giving you a boost of fibre, protein, and healthy fats. So next time you want a filling, energising meal, grab some chia seeds, add your favourite fruit, and enjoy a wholesome, delicious dish that'll keep you satisfied and fueled for hours!



# How much instant ramen is safe to eat in winter? Benefits and side effects of your favorite noodles

A pot of noodles, with veggies, eggs, and meat of your choice immersed in soup with a hint of spice - is what comfort is all about. Ramen is a Japanese noodle soup, with a combination of a rich flavored broth, one of a variety of types of noodles, and a selection of meats or vegetables, often topped with a boiled egg. It includes Chinese-style wheat noodles served in a broth, common flavors are soy sauce and miso, with typical toppings including sliced pork, nori (dried seaweed), menma (bamboo shoots), and scallions. Ramen is usually thicker in texture as compared to regular noodles. They are not as thick as other varieties, but they have a somewhat medium thickness and a chewy texture. Whereas noodles come in a variety of forms and are known for having a thinner consistency with a smoother texture. Instant ramen noodles are a type of noodle that comes in a block form and are flavored with a packet of seasoning oil or flavoring.

They are usually sold in packets or cups that are ready to cook, and some are fried instead of boiled. Instant ramen is made from processed wheat flour and often includes vegetables or pieces of meat and chicken. The ramen noodles are commonly made from wheat flour, water, salt, and kansui, an alkaline mineral that gives the noodles their yellow color, elasticity, and chewiness. Even in today's inflated economy, the iconic colorfully packaged squares of dehydrated noodles can still cost as little as 30 cents apiece - a bargain when you consider that for many people, one package counts as an entire meal. While that price point might not seem very profitable, the company Maruchan which makes a large percentage of those little packages in the U.S., says on its website that it produces 3.6 billion units of the soup every year. That statistic is impressive on its own, but Maruchan is just one of more than a dozen major producers of instant ramen, and many retail stores and restaurants offer more traditional forms

of the product as well. Instant ramen was created in 1958 by the founder of Nissin Foods - a man by the name of Momofuku Ando. Ando discovered that by frying the noodles in oil, he could dehydrate them for easy storage before rehydrating them in boiled water to become fresh noodles again. Ando was inspired to create instant ramen after seeing people in post-war Japan struggling to afford a hot meal. He wanted to create a convenient and affordable option for them. Ando's method for making instant ramen included: Noodle-making, Steaming, Seasoning, and Dehydrating in oil heat. The noodles were ready to eat in two minutes by adding boiling water. They had a long shelf life that exceeded that of frozen noodles. Ando's company, Nissin Foods, created Cup Noodles in 1971. Although a bowl of ramen noodles is packed with several nutritious ingredients, the majority of people living in the U.S. don't think of fancy Japanese cuisine when they hear "ramen." Instead, LeeAnn Weintraub, a registered dietitian

and nutrition consultant based in Los Angeles, told USA Today, that what comes to their mind is its instant variety - "a pre-packaged version of the dish that has become a convenient meal for people with busy schedules, including college students." Instant ramen still has similar trademark noodles as its traditional counterpart - and each colorful package also contains a packet of flavored seasoning powder such as beef, pork, shrimp, and chicken. Some varieties of instant ramen also come with dehydrated vegetables such as peas, carrots, and corn - and some people also add their own toppings to instant ramen at home. Though instant ramen noodles provide iron, B vitamins, and manganese, they lack fiber, protein, and other crucial vitamins and minerals. Additionally, their MSG, TBHQ, and high sodium contents may negatively affect health, such as by increasing your risk of heart disease, stomach cancer, and metabolic syndrome. Instant ramen noodles can have several negative health



effects, including: High sodium: A single serving of instant noodles can contain

more than half of the recommended daily sodium intake.

## Healthier Hot Dogs to Bring to Your Next Cookout

I used to be totally against anything related to a hot dog. Three kids later, I find myself turning to them as a viable option for backyard barbecues or last-minute weeknight dinner. Part of the reason I changed my mind was because of healthier options now readily available. After reading tons of ingredient labels, I found some decent choices out there, with something to please everyone (including vegetarians). Now that grilling season is here, here are some of the top dogs I'm bringing to my next cookout.

### What's In a Traditional Hot Dog?

A typical hot dog may contain lower quality ingredients and oodles of preservatives. Nitrates are often used to enhance color and increase shelf-life. Classic hot dogs may be made of pork or beef (or both). They typically contain about 150 to 180 calories per link. Where it gets really ugly is the fat and sodium. One link has (on average) 14 grams of total fat, 5 grams of saturated fat and 600 milligrams of sodium, or nearly 25 percent of the daily limit. Look for dogs with no more than 350 to 450 milligrams of sodium and little or no saturated fats.

### Healthier Hot Dogs You Can Buy

Beef, spices and that's about it. These tasty hot dogs are free of nitrates and have only 110 calories and 9 grams of fat per serving. Organic versions are also available and Applegate uses 100% grass fed beef and zero antibiotics in all their products. Applegate Farms wins out for poultry too. Nothing but simple ingredients going into this 70-calorie dog with only 3.5 grams of fat.

### Field Roast Signature Stadium Plant-Based Hot Dogs

Super popular among vegetarians and meat-eaters alike, this smoked, plant-based dog contains 110 calories, 7 grams of fat and 300 mg sodium. Made from proteins from peas, fava beans and brown rice and flavored with garlic and black pepper, the flavor and texture doesn't disappoint. you can even get your hot dogs made from salmon. Sustainable salmon has been transformed into 3.5-ounce dogs featuring flavors like Original and Jalapeno Cheese. They have about 200 calories, 13 grams of protein and 15 grams of fat - much of which comes from the heart-healthy omega-3 variety. These are higher in sodium, but provide a substantial amount of protein for a main course.



# What Are the Health Benefits of Hibiscus Tea

As more people seek healthier choices in their diets, hibiscus tea and hibiscus water have come up as refreshing options that provide naturally sweetened ways to hydrate. But hibiscus tea is much more than just a jewel-toned drink; it's a beverage packed with a variety of health benefits making it a nourishing choice for those looking to improve their overall well-being. Hibiscus tea originated in the regions of Africa, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. It has a rich history of being used in traditional medicine for its various health benefits. In fact, hibiscus tea has been consumed for centuries in these regions as a natural remedy for ailments ranging from high blood pressure to digestive issues. Hibiscus tea is made by steeping one to two teaspoons of dried hibiscus flower petals in hot water for about five to 10 minutes, depending on how strong you prefer the flavor. For those who prefer a colder, more refreshing version, hibiscus tea can also be served chilled over ice. Adding a touch of sweetener such as honey or agave can balance out the tartness, but it can also be enjoyed plain.

## The Health Benefits of Hibiscus Tea

Drinking hibiscus tea may provide several health benefits that can contribute to your overall well-being.

### May support heart health

Hibiscus tea has been shown to have



potential positive effects on cardiovascular health. Studies show that consuming hibiscus tea can lead to a significant reduction in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure, especially in individuals with mild to moderate hypertension. Hibiscus flowers contain powerful antioxidants such as anthocyanins, flavonoids and polyphenols, which play a crucial role in supporting heart health by improving blood vessel function and promoting healthy circulation. The combination of these compounds in hibiscus flowers not only makes it a heart-healthy drink, but also a natural alternative for managing blood pressure..

### May promote digestive health

Hibiscus tea can also benefit digestion.

It contains mild diuretic properties, which can be especially beneficial for individuals who experience bloating or feel uncomfortable due to excess water in the body. In addition to its diuretic effect, hibiscus tea is believed to contain soothing properties for the digestive system, and is often used to relieve symptoms of indigestion, such as bloating, gas and occasional stomach discomfort. The antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds found in hibiscus, such as flavonoids and polyphenols, may also play a significant role in supporting gastrointestinal health. These compounds help to protect the digestive tract from damage caused by oxidative stress, which can lead to chronic inflammation and contribute to

gastrointestinal issues. By neutralizing these harmful free radicals, hibiscus tea may help reduce inflammation in the gut and promote digestive health.

### May provide stress relief

Hibiscus tea is not only refreshing but can also help to reduce stress and promote relaxation, which is crucial for maintaining mental and physical well-being. Studies show that hibiscus extract contains compounds that may produce mild anxiety-reducing effects. These compounds help to calm the nervous system and ease tension by modulating neurotransmitter activity and reducing inflammation. This can help ease tension in both the body and mind, and improve overall mental well-being.

### How To Enjoy Hibiscus Tea

There are so many delicious ways to enjoy hibiscus tea beyond the traditional hot beverage. Here are a few ideas: Iced Hibiscus Tea: This refreshing option is perfect for warmer weather. Simply brew hibiscus tea and chill it in the refrigerator for a cool, tangy drink. Smoothies: Try adding hibiscus tea to your favorite smoothie recipe for a burst of color and a slightly tart flavor. Cocktails and Mocktails: Use hibiscus tea as a base for both cocktails and mocktails, and pair it with a variety of fruits and herbs to create a unique drink.

Lemonade: Mix hibiscus tea with freshly squeezed lemon or lime juice for a zesty, vibrant twist on the classic lemonade recipe.

# Yami Gautam’s Rs 13K Blush Pink Suit Look Is Soft, Serene, And Stunning

There was a quiet radiance about Yami Gautam as she embodied the spirit of soft sophistication in a pastel pink ensemble that blended tradition with modern serenity. Her look wasn’t about extravagance; it was about the kind of beauty that lingers. It was calm, confident, and deeply rooted in grace. For the promotions of Haq, Yami Gautam wore a pink kurta set by Saundh – the ensemble celebrated craftsmanship through delicate detailing and fluid textures. The kurta, in a muted blush tone, carried an understated sheen that played beautifully against the light. Its neckline, gently embroidered, framed her face with quiet refinement, while the printed dupatta



brought depth and narrative with its symphony of intricate patterns and soft hues that were reminiscent of traditional jharokhas and Mughal-era artistry. Her choice of accessories elevated the look with effortless charm. Earrings and a slender bangle added a whisper of luxury rather than a statement of

excess. Each piece felt intentional – curated to complement, not compete. What truly set the look apart was Yami’s natural poise. Her loose, flowing hair and minimal makeup allowed the outfit’s pastel palette to breathe, creating harmony between person and garment. It was less about dressing up and more about celebrating self-assurance in its most serene form. In an era where fashion often chases the dramatic, Yami’s choice spoke volumes through restraint. She reminded us that style doesn’t need to shout. Sometimes, it’s in the softness of silk, the shimmer of embroidery, or the simplicity of a smile. This appearance wasn’t merely a fashion moment; it was a reflection of authenticity – a reminder that grace, like good design, never goes out of style.

# The Unexpected Oral Health Side Effects Of Keto, Fasting, And Vegan Diets

As health trends evolve, our plates have become laboratories of experimentation – from keto and intermittent fasting to veganism and paleo. While these diets promise glowing skin, sharper focus, and improved metabolism, few realise their impact extends beyond the gut and into the mouth. Dentists and dietitians now warn that what we eat, and how often, can silently alter saliva flow, enamel strength, and gum health. “An increased risk of cavities is caused by frequent consumption of sugary or starchy foods and drinks, along with dry mouth from low saliva flow,” explains Swati Mohapatra, Chief Dietitian, Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. She adds



that the ketogenic diet in particular can trigger xerostomia, or dry mouth, due to reduced carbohydrate intake, which in turn lowers saliva production. “This can increase the risk of cavities, periodontal disease, and bad breath,” she adds. According to Lt Gen Dr Vimal Arora (Retd), Chief Clinical Officer, Clove Den-



tal, saliva plays a far more important role than most realise. “It constantly washes away food debris, neutralises acids, and helps repair early enamel damage by supplying calcium and phosphate,” he says. Any diet that disrupts hydration, nutrients, or metabolism can weaken this natural defence. Low-carb diets like keto may seem cavity-friendly due to reduced sugar intake, but without adequate hydration or minerals, saliva flow can drop dramatically. Over

time, this creates the perfect environment for tooth decay and sensitivity. Meanwhile, vegan and plant-based diets, though rich in antioxidants, may fall short in key nutrients like vitamin B12, calcium, and vitamin D, essential for strong teeth and gums. “Regular intake of acidic foods and smoothies can soften enamel if saliva isn’t replenishing minerals fast enough,” notes Dr Arora. For those following intermittent fasting, long gaps without eating can slow down

saliva production, leaving the mouth dry for extended periods. Mohapatra points out that breaking a fast with acidic drinks such as lemon water or coffee can worsen enamel erosion. Restrictive diets also alter gum health. Diets lacking antioxidants or omega-3 fatty acids may make gums more prone to inflammation and slower to heal. “Just as enamel reflects what we eat, gums mirror how well the body is nourished,” Dr Arora adds. Balanced, plant-rich



Your 30s are often when life feels at its busiest – careers peak, responsibilities multiply, and self-care quietly slips to the sidelines. But biologically, this decade marks a subtle turning point. Metabolism slows down, collagen production drops, and the body’s natural repair mechanisms begin to lose efficiency. The good news? You can hack biology to your advantage. According to experts, ageing gracefully isn’t about expensive supplements or complicated regimens. It’s about syncing with your body’s natural rhythm through simple, daily habits that support longevity from within.



## Longevity Secrets: 5 Biohacks That Keep You Young Beyond 30

**Sleep: The Ultimate Anti-Ageing Elixir** “Sleep like it’s medicine. One night of poor sleep can make you as insulin-resistant as a pre-diabetic. Deep sleep repairs DNA and restores hormones,” says Dr. Arpit Bansal, Cancer Surgeon & Longevity Specialist. Prioritising 7–8 hours of uninterrupted rest helps stimulate growth hormone secretion, repair tissues, and maintain optimal energy balance. Dr. Pratyaksha Bhardwaj, World Record Holder Dietician and Weight Management Expert, adds, “A consistent sleep routine supports the body’s natural regeneration process, keeping both skin and metabolism youthful.” **Eat And Hydrate For Cellular Youth** What you eat in your 30s has a profound impact on how you age in your 40s and beyond. Dr. Bhardwaj recommends a diet rich in lean proteins, omega-3

fats, berries, and green vegetables to preserve muscle mass, maintain skin elasticity, and combat oxidative stress. Intermittent fasting patterns, like the 16:8 method, can further enhance cellular repair through autophagy, the body’s natural detox mechanism. Hydration, too, is critical – not just for the skin but for every cell in your body. “Even a 2% drop in body water reduces mental performance by 20%,” warns Dr. Bansal. Staying hydrated ensures your mitochondria function optimally, slowing the biological ageing process from the inside out. **Movement And Mind: The Longevity Duo** Exercise is one of the most effective anti-ageing biohacks. Weight training helps maintain muscle mass, bone density, and

metabolic rate – all of which naturally decline with age. “Regular resistance training prevents bone loss and keeps the muscles strong, aiding longevity,” says Dr. Bhardwaj. But longevity isn’t only about physical endurance. It’s equally about emotional balance. Dr. Bansal emphasises the importance of mental flow: “Flow releases dopamine, endorphins, and serotonin — the natural youth molecules.” Activities that promote focus and creativity, such as dancing, painting, or mindful breathing, can keep stress hormones in check and promote a youthful brain. **Reconnect With Nature And Breath** Our modern lives are dominated by screens and indoor routines, but nature remains a timeless healer. Dr. Bansal suggests

spending the first hour of the day outdoors, grounding and breathing deeply to reset the body’s circadian rhythm. Training your breath and improving CO<sub>2</sub> tolerance through controlled breathing techniques can improve emotional resilience and cardiovascular health, which are key pillars of longevity. **Small Shifts, Big Impact** The real secret to delaying ageing isn’t hidden in serums or supplements. It’s in the small, consistent biohacks you commit to daily. Sleeping deeply, eating clean, hydrating well, moving regularly, and staying connected to nature form the foundation of lifelong vitality. By your 40s, these habits won’t just make you look younger. They’ll make you feel stronger, sharper, and more alive.

## Doctors Explain The Real Reasons Behind The Rise Of Colon Cancer In The Young

Once considered a disease of those over 50, colon cancer is increasingly being diagnosed in people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. This unsettling trend has doctors across the world raising red flags. The change isn’t confined to any one region – even India is seeing a sharp rise in younger patients affected by this condition. Lifestyle choices, environmental exposure, and genetic factors seem to be working together to create the ‘perfect storm’ for early-onset colon cancer. “The significant change in dietary and lifestyle habits is one of the main reasons behind this surge. Our diets have shifted heavily toward processed and ultra-processed foods that are high in sugar and unhealthy fats, while being very low in dietary fiber,” says Dr. Mandeep Singh Malhotra, Director of Surgical Oncology at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi. This shift has coincided with reduced physical activity, higher stress levels, and increased obesity – all of which contribute to inflammation and metabolic imbalance. Dr. Kumardeep Dutta Choudhury, Director of Medi-

cal Oncology, Max Hospital Shalimar Bagh, adds, “Young people eat more fast foods, red meat, and sugary drinks, but don’t eat enough fruits, vegetables, and fiber. This kind of diet can hurt gut health and make inflammation worse.” A growing body of research links colon health to the gut microbiome – the trillions of bacteria living in the digestive tract. Disruption in this delicate ecosystem, often caused by poor diet, antibiotics, and environmental pollution, can trigger inflammation and even genetic changes. “Our traditional diets once supported a healthy gut flora but modern eating patterns have altered this balance,” explains Dr. Malhotra. Echoing this, Dr. Tapan Singh Chauhan, Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology at Artemis Hospitals, notes that “an imbalance in the gut microbiome influences how the body manages inflammation and toxins,” making it a potential driver of early colon cancer. Environmental pollution adds another layer to the problem. Toxins in food, water, and air – from pesticides to industrial contaminants – can damage cells and increase cancer risk over time. Genetics, too, play a role:

around 15–20 per cent of colon cancer cases are hereditary, says Dr. Malhotra, meaning that individuals with a family history must be particularly cautious and consider early screening. One of the biggest challenges, experts agree, is delayed diagnosis. “Younger patients often ignore early signs like changes in bowel habits, blood in stool, or unexplained weight loss,” says Dr. Chauhan. Many assume these symptoms are minor digestive issues, which means the disease often advances before detection. The experts unanimously emphasise that colon cancer is not just an older person’s disease anymore. To reduce risk, they recommend a diet rich in fibre, fruits, and vegetables; limiting red and processed meats; staying physically active; maintaining a healthy weight; avoiding tobacco and alcohol; and scheduling screenings, especially for those with a family history. While genetics can’t be changed, lifestyle and awareness can make a powerful difference. As early-onset colon cancer continues to rise, it’s clear that prevention, vigilance, and timely action are the best defences against this growing health concern.



SPORTS

# Nuno Espirito Santo Applauds His First Victory as Manager of West Ham United

**New Delhi:** Nuno Nuno At the London Stadium on Sunday, Espirito Santo celebrated his first victory as manager of West Ham after his energetic squad overcame a 3-1 deficit to defeat Newcastle. After only their second Premier League victory of the season, the Hammers are still in the relegation zone and are only three points below Burnley, who are in 17th position and will meet them next week. Jacob Murphy’s brilliant early goal gave Eddie Howe’s Newcastle the lead, but Lucas Paqueta tied the score and the home club took the lead at half-time thanks to an own goal from the unlucky Sven Botman. Santo Celebrates His First Victory as Manager of West Ham United.

Newcastle dominated possession in the early going, pinning West Ham back, and Howe made drastic changes at halftime to reenergize his struggling team. However, the visitors attacked bluntly, and in the final seconds, Tomas Soucek



secured all three points. Just over two weeks after being fired by Nottingham Forest, who are also in the drop zone, Nuno was named manager of West Ham in late September. However, waiting for his first victory has required patience on the part of the Portuguese. Just 26 seconds after Jarrod Bowen’s drive at the other end clattered off the post, Murphy gave Newcastle the lead in the fourth minute with

a fizzing effort from the edge of the box. Six minutes later, referee Robert Jones gave West Ham a penalty after concluding that Malick Thiaw had brought Bowen down. However, a VAR review overturned the call because Thiaw had touched the ball. In the 35th minute, Paqueta hit a stunning shot from outside the box past the scrambling Nick Pope to give the

Hammers a well-earned equalizer. And they took the lead just before halftime when Botman’s effort to intercept a low pass from defender Aaron Wan-Bissaka left Pope stranded after it was cut into his own net. At halftime, Howe substituted Emil Krafth, Nick Woltemade, and Anthony Gordon with Fabian Schar, William Osula, and Jacob Ramsey. The visitors controlled the ball, but West Ham threatened a third goal and Pope was called into action twice in quick succession at the other end. With just over 20 minutes left, Hammers midfielder Freddie Potts had the ball in the net, but the goal was disallowed for offside. Soucek had the final laugh as Newcastle persisted in their efforts but was unable to produce an equalizer. West Ham’s victory marks their first Premier League home victory since February, while Newcastle’s loss drops them to 13th place in the standings.

# Guwahati will host its very first Test match

## Tea before lunch

**New Delhi:** Guwahati is poised to create cricket history when it stages its first-ever Test match. The second Test of the series, which will take place from November 22 to November 26, 2025, will pit South Africa against India. In addition to the milestone, the game will record a first in the lengthy history of Test cricket by introducing a tea break before to lunch, which is a unique change to the game’s customary timings. The competition will start at 9:00 AM IST and last for five days. The first session will run from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, with a 20-minute tea break until 11:20 AM. The players will take a 40-minute lunch break following the second session, which runs from 11:20 AM to 1:20 PM today. The last meeting is scheduled at 2:00-4:00 PM. The rearranged format has been introduced to tackle Guwahati’s shorter daylight hours, caused by early sunsets typical of the region during this time of year. Explaining the decision, a BCCI official told The Indian Express, “The reason to have early tea is because Guwahati witnesses early sunsets and there is an early start too. We have chosen to alter the tea session for the first time in order to save time and gain more playing time



on the field. The modification was made by the BCCI and match officials in an effort to extend playing time and reduce interruptions from bad light, which is a common problem in the Northeast. In addition to guaranteeing fluid gameplay, the change establishes a new standard for scheduling in locations with comparable environmental factors. Traditionally, the tea break follows the second session, but this ‘tea before lunch’ experiment will be watched closely by players, broadcasters, and fans worldwide. If successful, it could redefine how Test cricket adapts to regional conditions in the future.

## Arshdeep, Washington and Jitesh shine as India draw level in T20I series



**New Delhi:** Following three changes to their playing XI in Hobart on Sunday, India achieved a five-wicket victory to tie the T20I series 1-1, with notable contributions from Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, and Jitesh Sharma. Despite David’s quick 74 off 38, Arshdeep restricted Australia to 186/6 with his 3/35, which included the crucial wickets of Travis Head, Josh Inglis, and Marcus Stoinis. He was named Man of the Match. In addition to taking two crucial wickets, Varun Chakravarthy and Jasprit Bumrah were both frugal with the ball. India’s top order once again struggled to build on their early success in their chase of 187, but Washington and Jitesh did a fantastic job with an undefeated 43-run partnership. Washington, who didn’t get to bowl, made his second-highest T20I score of 49 not out off 23 balls while Jitesh made 22 not out off 13 in his first T20I in over 18 months after replacing Sanju Samson.

# Timeless Rohan Bopanna says goodbye to playing tennis professionally

**New Delhi:** One of India’s most iconic athletes, Rohan Bopanna, has retired from professional tennis at the age of 45, capping a two-decade career characterized by discipline, devotion, and quiet genius. “How do you say goodbye to something that gave your life meaning?” Bopanna said in an emotional statement titled “A Goodbye But Not the End,” which was posted on November 1, 2025. After twenty incredible years of touring, I’m formally hanging up my racquet. The message resonated with tennis fans worldwide, perfectly encapsulating the spirit of a player who redefined grace and longevity in the game. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports, Bopanna received the Padma Shri earlier this year, India’s fourth-highest civilian honor. At Rashtrapati Bhavan in April 2024, President Droupadi Murmu gave him the honor. Bopanna called the ceremony “humbling and emotional, a tribute to every Indian athlete who never stops believing, no matter their age.” Bopanna’s farewell was filled with thankfulness rather than nostalgia, as was typical of his personality. “Every time I stepped onto a court, it reminded me of perseverance and purpose,” he said, thanking his



family, partners, coaches, and supporters for their everlasting support. As he steps away from the court, Bopanna’s legacy transcends titles—he leaves behind a story of resilience, belief and the timeless art of playing with

heart. Throughout his career, Bopanna earned numerous laurels, rising steadily in stature with every passing year. Rohan Bopanna won the French Open 2017 mixed doubles title with Gabriela Dabrowski, becoming one of the few Indians to capture a Grand Slam crown along with Leander Paes, Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi. Rohan Bopanna won the men’s doubles titles at the 2024 Australian Open with Matthew Ebden. At 43, he became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam men’s doubles title in the Open Era. Rohan Bopanna became the world No. 1 in men’s doubles in January 2024, making history as the oldest player ever to debut at the top of the rankings. At the 2023 US Open, Rohan Bopanna, partnering Matthew Ebden, became the oldest Grand Slam finalist in men’s doubles history. Rohan Bopanna has won a total of 25 ATP titles — including 6 ATP Masters 1000 titles, 5 ATP 500 titles, and 14 ATP 250 titles. Rohan Bopanna became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion at age 43 after winning the 2023 Indian Wells title with Matthew Ebden. Bopanna repeated the feat by becoming the oldest player to win a Masters 1000 title once again, capturing the Miami Open crown at the age of 44.

# Rashford could be more clinical in front of goal

**New Delhi:** Barcelona defeated Elche 3-1 in La Liga on Sunday thanks to a goal from Marcus Rashford, but manager Hansi Flick stated the attacker still has room to improve on the chances he gets in the last third. The defending champions moved up to second position with 25 points, five points behind Real Madrid, thanks to a goal from Rashford from a close angle. Since joining Barcelona on loan from Manchester United in July, the England international has scored six goals in all competitions. Given his opportunities, Flick told reporters, “I think one or two more goals will be good, also for him.” “I know that he can play on this level and I am happy he shows it, for the fans and for the club, and also for the teammates he is a very important player.” Rashford acknowledged that his decision making has room to improve. “I just try to do the right things on the pitch. Even today, I could have had more assists or goals, sometimes the decision to shoot or pass was wrong,” the 28-year-old told Spanish media. “But I am going to have days like this. The important thing is always the team and today we won. “My focus is not so much on the output. If I am doing the right things, I know I will always be able to score and assist; my focus is with the team, to build relationships and feel comfortable.” Barcelona next travels to Club Brugge in the Champions League on Wednesday before a LaLiga visit to Celta Vigo on Sunday.



## Anirban Lahiri Participates in His Fourth Straight Under-Par Round



**New Delhi:** Even though Tom McKibbin won the Link Hong Kong Open on Sunday in his first-ever start on the Asian Tour, Anirban Lahiri of LIV Golf was the best of the Indian competitors, recording a fourth straight round below par. 13 shots behind McKibbin, Crushers GC player Lahiri shot two-under 68 for a 14-under total. In the USD 2 million tournament at the Hong Kong Golf Club, SSP Chawrasia had a 68 as well, finishing four shots behind Ajeetesh Sandhu on 10 under, one stroke ahead of Sandhu (68). A final-round seven-under-par 63 saw the Northern Irishman McKibbin complete a stunning start-to-finish victory, with a four-round aggregate of 27-under 253. American Peter Uihlein was his nearest challenger. Uihlein closed with a 68 to finish seven behind, while Tomoyo Ikemura (65) from Japan, South African Louis Oosthuizen (67), and America’s MJ Maguire (70) were tied for third. McKibbin’s performance saw him break the tournament’s 72-hole low scoring total and match its biggest margin of victory, while it also earned him a place in The Open and the Masters Tournament next year. “Yeah, it was obviously amazing,” said the 22-year-old after his second victory as a professional. “I played some of the best golf I have probably ever played. So, yeah, to have that sort of golf and to shoot those scores around here is pretty special.” The LIV Golf star, who plays for Jon Rahm’s Legion XIII team, had a one-shot lead over Maguire at the start of the day and after holding off the chasing pack on the front nine - going out in three under with birdies on one, three and eight - he pulled away on the second half with birdies on 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16. A bogey on the last was only his third of the week. The previous lowest 72 total was 22-under - held by José María Olazábal (2002), Ian Poulter (2010), and Patrick Reed (2024) - while both Bernhard Langer and Bill Brask won by seven in 1991 and 1984 respectively. It was a timely victory by the young Northern Irishman as this year marked the first time that Augusta National Golf Club and The R&A have invited the winner to their Majors.

# IWL 2025–2026 will take place in two stages, according to AIFF

• This decision came after discussions with all eight participating clubs on October 30.

**New Delhi:** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) declared on Monday that the Indian Women’s League (IWL) will be played in two stages

in response to pleas from participating teams. The federation said in a statement that the decision was made during a meeting with all eight clubs on October 30. The league will be divided into two phases: the first will take place from December 20, 2025,



to January 6, 2026, and the second will take place from April 20 to May 10, 2026. “With a considerable number of players engaged in their respective clubs’ international assignments and national team commitments,” the AIFF claimed, the schedule was changed.

# Lionel Messi’s India tour moves to Hyderabad following his defeat in Kochi

**New Delhi:** With the cancellation of the Kochi leg, Lionel Messi’s eagerly anticipated “GOAT Tour to India 2025” will now include Hyderabad, guaranteeing that the southern region will not be denied the opportunity to see the Argentine football legend in action. After the postponement of Argentina’s planned friendly in Kerala, which Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman had been announced for November 17, the Hyderabad stop has been added. We are now also covering the south. Satadru Dutta, the only organizer of the “GOAT Tour to India 2025,” told PTI on Saturday that the event would be a tribute to the millions of football enthusiasts in South India. “With this, every part of India is covered. West is covered through Mumbai, east through Kolkata, north through Delhi. There is a huge Messi fan base in Chennai, Kerala and Hyderabad.” The addition of Hyderabad means the tour will now span all four regions — Kolkata (east), Hyderabad (south), Mumbai (west) and



New Delhi (north) — making it one of the most extensive sporting tours ever held in India. Dutta said Hyderabad was chosen to ensure fans in the south were not deprived after the Kerala event was scrapped. “I wanted to make it a pan-India event and now that the Kerala event is cancelled, south people are getting deprived to see Messi,” he said. He added

that the Hyderabad leg will be a major celebration, featuring a celebrity football match, musical programme, felicitation ceremony and football clinic. “It will be an extension of the GOAT Cup as there will be a celebrity match, football clinic, felicitation, musical programme. All the superstars of south will be in attendance,” Dutta said. According to Dutta,

Messi will arrive in India around midnight on December 12 or early December 13, after a brief halt in Dubai. The tour will begin in Kolkata on December 13, followed by Hyderabad the same evening, then Mumbai on December 14, and conclude in New Delhi on December 15, where Messi is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Kane Williamson declares his immediate retirement

**New Delhi:** Kane Williamson, former New Zealand captain and charismatic batsman, announced his retirement from T20 Internationals ahead of a series against the West Indies. At 35, he played 93 T20 matches, scored 2575 runs with an average of 33, and is New Zealand’s second-highest T20I run-scorer. Williamson opted to focus on three Test matches against the Caribbean team and will also miss the upcoming ODI series. Having made his T20I debut in 2011, he led New Zealand in 75 matches, including a run to the 2021 T20 World Cup final. He expressed gratitude for his T20I experiences and maintained that he will keep communication open with New Zealand Cricket.

