

In Brief

Three convicted in Meghalaya

Shillong: A special court in Meghalaya sentenced two drug peddlers, Marvinson Jyrwa and Skhem Kuper Massar, to six years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹60,000 each for distributing narcotics to minors. They were convicted on October 27 under Sections 21(b) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice Act, with evidence highlighting their involvement in supplying drugs to children. The court condemned the offence as “deeply aggravating,” citing the targeting of minors as indicative of extreme moral depravity. In a separate case, Bijoy Hajong was convicted of rape and sentenced to seven years in prison with a fine of ₹1 lakh, with additional compensation for the victim mandated under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

Umngot River turns Brown

Shillong: Meghalaya MP Ricky J Syngkon has urged the Centre for urgent action regarding severe environmental degradation of the Umngot River, attributed to the Shillong-Tamabil road expansion project. Once known as ‘Asia’s cleanest river,’ its waters have turned brown due to soil and debris dumping from hill-cutting associated with the project. Syngkon expressed concerns over the project’s compliance with environmental regulations in his letter to Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Bhupender Yadav, highlighting the impact on local tourism and livelihoods, and criticized the Meghalaya Pollution Control Board for failing to address these violations.

Massive torchlight rally in Dhemaji

Dhemaji: Thousands from Assam’s Chutia community protested in Dhemaji, demanding inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list. The march, organized by five Chutia organizations, featured chants expressing frustration over government inaction since their demand began in 1979. Pinku Chutia, president of one of the organizing bodies, emphasized the community’s distinct cultural identity and its contribution to Assam’s socio-cultural landscape. The Chutias’ struggle for ST status is part of a larger movement involving six major communities in Assam. Despite a recent announcement from Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma regarding a report on ST status, skepticism remains due to historical delays in governmental action.

A Soulful tribute to Zubeen Garg

Guwahati: Over 5,000 women in Kalaigaon united to sing “Mayabini Ratir Bukut” as a tribute to Zubeen Garg, Assam’s cherished music icon. Dressed in traditional mekhela sadors, they created an atmosphere filled with love and nostalgia, their voices resonating beyond the village. Zubeen Garg represents more than music; he embodies the emotions and experiences of an entire generation. As the final note lingered, it symbolized not only a tribute but a deep bond between the community and their beloved artist.

As night falls, drinking sessions begin at the office premises of the Janata Dal (United)

Tezpur, Oct 30: There have been allegations that some antisocial elements have turned the front and surrounding areas of the Tezpur Ganesh Ghat based office of the Sonitpur District Janata Dal (United) into a place for drinking alcohol and other drugs. Notably, after the demise of the late Dr. Purna Narayan Singha, the Member of Parliament who represented Tezpur after winning the Lok Sabha election on behalf of the Janata Dal, the organizational base of the party in the district almost became null. Multiple shops have sprung up on the land of the late Singha’s Janata Dal office, reportedly rented out by some party members. Neglect and lack of maintenance have left the office in ruins, and with no guard present, it has become a nighttime drinking and hangout spot for unruly youths, disturbing the atmosphere of Tezpur’s heritage site, Ganesh Ghat. On the other hand, while it is widely discussed in various circles of Tezpur that some people treat this office and

land as personal property and try to occupy it over time, recently, Ranjita Singha Dutta, daughter of the late MP Dr. Purna Narayan Singha, was appointed as the vice president of the Asom Rajya Samiti by the Janata Dal. She worked to revive Jana Party activities in Sonitpur, Biswanath, and Lakhimpur, but her efforts prompted some to illegally occupy the long-neglected office land, set up shops, and create a hostile atmosphere at night. In this context, the party’s state vice president Dutta has already informed the commissioner and senior police officer of Sonitpur in detail and called for appropriate measures. There is growing talk that the party’s land at Ganesh Ghat, Tezpur, was encroached upon when the party became defunct in the area. In this context, it has also been alleged that the party’s state vice president Ranjita Singha Dutta became an obstacle, and that is why she was allegedly prevented from carrying out the office renovation.

Nagaland Employees’ Bodies demand transparency in IAS induction process, flag violation of merit-based norms

Kohima, Oct 30: Amid rising concerns over fairness in civil service recruitment, the Joint Co-ordination Committee (JCC) on IAS Induction has appealed to the Nagaland government to ensure transparency, meritocracy, and adherence to legal procedures in the ongoing process of inducting officers into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) under the Non-State Civil Service (Non-SCS) quota. The JCC, a collective platform comprising five major organisations—Confederation of All Nagaland State Services Employees’ Association (CANSSEA), Federation of Nagaland State Engineering Service Association (FONSESA), Nagaland In-Service Doctors’ Association (NIDA), Nagaland Secretariat Service Association (NSSA), and Nagaland Finance and Accounts Service Association (NF&ASA)—issued a public statement expressing deep concern over alleged procedural lapses in the selection process.

According to the committee, the current induction process has failed to comply with the IAS (Appointment by Selection) Rules of 1954 and 1997, and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) guidelines issued on October 7, 2020, which were framed in line with a Supreme Court directive emphasizing merit-based recruitment. The JCC said it was compelled to take the issue to the public domain after observing that the selection procedure had deviated from the constitutional framework meant to safeguard transparency and fairness. “Our movement is not directed against any individual or institution. It is a collective effort to protect the sanctity and integrity of the civil service system in Nagaland,” the committee clarified in its statement. While appreciating the state government’s acknowledgement of certain procedural irregularities, the JCC cautioned against what it described as a continuation of “a wrong policy that



violates established laws.” It warned that such actions, if unaddressed, could erode the foundation of governance and demoralize deserving candidates who believe in competitive and transparent recruitment. “The continuation of flawed practices undermines the very idea

of equal opportunity and destroys the faith of thousands of young aspirants who seek to serve the state through merit and hard work,” the committee asserted. The forum further aligned its position with the principles upheld by the Nagaland Public Service Com-

mission (NPSC) and the Nagaland Staff Selection Board (NSSB), both of which are mandated to ensure merit-based governance. It reiterated that safeguarding these values is essential for maintaining credibility in public administration and upholding the rule of law.

Elephant Rides Back in Kaziranga from November 1

Kaziranga, Oct 30: The widely anticipated elephant safari in Kaziranga National Park will begin on November 1 for the benefit of both domestic and foreign visitors. The park’s core range at Kohora, which is the most visited by tourists, has not yet been opened for vehicle safaris, but the Bagori, Burapahar, and Agaratoli ranges have. The Kohora range is the most popular destination for both domestic and foreign tourists each year. However, the recent floods seriously destroyed the roads, culverts, and bridges in this range. The Kohora range’s reopening to tourists was delayed because of the delays in fixing these infrastructures. The Kohora range is anticipated to reopen to visitors on November 2, according to forest officials. Right now, preparations are in progress. When the Kohora range reopens, jeep and elephant safaris will start on the same day. According to Forest Officer Bibhuti Ranjan Gogoi, visitors can take jeep safaris from Mihimukh to Baruntika, which is roughly a 14-kilometer drive. The route might be extended up to Bhoisamari, making it an 18-kilometer safari track, if the Baruntika bridge’s construction is finished in the next four days. Private elephant safaris in the Bagori range will also start on November 1. According to Forest Officer Bibit Didingia, 51 elephants from various regions of the state were submitted for private safari registration for the 2025–2026 tourism season. Forty-seven elephants have been authorized following extensive health and document verification.

Assam govt employees, pensioners now covered under flagship health scheme

Guwahati, Oct 30: The Assam government has launched a cashless medical treatment facility for state employees, pensioners, and their dependents under its flagship ‘Ayushman Asom Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana (AA-MMLSAY)’.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma rolled out the new facility on October 29, enabling beneficiaries to avail of cashless treatment in empanelled hospitals across Assam and leading corporate hospitals nationwide. Previously, the scheme operated solely on a reimbursement model since its launch in 2023. “Now, employees and pensioners can receive treatment without worrying about arranging funds. To ensure a smooth transition, the existing reimbursement system will continue in parallel,” the Chief Minister said.

So far, 2,23,826 employees and 6,172 pensioners have registered under the scheme. The government has already reimbursed Rs 65 crore since its inception, compared to the earlier annual expenditure of around Rs 17–18 crore, reflecting the scheme’s growing reach and efficiency.

Sarma explained that unlike Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, which is funded by the Centre, the state’s MMLSAY is self-sustaining, financed through contributions from employees. He esti-



mated that 7–8 lakh beneficiaries could be covered in the coming years. He also announced that the Assam government will soon constitute its own

Pay Commission, ensuring that state employees receive benefits concurrently with their central counterparts.

Nyishi and Mising communities renew ancient Kinship with historic friendship treaty



Itanagar, Oct 30: The Nyishi community of Arunachal Pradesh and the Mising community of Assam came together to sign a historic “Treaty of Friendship”, symbolising the revival of their centuries-old relationship and shared ancestry. The landmark agreement, signed between the Nyishi Elite Society (NES) and the Mising Ba:Ne Kebang (MBK), signifies the reaffirmation of the deep historical and familial ties that connect the two major indigenous groups of the Northeast. Both communities trace their lineage to Abo Tani, the revered common ancestor central to several tribes across Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The treaty is more than a ceremonial gesture — it is a pledge to

strengthen inter-community cooperation in cultural, social, and developmental fields.

It aims to promote peace, mutual respect, and understanding across state boundaries while preserving the cultural identity and values that have bound the two groups for generations. During the signing ceremony, community elders and leaders from both sides reflected on the historical bond between the Nyishis and Misings. They recalled how their ancestors once shared land, traditions, and rituals before political boundaries and modern developments gradually distanced them. The renewed friendship, they said, is an effort to heal that separation and restore

unity rooted in common heritage. “This treaty is not merely symbolic — it is a revival of brotherhood that history once recorded and that time could never erase,” said a senior member of the Nyishi Elite Society. Representatives from the Mising Ba:Ne Kebang echoed similar sentiments, calling the event “a step towards collective cultural survival and regional solidarity.” The agreement also envisions joint cultural exchanges, youth interactions, language preservation programmes, and inter-community dialogues in the years ahead. Leaders agreed that such initiatives would help strengthen people-to-people ties and serve as a model for peace and cooperation among other ethnic groups in Northeast India.

Roumari-Donduwa Wetlands Sought for RAMSAR Listing

Tezpur, Oct 30: A one-day workshop titled “Conservation of Wetlands of Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve” took place on October 26, 2025, at Nowgong Girls’ College, organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development and Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. Moderated by Dr. Smarajit Ojah and Ashish Saikia, the event attracted over 60 attendees, including researchers, educators, conservationists, students, and forest officials, to discuss strategies for conserving Laokhowa wetlands.

Keynote speaker Dr. Sonali Ghosh emphasized the importance of Laokhowa and Burhachapori sanctuaries as migration corridors for wildlife. Significant presentations included Dr. Nilutpal Mahanta’s methodology for documenting avian species, and a detailed look at the Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex by Dr. Ojah, Neeraj Bora, and Chiranjib Bora.

Additionally, discussions highlighted the roles of educational institutions and civil society in wetland conservation, led by Dr. Bhuban Chandra Chutia and Bipul Kr. Bora. Dilwar Hussain advocated for designating the Rowmari–Donduwa complex as a Ramsar Site, addressing its ecological vulnerability.

Noirriti Priyadarshini noted its qualification under eight of nine Ramsar site criteria due to rich biodiversity, particularly for migratory birds. A video presentation by Suhashini Handique illustrated field experiences from the recent Waterbird Census 2025.

With 93 Ramsar sites, India is a leader in wetland conservation, including notable regions like the Sunderban and Chilika Lake. The Rowmari and Donduwa Wetlands span 2.5–3 sq km, supporting over 120 bird species, including threatened varieties. The event concluded with Dr. Kulen Ch. Das reaffirming the college’s commitment to ongoing wetland conservation initiatives.

Police suspect a third vehicle in connection with the Kurnool bus fire, adding to the mystery

Kurnool, Oct 30: Days after a devastating fire aboard a sleeper bus in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district, police are investigating the potential involvement of a third vehicle in the incident. Initial analyses suggest that the fire ignited after the bus collided with a motorcycle that had become lodged underneath it, subsequently striking an open fuel tank. The bus, operated by V Kaveri Travels, was carrying 44 passengers, many of whom were asleep and managed to escape by breaking windows amid the chaos.

Emerging details indicate that the bus had previously been involved in a collision



Details indicate that the bus had priorly been in an accident before colliding with the motorcycle.

before hitting the motorcycle. According to police reports, skid marks found on the road were located just ahead of where the motorcycle had initially fallen, leading authorities to believe that

another vehicle may have struck the motorcycle before the bus did. Investigators are looking further into the possibility of this third vehicle's involvement. Additionally, the bus was

transporting a shipment of smartphones, which, along with electrical batteries from the bus's air conditioning system, are believed to have contributed significantly to the fire's escalation. Forensic experts have indicated that the fire may have intensified due to explosions caused by the batteries of these mobile devices. Eyewitnesses reported hearing popping sounds, likely from lithium batteries succumbing to the intense heat, thus exacerbating the fire. Other contributing factors include petrol spilled from the motorcycle igniting during the crash, leading to a rapid and devastating blaze.

India's growth will be hampered by the Odisha iron ore mining cap: Government to SC

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Putting a cap on iron ore mining in Odisha could hinder India's economic growth and threaten the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, argued both the Central and Odisha governments before the Supreme Court. This argument was made in response to a petition advocating for such limits, echoing prior caps implemented in Karnataka and Goa due to concerns regarding sustainable resource management.

The Ministry of Mines (MoM) and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) highlighted improvements in regulatory checks and legal safeguards since 2013 to address illegal mining issues. They asserted that Odisha, which currently provides half of India's iron ore production, has seen a significant increase in resources, with reserves rising from 4,180 million tonnes in 2000 to 9,737.24 million

tonnes in 2023.

Further, it was noted that 71.52% of the state's potential iron ore areas remain unexplored, suggesting that resource extraction could further increase. The government maintained that any cap on mining would negatively affect steel production, essential for infrastructure development across various sectors, thereby impeding societal growth.

The Odisha government reiterated that numerous industries depend on steel, emphasizing that limits on iron ore extraction would disrupt the burgeoning steel and metal production necessary for the Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision. The central authorities contended that the concept of "inter-generational equity" should not equate to broad mining bans but rather consider the country's developmental needs and the potential for recycling resources.

These assertions followed the Supreme Court's initiative to address a petition from the organization Common Cause, which noted previous court orders for the state to recover compensation from miners for excess iron ore extraction—amounting to over ₹2700 crore.

Moreover, the MoEFCC declared that the total iron ore production in Odisha was well below the Environmental Carrying Capacity (ECC) sanctioned for mining, highlighting the discrepancies between actual production and capacity.

In 2023, expert consultations deemed capping effects unnecessary due to advancements in technology and legal standards. Notably, significant regulatory shifts in the mining sector have introduced auction systems for mineral concessions, emphasizing the necessity of adhering to required statutory clearances before commencing mining leases.

According to LJP (RV) MP Shambhavi Choudhary, "NDA will cross 225 seats"

Patna, Oct 30: Shambhavi Choudhary of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has expressed optimism about the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) prospects in the upcoming Bihar elections, indicating the public's excitement and readiness for the formation of the Nitish Kumar government once again. Choudhary stated, "The public is fully prepared and excited...A government is going to be formed under the leadership of CM Nitish Kumar... We are fully confident that this time the NDA will cross 225 seats."

In the lead-up to the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to hold rallies in Muzaffarpur and Chhapra, expressing his belief in a substantial victory for the BJP-NDA coalition.



He highlighted the personal stakes, stating that family members from Bihar are actively participating in the electoral process. Modi plans to engage with voters tomorrow in the two cities, underlining his confidence in the assembly elections, where he anticipates a "great victory" for his supporters in the state.

Contrastingly, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, criticized PM Modi during a joint rally of the Mahagathbandhan

(Grand Alliance) in Muzaffarpur, accusing him of "vote theft" and alleging that he would do anything for votes. Gandhi asserted, "They are engaged in stealing your votes...I am telling you, they stole elections in Maharashtra, they stole elections in Haryana, and they will try their best in Bihar," stressing the need for vigilance among voters.

As the NDA campaigns intensively in Bihar, Union Minister Amit Shah has

been active in rallies across various districts, including Begusarai, Samastipur, and Darbhanga. The main rivalry in the forthcoming 2025 Bihar assembly election will be between the NDA, comprising parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha, against the Mahagathbandhan, which includes the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress, and several communist parties, among others.

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj has also claimed all 243 seats in the state. The assembly elections are set to occur in two phases on November 6 and 11, with results being announced on November 14.

In Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh, a railway overbridge girder collapses Killing two people and injuring four

Bhopal, Oct 30: A truck driver and conductor were killed, and four others sustained injuries following a tragic incident in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday morning. This occurred at the under-construction Sagaur Railway bridge, where a girder being lifted by two cranes collapsed. The deceased individuals were identified as Abhay Patidar, a mini-truck driver, and Kalyan Singh, a conductor. The injured victims are currently receiving medical treatment.

According to police reports, the mishap transpired when one crane, located on the Sagaur side, unexpectedly toppled while lifting the girder from both ends. This incident struck a Tata Magic and a pickup truck that were



passing by at the time. Emergency responders undertook a two-hour operation to rescue the individuals trapped, successfully extracting one driver first, followed by two others.

The railway overbridge, which spans approximately 500 metres, has been under construction in Pithampur's Sector 3 for the past three years. Local advocate Rajesh Chaudhary accused railway

officials and the responsible contractor of negligence, asserting that the lack of a service road at the site contributed to the accident due to unstable ground conditions, which caused one crane to sink and overturn. Chaudhary noted that warnings about unsafe conditions had been previously communicated to the authorities, but no action had been taken to address the concerns.

Four-year-old boy crushed to death in Noida

Noida, Oct 30: A four-year-old boy was killed in Noida after being struck by a reversing car driven by Jayant Sharma. The incident occurred in A Block of Sector 31, and the driver was arrested while the vehicle was seized. The child was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital. Following a complaint from the boy's father, a case was registered at the Sector 20 police station, and investigations are ongoing. This incident follows another wherein a speeding car collided with two bikes in Uttar Pradesh, resulting in one death and injuries. Additionally, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, a man was killed when a speeding SUV hit a mini goods vehicle, leading residents to damage the accused's property.

The government of Rajasthan suggests actions to improve security at Ajmer Dargah

Jaipur, Oct 30: Rajasthan's home department has put forward a proposal to enhance security measures at the shrine of the 12th-century Muslim saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer. Key aspects of this proposal include the expansion of entry and exit gates, linking CCTV cameras to a central command center for improved public safety monitoring, and removing encroachments.

Mahendra Khinchi, a secretary in the state home department, emphasized that the initiative aims to provide a safer experience for pilgrims and ensure better monitoring of this historic site. The proposal stems from consultations with various stakeholders, including the Ajmer collector, the police superintendent, and shrine officials, and is currently under review by the Union government.

The shrine has gained attention recently due to legal claims made by Hindu Sena leader Vishnu Gupta, who alleged that a temple exists beneath the shrine and has sought worship rights.

This claim is part of a broader trend involving similar petitions pertaining



to Muslim places of worship. Additionally, past incidents of violence, such as a 2007 blast that resulted in fatalities, have heightened concerns over security in the area.

The Union home ministry has directed the state to investigate alleged anti-social activities as well as the presence of undocumented immigrants, particularly in light of a broader initiative in BJP-ruled states to identify such individuals.

To facilitate improvements, the minority affairs ministry is expected to sanction ₹96 crore for the shrine's development. The shrine presently has eight gateways, among which two gates have been deemed inadequately sized to handle the large influx of pilgrims, especially during major gatherings. This poses a potential risk of crowd-related incidents.

Proposed actions include the renovation and expansion of these gates and the integration of CCTV into the Abhay Command Centre, which utilizes advanced technology for crowd control and surveillance.

Furthermore, the home department recommends establishing a waiting room for pilgrims, addressing local drainage issues, and conducting fire audits in coordination with local authorities. Recent eviction drives, for instance removing approximately 250 shops near the shrine, aim to clear encroachments and improve safety.

The proposal also includes implementing digital ID verification for shrine staff, linking them to the home department portal, and intensifying security measures such as thorough checks for pilgrims.

In the Tamil Nadu department, ED flags hiring in return for bribes

Chennai, Oct 30: Tamil Nadu's opposition alliance has accused the state's Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government of failing to address allegations of corruption linked to the recruitment of 2,538 positions in the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) department.

This comes in light of a letter from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) dated October 27, which claimed that bribes ranging from ₹25 to ₹35 lakh per post were exchanged during the hiring process. The ED stated that investigations into a bank fraud case uncovered evidence of manipulation in the hiring for MAWS staff for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26. The ED's letter referenced a public event on August 6, 2025, during which the Chief Minister issued appointment letters to approximately 2,500 selected candidates. Furthermore, the ED reported the recovery of incriminating digital evidence, including photos, WhatsApp chats, and other documents that suggest large-scale irregularities in the exam and selection processes for MAWS candidates. In a 232-page note accompanying the letter, the ED detailed various forms

of evidence, including cash transactions and communications involving around 150 candidates, implicating public servants and politicians in the scheme.

The opposition parties, particularly the AIADMK and BJP, have condemned the alleged ₹800 crore corruption scandal, with AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswami accusing Water Supply Minister K. N. Nehru of collecting significant bribes. The BJP's former state president, K. Annamalai, has called for a CBI investigation, asserting that the DMK government has harmed the prospects of numerous candidates due to its alleged corruption.

In defense, Minister Nehru denounced the accusations as politically motivated and asserted that the recruitment process, initiated in 2019 under the previous AIADMK regime, was lawful and fair. He pointed out that over 100,000 candidates participated in rigorous evaluations without registering complaints, suggesting the integrity of the hiring process. Nehru further characterized the allegations as attempts to undermine the DMK government ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

Allahabad HC informs the SC Continue to take a detached stance when promoting the district judiciary

Allahabad, Oct 30: The Allahabad High Court has requested the Supreme Court to maintain a "hands off" stance regarding promotion criteria for district judiciary, asserting that the Constitution endows this authority to the high courts.

Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the high court, emphasized that Article 227(1) grants high courts oversight of the district judiciary and should dictate criteria for promotional opportunities for both promotees and directly recruited judges. A five-judge Constitution bench highlighted the necessity for some uniformity but refrained from undermining high courts' discretion. On October 14, the Supreme Court agreed to defer the discussion on seniority in higher judicial service to a Constitution bench following concerns raised by amicus curiae Siddharth Bhatnagar about judges' career stagnation. Bhatnagar pointed out the disproportionate representation of directly recruited versus promoted judges, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, where 58 out of 70 district and sessions judges were directly recruited. Other states such as Bihar and Haryana also exhibit similar disparities favoring direct recruits.

The Allahabad High Court has argued against establishing a uniform criterion, claiming it would undermine rather than strengthen high courts, as conditions differ across states. Dwivedi urged the Supreme Court to refrain from issuing directives that could create imbalances in promotion systems. Supporting this view, senior advocate Maninder Acharya noted that promoted



judges are increasingly gaining recognition due to ongoing recruitments. Despite the lack of comprehensive data from all high courts, the Supreme Court asserted the importance of a uniform recruitment policy for district judiciary, aiming not to infringe upon high court authority. The case is set for further hearing on November 4 as discussions continued inconclusively.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi presented arguments in the high court on Wednesday, emphasizing that high courts should retain their authority and not be divested of this power.

The state's internal SC quotas are reviewed by CM

Bengaluru, Oct 30: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewed the implementation of internal reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) during a meeting at Vidhana Soudha. He emphasized the need for fairness in enforcing the roster system and addressing grievances to avoid injustice. The government has issued detailed guidelines for caste certificates and relaxed the age limit for eligible candidates after the recruitment ban's removal. Following these changes, the Karnataka Examinations Authority has issued recruitment notifications. This initiative follows an August directive for internal reservations, apportioning a 17% quota among three



groups of 101 castes, a move endorsed after the Supreme Court's August ruling. The government's modifications to the Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das commission's report established three groups for SCs, with specific allocations. Siddaramaiah underlined the importance of legal compliance and robust administration in implementing these changes.

Bengaluru man murders girlfriend's daughter

Bengaluru, Oct 30: A 26-year-old former marketing executive, Darshan Kumar Yadav, was arrested for the murder of his girlfriend's seven-year-old daughter, Siri S. The incident occurred because Yadav felt that Siri was interrupting his time with her mother. He had been in a relationship with Siri's mother, Shipila S K, who was raising the child alone after separating from her husband. Following tensions over Siri's presence in their home, Yadav attacked and killed the girl after Shipila left for work. He confessed to slamming Siri's head on the floor and smothering her. Yadav was previously involved in toxic relationships with women he met on Instagram.

Shri Singh is appointed as the Pahalgam terror attack case's special public prosecutor by the MHA

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed advocate Shri Singh as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) for the trial concerning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack case, as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) prepares to file its charge sheet. The appointment allows Shri Singh to represent the NIA before both the NIA special court in Jammu and the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for three years or until the trial's conclusion, whichever comes first. The SPP

will coordinate with the investigating officer during the trial.

Two Pahalgam locals, Bashir Ahmad Jothar and Parvez Ahmad Jothar, were apprehended in June for offering assistance to three Pakistani terrorists connected to the attack, in which 25 tourists and a pony operator were killed. The Jothar brothers were arrested on June 22, approximately two months after the attack, having sheltered the terrorists in a seasonal hut before the attack on April 21. The NIA has received a 45-day extension

from a Jammu court to finalize the investigation, which is set to conclude this week.

The three terrorists involved in the attack were eliminated by security forces on July 28 in the Dachigam forest. Union Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed in Parliament that these terrorists were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and originated from Pakistan. The NIA has conducted extensive questioning, with over 1,000 individuals, including tourists and local business operators, being

interviewed as part of the investigation.

Following the Pahalgam attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), resulting in the deaths of at least 100 terrorists. An escalation in military confrontations followed, including airstrikes on Pakistani military installations, but hostilities were halted on May 10 after a mutual understanding was reached between the two nations.

Three convicted in Meghalaya

Shillong, Oct 30: A special court in Meghalaya has sentenced two drug peddlers to six years of rigorous imprisonment and fined them ₹60,000 each for distributing narcotics to minors, officials said on Wednesday. The East Khasi Hills Special Judge (NDPS) court convicted Marvinson Jyrwa and Skhem Kupar Massar on October 27 under Sections 21(b) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, along with Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

MNF Enforces Strike Over Forest Act in Mizoram

Aizawl, Oct 30: Life across Mizoram came to a standstill on Wednesday as the Mizo National Front (MNF), the state's principal opposition party, enforced a 10-hour statewide shutdown in protest against the state government's decision to adopt the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 (FCAA). The bandh, which began at 6 a.m., was observed widely across the state, sparing only Mamit

Guwahati to witness mega air show featuring 150 aircraft including Rafales, Sukhois, and MiGs

Guwahati, Oct 30: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to visit Assam on November 9 to attend a grand Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Show in Guwahati that will feature as many as 150 aircraft, including Rafale, Sukhoi, and MiG fighter jets. The mega event will take place at Lachit Ghat, along the banks of the Brahmaputra River, where the skies over Guwahati are expected to come alive with a spectacular display of aerial prowess, precision, and power. Announcing the Defence Minister's visit, Assam Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma said, "On November 9, the Union Defence Minister will attend a mega Air Show at Lachit Ghat in Guwahati, wherein 150 planes of the Indian Air Force will display their strength — including Rafales, Sukhois, and MiGs." This landmark show will form part of the IAF's Air Force Day celebrations in the Northeast, marking the first such large-scale flying display in the region. The event, themed "Infallible, Impervious and Precise", symbolises the IAF's unwavering commitment to operational excellence, discipline,

and accuracy. The demonstration will feature a variety of aircraft, including frontline fighter jets, transport planes, and helicopters flying in synchronised formations. Spectators are expected to witness breathtaking aerial manoeuvres and formation flights that highlight the IAF's technological advancements and professional mastery. Officials said the Air Show aims not only to showcase the nation's aerial might but also to inspire the youth of the Northeast to pursue careers in the armed forces. The event will serve as a platform

to promote patriotism, courage, and national pride. Public viewing areas will be arranged along the Brahmaputra riverfront, ensuring that citizens can witness the rare spectacle up close. Before Rajnath Singh's visit, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be in Assam on November 7 and 8 to inaugurate key infrastructure projects, including the Guwahati Gateway Terminal and the Guwahati Riverfront Project, and to lay the foundation stone of Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University at Gohpur.

A Soulful tribute to Zubeen Garg

Guwahati, Oct 30: As more than 5,000 women joined together to sing a heartfelt version of "Mayabini Ratir Bukut," paying a profoundly moving homage to Assam's most beloved music hero, Zubeen Garg, the heart of Kalaigaon beats in time. Wearing elegant mekhela sadors, ladies from all walks of life, including mothers, artists, students, and



elderly, gathered under the soft glow of twilight. The air filled with love and nostalgia as their voices merged into one, reverberating well beyond the small village. Zubeen Garg is more than simply a singer to Assam; he is a heartbeat, an emotion, and a friend through happiness and sadness. He is a voice that belongs to everyone since his music has captured the hopes and suffering of a whole generation. There was silence, a hush of emotions, pride, and thankfulness as the last note hung in the still air. Not only did Kalaigaon sing for Zubeen Garg at that precise moment, but it also joined him in celebrating an unbreakable kinship.

Border Security Reviewed by BSF Special DG in Tripura

Agartala, Oct 30: Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, IPS, Special Director General (Eastern Command) of the Border Security Force (BSF), Kolkata, concluded his three-day visit to Tripura on Wednesday after reviewing the overall border security and operational preparedness along the Indo-Bangladesh border. During the visit from October 27 to 29, Aggarwal, accompanied by BSF Tripura Frontier Inspector General Alope Kumar Chakraborty, toured several Border Out Posts (BOPs) across Khowai, Dhalai, and Unakoti districts. He inspected security installations, interacted with field officers and jawans, and reviewed measures to counter cross-border challenges including smuggling and infiltration. Aggarwal also presided over a Prahari Sammelan to address operational and welfare issues raised by BSF personnel. He commended their professionalism and vigilance, lauding their efforts in maintaining the sanctity of the international border despite challenging terrain and weather conditions. In a morale-boosting gesture, the Special DG spent a night at a remote BOP and shared a Prahari Bhoj—a community meal—with jawans. Emphasizing technological integration and inter-agency coordination, Aggarwal praised the Tripura Frontier's proactive role in ensuring robust border management. He concluded his visit on Wednesday evening and returned to Kolkata.



NCPCR and MCPCR hold state-level conference in Imphal to bridge gaps in child rights implementation

Imphal, Oct 30: In a significant effort to strengthen child protection systems in Manipur, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), in collaboration with the Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR), organised a State-Level Conference on "Gaps and Challenges in Implementation of Key Child Rights Legislations" at the Imperial Hall, Classic Grande, Imphal, on Wednesday. The one-day conference brought together key stakeholders from diverse sectors, including senior government officials, members of the judiciary, police officers, educators, representatives from child-care institutions, and civil society groups. The event aimed to identify existing shortcomings in implementing major child protection laws and to develop strategies for more effective coordination between institutions. Deliberations during the conference centred around major frameworks such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools.



Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Member Secretary of the NCPCR, underscored the need to view child rights cases as "human stories rather than statistics." He emphasized that the government's legal and administrative efforts must be supported by sustained participation from local communities, institutions, and individuals. "Safeguarding child rights cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires awareness, accountability, and collective responsibility," Dr. Sharma said. Highlighting NCPCR's recent achieve-

ments, Dr. Sharma informed that over the last six months, the Commission had disposed of around 26,000 cases, rescued more than 2,300 children, and repatriated over 1,000 children to their home districts. He also shared new initiatives being launched by the Commission, including projects addressing mental health challenges among children, the development of AI-based tools to curb Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), and strategies for improving the implementation of existing laws. Dr. Sharma further encouraged Manipur schools to adopt

the "Sugar Board" initiative, aimed at strengthening child participation and safety mechanisms at the school level. Addressing the gathering, Keishiem Pradip Kumar, Chairperson of the MCPCR, drew attention to the plight of internally displaced children affected by recent ethnic and social conflicts in Manipur. He said the Commission has been actively addressing issues of mental health distress, school dropouts, and child labour in relief camps through seven mental health and psychosocial support clinics.

Massive torchlight rally in Dhemaji: Chutia community intensifies demand for ST status

Dhemaji, Oct 30: Thousands of members of Assam's Chutia community took to the streets of Dhemaji on Wednesday evening, carrying burning torches and shouting slogans to demand their long-pending inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list. The protest, marked by fiery determination and a sea of flickering lights, turned Dhemaji town into the epicentre of the community's decades-long struggle for recognition. The demonstrators, who arrived from various parts of Upper Assam, began their march from multiple points before converging in the heart of the town. The air echoed with chants of "No ST, No Rest", as participants expressed frustration over the government's inaction despite repeated promises made over the years. The torchlight procession was jointly organised by five prominent Chutia organisations — the Chutia Yuva Sanmilan, Chutia Yuva Parishad, Chutia Jati Sanmilan, Chutia Jati Mahila Sanmilan, and Chutia Jati Chatra Sangstha.

The rally witnessed participation from people of all age groups, symbolising the collective spirit and unity of the community in its pursuit of constitutional recognition. Speaking at the gathering,



Pinku Chutia, president of the Chutia Yuva Sanmilan, Dhemaji district, reiterated that the community's demand dates back to 1979. "The Chutia community fulfils all the criteria required for ST recognition. We have a distinct culture, food habits, traditional attire, and language — everything that defines a tribal identity. Yet, we continue to be ignored," he said, drawing loud applause from the crowd. He also pointed out that members of the Chutia community are spread

across Assam, including the Barak Valley, contributing significantly to the state's socio-cultural fabric. "We are not seeking charity but justice," he added. The demand for ST status by the Chutias is part of a broader movement involving six major communities of Assam — Moran, Motok, Chutia, Tai-Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi, and Tea Tribes — all of whom have been campaigning for tribal status for decades. Successive governments have made promises, but no concrete

action has been taken so far. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently announced that the Group of Ministers (GoM) report on granting ST status to these six communities would be tabled in the upcoming winter session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin on November 25. The statement has revived hope among many, but skepticism remains high within the agitating groups, given the long history of delays and political assurances.

Umngot River Turns Brown

Shillong, Oct 30: Meghalaya MP Ricky J Syngkon has written to the Centre seeking immediate intervention over what he described as "severe environmental degradation" of the Umngot River in West Jaintia Hills, allegedly caused by construction activities under the Shillong-Tamabil road expansion project. The river popular for its pristine clear water at Dawki along the Indo-Bangladesh border has now turned brown, the MP highlighted. In his letter to Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the MP said the Umngot, once celebrated as 'Asia's cleanest river', has turned muddy and lifeless due to large-scale dumping of soil and debris from ongoing hill-cutting work along the 71-km NH-40 expansion project. "The Umngot River, a symbol of Meghalaya's pristine natural heritage and a major tourism asset, has tragically turned brown this October — when its waters should be crystal clear," Syngkon wrote, warning that the degradation has alarmed local communities, environmentalists, and tourism operators. Meghalaya MP Syngkon raised concerns over the JICA-funded Shillong-Tamabil road project, questioning compliance with environmental safeguards and calling for verification of EIA and monitoring reports. He criticised the Meghalaya Pollution Control Board's inaction despite visible violations, recalling a previous NGT penalty in a similar case. Highlighting that the Umngot River supports many local livelihoods through tourism, he noted its deterioration has led to tourist cancellations.

Arunachal CM Khandu holds talks on trade corridor opportunities



Itanagar, Oct 30: Chief Minister Pema Khandu positioned Arunachal Pradesh as India's next major gateway to Southeast Asia on Wednesday, saying the frontier state is ready to develop into a "vibrant bridge" that connects India with Bhutan and Myanmar while opening up new opportunities for collaboration and development.

Following what he called a "engaging interaction" with renowned economist Prof. Mahendra P. Lama here regarding a study report centered on reopening and operationalizing trade routes along the borders between Arunachal and Bhutan and Arunachal and Myanmar, the chief minister delivered the message. Khandu acknowledged the expert's vast understanding of cross-border trade and regional integration in his post on X, saying, "Prof. Lama's deep insights on inclusive border development, livelihood generation, and sustainable connec-

● Chief Minister Pema Khandu emphasized Arunachal Pradesh as India's forthcoming gateway to South-east Asia, showcasing its role as a vital link between India, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

tivity were truly enlightening." The chief minister underlined that creating these conventional corridors would revolutionize the border state's connectedness and provide advantages that go well beyond infrastructure. "Arunachal Pradesh holds immense potential to emerge as a vibrant bridge between India, Bhutan, and Myanmar, where connectivity means not just roads but opportunities and relationships," Khandu stated. The proposed trade routes are essential to India's Act East Policy, which aims to support populations close to the borders and improve economic links with neighboring nations.

In Nagaland, NGO Smile Train partners with CIHSR to expand free cleft care

Kohima: Smile Train, the world’s largest cleft-focused organization, has partnered with the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research (CIHSR), Dimapur, to support free cleft surgeries and comprehensive cleft care for children with clefts in the state of Nagaland. The partnership aims to make timely cleft treatment accessible to families in remote areas who often struggle with awareness and affordability barriers. Through this collaboration, Smile Train will empower CIHSR’s medical professionals to expand their Happy Smiles program by providing training, funding, and technical resources to deliver safe and sustainable cleft care locally. The initiative also seeks to raise awareness about cleft as a treatable condition, ensuring that every child born with a cleft can lead a healthy, confident life. Speaking on the partnership, Mamta Carroll, Senior Vice President & Regional Director, Asia, Smile Train, said, “We are delighted to partner with CIHSR to bring free, high-quality cleft care to children and families in Nagaland.” Adding to this, Dr. Sedevi Angami, Director of CIHSR, said, “We are deeply grateful for this collaboration with Smile Train, which will help us expand access to cleft treatment in Nagaland.” In India, an estimated 35,000 babies are born with a cleft lip and/or palate every year, and hundreds of thousands of children with untreated clefts live in isolation and face difficulties with eating, breath-



ing, hearing, and speaking. The partnership highlights Smile Train’s dedication to strengthening local healthcare systems and collaborating with others to meet the needs of children born with clefts. For free cleft treatment or related support, families can contact Smile Train toll-free helpline: 1800 103 8301.

Adani Airports partners with AIONOS to deploy agentic AI

Mumbai: Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited and India’s largest operator of Public Private Partnership airports, today announced a strategic partnership with AIONOS, an InterGlobe Enterprises company and global leader in enterprise AI, to deploy a multi-lingual, omni-channel agentic AI solution that will transform the conventional passenger help desk experience. The new platform will deliver consistent, personalised engagement across all channels at Adani Airports, connecting with travellers in their preferred languages like never before. The AI-driven solution will act as a 24*7 intelligent concierge, helping travellers access flight updates, gate information, baggage status, directions & airport services in mul-



tipale languages, including English. By redefining passenger journeys, AAHL aims to evolve its airports into holistic lifestyle desti-

nations while setting global benchmarks in operational excellence.Arun Bansal, CEO of AAHL, said, “At AAHL, we are redefin-

ing the airport experience through intelligent, digital-first innovations that turn travel anxiety into excitement.

Nissan drives past 1.2 million Made-in-India exports, Magnite steers global momentum

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has announced a major export milestone, crossing cumulative exports of 1.2 million vehicles from India. The landmark vehicle — a New Nissan Magnite B-SUV — was ceremoniously dispatched to the GCC region from Kamarajar Port, Ennore, Tamil Nadu, marking a fresh chapter in the company’s ‘Make in India, Make for the World’ strategy. The accomplishment reflects India’s growing importance as a strategic export hub for Nissan in the AMIEO region.

Built on the strong foundation laid by models like the Nissan Sunny, Nissan Kicks and Nissan Micra, the



Magnite has significantly expanded Nissan India’s global footprint, now reaching over 65 countries across both left-hand and right-hand-drive markets covering Africa, Middle

East, Latin America and Southeast Asia. “Exporting 1.2 million vehicles from India is a historic moment that showcases customer trust worldwide in our Made-in-India

cars,” said Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India.

Auto dealers in Guwahati believe Nissan’s global export strength and the Magnite’s 5-star Global NCAP safety rating will boost consumer confidence in the Northeast. With compact SUVs witnessing rising demand in Assam’s capital, the Magnite’s feature-rich value proposition and global success story may further strengthen Nissan’s presence in the region.

Nissan is also gearing up to introduce its new global C-SUV, the Nissan Tekton, in India next year, which will also be exported to select international markets.

Suzlon Energy shares jump 4% as Rahul Jain appointed as new CFO

New Delhi: Rahul Jain was named by Suzlon Energy Ltd.’s board as the company’s new Group Chief Financial Officer, effective December 15, the company said on Wednesday. Rahul, who has been in corporate finance for more than 20 years, worked for SRF for 17 years, most recently as Group CFO. He oversaw financial transformation projects at SRF by utilizing technology, simplifying processes, and promoting sound financial practices. A Chartered Accountant, Rahul brings extensive experience from reputed organisations,

Suzlon Energy noted. Following the development, the stock rose 4.49 per cent to hit a high of Rs 58.77 apiece on BSE.Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group, said the appointment comes at a pivotal time as the company enters its next phase of growth and transformation. He added that Rahul’s expertise in financial transformation, M&A, and fundraising would be key in strengthening Suzlon’s capabilities. JP Chalasani, CEO, Suzlon Group, said Rahul has been instrumental in transforming SRF’s financial performance and unlocking shareholder

value, noting that his experience will help Suzlon pursue high-growth opportunities and further enhance financial governance.

Commenting on his appointment, Chartered Accountant, as the Internal Auditor of the company with effect from October 31, 2025, in place of Shyamal Budhdev, Chartered Accountant. Ramani also holds Information Systems Auditor certification from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He has 24 years of post qualification experience in the field of Internal Audit.

Maxify Web Solutions is Redefining Website and Application Development in India and Beyond

New Delhi: There’s a quiet revolution taking shape in India’s technology landscape and leading that transformation is Maxify Web Solutions, a Noida-based IT company steadily changing how businesses go digital. Founded with a clear vision that technology should simplify, not complicate, Maxify has built its reputation on creating powerful, user-friendly, and scalable digital experiences that help businesses grow in a rapidly evolving market. In today’s competitive environment, a business’s success depends heavily on how it presents itself online. But a strong digital presence, as Maxify believes, is not about flashy design or surface-level appeal it’s about performance, usability, and long-term growth. This philosophy forms the foundation of Maxify Web Solutions’ work. The company’s core expertise lies in website and application development, delivering digital platforms that are fast, secure, responsive, and built for measurable impact. While development remains at the heart of Maxify’s operations, the company understands that even the most well-designed platform needs visibility to succeed. To bridge that gap, it offers digital marketing services that complement its technical expertise.Its marketing division provides:*

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for organic visibility* Social Media Marketing (SMM) for engagement and community building* Paid Campaigns (Google & Meta) for measurable conversions* Content and Branding Support for cohesive storytelling across platformsThis integrated approach ensures that Maxify’s clients don’t just have a robust online presence they have a brand that reaches, resonates, and retains. From custom business websites and e-commerce portals to Android and iOS applications, Maxify’s development team ensures each project aligns with the client’s goals and audience needs.“We don’t just build websites or apps we build digital foundations for business growth,” says Shahid Raza, Founder and CEO of Maxify Web Solutions. “Our goal is to create solutions that merge innovation with real-world functionality.”Crafting Digital Experiences That DeliverEvery click, scroll, and interaction on a Maxify-built platform is intentional. The company’s development process focuses on clarity, consistency, and conversion, ensuring that design and functionality work hand in hand.Each project combines clean coding practices, intuitive UI/UX design, and built-in SEO architecture, giving cli-



ents not just a visually impressive product but one that performs across devices and markets.Whether it’s a corporate website, a web portal, or a custom mobile application, Maxify’s emphasis on speed, scalability, and reliability makes its solutions both future-ready and easy to manage.Innovation at Maxify goes beyond front-end development. The company also builds custom enterprise software including HRMS, CRM, and business management systems designed to simplify operations and help

organizations make smarter, data-backed decisions.

By blending technical development with strategic understanding, Maxify helps clients automate complex workflows, reduce inefficiencies, and focus on scaling sustainably.Why Businesses Choose Maxify Web SolutionsOver the years, Maxify Web Solutions has built its credibility on trust, consistency, and results. Its growing global clientele stands as testimony to its effectiveness and expertise.

IPO-bound turns profitable FY25

New Delhi: Captain Fresh, a Bengaluru-headquartered, technology-driven global packaged seafood company, has reported a strong improvement in its financial performance for FY25 as it prepares for a potential initial public offering. The company achieved a 145% year-on-year surge in revenue from operations, reaching Rs 3,421 crore in FY25, up from Rs 1,395 crore in FY24, according to filings with the Registrar of Companies (RoC). This turnaround was underlined by Captain Fresh posting over Rs 42.4 crore in profit after tax (PAT) in FY25, reversing a loss of Rs 229 crore in the previous financial year. Achieving profitability within five years of operations is considered rare in the Indian unicorn space and places Captain Fresh

Captain Fresh, a Bengaluru-based packaged seafood company, has reported a strong improvement in its financial performance for FY25 as it prepares for a potential initial public offering.

among the fastest-growing B2B startups in India’s new economy.Founded in 2020, Captain Fresh operates an asset-light, vertically integrated platform that covers the entire seafood value chain, from procurement to distribution, while avoiding the burden of capital-intensive assets. This approach has enabled the company to scale rapidly, maintaining operational flexibility as it sells seafood under brands such as CenSea, Ocean Garden, Koral, Senecrus, and ChopServe, catering to B2B clients across the U.S., Europe, the UAE, and India.

Adani stock Buy Adani Energy Solutions robust execution pipeline, say ICICI Sec

New Delhi: ICICI Securities has retained its ‘Buy’ rating on Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) with an unchanged target price of Rs 1,127, following the company’s Q2FY26 results that reflected steady operational growth and strong project execution momentum.The second-largest transmission player reported a 2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in revenue and a 14 per cent rise in EBITDA, while adjusted profit grew 20 per cent YoY. On an underlying basis, operating revenue and Ebitda were up 8 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, driven by contributions from new transmission assets and an expanded installed base of smart meters. ICICI Securities said distribution revenue was constrained by extended monsoon conditions in Mumbai and the divestment of the Dahanu plant in Q2FY25, while transmission revenue grew 9 per cent YoY on account of new asset additions. Overall, a strong execution visibility, healthy order book, and rising smart meter installations reinforced ICICI Securities’ positive long-term stance on AESL.AESL deployed 1.8 million smart meters during the quarter, taking cumulative installations to 7.4 million, of which 6.7 million are already commissioned. The company is targeting over 10 million installations by March 2026. It also commissioned 190 circuit kilometres of transmission projects in Q2 and expects to capitalise projects worth about Rs 15,000 crore in FY26, backed by a planned capex of Rs 17,000–18,000 crore.

The execution and bidding pipelines remain robust, ICICI Securities said. It noted that transmission execution pipeline



of Rs 60,000 crore is under implementation and 24.6 million smart meters with an Ebitda potential of Rs 2,550 crore for Adani Energy Solutions. The transmission bidding pipeline is estimated at around Rs 1 lakh crore, excluding the Khavda–Olpad HVDC project, where AESL is the lowest bidder (L1) with an estimated cost of Rs 18,000–20,000 crore. new assets and revenue was cut due to expectations of lower depreciation in older cost-plus assets. We maintain Buy while valuing the businesses on an SoTP-basis and arrive at a target price of Rs 1,127 (unchanged), the brokerage said.

Geojit believes there is additional upside the 5% monthly increase

Mumbai: Infosys shares have been on a steady uptrend, gaining 4.96 per cent over the past month from Rs 1,441.80 to Rs 1,513.30 on the NSE. Brokerage Geojit Financial Services has reiterated its ‘Buy’ rating on the IT major, setting a revised target price of Rs 1,712. The new target implies a potential upside of about 13 per cent from current levels. Geojit’s positive stance stems from Infosys’s steady performance driven by resilience in deal execution, continued traction in digital transformation projects, and operational discipline across key verticals. The brokerage noted that the company’s “focus on GenAI adoption, platform monetisation, and cloud-led modernisation” will enhance scalability and market differentiation.

Infosys, it added, “remains well positioned for sustainable growth in the evolving digital landscape.”

The upbeat outlook follows a solid showing in Q2FY26. Infosys reported an 8.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated revenue to Rs 44,490 crore, with broad-based growth across verticals—manufacturing (up 14.4 per cent YoY), hi-tech (up 13.4 per cent), and financial services (up 10.4 per cent). On the geographic front, Europe led the charge with 15.7 per cent YoY growth, while North America rose 6.5 per cent. Profit after tax (PAT) climbed 13.2 per cent YoY to Rs 7,375 crore, aided by higher other income. Deal momentum also remained strong, with large deal total contract value (TCV) of \$3.1 billion

during the quarter—67 per cent of which came from new business. Post-quarter, Infosys announced an additional \$1.6 billion mega deal.EBITDA grew 7.4 per cent YoY to Rs 10,535 crore, though margins slipped 25 basis points YoY to 23.7 per cent, largely due to a higher share of technical subcontractor costs. Geojit expects margin stability ahead, backed by “efficiency initiatives and talent upskilling.” The company’s attrition remained low at 14.3 per cent.A key shareholder development is the company’s planned share buyback worth Rs 18,000 crore, to be conducted via a tender offer at Rs 1,800 per share. The buyback is expected to conclude in Q3FY26, subject to shareholder approval. Geojit also cited Infosys’s strategic

acquisitions in cybersecurity and consulting as drivers for future growth, including a proposed buyout of an Australian digital transformation firm. The brokerage’s ‘BUY’ call is based on 22x FY27E adjusted EPS. The upbeat outlook follows a solid showing in Q2FY26. Infosys reported an 8.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated revenue to Rs 44,490 crore, with broad-based growth across verticals—manufacturing (up 14.4 per cent YoY), hi-tech (up 13.4 per cent), and financial services (up 10.4 per cent). On the geographic front, Europe led the charge with 15.7 per cent YoY growth, while North America rose 6.5 per cent. Profit after tax (PAT) climbed 13.2 per cent YoY to Rs 7,375 crore, aided by higher other income.

Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, who starred alongside SRK in Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa, describes inquiries about him as ‘stupid’

Almost three decades following Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi continues to receive inquiries regarding her co-star Shah Rukh Khan. However, the actress, who has returned to the film industry after an extended hiatus, expresses her fatigue with these questions. In a recent interview, she described such inquiries as “foolish” and disclosed that she has not communicated with SRK for several years. ‘Our worlds are very different’ Speaking to Galatta India, Suchitra was blunt when asked about Shah Rukh. “I haven’t talked to him for years. Our worlds are very different. Which is why I ask people, ‘Please stop asking me such stupid questions.’ It’s not correct for me to talk

about something continuously for 30 years,” she said. She instead praised Anil Kapoor, her My Wife’s Murder (2005) co-star, calling him “brilliant,” “intelligent,” and a true team player. Choosing projects on her own terms At 49, Suchitra says she never chased stardom. “A lot of people have 200-300 films in their career graphs. I’ve barely done 4-5 (notable) films in my life. I’ve never worked hard to get them, frankly. Nor do I want to. I’m quite happy with my canvas, pen, and singing. I don’t have that much hunger as an actor,” she explained. The actor has a few projects lined up, including the thriller series Margaon: The Closed File with Zeenat Aman and Pallavi Joshi, but says she’s “superstitious” about revealing more.

Why she avoids auditions Suchitra admitted she dislikes the way auditions work today. “I don’t audition. These days, there’s this culture that a 19-year-old kid would message you and ask you to send an audition reel. They don’t know what your experience is like, who you are, and what work you’ve done. I find this culture a bit annoying. So, I want to stay away from it.” She added that whenever she has accepted roles, it’s been through direct calls from directors. Life beyond films Suchitra was last seen in the Prime Video series Guilty Minds (2022). A multi-talented artist, she also sings, paints, writes and acts on stage. Her last single “Shararat” came out in 2023, and she recently hosted a YouTube podcast on music history.



The inaugural multi-starrer Bollywood song that served as an inspiration for Farah Khan’s ‘Om Shanti Om’



When discussing star-studded songs in Bollywood, the title track of Farah Khan’s Om Shanti Om frequently comes to mind, showcasing numerous renowned personalities. Nevertheless, are you aware that this trend originated much earlier? In the 1981 hit Naseeb, director Manmohan Desai encapsulated the entire Bollywood industry in a single frame with the song John Jani Janardhan. The track featured iconic figures such as Raj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna, Rakesh Roshan, Vijay Arora, Waheeda Rehman, Sharmila Tagore, Mala Sinha, Bindu, Simi Grewal, Simple Kapadia, and Prema Narayan. Filming took a week at RK Studios, and the story behind it is fascinating. Manmohan Desai’s son, Ketan Desai, who was just 17 at the time, recently shared the tale on Manju Ramanan Talks on YouTube, explaining how his father turned what seemed an impossible idea into reality. When Manmohan Desai cast Amitabh Bachchan as a waiter, Ketan Desai recalled, “Papa was talking to his writers. When asked why he was always nervous despite consecutive hits, he said, ‘You’re celebrating success now, but I’m thinking about how to raise the bar next time.’ When asked what could be bigger than a multi-starrer film, he suddenly said, ‘What if we bring the entire industry together in one scene?’ Since Amitabh was playing a waiter, they envisioned a party setup where all the stars gathered and Amitabh served them.” This placed a huge responsibility on young Ketan Desai, who admitted he was terrified. “I told Bapu (Manmohan Desai), ‘It’s easy to say, but how do you execute it?’ He looked at me and asked, ‘Are you happy with your salary?’ When I said yes, he said simply, ‘Then do it.’ He personally approached the top stars while I handled coordination, costumes, and logistics.” Transforming RK Studios The film went on to become the highest-grossing movie of the year. RK Studios transformed into a fairground during preparations. Ketan Desai explained, “We had to build extra makeup rooms and toilets. Outside, we created a carnival atmosphere with kebabs, vegetarian and non-vegetarian stalls, chaat counters... something new every day.” Raj Kapoor himself remarked, “Manmohan, I want a fair every day.” He played a key role in composing the song and reassured Manmohan Desai, “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of the actors.” Raj Kapoor was always the first on set, ensuring no one was late. In the evenings, he gave feedback. Lyricist Anand Bakshi wrote special lines for Dharmendra, highlighting his tough-guy image and fostering a lively atmosphere. The Memorable Experience On Set The camaraderie was evident. Randhir Kapoor joked, “We’ve become the most expensive junior artists in the world. We used to be leads; now we’re extras.” Raj Kapoor responded gravely, “Whether hero or junior artist, everyone is equal in a film.” The Legacy Of ‘John Jani Janardhan’ The song John Jani Janardhan, sung by Mohammed Rafi, set a new trend and became iconic. Naseeb was a massive box-office success. While Manmohan Desai’s other films like Amar Akbar Anthony, Dharam Veer, Parvarish, and Coolie were also hits, John Jani Janardhan remains a benchmark for multi-starrer sequences even today.

Left school upon finishing 10th grade, moved to Mumbai on my own at the age of 15



Rohit Suresh Saraf is an Indian actor who primarily works in Hindi films and television. For Rohit Saraf, acting served as a means to fulfill his father’s dream. His father passed away when he was just 11 years old.

After completing Class 10, Saraf quit his studies to chase his father’s dream of seeing him on the big screen. In an interview, the actor said, “My father was a huge movie buff and watched films whenever

he was at home. I think that’s where it started. As I became older, he saw that I too was getting interested in movies. He encouraged me, after all, it’s great to have an actor at home. I am sure he would be proud if he saw me today.” Rohit initially started off with several television commercials, and went on to star in TV shows like MTV’s ‘Big F’ and Channel V’s teen drama ‘Best Friends Forever?’ He made his Bollywood debut with

‘Dear Zindagi’ in 2016 and appeared in films like Hichki (2018), The Sky Is Pink (2019), Ludo (2020) among others.

Netflix series Mismatched gave Rohit Saraf his breakthrough as a relatable and charming lead. The actor got his first lead film role in the romantic comedy Ishq Vishk Rebound. His latest release is Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, starring alongside Varun Dhawan, Sanya Malhotra, and Janhvi Kapoor.

Enduring Chemistry! Essential Rekha-Amitabh Bachchan Movies

A true diva, the esteemed actress Rekha requires no introduction, as she embodies grace, glamour, and grandeur! Celebrated and cherished by many, Rekha is marking her 71st birthday today, October 10, 2025. Arguably, the most significant and frequently discussed romantic relationship that developed in Bollywood was that of Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha. The actress has repeatedly conveyed her admiration and affection for the Big B. Explore their on-screen chemistry in these films. Rekha and Big B worked for the first time in the 1976 film Do Anjaane. Their chemistry was indeed praised by many. Another of their film is the 1977 film, Alaap directed by Rishikesh Mukherjee. While the acting was phenomenal, the film’s music also got quite popular. Another of their popular movies is Rakesh Kumar’s directorial Khoon Pasina. It was released the same year as 1977. The film also featured many other prominent actors like Vinod Khanna, Nirupa Roy, Asrani, and Kader Khan among others. The 1978 Ganga Ki Saugandh film brought the two actors together in a love story. While Big B played the role of a dacoit, Rekha played his love interest. In the same year, the duo worked in Prakash Mehra’s Muqaddar Ka Sikandar. The film became quite popular along with its songs like Salaam-e-ishq. Amitabh and Rekha also featured in the 1979 film Mr Natwarlal, yet again directed by Rakesh Kumar. The film once again gave some of the popular songs of her career. When talking about the films by Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha, one cannot miss Silsila. The iconic film by Yash Chopra took on the taboo subject of extramarital affairs featuring Amitabh Rekha, and Jaya Bachchan. The film also achieved a cult status. Some popular songs from the film include Rang Barse, Dekha Ek Khwab, and Yeh Kahaan Aa Gaye Hum. Some of their other films include Suhaag and Ram Balram.



Ranbir Kapoor discloses the method by which Raj Kapoor persuaded Vyjayanthimala to participate in ‘Sangam’

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor reminisced about how his grandfather, the renowned actor Raj Kapoor, dispatched a telegram to the esteemed actress Vyjayanthimala, persuading her to participate in the 1964 romantic musical drama, ‘Sangam’. Ranbir Kapoor disclosed that this telegram resulted in the famous lyric: Bol Radha Bol Sangam Hoga Ki Nahi? He shared, “I remember while making the music of ‘Sangam’, my grandfather Raj Kapoor wanted Vyjayanthimala to play the role of Radha, and she did not agree, I don’t know for what reason. Aur uss time phone call nahi hote the, telegram bheja jata tha. So, Mr Raj Kapoor, being frustrated, sent a telegram to Vyjayanthimala. The film’s name was ‘Sangam’, and her character’s name was Radha, and he said ‘Bol Radha Bol Sangam Hoga Ki Nahi?’ And the actress wrote back saying ‘Hoga, Hoga Hoga.’ And that became the lyrics of the song.” He was speaking during a special session in Subhash Ghai’s annual ‘Celebrate Cinema’ festival



at Whistling Woods International (WWI). The session, moderated by Subhash Ghai, featured Ranbir alongside noted director Rahul Rawail. He also spoke about method acting and drawing inspiration from iconic filmmakers such as

Guru Dutt and Raj Kapoor. Ranbir was born in the illustrious Kapoor family and is son of Rishi and Neetu Kapoor and the grandson of legendary actor Raj Kapoor. He said, “I’m a product of nepotism and I got it very easy in my life,

but I always had to work hard because I realised that I come from a family like this and if I don’t have an individualistic approach, I’ll not succeed in the film industry.” The Animal actor recalled assisting Sanjay Leela Bhansali in the 2005 film Black, “From childhood, I started learning acting... I went to a film school, the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York, and spent a year there. When I came to Mumbai, I assisted Mr Bhansali on Black. I think between these years, I got to know what it takes to be a working professional.” He added, “The method keeps evolving. The method I learnt at Lee Strasberg, I didn’t quite really understand it. When I saw Mr Bhansali directing actors like Mr Bachchan and Rani, and saw him put a shot, I was taking notice and studying it. There is no fixed method; actors have to be flexible. You have to be an employee of the director’s vision. When I worked with different directors in my career, my method kept changing with them.

Discovering Goa

A Dream Getaway to Paradise and Hidden Gems

Almost everyone around us has dreamed of a GOA getaway, inspired by the iconic movie Dil Chahta Hai. While some proudly share stories of their first trip to Goa, others, like me, have had their fair share of “maybe next time” moments. But as they say, good things come to those who wait. After all the planning, the waiting, and the “MAYBE NEXT TIME” moments, I FINALLY got the opportunity, and this time, there was no turning back. Yes, I visited Goa for the first time! Trust me, the experience was beyond anything I could have imagined. You’ll see what I mean as you read on. As I stepped onto Goan soil for the first time, I realized how perfectly those words (“Goa is not just a place, it’s a state of mind”) fit. The relaxed vibe, the charm of the beaches, and the laid-back atmosphere left me completely in awe. And if I’m being honest, South Goa, in particular, is where the magic really happened. For my long-awaited trip to Goa, I boarded my flight from Delhi to Goa on a Tuesday morning in December. I wasn’t just looking for a place to visit—I wanted an experience that would refresh my soul and provide the perfect balance of relaxation and indulgence. Little did I know, my stay at Cloud9 Sarovar Premiere in Palolem would exceed all my expectations and offer me a slice of paradise. The hotel, about 62 km from Dabolim International Airport,

was along a beautiful, peaceful route that set the mood for my entire trip. Located in the Canacona Valley, the luxury hotel was the perfect getaway. Upon arrival, I was greeted with a refreshing welcome drink, and as I checked in and entered my room, I felt like I had stepped into a utopian world. The room was so well-equipped with modern amenities, ensuring that I had everything I needed for a comfortable stay—from a flat-screen TV and high-speed internet to a mini-bar and a luxurious bathroom. On top of that, I chose the ocean-view room from the 160 rooms and suites available. The tropical vibes, soothing decor, and calming atmosphere made it obvious that this was going to be a stay I’d never forget. As a vegetarian, my experience at Cloud9 Sarovar Premiere in Goa was truly exceptional. I had the pleasure of dining at Trophe, the hotel’s multi-cuisine restaurant, and was pleasantly surprised by the wide variety of vegetarian dishes, many with a delightful Goan twist. I savored everything from rich soups and dim sums to the refreshing taste of virgin mojitos, finishing off with a traditional Goan dessert. However, if you’re a non-vegetarian, you’ll be in heaven (just like my friends), as there were so many mouth-watering dishes that I lost count of them all. Don’t worry, even if you indulge in a lot of food, the Elysium gym is right in the hotel. So, just eat and burn off those calories! For an even more unforgetta-

ble dining experience, I visited 74° NE, the hotel’s rooftop restaurant. As the sky transitioned into stunning shades of orange and pink, I sipped exclusive drinks and cocktails while soaking in the breathtaking Goan sunset. The combination of delicious drinks and the incredible views made for a moment of pure joy—one I will never forget in my entire life. It’s true what they say, “With a drink in hand and a view like that, what more could you ask for?” But wait... there’s so much more than just the delicious food! The best part of my stay was being part of an event that truly captured the lively spirit of the São João Festival, which honors Saint John the Baptist with lively celebrations, including music, dance, and symbolic water-jumping rituals. Coming back to the festival-like setup at the hotel, I must say... the atmosphere was buzzing with energy as we enjoyed fresh fruits, drinks, and mouth-watering Goan dishes. We couldn’t help but dance along to the live Goan music, and let me tell you, it truly felt like the heart of Goa was alive at that moment. The next day, I enjoyed a spa session at Hebe, the hotel’s spa center. The exclusive oils and treatments were incredibly relaxing and left me feeling both refreshed and recharged. Honestly, it felt like all my stress just melted away. After the spa, I relaxed by the poolside with a drink, soaking in the stunning view. Trust me, it was one of those moments that words can’t

fully capture. Then, we decided to go shopping—after all, we are girls! We had the opportunity to visit a nearby street market in a Mini Van (provided by the hotel, free of charge). Then, we headed to Palolem Beach (which is just a walk away) to feel the soft sand beneath our feet. It was truly an unforgettable experience! Now, I completely understand the meaning of this phrase, “If you didn’t feel the sand between your toes and the rhythm of the waves, did you even go to Goa?” While there were many other amazing spots to visit, like Patnem and Raj Bagh Beach, the Malika Arjun Temple, and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, all of us decided to take a different route and discover a hidden gem with the help of the hotel’s staff—a waterfall deep in the Netrawali Jungle. I know its name, but let’s keep this beautiful secret between us for now. To sum up my Goa experience, I have to say that throughout the trip, I couldn’t decide whether to enjoy a refreshing coconut water or treat myself to a cocktail by the sea. It’s one of those little dilemmas that make a Goa getaway so memorable. Goa is truly a place where every moment feels special and every experience unforgettable. Whether I was relaxing on the beautiful beaches, savoring delicious food, or just soaking in the vibe, it was a trip that left me with countless memories. Now that you know where to stay, it’s time to book your tickets and make your way to Goa!



Mount Fuji hikes and Kyoto nights

Kyoto authorities announced Tuesday plans to hike lodging taxes, as Japan’s ancient capital seeks to assuage grumbles from locals about too many tourists. Lured by its myriad sights and a weak yen, Japan has seen foreign tourism numbers explode in recent years, with arrivals in 2024 expected to have hit a record of more than 35 million. But like other hotspots worldwide such as Venice in Italy or Maya Bay in Thailand, this is not universally welcome, particularly in tradition-steeped Kyoto. The city, which is a modest bullet train ride away from Tokyo -- with a view of Mount Fuji on the way -- is famed for its kimono-clad geisha performers and Buddhist temples. Residents have complained of disrespectful tourists harassing the geisha like paparazzi in their frenzy for photos, as well as causing traffic congestion and littering. For rooms costing between 20,000 and 50,000 yen (\$127-317) per night, visitors will now see their tax double to 1,000 yen (\$6.35) per person per night, under the new plans. For accommodation over 100,000 yen per night it will soar tenfold to 10,000 yen. The new levies will take effect next year, subject to approval from the city assembly. “We intend to hike accommodation tax to realise ‘sustainable tourism’ with a high level of satisfaction for citizens, tourists and businesses,” a statement said. Tensions are highest in the Gion district, home to teahouses where “geiko” -- the local name for geisha -- and their “maiko” apprentices perform traditional dances and play instru-



ments. Last year authorities moved to ban visitors from entering certain narrow private alleys in Gion after pressure from a council of local residents. One council member told local media about an instance of a maiko’s kimono being torn and another who had a cigarette butt put in her collar. In 2019, the Gion dis-



trict council put up signs saying “no photography on private roads” warning of fines of up to 10,000 yen. “I



appreciate tourists visiting the city, but there are also some downsides like the impact on the environment,” resident Daichi Hayase told AFP, welcoming the new taxes. “But it doesn’t mean the city should impose excessive taxes. Tourists are coming despite painful inflation,” the 38-year-old photographer said. “If there’s a

burden on the infrastructure, I do think taxing tourists is a good idea,” said Australian tourist Larry Cooke, 21. But he said that the city had to find the “right balance”. Tourism has been booming for over a decade in Japan, with foreign arrivals rising five-fold between 2012 and when the Covid pandemic torpedoed foreign travel in 2020. Since restrictions were lifted, and the government is hoping to welcome 60 million tourists per year by 2030, almost double last year’s expected total. Authorities have also taken steps beyond Kyoto, including introducing an entry fee and a daily cap on the number of hikers climbing Mount Fuji. Last year a barrier was briefly erected outside a convenience store with a spectacular view of the famous snow-capped volcano that had become a magnet for photo-hungry visitors. And in December Ginzan Onsen, a Japanese hot spring town with made-for-Instagram snowy scenes began stopping anyone arriving after 8:00 pm if they don’t have a hotel booked.

From frozen Dal Lake to Sonamarg Tunnel

Amid the ongoing cold wave in the Kashmir valley, the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar developed a thin layer of ice on its surface on Monday. Earlier, on Sunday, Srinagar had recorded a steep decline of 3.1 degrees Celsius in its seasonal minimum temperature, with the mercury settling at -5.1 degrees Celsius during the coldest hour of the day. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature was recorded at 10 degrees Celsius, a deviation of 3.4 degrees Celsius from the normal, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Visuals from the Dal Lake area showed a group of tourists, dressed in layers of woollens, taking a stroll in the city amid the cold and dry weather conditions. Speaking to ANI, Zubair, a tourist from Delhi, said, “The cold here is twice as much as in Delhi. It feels great to be here. I visit this place every year, and that too around this time only.” His enthusiasm reflected his admiration for the Kashmir valley. “Though there are lesser chances of snowfall this time, visiting Kashmir is always a pleasant experience,” Zubair stated. “The Dal Lake is partially frozen right now, but the ice gets shattered once the ‘shikaras (houseboats)’ make their way through the water,” he added. Zubair also urged the people to visit Kashmir during the winter. His brother also showcased the same spirit, saying, “If you are here for the winters, then you should enjoy the winters... There are some tourists who cut their trip short due to the cold. This should not be the case.” Speaking further, the young man said, “Everyone should visit this place at least once. Kashmir is indeed a paradise.” Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir today and the Sonamarg Tunnel, in accordance with the release of Prime Minister’s Office. The tunnel around has been at a cost of crore. It comes along the main length, an egress road. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes and ensuring safer and uninterrupted access to the strategically critical Ladakh region.



Stop fixing your child, start feeling



Parenting Secrets: Understanding beats fixing every time. Check out this modern parent’s guide to foster emotional growth in your child. There is no challenge as rewarding as parenting but driven by the desire to protect and nurture their children, parents sometimes instinctively focus on “fixing” problems rather than understanding the emotions behind them. This approach, though well-intentioned, can inadvertently teach children to suppress their feelings or view emotions as obstacles to overcome. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Preeti Singh, Chief Medical Officer at Lissun and Senior Consultant Clinical Psychology, recommended five actionable tips to help foster a deeper connection with your child -When your child is upset, the instinct to jump in and solve the problem is natural. However, focusing on fixing can inadvertently teach your child that their feelings are something to be “fixed” or dismissed. Instead:Pause and Acknowledge: Let your child know it’s okay to feel what they’re feeling. Phrases like, “I see you’re upset; do you want to talk about it?” can help.Be Curious: Ask open-ended questions to understand their perspective. Avoid assumptions. Validate Emotions: Say things like, “It’s okay to feel sad,” or “That sounds

really frustrating.” This teaches your child that emotions are normal and manageable.Avoid Rushing: If they put on a brave front, let them know it’s okay not to be okay around you. Create an environment where vulnerability is seen as a strength.2. Model healthy boundaries and ground rulesChildren learn the most by observing, so demonstrating healthy boundaries is key. Boundaries teach self-respect and respect for others.Be Consistent: Clearly communicate rules and expectations (e.g., regarding screen time or mealtime). Stick to them calmly, even if met with resistance.Teach “Yes” and “No”: Show your child that saying “no” doesn’t make them bad or unkind, and that saying “yes” comes from a place of willingness, not obligation.Set Personal Boundaries: Share examples of your own boundaries, like saying, “I need some quiet time right now, but we can talk after dinner.”Encourage Autonomy: Give your child age-appropriate opportunities to make choices and respect their decisions when possible.3. Foster a body-neutral and gender-neutral environmentIn a world filled with stereotypes, creating an inclusive and accepting space allows your child to grow into their authentic self.Avoid Critiques of Appearance: Avoid comments (positive or negative) about weight, body shape, or physical

features. Focus on strengths, abilities, and character.Challenge Stereotypes: Encourage interests regardless of gender norms (e.g., letting boys enjoy cooking or girls pursue sports).Use Inclusive Language: Opt for words that don’t reinforce traditional gender roles, such as “person” instead of “boy/girl” where appropriate.Encourage Self-Expression: Allow your child to explore their identity without judgment or pressure. Be a supportive sounding board.4. Manage digital healthTechnology is a powerful tool but can become harmful when unchecked.Set Limits: Create family rules around screen time, device usage during meals, and technology-free zones (e.g., bedrooms).Teach Digital Responsibility: Discuss topics like online safety, cyberbullying, and the risks of excessive screen use.Monitor Content: Keep an eye on what your child is consuming—games, videos, and social media—and discuss it openly.Prioritise Sleep: Ensure devices are turned off at least an hour before bedtime to promote healthy sleep patterns. Lead by Example: Model balanced screen usage and explain the benefits of unplugging.5. Be a present listenerListening actively and non-judgmentally strengthens your relationship with your child and builds trust.Give Them Your Full Attention: Put aside distractions like phones or work when your child wants to talk.Paraphrase to Show Understanding: Repeat back what they’ve shared (e.g., “So you felt left out when your friends didn’t invite you?”). Ask Questions Without Leading: Use open-ended questions like, “How did that make you feel?” or “What do you think would help?”Resist Judging or Fixing: Avoid offering solutions unless they ask. Sometimes, they just need someone to listen.Ultimately, parenting with mindfulness and empathy creates a lasting, positive impact on your child’s self-esteem, emotional resilience and sense of worth.

How healthy habits can influence brain development in the early years



From healthy sleep patterns to nutrition, here’s how habits can influence brain development in children. By the age of five, a child’s brain is 90 percent developed. The habits, life and lifestyle patterns in the early years, determines their brain growth and development. Hence, it is essential to watch their habits as they grow up, especially in the formative years. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital said, “The early years are a key period of development for a child’s capacity to learn, think, and flourish. Early experiences, whether happy or unpleasant, shape their destiny. From three months before birth to two years after birth, the brain experiences an exceptionally important phase of development. This is the time when the brain grows the most.” The neurologist further explained how different habits influence brain development in children: Nutrition is critical to early brain development. Rapid brain development happens throughout a child’s first few years of life, with the brain reaching

80% of its adult weight by age three. Include berries, nuts, seeds, oranges, green leafy vegetables, chocolate, yogurt, whole grains, and soy products in your child’s diet to promote brain development and cognitive growth. Physical exercise is another important part of health promotion in early childhood. Structured and unstructured play promotes physical development while also improving cognitive processes and social skills. Parents may include movement into their regular activities, such as nature walks or dance parties, to make fitness more fun for the entire family. Emotional well-being is just as vital in the holistic approach to health. Teaching children to recognize and express their feelings from a young age lays the groundwork for emotional intelligence and resilience. Sleep is another critical component of your child’s mental and physical development. It is vital for growth, particularly in early infancy. As your child’s sleep demands alter as they get older, it’s critical to maintain a regular bedtime schedule to ensure they receive enough rest.

The winner's bag is worth \$1 million, includes a \$40K facelift and exclusive vacations



The Golden Globes gift bag lives up to the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, offering the most expensive experiences. The winners of the prestigious 82nd Golden Globe Awards, held at the Beverly Hilton on January 5, 2025, received an exclusive brown suede bag filled with luxurious gifts that made them feel like true winners. Robb Report has dubbed this gift bag the ‘World’s Most Luxurious Gift Bag.’ According to Robb report, the bag contains over 25 products and experiences, valued at a total of which is double the value of last year’s gift bag. The gift box is designed to cater to a variety of tastes for celebrities, including travel, culinary, fashion, beauty, and more. The brown suede bag, adorned with a customized gold coin ‘Golden Globes’ tag, transcends the realm of a mere accessory. It offers the award recipients a one-of-a-kind experience, with a curated collection that speaks volumes about its worth. The bag is Atlas Bespoke Weekender Bag, made exclusively for Golden Globes, as per Robb Report. In addition to the bag, the award winners also received a gift book curated by Robb Report, which provides a detailed explanation of the luxurious gifts inside, adding further value to the exclusive experience. Luke Bahrenburg, the president of Robb Report and head of luxury sales at Penske Media Corporation, said in a statement, “This year’s collection embodies the pinnacle of luxury, offering recipients an extraordinary journey through bespoke craftsmanship, exclusive experiences, and iconic brands that define excellence.” According to a report by People, the winners were given a wide array of exclusive vacation choices- to relax, indulge, and tap into their wanderlust. These include a luxury yacht trip through the Coral Triangle in Indonesia, a private flight and stay in Finland to watch the Northern Lights, and the most expensive option of all—a three-night stay in a beachfront villa in Turks and Caicos, priced at \$507,492. The bag also pampers its recipients with luxurious beauty and skin treatments. As per the People report, one winner is offered a \$40,000 non-surgical stem cell facelift, while 25 others will enjoy a \$1,400 oxygen facial at The Maybourne Hotel in Beverly Hills. The beauty and wellness pampering for the winners continues, as PopCulture reported that the bag also contains a \$469 CurrentBody LED Light Therapy Face Mask, a \$935 La Prairie Pure Gold Radiance Concentrate serum, and personalized dance and

Planning to buy body massage oil? 7 alternatives to Forest Essentials that offer similar benefits

While Forest Essentials offers nourishing body massage oil, alternative options offer similar benefits. Check out these top picks. What’s better than enjoying a relaxing massage session after a long day of work? Using a body massage oil is the right way to do it as it will help relax, improve blood circulation and nourish the skin. It may even alleviate stress, reduce muscle tension, and provide hydration, leaving the skin soft and rejuvenated. Forest Essentials Narayana Ayurvedic Body Massage Oil is one luxurious option that claims to offer deep nourishment. However, its premium price makes it less accessible for many. Thankfully, some alternative options can provide similar benefits at a more affordable cost. So, choose as per your budget and preferences and enjoy a soothing experience. Forest Essentials Narayana Ayurvedic Body Massage Oil may be a good addition to your skincare routine. This anti-inflammatory Ayurvedic body massage oil is designed to relieve pain and strengthen bones. It is made with sesame and coconut oil, which may help to tone muscles and open energy pathways. The brand claims it is made using cold-pressed oils and traditional Ayurvedic methods. This body massage oil can offer instant relief from backaches, muscular pain, and rheumatic discomfort.2. Deeply nourishes the skin, strengthens bone tissues, and tones muscles.Made with authentic Ayurvedic processes.Premium pricing might not suit all budgets. Fragrance may not appeal to everyone. Why choose: It claims to offer holistic pain relief and muscle toning with high-quality, nutrient-rich ingredients. Customer review: Highly effective for pain relief and reducing joint tension.



The fragrance is Ayurvedic. A small quantity suffices, making it long-lasting and cost-effective. Life & Pursuits Turmeric Body Oil is a lightweight, fast-absorbing body massage oil containing turmeric, almond oil, and coconut oil. Regular use of this oil may hydrate and brighten your skin while reducing dark spots. The brand claims that this product is vegan, cruelty-free, and made with organic ingredients. This body massage oil is ideal for hydrating dry skin, improving skin tone, and reducing blemishes.2. Suitable for all, including babies above six months. Not specifically designed for pain relief or muscle relaxation.Why choose: A versatile, non-greasy oil that promotes radiant skin using pure Ayurvedic herbs and cold-pressed oils. Customer review: Users say it leaves skin soft, smooth, and glowing. The subtle scent is relaxing. Juicy Chemistry Organic Sweet Almond Oil is a 100% pure, cold-pressed almond oil. This body massage oil is rich in vitamins and antioxidants. The brand also claims that this women’s body mas-

sage oil is suitable for skincare, hair care, baby massage, and aromatherapy. MYMUSE Glow Relaxing Aromatherapy Massage Oil is an aromatherapy massage oil. This body massage oil for couples is enriched with essential oils for daily hydration and relaxation. The brand claims that this full-body massage oil is safe for the face, body, and hair. Palmer’s Cocoa Butter Moisturising Body Oil may be a good addition to your routine. It is a light, fast-absorbing body oil, which is formulated with cocoa butter and vitamin E. The brand states that it can instantly replenish dry skin. Sage Apothecary Lavender Mint Massage Oil is a luxurious blend of mint and lavender oils. This body massage oil may promote relaxation and skin rejuvenation. The brand claims that this product is vegan and cruelty-free. Blue Nectar Anti Cellulite Body Massage Oil may be a good addition to your routine. This may be the best oil for body massage as it contains Triphala, tea tree oil, and turmeric. It is a plant-based oil that may reduce cellulite and hydrate skin.

Gurmeet Choudhary's diet for toned body at 40 is quite rigorous

Gurmeet Choudhary has consistently impressed with his physique, making him a fitness inspiration for many. He has now revealed that he has eaten just boiled food for a year and a half. The actor spoke about his strict diet and workout regimen in a recent episode of Bharti Singh’s Bharti TV Podcast. He said that a healthy diet is essential for his performance, especially when shooting in extreme locations or for long hours. The actor added he avoids sugar, wheat, rice, and bread. When asked about the pressure to be an actor, while shooting in extreme conditions, Gurmeet said in Hindi, “It is quiet tough. It has been 1.5 years since I have been on a sugar-free diet; it has been 1.5 years since I ate roti, rice, or even bread. It is not easy at all. You have to mentally prepare yourself for every role that you play. It is more challenging because I am a big foodie; I absolutely love food. But I have just had one kind of food for a year and half – only boiled food. It has no taste; but now I have started finding it tasty. Now, if I eat something unhealthy or if I overeat, it does not suit my body at all. I can eat some ghee, but if I have too much, then my body rejects it.” With a sugar-free diet like Gurmeet’s, the main goal is to eliminate all sources of added sugar and instead focus on consuming nutrient-dense foods. Too busy to eat healthy? Steamed food could be your new best friend if you are on a fitness journey like Gurmeet. The actor, who is 40, added he is fitter today than he was in his 20s and can beat a 20-something when it comes to fitness. Gurmeet’s fitness routine is also quite rigorous – it involves a mix of sprinting, weight training, martial arts, dancing, cycling, jogging, and yoga.He also spoke about his strict regimen on Bharti’s podcast, saying, “Discipline is very important for fitness. I sleep by 9:30 pm and wake up at 4 am. I get more time than other people to work on myself. I meditate, make my morning coffee, listen to my favourite music, read a book or my scripts, and finish my workout by 6 am.”



Velvety Greek chicken soup with a mixture of egg and lemon

This Greek soup gets its name, avgolemono, from the egg-lemon mixture used to thicken the broth. Some versions are simply broth that’s thickened and seasoned, while others are more substantial and include rice and chicken. We prefer the latter. In this recipe from our cookbook “Milk Street 365: The All-Purpose Cookbook for Every Day of the Year,” we poach bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts in store-bought broth to give it a rich body and flavour. The bones and skin are removed and the meat is shredded and added to the soup just before serving. Grated carrots lend sweetness and colour, while lemon zest deepens the citrus notes. The rice is simmered directly in the broth, infusing it with savoury flavour. The yolk in the egg-lemon mixture coagulates as it hits the hot liquid, thickening the broth and giv-



ing it a velvety texture. To prevent the eggs from curdling, keep these tips in mind: Temper the eggs first by slowly adding a small amount of the hot broth to the bowl before whisking the mixture into the pan. And after adding the mixture, don’t let the soup reach a boil or even a simmer.

Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve with fresh herbs, such as dill or chives. 1 quart low-sodium chicken broth12-ounce bone-in, skin-on chicken breast, halved crosswiseThree 2-inch strips lemon zest, plus 3 tablespoons lemon juice2 medium carrots, peeled and shredded on the large holes of a box grater1 medium yellow onion, chopped¾ cup long-grain white rice, rinsed and drainedKosher salt and ground black pepper3 large eggs In a large saucepan, combine the broth, chicken, 2 cups water, the lemon zest strips, carrots and onion. Bring to a simmer over medium-high, then reduce to low, cover and cook until the thickest part of the chicken reaches 160°F, 15 to 18 minutes.Using tongs, remove and discard the zest strips; transfer the chicken to a plate and set aside. Return the broth

to a simmer over medium, then stir in the rice, ¾ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Reduce to low, cover and cook, stirring once halfway through, until the rice is tender, 12 to 15 minutes. Meanwhile, remove and discard the skin and bones from the chicken and shred the meat; set aside. When the rice is done, remove the pan from the heat and uncover. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and lemon juice. While whisking constantly, slowly ladle about 1 cup of the hot rice-broth mixture into the egg mixture, then slowly whisk this mixture into the pan. Stir in the shredded chicken. Return the pan to low and cook, stirring constantly, until the soup is warm and lightly thickened, 2 to 4 minutes; do not allow the soup to simmer. Off heat, taste and season with salt and pepper.

Suryakumar’s form in the first Twenty20 International as India plays Australia

New Delhi: The leader in Suryakumar Yadav would nudge the batter in him to take centre stage and start contributing handsomely with the willow when India take on Australia in the opening T20 International here on Wednesday. It promises to be an even battle with both countries having won eight of their last 10 T20I games with a defeat each. While India had one tied game, Australia saw one game washed out. While the captain’s prolonged bad patch remains a cause of worry, the Indian T20 team has been the best of the three national outfits, almost operating on autopilot with the new players taking on their roles like fish to water. Since being appointed captain, Suryakumar’s record has been phenomenal in terms of results, with 23 wins in 29 games so far, adhering to the new template of fearless cricket where every batter goes all guns blazing from ball one. “Runs, it will come eventually but I’m working hard towards the team goal. It’s more important what team wants from you in different situations and I take one game at a time and if it starts then I think it will be a good thing.” For someone like Abhishek Sharma, who became the toast of the nation in the Asia Cup, tackling the extra bounce on Australian pitches would be a new challenge and hence the skipper’s contribution becomes all the more important. The problem with Surya has been his limited range of strokes and always trying to play behind the square using the pace and bounce of the deliveries. The aggression at all costs and



Surya’s leadership skills have worked really well with an all-win bilateral series record and the Asia Cup triumph, albeit, against some second rung continental teams. The Australia series marks the beginning of India’s real preparation going into the T20 World Cup early next year with 15 games to get into the groove. But one could say that the result of this series would not have a major impact as the next 10 games against South Africa and New Zealand would be in familiar conditions, something similar to what they are likely to get in the T20 World Cup. While head coach Gautam Gambhir was unequivocal in his support for Surya and believed that he didn’t need to worry about his string of low scores, it is indeed time for the captain to let his bat

do the talking. In 2023, Surya had batted in 18 innings, scoring 733 runs at a strike rate of nearly 156 and it comprised two tons and five half-centuries. In 2024, he amassed little less than 450 runs at a strike-rate of 151 but cut to 2025, the Indian skipper has managed only 100 runs from 10 innings at an average of 11 runs per game. What stands out as an anomaly is his strike rate of over 105, which suggests that while he has struggled for runs, he hasn’t completely abandoned his attacking intent. “I feel I have been working really hard. Not that I wasn’t working hard before. I have had good few sessions back home, good 2-3 sessions here, so I am in good space,” the skipper said at the pre-series press conference at the Manuka Oval.

Football’s lawmak are looking curb time taken

Mumbai: Football’s lawmakers are taking aim at one of the game’s tactical weapons which is in vogue — the long throw-ins. The International Football Association Board (IFAB), which decides the laws of football, is considering new measures to limit how much time players can take over throw-ins and goal-kicks.

The move is part of a wider push to keep the ball in play for longer. The Premier League has seen a boom in long throws this season. According to Stats Perform, the average number of long throws has more than doubled — 3.44 per game this season compared to 1.52 in 2024-25. But with players spending extra time drying the ball, waiting for teammates, and setting up routines, the actual playing time has fallen. The average ball-in-play time in the first 40 Premier League matches this season dropped to 54 minutes and 21 seconds — down by more than two minutes from last year. IFAB’s football and technical advisory panels discussed a proposal to introduce a time limit for throw-ins, similar to the new rule for goalkeepers. Football’s lawmakers are considering limiting how long players can take over throw-ins and goal-kicks to increase in-play time. Here’s what’s being proposed and why it matters.



PKL 2025: Bharat powers Telugu Titans past Patna Pirates to set up Qualifier

New Delhi: Fueled by Bharat Hooda’s 23 points, the Telugu Titans ended Patna Pirates’ dream run with an impressive 46-39 victory in Eliminator 3 at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday night. The Titans will now face season 10 champion Puneri Paltan on Wednesday for a place in the final against Dabang Delhi. Despite the defeat, Ayan Lohchab was a standout for the Pirates, capping his season with a remarkable milestone — Bharat’s successful raid on Ankit widened the margin to three, and he completed his Super 10 soon after with a touch on Ashish Birwal. A second ALL OUT on the Pirates pushed the Titans’ lead to 10, as Bharat and his teammates began to dominate proceedings.

Ayan and Navdeep fought hard, with the latter completing his fourth High Five of the season, but lacked support from the rest of the Pirates lineup. Though Patna managed to inflict an ALL OUT of their own to narrow the deficit to five, the Titans stayed in control. Defender Ankit’s tackle on Milan Dahiya and Bharat’s late touch points on Ankit Rana and Deepak sealed the re-

sult. Bharat capped the night with a Super Raid, putting the contest beyond reach. The Pirates’ spirited campaign ended just short, while the Titans booked a high-stakes Qualifier 2 clash with Puneri Paltan. he became the first PKL raider to record six 20+ point games in a single season. His final tally of 316 raid points marked a massive jump from his 184 in PKL 11 and was instrumental in powering the Pirates’ eight-match winning streak leading up to the eliminator. The game began at a frantic pace, with both teams trading points early. Ayan was tackled in his opening raid, and Vijay Malik was stopped in the very next. Soon after, the Pirates gained the upper hand, as Ankit Rana’s touch point extended their lead to four at the end of the first quarter (13-9). In the first half, Ayan became just the fifth player in PKL history to reach 300 raid points in a single season with a successful raid on Ajit Pawar. But the Titans hit back strongly. Shubham tackled Ayan, and Chetan Sahu’s touch on Deepak reduced the gap to a single point before the Titans inflicted an ALL OUT to take a 22-20 lead at halftime.

31st-ranked Briton Cameron Carlos Alcaraz stunned Master opener by Britain’s Norrie

New Delhi: World number one Carlos Alcaraz was stunned in his opening match at the Paris Masters on Tuesday as he went down to 31st-ranked Briton Cameron Norrie 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. The six-time Grand Slam champion has never won the Paris Masters in five attempts and now faces losing his place atop the rankings should rival Jannik Sinner win the tournament in the French capital. Returning from three weeks out of official competition due to an ankle issue, Alcaraz claimed the opening set as he displayed his usual combination of fire and flair. However, much like his ultimately successful run at the French Open this spring, the Spaniard’s level dropped off a cliff mid-match. This time he was made to pay. “I’m really disappointed about my level today,” Alcaraz told reporters after the loss. “I had all the ideas clear, all the goals clear but today even in the first set which I won I felt I could do a lot more than I actually did.” “I have to give credit to Cam... He played really well today, a solid match, and I think that was the key.” The mercurial Norrie, who drew his fair share of admiring gasps from the 17,500-capacity centre court at the La Defense Arena, capital-



ised on his opponent’s errors by breaking him twice at crucial times in the second and third sets. The 30-year-old said the win was “maybe the number one” of his career. “I’ve been working really hard this year so it’s nice to get a win like this to make it worth it,” added the former world number eight. During the interval before the decider, Alcaraz had an animated discussion with his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero. It was to no avail, however, as the El Palmar native continued to be wayward with his first serve and backhand.

India Predicted XI For 1st T20I Against Australia

New Delhi: India look to continue their brilliant run of form in the shortest format of the sport as the Suryakumar Yadav-led side takes on Australia in the first T20I encounter in Canberra on Tuesday. India clinched the Asia Cup 2025 title without losing a single game and the players will be confident of achieving similar success in Australia. The ODI series did not go according to plan for the visitors as India were defeated 1-2 despite winning the third ODI thanks to brilliant

performances from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Top-ranked T20I batter Abhishek Sharma is expected to open the innings with and Yashasvi Jaiswal both in contention for the opener slot. India’s Asia Cup hero Tilak Varma is expected to bat at No. 3 with skipper Suryakumar Yadav at No. 5. While head coach Gautam Gambhir tinkered with the middle-order quite a bit during the Asia Cup, Samson is expected to bat at No. 5 with Shivam Dube at No. 6.

Bowlers’ late charge guides Bengal to first Ranji win over Gujarat

New Delhi: The weather didn’t pose any problem for Bengal on Tuesday, but the slow Eden Gardens pitch certainly was a barrier. Yet, the Bengal camp was all smiles at the end of the day as Mohammed Shami (5/38) and Shahbaz Ahmed (3/60) were relentless in building pressure on the opposition batsmen, which culminated in a 141-run victory over Gujarat on the final day of this Ranji Trophy encounter. But fortunately for Bengal, Akash Deep and Shahbaz struck at the other end to remove the other opener, Aarya Desai, and Gujarat skipper Manan Hingrajia to leave the visitors wobbling at 50/3. At that stage, Bengal were right on top, but Urvil continued to bat aggressively with support from Jaymeet Patel (45) to provide Gujarat a much-needed stability thereafter. Registering their first Ranji win over Gujarat in the last two decades, Bengal, after back-to-back victories in the competition, are now third in



Group C with 12 points. Bengal’s decision not to declare overnight and bat for close to half an hour on the final day did seem tricky as fading light towards the end of the day was going to be a concern anyhow, while there were also forecasts of rain. 327-run target for Gujarat.

Bengal then couldn’t have asked for a better start as they pressed for a win as Shami had Abhishek Desai caught behind off the very first ball of the fourth innings. Gujarat promoted keeper-batter Urvil Pa-

tel (109 not out) up the order, and the ploy worked as he took on the Bengal bowlers from the word ‘go’. On top of the pitch’s slowness, some directionless bowling from Ishan Porel and Akash Deep eased the pressure on Urvil and Jaymeet when Urvil was on 72, keeper Abishek Porel’s late reaction allowed the batter a reprieve, with Shami being the unfortunate bowler. It seemed Bengal would have to be satisfied with three points from the first innings lead as the match looked headed for a draw.

Oman replaces Pakistan in Men’s Junior Hockey World Cup 2025

Chennai: Oman has earned a late entry into the FIH Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup, stepping in for Pakistan, which has turned down its invitation to the tournament. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) of its decision not to take part in the tournament, despite having qualified through the Asia Junior Cup 2024. As a result, Oman, the next highest-placed team from the continental event, will fill the vacant spot. The Junior World Cup will be held from November 28 to December 10, 2025, across the Indian cities of Chennai and Madurai.

This edition will also mark a landmark moment for world hockey, as both the men’s and women’s Junior World Cups will feature 24 teams each for the first time. The

International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced that Oman will join the list of participating teams for the upcoming Men’s Junior World Cup in Tamil Nadu 2025, following Pakistan’s late withdrawal from the tournament. The tournament will take place from November 28 to December 10 in Chennai and Madurai. Oman qualified as the next highest-ranked team in the continental championship (Junior Asia Cup 2024) for this Junior World Cup. “Pakistan Hockey Federation had notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that they have not accepted the invitation to participate in the upcoming FIH Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025, after their team had qualified for this event at the Asia Junior Cup last year,” FIH said in a statement.



India vs Australia, 1st T20I Washed out after Suryakumar, Shubman power India to 97/1 against Australia

India vs Australia 1st T20I Highlights: The series-opening T20I between India and Australia was washed out after persistent rain restricted play to less than 10 overs.

Canberra: Rain played spoiler leading to the abandonment of the 1st T20I between India and Australia at the Manuka Oval in Canberra on Wednesday. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav smashed his way to 39 while his deputy Shubman Gill looked good on 37 as India reached 97 for 1 in just 9.4 overs when rain stopped proceedings for the second time. The umpires carried out several inspections before deciding to call off the match. Surya hit three fours and two sixes in 24 balls while Shubman, in the 20 balls that he faced, slammed four boundaries and a six. Surya and Shubman added 62 off 35 balls for the second wicket when play was stopped in the 10th over bowled by Nathan Ellis. Australia skipper Mitchell



Marsh won the toss and elected to field against India in the first T20I of the five-match series. India went with two frontline pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Harshit Rana while Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy will perform the spin duties. Injury-prone all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out of the first three T20 Internationals due to neck spasms, the BCCI had said on Wednesday. Earlier, Abhishek Sharma, who struck four boundaries in a fluent 19, was dismissed by Ellis while trying to play a lofted shot over mid-off. India (IND) vs Australia (AUS) 1st T20 Live Cricket Score Updates: Match has been called off in Canberra due to rain. Earlier, Australian skipper Mitchell Marsh won the toss and opted to bowl first against India in the first of the five-match T20I series at the Manuka Oval in Canberra on

Wednesday. The hosts have won the ODI leg of the series 2-1, thanks to a bit more conducive to batting with pace and bounce, and be ready for various conditions. As per Australia, they too have had a fantastic run in the shorter version of the game and will be favourites going into that 2026 showpiece event. They will be looking to test the quality of their side against the defending World Champions.