

Arunachal Pradesh University hosts literary competitions under Vande Mataram initiative

Itanagar, Sept 12: Arunachal Pradesh University (APU) hosted a series of literary and fine arts competitions at its Pasighat campus under the banner of Vande Mataram @ 150, marking the 150th anniversary of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's iconic national song.

Organized by the Department of Mass Communication and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the event served as a prelude to a larger three-day national celebration scheduled for October 7 to 9. Over 160 students from schools and higher education institutes across East Siang district participated in junior and senior categories spanning poster making, essay writing,



ing, poetry composition, and vocal music.

Participating institutions included Jawaharlal Nehru College, the North East Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research, Daying Ering College of Teacher Education, Govern-

ment Polytechnic College Pasighat, and several regional government secondary schools. The creative themes focused heavily on connecting the national movement with local perspectives, covering topics such as Legacy and Rele-

vance in Modern India, Unsung Heroes of Arunachal Pradesh's Freedom Struggle, and What the Motherland Means to Me.

Addressing the gathering, Event Convener Dr. Prem Taba emphasized that the initiative aims to offer youth

a creative platform to explore national identity, history, and culture through the unique lens of Arunachal Pradesh as India's eastern frontier. APU Registrar Narmi Darang and Dean of Academics Prof. P.C. Jena were also in attendance alongside faculty members, research scholars, and academic administrators.

Organizers confirmed that winning participants in all four categories will receive cash prizes and formal certificates during the main inaugural ceremony in October. The month-long sesquicentennial program will continue with a 5.5-kilometer Run for Vande Mataram mini-marathon, community river-cleaning drives, photo exhibitions, and an academic national seminar.

Manipur CM likens peace efforts to threading broken needle

Imphal, Sept 12: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh stated that bringing peace to the state amidst the ongoing ethnic situation is like "threading a needle through a torn cloth," requiring immense patience, careful negotiation, and mutual trust.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 3rd Singjamei Constituency MLA Trophy State Level Open Chess Tournament in Imphal, the Chief Minister underscored that his administration took charge during a period of severe crisis, making the restoration of peace and normalcy its paramount responsibility. Emphasizing that "we are all Manipuris," Singh appealed for harmony and co-existence among the 36 distinct ethnic com-



munities residing across the state.

Highlighting administrative breakthroughs achieved through sustained dialogue, Chief Minister Singh noted the recent reopening of inter-state road transportation along key highways connecting Imphal with Guwahati and Dimapur. He pointed out that reopening vital supply routes followed extensive negotiations with

civil society organizations and community leaders, marking a crucial step toward restoring normalcy and economic activity in the region.

He also stressed that long-term stability hinges on community-led peace initiatives rather than strict security measures alone, urging civil society groups to foster cross-community dialogue.

Pet dog shot dead with air gun in Sikkim's Yangsum

Gangtok, Sep 12: Police in Sikkim's Gyalshing district have registered a case of animal cruelty after a pet dog was allegedly shot dead with an air gun in Yangsum village under the Dentam police station jurisdiction.

The incident occurred on Saturday morning in Bimberay village when complainant Rupendra Gurung found his pet dog, named Rinkey, critically injured with a fatal gunshot wound. The canine succumbed to its severe injuries on the spot. Following an initial inquiry, local police identified the accused as Bharat Sanik Arvind, a tenant residing in the same locality. Based on the official complaint, authorities registered FIR No.



0010/2026 at Dentam Police Station under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. An investigating officer has been assigned to the case to determine the underlying mo-

tive and pursue further legal action against the accused.

Animal welfare activists and local community members across the Gyalshing district expressed deep outrage over the brutal killing, demanding swift legal action and a thorough investigation into the in-

cident. Representatives from local animal rights organizations urged law enforcement authorities to strictly enforce legal penalties against intentional acts of cruelty to prevent similar incidents in the quiet hill town.

In response to public concern, district police officials confirmed that the air gun used in the commission of the crime has been confiscated for forensic examination. Authorities reiterated that violent offenses against domestic animals carry severe statutory penalties under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, reassuring residents that strict legal proceedings will be pursued as the investigation progresses.

Naga students' body demands probe into delayed Nagaland highway projects

Kohima, Sept 12: The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has urged the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to launch an immediate inquiry into the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) over alleged gross negligence, poor workmanship, and persistent project delays across Nagaland.

In an official statement, the apex student body highlighted the deplorable condition of key highway corridors, pointing to severe structural defects on the upgraded four-lane Dimapur-Kohima Road (NH-29). The NSF noted that despite receiving a completion certificate, major stretches continue to suffer from collapsing retaining walls, inadequate



drainage systems, missing slope protection, and deteriorating road surfaces, posing serious hazards to commuters. The federation emphasized that mandatory repairs have been neglected despite the project falling under a five-year Defect Liability Period (DLP). Beyond the flagship NH-29 corridor, the student body flagged similar deficiencies in several ongoing and

completed projects, including the Kohima Bypass Road, the Kohima-Mao road upgradation, the Akash Bridge-Jessami Road (NH-202), and the Peren-Dimapur section (NH-129A). The NSF questioned why NHIDCL has failed to initiate punitive measures against defaulting contractors and demanded the blacklisting of firms responsible for sub-standard construction.

Congress predicts BJP's fall

Agartala, Sept 12: Senior Congress MLA and former minister Sudip Roy Barman claimed that the people of Tripura will script history in the 2028 Assembly elections by marking the political downfall of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing reporters in Agartala, Roy Barman asserted that public dissatisfaction with the current administration has reached a boiling point across key voter demographics. He stated that daily wagers, farmers, government employees, and unemployed youth feel alienated under the BJP regime, creating strong "silent support" in favor of the Congress.

PM Modi accelerates Africa outreach

New Delhi, Sept 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi significantly stepped up India's diplomatic outreach to the African continent on Sunday, holding high-level bilateral talks with several key African leaders on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The engagements included crucial meetings with African Union Chairperson and Burundi President Évariste Ndayishimiye, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and leaders from Uganda, Nigeria, and Egypt. Reaffirming India's commitment to prioritizing the Global South, Prime Minister Modi discussed the early convening of the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit.

Mizoram seeks church aid for fraudulent pension amnesty

Aizawl, Sept 12: The Mizoram government has sought the cooperation of heads of various churches across the state to build awareness regarding its ongoing amnesty scheme for fraudulent family pension claims. Authorities are urging ineligible recipients drawing pensions on the basis of invalid or forged documents to voluntarily surrender their Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) by September 30.

In an official communication addressed to church leaders, the state Finance Department requested that its



June 16 Office Memorandum be widely circulated among church members and read aloud during congregational gatherings. The state administration emphasized that lever-

aging the broad social reach of local churches will ensure that maximum beneficiaries are informed about the voluntary surrender initiative and its approaching deadline.

Assam man arrested by Gujarat police in cybercrime case

Guwahati, Sept 12: In a joint interstate operation, a team from the Gujarat Police, assisted by local law enforcement officers, arrested a 35-year-old man from Assam's Barpeta district on Sunday in connection with a major cybercrime case.

The accused, identified as Azizul Hussain, was apprehended from his residence in Dangarkuchi village. According to police officials, a specialized team led by Inspector Bipul Kumar Kantibhai of the Gandhinagar Cyber Crime Police Station arrived in Barpeta after Hussain's name



surfaced during an ongoing digital fraud investigation registered under Case No. 11201018260052/2026 at Gandhinagar.

Hussain has been booked

under multiple statutory provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) alongside Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act for cheating by personation through com-

puter resources. Following his apprehension, the accused was produced before a local court in Barpeta, which granted transit remand to the Gujarat Police team to transport him to Gandhinagar for further interrogation and network mapping. Investigating officers revealed that preliminary digital tracking linked several suspicious bank accounts and fraudulent online transactions directly to Hussain's digital footprint. Local police authorities in Barpeta confirmed that interstate coordination in financial cyber fraud cases has been intensified.

UP students join Shillong cleanliness drive after homestay vandalism



Shillong, 12: Six students from Uttar Pradesh, who were ordered by the Meghalaya High Court to undertake community service for vandalising a homestay in Shillong, participated in a cleanliness drive in the city on Friday. Two of the six students were direct-

ed to undertake six days of community service after the high court quashed the FIR against all of them following a Rs 2.06 lakh settlement with the homestay proprietor. Under the settlement, the students paid compensation to the proprietor and ten-

dered an unconditional apology for their conduct. The court also directed two of them to pay an additional Rs 25,000 each to the proprietor within a week. Chief Justice Revati Mohite Dere passed the order on Monday after the homestay proprietor and manager gave their consent to the quashing of the case. Under the settlement, the six students paid Rs 2.06 lakh to the proprietor as full and final compensation and submitted a sincere and unconditional apology for their conduct. The Court directed two of the students to pay another Rs 25,000 each to the proprietor within a week and undertake six days of community service. The other four students were exempted from community service in view of their age. Three of the accused are minors, one aged 15 and two aged 17, while another had recently turned 18. (EOM)

Arunachal wins two golds, four silvers at regional championship

Itanagar, Sep 12: Athletes from Arunachal Pradesh delivered an exceptional performance at the 2nd Mr. Northeast Bodybuilding and Physique Championship 2026, securing two gold and four silver medals at the Capital Cultural Hall in Kohima.

Organized jointly by the Nagaland Bodybuilding and Fitness Association (NBBFA) and the Northeast Bodybuilding Federation (NEBBF) under the aegis of the Indian Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation (IBBF), the premier regional event brought together nearly 70 fitness athletes representing all eight northeastern states. Arunachal Pradesh domi-



nated the physique categories, clinching both of its gold medals in open events. Daimalu Brahma took first place in the Men's Sports Physique division, outshining Assam's Surojit Das and Nagaland's Vekoto Nyekha. In the Women's Model Physique open category, Nia-

muamara secured the top spot on the podium for Arunachal Pradesh, finishing ahead of Sikkim's Anita Chettri and Juma Basumatary. The state's bodybuilders added four silver medals across multiple weight divisions in the Men's Bodybuilding category. Kiojak Guha fin-

ished as runner-up in the 55 kg category, while Bijoy Sarkar claimed silver in the 60 kg class. Wemu Tulang secured second place in the 70 kg division, and Tarh Peter grabbed the silver in the 75 kg category, falling just short of overall champion Asish Limboo of Sikkim. The successful outing highlights Arunachal Pradesh's growing stature in regional bodybuilding and fitness competitions. Sports officials commended the contingent's discipline and dedication, noting that the strong medal haul serves as a crucial stepping stone for athletes preparing for upcoming national-level championships.

Children at a Dibrugarh school were scared by a gaming challenge and an investigation



Dispur, Sep 12 : Allegations that a number of kids participated in a possibly hazardous “challenging game” have caused concern at a school in Dibrugarh. While an inquiry is being conducted to ascertain whether any mobile game or online challenge was involved, the school authorities have identified 12 kids in relation with the event and notified their parents.After two pupils approached a teacher at Don Bosco School in Dibrugarh and disclosed their participation in what appeared to be a risky game or challenge, the incident was reported. The issue was investigated when the teacher promptly notified the school administration. Of the twelve

pupils found, four are boys and eight are girls. The school administration notified their parents and made arrangements for the required medical care.Some pupils had scratch-like marks on their palms, according to the school administration. Nevertheless, none of the pupils needed stitches or experienced bleeding wounds. Based on medical advice, they were instructed to have the tetanus vaccination and any necessary first aid as a precaution. Some pupils reportedly used broken plastic or parts of pencil sharpeners’ blades during the exercise, according to preliminary questioning.Authorities haven’t yet found a clear connection between the occurrence and a particular

online or mobile game, though. Investigations are still ongoing to determine the precise circumstances and motivation behind the pupils’ behavior.To evaluate the situation, a number of teams from the district administration, education department, health services, and child protection agencies visited the school on September 11. The inquiry was conducted by four teams that included representatives from the district administration, education inspection, BDO office, mobile medical services, and child protection office.

In addition to conducting physical checks, the teams conducted interviews with eight kids who were present at the school. The investigation included a review of CCTV footage from the classrooms.Authorities and school administration have emphasized the importance of providing pupils with adequate counseling and psychological support after the examination. There are steps being made to protect their mental health and safety.Officials have insisted that no specific online game or social media challenge can be definitively linked to the tragedy at this time. After the investigation is over, the true cause should become more apparent. The incident has also renewed concerns among parents, teachers and school authorities over the possible influence of online gaming and challenge-based content on children, and the need for greater monitoring and awareness around such content.

The party leader states that anything can happen at any time eight UDP MLAs are in talks with the BJP

Shillong, Sep 12: Amid speculation that as many as eight United Democratic Party (UDP) legislators were planning to merge with the BJP, UDP legislator Ollan Singh Suin on Friday said that “anything can happen any time any day”, while acknowledging that an eight-member team from the party was in talks with the BJP.

Suin, the legislator from Mawsynram constituency, admitted that the legislators were in touch with the BJP and had made certain demands.We will see once they agree to our demands whais the problem. If the Union Government agrees to our demands what is the problem,” the sitting UDP MLA said. Elaborating further, Suin said, “Earlier, we divided ourselves. Some went to Delhi, we discussed things, so I tell you anything can happen any time any day. We have only eight members team mission.”Asked whether the group was negotiating for Cabinet berths, Suin said, “There is no negotiation in this regard, NPP is the single largest party they have majority, we did not bargain for any



ministerial berth, we are only pressing for the demands.”He said the group would decide its next course of action once the Union Government considered its demands. Asked about the possibility of a political development, he said, “Anything can happen can happen.” On the issues being pursued by the group, Suin said, “We have put forward the demand for inclusion of Khasi Language into the 8th schedule of the constitution, lifting of regulation on coal mining since we have small landholdings, Them Meteor issue, FCRA.”The remarks

came against the backdrop of reports that as many as eight UDP legislators had been exploring a possible political realignment with the BJP. While the exact nature of the discussions in Delhi remained unclear, Suin’s admission of an eight-member team and his assertion that “anything can happen any time any day” intensified speculation over the next political move of the legislators. Meanwhile, UDP general secretary Tisotsarwell Chyne sought to downplay the speculation and maintained that there was no question of legislators leav-

ing the party. Chyne said, “.....as of today, there is no such thing, there is no question of jumping or leaving the party. The party is intact, the MLAs are intact, we didnot create any smoke, till today we are firm that our MLAs are with the party. The UDP as of today stands United.”

The UDP convened an emergency meeting of its Central Executive Committee (CEC) to discuss the current political situation, adding to the growing uncertainty over the future course of the regional party. Talking to media persons after the meeting, the UDP general secretary said the party had held a “very good” emergency CEC meeting, which brought together leaders from across the State. “We had a very good meeting today, emergency central Executive Committee meeting, all the leaders from the party came from across the state. Some leaders have informed that they are out of station, around five MLAs have attended the meeting,” he added.

Prior to the village committee elections on September 28, Tipra Motha wins 1,548 seats without opposition

Agartala, Sep 12: In elections to 587 village committees in the state’s Sixth Schedule territories, the Tipra Motha Party, an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, won 1,548 of the 4,597 seats without facing any opposition, an official announced on Saturday, September 12.

After the withdrawal of nomination papers was completed on Friday, the BJP won 82 seats without a contest, according to Tripura State Election Commission Secretary Anurag Sen. Sen stated, “Up to 1,630 seats will not go to the polls because the BJP has

won 82 seats without opposition after the withdrawal of nomination papers expired, and the Tipra Motha has won 1,548 seats without opposition.”The remaining 2,967 seats will now be up for election on September 28.There are still 9,820 candidates from various parties, including the Congress, BJP, CPI(M), and Tipra Motha.With 4,279 candidates, the Tipra Motha has the most, followed by the BJP with 1,853 and the CPI(M) with 2,151. In anticipation of the 2028 Tripura Assembly elections, poll observer Sekhar Datta claimed that the

wins had improved the Tipra Motha’s standing in the tribal districts.

Given that the party won the April elections for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTA-ADC), the results are significant. Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, the leader of Tipra Motha, may be in a better position to negotiate seat-sharing with the BJP prior to the 2028 Assembly elections if he does well in the village committee elections.Approximately two-thirds of Tripura’s land area is made up of tribal territories, which have historically been

crucial in defining the state’s political strength.

Up until 2018, the Left Front ruled Tripura for twenty-five years. a strong presence in tribal constituencies, while the Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura (IPFT) played a key role in the BJP’s victory in the 2018 Assembly elections.The emergence of the Tipra Motha in 2023, with its demand for a separate ‘Greater Tipraland’, altered the political dynamics in the state and contributed to the Left-Congress alliance falling short of its bid to defeat the BJP.

The arrest of five Naga women, demands that Central projects be shut down



Imphal, Sep 12: In response to the reported arrest of five Naga women by a CRPF Cobra squad in Manipur’s Noney district, the JTC-Manipur announced a complete shutdown along National Highway 37 (NH-37) and demanded the suspension of centrally supported projects in areas under its authority.The group claimed in a statement that while taking part in a nonviolent protest, the five women—Rose Kamei, Stella Thaimai, Khamsinliu Phaomei, Kumtharla Kamei, and Ellen Kamei—were detained from Noney (Longmai) headquarters. The JTC-Manipur denounced the arrests, calling them “illegal, biased, and unjust,” and charged that the security forces were singling out Naga people. The group called for the five women’s immediate and unconditional release.The group further

claimed that in relation to the deaths of six Naga men, whose bodies were discovered killed and disfigured, the governments of Manipur and India had failed to provide justice.

According to the JTC-Manipur, tensions between the Zeme, Liangmai, Rongmei, and Inpui populations have increased as a result of the purported arrests. The group announced that the flow of cars and cargo along NH-37 will be halted until further notice as part of its protest. Additionally, it demanded that any Central government-sponsored projects inside the borders of the Zeme, Liangmai, Rongmei, and Inpui communities be immediately suspended. The group threatened to further up its efforts if the five ladies were not freed right away. It stated that

the governments of Manipur and India, as well as the CRPF Cobra squad, would be accountable for any fallout from such an operation. In addition, the JTC-Manipur urged Nagas in general and members of the four groups in particular to uphold discipline and unity in enforcing the shutdown.

The material at hand did not allow for an independent verification of the organization’s claims or the circumstances behind the claimed arrests.In addition, the JTC-Manipur urged Nagas in general and members of the four groups in particular to uphold discipline and unity in enforcing the shutdown.

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Himanta Biswa Sarma Bhupesh Baghel calls attention to flood

Dispur, Sep 12 : On September 12, Bhupesh Baghel, the Congress General Secretary in charge of Assam and a former chief minister of Chhattisgarh, retaliated against Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, calling on the state administration to prioritize the needs of those impacted by floods and growing costs.During his visit to Rajiv Bhawan, Baghel told reporters that the Assam government should give priority to helping those affected by flooding and tackling the growing costs of necessities. Baghel questioned why, despite Assam having a “double-engine government,” flood victims were not receiving sufficient aid.

Additionally, he asked the Chief Minister to concentrate on helping people in light of the rising costs of sugar, cooking gas, fuel, and gasoline.

Baghel stated that the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee was conducting a number of meetings to finalize the party’s strategy and candidate for the impending Nagaon Lok Sabha by-election. He said meetings of the Political Affairs Committee, vice-presidents and Pradesh Election Committee had already been held, while consultations with MLAs and observers appointed for the Nagaon by-election were also scheduled “All the names that come up in these meetings will be considered and shortlisted, and then we will send the names to the AICC.

The number of endangered pygmy hogs in Assam has increased



Dispur, Sep 12 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday, September 12, highlighted the recovery of the endangered pygmy hog population, saying its numbers have increased from just six to 194 through decades of conservation efforts.

In a post on X, Sarma described the recovery as “a remarkable story of conservation, patience and decades of dedicated effort”. Small hog. Big comeback,” the chief minister said, while setting a target of increasing the pygmy hog population to

300 by 2040.A conservation display on the species’ recovery notes that the pygmy hog was once on the brink of extinction and that its conservation and breeding programme began with six pygmy hogs collected from Manas NationThe pygmy hog is one of the world’s smallest and rarest wild pig species and is native to the grasslands of the Himalayan foothills. Assam has been at the centre of efforts to conserve the species and restore its population.The increase from six animals to 194 marks a significant improvement in the species’ population. The target of 300 by 2040 sets a longer-term goal for its recovery.Conservation of the pygmy hog is closely linked to the protection and restoration of Assam’s grassland habitats, which also support several other threatened species.

Participating in cleanliness initiative are UP students who vandalized



Shillong, Sep 12: On Friday, September 11, six Uttar Pradesh students who had been sentenced by the Meghalaya High Court to perform community service for damaging a homestay in Shillong took part in the city’s cleanliness campaign.An FIR was filed against the students after they were impli-

cated in the damage of the guesthouse. After the students and the guesthouse owner struck a settlement of Rs 2.06 lakh, the high court later dismissed the FIR. The students offered an unequivocal apology for their behavior and compensated the owner as part of the settlement.

Additionally, the court ordered two of the pupils to give the owner an extra Rs 25,000 apiece within a week.Six days of community work were mandated for the two students. Starting on September 8, they spent the first three days at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Sikh Center in Lachumiere.For the final three days of their social duty, they joined Jiva Cares’ Project Operation Clean-Up on Friday and took part in cleanup efforts in Shillong’s city center.

Rifles leads intelligence meet to boost inter agency coordination

Imphal, Sep 12: Through a Lead Intelligence Agencies (LIA) conference, the Assam Rifles, together with other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) that are crucial to preserving peace and order in Manipur, improved inter-agency coordination, according to officials.

A defence spokesman said that that Headquarters 10 Sector Assam Rifles convened an LIA meeting on Wednesday to review the prevailing security situation in the two hilly districts of Ukhrul and Kamjong and to further strengthen coordination among the sister agencies.The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of Ukhrul and

Kamjong districts, representatives from Police and Intelligence agencies, commandants of all units under the Sector, and staff officers from the headquarters attended the meeting, which was presided over by Brigadier Amit Kumar Sharma, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of 10 Sector Assam Rifles.

The forum offered a place for thorough discussions on current events in the Area of Responsibility (AoR) and matters pertaining to regional peace and stability.

The defense spokesperson continued, “The stakeholders talked about the refugee situation, enforcement of government orders, and measures.

The world’s 4,075 greater one horned rhino population



Guwahati, Sep 12 : With an estimated population of 4,075 worldwide, Assam’s persistent efforts to safeguard the larger one-horned rhinoceros are greatly contributing to one of the most outstanding wildlife conservation recoveries in history.Compared to the early 1900s, when fewer than 100 greater one-horned rhinos were thought t be left in the wild, this figure represents a significant change. With an estimated 3,323 rhinos, India now holds the biggest percentage of the world’s population, while Nepal is home to

about 752. Nearly 80% of the world’s greater one-horned rhino population is found in Assam, which continues to be at the center of this comeback.

The greatest rhino stronghold in the state is Kaziranga National Park, which is home to about 2,600 rhinos. There are also an estimated 40–50 rhinos in Manas National Park.Assam’s anti-poaching initiatives have further improved the state’s conservation record. For the second time since the 1970s, the state reported no occurrences of rhino poaching in 2025.

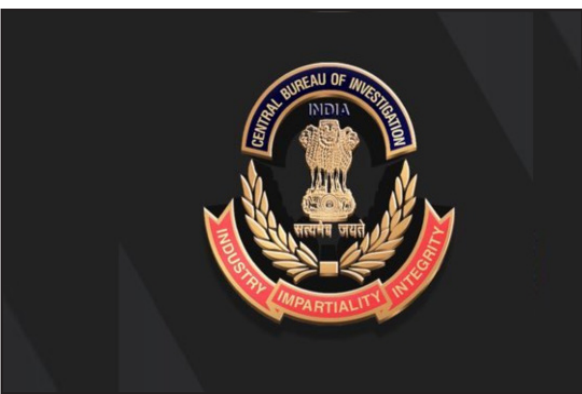
The achievement has been attributed to strengthened protection measures, field-level enforcement and sustained conservation efforts aimed at safeguarding the species and its habitatThe recovery of the greater one-horned rhino is particularly significant given the species’ history of severe population decline.

From being pushed to the brink of extinction, the rhino has gradually recovered through habitat protection, anti-poaching measures, scientific management and conservation initiatives.

CBI extradites Red Notice fugitive Amritpal Singh from Moldova

New Delhi, Sept 12: In a landmark international law enforcement operation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), operating alongside the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Punjab Police, successfully secured the extradition of Red Notice subject Amritpal Singh, alias Amrit Dalam, from the Republic of Moldova to India.

The wanted fugitive, identified as a key operative of the notorious Jaggu Bhagwanpuri gang, arrived in New Delhi on Saturday in the custody of a four-member specialized escort team from the Punjab Police. The operation, codenamed “Operation Eastern Reach,” represents the first-ever successful extradition of an Indian criminal fugitive executed from a Euro-



pean nation. Amritpal Singh, a native of Dalam Nangal village in Batala, was facing 21 serious criminal cases across Punjab. His extensive criminal record includes charges of double murder involving firearms, targeted extortion, illicit narcotics trafficking under the NDPS Act, violations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA),

and passport forgery. Authorities revealed that Singh had fled India in October 2024 using a fraudulent passport under the alias Gurpal Singh. He subsequently routed his travel through the United Arab Emirates, Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey before entering Moldova.

The fugitive was apprehended at the Palanca-Mayaky-

Udobne border checkpoint by Moldovan authorities after trying to cross into war-torn Ukraine, acting on an Inter-pol Red Notice published via the CBI’s National Central Bureau framework. Following a prolonged legal battle in Chisinau where Moldovan courts upheld his extradition order, custody was formally transferred to Indian authorities. Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav hailed the extradition as a decisive breakthrough against transnational organized crime. Officials emphasized that the extradition highlights robust inter-agency cooperation through BHARATPOL and reinforces India’s ongoing diplomatic drive to bring foreign-based gang leaders back to face national judicial trial.

Petrol bombs hurled at Laban police station in Shillong

Shillong, Sept 12: Unidentified miscreants hurled two petrol bombs at the premises of Laban police station in Shillong during the early hours of Saturday, triggering a localized fire and causing partial damage to an official vehicle parked inside the compound. Authorities confirmed that no police personnel sustained injuries during the early-morning attack.

According to law enforcement officials, the incident occurred at approximately 2:30 AM. CCTV camera footage retrieved from the police station premises captured two individuals arriving on a two-wheeler. The suspects threw two improvised incendiary devices, commonly known as Molotov cocktails, over the perimeter boundary wall before rapidly fleeing



the scene. One of the devices struck a parked police department vehicle, partially burning its outer hood. Personnel on duty acted swiftly to extinguish the flames, preventing the fire from spreading further into the main station building or adjoining administrative quarters.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek

Syiem confirmed that an investigation has been launched to trace the perpetrators. “Two unidentified miscreants who arrived on a two-wheeler hurled two petrol bombs at around 2:30 AM,” Syiem stated. “No arrests have been made so far, but forensic teams and investigators are actively analyzing the CCTV footage to establish the iden-

tity of the suspects and the exact sequence of events.” While the immediate motive behind the strike remains under investigation, senior police officers noted that they have not ruled out the involvement of regional activist groups. The attack follows a recent wave of minor arson incidents and localized disturbances in Shillong, including the burning of tires across several public locations alongside notes demanding an end to arbitrary arrests of organization members.

Following the Laban police station attack, security protocols across Shillong and the broader East Khasi Hills district have been tightened, with extra night patrols and strategic checkpoints established to maintain public order.

Mizoram plans three-month extension for Mizotaxi app transport registration

Aizawl, Sept 12: The Mizoram state government is considering a proposal to extend the registration window for commercial transport operators on the newly introduced Mizotaxi mobile application by an additional three months. The strategic move aims to expand digital public transport services, protect commuters from fare gouging, and streamline traffic management across the congested capital city of Aizawl. The proposal was formally evaluated during a high-level meeting of the Coordination Committee on Traffic Management, chaired by Mizoram Chief Secretary Khilli Ram



Meena at the Secretariat Complex. Officially launched on July 1, the Mizotaxi platform was developed jointly by the Mizoram government, Di-

giri Technology, and NIT Mizoram to establish digital accountability for four-wheeler taxis, two-wheeler taxis, and autorickshaws. The software

allows passengers to track rides and pay strict, government-approved rates established by the State Transport Authority. Presenting current operational metrics to the committee, Transport Department Secretary C. Lalruaia reported that 1,570 vehicles have formally onboarded the digital system so far, comprising 397 four-wheeler taxis, 1,149 two-wheeler taxis, and 24 autorickshaws. Since its inception, the application has successfully logged 28,553 ride requests. However, officials acknowledged that expanding the active driver pool beyond the current daily average of 279 online operators is vital to

meet rising urban transit demand. Committee members emphasized that extending the registration window will provide unregistered commercial drivers another structured opportunity to comply without facing regulatory penalties. Authorities stressed that comprehensive driver participation is essential to enforcing official fare structures, ensuring passenger safety, and reducing the severe parking bottlenecks currently impacting downtown Aizawl. The state government is expected to issue a formal notification confirming the extended deadline following final administrative approval.

President Murmu conveys Rosh Hashanah greetings to Israeli counterpart

New Delhi, Sept 12: President Droupadi Murmu extended warm greetings to her Israeli counterpart, Isaac Herzog, and the global Jewish community on Saturday on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

In a formal diplomatic message, President Murmu conveyed her heartfelt wishes on behalf of the Government and the people of India, expressing hope that the traditional occasion would usher in sustained peace, prosperity, good health, and renewed hope across the world. The bilateral gesture highlights ongoing diplomatic goodwill and historical ties between India and Israel as the Jewish calendar marks the commencement of the High



Holy Days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reached out to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the global Jewish diaspora, sharing a post on social media with the traditional greeting “Shana Tova!” The Prime Minister reiterated India’s strong wishes

for peace, happiness, and continued progress for the people of Israel over the coming year. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, initiating a ten-day period of introspection, prayer, and repentance culminating in Yom Kippur.

Tura Government College wins competition

Shillong, Sep 12: Tura Government College emerged victorious at the Inter-School and College Anti-Drug Music Competition held at the District Auditorium in Tura on Saturday.

Organized under the auspices of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan to commemorate its six-year milestone, the event was jointly hosted by the A’chik Christian Musician Society and the District Social Welfare Office, West Garo Hills, under the central campaign theme “Music Unites, Drugs Divide”. The civic initiative sought to harness creative youth expression to build social awareness against local substance abuse and steer young people toward positive community engagement.

Eight student bands from across the West Garo Hills district participated in the high-energy live band battle. Tura Government College’s ensemble, ‘Shield of Stone,’ claimed the top championship trophy, while Tura Christian College took second place and Tura Public School’s ‘Highway Riots’ finished in third place. The contest highlighted notable female artistic leadership, with several bands fronted by women vocalists. Individual honours were also presented across instruments: Pearly Amelia S. Sangma of Sherwood School earned Best Vocalist, Raskent Ch. Marak of Tura Christian College won Best Bassist, Ayon D. Areng of Tura Public School secured Best Keyboardist, while Weniang Ch. Marak and Nick R. Sangma of Tura Government College took home Best Drummer and Best Guitarist, respectively. Dalu CHC Clinical Psychologist Peona Princhie Ch. Marak, A’chik Christian Musician Society President Rikram Ch. Marak, and District Social Welfare Officer Madona Onasis T. Sangma presided over the venue.

Goyal, Malaysian minister discuss boosting India-Malaysia trade, investment ties

New Delhi, Sept 12: Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal held a bilateral meeting with Malaysia’s Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Johari Abdul Ghani, in New Delhi on Saturday. The discussion was aimed at reviewing the India-Malaysia economic partnership and exploring ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment and supply chain linkages between the two countries.

The meeting comes amid a broader push by India’s Commerce Ministry to deepen economic engagement with ASEAN nations and key trading partners. Malaysia, as the current ASEAN coordinator for India, plays an important role in regional trade discussions, including the ongoing



review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), which India has been pressing to conclude at the earliest.

This is not the first high-level engagement between the two sides. Goyal has previously held discussions with Malaysia’s Minister of In-

vestment, Trade and Industry on the sidelines of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), where he had appealed to his Malaysian counterpart for an early conclusion of the AITIGA review process.

The Commerce Ministry under Goyal has, over re-

cent months, held a series of similar bilateral engagements with counterparts from countries including Thailand, Mexico, Greece, Canada, Chile, Oman, the Netherlands, Maldives, Germany and Egypt, reflecting India’s sustained diplomatic outreach to expand trade partnerships, attract foreign investment and strengthen supply chain resilience across sectors.

Saturday’s meeting with the Malaysian minister is expected to focus on expanding two-way trade flows, encouraging greater Malaysian investment into Indian manufacturing and infrastructure, and addressing regulatory or market-access issues that could further ease commercial exchange between the two nations.

Teen killed, four injured as landslide strikes Kolasib district in Mizoram

Aizawl, Sept 12: A 14-year-old boy was killed and four others were injured after a landslide, triggered by heavy rainfall, struck Vairengte town in Mizoram’s Kolasib district in the early hours of Saturday. The incident occurred around 4:30 am near the Mizoram-Assam border, police said.

The teenager, identified as Zodingliana, was trapped under the debris and died on the spot. Police personnel and local volunteers rushed to the site and recovered his body from the debris. Four other people injured in the landslide were attended to by responders, according to officials. Vairengte, located along the Mizoram-Assam border, has previously seen landslide-related incidents



during the monsoon season, with the region’s hilly terrain and heavy seasonal rainfall making it prone to slope failures. Authorities have not yet released further details on the extent of damage to property or infrastructure in the area. In other developments from the state, the Mizoram government is considering extending the registration

window for taxi operators on the Mizotaxi app by three months, as it looks to bring more vehicles onto the platform and strengthen app-based transport services in Aizawl. The proposal was discussed at a meeting of the Coordination Committee on Traffic Management, chaired by Chief Secretary Khilli Ram Meena.

Safeguarding public health essential for national security, says JP Nadda

New Delhi, Sept 12: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda emphasized that safeguarding public health is an indispensable pillar of national security, stating that strong medical infrastructure forms the bedrock of a resilient nation.

Speaking after virtually inaugurating 10 Critical Care Blocks and 12 Integrated Public Health Laboratories across Andhra Pradesh alongside Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Nadda highlighted the federal government’s commitment to expanding emergency response systems. He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how health crises directly impact economic stability and sovereign security, necessitating robust critical care networks capable of handling biological threats and public health emergen-



cies without disrupting primary healthcare services.

Under the PM-ABHIM scheme, ₹1,271.80 crore has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh over a five-year period to set up 24 Critical Care Blocks, advanced diagnostic labs, and urban and rural Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Nadda highlighted that over 1.75 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are operational nationwide, delivering com-

prehensive primary care and driving large-scale screenings for non-communicable diseases and cancers.

The Minister commended Chief Minister Naidu for implementing the state’s ‘Sanjeevani’ mobile diagnostic program, expressing the Centre’s intent to evaluate the model for potential national replication to bring diagnostic testing closer to rural communities.

APWWS demands swift justice following sexual assault in Dambuk

Dambuk, Sept 12: The Arunachal Pradesh Women’s Welfare Society (APWWS) has strongly condemned the brutal sexual assault of a 70-year-old woman in Dambuk, Lower Dibang Valley district, calling for an immediate, transparent, and rigorous legal process to ensure the perpetrator receives maximum punishment under the law.

Expressing deep outrage over the horrific incident, the prominent women’s rights organization issued an official statement emphasizing that the physical safety, moral dignity, and basic human rights of elderly women must be strictly protected across the state. APWWS representatives asserted that heinous crimes targeting vulnerable senior citizens violate fundamental societal norms and



warrant zero tolerance from law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities. “Dignity must be protected at all costs,” declared the APWWS leadership in their press release. The

apex body appealed directly to the district administration, local police authorities, and the state judicial framework to ensure that the investigation is conducted without delay or

compromise. They stressed the critical necessity of charge-sheeting the accused promptly under stringent provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to prevent any potential tampering with evidence or intimidation of the victim’s family.

Furthermore, the society urged local authorities to provide comprehensive medical care, psychological counseling, and legal assistance to the elderly survivor throughout the legal proceedings. APWWS also called upon civil society organizations, community leaders, and local Panchayats to foster safer environments for women of all age groups, reiterating that public vigilance and collective social accountability remain essential in combating gender-based violence across Arunachal Pradesh.

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Inside the work culture of Assam

Amid Assam's rich natural landscape and fertile land, the state of work culture that characterizes our society today is deeply concerning and, to a large extent, disappointing. Historically, we were an agrarian society where almost every individual produced nearly everything required for daily life through personal effort. Over time, however, this idea of self-sufficiency gradually gave birth to an unusual sense of comfort-seeking and idleness. Our land is so fertile that many things grow with minimal effort, and this abundance of nature has, in many ways, distanced us from the spirit of hard work. At a time when people across the world, in this era of globalization, understand the value of every passing second and compete relentlessly, we continue to embrace a philosophy of ease as the guiding principle of our lives. A glance at the marketplace reveals that, from our daily food items to materials used in construction, we depend heavily on other states for almost everything. Our fields remain uncultivated while we sit comfortably in our drawing rooms discussing unemployment. This is perhaps the greatest irony of our work culture — we feel ashamed to work, yet never hesitate to complain about scarcity. Physical labour is still regarded as inferior in our society, causing educated young people to distance themselves from productive occupations while wasting their valuable years chasing secure government jobs. Such a mindset has not only weakened us economically but has also shaped us into a psychologically dependent society that fails to utilize its own resources.

Another major reason behind the decline of work culture in Assamese society is our distorted perception of social prestige. We tend to judge an occupation not by its dignity or economic value but by whether it enhances or diminishes our social status. An Assamese youth often feels embarrassed to tile his own land or sit by the roadside selling vegetables, yet does not hesitate to perform far more demanding work as a security guard in Delhi or Bengaluru. The reason is simple: there, no one knows him. Our work culture, therefore, is influenced more by the fear of public opinion than by personal aspiration or necessity. This obsession with "What will people say?" has rendered thousands of capable hands unproductive. If we observe our neighbouring states, we find that people there respect every form of work, and that is precisely why nearly ninety percent of business and commerce in Assam today remains under their control. While we continue raising slogans about protecting indigenous interests, the economic foundation of our land steadily slips into the hands of others. Today, even an indigenous Assamese family requires migrant masons to build a house, while carpenters, bricklayers, and skilled workers of every kind have to be brought from outside the state. This alone demonstrates how completely the dignity of labour has eroded

in our society. We have created an environment where a hardworking labourer is dismissed as a mere manual worker, whereas someone who spends his days doing nothing is often regarded as a respectable gentleman. Unless this poisonous social outlook changes our work culture can never improve.

The relationship between our education system and work culture is equally fragile. Our educational institutions have largely trained us to become degree-holding job seekers rather than entrepreneurs or skilled professionals. Once a student earns a graduate or postgraduate degree, the belief naturally settles in his mind that employment is now his only option. He begins to consider his own hands unsuitable for productive work. Technical education and practical knowledge, which deserve significant emphasis within our institutions, continue to receive inadequate attention. Consequently, a vast generation of unemployed youth has emerged—young people who possess degrees but lack specialized skills. In today's highly competitive global economy, skills matter far more than academic qualifications. Because our youth often lack these practical competencies, they struggle to survive in the private sector. Government employment appears to be their only hope. But how many jobs can the government realistically provide? This limitation has fuelled widespread frustration, pushing many young people towards substance abuse and even criminal activities. The blind obsession with government employment has itself become a major obstacle to our work culture. Many believe that securing a government job guarantees a stable salary with minimal effort and lifelong security. Such an obsession with security has gradually extinguished courage, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit within our society. A society in which an educated young man prefers standing in line for a fourth-grade government post rather than establishing his own enterprise can never hope for a bright economic future. The growing culture of extortion in present-day Assam has become the final nail in the coffin of our work ethic. For certain groups, collecting money through intimidation and coercion without working has effectively become a profession. Under various organizational banners, many exploit the language of nationalism to create an atmosphere of disorder, making it impossible for a healthy work environment to flourish. When a businessman or entrepreneur is repeatedly obstructed and compelled to surrender part of his hard-earned income to such self-appointed leaders, his motivation to continue working naturally declines. This system sends a dangerous message to young people—that wealth can be acquired not through education or hard work but by joining an organization and displaying aggression. As a consequence, genuine workers and talented individuals are increasingly marginalized.

AD shroff on free enterprise: why state capitalism negates democracy

With the announcement of the Socialist pattern of Society as our goal, the raising of the tempo of planning and the inevitable concentration of economic power in the hands of the State, the question of the relation between Free Enterprise and Democracy has assumed great significance. Some time back, the Prime Minister at a press conference in Calcutta expressed the view that the idea of equating democracy with private enterprise was not justified. He is further reported to have observed that in the last analysis democracy and unrestricted private enterprise were incompatible.

As against this view, there is a large section of opinion in the country, which believes that the present trend towards State Capitalism, under the ostensible plea of a Welfare State, threatens as much to enslave man to the State as a totalitarian State. It is maintained by them that democracy is a political concomitant of Free Enterprise, and with every step towards a diminution of Free Enterprise, democracy is hastening towards its end. It is not a mere accident or coincidence of history that democracy has grown and flourished along with the system of free enterprise. Issues are unfortunately confused by the dogma of Marxism, identifying ends with means. The heresy of yesterday has become the orthodoxy of today. It is, therefore, essential to examine the question of Free Enterprise and Democracy afresh in their proper perspective. It should be clear to any student of economic history that Free Enterprise in our country and elsewhere is not advocated today in terms of the outmoded doctrine of laissez faire. To talk, therefore, in terms of unbridled private enterprise at the present time is to confound the issues and lose sight of the necessary historical background and perspective. The laissez faire is dead as dodo.

It is a singular triumph of the dynamic urge of democratic ideals to have developed a new awareness of social justice and equality. The sphere of the activities of the State has widened considerably.

In the economic field, the State wields today enormous power and is able to regulate, and even control, processes from the supply of raw materials to the quantum of production. With the apparatus of Import-Export regulations, it considerably affects both the internal and the external trade of the nation. By means of the powerful instrument of taxation, it adopts suitable monetary and fiscal measures, so as either to curtail distributed profits and/or limit dividends. The vast amount of Labour legislation regulates the relations between the employers and the employees and safeguards the rights of the workers. Again, the modern State by its entry in the sphere of basic and strategic industries and certain essential utilities and services, commands vast power of its own so as to counter-balance the free enterprise sector of the community. In short, there has evolved a balance of a mixed economy, in which free enterprise and State enterprise each have an important and autonomous role to play, functioning alongside of each other, to meet the needs of the people. In fact, under the system, the right of ownership is limited and circumscribed in numerous ways so that ownership of the means of production no longer affords any absolute power. It is against this background that the problem of inter-relationship between socially regulated free enterprise and democracy has to be examined and considered. Both the approaches have proved illusory in the modern world. In the Communist countries, in the pursuit of the Marxist-Leninist theories, all economic power has been transferred to the State, and instead of a 'society of

free and equal' we have the spectacle of a totalitarian tyranny. Nor has the experiment towards common ownership in democracies like Britain created any sense of confidence. A mere change of ownership is no guarantee for ensuring that an industry would be run on Socialist lines. On the contrary, it has created problems arising out of undue concentration of economic power in the political hands and the growing bureaucratic despotism, both of which have in practice meant a serious curtailment of democracy.

A system of economy in which the public sector goes on continuously expanding its sphere of activity inevitably involves the contingency of a system of controls and regulations. There is also a process of regimentation which grows apace with this development. New vested interests develop pledged to the continuance and expansion of the system. In course of time, the system breeds a sense of intolerance amongst the members of the ruling party and the bureaucracy, which is expected to implement its programmes and policies. Once the decisions are taken by the Planners and the Government, the same are hailed as national decisions and any dissent of opinion by a minority, however effective, is likely to be viewed with widespread suspicion. Even honest criticism is likely to be dubbed as "dis-loyalty" or "an unpatriotic activity". This denial of freedom is the very negation of democracy. What is the remedy against such a danger? A concept of mixed economy, as enunciated above, alone provides the necessary balance of power between the State and Free Enterprise, and amongst the components which compose Free Enterprise. It is necessary that the State and Free Enterprise should function simultaneously in the economy, balancing each other in the interest of the achieve-

ment of the common objective. It is equally necessary that the system of Free Enterprise should be allowed to function, searching for new horizons and opening up ever-widening range of outlets for self-expression and service. Within the overall regulations provided by the democratic State, the system of Free Enterprise provides the necessary and essential balance of power between the contending forces. In a free economy, the producer, the worker, the consumer and the investor present a system of checks and balances, ensuring harmonious functioning of the economy. The power wielded by the sellers is matched by the power of the buyers, the power of creditors by the power of borrowers, and the power of employers by that of Trade Unions. No single factor can ever hope to dominate a given situation for a long time, unless an agreement is reached safeguarding the interests of all the constituent units.

The system of free market economy presents a close to the system of political democracy. "A free market economy is the most perfect possible example of rule by the will of the people. Political democracy has nothing to approximate it. In a political democracy, the people vote periodically or occasionally for and against a few candidates or issues at a time. In a free market economy, they vote constantly for and against thousands of competing goods and services. Their votes, instead of being merely affirmative or negative, express minute gradations and preference, and these gradations shift not only daily, but hourly." It is true that sometimes developments in the shape of monopoly and cartels tend to distort the functioning of the system. In fact, many of the evils attributed to Free Enterprise and profit making are largely the results of existence of monopoly and

consequent wide disparities in the distribution of wealth and income. Those who advocate the system of free market economy like the newly-established organisation, the Forum of Free Enterprise, have made their position unequivocally clear on the question of monopoly. As stated in its Manifesto, "Monopoly of any kind, whether State or private, is undesirable. Should any single organisation arrogate to itself the right to do everything, it would upset the delicate mechanism of a free and democratic social order".

As against this unhealthy trend developing in the State Sector, the development of Joint Stock Enterprise truly represents a picture of co-operative endeavour on the part of the people. Having regard to the magnitude of the modern industrial operations, no single firm can get together all the resources to start any such enterprise. Unless such entrepreneurs by virtue of their credit-worthiness and their record of achievements are able to mobilise the savings of hundreds and thousands of small investors in a free and voluntary manner, no industrial progress would be possible. Further, what is called the private sector is neither small nor private, but comprises, as the Planning Commission rightly point out, "millions of small producers, scattered all over the country". It is such small people who constitute in themselves the composite roles of the entrepreneur, investor, manager, technical man, salesman and the owner. With these should be grouped millions and millions of small shop-keepers, tradesmen, craftsmen and artisans, skilled workers and peasant proprietors, who all form an integral part of the system of Free Enterprise, and the backbone of our democratic system. It is in this sense that Free Enterprise and Democracy are closely dependent on each

other. If the essence of democracy is to vest the ultimate political sovereignty in the hands of the people, it should also vest economic power in the hands of the people at large. Any attempt at extending the public sector in a manner so as to dominate the entire economy will only result in undermining the freedom and autonomy of individuals and groups, which are essential for the full and unfettered growth of democracy. In an economy which seeks to reduce a large number of its citizens to the status of employees of a State Corporation or the agent of its Trading Corporation, the individual can venture to express his political opinion only at the peril of his own economic existence. Whether he is a peasant, working in a co-operative farm, a worker belonging to a trade union of a State-owned industry, or an employee of a State-run service, he must forfeit his political freedom.

A time has come for all those who talk in the name of democracy and recognise the value of individual freedom, to accept Free Enterprise as indispensable to a democratic way of life. It cannot then be hamstrung by a whole network of legislative and administrative restrictions, throttling its very existence. It is their duty to ensure that freedom is, in fact, maintained and not crushed out of existence. Free Enterprise is not to be accepted merely on sufferance, to be tolerated on grounds of political expediency, with the sword of Democles hanging over it in perpetual threat. It has a legitimate and a vital function to perform in democratic planning. If historical experience has any meaning, we have to see that the new India of our dreams, which we are building up, derives its strength from the solid foundations of democracy and freedom and not from the top-heavy buttresses of regimentation and concentration of power in a few hands.

Beyond defense: why India and Russia must prioritize scientific collaboration

On 21 February 1928, in a laboratory at Moscow State University, Grigory Landsberg and Leonid Mandelstam saw faint new lines in the spectrum of light scattered by a quartz crystal. Seven days later in Calcutta, CV Raman and KS Krishnan saw the same effect in liquids. Raman and Krishnan published first, in Nature on 31 March; the Muscovites followed in July, in the German journal Naturwissenschaften. Raman received the Nobel Prize in 1930, and the Russians did not, a decision that owed less to the physics than to the itinerary. Through 1928, Raman had been corresponding directly with Niels Bohr, Ernest Rutherford and CTR Wilson. By the time Landsberg and Mandelstam's paper appeared in July, he could show the Nobel Committee fifteen other papers already citing his own. Landsberg and Mandelstam had no comparable route into the Western nominating bodies; Soviet science was already beginning to close in on itself.

The committee weighed evidence, but the evidence that reached it had already been filtered by whose letters arrived in Stockholm. India now marks 28 February as National Science Day. Russian textbooks still call the phenomenon combinational scattering, and there are Russian physicists who will tell you, with some justice, that it was discovered a week early in Moscow. I start with that week because it says something the diplomatic literature on India and Russia usually misses. Long before there was a treaty, a reactor or a rocket, the two scientific traditions were capable of arriving at the same physics at the same moment, by their own roads, and of losing the argument about credit for reasons that had nothing to do with either. Raman himself

received the Lenin Peace Prize in 1957. The relationship that followed has been the deepest India has had with any major power. It has also been, for most of its life, a relationship between governments rather than between scientists, and that is its weakness.

The best moment in the story is small and almost forgotten. In 1962, PC Mahalanobis and CR Rao invited Andrei Kolmogorov, then the greatest living probabilist, to the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. Kolmogorov disliked flying because of trouble with his ears, so he joined a Soviet oceanographic expedition and came by sea. On the voyage, he worked on a question that had preoccupied him: what does it mean for a sequence of numbers to be random? He arrived in Calcutta and went straight into discussions with research scholars, among them SRS Varadhan, who would win the Abel Prize in 2007, and KR Parthasarathy. The paper that grew out of the voyage, "On tables of random numbers", appeared in the Institute's own journal, Sankhyā, in 1963. It became a founding text of what we now call Kolmogorov complexity, one of the foundations of modern computer science. Parthasarathy went on to the Steklov Institute in Moscow on Kolmogorov's encouragement. The following year, Kolmogorov founded his boarding school for gifted young mathematicians at Moscow State University, which still bears his name. The other human layer ran through bookshops. Two generations of Indian students learned their physics from cheap Mir Publishers editions of Soviet textbooks. IE Irodov's Problems in General Physics is still the book that aspiring engineers fear most, and Yakov Perelman's Physics for Entertainment made physicists of children in towns

that had never seen a laboratory. No other foreign scientific culture reached so far into the Indian classroom.

In July 1987, Rajiv Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Integrated Long Term Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The Indian government still describes it as the biggest and most exhaustive scientific collaboration it has ever entered into with another country. It survived the collapse of the Soviet Union and was renewed in 2010 for another 10 years. Among its several hundred joint projects, the ILTP helped establish a polio vaccine production facility with Russian assistance, contributing to India's oral polio vaccine production and the Pulse Polio Programme launched in 1995: proof that the state layer, for all its bureaucratic apparatus of joint councils and area coordinators, could occasionally deliver something that reached an ordinary household. Then came the cryogenic engine. Under a 1991 agreement with Glavkosmos, the Soviet space agency, Russia was to transfer the technology of its upper-stage engine to ISRO. Washington objected, invoking the Missile Technology Control Regime, and in 1993 Moscow agreed under American pressure to supply finished engines instead of the technology. India then spent two decades building its own, which was flight-tested successfully in January 2014. Indian engineers learned more from that denial than from any agreement, and the lesson has shaped how ISRO thinks about partners ever since. More recently, the two operational Kudankulam reactors in Tamil Nadu have become the largest single piece of Indo-Russian science on Indian soil, with four more in the works. The project's roots go back to a 1988 agreement,

revived in 1998 once Russia agreed to supply VVER-1000 technology. The four Indian Air Force pilots chosen for Gaganyaan did their first year of training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre outside Moscow. One of them, Shubhanshu Shukla, later flew to the International Space Station last year, though on an American Axiom Space mission rather than a Russian one. The moment for rebuilding is unusual. Since 30 November 2024, when CERN's cooperation agreement with Russia was terminated, several hundred scientists affiliated with Russian institutions have lost access to the laboratory. It was a place where Soviet and Russian scientists had worked for seventy years. Sanctions have also made it hard for Russian laboratories to buy equipment. But Russia still has some of the strongest schools of mathematics and theoretical physics in the world, and a generation of people trained in them who now need partners. India has what those scientists lack. It has access to European and American collaborations, including its own associate membership of CERN. It has a young and very large scientific workforce, and space and nuclear programmes that are growing quickly. The obvious move is for India to become the place where Russian mathematicians, theorists and space scientists can do open, publishable work alongside Indian colleagues. This needs to be done with care. India should not trade Geneva for Dubna, and an Indian institute that ties itself carelessly to a sanctioned entity will pay for it in its other partnerships. The point of India in this arrangement is that it can talk to everyone. A partnership built on basic science, whose results are published for the world to read, is the kind that can be defended in any capital.

Nifty settle lower but recover sharply from intraday lows

New Delhi: Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Friday but recovered sharply from their intraday low levels. At close, the 30-share BSE Sensex pack fell 120.83 points or 0.16 per cent to 74,781.76, while the NSE Nifty index declined 79.70 points or 0.34 per cent to 23,398.10.

Sensex recovered 621.6 points from its intraday low of 74,160.16, while Nifty bounced back 166.7 points from a low of 23,231.40. Among Nifty constituents, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd were the top gainers, while JSW Steel Ltd and Hindalco Industries Ltd emerged as the biggest laggards.

On the sectoral front, Nifty Realty and Nifty Metal remained under pressure, while Nifty IT and Nifty Private Bank provided some support.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments, stated, "The market recovered from intraday lows, aided by value buying in select sectors, particularly IT, following a positive opening in European markets."

Nair, however, added, "Despite the rebound, weak market breadth suggests broader consolidation persists. While elevated crude prices, foreign outflows,



and geopolitical uncertainty may keep volatility high, resilient domestic fundamentals and strong institutional support continue to attract buying at lower levels, limiting downside risks and supporting the medium-term outlook."

"The banking benchmark index also opened with a gap down. However, robust short covering triggered a recovery of nearly 890 points from the day's low. Nifty Bank formed a strong bullish candle with a lower wick on daily charts, indicating buying traction at lower levels. The index closed 0.24 per cent higher despite the gap-down opening, highlighting increased buyer participation at lower levels," said Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities.

Crude oil slipsBrent crude prices eased after nearing the \$110-a-barrel mark. At last check, Brent crude futures were down 3.69 per cent at \$103.66 a barrel, while US WTI crude declined 3.36 per cent to \$99.04.

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Milky Mist shares hit 5% upper circuit analysts say

New Delhi: Shares of Milky Mist Dairy Food Ltd extended their gains for the second consecutive session on Friday, rising 5 per cent to hit the upper price band of Rs 293.30 on BSE. The stock has gained 36.51 per cent over the past two weeks.

Bourses BSE and NSE have placed the securities of Milky Mist under the short-term ASM (Additional Surveillance Measure) framework. Exchanges place stocks under short-term or long-term ASM frameworks to caution investors about unusual price movements and heightened volatility. Ravi Singh, Chief Research Officer at Master Capital Services, said, "Milky Mist's stock hit a fresh peak on Friday, extending its strong recent rally. The stock has gained around 60 per cent in the past 20 days, driven by growing investor interest in the company's expansion into high-protein dairy products. The company expects the high-protein segment to grow at 50-60 per cent annually and is introducing a new high-protein paneer targeting rising consumer demand. Management also expects whey protein growth to exceed earlier estimates.

He added, "Investor sentiment has further improved with expectations around the company's new manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu, which is likely to support capacity expansion and future growth. The combination of strong segment prospects, new product launches and capacity expansion has supported the sharp re-rating in the stock." Singh sees an upside target of Rs 320 for the stock in the near term and suggested a stop loss of Rs 265 for the trade.

On the other hand, AR Ramachandran, Sebi-registered research analyst at Tips2trades, advised investors to book



profits at current levels.According to him, "Milky Mist is bullish but overbought on daily charts with next resistance at Rs 317. Investors should keep booking profits as a daily close below the support of Rs 272 could trigger a fall towards Rs 227 in the near term."

Q1 earnings

Milky Mist reported revenue of Rs 973.4 crore for Q1 FY27, marking a 43.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, led by growth in paneer, cheese and curd. Revenue from paneer rose 34 per cent YoY, while cheese and curd revenue increased 38 per cent and 27 per cent, respectively. Yogurt revenue jumped 153 per cent, while ice cream revenue grew 60 per cent.

EBITDA increased 77 per cent YoY to Rs 143.8 crore, with the EBITDA margin expanding to 14.8 per cent from 12 per cent. Gross margin improved 275 basis points to 34.2 per cent.

Profit after tax (PAT) stood at Rs 64.7 crore, compared with Rs 6.5 crore in Q1 FY26. Finance costs declined 29 per cent to Rs 24 crore.

Stocks rated Brokerages project 16% to 75% return

New Delhi:The Indian domestic indices ended the week on a negative note as crude continued its surge above \$100 and the 10-year yield in the US maintained its steep upward trajectory. The Sensex and the Nifty 50 closed the week with 2% losses each.

Is this an opportunity to buy into value plays? Several leading brokerages, including Jefferies, Macquarie, JM Financial, JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley and Motilal Oswal, have issued fresh recommendations on key stocks. Based on their latest calls, we have shortlisted 10 stocks across sectors for investors to watch.

CLSA on IRB Infrastructure

CLSA rated IRB Infra 'Outperform' with a target price of Rs 34.50, implying around 74.9% upside. The company had an order backlog of around Rs 21,373 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY27, up 2% from a year earlier. CLSA has also placed IRB Infrastructure among its preferred names in the broader infrastructure capital expenditure theme. The focus here is largely on the size of the existing order pipeline and the potential for this backlog to support future revenue.HAL is Jefferies' defence pick with highest-upside. The brokerage has a 'Buy'



rating and a Rs 6,800 target price, implying around 39% upside.The company's order book is equivalent to around 7.7 times FY26 revenue, according to Jefferies. The brokerage expects execution of existing orders to improve as production scales up.

It expects revenue to rise from Rs 33,089 crore in FY26 to Rs 43,106 crore by FY28. HAL also remains linked to several defence platforms highlighted by Jefferies, including the Sukhoi-30 fighter and BrahMos missile programme.

Payments bank industry seeks pricing flexibility as costs rise: Jio Payments Bank MD Easwaran

New Delhi: The payments bank industry has sought greater flexibility in pricing certain services to offset the rise in operating costs, Jio Payments Bank Managing Director and CEO Vinod Easwaran said.

"Some of the pricing and our margins have remained constant," Easwaran said in an interaction with FE at the Global Fintech Fest. Pricing caps for products such as Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS), a key transaction banking use case for payments banks, have remained unchanged since the licences were issued, even as the cost of doing business has risen, he said.

"I think the ability to revise pricing as per current cost structures would help the long-term sustainable growth of the industry," he said, adding that payments banking remains a high-volume, low-margin business. On Jio Payments Bank's growth strategy, Easwaran said the bank would focus on three pillars — hyper-accessibility, user experience and "intelligent savings". The bank aims to combine its digital offering



with a physical network of more than half a million touch points to serve both digitally native customers and those requiring assistance. The bank has also focused on faster opening of accounts, with customers able to open an account in under five minutes, he said. It sees an opportunity to serve as both a primary account for customers in Bharat and a secondary account for digitally savvy customers looking to segregate daily transactions. Easwaran said

payments banks would continue to have a role despite the rapid growth of UPI. While they cannot undertake lending, they can generate revenue through transaction and fee-based income, cross-selling, merchant payments, monetisation and API infrastructure, he said.

The large volume of transactions also gives payments banks access to behavioural data, which can help connect customers with other financial products over time, Easwaran

said. "Payment banks are not going anywhere," he said, adding that the model would continue to evolve. On artificial intelligence, Easwaran said the bank is already deploying AI in operations, fraud detection and risk management. Use cases include AI-enabled systems that read customer emails and respond to their concerns, voice bots and AI-based monitoring of fraud rules and transaction activity.

On SBI's exit from the payments bank, Easwaran said Jio Financial Services' acquisition of the remaining stake and becoming the 100% owner had increased the bank's agility in capital deployment and business strategy. Jio Financial Services had earlier been the joint venture partner with SBI in Jio Payments Bank.Jio Payments Bank will also serve as a "front door" to the broader Jio Finance ecosystem, Easwaran said. Customers' financial behaviour through the bank could help facilitate access to credit, insurance and investment products offered through the wider ecosystem.

Debt gone, ROCE strong: Are these 2 stocks ready for their next phase

New Delhi: Every annual report carries a line marked borrowing. For most Indian manufacturers it turns up each year like a standing order, taking its cut before anything reaches the owners. Two companies recently erased that line in FY26. One took more than ten years. The other took weeks.

The similarity ends there. Rolex Rings carried Rs 615 cr of borrowings in FY16 and paid it down out of its own cash, handing roughly Rs 285 cr to lenders in interest along the way. Sunshield Chemicals carried Rs 100 cr into FY26 and wiped it out with a rights issue that raised Rs 130 cr from its own shareholders. One extinguished debt with earnings. The other converted it into equity. Both beat their industry on returns. Rolex earns a return on capital employed (ROCE) of 21% against an industry median of 16%. Sunshield earns 20% against an industry median of 14%. Which raises the only question that matters. When the interest bill hits zero, where does the money go? Let us dig into both. Incorporated as a partnership firm in Rajkot in 1980 by Rupesh D. Madeka, Rolex Rings became a public limited company in 2021 and listed that August. It ranks among India's top five forging companies, making hot rolled forged bearing rings and automotive components for passenger vehicles, industrial machinery, wind turbines and railways. Manesh D. Madeka and family run it today. The current market capitalisation of the company is Rs 4,510 cr and it has clientele like Ford, ABC bearings Ltd, SKF, Automotive Axles Ltd, Schaeffler, Carraro Group, etc.

The Price of Deleveraging: Inside Rolex Rings' ₹615 Crore Repayment

Rolex went through a corporate debt restructuring in 2013. In FY 16 it carried Rs 615 cr of borrowings and paid Rs 58 cr in interest, swallowing 53% of operating profit. By FY23 borrowings were Rs 82 cr. By FY25, Rs 14 cr. In FY26, zero. It left the restructuring in 2022 with no term debt, but one claim survived. Lenders keep a right of recompense, letting them recover concessions

granted at the time. On 31st March 2026 Rolex settled it in full, paying Rs 101 cr to a consortium led by Union Bank of India. It is why FY26 profit looks weak. EBITDA here refers to operating profit before other income. FY26 net profit carries an exceptional charge of Rs 51.6 cr tied to the settlement. Take that out and adjusted profit was Rs 192.7 cr, a five-year CAGR of 17% rather than 10%. The FY21 base is flattered by a tax write-back.

The three-year trend is the worry, not the five-year one. Sales have slipped from Rs 1,179 cr in FY23 to Rs 1,144 cr in FY26, operating profit drifting down with them. The deleveraging is real. The growth has stalled.

June 2026 reads better. Revenue of Rs 304 cr, up 4%. Operating profit of Rs 69 cr at a 23% margin. Net profit of Rs 60 cr, up 22%. Interest, nil. Auto components grew 13.5% to Rs 163 cr while bearing rings fell 6%. Rolex has never paid a dividend, its payout ratio zero in all eleven years on record. Instead, in April 2026 the board cleared a buyback of 1 crore shares at Rs 180 each, worth Rs 180 cr. They were extinguished on 31st July 2026.

The promoters chose not to tender, and that detail carries weight. The full Rs 180 cr went to non-promoter shareholders, and the promoter stake rose without the family buying a share. Management has since said it is weighing a formal dividend policy, closing March 2026 with cash and investments of Rs 367 cr.

Share Price Target & Valuation vs. Industry Median

The share price of Rolex was about Rs 107 in September 2021; as of closing on 11th September 2026 it was Rs 172. In the past six months, the stock price has seen a jump of 55% from Rs 111 to Rs 172. When you look at valuations, the share trades at a PE of 23x against the current industry median of 29x. The 10-year median is unavailable, because the shares have only traded since August 2021.



The counterweight sits in the ratios. Working capital days jumped from 89 in FY25 to 213 in FY26, though the cash conversion cycle barely moved, 157 days to 164. Management guides to an FY27 EBITDA margin of 21% to 22% and has flagged ocean freight running two-and-a-half to three times higher since mid-June. For a heavy exporter, no small thing.Incorporated in 1986, Sunshield Chemicals makes surfactants, ethoxylates and antioxidants at Rasal in Maharashtra. Its chemistry ends up in home and personal care, paints and coatings, agrochemicals and lubricants. Belgium's Solvay owned it for most of the last decade, selling its 62.36% holding to Mumbai-based Indus Petrochem in 2021. With a current market cap of Rs 1,055 cr, the company's clientele includes Lubrizol India, Elantas Europe SRL, Indian Additives, Elantas Beck India, CJS Specialty Chemicals, Solvay Specialities, Godrej Industries, Asian Paints, etc. Sunshield closed FY25 with borrowings of Rs 100.38 cr. Interest cost Rs 9 cr against a pre-tax profit of Rs 18 cr. Half of what the business earned before tax went to its lenders.

In September 2025 it went to its owners, offering 14,41,776 shares at Rs 901 each, 10 for every 51 held, on a record date of 24th September 2025. The issue raised Rs 129.90 cr for repayment of borrowings. By March 2026 the line read zero, unsecured loans from the parent included.

5% dividend yield, 2x profits Mini-Ratna PSU

New Delhi: Welcome to the latest edition of Dividend Hunter. In recent weeks, we have analysed companies where strong cash flows could translate into consistent dividends. In our previous edition, we covered a reinsurance company with a 52% market share offering a 3.9% dividend yield.

This week, in our Dividend Hunter series, we discuss a Mini-Ratna Category-I public sector enterprise that has grown its earnings at a compounded rate of 18% over the past five years and offers a dividend yield of 5%. The company distributes over 50% of its net profit as dividends. The company operates across a diverse set of businesses, including industrial packaging, logistics infrastructure, greases and lubricants, and travel and vacations. Some key growth opportunities are also linked to structural trends such as the expansion of third-party logistics and e-commerce parcel volumes, rising demand for transformer oils and lubricants across power, automotive, railway, and defence, and sharp growth in domestic travel. Balmer Lawrie paid a per-share dividend of ₹8.5 in FY26, translating into a dividend yield of 5% at the current price of ₹168. The company's payout is supported by consistent profit, cash inflows from joint ventures and associates, accumulated reserves and a formal Dividend Distribution Policy. However, the key question for dividend investors is whether Balmer Lawrie can maintain this payout while growing its earnings and investing in its business. Balmer Lawrie has maintained a consistent dividend payout over the past five years. The dividend per share increased from ₹6.50 in FY22 to ₹8.50 in FY24 and has remained at that level since then. More importantly, the company has grown its profits faster than its dividend. Net profit grew from ₹134 crore in FY22 to ₹270.3 crore in FY26 – a doubling of profits over this tenure. This has brought the payout ratio down from 82.9% to 53.8% over the same period.



Across the entire share base, this translates to an annual dividend commitment of approximately ₹145.5 crore.The primary driver of the dividend is the company's core earning capacity across its diversified business units. During FY21-26, the company's consolidated revenue grew at a 12.1% CAGR to ₹2,706 crore, while net profit grew 18.6% to ₹270 crore. This profit is fueled by diversified earnings across multiple business segments. Travel and vacation (₹125.3 crore), logistics services (₹79.5 crore), greases and lubricants (₹76.0 crore), industrial packaging (₹52.6 crore), and logistics infrastructure (₹33.7 crore) led the profit before tax. Dividends are paid out of actual cash rather than paper profits, and Balmer Lawrie's cash flow generation expanded significantly during the year.The company's cash from operating activity stood at ₹289 crore in FY26. This represents an 85% jump from consolidated operating cash flow of ₹156 crore in FY25, underscoring a significant improvement in cash conversion efficiency across the Group. Of this, the company spent net ₹64 crore on CapEx, down from ₹66 crore in FY25.Subtracting CapEx from operating cash flow yields a consolidated free cash flow of ₹225 crore in FY26, which is 2.5x the FY25 free cash flow of ₹90 crore. The company has generated positive free cash flow in eight of the last 10 years. FY22 was an exception, as higher working capital requirements absorbed cash and resulted in negative free cash flow.

Baghaei Slams Hegseth Over 9/11 Remarks On Iran War



Tehran: Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei launched a fierce rebuke against Washington, accusing the US government of attempting to justify “a reckless and unlawful war against Iran” by invoking the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 World Trade Centre attacks. Reacting to comments made by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth during a 9/11 observance ceremony, Baghaei denounced what he termed fundamental contradictions in American foreign policy, questioning Washington’s “exclusive authority” over defining terrorism and the legitimacy of violence.

“The narrative advanced by the US Secretary of War on the anniversary of 9/11 is riddled with fundamental contradictions, you cannot wage aggression, carry out cowardly assassinations, and inflict civilian casualties while simultaneously claiming exclusive authority to define terrorism and determine whose violence is legitimate,” Baghaei stated in a post on X. Countering US historical claims regarding the perpetrators of the 2001 attacks, the Iranian spokesperson affirmed that Iran had no involvement in the 9/11 terror attack, rather attributing the incident to perpetrators “armed, organised, or otherwise cultivated” by the US itself.

He added that the US’ “war on terror” launched after 9/11 caused decades of occupation, destruction, and loss of civilian life across Iraq and Afghanistan, calling it “utterly absurd” of Hegseth to use that same narrative to justify today’s hostilities against Iran. “The per-

petrators of 9/11 were not Iranians; they were the very same people whom the US itself had armed, organised, or otherwise cultivated in the preceding decades. Yet the so-called “war on terror” that followed brought Afghanistan and Iraq years of war, occupation, civilian deaths, and devastation on a massive scale,” Baghaei wrote.

“Against this backdrop, invoking the anniversary of 9/11 to justify a reckless unlawful war against Iran is utterly absurd. A criminal war that has involved the assassination of officials of a sovereign state and the targeting of civilians, including women and children, cannot be made morally coherent simply by wrapping it in the language of counterterrorism,” he added. To further mock the US administration, Baghaei accompa-

nied his statement with the popular four-panel “Gru’s Plan” meme image template from Despicable Me, visually underscoring what Tehran views as a flawed American strategy.

Baghaei’s remarks came directly in response to US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who delivered a headline address at a 9/11 memorial ceremony framing military actions against Iran as part of America’s continued counterterrorism mission. “Over the past six months, we have laid waste to the world’s most prolific state sponsor of terrorism. Our warriors have fought an Islamic theocracy that has wished us death for nearly half a century.

That cheered on 9/11. A regime that has sponsored terrorist attacks against Americans for decades, killing thousands, including our

verse and slogans from Flight 93 passengers to emphasise continued military resolve of the US. “But we also know, as the scripture says, the world will always have war and rumors of war. And so the fight goes on. And so we raise up a new generation of strong, brave warriors who will say, ‘When it matters most, send me.’ or as they said on Flight 93, Todd Beamer’s favorite famous words, ‘Let’s roll’,” he stated. Concluding his address, Hegseth cited biblical verse and slogans from Flight 93 passengers to emphasise continued military resolve of the US.

“But we also know, as the scripture says, the world will always have war and rumors of war. And so the fight goes on. And so we raise up a new generation of strong, brave warriors who will say, ‘When it matters most, send me.’ or as they said on Flight 93, Todd Beamer’s favorite famous words, ‘Let’s roll’,” he stated. On September 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger aircraft in a coordinated attack against the United States.

Two planes were flown into the World Trade Centre’s Twin Towers in New York, while a third struck the Pentagon, the headquarters of the US Department of Defence, in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth aircraft crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the plane. The attacks killed 2,977 people, according to official US figures, making September 11 one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in history.

Europe's Factories Brace for a Harsh Winter as Energy Costs Surge



UK: Reports state that the European industry is heading into a difficult winter as a fresh spike in energy costs threatens to shut down factories across the continent. Renewed conflict between the United States and Iran has disrupted supply routes near the Strait of Hormuz, sending wholesale gas prices to their highest levels in roughly three years. British gas prices alone have nearly doubled within two months.

The impact is falling hardest on energy-intensive sectors like chemicals, steel, and aluminium. Producers from Shropshire to Hamburg say soaring bills are turning once-manageable costs into existential threats. One UK aluminium maker reports that energy now eats up nearly a fifth of its total

costs, while a major chemicals firm has warned that continued high prices could force it to shut its last British plant.

Executives describe an operating environment growing harder to plan around, with some manufacturers reconsidering investment in Europe altogether. The crisis compounds years of instability, pandemic disruption, the war in Ukraine, and a slow, troubled transition away from Russian gas. Auditors have found the EU’s push to eliminate Russian energy imports is itself faltering. As storage levels and diplomatic tensions remain unsettled, industry leaders warn that this winter could accelerate a longer-term decline in European manufacturing competitiveness.

Shabana Mahmood urges police to curb far-right

UK: Shabana Mahmood has urged police to curb the activities of far-right, anti-migrant groups which have “obvious malign intent” after a weekend of chaos caused by balaclava-wearing vigilantes.

In a meeting on Thursday, the home secretary told senior officers to make “full use” of their powers, including bans on face coverings, after police were assaulted and ports were disrupted in Kent and Hampshire.

She signalled the need for “strong deterrence” and improved intelligence in light of new tactics being deployed by groups such as Patriot Platform, led by the convicted kidnapper Daniel Thomas, which helped to organise the protests. Mahmood told the officers: “These scenes have caused disruption for people and, given that people are dressed in black wearing balaclavas, there is a fear factor and obvious malign intent being communicated to our residents. This makes it different from other protests, so we need to make sure we are learning lessons.”

The Home Office and police were criticised in the aftermath of the weekend for failing to take a hard line on the far right. Environmental campaigners and civil liberties groups have complained that there appears to be a “two-tier” approach, with peaceful climate protesters prosecuted more aggressively than far-right agitators. Police in Dover on Saturday and then Portsmouth on Sunday were taken by surprise when hundreds of protesters wearing black clothes and face masks massed to oppose what they say is illegal immigration via small boats.

Both protests are believed by police to have been far-right inspired, with evi-

dence emerging that those behind them were determined to avoid detection.

Thursday’s online meeting was held ahead of this weekend, when further disruption is predicted to take place.

Mahmood told senior officers to make better use of intelligence to ensure they have the correct resources and expertise in place, and made clear the government’s expectation that police should make full use of the powers at their disposal to ensure anyone who is committing a criminal offence is dealt with “robustly”. The home secretary urged police to make full use of digital evidence, including body-worn video, facial recognition technology, CCTV, ANPR and other intelligence products to identify offenders.

The move raises the possibility that Hampshire police will insist that protesters due to meet in Portsmouth at 12.30pm on Saturday will be ordered to take off any face coverings.

Forces have planned an “enhanced and coordinated approach to intelligence gathering and operational planning” ahead of the weekend – laying the groundwork for a more proactive response. Labour’s Crime and Policing Act, which took effect in April, gave police powers to create mask-free zones at protests, backed by fines of up to £1,000 or one month’s imprisonment, or both.

The power only applies to people who are trying to conceal their identity, rather than those covering their face for reasons of religion, health or work, and officers must take reasonable steps to notify the public of the restriction. Saturday’s protests in Dover, which Thomas claimed to have organised, blocked the town’s

roads for several hours, disrupting traffic heading to and from the port. Kent police initially claimed that they had no warning of the Dover protest. That claim fell apart when the force admitted there were warning calls to police on Friday evening which were not acted upon.

After a dinghy carrying 120 asylum seekers was rescued on Sunday near the Solent, about 200 black-clad men gathered at Eastney Marina. Protesters blocked roads, leading to alleged assaults on several officers. No one was arrested at either demonstration.

Patriot Platform has attempted to bring together disparate local “patriot” groups rather than construct a single hierarchical organisation.

In a further development, RNLI volunteers and staff have been warned not to wear the charity’s branding because of the “unacceptable abuse” they have faced from anti-migrant protesters.

The charity has issued security advice since the protests in Dover and Portsmouth, which saw its workers targeted for bringing some small boat migrants ashore.

This week, footage posted on social media showed volunteers being labelled as “traitors” after helping to look after people who had arrived in a dinghy in Portsmouth. Protests have been held at RNLI sites, including on Wednesday, when a small anti-migrant gathering was held at the RNLI College in Poole, Dorset.

Commenting after the meeting, the deputy chief constable Andy Mariner, the NPCC lead for public order, said: “Policing is continually assessing and preparing for protests and any potential impact on public safety.

UK: MPs who voted for and against assisted dying have urged their respective sides not to take the “extraordinary risk” of forcing through the bill using an obscure parliamentary procedure if it continues to be blocked by the Lords.

Two Labour MPs have written a warning letter to colleagues in the crucial hours before the next vote on Friday: Gareth Snell, who voted in favour of the bill, and Meg Hillier, who voted against.

They said MPs were being presented with a “this or nothing” ultimatum and that invoking the Parliament Act to override the Lords would lead to “a constitutional showdown” with far-reaching consequences.

“Our primacy as the elected house is more than a right to enforce our will; it is a responsibility to exercise our power with the greatest of care,” Snell and Hillier wrote.

But in a countering letter, a Labour MP and a Conservative MP argued that the Parliament Act would only be used as a last resort, if the Lords sought to block the stated will of the Commons, as happened with the last version, when it was talked out by a handful of peers who tabled a huge number of amendments. Sarah Champi-

The Assisted Dying Bill was officially rejected by UK MPs



on and Kit Malthouse, both of whom backed the last bill, said they were happy for the Lords to suggest improvements to the new version, but that the Parliament Act was necessary to ensure “the unelected Lords cannot repeatedly block legislation passed by the elected house”.

The prime minister, Andy Burnham, has already confirmed he will not cast a vote on the terminally ill adults (end of life) bill so as not to “unduly influence the debate”.

The private member’s bill, originally sponsored by Kim Leadbeater, has been revived by another Labour MP Lauren Edwards. It had passed last year by a majority of 23

in the Commons. Supportive MPs and peers say they can use the 1911 Parliament Act to override the Lords and pass the bill should it be voted through again by the Commons. But some MPs have expressed uneasiness at the use of the act to bypass the House of Lords on such a serious issue. The bill would allow adults with a terminal illness with less than six months to live to end their lives, after the approval of a panel of experts. Since 1949, when it was revised, the Parliament Act has been used to enact just a handful of laws that have not had the consent of the Lords, including decriminalising homosexuality and banning foxhunting.

After a session of parliament ends, a bill must be re-introduced and passed again in the new session to trigger the act’s override mechanism. It must be exactly the same version of the bill as previously passed by the Commons.

In their letter to MPs, Snell and Hillier said the determination of the bill’s backers to use the Parliament Act meant there would be no possibility of “practical or worthwhile amendments” being added, despite concerns from hospices, medical professionals, legal bodies and others.

“This is an extraordinary risk for us to take,” they wrote. “We know that the colleagues who have

brought the bill forward did so in good faith. They have sought to start a conversation many feel is overdue about an issue that is manifestly of interest to the public.

“However, the consequences of what may happen this week go much further. We both want the House of Lords to fulfil its duties, but bringing back an identical bill devoid of the previously agreed amendments sets up a constitutional showdown through an issue which deserves much more thoughtful consideration.”

In their letter, Champion and Malthouse said that Edwards and other bill sponsors had tabled some amendments to improve the original bill, and that they were open to these being debated and voted on by peers.

In a separate statement, Edwards said the measure was only having to be tabled and debated again “because a small number of peers chose to prevent any votes taking place on the bill earlier this year and so blocked its passage. That was undemocratic and brought one of the most significant national conversations we have had as legislators to an abrupt halt.

“There is a real human cost to the delay in passing this legislation and correcting the injustices and cruelty of the current law.”

JP Morgan boss Jamie Dimon meets UK PM and chancellor to warn against bank tax hike

UK: Jamie Dimon, the chief executive of the largest US bank, JP Morgan, is understood to have warned Andy Burnham and the UK chancellor, John Healey, against raising taxes on banks in his inaugural budget in October.

The Wall Street billionaire met the prime minister and the new chancellor on Wednesday and cautioned

them that higher taxes could put investment and employment in the UK at risk, it is understood.

The meeting came amid speculation that Healey is considering a windfall tax on banks and oil companies in his budget on 28 October.

Dimon has a long track record of lobbying against Britain’s additional bank taxes, which were imposed after the

government bailed out big UK lenders in the 2008 financial crisis. Lenders in the UK pay a 28% corporation tax rate, higher than the standard 25%, as well as a separate surcharge on their UK balance sheets.

The JP Morgan chief executive has previously warned that raising these taxes further could have “adverse consequences”. In August,

he told Healey in a telephone conversation that higher levies could hit jobs, citing a fall in finance roles in New York that he blamed on the city’s tax regime.

Dimon was among a group of bank bosses who successfully lobbied against higher taxes before Healey’s predecessor Rachel Reeves’s budget last year – with Dimon hosting Varun Chandra, who

remains in his post as the prime minister’s business envoy, at a birthday celebration for King Charles at the bank’s Manhattan headquarters.

Days afterwards, Dimon announced plans to build a 3m sq ft tower in London’s Canary Wharf district, although he added that a “continuing positive business environment in the UK” was required.

For less than Rs 2,000, foam rollers can help with muscle healing and flexibility after exercise

Foam rollers are beneficial for individuals who frequently engage in exercise, practice yoga, or sit for extended periods. They enable users to exert controlled pressure on various muscle groups and can be integrated into warm-up, mobility, and post-exercise routines.

From compact high-density rollers to textured designs and multi-piece recovery kits, there are several options available under Rs 2,000. Whether you want a basic roller for everyday use or a more versatile kit with additional massage accessories, these models are worth considering. Here are 5 of the best foam rollers under Rs 2,000 worth considering.

Lifelong Foam Roller for Exercise Gym: Best overall

The Lifelong Foam Roller is a straightforward option for people looking to add muscle recovery, stretching and mobility work to their fitness routine. It is designed for deep-tissue body massage and can be used during yoga, workouts, and post-exercise recovery sessions. Its simple design makes it suitable for targeting different muscle groups without requiring additional accessories.

CULT Foam Roller for Back Pain and Deep Tissue Massage: Best value

The CULT Foam Roller features a high-density foam construction and a 33 cm design for deep-tissue massage, stretching and muscle recovery. It is compact enough for

home workout spaces and can be used as part of both pre- and post-workout routines. At Rs 499, it is one of the more affordable options for users who want a basic recovery roller. Bodylastics 6-in-1 18-Inch Foam Roller Kit: Best for versatility

The Bodylastics 6-in-1 Foam Roller Kit offers more versatility than a conventional single roller. The 18-inch foam roller is accompanied by a massage stick, three massage balls and a storage bag. This gives users multiple tools for pre- and post-workout sessions, physical therapy routines and myofascial release work.

Boldfit Foam Roller for Deep Tissue Massage: Best for deep-tissue massage

The Boldfit Foam Roller is built around a high-density foam design and is intended for deep-tissue massage, physical therapy and flexibility work. It can be used as part of stretching and recovery sessions and is suited to users who prefer a dedicated foam roller without additional accessories. Wiselife Eco-Friendly Spikes Foam Roller:

Best for textured massage

When curating our definitive selection of top-tier recovery accessories, we established a rigorous methodology centered on how well each product balances physical durability, targeted therapeutic efficacy, and everyday lifestyle convenience.

The Wiselife Spikes Foam Roller brilliantly exemplifies these criteria by substituting a conventional smooth exterior with a dynamic, textured spike pattern meticulously engineered from premium, eco-friendly EVA foam to aggressively zero in on stubborn muscle tightness, chronic soreness, and deep-seated inflammation. Rather than offering a generic, broad-pressure massage, its unique multi-dimensional construction delivers a specialized trigger-point release that closely mimics the intensive handwork of a physical therapist, all while maintaining an impressively lightweight and travel-friendly footprint that allows users to effortlessly toss it into a gym bag or suitcase. By evaluating contenders on structural integrity, portability, surface adaptability, and overall value, we ensured that every featured option—including this uniquely textured spike variant—provides maximum functional versatility for active individuals seeking professional-grade muscle recovery both at home and on the go. To thoroughly determine which recovery tools deliver the absolute best value, our comprehensive evaluation process meticulously assessed each foam roller across a robust spectrum of performance metrics, including core construction quality, physical dimensions, surface design patterns, intended applications, portability, and overall functional versatility. Beyond these foundational structural elements, significant additional consideration was thoughtfully given to specialized performance factors such as deep-tissue massage capability, support for dynamic stretching routines, accelerated muscle recovery efficiency, and the inclusion or availability of complementary accessories like massage balls and handheld sticks, all to ensure that every recommended model provides genuinely practical, high-value functionality well within an accessible budget limit of Rs 2,000.

Things to consider before buying a foam roller

In addition to size and surface texture, the core construction, material composition, and overall density of a foam roller are fundamental determinants that directly govern the intensity and therapeutic quality of the pressure it delivers to your soft tissues. High-density rollers are expertly engineered and generally best suited for advanced athletes, larger individuals, or users who consistently require much firmer, uncompromising support during rigorous deep-tissue massage and recovery exercises, as they resist compression and penetrate deeply into stubborn muscle layers without losing their structural integrity over time. On the other hand, while varying densities dictate how deeply the tool compresses, combining these robust core



materials with textured outer patterns allows users to experience a more specialized and targeted sensation that zeroes in on specific trigger points, whereas softer, low-density alternatives provide a gentler, more forgiving cushion for beginners or those rehabilitating from injuries; ultimately, carefully weighing these structural attributes ensures you select a durable implement capable of enduring heavy daily use while perfectly matching your individual pain tolerance and recovery goals.

Beyond surface textures and portability, selecting the right recovery equipment requires careful consideration of physical dimensions, as size plays a pivotal role in determining

both the versatility and convenience of your daily routine. Longer rollers can provide significantly greater surface coverage and stability during expansive, full-body exercises such as rolling both legs simultaneously or performing thoracic spine extensions, whereas shorter, more compact models are exceptionally easier to maneuver in tight spaces, store neatly in a closet, and pack into travel luggage. Furthermore, buyers should thoughtfully evaluate whether they would benefit most from investing in a standalone, minimalist roller or a comprehensive, multi-piece recovery kit that includes additional specialized tools such as massage balls for pin-point trigger point therapy and handheld rolling sticks for targeted limb work, thereby ensuring that every muscle group receives the exact level of multifaceted care necessary to optimize overall athletic performance, accelerate muscle recovery, and maintain long-term physical well-being.

When selecting the ideal fitness or recovery tool to suit your personal lifestyle and physical needs, evaluating the intricacies of the exterior surface design is just as crucial as considering its overall dimensions, weight, and material composition. Smooth rollers offer a more consistent, predictable, and uniform contact surface that distributes pressure evenly across broad muscle groups, making them an excellent choice for individuals who are new to self-myofascial release or those who experience acute sensitivity and prefer a gentler, less intense rolling sensation. Conversely, incorporating spikes, ridges, or other multi-dimensional textures into the design can provide significantly more targeted, deep-tissue pressure, effectively mimicking the thumbs and elbows of a professional massage therapist to aggressively break up stubborn knots, alleviate chronic tension, and stimulate blood flow in dense muscle fibers like the calves, glutes, and upper back. However, the functionality of any piece of equipment extends far beyond its textural capabilities, because if portability is a major factor in your daily routine, a lightweight, compact, and space-saving design ultimately becomes far more practical for seamlessly carrying back and forth between your home, the office, and the gym without adding unnecessary bulk to your gym bag or imposing a physical burden during your commute. Balancing these tactile preferences with your mobility requirements ensures that your investment not only targets your physical recovery effectively but also integrates effortlessly into your active, on-the-go lifestyle, allowing you to prioritize your wellness regimen regardless of where your day takes you.

Which is healthier for your skin, niacinamide or vitamin C

The comparison between niacinamide and vitamin C is not simply about selecting the “superior” skincare ingredient. Each provides distinct advantages, and the appropriate selection is contingent upon the specific needs of your skin. Niacinamide is recognized for its ability to enhance the skin barrier and control oil production, whereas vitamin C is esteemed for its antioxidant effects and skin-brightening qualities. According to Dr Ritika Shanmugam, Founder and Chief Dermatologist, Director of Dr Ritika Shanmugam Skin Hair Aesthetics, “Both these ingredients can help improve skin health over time, but the choice largely depends on your skin type and concern.”

What does niacinamide do for your skin?

Delving deeper into the remarkable scientific mechanisms that make niacinamide—a potent and biologically active form of vitamin B3—an absolute staple in contemporary dermatology, this versatile ingredient works tirelessly to fortify the skin barrier, enhance lipid synthesis, and regulate excessive oil production to prevent clogged pores and breakouts. Expanding upon its multifaceted benefits, Dr. Shanmugam



explains that niacinamide operates on a cellular level by effectively inhibiting melanin transfer from melanocytes to surrounding keratinocytes, a specialized action that makes it exceptionally powerful at fading stubborn hyperpigmentation and evening out overall skin tone. Furthermore, its profound anti-inflammatory properties allow it to visibly reduce the appearance of enlarged pores, calm active acne lesions, and dramatically soothe persistent redness or irritation, transforming reactive and stressed skin into a remarkably balanced, calm, and healthy complexion. Because of its barrier-supporting properties, niacinamide can be a useful option for sensitive and acne-prone skin. It can also be used during the day or at night. What does vitamin C do?

Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant that helps fight free radicals and works by inhibiting the tyrosinase enzyme involved in melanin production. It is commonly used to address pigmentation, uneven skin tone and dark spots.

The dermatologist also notes that vitamin C can support collagen formation, making it a popular ingredient in anti-ageing skincare. However, it can irritate sensitive skin, so it should be introduced cautiously. It is generally best used alongside sunscreen during the daytime. Niacinamide or vitamin C: Which should you choose?

Ultimately, determining which of these celebrated cosmetic actives deserves a permanent spot in your daily regimen depends entirely on a careful assessment of your skin’s unique, evolving needs and daily environmental stressors. If your

primary skincare priorities revolve around boosting vital moisture retention, regulating excessive sebum production, reinforcing a compromised moisture barrier, and visibly minimizing the appearance of enlarged pores for a smoother, more refined texture, niacinamide may very well be the superior and more beneficial choice for your complexion. On the other hand, if your overarching goals are centered heavily on achieving a radiant, luminous glow, fading stubborn dark spots and pigmentation concerns caused by sun damage or acne scarring, and harnessing powerful anti-aging benefits to stimulate collagen production and combat fine lines, vitamin C may prove to be significantly more suitable and effective for achieving your desired transformation. By aligning your product selections directly with these distinct physiological benefits, you can curate a targeted, highly efficient skincare routine that addresses your specific dermal concerns with precision, ensuring visible, long-lasting results that elevate your natural radiance and overall skin health. Far from being mutually exclusive or locked in a perpetual competition for dominance within your daily skincare routine, these two remarkable cosmetic powerhouses can actually be used together in a harmonious, synergistic regimen that maximizes their respective strengths to radically transform your complexion. Specifically, while potent vitamin C actively gets to work neutralizing environmental free radicals, brightening a dull complexion, and targeting stubborn, uneven-looking skin tone and hyperpigmentation, soothing niacinamide steps in to provide critical barrier support, reduce redness, and calm any potential irritation that high-potency acids or antioxidants might occasionally trigger. By strategically layering or combining these complementary actives, you create a balanced, multi-action defense system that not only addresses surface discoloration and oxidative stress but also reinforces the skin’s lipid barrier and locks in optimal moisture, ensuring that your delicate facial epidermis remains resilient, radiant, and deeply nourished day after day. Navigating the complex and often overwhelming world of modern skincare active ingredients requires a nuanced understanding of your skin’s unique biological makeup, individual sensitivities, and overarching dermatological goals, because no single compound can ever serve as a universal cure-all for every complexion type. Addressing this common dilemma, renowned dermatology expert Dr. Shanmugam offers a definitive perspective on the eternal debate between two of the industry’s most celebrated powerhouses, thoughtfully concluding that choosing between niacinamide and vitamin C comes down entirely to your unique skin type, individual chemical tolerance, and specific targeted concerns rather than trying to determine which ingredient is universally superior. While vitamin C reigns supreme for its potent antioxidant defense, collagen stimulation, and ability to impart an immediate, luminous glow to dull skin, niacinamide stands out for its exceptional barrier-repairing capabilities, sebum-regulating properties, and superior gentleness, making it remarkably well-tolerated even by those with reactive or easily inflamed skin conditions like rosacea. By carefully evaluating how each active interacts with your personal dermal ecosystem—taking into account whether you are seeking to fade stubborn hyperpigmentation, combat environmental pollution, or soothe chronic irritation—you can craft a harmonious, highly personalized regimen that prioritizes long-term skin health and resilience over fleeting cosmetic trends, ultimately proving that true skincare efficacy is measured by personalization rather than popularity.

Consider these five tote bags if you tend to overpack for college

Throughout my journey from college to my present professional life, I have come to realize that I am unable to limit myself to just the essentials. My bag invariably contains my laptop, notebook, charger, water bottle, makeup pouch, wallet, sunglasses, a collection of random receipts, and around 17 other items that I likely did not need to include. Since my college days, I have favored tote bags, and I continue to use one for work nearly every day.

In fact, the DailyObjects Idyll Tote is the one I currently use for work, and it is easily the most spacious tote I have used for my everyday carry. It works particularly well for me because I tend to carry my laptop along with everything else I might need during the day.

I tend to carry my laptop, notebook, charger, water bottle, makeup pouch and a ridiculous number of receipts, so I would prioritise a tote with separate compartments over one enormous open cavity.

That is also how I approached these five picks. Rather than looking only at how each bag photographs, I looked at what it physically offers: its dimensions, material, storage, closure, laptop compatibility and carrying configuration and then what those specifications actually mean when you use the bag every day.

1. DailyObjects Idyll Tote Bag: If I had to pick one bag from this list based on my own everyday routine, this would be it.

I currently use the DailyObjects Idyll for work, and for me, its biggest advantage is simply how much I can fit into it without feeling like everything has been thrown into one giant compartment. The bag is designed with multiple pockets, two water-bottle sections and a dedicated laptop section, which is exactly the kind of organisation I look for.

DailyObjects lists the Idyll as being made from soft-



touch, water-repellent polyester with polyfill cushioning. Its laptop compartment is designed for devices up to 14 inches, while the bag also has six external pockets, two water-bottle sections and internal slip pockets.

The dedicated laptop section is specified for laptops up to 14 inches. So despite the bag itself being spacious, don’t assume a larger laptop will fit. Check your laptop measurements against the listing before buying.

2. Kawn Korean tote bag: The Kawn Korean Tote is the more aesthetic option on this list. It has a corduroy/canvas-inspired look, a zip closure, multiple pockets and a large-capacity design, making it suited to students who want their bag to function as an accessory as much as a storage solution.

3. FUOCO Canvas Messenger Bag: Best for a casual, hands-free college day: The FUOCO is technically more of a messenger/crossbody-style bag than a conventional tote, but I included it because its carrying configuration solves a practical college problem: sometimes you simply don’t want a bag hanging from one shoulder all day.

The listed specifications describe a canvas bag with approximately 10 litres of capacity, a weight of around 300g, multiple pockets, a zip closure, two handles and an adjustable shoulder strap.

The laptop specifications aren’t consistent across avail-

able listings, so I would not purchase it based on an assumed laptop size. Measure your device and check the current product listing first.

4. Miraggio Marcy Solid Tote Bag: The Miraggio Marcy is the bag I’d choose when I want my college tote to look less like a conventional student bag and more like something I could continue carrying after class.

The design is structured and comes with a detachable pouch. The listed dimensions are approximately 37 × 27 × 12 cm, and the bag is positioned as a more premium, polished everyday tote.

This isn’t the one I’d automatically choose for a large laptop. There is no dedicated laptop sleeve listed, so check the exact dimensions of your device and bag before buying.

5. Lino Perros Colour-Blocked Commuter Tote: The Lino Perros Colour-Blocked Commuter Tote sits somewhere between a college tote and a work handbag. Its structured shape and multiple internal pockets make it particularly interesting if, like me, you get annoyed when every small item disappears into the bottom of your bag.

Analyzing the practical specifications and architectural layout of the Voyage model reveals a meticulously engineered accessory designed to balance sophisticated aesthetics with everyday organizational utility, measuring an accommodating 40 by 12 by 33 cm while tipping the scales at

a moderate 770g. Its durable faux-leather exterior provides a polished, executive-ready silhouette that is securely fastened with a reliable top zip closure to safeguard all your daily essentials against the elements and accidental spills. Beneath its refined exterior, the thoughtfully optimized interior features one spacious main compartment complemented by an impressive six internal pockets to keep smaller items like keys, cosmetics, and tech accessories impeccably sorted, alongside one convenient external pocket for rapid, on-the-go access to frequently needed items like transit cards or a smartphone. When evaluating everyday carry accessories like a stylish tote bag, the choice of exterior material fundamentally dictates both its aesthetic versatility and its physical wearability, as striking the right balance between fashion and function requires careful compromise. The sleek faux-leather construction and meticulously tailored, structured design of certain luxury-leaning totes give them an elevated, sophisticated appearance that effortlessly transitions from the corporate office to evening dinners and formal outings, elevating even the most casual outfit into a polished statement ensemble. However, this added refinement and architectural rigidity come with inherent trade-offs, meaning the bag will naturally feel substantially heavier, less lightweight, and far more rigid than a breezy, slouchy canvas or flexible polyester tote that naturally conforms to your body and allows for effortless, carefree carrying during long commutes or weekend errands. By carefully considering how much weight you plan to haul daily versus the level of polish you wish to project, you can determine whether the upscale look of structured faux leather outweighs the easygoing, featherlight comfort of traditional fabric alternatives.

ENTERTAINMENT

Aishwarya Lekshmi hits back at outfit controversy



Mumbai : Kriti Sanon faced serious backlash over her Raksha Bandhan outfit; Cocktail star and actor Aishwarya Lekshmi, too, was criticised for her outfit at a diamond jewellery exhibition in May, and now, in a recent chat, she has finally reacted to people questioning actresses' outfit choices.

In a chat with Rajini Haridas, Aishwarya shared how the photographers at the event made her uncomfortable and said, "They were not focusing on my face. I did get uncomfortable, and when you get uncomfortable, your body language changes as well. I felt like my personal boundaries were violated." She further said that people chose to question her for her outfit

choice but didn't realise that she was majorly uncomfortable with the cameramen not focusing on her face but her body and said, "People were like, 'Why is she getting awkward? Why is she covering her neckline? Why choose a dress like that if it is so uncomfortable?'" she said.

"Is culture only in a woman's cleavage or the length of her dress? It is also in the way we behave, right?" she said and further continued, "There is little policing of people who make inappropriate remarks about women. But a woman should always be mindful about her cleavage and how she dresses."Revealing how she first just laughed off the negative reactions, she said she was shook by how

quickly it grew. The actress said, "For the first 24 hours since the trolling started, I laughed about it. But as time went by, I was shook by the amount of discussion it was shaping into."

"Why can't we discuss our GDP, or how many old parents are being abandoned? Why should my cleavage be subjected to such intense discussion?" she concluded. Aishwarya Lekshmi is a Malayalam and Tamil actress and producer from Kerala. A trained MBBS doctor, she began her career as a model before making her acting debut with Njandukalude Naattil Oridavela (2017). She rose to fame with Mayaanadhi and later appeared in films like Varathan, Ponniyin Selvan and Gatta Kusthi.

Nostalgia night hits Bigg Boss house

Mumbai : Bigg Boss Hindi has completed two decades with its latest season, and every season has been a roller coaster of a journey.

Each season has been full of fights, arguments, new friendships, stronger bonds, crazy tasks, funny moments as well as memorable ones. With the arrival of Bigg Boss 20, similar events are trying to unfold, yet with a different and unique flair. In its first week itself, the show took the contestants on a short journey through the previous seasons of Bigg Boss. The housemates revisited some memorable moments from earlier seasons, celebrating 20 years of the reality show.

The housemates watched an exclusive mashup highlighting heated arguments, iconic friendships, emotional bonds as well as some viral dialogues. The special montage featured some easily recognisable moments from earlier seasons, reminding the current housemates of the unforgettable relationships and personalities the show has produced. Among the various famous clips were Shehnaaz Gill's popular dialogue, "Tuada kutta Tommy, sadda kutta kutta," and Zaid Darbar's "Seedha jaa ke left le, chai bana aur sabko pila." Both went on to become viral moments associated with the show.

Keerthy Suresh and Karthik Subbaraj take Toronto by storm with 'Dorothy' premiere

Agency : Karthik Subbaraj's Dorothy has made an impressive international debut at the Toronto International Film Festival 2026, where the Tamil-language feature had its world premiere in the prestigious Centrepiece section. The screening at Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre was met with a standing ovation, giving the film a warm reception as it begins its journey towards a worldwide theatrical release.

Presented by Jio Studios and produced by Sikhya Entertainment in association with Dhammam Films, Dorothy marks the first Indian Tamil feature to premiere at TIFF in the past decade. The milestone brings Subbaraj's distinctive filmmaking voice to one of the world's most prominent film festivals and places a Tamil story before an international audience. Subbaraj attended the premiere alongside actors Keerthy Suresh, Sananth and Rishikanth, with producers Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain also present for the occasion.

For Subbaraj, the film's TIFF premiere carries significance beyond its international exposure. Speaking



about the occasion, the filmmaker said, "Dorothy is a story that comes from a place and culture I know intimately, but its questions around friendship, prejudice and human connection are universal. To have its world premiere at TIFF is incredibly special. It gives the film an opportunity to reach audiences across the world while staying true to the story I wanted to tell. And to have Ilaiyaraaja sir's music accompany that journey makes it even more special." Dorothy explores themes of friendship, identity, prejudice and human dignity, with Subbaraj bringing a story rooted in a culture he knows closely to a global festival audience. The film's international positioning has also been

emphasised by Jio Studios president Jyoti Deshpande. "Cinema has the ability to cross languages when the emotion at its centre is universal. Dorothy is a powerful example of that. Karthik has crafted a story about friendship, identity and human dignity that can resonate far beyond its language. At Jio Studios, we are proud to bring this deeply human story to audiences, and its premiere at TIFF is a significant moment for the film and a proud one for Tamil cinema."The film has another major talking point attached to it: its music. Dorothy is an Ilaiyaraaja musical, with the legendary composer providing the original score and songs. Two tracks from the film,

Kalyana Virundhu and Muthumani, have already crossed 10 million views on YouTube, while both songs have featured among the Top 5 trending music videos on YouTube India.

The music was also taken beyond the film itself through the Dorothy Concert in Chennai. The live event at Image Auditorium featured musicians performing the film's 18-track score continuously for around 40 minutes, offering audiences an extended concert experience built around Ilaiyaraaja's compositions. For producer Guneet Monga Kapoor, the TIFF premiere also adds another chapter to a long-standing relationship with the festival. Her previous TIFF credits include That Girl in Yellow Boots, Peddlers, Gangs of Wasseypur - Part 1 and Part 2, The Lunchbox, Monsoon Shootout, Kill and Yellow Bus.

Written and directed by Karthik Subbaraj, Dorothy stars Keerthy Suresh, Sananth and Rishikanth in pivotal roles. Following its festival premiere, the film is scheduled to arrive worldwide in cinemas on September 25, 2026.

Uditi Singh's surprising reaction to Karan Wahi's Bigg Boss rumors



Mumbai : Singer Qazi Touqeer, who won the 2005 singing reality show Fame Gurukul, recently looked back at his journey on 'Bigg Boss 20' and admitted that he did not think he was a good singer when he won the show.

Qazi, who was declared the winner of Fame Gurukul alongside Ruprekha Banerjee, was praised by his fellow

contestants after he sang the popular song 'O Mere Dil Ke Chain' from the 1972 film 'Mere Jeevan Saathi' in the latest episode of 'Bigg Boss 20.'

The contestants were introduced to the show's new Legacy Room after Bigg Boss showed them a film featuring memorable contestants and moments from previous seasons of the reality show. As the contestants sat together in the room, Qazi sang 'O Mere Dil Ke Chain.' His performance left the contestants impressed. Amrapali Dubey then recalled Qazi's 'Fame Gurukul' days and told him that the entire country had voted for him because of his singing talent.

Qazi spoke about the support he received during the show but admitted

that he did not feel he sang well at the time. He said, "lekin main achha nahi gaata tha uss time (But I didn't sing well at that time)." Qazi rose to fame after winning Sony TV's 'Fame Gurukul' in 2005. He and Ruprekha Banerjee were declared the winners on October 20, 2005, after winning audience support during the show.

Qazi and Arijit have remained friends over the years, with Qazi often sharing pictures and videos with the singer. Now, years after his 'Fame Gurukul' win, Qazi is back in the spotlight as a contestant on Bigg Boss 20. Hosted by Salman Khan, the reality show follows the theme of 'Tatasthu' this season, under which contestants have two lives. Amrapali Dubey, Love Gill, Arishfa Khan and Kanika Mann have been nominated this week. Bigg Boss 20 is available on JioHotstar and Colors TV.

Rasika Dugal, Gulshan Devaiah's 'Little Thomas' set for October 23 release

Mumbai : Gulshan Devaiah and Rasika Dugal-starrer 'Little Thomas' is all set to be released on October 23. Directed by Kaushal Oza and produced by Lumino Pictures, Civic Studios, Good Bad Films, and Ranjan Singh's Flip Films and Anurag Kashyap, the feature stars child artiste Hridansh Parekh as Little Thomas.

The film marks Kashyap's first foray into children's cinema since his 2007 animated directorial venture Return of Hanuman. Set in Goa in the 90s, the film follows Thomas, the only child of his parents, who desperately wants a little brother. "One day, he is told that to get a baby brother, his parents will have



to kiss. Since his quarrelling parents won't kiss any longer, little Thomas takes it upon himself to make them do the yucky act!" the film's synopsis reads.

Speaking about the film, Rasika Dugal said, "It is a film which is committed to the soul of its story without resorting to unnecessary

frills. There are also such few films being made for children today, particularly films that don't talk down to them. I feel Little Thomas fills that gap in a very lovely way it's a children's film, but one that adults can enjoy just as much." Calling Little Thomas a film inspired by his childhood, director

Kaushal Oza said, "My team and I had a ball shooting it thanks to the infectious enthusiasm the kids brought on the set. And their chemistry shows on the screen. Thomas will make you smile, make you laugh, and even shed a tear or two."

Producer Ranjan Singh said Little Thomas is a film the team made to "remind us why we make films". "It's such an innocent and fun story of a boy and his adventures to find the answer to his one question. In an age of fast cuts and high-adrenaline films, this is a simple, sweet film which every family member can watch and should watch it together," Singh said.

Tamil cinema titans unite: Ajith Kumar and Vijay's viral Silverstone encounter

Chennai : Ajith Kumar and Vijay have spent decades at the centre of one of Tamil cinema's most enduring superstar rivalries. Their films, fan bases and box-office performances have regularly invited comparisons, with their respective fandoms often adding to the competitive narrative. At Silverstone, however, the conversation took an unexpected turn as the two stars found common ground through their shared

interest in sport. Ajith, who has transformed his passion for motorsport into a professional racing career, was competing at the iconic British circuit when Vijay, now the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, arrived to support the Indian contingent at the Michelin Le Mans Cup. The occasion offered a rare sight: two of Tamil cinema's biggest names connected not through a film set or the box office, but through

international motorsport. Following the event, Ajith shared a video message thanking Vijay for taking time out of his UK visit to attend the race. He expressed his appreciation for the Chief Minister's support for the Indian racers and suggested that Vijay's presence could help give motorsport greater visibility in India.

Ajith's relationship with motorsport has grown considerably in recent years.

What began as a long-standing personal passion has evolved into a serious professional pursuit, with the actor returning to competitive racing and representing India on international circuits. His involvement has also brought attention to the larger challenges facing aspiring Indian racers. Ajith has spoken about the need for better infrastructure and more opportunities for young talent, particularly those hoping to

build careers in professional motorsport.

Vijay has also placed motorsport among the sporting disciplines that Tamil Nadu should invest in. His government has announced plans for dedicated motorsport infrastructure in the state, alongside a proposed Olympic city designed to strengthen Tamil Nadu's wider sporting ecosystem. Ajith had earlier welcomed the announcement of a dedicated motorsport city,

saying that such initiatives could encourage youngsters to take up the sport, help identify promising talent and create opportunities for them to develop into professional racers.

At Silverstone, those two strands came together. While Ajith was competing on the track, Vijay was present in an official capacity to support the Indian contingent and underline the state's growing interest in motorsport.



Priyanka & Malti Marie's adorable mother-daughter twinning moment

Mumbai : Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas gave fans a glimpse of a precious mother-daughter moment as she twinned with her daughter Malti Marie in matching cherry-print outfits.

Taking to her social media account, Priyanka shared a picture of herself lovingly embracing Malti, who had her arms wrapped around her mother. Both were seen dressed in exactly identical white outfits featuring a red cherry print. The actor's post comes amid her busy international schedule. Priyanka recently was seen travelling to Paris for a brand work commitment. She also shared the



spotlight with fellow Hollywood actress Jennifer Lawrence, with their candid interactions at the event making headlines. Despite her packed professional commitments, Priyanka frequently shares glimpses of her life with husband Nick Jonas and

their daughter Malti Marie. The actor has previously spoken about how Malti enjoys trying different cuisines but ends up eating the same food as her parents, including Indian food and Korean barbecue.

For the uninitiated, Malti Marie was born via surro-

gacy to Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas. The name is kept after the first names of both Priyanka and Nick's mothers. Priyanka has often spoken about how Malti Marie has brought immense joy and happiness into their lives.

On the professional front, Priyanka Chopra is juggling between India and USA as she full fills her professional commitment and shoot of her upcoming movie, Varanasi. The movie helmed by ace filmmaker SS Rajamouli, also stars Mahesh Babu alongside Priyanka. The movie will mark come back to Indian cinema after many years as an actress.

Rohit Roy sparks outrage after calling television a 'dustbin medium'

Mumbai : Rohit Roy, who became a household name with the 1990s Doordarshan show Swabhimaan, has spoken candidly about the long-standing hierarchy between television and film actors. Despite building a significant part of his career on the small screen, Rohit believes there are noticeable differences in how actors from the two mediums present themselves in public. He went as far as calling television a "dustbin medium" while arguing that cinema has greater longevity.

During a conversation on the Kindle Cast YouTube channel, Rohit was asked about the perceived "caste system" within the entertainment industry, where television stars are often placed below film actors despite the medium's enormous reach. Rohit said television actors often lack the "carriage" he notices among film stars,

particularly during public appearances. "You see any public appearance of a film actor, you see the carriage with which he or she comes out, especially if they are a star. Of course, everyone puts on a front. We have to put on a front. But their front is graceful, dignified, stylish, cool... There is a certain amount of style, class," he said.

Comparing this with gatherings attended by television actors, Rohit added, "You see another gathering with lots of TV actors. Look at the way they behave, you will get your answer yourself." Rohit, who himself comes from television, said he has remained conscious of how he behaves publicly. "You have to conduct yourself with a certain amount of grace, dignity. You can't do hoo-haa and make stupid comments because you know the paparazzi is there," he said.

The actor also drew a comparison



between how television and film personalities dress. According to Rohit, revealing outfits are not exclusive to either industry, but he believes film stars bring a different sense of style to them. "Look at the kind of clothing. It's not like film stars don't wear revealing clothes but there is a certain style to it. I don't know the name of this particular lady who is rampant all over social media but she hardly wears anything. So why are you... You are going to treat them badly," he said.

“Animesh and I Will Win”: Gurindervir Supports India’s Asian Games Sprint Double

New Delhi: Gurindervir Singh continued to run on the empty track at Jawaharlal Stadium in Delhi. This time, it was against an increasing number of spectators at the location of the Asian Games warm-up athletics event in the capital rather than a clock. On Thursday afternoon, when India’s athletics team headed to Nagoya convened for one last dress rehearsal, the temperature had risen to almost 36 degrees and the humidity was at 79%. Gurindervir performed well on the track, placing second in the Indian Athletics Series Final’s 100-meter final in 10.32 seconds. The fastest man in India was swarmed by admirers almost an hour after his race, posing for pictures, approving selfies, and navigating a medal ceremony and an endless barrage of demands. The sprint sensation was the afternoon’s main attraction before he had even completed participating. The attention could hardly be avoided. However, Gurindervir is aware of its origins. I have no idea how to describe this emotion. During a brief break from the selfie session, he remarked, “These people give me so much love.” “I hope I’ll be able to put up good performances for them again and again. Sometimes I get tired of all the attention because they come to me right after the race. But I’m glad they are with me all the way.”The stardom is relatively new. In May, Gurindervir broke through a barrier no Indian male sprinter had crossed before, clocking 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup in Ranchi. The national record made him the first Indian man to run under 10.10 seconds and put him firmly among India’s biggest sprint hopes. But the highs were followed almost immediately by a low. A week after setting the national record, Gurindervir suffered a hamstring injury. He would eventually miss the men’s 100m final at the Commonwealth Games after clocking 10.39 seconds in his heat, finishing 28th overall and failing to make the semi-finals. The setback could easily have become a psychological one. Instead, Gurindervir talks about it almost as a necessary part of the journey. “After a week of establishing the national re-



cord, I got injured. After the injury, it took 24-25 days for me to get the right amount of rehab. I got just two weeks to train. You all saw the race at CWG,” he said. “I do feel motivated that a lot of people are proud of me and feel that I can win a podium position. That time, I did not win, but after that setback, I am more focused on training.” The injury was what Gurindervir described as a ‘T-Junction’ hamstring injury, one that normally takes four or five weeks to recover from. He managed to return in 24 days, with the support of his team around him. “It is all about the people around you who motivate you. Like my coach, my physios, my dietitians. They always motivate me. So it is all about surroundings,” he said. Four weeks of hard training followed. And now, Gurindervir is looking towards Nagoya with considerably more confidence. His confidence is not limited to his own medal chances. Animesh Kujur finished ahead of him on Thursday, but there was no bitterness in the defeat. The two men have become rivals on the track and friends everywhere else. Gurindervir responded, “Yes, we are rivals on the racetrack. After the race and before the race, we are good friends. We have a good relationship,” when asked if Animesh and he saw one another as rivals. As India seeks to make its first significant sprint breakthrough at the Asian Games, that friendship may be vital. Gurindervir is emphatic about what he expects. “100%.” Then he expanded on the prediction. “I’ll pray for Animesh.

Animesh and I will win. I can confidently say that I’ll win 100% and finish on the podium.” It is a bold call, particularly in a field that includes some serious Asian sprinting talent. Japan’s Fukuto Komuro is among the names to watch, having clocked 10.07 seconds this season. Malaysia’s Muhammad Azeem Mohd Fahmi, the 2026 Asian U23 champion, is another major threat. He won gold in Ordos in 10.17 seconds and was a bronze medallist at the previous Asian Games. Japan also has established sub-10-second sprinters while China’s Zeng Keli and Wu Haolin add further depth to a field where the margins will be tiny. Gurindervir knows the immediate threat can come from within his own camp. Asked which countries pose the biggest challenge in Asia, he pointed to Malaysia and Thailand, but his own teammate and friend remains central to his thinking. The rivalry with Animesh is competitive only for those 100 metres. Beyond the finish line, there is friendship. Gurindervir also wants both men to place on the podium in Nagoya. The prognosis holds more weight than bluster for someone who has previously felt the exhilaration of setting a national record, the heartbreak of an injury, and the agony of losing a major title. He had to wait, heal, and start afresh. India’s fastest man is now prepared to run once more, with fans watching his every step and the Asian Games approaching. He wants Animesh by his side at the finish line this time.

Punjab Police Secures First-Ever Extradition From European Nation



Chandigarh, Sep 12: Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav announced on Saturday that Punjab Police, working with central agencies, had successfully extradited fugitive criminal Amritpal Singh, also known as Amrit Dalam, a key member of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang, from the Republic of Moldova. This was the first extradition from Europe and a significant victory against transnational organized crime. The DGP stated on X that he is sought on sev-

eral crimes including murders, attempted murders, violations of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Arms Act, and narcotic offenses. He said this was the first-ever extradition secured by Punjab Police from a European country, marking a significant milestone in the fight against organised crime. “The success of Operation Eastern Reach, a six-month Intelligence-led international manhunt, was made possible through sustained surveillance and close co-

ordination of the AGTF (Anti-Gangster Task Force) Punjab and OFTEC (Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell) Punjab with central agencies and international partners,” the DGP stated. He praised the OFTEC and the AGTF for their unwavering work. As part of the international collaboration, the DGP also expressed gratitude to the authorities of Moldova, Azerbaijan, the Central Bureau of Investigation’s (CBI) International Police collaboration Unit (IPCU),

the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs, and all other central agencies. Meanwhile, the Punjab Police’s ‘Gangstran Te Vaar’ campaign entered its 235th day on Saturday. A day earlier, the police conducted 601 raids at identified and mapped locations linked to associates of gangsters across the state. As per the information, after the campaign was launched by the Punjab DGP on January 20, police teams from all the districts in coordination with the AGTF have been conducting special operations across the state. Four firearms were found and 261 people were taken into custody by police on Friday, bringing the total number of arrests since the campaign’s inception to 69,703. In addition, 236 individuals have been subject to preventative measures. Eight declared criminals were also taken into custody by police teams during the operation, according to an official statement.

At last, CSK speaks out over the explosive MS Dhoni “Asking For Stake” report

New Delhi: According to a recent report, MS Dhoni, the former captain of the Chennai Super Kings, requested a 25% share in the franchise before lowering it to 20%. The franchise then reportedly offered him a 5.5% share. At last, CSK has addressed the matter. Dhoni, who still plays for CSK, helped them win five IPL championships. “MS has never inquired about it. We never talked about it. A top CSK official informed Cricbuzz, “We also don’t have any information about him having discussed this with Mr. N Srinivasan.” The report added that Dhoni has some shares in the franchise. As CSK shares are not traded in the open market, with the company being unlisted, “they can be acquired privately through off-market transactions,” the report added. Dhoni has more than

one lakh shares, stated the report. It’s not huge, as “more than 30 crore outstanding shares are held by the public, accounting for close to 40 per cent of the franchise’s total share capital,” as per the report. Former BCCI chief N Srinivasan’s family holds a controlling stake of more than 55 per cent. Dhoni’s stake could be worth Rs 2.6-3 crore, based on the current market valuation of an IPL franchise (an IPL team was last sold for over Rs 16,600 crore).

Dhoni’s estimated net worth is around Rs 1,200 crore. Former India player Aakash Chopra, who also played for Kolkata Knight Riders, said the claim of Dhoni asking for a stake was unrealistic and even called it a planted story. “There was talk of 1.7 to 1.8 billion when RCB were bought



just now. Chennai Super Kings is the same kind of franchise. You can do the valuation however you want, but this is the franchise that has five trophies and has multiple franchises outside India as well,” Chopra said while speaking on his YouTube channel. “They have got a legacy and a lot going for them. Chennai Super Kings is a se-

rious, serious brand. If it’s worth 1.8 billion and Dhoni has asked for a 25 per cent stake in that, it is unrealistic. This isn’t possible. No one gives 400 million to anyone. In fact, you have to invest 400 million to get a 25 per cent stake. It is a bizarre number. Nobody is going to give anyone 25 per cent in an IPL team.”

India’s Election Process Is Among the Most Open in the World: Head of Poll Body

Ahmedabad, Sep 12: What could be Cristiano Ronaldo’s last chance to win a first Asian Champions League title for his Saudi club will get underway next week. Ronaldo’s Al-Nassr is one of five Saudi Pro League teams in the tournament. Combined, they’ve spent more than \$2 billion on foreign players since 2023, with Al-Ahli lifting the continental trophy in each of the When it comes to the total number of Asian titles, South Korea is the most successful country. Pohang Steelers, a three-time champion, and Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, a two-time winner, will have South Korean aspirations this season. China is represented in the competition by Shanghai Port and Beijing Guoan. For the first time, Thailand had three teams. The Newcastle Jets, who are just making their second group stage appearance, hold Australia’s aspirations. According to him, political parties and their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) participate in the ongoing verification of the election records. The CEC further stated that while making sure that qualified voters stay on the electoral records, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are in charge of detecting situations like Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate, and Foreigner (ASDDF). According



to him, the electoral records should contain the names of all eligible Indian citizens who have reached the age of eighteen. He explained the transparency of the election process by stating that EVMs and VVPATs are examined during a mock poll in front of candidates’ polling agents prior to polling. According to the statement, the relevant paperwork is signed and the processes pertaining to the EVM results are finished in the presence of the candidates’ representatives. It further said that, in the presence of the candidates’ counting agents, the votes recorded in the EVMs are compared to the votes listed on Form 17C during the counting process. The head of the poll authority stated that in order to preserve the correctness and pu-

riety of the rolls, the Election Commission periodically conducts the Special Intensive Revision procedure. He said that efforts are made to guaranty the correctness of electoral rolls by procedures such as the filing of relevant papers, mapping, and hearings. BLOs visit voters’ houses and engage directly with them to check the necessary facts. He urged BLOs to continue being actively involved in ensuring the accuracy of electoral rolls, saying that whenever they have a moment, they should check the electoral roll in their respective areas and make sure that the required steps are taken to add the names of young people who have reached the age of eighteen. He said this is one of the greatest services to the country’s democracy. The

CEC also participated in the fifth regional conference on “Electoral Literacy Clubs and ECINET” in Ahmedabad, focusing on strengthening electoral literacy and democratic awareness among young citizens. Kumar urged the youth and members present to download the ‘ECINET’ app and help their family members and people around them register new names on the electoral roll, the release said. Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) functioning in schools and colleges would further strengthen democratic values among young minds, it added. At the programme, Kumar and other dignitaries interacted with more than 1,000 ELC members, school and college nodal officers, campus ambassadors, BLOs and various stakeholders. India currently holds the chairmanship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), an organisation comprising 35 major democracies, which reflects global recognition of India’s free and fair electoral system, the release quoted Kumar as saying. The name of every citizen who has completed 18 years of age should be added to the electoral roll, and citizens should fulfil their duty by voting on polling day, he said.

When water demand exceeds supply, Mumbai turns to the sea

Mumbai, Sep 12: Israel and Gulf nations have been using desalination for decades. However, it has taken Mumbai more than 15 years to turn the concept into a reality. One of the biggest desalination projects in India is predicted to supply the city with up to 400 million liters of potable water per day by 2029.

Mumbai will become the second Indian metropolis to convert saltwater into drinking water on this magnitude, after Chennai. After Mumbai experienced regular water outages in 2009 due to a severe water crisis, the idea to provide desalinated water to the city was first given serious consideration. Desalination was suggested by the civic authority as a way to lessen the city’s reliance on the monsoon. Now, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is building a Rs 4,007-crore desalination plant at Manori, a coastal village near Malad in northwestern Mumbai. Once both phases are completed, the plant is expected to produce 400 Million Liters per Day (MLD) of drinking water, making it the largest desalination plant in India by capacity. Desalination essentially involves removing salt and other impurities from seawater to make it suitable for drinking.

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi suggests making tuberculosis testing mandatory for all hospital patients

Chennai, Sep 12: Lieutenant Governor Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu has proposed that patients admitted to Delhi hospitals for a single ailment be checked for TB as well. Regardless of the illness they are receiving treatment for, Sandhu has recommended that hospitals check patients for tuberculosis at the time of admission. With the patient’s or family’s permission, the screening would take place. With the September 30 deadline drawing near, Delhi is falling short of important goals under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan. TB Preventive

Treatment (TPT) coverage among eligible household contacts is currently 55 per cent, against the target of 80 per cent. Differentiated TB Care stands at 74 per cent, against the target of 90 per cent. Sandhu has directed officials to meet both targets within the deadline and address the operational gaps holding back progress. Additionally, Sandhu has instructed authorities to increase TB screening in crowded situations and high-risk units. To lessen the stigma associated with tuberculosis and encourage individuals to be tested, of-

ficials have been urged to increase social media and other media outreach. The complete use of AI-enabled handheld X-ray devices for TB screening is also being delayed by a lack of radiographers. In order to deploy the available equipment, the LG has instructed authorities to immediately solve the staffing shortfall. Additionally, Sandhu gave authorities instructions to promptly settle outstanding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments to qualified recipients. The report was the second evaluation of Delhi’s TB program conducted by the LG.

Supriya’s Hat-Trick Propels India Past Korea into Junior Women’s Asia Cup Final

Moqi: India continued their stellar title defence in style, storming into the final of the AHF Junior Women’s Asia Cup with a comprehensive 5-1 victory over South Korea in the first semi-final on Saturday. Drag-flick specialist Supriya spearheaded the triumph with a sensational hat-trick, putting the defending champions just one win away from retaining their continental crown. The opening exchanges at the knockout clash were marked by cautious play as both sides tested each other’s defensive structures. India gradually seized control of the tempo and broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Madhu Sidar capitalized on a well-constructed attacking move to put the holders ahead. The early breakthrough injected tremendous momentum into the Indian side. Sustained



pressure inside the circle earned India their first penalty corner in the 17th minute, allowing Supriya to unleash a precise drag-flick past the Korean defense to double the advantage. Dominating possession and territory, India struck again in the 21st minute. A brilliant aerial ball floated deep into the 23-metre area found an advancing winger, whose pinpoint cross

was clinically turned in by Sukhveer Kaur, stretching the scoreline to 3-0. Although South Korea tried to mount a response before the interval, India’s defensive line remained unyielding, preserving the comfortable three-goal cushion heading into half-time. The champions picked up right where they left off after the break. In the 33rd minute, another pen-

alty corner opportunity arose, and Supriya made no mistake with her execution, slotting home her second goal of the match to make it 4-0. South Korea clawed one back in the 41st minute when Yuri Jeong converted a set-piece to briefly revive hopes of a comeback.

However, India maintained absolute tactical discipline in the final quarter. They effectively shut down Korean attacking avenues while maintaining pressure in the opposition half. Their relentless persistence yielded a final penalty corner in the 56th minute, which Supriya ruthlessly converted to cap her hat-trick and seal the 5-1 scoreline. With this commanding win, India advances to the summit clash, where they will face the winner of the second semi-final between hosts China and Japan.

Jasprit Bumrah Tests Teenage Prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in Delhi Net Session

New Delhi: For a few intense minutes under the floodlights at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, cricket became pure theater as Jasprit Bumrah made his much-anticipated return to India training. Freshly restored to the squad after a knee injury sidelined him since July, Bumrah put teenage prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi through a stern, uncompromising net examination.

The evening practice session began with the entire squad coming together following the return of Duleep Trophy stars like Ishan Kishan and Sooryavanshi. After a lively fielding drill led by coach Subhadeep Ghosh, the focus shifted sharply to the nets once the covers were peeled back. Bumrah marked out his run-up alongside Arshdeep Singh, Yash Thakur, and a fit-again Nitish Kumar Reddy. When Sooryavanshi and Sanju Samson stepped up to face the pace battery, it set up the first-ever training clash between Bumrah and the 17-year-old left-hander—who famously hit the veteran fast bowler for six during a previous IPL encounter. This time, however, Bumrah gave no quarter. Opening with a swinging yorker that missed the stumps, he followed up with a brilliant good-length delivery that shaped away to beat Sooryavanshi completely. A toe-crushing yorker soon followed, before Bumrah induced an edge from the youngster that prompted an immediate, lighthearted “celebrappeal” from the bowler. While Sooryavanshi managed one crisp drive against an over-pitched delivery, the aura of India’s pace spearhead ensured that none of the top order attempted to take liberties.



Bumrah’s relentless 45-minute spell left head coach Gautam Gambhir and the team management thoroughly convinced of his physical readiness. The grueling three-hour session continued as the humidity hung thick over the Kotla. Pace bowlers and net bowlers toiled away, with Navdeep Saini generating steep bounce that briefly caught Ishan Kishan on the back and brought out the physios. Even as twilight turned to night, the work didn’t stop; batting coach Sitanshu Kotak put Abhishek Sharma through an extended short-ball workout on the practice strips long after the main group had wrapped up. While the evening offered plenty of action ahead of the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan, the abiding image from the Kotla nets was Bumrah operating at peak intensity, and a humbled Sooryavanshi showing the veteran the utmost respect.

Ben Shelton Triumphs Over Frances Tiafoe to Set Up US Open Final Clash Against Alexander Zverev

New York: Ben Shelton secured a spot in the U.S. Open final following a hard-fought 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 victory over compatriot Frances Tiafoe. The eighth-seeded American maintained remarkable stamina after outlasting defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a quarterfinal marathon that ended at 3:33 a.m.

The high-profile semifinal drew a star-studded crowd, featuring sporting icons like Serena Williams and Jalen Brunson alongside Hollywood actors Salma Hayek, Ben Stiller, and Rami Malek. Following a pre-match ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Tiafoe capitalized on early unforced errors from Shelton to claim the first set.

However, Shelton quickly

shifted momentum by unleashing a dominant service game, ultimately firing 20 aces. A pivotal, 20-point service game in the third set broke Tiafoe’s resistance and pushed the 23-year-old toward his maiden Grand Slam final. With the defeat, Tiafoe fell to 0-3 in U.S. Open semifinals. Shelton will now face top seed Alexander Zverev on Sunday with the chance to end America’s long wait for a men’s major champion, a drought that began when Andy Roddick won the tournament in 2003. Zverev advanced to the final by defeating Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (6) in the first semifinal. Zverev enters the championship match riding a stellar 24-2 record in Grand Slam matches this



season, having captured his long-awaited first major title at the French Open before reaching the Wimbledon final.

The German player is determined to claim the U.S. Open trophy that famously

slipped through his fingers in 2020, when he blew a two-set lead against Dominic Thiem. "Hopefully I can not make the American dream come true on Sunday," Zverev remarked ahead of the clash. Meanwhile, an enthusiastic

Shelton remains fully focused on seizing the historic opportunity on home soil. "I'm going for it here, and I'm going to leave it all on the court," Shelton said. "I hope you guys come and back me. Let's do it for the USA."

India Chase Record-Extending Eighth Title in Women's T20 Asia Cup Final Against Resilient Sri Lanka

New Delhi: Defending champions India will rely heavily on star batter Shafali Verma and all-rounder Deepti Sharma as they face a resilient Sri Lanka in the Women’s T20 Asia Cup final on Sunday. Shafali has emerged as the tournament’s leading run-scorer with 168 runs, including two fifties, showcasing remarkable consistency on the slow and spin-friendly Dubai pitches.

While fellow opener Smriti Mandhana has experienced mixed form—highlighted by a brilliant century alongside a couple of single-digit scores—Shafali has anchored the batting lineup with ease. Meanwhile, Deepti leads India’s bowling attack as the joint-leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 11 scalps alongside Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu. Deepti has also provided vital lower-order contributions with the bat, supported by a potent spin

department featuring Shree Charani and Prema Rawat.

Both teams enter the summit clash undefeated, but India remains mindful of the threat posed by Sri Lanka, who famously handed them an eight-wicket defeat in the previous tournament final. Athapaththu’s side demonstrated immense grit in their semifinal against Pakistan, recovering from a precarious 33/4 to successfully chase a 131-run target thanks to composed knocks from Harshitha Samarawickrama, Kavisha Dilhari, and Nilakshika Silva.

Despite their dominant run to the final, Harmanpreet Kaur’s squad still faces significant concerns regarding patchy middle-order batting form and sloppy fielding. India has dropped nine catches across four matches, including four dropped chances alone in their semifinal victory over Bangladesh.



Addressing these fielding lapses and finding boundary regularity will be crucial if India hopes to secure a record-extending eighth continental title.

Resurgent Ingebrigtsen Claims Ultimate 5,000m Gold Following Diamond League Storm

Hungary: Jakob Ingebrigtsen put the controversy of his recent Diamond League defeat behind him by producing a trademark late surge to win the men’s 5,000m on the opening night of the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship.

Just days after calling his 1500m rivals a “bunch of cowards” following a fourth-place finish in Brussels, the Norwegian Olympic champion responded on the track in Budapest, clocking a season’s best 12:59.24. American Olympic 1500m champion Cole Hocker finished second in 13:00.05, while compatriot Parker Wolfe took third in 13:00.13. For much of the race, Ingebrigtsen bided his time near the back of the pack, allow-

ing his rivals to dictate the pace. Over the final two laps, he smoothly worked his way forward before unleashing a devastating finishing kick down the home straight to cross the line roughly 10 metres clear of Hocker. He celebrated by casually stopping the watch on his wrist and wagging a finger at the sold-out crowd of 20,557 at the Gyula Zsivotzky National Athletics Centre.

The victory marks another milestone in Ingebrigtsen’s remarkable comeback from Achilles surgery in February. Admitting that he feared his entire season was lost just weeks ago, the 25-year-old has steadily regained momentum, adding a sub-13-minute 5,000m triumph to his earlier European title. “Not many weeks ago I



was telling my team that the 2026 season is far gone, but then it started to get a little bit better,” Ingebrigtsen said, expressing relief at running at such a high level after his injury layoff.

The win offered a welcome return to sporting headlines following his fierce criticism

of competitors in Brussels, where he lambasted the tactical racing style and later apologized for his blunt remarks.

Ingebrigtsen will now shift his focus to an upcoming 1500m clash at the Ultimate Championship, setting up a highly anticipated renew-

al of his rivalry with Josh Kerr—their first meeting in two years. The Ultimate Championship is a new addition to the global calendar, featuring elite-only fields and a record \$10 million prize pool designed to showcase athletics in a high-energy format.

Elena Rybakina Outlines Tactical Blueprint to Neutralize Aryna Sabalenka in US Open Final

New York: Elena Rybakina knows that dictating play will be the key to stopping Aryna Sabalenka when the two rivals clash in the U.S. Open women’s singles final at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Sunday’s championship match carries ultimate stakes, with both the Grand Slam title and the world No. 1 ranking on the line in their 18th career meeting.

“I need to fight no matter how I’m going to feel on that day and give my best. We know each other pretty well... just try to stay aggressive in important moments, not wait for her to dictate the point, and try to stay on top of the rallies,” Rybakina said. The Kazakh secured her spot in the final by overcoming a set deficit to defeat 2023 champion Coco Gauff 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. It capped a grueling fortnight where Rybakina was pushed



to three sets in both the quarter-finals and semi-finals.

Remarkably, her appearance in New York was initially in doubt due to a persistent foot injury that left her unsure if she could even compete. “In the first few matches, I was thinking about my foot... Then, slowly, my focus moved towards what I was doing wrong on the court and what I needed to improve,” she noted, adding that she had to mentally push through severe leg fatigue on her serve during her tight matches. Standing in her way is top seed

Sabalenka, who defeated Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-2 to reach her fourth consecutive U.S. Open final—the first player to achieve that feat since Serena Williams. Sabalenka is bidding for her fifth major title and an unprecedented third straight New York crown, while Rybakina looks to add a second Grand Slam trophy to her resume and claim the top ranking career comeback and praised Ishan Kishan’s strong domestic performances, expressing hope Kishan returns to the Indian Test side before the 2027 World Cup.