

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Must Be Inculcated at Universities”: Infosys Co-founder at USTM’s 11th Convocation

The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) held its 11th Convocation, celebrating the achievements of 1,618 graduates. Chief Guest Dr. Senapathy Kris Gopalakrishnan emphasized innovation and entrepreneurship’s role in national progress.

Shillong, Nov 04: The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) celebrated its 11th Convocation with grandeur on Monday, bringing together academic leaders, eminent personalities, and proud families to honour the achievements of its graduating students. The ceremony was graced by Padma Bhushan Dr. Senapathy Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-founder of Infosys and Chairman of the Governing Council, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, who served as the Chief Guest and Convocation Speaker. Addressing the graduates, Dr. Gopalakrishnan emphasised the critical role of universities in building a self-reliant India

driven by innovation. “Innovation and entrepreneurship must be inculcated at universities, as they are the driving forces of national progress and self-reliance,” he said, urging students to adopt ethical values, creativity, and a problem-solving mindset to contribute to society and the nation. The prestigious event was also attended by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sniawbhalang Dhar, along with Vice Chancellors from reputed universities across India, reflecting the institution’s growing national reputation. This year, 1,618 students were conferred degrees — 762 undergraduates, 824 postgraduates, and 32 PhD scholars. A total of 54 gold medals were awarded to outstanding achievers, including 24 undergraduate, 25 postgraduate, and 5 special awardees. A special moment of remembrance was observed in honour of late Dr. Zubeen Garg, to whom USTM had awarded an Honorary D.Litt. in its previous convocation. The gathering observed 30 seconds of silence



to pay tribute to the iconic Assamese singer who passed away in September 2025. Among the standout awardees, Dikshita Kalita (M.Sc. Zoology) received the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Gold Medal for Best Postgraduate Student, while Sumu Boruah (B.Pharm.) secured the P.A. Sangma Gold Medal for Best Undergradu-

ate Student. The Chancellor’s Gold Medal went to Jeremaijah Warbah (B.A. Administration & Governance). The newly instituted Zubeen Garg Memorial Gold Medal was awarded to Sabrina Alam (B.Sc. Biotechnology) for excellence in academics and community engagement. The ceremony began with an academic procession from

Gyan Circle to the Central Auditorium. USTM Chancellor Shri Mahbubul Hoque formally opened the convocation, while Vice Chancellor Prof. G.D. Sharma presented the Annual Report highlighting the university’s growth and societal contributions. In his presidential remarks, Shri Hoque congratulated the

graduates and recalled the university’s proud legacy of hosting India’s most distinguished personalities. “Your magic has attracted the country’s greatest minds — from Dr. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Ram Nath Kovind to the Chief Justice of India and the ISRO Chairman. Who next?” he asked, inspiring the students to aim higher.

Students rally for Manipur University VC’s dismissal

Imphal, Nov 04: Imphal witnessed a major student uprising on Monday as members of the Kangleipak Students’ Association (KSA) marched to Raj Bhavan demanding the removal of Manipur University Vice Chancellor Prof. N. Lokendra Singh. The protesters called for an independent high-level inquiry into alleged irregularities in administration and recruitment at the university. Hundreds of students holding banners and shouting slogans assembled near Raj Bhavan around mid-day, urging the Governor — who serves as the university’s Chancellor — to intervene. They alleged a mounting crisis at Manipur University, accusing the Vice Chancellor of undermining academic integrity and violating statutory norms. The situation escalated as students attempted to approach the Raj Bhavan gates, leading security to impede their progress. Police established barricades to secure the area. KSA president S. Bidyandanda accused the Vice Chancellor of abusing authority, making unauthorized alterations to Statute 19(2), and showing favoritism in faculty hiring, which he argued jeopardized the institution’s academic integrity and reputation.

In Brief

Assamese flutist Dipak Sarma passes away

Guwahati: Assam mourns the loss of renowned flutist Dipak Sarma, who passed away at 57 after battling a liver-related illness. Sarma was born on August 30, 1968, in Nalbari and pursued music, earning a postgraduate degree in International Music. He gained recognition in 1994 as the first Assamese artist to receive a ‘B-High’ grade from All India Radio. After studying under Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia in Mumbai, he gained international acclaim, performing in over 42 countries and receiving an honorary doctorate from George Washington University in 2004. Despite his illustrious career, Sarma faced significant health challenges, including a liver transplant in April 2023 and multiple hospitalizations before his death in Chennai on Monday.

Tripura Police seize 84 kg of cannabis

Agartala: In an anti-narcotics operation, Tripura Police seized 84 kilograms of dry cannabis, valued at about ₹8.5 lakh, from a forest near Durlabnarayan village in Sepahijala district. The Sonamura Police Station patrol team discovered two large plastic drums concealed in vegetation during their routine surveillance in an area known for its vulnerability to narcotics smuggling due to its proximity to the Bangladesh border. Officer-in-Charge Tapas Das confirmed that the drums were found abandoned and were processed as unclaimed property according to legal protocols. An investigation has been initiated to identify and apprehend those responsible for the smuggling attempt, with efforts focused on tracing the owners of the contraband.

4 militants killed in encounter

Imphal: At least four militants of the banned United Kuki National Army (UKNA) were killed in an encounter with security forces in Manipur’s Churachandpur district during an operation launched at 5.30 am on Tuesday. This operation was prompted by reports of UKNA’s involvement in local violence, including the murder of a village chief. The Indian Army emphasized its commitment to civilian protection and peace maintenance in the region, stating that UKNA has violated the Suspension of Operations agreement with the government. Ongoing searches are being conducted in surrounding areas.

Hailakandi murder

Guwahati: A woman named Rita Rajwar was brutally murdered at Gaglacherra Tea Estate in Hailakandi district, allegedly by Guddu Pashi, who reportedly slit her throat with a machete before fleeing. They were thought to know each other, possibly with a love affair as the motive. Local residents alerted the police, who recovered the body and began a post-mortem examination. An investigation is ongoing, and a search for Guddu, who is still at large, is in progress. The incident has caused community distress and sparked demands for justice, with police assuring prompt action to apprehend the suspect.

Minister Pijush Hazarika slams opposition over disruption at Morigaon rally



Guwahati, Nov 04: Assam Cabinet Minister Pijush Hazarika has strongly criticised the opposition following a disruption at Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma’s public meeting in Morigaon on Sunday. In a sharp social media statement, Hazarika described the incident as a “planned political act” aimed at misusing the legacy of late singer Zubeen Garg for political gain. The interruption took place when a group of women suddenly raised slogans during the Chief Minister’s speech. They shouted, “We don’t need Orunodoi, we need justice for Zubeen,” referencing the ongoing investigation into the death of the popular Assamese singer. Though the out-

burst momentarily paused the programme, the event continued without any major disturbance. Hazarika said the group was led by a woman identified as Maina Begum, also known as Abeda Ahmed, from Lahorighat. He alleged that she and a few associates joined the meeting with the deliberate intention of creating disorder. According to the Minister, the act was not spontaneous but part of an opposition strategy to gain publicity. Referring to Maina Begum’s background, Hazarika said she had contested against the BJP in the previous Panchayat elections. He also pointed out that, since her husband is an Assam Police personnel, she is not eli-

gible for schemes like Orunodoi. “This incident clearly reflects the cheap political tactics of the opposition,” he remarked. The Minister accused rival political leaders of trying to create emotional unrest among the public by using Zubeen Garg’s name. He claimed it was now evident that the opposition had “conspired to send a special person” to disrupt the Chief Minister’s programme. Hazarika further said that the protest ignored the positive impact of government welfare schemes on women across the state. “Someone whose husband is in government service may not realise how schemes like Orunodoi, Lakhpati Baideo, and entrepreneurship initiatives have empowered thousands of women,” he said. Calling the group “agents” of the opposition, he condemned their attempt to disrupt the rally and urged political rivals not to politicise the late singer’s name. He assured the public that the investigation into Zubeen Garg’s death is progressing swiftly. “I condemn both the opposition and Maina Begum for trying to create chaos,” Hazarika stated. Concluding his message, he quoted Zubeen Garg’s famous words — “Don’t do politics, friend.”

Tripura Police seize 84 kg of cannabis in Sepahijala district



Agartala, Nov 04: In a major anti-narcotics operation, Tripura Police on Monday seized 84 kilograms of dry cannabis from a forested stretch near Durlabnarayan village in Sepahijala district. The consignment, valued at around ₹8.5 lakh, was recovered by a patrol team from Sonamura Police Station during routine surveillance in the border-adjacent area. Police officers on duty spotted two large plastic drums hidden deep inside the vegetation. On inspection, the containers were found stuffed with dry ganja, believed to have been abandoned by smugglers operating along the international border. The region has long been identified as a vulner-

able route for narcotics smuggling due to its proximity to Bangladesh. Officer-in-Charge Tapas Das confirmed the seizure and said all legal procedures were followed before taking possession of the contraband. “Our patrolling team recovered 84 kg of dry ganja kept in two plastic drums as unclaimed property,” he said, adding that the estimated market value of the narcotics is approximately ₹8.5 lakh. Police have launched an investigation to trace those behind the illegal consignment. “We are working to identify the owners and bust the network involved in this smuggling attempt,” OC Das stated.

Renowned Assamese flutist Dipak Sarma passes away at 57 in Chennai

Guwahati, Nov 04: Assam has lost one of its most admired and beloved musicians with the passing of internationally renowned flutist Dipak Sarma. The eminent artiste breathed his last at 6:15 AM on Monday at Rela Hospital in Chennai, where he had been undergoing treatment for a prolonged liver-related illness. He was 57. Sarma had been battling health complications for several months and had received treatment in multiple hospitals across Assam and outside the state before being moved to Chennai for advanced care. Born on 30 August 1968 in Panigaon, Nalbari district, Sarma grew up in a modest environment filled with cultural and artistic values. Educated in Nalbari and later in Guwahati, he completed his B.Com with honours from Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College in 1989. Though he studied commerce, his heart and future were always tied to music. He soon shifted to Kolkata to pursue his passion,



completing his postgraduate degree in International Music from Rabindra Bharati University, a key milestone in his artistic journey. Sarma’s classical music foundation was laid early in life, and his talent earned him a historic achievement in 1994, when he became the first Assamese artiste to receive the ‘B-High’ grade in classical music from All India Radio. This recognition opened doors to further

training and exposure. He moved to Mumbai and spent nearly seven years learning under the legendary flutist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, sharpening his craft and shaping his unique musical style. His global breakthrough came in the year 2000 during India’s Golden Jubilee celebrations, when he toured South Africa. Over the next two decades, Sarma performed in more than 42 countries, captivat-

ing audiences with his soulful flute and proudly representing Assam’s musical heritage around the world. In 2004, he received an honorary doctorate from George Washington University, a moment of immense pride for both him and the Assamese cultural community. Despite his artistic achievements, Sarma faced a long and difficult health battle in recent years. He was first admitted to Dispur Hospital in Guwahati as his condition worsened. Later, he was shifted to Max Hospital in New Delhi, where he underwent a liver transplant on 13 April 2023. Although there was brief improvement, complications returned. He had to be admitted again to hospitals in Guwahati, including Nemcare and Dispur Hospital, as his health declined further. In the final phase of treatment, he was taken to Chennai for specialised care, but despite continuous medical efforts, he passed away on Monday.

Students of Tyrsad School vow to make Meghalaya waste-free

Shillong, Nov 04: The spirit of sustainability took center stage at Tyrsad Higher Secondary School as the Shubham Charitable Association conducted an inspiring Zero-Waste Awareness Program, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of over 250 students and 10 teachers. The session aimed to educate young minds about eco-friendly living through the association’s Zero Waste Mission—a movement that encourages the use of reusable sanitary pads (“Fresh Pad”) and reusable diapers to reduce environmental pollution and promote health-conscious practices across the state. One of the most exciting highlights of the event was the launch of the “Zero Waste Ambassador” initiative, under which 1,000 teachers across Meghalaya will be trained and empowered to champion the cause in their schools and communities. These ambassadors will become part of the association’s ongoing network, receiving special invitations to future sustainability events and programs. Speaking at the event, representatives from Shubham Charitable Association emphasized that real change begins with awareness. With such grassroots efforts lighting the way, Tyrsad Higher Secondary School has proudly joined the growing wave of eco-conscious institutions striving to make Meghalaya a zero-waste state.

NATIONAL

brutally killing pet dog
inside apartment lift

Bengaluru, Nov 04: The tragic event occurred on October 31, at approximately 4pm within an apartment complex. The individual accused has reportedly been identified as Pushpalatha, who had been working there for roughly one and a half months. The woman was hired to help with household chores and care for the pets. However, the CCTV footage revealed a gruesome reality. Pushpalatha was seen throwing the small dog inside the elevator while taking him out for a walk, as per a report by India Today. Goofy’s owner, Rashi Poojari, discovered the incident through the CCTV recording and filed

a complaint at the Bagaluru Police Station. Based on her report, the police registered an FIR under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which treats the intentional harming or killing of animals as a criminal offence punishable with up to five years in jail and a fine. Heartbroken, Rashi shared her grief and anger on Instagram, writing, “I’m sharing this with a very heavy heart. I’m completely shattered my baby Goofy is no more. The maid working in our house hit him and threw him on the floor. I still can’t believe this happened to my little one. My heart is broken beyond words.

Pakistan’s tendency to deny its own terrorists resurfaces to trouble it

New Delhi, Nov 04: Pakistan has a long-standing tendency to deny responsibility for its nationals who engage in terrorism abroad. India has raised concerns about this issue for an extended period and continues to do so, while Afghanistan now appears to be facing a similar challenge. The discussions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which have entered a fragile ceasefire, are encountering numerous difficulties. Although the Durand Line remains a significant point of dispute, Afghanistan is now expressing grievances that Pakistan is unwilling to repatriate its citizens. For many years, various Pakistani terrorists have

been active in Afghanistan, leading to multiple arrests by Afghan security forces as these individuals have been involved in terrorist activities. However, during the talks, Pakistan flatly refused to take back these nationals and insisted that they remain in Afghanistan. During the talks Afghanistan said that these terrorists of Pakistan nationality will be deported. Pakistan however did not agree to the same. Instead Islamabad insisted Kabul reins in these elements within Pakistan and they should not be deported. This has become a flash point during the talks and peace between the two nations remains a far cry still.

Indian officials say that this is a classic Islamabad tactic. Pakistan has for years been sending its nationals to India to undertake terror attacks. However each time one of them has been arrested, Pakistan has denied that these are their nationals. India, too, has on several occasions offered the deportation of Pakistani nationals. Islamabad has always rejected the claim stating that these persons are not their nationals. When Ajmal Kasab, carried out the Mumbai 26/11 attacks along with 9 other terrorists, Pakistan refused to accept that he was their national. In fact when they were sent in, they were given Hindu identities and



also told to wear saffron threads on their wrists. When some persons in the Pakistan media exposed the real identity of Kasab, the ISI made sure that everything was covered up. In fact his entire family was

hidden from the world so that the real identity would not get exposed. Pakistan has without proof been accusing Afghanistan of shielding and backing the Tehreek-e-Taliban, Pakistan (TTP). This has been

a major stand off point between the two nations and Kabul has flatly rejected these allegations. Kabul has accused Pakistan of sending in terrorists into the country with the aim of carrying out attacks.

Profits from shares that have been falsely inflated are considered proceeds of crime

New Delhi, Nov 04: Profits obtained from trading shares in the stock market, which had their value artificially inflated through fraudulent means, are classified as “proceeds of crime” according to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), as determined by the Delhi High Court. A panel of justices, Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, issued the ruling on Monday regarding the Enforcement Directorate’s (ED) petition that contested the single judge’s decision from January 2023. In the case, a single-judge bench had earlier quashed the provisional attachment order (PAO) issued by the ED, which had attached assets worth over ₹122 crore belonging to Prakash Industries Limited (PIL) and its group company, Prakash Ther-

mal Power Limited (PTPL). According to the ED, the PIL had fraudulently secured the allocation of the Fatehpur coal block and falsely represented to the Bombay Stock Exchange that the allocation had already been granted. This misrepresentation allegedly led to a sharp increase in PIL’s share price—from ₹31 to ₹254.60—after which the company and its promoters sold 62.5 lakh equity shares on a preferential basis, earning an undue gain of approximately ₹118.75 crore. Though the Supreme Court in 2012 had cancelled the allocation, the CBI had registered a case, following which the ED also launched its probe under the PMLA. The ED in 2018 attached PIL’s properties worth ₹122.74 crore, on the premise

that the undue financial gains obtained by PIL through the sale of shares constituted proceeds of crime. The ED had claimed that these properties were acquired using profits from the sale of shares whose value was artificially inflated through unlawful means. The single judge had quashed the POA, ruling that trading in shares does not constitute a criminal activity or a scheduled offence since the same did not form a part of either of the FIR, chargesheet or ECIR, and the gains arising therefrom would not fall within the meaning of proceeds of crime. In its petition, the ED represented by ED’s special counsel Zohab Hossain and panel counsel Vivek Gurnani argued that any process or activity linked to or resulting in the generation of



proceeds of crime falls within the scope of money laundering and thus the issuance and premium allotment of preferential shares, being directly connected to the fraudulent coal block allocation, squarely came within that ambit. Hossain further asserted that illegal gains from

the rise in share prices were directly linked to the scheduled offences of criminal conspiracy and fraudulent coal block allocation. Advocating for the PIL, lawyer Dayan Krishnan opposed the petition, asserting that the investment made through his client by way of al-

lotment of preferential shares to the investors cannot be termed as proceeds of crime. Ultimately, the court set aside the single judge’s ruling, holding that even without a separate predicate offence, any illegal gains acquired through legal transactions that originated from unlawful means would constitute proceeds of crime. “To put it in other words, even if no separate predicate offence is registered in relation to the subsequent act of utilisation of property to acquire funds through a legalised transaction, the classification of the illegal gains used by means of a legal transaction emanating from an illegal means adopted for attaining coal block allocation would still be construed as ‘proceeds of crime’. This is because the proceeds nevertheless

are traceable either directly or indirectly, to the original criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence,” the court maintained. It added, “The aforesaid facts and circumstances when read together establishes a clear nexus between the rise in the share price of PIL and the coal block allocation, thereby prima facie satisfying the conscience of this Court that the issuance of the PAO to the PIL may not be incorrect. Therefore, even if the share allotment on preferential basis appears to be a “legal transaction” in form, its foundation is inherently rooted in misrepresentation and fraud underlying the core predicate offence enabling the Directorate to trace and connect such transactions to the proceeds of crime.”

EAM Jaishankar and his Bahraini counterpart assess the development of bilateral relations

New Delhi, Nov 04: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his counterpart from Bahrain, Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, jointly presided over the 5th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on Monday. The two leaders assessed the advancements in their bilateral relationship, emphasizing areas such as trade, security, defense, health, culture, and interpersonal connections. They also explored potential opportunities in the fields of space, fintech, and cybersecurity. EAM Jaishankar expressed confidence that the ties between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will continue to deepen as Bahrain takes over the GCC presidency. “Co-chaired the 5th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting alongside FM Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani. Reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations focusing on trade, security, defence, health, culture, people to people ties as well as promising opportunities in space, fintech and cyber domains. As Bahrain takes over the GCC presiden-



cy, confident that India-GCC ties will continue to deepen,” EAM Jaishankar posted on X. “Thanked the leadership of Bahrain for ensuring welfare of the Indian community. Also exchanged perspectives on recent global and regional developments,” he added. In his opening remarks at the 5th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting, EAM Jaishankar stated that the two nations are bound by a centuries-old friendship rooted in trade linkages and strong people-to-people ties. He underscored that both countries share a common goal of promoting peace and prosperity for their people in the

region. “India and Bahrain share centuries-old ties of friendship underpinned by trade linkages and strong people-to-people ties. We also believe in a common goal and commitment for promoting peace and prosperity for our people and for our common region. Since our last HJC meeting, we have made significant progress bilaterally in defence, security, trade and commerce, health, culture, and people-to-people ties. But there are new areas such as space, fintech and technology that hold considerable promise for our partnership,” EAM Jaishankar said.

ASI has been accused of pushing a laborer off the roof of a building in Samastipur

Bihar, Nov 04: A sub-inspector assistant (ASI) of the Bihar Police has been charged with the assault and the act of pushing a laborer from the rooftop of a three-story teacher training college in Samastipur on Monday evening, which has led to violent protests and acts of vandalism on the campus. According to reports, the incident took place at the Primary Training Education College (PTEC) at Rampur Jalalpur under Dalsinghsarai police station limits where 27-year-old labourer Manish Kumar was allegedly beaten and thrown off the roof of the hostel building by the ASI. The incident took place under Ujjarpur assembly constituency where the ASI was part of the police party on election



duty, sources said. According to reports, the incident took place at the Primary Training Education College (PTEC) at Rampur Jalalpur under Dalsinghsarai police station limits where 27-year-old labourer Manish Kumar was allegedly beaten and thrown off the roof of the hostel building by the ASI. The incident took place under Ujjarpur assembly constitu-

ency where the ASI was part of the police party on election duty, sources said. Eyewitnesses claimed that the ASI, reportedly under the influence of alcohol, had an argument with the labourer near the college campus. The altercation turned violent when the ASI allegedly dragged Kumar into the college hostel premises, where he was beaten with a stick and the

butt of a pistol. During the assault, Kumar allegedly lost a tooth as well. He sustained critical injuries from the fall and was rushed to the sub-divisional hospital in Dalsinghsarai.

The incident sparked outrage among local residents, who gathered in large numbers at the college gate and went on a rampage in protest. DSP Vivek Kumar Sharma and SHO Mohd Irshad Alam reached the spot with additional police personnel to control the situation. “A probe has been initiated, and strict action will be taken against the guilty,” the DSP said. When asked, the DSP said the cop is yet to be identified. “We have received a complaint against an unnamed person. We will soon release a statement.”

Bengaluru’s heart-shaped traffic signals win hearts

Bengaluru, Nov 04: A post by a resident of Bengaluru featuring a heart-shaped red traffic signal has gained significant attention, eliciting smiles and clever responses on the internet. In a post featuring a photo of the distinctive signal, the user remarked, “Have you noticed these heart-shaped signals in Bangalore? They add a charming element that enhances the city’s human touch.” The post quickly struck a chord with commuters who spend hours in traffic each day. One user commented, “Makes so much sense given a majority of the day is spent at signals in BLR.” Another quipped, “When I first saw it a year ago, I thought I was hallucinating.” Adding to the humour, a third wrote, “Lol, heartbreakers getting into accidents all over the city now.” Meanwhile, Bengaluru has been quietly rolling out smart signal systems that not only manage traffic better but now also show



real-time signal countdowns through the Mappls navigation app, a first-of-its-kind move in India. Announcing the feature on X (formerly Twitter), the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) said: “Bengaluru becomes India’s first city to show live signal countdowns on Mappls! Smarter signals, safer drives, calmer roads.” According to BTP, over 125 smart signals across the city are now linked to the system. The integration allows drivers to see live countdowns up to 500 meters ahead, showing how many seconds remain before the light turns

red, amber, or green. Developed in collaboration with Mappls (MapmyIndia), the initiative is designed to help commuters plan better, reduce abrupt braking, and minimize congestion and honking. Officials hope that such people-friendly innovations, from heart-shaped signals to smart traffic syncing, will make Bengaluru’s chaotic roads a little more humane and a lot less stressful. Bengaluru has been quietly rolling out smart signal systems that not only manage traffic better but now also show real-time signal countdowns.

Bengaluru on rainfall alert, Here’s what IMD’s forecast says

Bengaluru, Nov 04: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light rainfall for Bengaluru starting from November 5. Nevertheless, the weather department has not released any warnings. The daytime temperature is anticipated to be approximately 29 degrees, whereas the nighttime temperature is expected to be around 19 degrees. Bengaluru Weekly Weather Forecast Bengaluru is likely to experience mild and comfortable weather through the week, with a mix of light rain and partly cloudy skies, according to the weather department. On November 5, the sky will remain generally cloudy with light rain. The maximum temperature will be around 29 degrees Celsius, and the minimum near 19 degrees. Humidity will range between 93 and 60 percent. On November 6, similar conditions will prevail, with light rain expected under a cloudy sky. The temperature will rise slightly to about 30 degrees during



the day and remain nineteen degrees at night. Humidity will stay high, between 95 and 60 percent. From November 7 to November 10, the weather will turn partly cloudy with no rain forecast. The maximum temperature will stay around 30 degrees, while the minimum will be about 19 degrees each night. Humidity will gradually drop from 90 percent to 75 percent. No warnings have been issued for the week. Overall, the city can expect a calm weather pattern with light showers early on and pleasant, partly cloudy conditions towards the weekend.

JNUSU elections is underway; the results will be announced on November 6

New Delhi, Nov 04: Voting is currently taking place for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) elections on Tuesday, as students are casting their votes to select a new central panel and councillors for the various schools on campus. Polling began at 9 am and will continue till 5.30 pm, with a break from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. The counting process is set to commence at 9 PM, with the official results expected to be announced on November 6, as stated by the election committee. A total of twenty candidates are competing for the four significant positions within the central panel — president, vice-president, general secretary, and Danish Ali for joint secretary. The ABVP’s panel features Vikas Patel, Tanya Kumari, Rajeshwar Kant Dubey, and Anuj, in the same order. The group has campaigned on the theme of ‘performance and nationalism,’ while the Left turned the spotlight on the contest between the Left Unity and the RSS-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). The Left



Unity, comprising the All India Students’ Association (AISA), Students’ Federation of India (SFI) and Democratic Students’ Federation (DSF), has fielded Aditi Mishra for president, Kizhakoot Gopika Babu for vice-president, Sunil Yadav for general secretary, and Danish Ali for joint secretary. The ABVP’s panel features Vikas Patel, Tanya Kumari, Rajeshwar Kant Dubey, and Anuj, in the same order. The group has campaigned on the theme of ‘performance and nationalism,’ while the Left bloc has emphasised inclusion, accessibility, and student welfare. Approximately 9,043 students qualify to vote this

year, according to the election committee. Roughly 30 percent of the nominations for the central panel and 25 percent for school councillor positions are from female candidates. In the previous year, Nitish Kumar from AISA was elected to the position of president, whereas Vaibhav Meena from ABVP attained the role of joint secretary — concluding a ten-year period of inactivity for the right-wing organization and signifying a “historic shift” in the political landscape of JNU’s campus. In the morning, lengthy lines appeared outside the voting booths as students eagerly participated in the electoral process.

Dirang Monastery emerges as top tourist draw in Arunachal’s Tawang route

Itanagar, Nov 04: Dirang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh’s West Kameng district has quickly grown into a leading destination for travellers exploring the scenic Tawang corridor. Nestled atop a hill overlooking the peaceful Dirang Valley, the monastery – formally known as Thupsung Dhargey Ling – is drawing thousands of tourists from across India this season, making it a standout attraction in the state’s famed Mon Region. Established in 2017 with the blessings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the monastery has become a vibrant centre of Buddhist learning, where monks and young students study and practise spiritual teachings. Its name translates to “the place of flourishing

of Buddha’s speech,” highlighting its role as a hub of faith, culture and education. The Dalai Lama’s visit during its inauguration is widely seen as a turning point, sparking a rise in both domestic and overseas tourist arrivals in the Dirang–Tawang belt. Visitors are captivated not only by the monastery’s peaceful ambience but also by the breathtaking views of lush hills, winding valleys and dramatic skies that shift throughout the day. Many describe the destination as a “slice of heaven,” praising the region’s natural beauty, traditional tribal culture and warm hospitality. Travellers from Maharashtra, Assam and Uttar Pradesh who visited Dirang recently said their journey across the



Northeast — from the wildlife marvels of Assam’s Kaziranga National Park to the pristine charm of Meghalaya’s clean Mawlynnong village — has been unforgettable, with Dirang’s serenity adding a special touch.

Sushmita Dev accuses BJP of politicizing welfare schemes

Guwahati, Nov 04: Trinamool Congress MP Sushmita Dev has sharply criticised the BJP government in Assam, claiming that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma’s popularity is declining across the state. Speaking to reporters, Dev said the shift in public mood is visible and alleged that even the Chief Minister is aware of it. She added that the BJP could replace Sarma “any day” if its leadership feels it is losing ground in Assam. The TMC leader also commented on the ongoing investigation into the death of popular singer Zubeen Garg. She said that merely filing a chargesheet will not satisfy the public unless the Special Investigation Team submits strong evidence and credible documentation. “Without proof, a chargesheet has no value,” Dev stated, demanding a fair and transparent probe. Launching a political attack, Dev accused the ruling BJP of using welfare schemes such as Orunodoi and self-help group funds to influence voters ahead of the upcoming polls. According to her, BJP leaders are holding rallies “only to secure party tickets, not to serve the people.”

Assam gears up for Bagurumba world record as 300 dancers train in Nagaon

Guwahati, Nov 04: Assam has begun a fresh cultural journey, this time shining the spotlight on the traditional Bagurumba dance of the Bodo community. After achieving global recognition for Bihu and growing appreciation for Jhumur, the state is now preparing to introduce Bagurumba to international audiences. The goal is clear — to set a world record and celebrate the rich heritage of the Bodo people. In Nagaon’s Kaliabor area, Bengenati village has turned into a buzzing cultural centre. From early morning until late evening, groups of young and elderly dancers can be seen rehearsing with discipline and dedication. The sound of the kham drum blends smoothly with the soothing notes of the sifung, a bamboo flute, creating an atmosphere filled with rhythm and pride. Dancers practice their steps in rows, perfecting the slow hand gestures, gentle turns, and graceful body movements that define Bagurumba’s beauty. According to organisers, over 300 dancers from different parts of the district have come together with one dream — to bring global recognition to this symbolic dance form. The initiative is being led by Dularai Bodo Harimu Afad, popularly known as Harimu Afad. The organisation has long been working to safeguard Bodo culture through cultural festivals, training sessions, and awareness programmes. Members of the group say Bagurumba is more than a performance; it is a cultural expression



that reflects harmony with nature and Bodo identity. “Our aim is not only to set a record but also to inspire the next generation to stay connected to their roots,” a senior member shared. Bagurumba, often called the “Dance of the Butterflies”, draws inspiration from nature. When dancers move in unison, their soft rhythm and flowing gestures resemble butterflies fluttering gently in open meadows. Performers say the dance helps build patience, discipline, and emotional connection with their ancestral land. For many, Bagurumba is a reminder of the green hills, flowing rivers, and traditional lifestyle that the Bodo community has cherished for centuries. Traditional attire gives the dance an added charm. Women wear the colourful Dakhona along with the woven Jwmgra shawl, featuring patterns that represent Bodo art and heritage. Combined with the natural musical instruments and rhythmic movements, the performance paints a serene, vibrant picture of indigenous culture.

Meghalaya Pollution Board acts against road agency for dumping debris into Umngot river

Shillong, Nov 04: The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) has taken strong action against a road construction agency after reports and viral videos showed debris from the ongoing Shillong–Dawki highway project being dumped into the Umngot River, one of India’s clearest and most scenic water bodies. The project, funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has been under construction since December 2021. Locals and environmental watchers raised alarm after the river, famous for its glass-like clarity, was seen turning

murky from waste material washed down from excavation sites. Residents who depend heavily on tourism expressed concern that pollution could damage the river’s fragile ecosystem and harm the region’s global reputation among travellers. Following inspections, the MSPCB issued strict directives to the project management unit — Myllem — ordering immediate compliance with environmental norms and halting all dumping activity. MSPCB Chairman M.R. Narmaia cited violations under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and instructed the agency

to follow the board’s standard operating procedures issued in March 2023. Officials noted that excavation debris and soil were discarded without safeguards, causing erosion and sedimentation. They also observed a lack of slope protection and stabilisation structures, increasing the risk of landslides during monsoon rains. Investigators revealed that the executing agency — National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) — failed to maintain protective measures like sandbags to prevent runoff into the river.

LR Sailo honoured with Dr Bhupen Hazarika national award for fostering unity through communication

Aizawl, Nov 04: Veteran public relations professional and noted peace advocate LR Sailo has been awarded the Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award 2025 for his outstanding contribution to strengthening social harmony and connecting Mizoram and the Northeast with the rest of the country. The honour, instituted by Pune-based organisation Sarhad, celebrates individuals who advance Dr Hazarika’s ideals of unity and peace through culture and communication. Sailo, widely respected as a “Messenger of Peace,” played a crucial role during Mizoram’s years of unrest, using communication as a bridge between the public and authorities.



His work helped shape constructive dialogue, reduce mistrust and foster understanding at a critical time in the state’s history. His contributions have since been recognised as an important chapter in Mizoram’s journey towards reconciliation and progress. The award was presented in Guwahati on November 3 as part of Dr Bhupen Hazarika’s birth centenary celebra-

tions. Union Minister for Development of the North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia, handed over the honours to this year’s recipients, who also included Laishram Mema Devi, Yeshe Dorje Thongchi, Prof David R Syiemlieh, Dr Surjya Kanta Hazarika and filmmaker Rajni Basumatary. Sarhad, established in 1987, works to promote peace and integration in India’s border regions. By recognising Sailo’s lifelong dedication to public communication and social cohesion, the organisation highlighted the enduring power of dialogue in bringing communities together — a legacy that echoes the timeless message of Dr Bhupen Hazarika.

‘Illegal miyas can’t have peace till I am CM’: Assam CM

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reiterated his government’s commitment to ongoing eviction drives aimed at removing encroachments, declaring that “illegal miyas” would not find peace while he is in office.

Guwahati, Nov 04: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Novembr 3 reaffirmed that eviction drives to remove encroachments will continue across the state, declaring that “illegal miyas” would not have peace as long as he remains in office. “Evictions will continue. Even today, notices were served in Behali area in Biswanath district. Illegal miyas don’t have peace till I am the CM,” Sarma told reporters after attending an official function at Jamugurihat. The Chief Minister’s remark once again underlined his government’s tough stance on land encroachment issues, particularly in areas where Bengali-speaking Muslims—often

referred to as ‘Miyas’—are settled. The term ‘Miya’, though traditionally used as a pejorative for Bengali-origin Muslims, has in recent years been reclaimed by some from the community as an assertion of identity. “There will be no peace even if you pray at a samadhi. Illegal miyas have to be in tension till I am the CM. If I am not there, then it is a different thing,” Sarma said, reiterating his firm position. Sarma also announced that his government will introduce a bill to ban polygamy during the upcoming winter session of the Assam Assembly, beginning November 25. “If any person engages in polygamy, there will be seven years of rigorous imprisonment,” he said. The Assam government has carried out a series of eviction drives since 2021, targeting what it terms as illegal encroachments on government and forest land. However, critics and opposition parties have alleged that the exercise disproportionately affects members of the Benga-



li-speaking Muslim community. Despite mounting criticism, Sarma has maintained that the evictions are part of his government’s broader agenda to protect public land and dismantle “narratives” built around illegal occupation.

Since assuming office in 2021, the BJP-led government has conducted multiple eviction operations across districts such as Darrang, Nagaon, Barpeta, Hojai, and Biswanath. The issue continues to evoke sharp political and social reactions in the state.

NSF urges stricter ILP enforcement to protect Naga identity

Kohima, Nov 04: The Naga Students’ Federation (NSF) has reiterated that strengthening the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system will remain its top priority to safeguard the rights, land and cultural identity of indigenous Nagas. The reaffirmation came during a consultative meeting of the Inner Line Regulation Commission (ILRC) held on Monday at the Naga Council Dimapur Hall. The meeting saw participation from the Naga Council Dimapur, GB’s Union (Sardar) Dimapur, Dimapur Urban Council Chairman Forum and the Dimapur Naga Students’ Union. ILRC Member Secretary Seve R. Vadeo chaired the session, which began with an invocation prayer by the GB’s Union. NSF President Mteisingding stressed that the ILP mechanism, rooted in the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) of 1873, is vital for protecting the interests of Naga communities. He said the ILRC was formed to reinforce the regulation and ensure that economic and land rights remain reserved for indigenous Nagas. ILRC member Kelhouniezo Yhome highlighted NSF’s long-standing advocacy for indigenous reservation, tracing it back to 1975. Pointing to challenges in Dimapur, he expressed concern over rising influx of non-indigenous residents and illegal migration. He urged Naga bodies to remain vigilant, reminding that Article 371(A) prohibits non-Nagas from owning land in the state. Another member, Hukavi T. Yeputhomi, said weak public awareness and lack of a clearly defined inter-state boundary with Assam were affecting implementation. He called for boundary demarcation and stronger monitoring in border villages. During discussions, attendees proposed empowering traditional bodies for ILP enforcement, regulating long-term ILP holders, creating an indigenous certificate database and upgrading the ILP online system for transparency.

One lakh acres in Assam taken by ‘Bangladeshis’ during Congress rule, says Himanta Biswa Sarma

Guwahati, Nov 04: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday claimed that around one lakh acres of government land in Assam were taken over by “people who came from Bangladesh” during earlier Congress governments. He made the allegation while speaking at an election rally in Raghunath Pur in Bihar. Sarma said that after he became Chief Minister, officials told him about the large-scale land encroachment. He claimed the Congress government ignored the issue for years. He added that after taking office, his government began eviction drives

to clear the land. “Some people died, some were arrested, but we had to protect our land,” he said, calling the move a matter of “identity and self-respect.” He said Assam has nearly 70% Hindu population and 30% Muslim population, and alleged that some groups within the Muslim community tried to take control of land and government benefits. He said the government would continue strong action against illegal occupation. Talking about madrasas, Sarma said the state wanted modern education and not only religious teaching. He said some madrasas had been closed since he



took charge, claiming they were creating “internal threats.” He said the government’s aim was to build doctors and engineers. Sarma also spoke about voter lists, saying those who grab land should not have voting rights. He praised the Bihar government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying both had taken strict steps in voter list

revisions. He said similar steps were being taken in Assam, West Bengal and Jharkhand. He added that the state will also act against traders who cheat people in markets and could shut shops of repeat offenders. Sarma praised the Modi government and said India now responds strongly to external threats. He added that this election was about dignity, identity, development and protecting culture. He criticised the Congress and Opposition leaders, accusing them of appeasement politics. He urged voters to support development and stand up for cultural identity.

5,000 people in Morigaon to sing ‘Manuhe Manuhor Babe’ in tribute to Bhupen Hazarika

Guwahati, Nov 04: The people of Morigaon district are preparing for a special and emotional event to honour Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his death anniversary. On November 5, about 5,000 individuals from different parts of the district will come together to sing his famous song “Manuhe Manuhor Babe.” This mass singing event is being organised as a mark of respect for the legendary singer, composer and cultural icon, who spent his life spreading messages of humanity and peace. A press conference was held at the Morigaon Deputy Commissioner’s office to discuss the preparations. The meeting was

chaired by Deputy Commissioner Anamika Tiwari through video conference. Officials took part in the review meeting to look at the arrangements and make sure everything is ready for the large gathering. Speaking to reporters, DC Tiwari said that the programme will take place at the Tarun Ram Phukan Playground in Morigaon. She said the idea behind the event is to remind everyone, especially young people, of Bhupen Hazarika’s values. His songs always talked about kindness, equality and how people should stand for one another as human beings. The DC added that the district

wants to spread these values among the new generation. Along with the mass singing, people will also offer flowers at Bhupen Hazarika’s statue. There will be a memorial gathering where speakers will talk about his life, his contribution to music and culture, and how his message still inspires people today. Deputy Commissioner Tiwari requested the public to attend in large numbers and be part of this moment. She said the programme is not only a tribute but also a reminder of Hazarika’s dream of an Assam where people help each other and live in harmony.

Gold prices dip as safe haven demand decline

New Delhi: Spot gold prices slipped below the \$4,000 per ounce after a significant increase this year, dipping 2.7 per cent from last week to \$3,984.43 an ounce, data showed on Monday. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was Rs 1,21,113 during the day trade, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Analysts said the moderation in demand came as trade tensions between the US and China cooled and the dollar index jumped to its highest in three months. After a sharp rally, gold and silver lost some shine last week. Further Beijing’s decision to end a long-standing tax rebate for certain retailers is expected to weaken demand in one of the world’s largest bullion markets, according to multiple media reports. In spite of the pullback, gold remains over 50 per cent higher year-to-date, driven by central-bank purchases and safe-haven demand. Silver prices have also corrected sharply after hitting festive-season highs of around Rs 2 lakh per kilo during the Dhanteras period. The price of one kilogram of silver was Rs 1,49,660, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). However, many experts view this as a temporary phase, with another rally likely in the near future. support to bullion prices,” according to Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd. Analysts said that gold has support at Rs 1,20,870 to Rs 1,20,480 while



resistance is at the Rs 1,21,890 to Rs 1,22,300 zone. Silver has support at Rs 1,47,450 to 1,46,750 while resistance is at Rs 1,49,340 to 1,50,280 zone. Spot gold prices slipped below the \$4,000 per ounce after a significant increase this year, dipping 2.7 per cent from last week to \$3,984.43 an ounce, data showed on Monday.

Investors Flock to Lenskart IPO; Subscriptions Hit 28x with ₹1.1 Lakh Crore Bids

Mumbai: Despite persistent worries about its high valuation, eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions has ignited the primary market with bids totaling more over Rs 1 lakh crore for its much awaited Rs 7,278 crore IPO. According to data from stock markets, the issue, which was priced between Rs 382 and Rs 402 per share, closed with a huge 28.2 times overall subscription. In comparison to the 9.97 crore shares on sale, the IPO got bids for almost 281 crore shares, demonstrating exceptional investor interest.

The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) category led the charge with 40.35 times subscription, followed by Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) at 18.23 times and Retail Investors at 7.54

times. Even the employee quota was subscribed 4.96 times, reflecting broad-based demand across investor classes.

Market experts said the strong QIB participation underscored institutional confidence in Lenskart’s growth trajectory and scalable business model. The response follows a robust anchor book, which saw heavy participation from domestic mutual funds and marquee global investors ahead of the issue’s opening.

Established in 2008, Lenskart Solutions is a technology-focused eyewear company involved in the design, manufacturing, branding, and retail of prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, contact lenses, and accessories. Operating under a direct-to-consumer model, it

offers a broad range of eyewear under its own brands and sub-brands, catering to all age groups and price segments.

Lenskart’s vision of driving growth by providing clear vision to Indian/international customers leveraging on its well-designed integrated business model makes it a better play amongst the new age technology companies, said ICICIDirect Research.

“The unorganized dominance and lower usage of eyewear products in India compared to other countries create a significant opportunity for branded players like Lenskart to increase their market share domestically.

Hence, we assign ‘subscribe’ rating on Lenskart from a long term view,” it added.

GST revenue growth reflect economic resilience



Mumbai: The yearly Goods and Services Tax (GST) growth — from October 2024 to October 2025 — has been captured at 7.8 per cent, rising from Rs 9,65,138 crore in October 2024 to Rs 10,40,055 crore in October 2025, official data showed on Monday.

The monthly gross domestic revenue is 2 per cent higher — from Rs 1,42,251 crore in October 2024 to Rs 1,45,052 in October 2025, while gross GST revenue from imports registered a yearly Overall, the upward trend points towards sustained consumption recovery, a broadening tax base, and robust fiscal health placing India on a stable trajectory for the remainder of FY 2025-26.

Meesho, Shiprocket among seven firms get Sebi nod to raise Rs 7,700 crore via IPOs

Others that received regulatory approval are German Green Steel and Power, Allied Engineering Works, Skyways Air Services, Rajputana Stainless and Manika Plastech

New Delhi: As many as seven companies, including Softbank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho and Temasek-backed e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket, have secured Sebi’s approval to raise nearly Rs 7,700 crore collectively, through initial public offerings (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday.

Others that received regulatory approval are German Green Steel and Power, Allied Engineering Works, Skyways Air Services, Rajputana Stainless and Manika Plastech. All seven companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi between May and July, obtained its observations during October 14 to 31, the update showed. In regulatory terms, Sebi’s observation is equivalent to cle The approval comes at a time when the Indian market is experiencing a boom in primary market activity. In 2025, a total of 86 companies have already tapped the mainboard market through maiden public offerings, and a few issues, including Groww, Pine Labs, are lined up for this week. Together, these seven companies are aiming to garner around Rs 7,700 crore. Meanwhile, Bombay Coated and Special Steels withdrew its draft IPO documents on October 30, while Sebi has returned the preliminary IPO papers of Vishal Nirmitti on the same day. arance for launching a public issue. According to the draft papers, Meesho’s proposed



IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 4,250 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 17.57 crore equity shares by certain existing shareholders. The OFS includes the sale of equity shares by some of Meesho’s early investors, including Elevation, Peak XV, Venture Highway and Y Combinator, among others.

Meesho plans to utilise the net proceeds towards investment for cloud infrastructure in Meesho Technologies Private Limited, payment of salaries of existing and replacement hires for the machine learning and AI and technology teams for AI and technology development undertaken by Meesho, expenditure towards marketing and brand initia-

tives and funding inorganic growth through acquisitions and other strategic initiatives and general corporate purposes. Meesho and Shiprocket filed their IPO papers through a confidential pre-filing route. This route allows companies to withhold public disclosure of details under the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) until later stages.

Stock market outlook BEER ratio, Buffett Indicator

New Delhi: After Nifty and Sensex’s 8-9 per cent rise in 2025 so far, there is only a limited scope for rerating ahead, Axis Securities said in its monthly note. Style rotation and sector selection are keys to generating alpha, as earnings expectations from the broader market remain intact, the domestic brokerage said. “In our base case, we revise our March 2026 Nifty target to 25,500 by valuing it at 20 times on March 2027 earnings. The current level of India’s VIX is below its long-term average, indicating companies (where the earnings visibility is quite high) with an investment horizon of 12-18 months,” it said. The relationship between bonds and equity is defined by the BEER ratio, or bond-earnings yield ratio, which is calculated by dividing the benchmark 10-year bond yield by the earnings yield of the benchmark index. A ratio of 1 means that both equity and bond market have equal level of perceived riskiness. At present, it is at 1.3 against the long-term average of 1.2.



Results for M&M’s second quarter Stock rises

Mumbai: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) on Tuesday reported a 16 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,673 crore for the September quarter compared with Rs 3,171 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

The auto major said its profit was up 28 per cent YoY, if one excludes one-time gain on land sale in the year-ago quarter, SML Isuzu tax impact and prior period PLI benefits. Consolidated sales for the quarter grew 22 per cent YoY to Rs 46,106 crore from Rs 37,924 crore in the same quarter last year.

Auto and Farm segment continued to deliver on growth

and margins.

Financial services delivered 45 per cent growth in PAT, while keeping asset quality strong, M&M said.

“TechM continued its journey of margin expansion with EBIT improvement of 250 bps. Our growth gems continue to make strong progress with notable commercial wins in Aero, 2x presales at Mahindra Lifespaces & double-digit revenue growth in others,” it added. Group CEO & Managing Director M&M said: “Auto and Farm sustained their leadership with consistent gains in market share and profitability. TechM is progressing well on its transformation journey.

Wockhardt shares surge 10% on Q2 earnings despite revenue dip

New Delhi: Wockhardt shares advanced by 12% after the company announced a net profit of ₹78 crore for the second quarter, marking a reversal from its previous net loss. Despite this profit, Wockhardt logged a 5.81% year-on-year reduction in consolidated revenue from operations, reporting Rs 762 crore in Q2FY26 against Rs 809 crore in the September quarter of the prior financial year. Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) for the pharma firm rose 62% on a year-on-year basis to Rs 178 crore, while margins expanded by over 900 basis points to 22.8% from 13.6% during the year-ago quarter. Wockhardt shares rose 12% intraday to Rs 1433.80. Later, the Wockhardt stock ended 10.43% higher at Rs 1414.95. Market cap of the firm stood at Rs 22,990 crore. The update for the quarter underlines the company’s shifting financial landscape, with a move from loss to profit drawing increased investor attention. The year-on-year contraction in revenue, despite the bottom-line turnaround, is a notable aspect of the quarterly disclosure. Wockhardt’s performance in Q2FY26 demonstrates the company’s ability to adjust to changing business conditions, as indicated by the figures reported. The company’s financial



results were reported in its corporate filing, making the recent trading session significant for shareholders and market participants monitoring Wockhardt’s developments. Wockhardt logged a 5.81% year-on-year reduction in consolidated revenue from operations, reporting Rs 762 crore in Q2FY26 against Rs 809 crore in the September quarter of the prior financial year.

Yes Bank stake sale lifts SBI Q2 profit 10% YoY to Rs 20,160 crore; NII up 3%

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI), the country’s largest lender, reported a 9.97 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in standalone net profit for the September quarter of FY26, aided by a one-time exceptional gain. The bank’s profit after tax climbed to Rs 20,160 crore in Q2FY26, up from Rs 18,331 crore a year earlier, supported by a Rs 4,593.22 crore gain from the divestment of its 13.18 per cent stake in Yes Bank. Net Interest Income (NII) grew 3.28 per cent YoY to Rs 42,984 crore from Rs 41,620 crore in the year-ago quarter. However, margins remained under pressure, with the domestic Net Interest Margin (NIM) contracting 18 basis points (bps) to 3.09 per cent from 3.27 per cent in Q2FY25. Provisions (excluding tax) rose to Rs 5,400.12 crore, higher both sequentially and annually, compared with Rs 4,759.20 crore in Q1FY26 and Rs 4,505.73 crore in Q2FY25. Despite elevated provisioning, asset quality improved further. The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio declined 40 bps YoY to 1.73 per cent, while the Net NPA (NNPA) ra-



tio fell 11 bps to 0.42 per cent. On the growth front, SBI’s credit book continued to expand strongly. Total advances rose 12.73 per cent YoY, led by a 15.09 per cent jump in retail loans, with home loans up 15.22 per cent. Deposits grew 9.27 per cent YoY, while the bank’s CASA ratio stood at 39.63 per cent as of September 30, 2025.

Late Madhuri Dixit’s ‘Chaotic’ Canada Show Blasted; Fans Demand Refunds

Agency: Bollywood’s dhak-dhak girl Madhuri Dixit-Nene faced severe backlash from Netizens for reportedly coming three hours late for an event in Canada. Social media comments and posts made it plainly clear that the audience was angry following their negative event experience. Netizens lashed out at the actress and organisers for poorly organising the event.

The visuals on social media show Madhuri dancing energetically to some of her popular numbers. However, her late arrival to the show upset the audience. Reports suggested that Madhuri showed up almost three hours late for the show, inviting the ire of the audience. The visuals are now spreading like a wildfire on social media. The viral post from Madhuri’s tour is garnering massive attention, with one prominent piece of advice urging fans to ‘save your money’. The post also attracted several negative comments with complaints from netizens calling the entire show ‘chaotic’ and ‘poorly organised’. One of the attendees wrote, “This was the worst show ever. So disorganised. The advertisement didn’t say she was just going to chat and dance 2 seconds of each song. Very poorly organized by the promoters. So many people walked



out. People were yelling for refunds. Doesn’t matter that she is a beautiful actress and person, everyone who went to the show has to agree it was poorly organized.” Another user said, “Worst show one can ever go to. Least worried about the audience’s time. Three hours late and then full of lame

talks.” One attendee wrote, “I left at 11:05 pm, as I had work the next day. I honestly don’t know if it was the organisers or her who decided she’d come at 10:00 pm. It just started way too late and disrespected the audience’s time.” Multiple fans claimed their tickets specified a 05:30 PM start, yet the event didn’t commence until nearly 10:00 PM.” Many fans demanded formal action, backing their advice with legal grounds. As one viral comment read, they should report the organisers to Consumer Protection Ontario because supplying incorrect service information is an illegal act of ‘misrepresentation’.

However, some sects of the audience did come forward and defended Madhuri. A user wrote, “She seems to be performing as graciously as always! It may be a production or management co-ordination issue. Another fan writes, “Madhuri Dixit is amazing. Real fans would appreciate any glimpse of her. It’s not her fault if it was not organized correctly. To be in her presence is something else. On the professional front. Madhuri is busy with projects like the psychological thriller series Mrs Deshpande, Maa Behan and an untitled project with Sajid Nadidadwala.

Soulful B Praak Shines at Grand Delhi Celebration

New Delhi: B Praak, known for blockbuster, soul stirring tracks like Teri Mitti and Mann Bharrya, attended Delhi’s Foundation Day celebrations and set a patriotic tone with his powerful performance at the Red Fort. Sharing a glimpse from the event, the singer posted a video of his performance on Instagram.

In the clip, he is seen performing before a massive crowd, radiating his signature energy. B Praak also met Delhi’s Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta, and was honoured with an award. The celebration carried the theme ‘Meri Dilli Mera Desh – Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat’. His post’s caption read, “Honoured to perform at the iconic Red Fort on the special occasion of Delhi Formation Day! Grateful to Hon’ble Delhi CM.” The post had over 40,000 likes and more than 500 comments. The Mann Bharrya singer shared another post showcasing a stunning light show projected on the Red Fort. A comment on the post read, “Amazing voice.” Another user wrote, “I was there, that was amazing!” A user commented, “I think yeh aapki life ka best song hai,” referring to Teri Mitti, which B Praak had used in the reel. Another comment said, “Sir, dil chu liya apne.” A user added, “Woooww, loved your performance.

B Praak started his career as a music director. In 2012, he met Jaani and they both collaborated on their first blockbuster song together, Soch. It was crooned by Hardy Sandhu and composed by B Praak. Praak made his singing debut in 2018 with single Mann Bharrya which was later used in the 2021 film, Shershaah.

Beyond Trophies: Yami Gautam Finds Fulfillment, Says Audience Appreciation Trumps Award Wins

Mumbai: Yami Gautam has been on quite a roll lately. From A Thursday to Article 370, she’s delivered some powerful performances that earned her plenty of praise and award nominations. But despite the recognition, the actor says she’s no longer chasing trophies or external approval. In a recent conversation, Yami opened up about how she views success and validation today, asserting that she has learned to detach from external approval.

While promoting her upcoming courtroom drama Haq, Yami spoke to The Hollywood Reporter India about how she no longer allows awards or recognition to define her self-worth. Responding to a question about whether being nominated but not winning ever bothered her, Yami said, “As much



as I have understood the Bhagwat Geeta, what Lord Krishna says to Arjun is true. Not that I have become that detached like the most perfect human, but if you have the ability to detach from the success and the fear of losing or seeking validation through somebody else’s perspective, you are fine. I have stopped seeking any kind of validation from anyone. Agar who award milta hai to main bahut achi actress hoon,

to prominence with Vicky Donor in 2013, earning several debut awards for her performance. Over the years, she has been nominated for major honours, including the Filmfare Awards and IIFA, for films such as Bala, A Thursday, and Article 370. Despite the lack of trophies, Yami shared that her journey has been fulfilling in other ways, guided by a belief that “life always finds a way to reward you — not necessarily through awards.”

The actor will next be seen in Haq, directed by Anirudha Roy Chowdhury, opposite Emraan Hashmi. The legal drama, inspired by the real-life Shah Bano case, follows Yami as a Muslim woman fighting for maintenance rights in court after her divorce. Haq is slated for release on November 7.

Rajamouli Confirms Future Baahubali 3 Sequel



Hyderabad: The Epic hit theaters again on October 31, the audience knew they were in for nostalgia, grandeur and goosebumps. The reimagined and re-cut version of SS Rajamouli’s Baahubali: The Beginning and Baahubali: The Conclusion was trimmed and made into one majestic narrative, giving the audience a new perspective. Amid all this, an interview with SS Rajamouli has attracted everyone’s attention, where he is seen confirming another Baahubali film. In the interview, filmmaker Rajamouli was seen talking about several things with actors Prabhas and Rana Daggubati. In a segment, SS Rajamouli spilled the beans about upcoming projects and gave fans a mega surprise by announcing another Baahubali film. He said, “This is not Baahubali 3, but a continuation of that world. We have made a 3D animated film called Baahubali: The Eternal War. The teaser will be released during the intermission of Baahubali: The Epic.” Further spilling the beans, SSR said, “The project will be made on a massive budget of Rs 120 crore, and Shobu Yarlagada has been working continuously

for over 2 years.” On hearing the movie’s budget, Prabhas was shocked and said, “Rs 120 crore? This is the planned budget for our Baahubali.” Regarding the Baahubali franchise, Rajamouli confirmed plans for Baahubali 3 during the segment. The filmmaker said that the movie will materialise eventually but didn’t reveal any official schedule or date. Baahubali: The Epic is a re-cut, 3-hour-45-minute version of the original films, reimagined for a grand theatrical experience. The film, which has already created waves globally, reunites Baahubali fans for a spectacular return to ‘Mahishmati’. With an overhaul in sound and visuals, the new edition promises a heightened cinematic experience presented in IMAX, Dolby, DBOX, PCX, 4DX, ICE Immersive and Epic formats. Starring Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty, Ramya Krishnan, Sathyaraj and Tamannaah Bhatia, the film invites audiences to relive the magic on the biggest screens with Sharad Kelkar’s resonant voice once again breathing life into Baahubali’s timeless legacy.

Karan Joins Sunny On Splitsvilla

Mumbai: Splitsvilla, the popular dating reality show, is returning, and with Sunny Leone being one of the hosts, just like every year, fans of the show are curious about who the other actor joining Sunny as co-host will be. With a recent clip of Sunny Leone claiming that it is one of the Karans who will join her as co-host, excitement has been sky-high, and now, finally, we know it’s none other than Karan Kundrra who will be joining Sunny Leone for Splitsvilla 16.

As the Queen of Hearts and the King of Hearts, Sunny and Karan will guide contestants through love’s ultimate playground, where emotions run high, connections are tested, and every choice comes with consequences. That season was hosted by Sunny Leone and Tanuj Virwani, where Jashwanth Bopanna and Akriti Negi took home the trophy.

Rashmika Mandanna Opens Up About The Alleged ‘engagement Ring’

Hyderabad: Any of Rashmika Mandanna’s latest press interactions would be incomplete without the mention of the much-speculated ‘engagement ring’. The actress is promoting her upcoming release, The Girlfriend, in the Telugu states. In her latest interview with a popular TV talk show, Rashmika was asked about the alleged ‘ring’ on her fingers.

Rashmika Mandanna attended the popular Telugu talk show Jayammu Nischayammu Raa, hosted by actor Jagapathi Babu. The promo of the episode shows the conversation went smoothly with the actress sharing about her childhood memories, likes and personal preferences. But the chat turned exciting when the host asked the actress the most curious question. “Are those rings on your hands a sentiment?” “Yeah, they are very important,” she replied. The host continues, “Among the rings, one must be your fa-



vourite one, which has a history.” As the audience starts cheering...Rashmika is seen blushing. The promo certainly raised curiosity and made everyone look forward to the complete episode on how the Pushpa actress responded to the most asked question. As part of the film promotions, Rashmika also took the opportunity to interact with netizens in a Q & A on X. Calling the session ‘Rush Hour,’ she asked her fans to shoot

questions quickly. During the course, she shared her favourite characters, prep behind it, role versatility, horror comedy Thamma with Ayushmann Khurrana and upcoming film (Mysaa). One fan asked her, “what’s the one thing you love in #MaheshBabu.” Rashmika was quick to describe the superstar’s charming personality. Sharing that Mahesh will never age, she in fact, adds that he’s getting younger with time.

Career-Best Run Continues: Harshvardhan Rane & Sonam Bajwa Starrer Crosses ₹66 Cr Mark on Day 14

Mumbai: Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa’s Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat has had a good run at the box office till now. Released on 21 October, the film has managed to cross the 60-crore mark. As per Sachnik, the film has earned Rs 1.65 crore in India on its 14th day, that is, November 3, however these are early estimates.

The film clashed with Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna’s Thamma, yet it has continued its strong run at the box office. Despite competition from big releases like Baahubali: The Epic and The Taj Story this week, the film has maintained a steady performance. It will be interesting to see how things unfold once Haq, starring Emraan Hashmi and Yami Gautam, releases in theatres on November 7 and how that impacts the Milap Zaveri directorial. Falling just short of hitting the double digit mark, Ek Deewane



Ki Deewaniyat managed to earn Rs. 9 crore on its opening day. The second day saw a dip in collections and it was able to collect Rs. 7.75 crore. On day 3 and day 4, the Sonam Bajwa starrer earned Rs 6 crore and Rs 5.55 crore respectively. It earned Rs 6.25 crore on its first Saturday and Rs. 7 crore on Sunday. Monday brought in Rs 3.5 crore and Tuesday Rs 4.5 crore,

while Day 9 and Day 10 saw collections of Rs 3 crore and Rs 2.65 crore respectively. This brought the film’s total Week 1 collection to Rs 55.15 crore. The film then managed to earn Rs 2.35 crore on Day 11, Rs 3.15 crore on Day 12, Rs 3.75 crore on Day 13, and Rs 1.65 crore on Day 14, bringing its total collection to Rs 66.05 crore.

In an interview with News

18, producer of the film, Anshul Garg has admitted that he is extremely elated with the film’s response. He said, “The kind of love and support we deserved for our film, we got. We have earned 50 crore in around 5 days. Internationally the film is doing well.” He also shared that the distributors were not expecting this response and everyone is happy with the results.

The Dynamic Duo Returns: Vishal and Sundar C Team Up Again for ‘Vishal 36’ Action Drama

Chennai: Filmmaker Sundar C and actor Vishal are set to join hands once again for a new Tamil action entertainer tentatively titled Vishal 36. The project marks their fourth collaboration after Madha Gaja Raja, Aambala and Action, each known for blending comedy, spectacle and slick action. The announcement video released by the makers showcased clips from their previous ventures, sparking excitement among fans who have long been waiting for the duo to reunite.

Described by the team as a “power-packed commercial entertainer,” the new film is expected to stay true to Sundar C’s signature mix of style and humour. While details about the rest of the cast and crew are still under wraps, the reunion itself has already become one of the most talked-about developments in Tamil cinema this season. Sundar C, known for his consistent success with mainstream Tamil cinema, last directed and acted in Gangers, a heist comedy that saw him sharing screen space with Vadivelu after more than ten years. He is also in the process of completing Moo-kuthi Amman 2 with Nayanthara in the



lead. Vishal, meanwhile, is gearing up for the release of Magudam, his thirty-fifth film. The project initially began under the direction of Ravi Arasu, who previously made Eetti and Anyangran. However, creative differences led to Vishal stepping in as director himself. Magudam features Dushara Vijayan as the female lead, with Anjali and Yogi Babu playing important roles. It is being produced under the prestigious Super Good Films banner, marking the company’s ninety-ninth production. The film’s music is composed by GV Prakash Kumar, who is collaborating with Vishal for the second time after the hit Mark Antony. Richard M Nathan handles the cinematography, while editing is overseen by Srikanth NB and production design by G Durairaj. With Magudam nearing completion, Vishal’s focus will soon shift entirely to

Vishal 36, making this a crucial period for the actor both in front of and behind the camera. Although official details about the storyline are yet to be shared, the teaser hints at an action-heavy narrative in line with the duo’s earlier works. Sundar C’s films with Vishal have often relied on fast pacing, ensemble humour, and strong hero-driven moments, all of which have become familiar hallmarks of their partnership. Industry insiders believe this film could be one of the key commercial releases of 2026, with early reports suggesting that the production will begin early next year. Fans are already speculating about the female lead and the musical collaborator, both of which are expected to be announced soon. Sundar C’s return to large-scale action entertainment after Action and Gangers also signals a comeback to the genre that built his brand. For Vishal, the project continues his streak of high-energy roles that balance physicality and mass appeal. Together, the duo seems ready to reignite the old magic that once made their films staples of Tamil box office success.

Shraddha Kapoor Begins Shooting ‘Eetha,’ The Highly-Anticipated Vithabai Biopic



Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor has reportedly started shooting for Eetha, a biopic inspired by the life of Maharashtra’s celebrated Tamasha performer, Vithabai Narayangaonkar. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the project marks Shraddha’s first collaboration with the filmmaker and is being produced by Dinesh Vijan’s Mad-dock Films.

The news spread rapidly after a photo of the film’s clapboard, titled Eetha, went viral on social media, sparking excitement among fans. While an official announcement is yet to be made, reports suggest that renowned music composers Ajay-Atul are on board to create the film’s soundtrack. Vithabai, one

of the most revered figures in Marathi folk theatre, is remembered for her dedication to Tamasha — a vibrant form of traditional performance that blends music, dance, and storytelling. Her life, marked by artistic brilliance and personal challenges, continues to inspire generations of performers. Eetha promises to showcase Shraddha in one of her most intense and performance-driven roles to date. The actress, who last appeared in Stree 2: Sarkate Ka Aatank (2024), has been selective with her recent projects, focusing on scripts that allow her to explore diverse characters.

Even without a theatrical release this year, Shraddha remains highly visible, thanks to her strong social media presence. With over 94 million followers on Instagram, she often connects with fans through heartfelt posts. Recently, she celebrated India’s ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025 win, writing, “We used to hear the stories about the emotion our parents felt after India won the World Cup in 1983. Thank you for giving us that moment.” Meanwhile, Shraddha’s cultural resonance continues to travel beyond borders. A viral video from the U.S. recently showed a woman dressed as her Stree character for Halloween, a reminder of the lasting impression her performances have made.

Naagin: My Heart’s Dream Role!



Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chahar Choudhary was introduced as the lead for Ektaa Kapoor’s highly anticipated show “Naagin 7” during the latest episode of ‘Weekend Ka Vaar’. Ektaa joined host Salman Khan on the stage of “Bigg Boss 19”. During the episode, Ektaa officially announced Priyanka as the lead Naagin for “Naagin 7”. Now, Priyanka has taken to social media to express her delight at getting the opportunity to embark on this new professional journey. She penned a heartfelt note on her official Instagram handle that read, “Meet your new Naagin (Snake and sparkle emojis) Coming to your screens very soon, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude today.”

Why Icelanders are happier than ever

For the third year in a row, Finland has topped the 2025 World Happiness Report. While the Nordic countries traditionally fare well in the rankings, Denmark (ranked second), Sweden (fourth), and Norway (seventh) have all reported a net lower total happiness score since the survey started, measuring a slight decline in happiness over time. In fact, out of the top 20, only seven countries have been getting happier year on year – and Iceland stands out as having one of the biggest increases of them all, seeing a 9.1% boost since its measure on the first index in 2008. Ranked the third-happiest country in the world this year (compared to 18th in 2008), Iceland scores the highest out of all countries in social support, with impressive scores in the freedom and generosity measures as well (third and fifth respectively). Despite its relatively small population – numbering just under 400,000 – the country continues to invest in infrastructure, progressive social policies and tourism. But the thing that makes many Icelanders the happiest is something that the government has relatively little control over: the nation’s otherworldly landscapes. “From home, from work, it’s very easy to get to a national park or open spaces where we can hike, walk by the river, coast or lakes,” says Hrund Gunnsteinsdóttir, author of forthcoming book *InnSæi: Heal, Revive and Reset with the Icelandic Art of Intuition*. She especially loves the landscape’s variations and stark contrasts, from green and lush to barren and black sands. As a geologist originally from the US, Jessica Poteet moved to Iceland specifically to be closer to nature. “Being somewhere with volcanoes and Northern Lights and cotton candy-pink skies with snow-capped mountains in winter is a dream,” she says. “I never take it for granted. It’s one of the key things contributing to my happiness.” That said, residents note that winters can be long and dark, which can be a challenge – but that the summer’s midnight Sun more than makes up for it. Poteet notes that on particularly sunny days, employers will often offer a “Sun holiday” so people can enjoy a day of hiking or skiing, depending on the season. The country’s strong social safety net also lends residents a sense of stability



and ease. “During Covid, I lost my job. I was able to go on unemployment until I found a new job,” says Brenna Elizabeth Scheving, another US expat living in Iceland. She also was able to take advantage of the country’s generous parental leave policy, where both parents are entitled to share 12 months parental leave, up to six months each, with six weeks transferrable to the other parent. The policy applies to both adoptive and biological parents, regardless of marital status or sexuality. Kindergarten is also available to children as young as two, which enables parents to work and generate income, knowing that childcare and education are provided for. In fact, equitable gender policies have been built into the country’s DNA

for decades, with the world’s smallest gender gap for 15 years running, according to the 2024 World Economic Forum. This no doubt leads to a sense of happiness as well, say residents. “The government is run by women,” says Gunnsteinsdóttir, noting that Iceland had the world’s first democratically elected female president in 1980. “I was six years old when she was elected a president, and I didn’t necessarily conceive of a man being a president.” Those gender equality gains were hard fought. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Women’s Day Off, when Icelandic women went on strike for a day to underscore the lack of equal representation in politics and the labour force. “I’m truly grateful to these women and the men who

supported them,” says Gunnsteinsdóttir. “Where you have gender equality, the social, economic and political aspects tend to be more stable and better for people and the natural surroundings. In countries with greater gender equality, people are healthier, happier and have better well-being.” That’s not to say Iceland hasn’t had its own share of growing pains in recent years. Costs, particularly in the capital city of Reykjavík, have grown particularly high. “The cost of living is steep, especially housing, which can be a struggle for both locals and expats,” said Kevin Mercier, a French photographer who has lived in Iceland the past six years and chronicles his travels at Kevmrc Travel. The high cost of short-term rentals has been partially blamed for this rise in housing expense, and tourism in general has put some pressures on the small island. The nation has been transformed by tourism over the past decade, welcoming around 2.3 million international visitors in 2024 – nearly double the 2015 numbers) and around six times the number of residents. That said, the benefits of tourism have outweighed the costs, say many residents, and as visitor numbers continue to grow, the country is adopting new initiatives

to manage the impact and protect its natural resources. “The movement around making tourism more responsible has been very grassroots and run by Visit Iceland in collaboration with local and central authorities and private companies,” says Gunnsteinsdóttir. Iceland’s infrastructure has also seen a boost from tourism. “Finishing The Ring Road [the looped highway around Iceland that was fully paved in 2019] was great for everyone, making sometimes isolated communities now easily accessible,”

said Poteet. “Also, the amount of tourists to the Fagradalsfjall volcano meant the government built trails in the area almost immediately. So impressive!” Accommodations are pushing to educate visitors about sustainability and the Icelandic way of life. Family-owned property Hotel Rangá on the south coast offers a “Live Like an Icelandic” programme, where a local guide takes guests through ancient farmsteads and lets them drink from a well that is said to promote longevity. ION Hotels, owned by female entrepreneur Sigurlaug Sverrisdóttir, has committed to having a female-majority staff across its two properties, ION City Hotel in Reykjavík and the ION Adventure Hotel on Lake Thingvellir, the largest lake in Iceland. The number of restaurants, bars and cafes has also grown to meet tourist demand, leading to more vibrant urban centres. “When I was growing up, you would walk the streets in Reykjavík and there was hardly anyone walking around in most of the year,” said Gunnsteinsdóttir. “I personally quite like having people around.” Regardless of the external factors, it may be an internal sense of adaptability and resilience that leads to Icelanders’ ultimate happiness. Gunnsteinsdóttir points to the ancient Icelandic word for intuition, *innæi*, which translates to the “the sea within”. “It’s the world beyond words – of vision, feelings, imagination and things that brew before they come to the surface of our attention,” she explains. “It also means ‘to see from the inside out’, which refers to having a strong inner compass that enables us to navigate the ocean of life and the world we live in.” Gunnsteinsdóttir theorises that this sense of direction comes directly from living alongside an often-unpredictable natural environment and fast-changing weather conditions. “In recent years, we’ve had multiple eruptions and earthquakes. When you constantly feel the earth is shaking, it really reminds you that things can change quite rapidly,” she says. “When it comes to happiness, it encourages us to make the best out of what we have when things don’t go according to plan.”



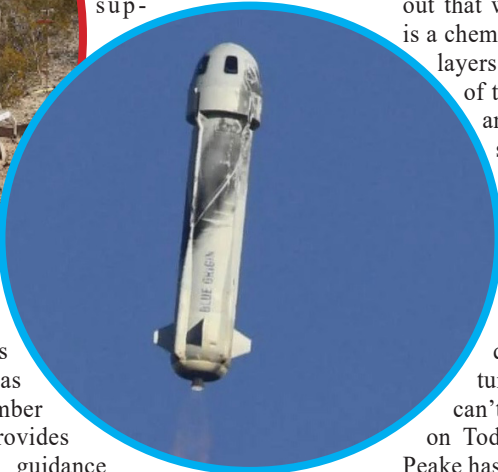
Katy Perry set for space with all-women crew on Blue Origin rocket

Pop star Katy Perry and five other women are set to blast into space aboard Jeff Bezos’ space tourism rocket. The singer will be joined by Bezos’s fiancée Lauren Sánchez and CBS presenter Gayle King. The New Shepard rocket is due to lift off from its West Texas launch site and the launch window opens at 08:30 local time (14:30 BST). You’ll be able to follow the launch live here on the BBC website. The flight will last around 11 minutes and take the crew more than 100km (62 miles) above Earth, crossing the internationally recognised boundary of space and giving the crew a few moments of weightlessness. Also on board are former Nasa rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, civil rights activist Amanda Nguyen, and film producer Kerianne Flynn. The spacecraft is fully autonomous, requiring no pilots, and the crew will not manually operate the vehicle. The capsule will return to Earth with a parachute-assisted soft landing, while the rocket booster will land itself around two miles away from the launch site. “If you had told me that I would be part of the first-ever all-female crew in space, I would have believed you. Nothing was beyond my imagination as a child. Although we didn’t grow up with much, I never stopped looking at the world with hopeful WONDER!” Mrs Perry said in a social media post. Blue Origin says the last all-female spaceflight was over 60 years ago when Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to travel into space on a solo mission aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6. Since then, there have been no other all-female spaceflights but women have made numerous significant contributions. Katy Perry gave her followers a sneak peek of the capsule she’s training to launch aboard the New Shepard, all while in her spacesuit. She revealed her call sign as “Feather” and showed where her fellow astronauts – the “Taking Up Space” crew – would be and expressed her excitement about singing in space. Blue Origin is a private space company founded in 2000 by Bezos, the billionaire entrepreneur who also started Amazon. Although Blue Origin has not released full ticket prices, a \$150,000 (£114,575.85) deposit is required to reserve a seat – underlining the exclusivity of these early flights. Alongside its suborbital tourism business, the company is also developing long-



term space infrastructure, including reusable rockets and lunar landing systems. The New Shepard rocket is designed to be fully reusable and its booster returns to the launch pad for vertical landings after each flight, reducing overall costs. According to US law, astronauts must complete comprehensive training for their specific roles. Blue Origin says its New Shepard passengers are trained over two days with a focus on physical fitness, emergency protocols, details about the safety measures and procedures for zero gravity. Additionally, there are two sup-

port members referred to as Crew Member Seven: one provides continuous guidance to astronauts, while the other maintains communication from the control room during the mission. The rise of space tourism has prompted criticism that it is too exclusive and environmentally damaging. Supporters argue that private companies are accelerating innovation and making space more accessible. Professor Brian Cox told the BBC in 2024: “Our civilisation needs to expand beyond our planet for so many reasons,” and believes that collaboration between NASA and commercial firms is a positive step. Rocket engine exhaust contains gases and particles that can affect Earth’s climate and ozone layer. On its web page under the title “Protecting our Planet” Blue Origin claims “During flight, the only byproduct of New Shepard’s engine combustion is water vapor with no carbon emissions.” However, Eloise Marais, a professor of Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Quality at University College London points out that anything that combusts at a higher temperature turns nitrogen in the atmosphere into nitrogen oxides, which are planet-warming greenhouse gases. She also points out that water vapour too is a greenhouse gas and is a chemical that is not supposed to be in the upper layers of the atmosphere. “It alters the chemistry of the stratosphere, depleting the ozone layer, and also forms clouds that affect climate,” she says. Experts say that as more and more rockets are launched, the risks of harming the ozone layer increases. The high cost of space tourism makes it inaccessible to most people, with these expensive missions out of reach for the majority. Critics, including actress Olivia Munn, questioned the optics of this particular venture, remarking “there’s a lot of people who can’t even afford eggs,” during an appearance on Today with Jenna & Friends. Astronaut Tim Peake has defended the value of human space travel, especially in relation to tackling global issues such as climate change. At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Peake voiced his disappointment that space exploration was increasingly seen as a pursuit for the wealthy, stating: “I personally am a fan of using space for science and for the benefit of everybody back on Earth, so in that respect, I feel disappointed that space is being tarred with that brush.”



Clean energy’s share of world’s electricity reaches 40%

More than 40 percent of the world’s electricity was generated without burning fossil fuels in 2024, according to a new report from think-tank Ember. But carbon dioxide emissions, which warm the planet, have risen to an all time high, the report says, with hot weather pushing up the overall demand for power. That meant an increase in the use of fossil fuel burning power stations. Solar power continues to be the fastest-growing energy source, with the amount of electricity it generates doubling in the last three years. “Solar power has become the engine of the global energy transition,” said Phil Macdonald, the managing director of Ember. “Amid the noise, it’s essential to focus on the real signal. Hotter weather drove the fossil generation increase in 2024, but we’re very unlikely to see a similar jump in 2025.” In a separate report, the European Copernicus climate service said March 2025 was the second hottest on record, extending a spell of record or near record breaking temperatures. Ember is a global energy think tank which has been predicting for several years that emissions of the climate warming gas carbon dioxide were about to start falling. But this hasn’t happened yet due to increasing global demand for electricity. Cheap and relatively easy to install, for the twentieth year in a row solar is the fastest growing electricity source. According to Ember, the amount generated by solar panels has doubled every three years since 2012. China continues to dominate the growth of solar with more than half of the increase taking place there. India’s solar capacity doubled between 2023 and 2024. Though it is growing fast, solar remains a relatively small part of the global energy mix contributing just under 7% of global supply – that’s the same as powering the entire country of India. Wind contributes just over 8%, with hydropower contributing 14% making it the largest source of clean energy. Both hydro-electric and nuclear power (9%) are growing much more slowly than wind and solar. The report says that clean energy sources contributed more than 40% of global electricity generation for the first time since the 1940s. Back then demand was much lower, and hydroelectric power stations contributed a significant share. The big picture is that the rise in the global demand for electricity continues to outpace the growth in renewable energy. That means that though the percentage generated by clean power has risen to 40.9% the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted has yet to start falling. According to the Ember report global demand for electricity rose by



4% in 2024. This was partly due to an increased use of air conditioning in what was a particularly hot year. That meant that fossil fuel generation, mostly coal (34%) and gas (22%), increased by 1.4% and global emissions of the climate warming gas CO2 rose to an all time high of 14.6bn tonnes. In the last five years, fast-growing Asian economies, in particular India and China, have continued expanding their use of fossil fuels to meet rapidly rising demand for electricity.

Simple foods that can prevent dehydration

Dehydration in summer is primarily caused by excessive loss of fluids through sweating, as the body tries to regulate its temperature in hot weather. High temperatures, prolonged exposure to the sun, physical activity, and inadequate water intake increase the risk. Additionally, dry air, caffeine, alcohol, and salty foods can worsen dehydration by either promoting fluid loss or reducing the body’s ability to retain water. Without timely replenishment of water and electrolytes, this fluid imbalance can lead to fatigue, dizziness, dry mouth, and more serious health issues. Here’s a detailed article on 7 simple foods that can help prevent dehydration.

Cucumbers: Cucumbers are made up of about 96% water, making them one of the most hydrating vegetables. They’re also rich in electrolytes and contain a small amount of fiber, which helps maintain fluid balance in the body. Eat them raw in salads, raita, or simply with a dash of salt and lemon for a refreshing snack.

Watermelon: Watermelon is a classic hydrating fruit, containing about 92% water along with natural sugars, potassium, and vitamin C. It’s perfect for hot days when you need both fluids and energy. Enjoy it chilled, in smoothies, or as fresh juice to rehydrate quickly and deliciously.

Coconut Water: Coconut water is nature’s energy drink, rich in electrolytes like potassium, magnesium, and sodium. It’s an excellent choice to restore hydration after sweating, exercise, or heat exposure. Drink it fresh and plain—no need for added sugars or flavors.

Oranges: Oranges are juicy citrus fruits that contain about 86% water and are loaded with vitamin C and potassium. Their natural sugars and electrolytes make them perfect for hydration and energy. Eat them as a snack or squeeze them into a fresh juice to keep your fluid levels up.

Yogurt: While not a liquid, yogurt has a high water content (over 80%) and also provides beneficial probiotics, which support gut health and nutrient absorption. Plain yogurt or curd is especially helpful in hot weather and can be eaten with fruits or blended into a cooling lassi.

Strawberries: Strawberries are about 91% water, making them a sweet and refreshing way to stay hydrated. They’re also packed with vitamin C and antioxidants. Add them to yogurt, smoothies, or eat them fresh for a hydration-boosting treat.

Leafy Greens: Leafy greens such as lettuce and spinach have a high water content (around 90–95%). They also provide essential minerals like magnesium and calcium. Add them to sandwiches, salads, or smoothies to increase your fluid intake while getting a nutritional boost.



Mango Smoothie

Mango Smoothie is a creamy, thick and refreshing beverage made with sweet ripe mangoes blended with milk, yogurt, plant based milk or ice to a smooth consistency. The drink is easy to make as a healthy breakfast or sweet snack. Here I share with you 5 unique mango smoothie recipes with step-by-step instructions and photos. There are versions with yogurt, oats, additional fresh fruits, and even almonds – give them all a try and discover your favorite healthy mango smoothie blend! Fresh and fruity mango smoothie drinks can be prepared several different ways, depending on what you’ve got in the pantry and are craving taste-wise. All of these healthy variations of mango smoothies are filling and can be enjoyed as a snack between meals, or even for a light breakfast or brunch. Use ripe mangoes that are sweet and non-fibrous. I always prefer the Indian variety of alphonso or kesar mangoes to make blended mango drinks. Gently squeeze the mango to make sure it is slightly soft and ripened. Mangoes that are too firm tend to not be as sweet. Choose mangoes that are naturally sweet in taste. Avoid using mangoes that are tangy or have a sweet-tangy taste, as this would require adding extra sugar or sweeteners to balance the tangy taste in the smoothie. Find below 5 unique recipes to make healthy Mango Smoothie. Take your pick depending on the ingredients you have and enjoy the smoothie heaven. The Mango smoothie made with yogurt is similar to Mango Lassi. It’s rich and creamy thanks to the yogurt. I use ground cinnamon



powder in this recipe, but feel free to add ground cardamom or vanilla extract for even more flavor. I use honey as a sweetener in the yogurt based mango smoothie. Other better/healthier sweeteners include unrefined sugar, jaggery or palm jaggery, maple syrup, or coconut sugar. However, if the mangoes are very sweet then skip adding any sweetener. 1. First, rinse and peel 2 small to medium alphonso or kesar mangoes. Chop the mango flesh into small cubes. You will need 1.5 cups of chopped alphonso mangoes cubes total. Add the chopped cubes to a blender or mixer jar. 2. Add 1 cup of fresh curd (yogurt). Also add 3 tablespoons honey or if needed, as mentioned above. 3. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of ground cinnamon powder, roughly 2 or 3 pinches, into the blender jar.

4. Blend to a smooth consistency. 5. Serve each mango smoothie in a tall glass. You can even chill the smoothie in the fridge for a few hours and then serve later. But I do recommend that you enjoy within the same day that it is prepared. This is a very healthy drink and a 3 ingredient recipe made with oats, mangoes and water. You can have the smoothie as-is in a glass, or make a smoothie bowl and top it with your favorite fruits, nuts and seeds. The recipe serves one and you can easily increase the proportions. Note that I have not added any sweetener in the smoothie. If you want, you can add 1 or 2 tablespoons of your preferred sweetener. 1. To make the healthy mango smoothie with oats, you first need to soak ½ cup quick cooking oats or rolled oats in ½ to ¾ cup of water.

Mix well. Cover the bowl and keep in the fridge overnight. 2. When ready to prepare the smoothie, peel and chop 1 large mango into cubes. Add the mango cubes to a blender. 3. Drain the water and add the soaked oats. 4. Blend until smooth. This smoothie is rather thick: If you prefer a slightly medium or thinner consistency, you can add some more water or preferred choice of nut milk while blending. Start with just ¼ cup of your preferred liquid, splashing a bit more in as you blend until the desired thickness is reached. 5. Pour in a glass or bowl. Top with chopped dry fruits, seeds, or fresh berries. For some crunch I like to sprinkle on a tablespoon of chia seeds. Serve the mango oats smoothie as-is, or chill for at least 30 minutes to a few hours in the fridge before enjoying.

Egg recipes that are perfect for Summer brunch

Planning to host a brunch, then try these simple and healthy egg recipes that are perfect an exotic meal. There’s no denying that eggs are a versatile ingredient that can be transformed into a variety of delicious dishes, making them perfect for summer brunch. Light, nutritious, and easy to prepare, these seven egg recipes are ideal for warm weather gatherings and lazy weekend mornings.

Avocado Egg Salad For a refreshing summer twist on the classic egg salad, try adding avocado. The creamy texture of avocado pairs beautifully with hard-boiled eggs, while fresh herbs like dill and parsley add a burst of flavor. Serve it on toast or with crisp lettuce for a light, satisfying brunch option.

Mediterranean Egg Muffins Packed with spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, feta cheese, and herbs, these Mediterranean egg muffins are perfect for brunch. Baked in a muffin tin, they are easy to make ahead and serve warm or at room temperature. Their light, savory flavor makes them perfect for summer gatherings.

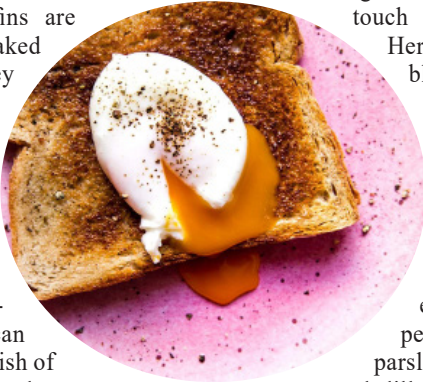
Shakshuka Shakshuka is a North African and Middle Eastern dish of poached eggs in a spiced tomato and bell pepper sauce. Its bold flavors and vibrant colors make it a beautiful centerpiece for brunch. Serve with crusty bread to scoop

up the rich, saucy goodness. Spinach and Feta Frittata A frittata is an excellent choice for brunch because it’s easy to prepare and can be served warm or cold. This spinach and feta version is light yet satisfying, with plenty of fresh greens and a burst of salty flavor from the cheese. Pair it with a simple side salad for a complete meal.

Smoked Salmon and Egg Breakfast Bagel For a touch of elegance, try a smoked salmon and egg breakfast bagel. Scrambled eggs with fresh dill, smoked salmon, and a smear of cream cheese on a toasted bagel make for a delicious, protein-packed brunch option that’s perfect for summer mornings.

Caprese Omelette This omelette features fresh tomatoes, basil, and mozzarella cheese. It’s light, flavorful, and bursting with summer freshness. Drizzle with a bit of balsamic glaze for an extra touch of flavor.

Herb Scrambled Eggs Scrambled eggs with Toasted Bread For a simple yet flavorful option, herb scrambled eggs are perfect. Fresh parsley, chives, and dill add brightness to fluffy scrambled eggs. Serve on whole-grain toast with a side of fresh fruit for a balanced, light brunch.



How coffee and chocolate can boost your mood and immunity

Winter is the season of cozy blankets, crackling fires, and indulgent treats. Yet, it also comes with its challenges — shorter days, colder weather, and an increased risk of catching colds or feeling low. Fortunately, two beloved staples, coffee and chocolate, are here to save the day. Far from being mere indulgences, these two superfoods can uplift your mood and strengthen your immunity during the winter months. Here’s how they do it.

The Strength Of Coffee During Winter: To many individuals, coffee is the trusted reviver. The morning ritual is more than an accustomed routine; it is a practical approach for people to begin their day. However coffee has its own advantage which is more than just getting you up and out of bed. Winter days can sometimes leave a person feeling sad, even when the sun is out but strong which in turn is referred to as seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Having a cup of fresh brewed coffee can help relieve such feelings since it has caffeine which often enhances dopamine releases in the body, strengthening the central nervous system. One can easily warm themselves up on a cold winter’s day by having a cup of coffee which not only hot beverages do but also helps alleviate experiences of tiredness and gloominess.

Improvement in Immunity: Caffeine drinks like coffee are known to be a source of antioxidants such as polyphenols which provide anti-inflammatory benefits as well as enhance immunity. When winter approaches, it triggers the season of colds and flu and in cases like those, antioxidants can be very essential as they prevent one’s body from contracting a cold, or the flu or any other viruses. According to findings of some studies, it was also found that regular coffee drinkers have a better chance of reducing their risk of developing chronic diseases.

Energy and Focus: During winter we have short days and relatively long nights. The temperature outside drops, and it’s easy to cut down precious coffee time. We can however rely on caffeine from coffee and it helps us remain productive. Be it work, or preparing for family reunions, coffee never leaves your side.

Helps to Maintain Your Wavelength with Health Claims: While coffee is superb for energizing us in the morning, it is chocolate that best pairs with us to end the day. Its smooth, sweet, and thick mouthfeel makes it a staple in winter. But if you’re ever in doubt about the richness of chocolate, let it be known that there’s great value in chocolate given its multiple health benefits.

Antidepressant: There is a strong rationale, supported by scientific evidence, for why certain compounds like theobromine and phenylethylamine in dark chocolate can make you feel ecstatic. These compounds influence serotonin levels in the

brain, a neurotransmitter associated with calmness and stress relief. Serotonin helps achieve the tranquility people seek after stress is alleviated. Thus, enjoying a piece of dark chocolate makes perfect sense—it not only helps combat stress but also brings a comforting warmth, especially on a cold night.

Protection Against Infections: Once again, dark chocolate manages to regain a lot of its lost reputation, as it’s also packed with Flavonoids, which are well known to increase the efficiency of the immune system. These mechanisms promote sufficient blood circulation, suppress swelling, and even assist the body in fighting off germs. So if you’re looking to stray away from the potential threats that a lower temperature brings, treating yourself to dark chocolate is a must.

Improved Blood Flow: Quarantine and self-isolation during the winter months have kept a lot of people from being active, which as a result has led to a lot of underlying heart problems. According to extensive research, integrating dark chocolate into one’s diet means that there would be a decrease in blood pressure levels as well

as having enhanced cholesterol. This makes it an excellent addition to your winter wellness routine.

How to incorporate coffee and chocolate into your winter diet? The versatility of coffee and chocolate makes them easy to include in your daily routine. Here are some creative and healthy ways to enjoy them this winter:

Morning Boost: Start your day with a cup of black coffee or a latte made with oat or almond milk. Add a sprinkle of cinnamon or toasted rosemary for a seasonal twist that boosts antioxidant levels and also awakens your tastebuds.

Afternoon Treat: Combine coffee and chocolate by making a mocha. Mix your favorite milk base coffee with a full spoon of 58%–65% dark chocolate for having natural sweet without adding extra load of sugar.

It’s a perfect pick-me-up for chilly afternoons.

Healthy Desserts: Incorporate dark chocolate into your desserts. From chocolate-dipped fruits to a warm cup of melted chocolate have it completely vegan in 58% of Dark chocolate which is not overly sweet and has a fruity flavor profile that complements your choice of fresh fruit, or either you can have its nostalgia sweet and milky by using 42% Milk chocolate.



India's Narayanan,Diptayan, Aronyak advance to the second round

FIDE World Cup 2025:

Indian Grandmaster SL Narayanan and GM Diptayan Ghosh won both their rapid games to clinch their spots in the second round of FIDE World Cup 2025. Indian Grandmaster Ghosh won both their rapid games to clinch their spots in the second round of FIDE World Cup 2025.

Mumbai: GM Narayanan SL and GM Diptayan Ghosh won both their rapid games to clinch their spots in the second round of the FIDE World Cup 2025 while Aronyak Ghosh joined them with a clinical performance in the second stage of the round 1 tiebreak here on Monday.

Playing with black pieces in the first game, Narayanan put himself in the driver's seat to advance to the next round by beating IM Steven Rojas of Peru in 52 moves and then wrapped up the match with white, winning in just 22 moves.

On the adjoining board, Diptayan Ghosh ground out a win in 70 moves in the first game against GM Peng Xiongjian of China thanks to his two advancing pawns in perfect position to revive his queen and then won the next in 46 moves as his opponent pressed



hard to set up a second round clash against GM Ian Nepomniachtchi.

Speaking about his victory, Narayanan said, "I thought I was a favourite in the tie-break. In the shorter format I am pretty strong. It is not my words but in general. Like when I feel down or something, I go to ChatGPT and check who is the stronger player in tiebreaks and this time also according to ChatGPT I was the favourite. My opponent was playing extremely well in the two classic games and I was unsure about what to expect." But I pushed to win with the black and then I was confident with white," added Narayanan, who will now face GM

Nikita Vitiugov of England in the next round.

The FIDE World Cup 2025 is played as a single-elimination knock-out tournament with 206 players from 82 countries vying for the coveted Viswanathan Anand Cup, named after the Indian legend.

Six Indians – Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Pranav V, Raunak Sadhwani, Pranesh M, Karthik Venkatraman, Iniyan Pa – had already booked their second round spots on Sunday and will join eight others who had received a bye in the first round by virtue of being among the top-50 ranked players in the competition.

India is already assured of one spot in the third round as Karthik will face GM Aravindh Chithambaram in the second round on Tuesday. On Monday, the Indian players put the best foot forward in the first game of the tie breaker with Aronyak Ghosh, Diptayan Ghosh, Lalith Babu MR winning their respective matches with white while Narayanan SL winning with black.

Aronyak, who had registered an upset win over Polish GM Mateusz Bartel in the second classic game on Sunday to stay alive in the match, pinned his opponent's queen and king to a corner and forced him to resign after only 19 moves. Rithvik was the only Indian player to lose the opening game of the tiebreak but he made amends by beating Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan with black pieces in 52 moves to stay in the hunt while Aronyak suffered reversals in the second game. Things were smooth for Narayanan in the first game as he repeated his pet opening and did not meet with a proper response. The middle game was level and the Peruvian did not have a clue once the complexities of strategy arrived.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi named in Jitesh Sharma-led India's Asia Cup squad

Mumbai: The inclusion of 14-year-old batting phenom Vaibhav Suryavanshi in the 15-man India A team for the next Rising Asia Cup is yet another significant milestone in his incredible early career. Jitesh Sharma will lead the team, and Naman Dhir will serve as his deputy, according to the BCCI's squad announcement on Monday.

Following months of conjecture on whether the teenage sensation, who dominated the IPL 2025 season, would be given his first senior-level shot, Suryavanshi has finally been included. He quickly became one of the most talked-about young stars in international cricket after dazzling the competition with his aggressive strokeplay and amassing 252 runs in seven games, including a century and a half. His rapid rise didn't stop there. Representing India U19, the right-hander smashed a record-breaking 52-ball hundred against England in Worcester, the fastest century in Youth ODI history. He followed it up with a commanding 113 off 86 balls against Australia U19 in Brisbane, further cement-



ing his reputation as one of India's brightest batting prospects. Apart from Suryavanshi, the Rising Asia Cup squad features several promising names who made waves during IPL 2025 — Nehal Wadhwa, Naman Dhir, Ashutosh Sharma, Gurjapneet Singh, and Vijay Kumar Vyshak. Captain Jitesh Sharma, currently part of India's senior T20I squad in Australia, brings leadership experience and finishing prowess to the group. Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavan-

shi, Nehal Wadhwa, Naman Dhir (VC), Suryansh Shedge, Jitesh Sharma (C) (WK), Ramandeep Singh, Harsh Dubey, Ashutosh Sharma, Yash Thakur, Gurjapneet Singh, Vijay Kumar Vyshak, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Abhisek Porel (WK), Suyash Sharma. At just 14, Vaibhav Suryavanshi continues his meteoric rise in Indian cricket, earning a place in the Jitesh Sharma-led India A squad for the Rising Asia Cup starting November 14 in Qatar.

Bencic pulls out of Hong Kong Open quarterfinal

Mumbai: Top seed Belinda Bencic pulled out of the Hong Kong Open quarterfinals on Friday as the Tokyo Olympic champion became the latest in a long line of players to suffer a late-season injury. The Asian "swing" on the

WTA Tour has been particularly hard-hit by injuries and pull-outs in recent weeks, placing renewed scrutiny on the demanding tennis schedule. Bencic, who was ranked 421 in the world at the start of the season but has climbed to 11, was supposed to meet Spain's Cristina Bucsa in the last eight in Hong Kong. said the 28-year-old Swiss, who won gold at the Covid-delayed Olympics in 2021.

Asian Youth Games

Boxers landmark performance

BFI felicitates young Indian

New Delhi: India's young boxing champions, fresh from a historic performance at the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, were honoured in the capital on Saturday for their outstanding achievements in Manama, Bahrain. India finished No. 1 in women's boxing with four gold medals, emphasising the nation's growing dominance in the sport, a momentum now clearly spreading across all age groups, from youth to elite levels. BFI president Ajay Singh expressed pride in the federation's structured approach and the athletes' rising performance trajectory, saying, "It's a matter of great pride that India has achieved its best-ever performance, winning seven medals, including five golds, four by our women and one by our men. Out of the tournament's total 13 gold medals, five belong to India, which is an outstanding feat." well as former Sports Minister Kiren Rijju, who was the chief guest, alongside Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh and secretary general Pramod Kumar, celebrating the performances and the glorious achievement. The outstanding performance marked India's best-ever showing in youth boxing at the continental level, with the team winning a total of seven medals - four gold, two silver, and one



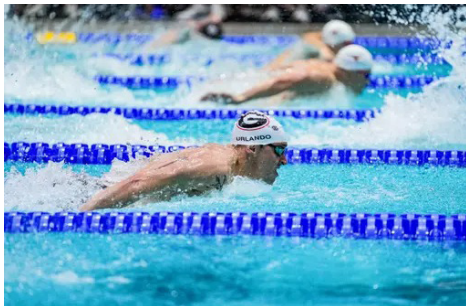
bronze, the highest medal tally achieved by any Indian discipline at the Games. The champions who brought pride to the nation included Khushi Chand (46kg), Ahaana Sharma (50kg), Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (54kg), and Anshika (+80kg), each of whom secured gold medals. Harnoor Kaur (66kg) and Lanchenba Singh Moibungkhongbam (50kg) earned silver, while Anant Deshmukh calling it a reflection of India's growing dominance in international sport. He said, Boxing in Asia is among the toughest in the world, and winning medals here is as challenging and prestigious as doing so at the global level. India is steadily developing its sporting strength, but our journey is far from complete."

Josh Liendo, Anita Bottazzo Brilliant in Florida's Sweep of Georgia

Florida Gators welcomed SEC

Mumbai: The Florida Gators welcomed SEC rival Georgia to town over the past two days and secured a pair of dual-meet victories. Josh Liendo returned to Gainesville to lead his team to a 191-154 victory while Anita Bottazzo was key in the Florida women winning 194-145.

Days after a brilliant performance at the final stop of the World Cup in Toronto, which included a short course meters world record in the 100 butterfly, Liendo had three individual wins against the Bulldogs. During Thursday's session, Liendo won the 50 fly in 19.69 before clocking 18.68 for the win in the 50 free. 1-meter (373.73) and Jesus Agundez Mora on 3-meter (369.38). The team of Scotty Buff, Digler, Painter and Liendo put up a time of 1:17.28 for the win in the 200 free relay. Georgia's Elliot Woodburn took first in the 50 breaststroke (24.00) Thursday and returned



Friday to win both the 100 breast (52.08) and 200 breast Addison Reese for a winning time of 1:37.09. She then dominated the 100 breast in 57.05, just off the 56.87 she recorded earlier this month against Virginia but still ahead of anyone else in this year's national rankings. Bottazzo's third breaststroke win came in the 200, where she clocked 2:07.89.

Despite being exonerated of spot-fixing charges, warning

New Delhi: Brazil international Lucas Paqueta has been reprimanded and warned about his future conduct despite being cleared of spot-fixing allegations this year. An independent commission imposed sanctions after the Premier League player was found to have failed to co-operate with an

English Football Association investigation into the original charges. West Ham forward Paqueta, acting on legal advice, responded "No comment" to numerous questions when interviewed. Potential penalties included a fine and suspension but the commission opted for the lowest punishment after considering

mitigating factors. Among them it noted the FA was "apparently not interested in what the player had to say at the second interview." the FA to be unproven after the governing body claimed he had deliberately received yellow cards in four separate matches between 2022 and 2023 to affect betting markets.

From grit to glory: Behind the scenes of India's historic World Cup win

Mumbai: Harmanpreet Kaur was desperate to win the Women's World Cup this time. But the India skipper was even more determined not to lose it by a small margin, having suffered a similar fate in the past. After the heartbreak of 2017, she was looking to break the jinx — so much so that she called all her teammates hours before the title clash against South Africa and implored them to give their best in the ultimate game of the tournament, said all-rounder Amanjot Kaur. Speaking at the mixed zone after India's maiden World Cup triumph, Amanjot said, "It had been more difficult for her because the highs and lows that she has seen are something that we have not. To lose by small margins is not good, and she had said that this time she does not want to lose out by a small margin — everyone will have to go all out. We were just counting the wickets and not keeping an eye on what the score was." From hitting the winning runs against Australia in the semi-final to taking the catch of in-form South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the title clash, Amanjot played her part in India's winning campaign. In the summit clash, Wolvaardt — looking to up the ante after crossing her hundred — hit one high in the air towards deep mid-wicket. Amanjot fumbled thrice, but managed to hold on to the ball one-handed, giving India the most decisive wicket of the game off Deepti Sharma's bowling. "My God, it was the toughest catch of my life. I have never fumbled before — either I have taken them or dropped them. There has been nothing in between. But for the first time God gave me three chances," she told the media after the match. "It was a crucial catch and we knew she would attack after completing her century and charging from one end," she said. Amanjot had kept her injury hidden from her family before the World Cup and went to the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for recovery. "I haven't spoken at home yet. All I know is that they burst some crackers and my grandparents are asleep," she said.

"In the morning, my aunt told me to just swing without even looking at the ball. My family don't understand cricket much. For them, if the ball hits the bat, it's a four.



If not, you're out. And if you're stuck LBW, then why are you even carrying a bat?" Amanjot also praised Deepti for her massive impact on India's campaign — the senior all-rounder scored 58 in the final and took a five-wicket haul. "Whenever she plays, some record or other gets broken. Deepti is like the glue that holds our team together — whether it's bowling, batting or fielding," she said. Meanwhile, spinner Radha Yadav said the DY Patil Stadium has been lucky for the Indian team. "DY Patil has always been lucky for us. Coming here, we always produce something magical, and everyone in the team, including the players and staff have to come together for it," she said. India pacer Renuka Singh Thakur said it didn't matter if she was overlooked in the initial matches of a triumphant World Cup campaign. "It doesn't matter if you are in or out; all that matters is what the team needs at that point. There was a different combination at that time," she said. Star of the win over mighty Australia women's cricket team in the semi-final, Jemimah Rodrigues said she was pleased with India managing to get over the line in that match.

Arne Slot happy To Welcome Trent Alexander-Arnold's Return Madrid

New Delhi: Trent Alexander-Arnold will receive a hearty welcome from Liverpool manager Arne Slot when he returns to Anfield with Real Madrid on Tuesday. Alexander-Arnold won two Premier Leagues and the Champions League across 10 years with Liverpool after graduating from its academy, but after he announced in May he was leaving his hometown club he was booed by angry Reds fans. The Champions League draw set up a quick return to Liverpool for Alexander-Arnold, who has said he'll love the club for life and has mixed emotions about the upcoming game. He added he was prepared for any reaction from the Liverpool crowd but Slot guaranteed on Monday nothing but affection for one of the stars of



the manager's first season. Alonso was a 2005 Champions League winner with Liverpool and his returns have always been welcoming. "He has to have his own feelings and enjoy it his own way, so I am not going to say how he needs to feel," Alonso said. "For sure his history is different from mine, he was born and bred in Liverpool. I remember him from a

young age in the academy and then coming to the first team and winning the Champions League. "So he needs to enjoy that moment because it is nice to be back and for him it is going to be nice." Slot confirmed Alexander Isak would not be available for the game and was a doubt for Sunday's game against Manchester City after a groin injury.

Sinner returns to the global rankings after winning the Paris Masters

New Delhi: Jannik Sinner reclaimed the No. 1 ranking in men's tennis after beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the Paris Masters final on Sunday. The four-time Grand Slam champion from Italy replaced six-time major winner Carlos Alcaraz at the top as he extended his indoor winning streak to 26 matches, following up victory in Vienna last Sunday with his first Paris title. The ninth-seeded Auger-Aliassime needed to win the tournament at La Défense Arena to clinch the eighth and final spot for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, Italy. But he was unable to trouble Sinner in a one-sided contest which saw Sinner at his clinical best as he won his fifth title of the year and 23rd of his career. Sinner won on his first match point with



a crisp two-handed backhand down the line, tilted his head back and raised his arms. He then patted his heart as he waved his racket to the crowd.