

79th edition of Palasbari Raax festival inaugurated by Assam Governor

● *Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya opened the historic 79th Palasbari Raax festival on Wednesday night in a lavish event at the new Palasbari market.*

Palasbari, Nov 06: The 15-day cultural and spiritual extravaganza honoring Lord Krishna began on Wednesday night when Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya opened the historic 79th edition of the Palasbari Raax festival in a lavish ceremony at the new market of Palasbari.

The festival's opening day, which falls on the anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's passing, started with a moving ensemble rendition of his timeless song "Manuhe Manuhor Babe." A collective performance of "Mayabini Ratir Bukut" accompanied the unveiling of a 17-foot-tall statue of the late musical great Zubeen Garg. "The Raax festival of Palasbari is not just a celebration of devotion, but a reflection of our cultural identity and unity," Governor Acharya said in his inaugural speech, praising the people of South Kamrup for upholding the long-standing custom. It preserves Lord Krishna's spiritual legacy in contemporary times by skillfully



fusing faith, music, and art.

Monimoy Kar, the president of the Raax celebration committee, raised the festival flag earlier in the evening. Syed Zarir Hussain, Editor-in-Chief of News Live, published a book in remembrance.

Palasbari MLA Hemanga Thakuria, Kamrup Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sanjib Saikia,

Palasbari Circle Officer Dr. Ankita Sharma, Palasbari Co-District Superintendent Jan Kishore Gogoi, and a number of other dignitaries and local leaders were among the prominent guests in attendance. At an estimated cost of Rs 70 lakh, the Raax festival includes 42 themed stalls, creative lighting arrangements, and a large entrance gate

created by South Kamrup artisans that is modeled after Rang Ghar. The 15-day celebration of Lord Krishna's life and teachings will last until November 19 and include folk traditions, religious performances, and cultural nights.

On November 6, there will be a media conference. From November 7 to November 9, there will

be a number of cultural events. On November 10, there will be a Dharmalochoni Sabha with notable speakers such as Biswajit Das, Dr. Sunil Mohanty, and Mahesh Mahanta. The Raax Committee expressed optimism that a record number of Assamese devotees and art enthusiasts will participate in this year's festivities.

In Haflong, Committee on Subordinate Legislation conducts spot study tour

Haflong, Nov 06: In order to evaluate the execution, advancement, and practical effects of various developmental projects in the district, a delegation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, led by Chairman Ponakan Baruah, MLA (Chabua), performed a comprehensive spot study visit in Haflong and surrounding districts. Committee members Shri Mrinal Saikia, MLA (Khumtai), Suzam Uddin Laskar, MLA (Katlicherra), Samir Das, Joint Secretary, and Rinelin S. Momin, Under Secretary, accompanied the Chairman. Partha Jahari, ACS, Principal Secretary (in-charge), Rebecca Changsan, ACS, Joint Secretary, ADC Abul Khair Ilias, Noshim Ahmed, ACS, and other district officials were among the senior representatives from the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) who participated in the inspection.

The committee team conducted thorough inspections of ongoing projects, infrastructure conditions, and maintenance work at a number of strategic places



across Haflong, including Ladies Park Approach Road, Lower Haflong, Kelolo, Natun Leikul, Boro Wapu, and Hasong Haju. In order to comprehend local problems and get input on project results, the members also engaged with stakeholders and locals. Heads of agencies (HODs), officials, and employees from several government agencies attended a departmental review meeting later in the day at the

Circuit House Conference Hall in Haflong. Officials examined the state of policy execution and adherence to developmental objectives, provided progress reports, and talked about administrative difficulties during the meeting. The committee's dedication to guaranteeing accountability, openness, and efficient implementation of government projects in hill districts like Dima Hasao was underlined by Chairman Pon-

akan Baruah. Additionally, he urged departments to emphasize the prompt completion of public welfare projects for the benefit of the people and praised the collaboration of local authorities. The committee promised to present a comprehensive report with recommendations to improve the region's administrative efficiency and increase the execution of development programs at the end of the visit.

Excise officials seize drugs, arrest 4 in Mizoram

Aizawl, Nov 06: Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Department officials seized over 15 kg of highly addictive methamphetamine tablets valued at over Rs 45 crore on Monday and arrested four drug peddlers, including two Myanmar nationals. In the first operation in the New Champhai region, officials arrested Zamsianmanga (41) and Ronald Liana (26), both from Sagaing Division, Myanmar, and recovered 10.1 kg of methamphetamine tablets. In a second operation, a vehicle was intercepted near Champhai town, resulting in the seizure of an additional 5.11 kg of methamphetamine and the arrest of two Indian nationals: Sahanoor Alom (26), from Ranigram, Assam, and Golap Hussain (32), from Bagimara, Tripura.



In Brief

Seize drugs

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Drug peddlers caught with arms and ammunition

Imphal: Two interstate drug dealers and about two kilograms of brown sugar from the Sekmai Pangaltabi region under the Sekmai Police station in the Imphal West district were apprehended by Manipur Police on Tuesday in a significant victory against drug trafficking, according to a news release. The police have identified Md. Mustakim from Lilong Lou Manga and Umar Khan from Lilong Chingkhram Maning as the accused in a criminal investigation. The state is conducting intelligence-based operations to capture individuals involved in criminal activities and extortion in the Thoubal area.

4 Kuki militants killed

Imphal: Following a confrontation in Churachandpur, Manipur, security forces recovered a variety of foreign-made firearms and military gear after engaging four armed members of the United Kuki National Army (UKNA). The operation, prompted by rising violence from the UKNA, led to the neutralization of insurgents and the discovery of weapons such as a 7.62 mm self-loading rifle and an AK-56. The UKNA's actions, including the murder of a local village chief and extortion of significant sums from local entities, highlight its ongoing threat to regional peace. The firefight resulted in casualties among security personnel, and further military supplies were found in subsequent searches.

Mawryngkneng clash

Shillong, Nov 06: Following a violent altercation that occurred at Mawryngkneng Junction on Wednesday at around 12:40 am when police were escorting cement and clinker trucks from Puriang, four persons have been taken into custody. About 200 persons, primarily members of the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA), allegedly blocked the convoy, according to East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem. "The Magistrate on duty had already appealed to the crowd not to obstruct the movement of trucks, but they did not relent," Syiem added. In order to disperse the rowdy mob, authorities were forced to use a lathi charge. In a recent incident, a truck handyman was abducted by a mob, while another driver was injured due to crowd violence. Authorities have instituted naka checking and truck escorts by police in Ri Bhoi and West Jaintia Hills. Four individuals were arrested, including MCTODA President Moslandar Marngar. Three cases have been filed at Mawryngkneng Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Meghalaya Maintenance of Public Order Act, addressing crimes such as obstruction, abduction, and attempted murder.

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Assam State Chief Information Commissioner regingd from post

Guwahati, Nov 06: Assam's Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta has resigned from his post following a series of Right to Information (RTI) petitions filed against his brother, entrepreneur and cultural organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta. According to sources, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had advised Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta to step down in light of the RTI applications seeking information related to his brother's activities. Accepting the Chief Minister's advice, Mahanta tendered his resignation from the post. Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, a former Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam, had assumed charge as the State Chief Information Commissioner earlier this year. Mahanta was an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer from the 1988 batch who previously served as Director General of Border. He is well-known for his outstanding service and dedication to the state police force. His resignation comes amid growing scrutiny over transparency and accountability in public offices following the RTI revelations. The state government is yet to announce a successor to the post.



Dibrugarh University's water management training program comes to an end

Dibrugarh, Nov 06: In partnership with North East India Water Talks (NEI-WT), the Center for Social Work Studies (CSWS) at Dibrugarh University concluded a comprehensive seven-day water training program from October 22 to October 28.

Forty MSW students from the five North-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura participated in the program, which was sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, New Delhi Office, and the North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS). The week's combination of expert lectures, group projects, and practical field experience was intended to enhance participants' comprehension of the social, ecological, and policy as-

pects of water. Urban water management and rainwater harvesting, groundwater contamination, aquatic biodiversity, water and disasters, gendered water concerns, climate-water links, and community-based water strategies were just a few of the many topics covered in the sessions. Prof. Dolly Phukan welcomed attendees to the program, where Dr. Monuj Dutta emphasized the importance of community-driven water solutions in the Northeast. Sessions were led by experts, including Vishwanath Srikantaiah and Dr. Partha Jyoti Das. A field visit to Dodhiya village provided insights into local water livelihoods and adaptation strategies, concluding with participant reflections and proposals for community-based initiatives.

New Meghalaya Assembly building likely to ne vcompleted by June 2026: Speaker Thomas Sangma



Shillong, Nov 06: The new Meghalaya Legislative Assembly building is set for completion by June 2026, as announced by Assembly Speaker Thomas A. Sangma during a review meeting. Initially targeted for March 2025, the completion has been delayed due

to the vendors requesting an extension for essential interior works. To ensure progress, monthly review meetings will occur, with the next one on December 8, 2025. Sangma assured that the delay will not affect finances and highlighted the project's technical complexities, includ-

ing audio-visual systems and security features. The redesigned dome has been approved by IIT Guwahati and IIT Roorkee for its weight distribution. Plans for a second project phase, including staff quarters, are underway, with necessary approvals sought from Central Ministries.

Fadnavis orders an investigation into a land deal in Pune involving the son of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar

Pune, Nov 06: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has initiated an investigation into allegations of irregularities surrounding a land deal in Pune involving Parth Pawar, the son of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Fadnavis stated, “I have sought all the information. A probe has also been ordered... will bring out the truth in this matter,” highlighting the seriousness of the situation as the state government has suspended a sub-registrar and appointed a three-member committee to look into the deal.

The scrutiny arises from accusations that the sub-registrar’s office improperly waived ₹21 crore in stamp duty for the registration of a significant 40-acre land sale in Mundhwa, valued at ₹300 crore, to Amedea Enterprises LLP, where Parth Pawar is a partner. This transaction took place in May and the land is situated close to the affluent Koregaon Park area in Pune.

Revenue Minister Chan-



drashekhar Bawankule emphasized that the committee’s task is to ascertain whether the stamp duty exemption was legally justified, referencing specific laws concerning Mahar Watan land, which pertains to land grants made to the Mahar community. Bawankule has directed the committee to ensure compliance with legal provisions related to such exemptions.

Inspector General of Registration and Controller of Stamps, Ravindra Binwade, indicated that the committee is expected to deliver its findings within ten days. He explained that the investigation would focus on understanding the circumstances leading to

the stamp duty exemption and scrutinizing the relevant documentation. The committee will be led by the joint inspector general of registration.

Notably, attempts to contact Parth Pawar for comments have been unsuccessful. Additionally, it surfaced that both the registered address of Amedea Enterprises and Parth Pawar’s residence in Pune’s Yawant Nagar are identical, and the documentation for the land sale lists Amedea Enterprises as the buyer, signed by Digvijay Amarsinh Patil, the company’s other partner. This revelation raises further questions about the legitimacy of the transaction and the associated regulatory processes.

Spy camera found inside women’s hostel bathroom

Chennai, Nov 06: A woman and her male friend were arrested in Hosur for installing a hidden camera in the bathroom of a women’s hostel at Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd. The incident occurred in Vidiyal Residency, which houses over 6,000 women employees. Neelukumari Gupta, a 22-year-old employee from Odisha, installed the

camera at the behest of her friend, Santhosh, who was arrested in Bengaluru. The camera was discovered following a protest by the women after its installation on November 2. Authorities, including the Additional Collector and Superintendent of Police, responded to ensure safety and check for additional hidden cameras.

The Karnataka High Court declines to lift the government’s order limiting public gatherings

Bengaluru, Nov 06: The Karnataka High Court maintained an interim stay on an October 18 state government order that limited public gatherings to 10 people, amid disputes between the Congress government and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh over march permissions.

The court ruled that peaceful assembly cannot be curtailed without legislative ap-



proval.

The government’s representative argued that the order was not a prohibition but

a regulation requiring prior permission for large gatherings, emphasizing public order and property protection. However, a senior advocate contended that restricting assembly rights must be grounded in public order, claiming the order was arbitrary and could impose unreasonable requirements on citizens wishing to use public spaces.

The BJP refers to Rahul Gandhi’s press conference as laughable As jabs fly, Cong responds with chup baith

Patna, Nov 06: As Bihar approaches its elections, a fierce exchange unfolds between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress, particularly over recent allegations made by Rahul Gandhi regarding electoral fraud in Haryana. In a press conference, Gandhi accused the BJP of engaging in “duplicate, fake, and bulk” voting during the 2024 Haryana assembly elections, referencing a Brazilian model reportedly registered on the electoral roll 22 times under various names.

Gandhi’s claims, termed ‘The H-Files’, allege that the Election Commission of India is complicit with the ruling party to undermine the electoral process. The BJP’s response has been to label Gandhi’s allegations as ridiculous and a distraction from pressing issues ahead of the Bihar elections. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta criticized Gandhi, suggesting that he and his allies are corrupt and attempting to mislead voters, while Union Minister Kiren Rijiju ridiculed Gandhi for his foreign trips, implying they were distractions from serious political engagement.

BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya condemned Gandhi’s accusations as a deliberate effort to undermine trust in democratic institutions, pointing to past dismissals of such claims by authority figures. In turn, Congress member Supriya Shrinete countered Malviya’s statement with a brief rebuke. Additionally, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis mocked Gandhi’s prior claims of a ‘Hydrogen bomb’, arguing they fell flat and accusing him of obstructing democratic



processes in alignment with external forces aimed at discrediting India’s democracy.

Goa CM imposed National Security Act in state for 3 months

Goa, Nov 06: The Goa government has enacted the National Security Act (NSA) for three months, beginning November 5, in response to escalating concerns over public order in the North and South districts. This measure allows authorities to detain individuals for up to one year if deemed necessary to prevent activities threatening public order. This decision was made after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who oversees the home portfolio, requested a formal proposal from the police, following reports that previous preventive arrests were inadequate against repeat offenders and organized crime.

Since August 1, 2025, numerous offenders have been detained under preventive arrest laws but these actions were insufficient to curb the activities of habitual criminals and organized groups. The police emphasized the need for the District Magistrate to be granted authority under Section 3(2) of the NSA to prevent actions harmful to public safety.



The push for NSA implementation increased after the assault on activist Rama Kankonkar on September 18, which ignited public protests. In response, opposition leaders called for the invocation of the NSA against the assailants. Eight individuals were arrested, including seven known as “history-sheeters” associated with organized crime. Opposition MLA Carlos Ferreira supported the NSA’s application but emphasized the importance of adhering to legal safeguards, noting that the request aligns with the provisions of the NSA allowing District Magistrates certain powers.

Calls for the NSA emerged amid several violent incidents, including a notable gang clash in mid-August involving a group attack with weapons, highlighting the urgency for stringent measures to ensure public safety.

SC chastises the UP transport body for denying MP PVT operators a permit

New Delhi, Nov 06: The Supreme Court of India has criticized the Uttar Pradesh state road transport corporation (UPSRTC) for denying permits to inter-state private stage carriage operators from Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing the need for accountability among state transport authorities in serving public interest.



A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih ordered the relevant authorities from both states to convene within three months to discuss the establishment of an inter-state reciprocal transport agreement. The court highlighted that the transportation sector requires active oversight to ensure it serves the best interests of commuters.

During the proceedings, the court addressed an appeal from UPSRTC against a 2014 decision by

the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which mandated that the UP transport authority countersign permits issued by the Madhya Pradesh government to facilitate private operators’ access into Uttar Pradesh. The Justices pointed out that passenger convenience should be a top priority, warning that obstructing stage carriage services could lead to significant public inconvenience and undermine the purpose of inter-state transport agree-

The Supreme Court criticized the Uttar Pradesh road transport corporation for its refusal to issue permits to inter-state private stage carriage operators from Madhya Pradesh.

ments. The bench underscored the advancements in India’s road transport sector and the critical role of transport authorities in facilitating smooth inter-state operations. It acknowledged the evolving infrastructure, which has seen a remarkable transformation in terms of connectivity and service quality, aided by digital advancements that enhance passenger experiences and operational efficiencies.

The court also recognized the need for a cooperative framework between the two states to resolve issues concerning overlapping routes of inter-state and intra-state transportation, urging for mitigating the negative impacts on public transport.

While suggesting that both states should explore possibilities of policy adjustments regarding route approvals, the court clarified that such policy decisions are ultimately the prerogative of the state governments. Overall, the Supreme Court’s ruling emphasizes collaboration and proactive measures to enhance commuter services in the context of inter-state transport.

Kerala will file a lawsuit against SIR

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 06: An all-party meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, agreed to legally contest the Election Commission of India’s (ECI) decision to implement the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kerala. All political parties present, except the BJP, supported this action. The meeting follows a similar gathering in Tamil Nadu, where the state also decided to challenge the SIR in the Supreme Court, as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal prepare for upcoming Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister expressed that a legal opinion would be sought to dispute the SIR in light of the forthcoming local body elections. He criticized the move to revise the voter list based on outdated data from 2002, stating it was unscientific and had ulterior motives. Opposition leader VD Satheesan showed agreement with the Chief Minister’s concerns and indicated his willingness to join the legal challenge. The CPI(M) state secretary, MV Govindan, condemned the SIR as unconstitutional and anti-democratic.

With local body polls scheduled for late 2023, major parties from both the LDF and UDF suggested deferring the SIR to prevent logistical issues involving government officials. Earlier, the Kerala Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution urging the ECI to halt the nationwide SIR implementation, asserting it undermined democratic processes and fueled suspicions regarding the potential initiation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The SIR process involves training election officers and conducting house-to-house enumeration, with milestones extending into early 2026 for draft publication and final electoral lists. Approximately 207,000 enumeration forms were dispatched across Kerala as the enumeration phase commenced.

Bihar’s poll mood is shaped by welfare programs and caste equations

Patna, Nov 06: In Bihar’s electoral landscape, welfare schemes significantly influence voter preferences, particularly as the assembly polls approach. A busy photocopy shop in Gaya exemplifies the anticipation surrounding new government initiatives, with citizens preparing documentation for potential benefits.

Key figures like Vijay Singh, a 72-year-old Rajput, express unwavering support for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his NDA ally, the BJP, citing substantial pension increases and free medical care as reasons. The NDA’s promise of 10 million jobs aims to rival the RJD’s commitment to deliver government jobs to households.

Caste dynamics remain



During the first phase of the Bihar assembly election, people are seen queuing to cast their votes.

pivotal, with the NDA appealing to upper castes while the RJD rallies its traditional Muslim and Yadav bases, particularly in light of recent violence that has intensified voter alignment along caste lines. Political factions are campaigning to solidify their support bases, with notable figures like Jitin Ram Manjhi gaining traction among Dalits by representing their

struggles.

Despite calls for caste transcendence, polling remains heavily influenced by caste affiliations across various regions in Bihar, with the RJD led alliance benefiting from historical voting trends. Experts predict that the elections will be fiercely contested, centered on caste-based coalitions rather than broader class issues.

The JNUSU election results indicate a close race between ABVP and Left Unity

New Delhi, Nov 06: Vote counting for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) elections revealed a competitive race between the Left Unity alliance and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) across four central panel posts.

The Left Unity coalition, which comprises the All India Students’ Association (AISA), Students’ Federation of India (SFI), and Democratic Students’ Federation (DSF), is in a contentious battle primarily against the ABVP. After the counting of 4,340 votes, Aditi Mishra from Left Unity leads the presidential race with 1,375 votes, followed by Vikas Patel of

According to sources, there are approximately 1,500 votes remaining to be counted.

the ABVP with 1,192 votes, and Shinde Vijayalakshmi of the Progressive Students’ Association (PSA) with 915 votes.

In the vice-presidential contest, Left Unity’s K. Gopika Babu is currently ahead with 2,146 votes compared to ABVP’s Tanaya Kumari, who has 1,437 votes. The general secretary position is closely contested, with ABVP’s Rajeshwar Kant Dubey garnering 1,496 votes, barely ahead of Left Unity’s Sunil Yadav who has 1,367 votes. The joint secretary race is also

tight, where Danish Ali of the Left Unity has 1,447 votes and ABVP’s Anuj Damara is slightly leading with 1,494 votes.

As the counting progresses, approximately 1,500 votes remain uncounted, with the final results anticipated later in the day. The elections, held on Tuesday, saw a turnout of 67%, which is a slight decrease from 70% the previous year. The election day was marked by animated student participation, with activities such as drum beats and slogan shouting at voting booths. The Election Committee has indicated that the conclusive results are expected to be announced on Thursday night.

In the Tribunal Reforms Act case, CJI Gavai criticizes the Center

Mumbai, Nov 06: Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai expressed strong disapproval of the Union government’s repeated requests for adjournments in the hearings concerning the constitutional validity of the Tribunal Reforms Act. He confronted Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati about the government’s apparent desire for the case to be addressed only after his term ends on November 23.

Gavai pointed out that despite three adjournments for the Attorney General’s in-

volvement in international arbitration, he has not appeared in court. The CJI criticized the government’s late-night application seeking to refer the matter to a Constitution bench after arguments had concluded, asserting that it was unfair and disrespectful to the court’s process.

This confrontation mirrors a prior disagreement on November 3, where the bench criticized the Union’s last-minute request to refer the case to a five-judge bench after full arguments were presented by the petitioners. Se-



nior advocate Arvind Datar, representing the Madras Bar Association, argued against the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, highlighting prior Supreme Court rulings which emphasized judicial independence and the importance of a separation of powers.

■ On November 3, the Chief Justice of India-led bench rejected the government’s late request to refer the case to a five-judge bench.

The government’s pending application emphasizes substantial constitutional questions that challenge the authority of the Supreme Court in directing parliamentary legislation, indicating ongoing tensions surrounding the judicial independence and executive oversight within the judicial appointment process.

Shashi Tharoor’s joke about Delhi’s AQI: “burden of performance on lungs”

New Delhi, Nov 06: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor criticized the deteriorating air quality in Delhi, indicating that as pollution increases, the “burden of performance on the lungs will increase.” His comments were made on social media amidst reports of hazy conditions and an alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 271, categorizing it as ‘poor’. The air quality is projected to worsen, potentially reaching the ‘very poor’ range, as forecasted by the Air Quality Early Warning System. Consequently, Delhi’s hospitals have seen a surge in respiratory cases, with doctors noting a significant rise—between 22% to 25%—in bronchitis, asthma, and sinusitis patients. Dr. Pulin Gupta from PGIMER highlighted



that outpatient departments (OPDs) are overwhelmed with patients suffering from various respiratory ailments, including acute asthma attacks and other conditions like sinusitis, runny noses, and eye irritations. He emphasized that individuals with pre-existing respiratory

conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are particularly susceptible to pollution’s adverse effects. Additionally, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) indicate a continuous decline in air quality, with the AQI deteriorating from 202 on November 5 to higher levels in subsequent days. Specific areas such as Burari Crossing, Dwarka Sector 8, and ITO reported poor air quality, while Narela and Bawana reached levels classified as ‘very poor’. In light of these conditions, authorities have advised residents, especially vulnerable populations like children and the elderly, to minimize outdoor activities and utilize protective masks when outside.

Modi, Shah, Sitharaman and Rajnath to visit Assam for major project launches

Guwahati, Nov 06: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on November 6 that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit the state between November 7 and 9 to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of major projects.

According to the Chief Minister, Sitharaman will arrive in Guwahati on November 7 for a two-day visit. She is scheduled to inspect the new semiconductor plant in Jagiroad and inaugurate several key infrastructure projects.

“Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will come tomorrow (November 7); she will inspect the new semiconductor plant at Jagiroad. She will inaugurate a new land water terminal built to world standards and a riverfront garden in Guwahati. On November 8, she will lay the foundation stone of Kanaklata Barua State University, a new greenfield university,” Sarma said.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will arrive in Guwahati on November 9 to attend the Indian Air Force’s aero show at Lachit Ghat. “Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will come on November 9, and he will witness the aero show conducted by the Indian Air Force,” the Chief Minister told reporters.

Police arrest 4 persons so far in connnection with clash with protesting truckers at Mawryngkneng

Violent clash at Mawryngkneng junction

Shillong, Nov 06: Four people have been arrested following a violent clash that broke out at Mawryngkneng junction around 12:40 a.m. on Wednesday when police were escorting cement and clinker trucks from Puriang.

The convoy was reportedly obstructed by about 200 people, mostly members of the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA).

Informing this police said, the Magistrate on duty had already appealed to the crowd not to obstruct the movement of trucks, but they did not relent. Hence, police had to resort to lathi charge to disperse the violent mob. Those arrested have been identified as Heibor Pariat of Raid West Jaintia Hills, Teibor Marngar of Rambrai, Thrangbor Lyngdoh of Kyrdum, and Moslandar Marngar, President of MCTODA, of Mawkawah in West Khasi Hills.

Three cases have been registered at Mawryngkneng Police Station under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Meghalaya Maintenance of Public

Order (MMPO) Act for obstruction, abduction, assault, kidnapping, and attempted murder. East Khasi Hills District Magistrate Rosetta Mary Kurbah, IAS, has invoked Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to prohibit demonstrations, rallies, and gatherings in the Mawryngkneng area.

The order follows escalating tensions between the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA) and cement companies over compliance with state-notified ferry charges.

The move from the district administration came after reports emerged of police resorting to lathi charge and the use of tear gas to disperse protesting truckers at Mawryngkneng on Tuesday.

Four individuals were arrested following a violent confrontation at Mawryngkneng junction during a police escort of cement trucks.

Nagaland Advisor Imkong L Imchen tours villages, reaffirms development and public service commitments

Kohima, Nov 06: Advisor for IPR and Soil & Water Conservation, Imkong L Imchen, conducted an extensive tour of Chungtia, Sabangya, and Aliba villages on Wednesday, engaging with village council members and local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) units while assessing developmental prospects in the region.

During his interactions, Imchen expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Koridang Constituency for entrusting him with representation for five consecutive terms.

He emphasized that his dedication to public service is sincere and rooted in a commitment to the welfare of the community.

Addressing concerns related to political identity, the advisor clarified that while certain communities may support a particular party, the party itself does not belong to any religion, urging citizens to distinguish between political affiliation and faith. Responding to requests from local councils, Imchen shared that road upgradation



Advisor for IPR and Soil & Water Conservation, Imkong L Imchen, toured Chungtia, Sabangya, and Aliba villages, meeting with local council members and BJP units to evaluate development opportunities.

projects under the ‘Other Roads Plan’ are set to begin soon in Chungtia village. He noted that all necessary equipment and materials are ready, and the project will be supervised by Executive Engineer (R&B) Mokokchung, Er. Toshikaba, with the support of Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio.

At Aliba village, Imchen assured council members that the proposed rest house and multi-purpose building will be implemented in a phased manner in the near future, reflecting the government’s commitment to infrastructure and community development.

The tour underscored Imchen’s focus on strengthening local governance, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering public trust, reinforcing his pledge to serve the people of Koridang with transparency and dedication.

NMC okays 100 new MBBS seats for Tripura medical colleges

Agartala, Nov 06: To strengthen medical education and healthcare infrastructure, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has sanctioned 50 additional MBBS seats each for Tripura Medical College (TMC) and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Teaching Hospital in Agartala, Chief Minister Manik Saha announced on Tuesday.

With this latest approval, TMC’s intake capacity has increased from 100 to 150 seats, raising the total number of MBBS seats in the state to 450. Chief Minister Saha described the development as “a major step forward in Tripura’s efforts to expand medical education and improve healthcare access,” highlighting the government’s continuous focus on strengthening the sector.

Over the past three years, Tripura has secured a total of 225 additional MBBS seats, reflecting a steady progress in medical infrastructure and education. The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda for their ongoing support in enhancing healthcare facilities in the state.

“This achievement is a remarkable milestone in our mission to provide quality medical education and ensure better healthcare services for the people of Tripura,” Saha said in a social media post, reaffirming the government’s commitment to nurturing skilled medical professionals for the region. The expansion is expected to benefit thousands of aspiring medical students while contributing to improved healthcare delivery across Tripura, aligning with broader national objectives for accessible and quality medical services.

Child artists Jetshen and Binita to enchant audiences at 100 drums Wangala Festival's Golden Jubilee

Shillong, Nov 06: As Meghalaya prepares to celebrate the 50th edition of the 100 Drums Wangala Festival, excitement is building for performances by child stars Jetshen Dohna of SaRe-GaMa fame and Binita Chetry from Britain’s Got Talent. The milestone event will be held from November 6 to 8 at Wangala A’dam, Chibragre, West Garo Hills, highlighting five decades of tradition, rhythm, and community gratitude.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma will inaugurate the three-day festival as Chief Guest, joined by several Union Ministers and distinguished personalities. The Wangala Festival, a post-harvest thanksgiving ceremony honoring Misi Saljong—

the revered “Great Giver”—showcases Garo heritage through music, dance, and rituals. This year’s celebration will feature over 300 drummers and 3,000 dancers across ten contingents from different parts of the Garo Hills. In addition to traditional performances, the festival will host indigenous sports, folk song competitions, exhibitions of oral traditions, and displays of local cuisine. The festivities will culminate with the grand Rugala and Chachat So’a rituals. Rikman Sangma, Chairman of the Festival Committee, highlighted the event’s growing national and international appeal, while emphasizing the need for great-

er financial and media support to sustain its prominence. “Wangala is not only a cultural celebration but a reflection of the unity, resilience, and living spirit of the Garo people,” he said. Chonseng Sangma from the Nokma Council announced that the upcoming 100 Drums Wangala Festival will feature performances by artists from Bangladesh and promises a diverse program. The 2026 festival aims to include 1,000 drummers and 3,000 dancers, showcasing the cultural rhythm of the Garo community. This festival is a vibrant celebration in Northeast India, blending tradition with modernity and promoting community unity.

Sonowal pays tribute to Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

Guwahati, Nov 06: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, paid a solemn tribute to the legendary singer, lyricist, and composer Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika on his death anniversary at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport on Wednesday. Remembering the cultural icon, Sonowal lauded Dr. Hazarika’s remarkable contributions to Indian music and culture. Describing him as a timeless voice of unity and humanism, the minister emphasized how the maestro’s creations continue to inspire people across generations. The tribute at the airport was a moving reminder of Dr. Hazarika’s enduring influence on Assamese and Indian culture. Fondly known as “Sudhakantha” or the nectar-throated singer, his songs carry messages of love, humanity, and social harmony. Over the decades, his melodies have transcended linguistic and cultural barriers, leaving an indelible mark on the nation’s musical heritage. As fans and admirers reflect on his contributions, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika’s legacy continues to resonate, reminding everyone of the power of art to unite and inspire.

Assam CM Inaugurates Amrit Kalash Yatra

Guwahati, Nov 06: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Amrit Kalash Yatra, emphasizing community participation with locals donating soil for development. A total of 540 Kalash were collected, with 270 sent to Delhi for the Amrit Batika project and 270 preserved locally. This initiative supports the construction of Kanaklata Barua State University in Gohpur, backed by a Rs.500 crore budget, aiming to enhance higher education in Assam.

Arunachal Governor urges quality boost and youth empowerment in higher education



Itanagar, Nov 06: Arunachal Pradesh Governor emphasized the need to strengthen higher education by focusing on quality, innovation, and youth empowerment during a high-level meeting with representatives from Himalayan University and the state’s Department of Higher Education (RUSA) at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

The Governor called for urgent measures to raise academic standards across government and private institutions, highlighting the importance of skill-based and leadership-focused programmes to prepare students for national growth and employability. Stressing youth empowerment as a key priority, he urged universities to design curricula that align with the evolving needs of the job market and contribute to the state’s socio-economic development.

Discussions also explored Arunachal Pradesh’s potential in agriculture and industry. The Governor pointed to

opportunities in vegetable exports and agro-based enterprises, stressing the importance of collaboration between universities, government agencies, and private stakeholders to drive research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The delegation included Prakash Divakaran, Vice-Chancellor of Himalayan University; Minto Ete, Deputy Director of Higher Education (RUSA); Vijay Tripathi, Registrar; and Kido Bagra, Deputy Registrar. Speaking on the occasion, Divakaran reaffirmed the university’s commitment to advancing education and socio-economic growth in the state and appreciated the Governor’s guidance. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to promoting academic excellence, sustainable development, and leadership among the youth, signaling a focused push towards a more skilled and empowered generation in Arunachal Pradesh.

CM Lalduhoma highlights state’s stand as second least corrupt in India

Aizawl, Nov 06: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Tuesday hailed the state’s achievement as the second least corrupt in India, calling it a “milestone” for Mizoram. He made the announcement while addressing the diamond jubilee celebration of the Mara Students’ Organisation (MSO). Citing findings from a recent corruption study, believed to be the CMS India Corruption Study report, Lalduhoma emphasized the significance of this recognition.

“According to a researcher, our state is the second least corrupt in the country. This is a milestone for our state,” the chief minister said, underscoring the administration’s commitment to clean governance and transparency. Highlighting Mizoram’s growing appeal as a tourism hub, Lalduhoma described the state as one of the best-performing in the North-

east in terms of visitor interest and attractions. He urged young people to actively participate in upholding integrity and to work alongside the government in combating corruption at every level. Since the formation of the Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) government in December 2023, Lalduhoma noted that 515 new jobs have been created up to August this year. Additionally, 2,087 posts have been approved for direct recruitment, along with 532 positions to be filled through limited departmental examinations, reflecting the administration’s focus on employment generation and transparent governance. The chief minister’s remarks reinforced Mizoram’s commitment to ethical administration, public accountability, and youth involvement in building a corruption-free state, signaling a focused effort to balance development with integrity.



Mawryngkneng clash

Shillong, Nov 06: Following a violent altercation that occurred at Mawryngkneng Junction on Wednesday at around 12:40 am when police were escorting cement and clinker trucks from Puriang, four persons have been taken into custody. About 200 persons, primarily members of the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA), allegedly blocked the convoy, according to East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem. “The Magistrate on duty had already appealed to the crowd not to obstruct the movement of trucks, but they did not relent,” Syiem added. In order to disperse the rowdy mob, authorities were forced to use a lathi charge. In a recent incident, a truck handyman was abducted by a mob, while another driver was injured due to crowd violence. Authorities have instituted naka checking and truck escorts by police in Ri Bhoi and West Jaintia Hills. Four individuals were arrested, including MCTODA President Moslandar Marngar. Three cases have been filed at Mawryngkneng Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Meghalaya Maintenance of Public Order Act, addressing crimes such as obstruction, abduction, and attempted murder.

BUSINESS

India's electronics output jumps 6x driven by mobile revolution

Mumbai: Over the last decade, India has witnessed a massive transformation in its technology and industrial sectors, with mobile phones emerging as the driving force behind its electronics boom. Once known as a major importer of electronic goods, India has now become a global hub for electronics and mobile manufacturing, according to Kuwait Times report. The growth numbers tell the story. The country's electronics output has jumped nearly six times — from \$21 billion in 2015 to \$128 billion in 2025. This remarkable rise has been powered by strong government support, improved technological capabilities, a skilled workforce, and growing confidence among global investors. This sector has also created about 2.5 million jobs in the last ten years, becoming a key driver of India's in-



clusive economic growth. Initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019, and the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) have attracted big global players and encouraged domestic innovation. Mobile phones have played a central role in India's digital journey. Today, more than 85 per cent of Indian households own a smartphone. Affordable handsets, cheap internet data, and expanding digital infrastructure have allowed millions to participate in the digital economy. Platforms like UPI, DigiLocker, and Aadhaar-enabled services have made digital access easier even in remote areas.

Microsoft veteran opens up about being laid off after 30 years

New Delhi: For more than three decades, Mike Kostersitz had one constant in his life — Microsoft. He joined the company when personal computers were just becoming mainstream and built his entire career there, rising to the role of principal product manager lead on the Azure team. So when the 60-year-old received a sudden meeting invite one morning in May, he didn't think much of it. The day before, his team had met a senior leader, and everything had seemed normal. But what followed caught him completely off guard. "Me and 120 other anonymous faces got told our jobs had been eliminated," said Kostersitz, who lives in Washington state. His manager and two of his direct reports

were also affected, along with about 6,000 others across the company. The news, he said, came without any warning or personal communication. "After 31 years, you would expect at least your manager or your VP or somebody to come to you and say, 'Hey Mike, this is going to happen and here is why,'" he said. As reported by Business Insider, Kostersitz's story is one of many from long-time employees caught in the wave of Big Tech layoffs over the past year. Microsoft's job cuts, the company said, were part of its effort to simplify structures and reduce management layers. But for those who've given decades to the organisation, the shift felt abrupt and deeply personal.

Revenue increases 30% while profit

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Tuesday reported a 29 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,120 crore for the quarter ended September 2025 (Q2 FY26). Revenue grew 30 per cent YoY to Rs 9,167 crore, supported by robust performance across domestic ports, logistics and marine segments. H1 EBITDA margin of 74.2 per cent, reflecting continued operational efficiency.

ED attaches Rs 11.14 crore in assets from Raina and Dhawan in 1xBet betting probe

Mumbai: In a significant move, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 11.14 crore belonging to former Indian cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan. The action comes as part of the ED's investigation into illegal offshore betting operations linked to the platform 1xBet and its associated brands, including 1xBat and 1xBat Sporting Lines. The ED's probe reveals that both cricketers knowingly endorsed these illegal entities, despite being aware of their unlicensed status in India.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken stern action by attaching assets worth Rs 11.14 crore belonging to former cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. This follows an investigation into illegal offshore betting activities tied to the platform 1xBet and its surrogate brands, 1xBat and 1xBat Sporting Lines. The ED issued a provisional order attaching mutual fund investments worth Rs 6.64 crore in Raina's name and an immovable property val-

ued at Rs 4.5 crore owned by Dhawan. The ED's investigation revealed that both cricketers entered into endorsement agreements with foreign entities linked to 1xBet, promoting the illegal betting platform. According to sources, payments for these promotions were funnelled through foreign intermediaries using layered transactions designed to obscure the illicit origin of the funds. The money was then made to appear as legitimate endorsement income, making it difficult to trace the criminal origins.

SBI will use an IPO to sell a 6.3% share in SBI Funds Management

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday announced plans to divest 3,20,60,000 equity shares, representing 6.3 per cent of the total equity capital of SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML), through an Initial Public Offering (IPO), subject to regulatory approvals. Amundi India Holding, the other promoter of SBIFML, will offload 1,88,30,000 equity shares, equivalent to 3.7 per cent of the total equity capital. In total, 5,08,90,000 shares, representing 10 per cent of SBIFML's equity, will be listed. Both promoters have jointly initiated the IPO process, which is expected to be completed in 2026. SBI Mutual Fund, established in 1987 as India's first non-UTI mutual fund, is sponsored by SBI. In 1992, SBI Funds Management Ltd was incorporated as a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI to serve as the investment manager for SBI Mutual Fund. Currently, SBI and Amundi India Holding hold 61.91 per cent and 36.36 per cent stakes in SBIFML, respectively. SBIFML is the country's largest asset management company (AMC), commanding a market share of 15.55 per cent with a Quarterly Average Assets Under Management (QAAUM) of Rs 11.99 lakh crore for Q2 FY2025-26 and assets under



management (AUM) of Rs 16.32 lakh crore under alternates as of September 30, 2025. SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty said, "SBI Funds Management Ltd will be the third subsidiary of SBI to be listed after SBI Cards and SBI Life Insurance. Considering SBIFML's sustained strong performance and market leadership, it is an opportune time to launch the IPO process. The IPO will maximize value for stakeholders, cre-

ate opportunities for investors, and enhance the company's public visibility." Valerie Baudson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Amundi, added, "Over the years, SBI Funds Management Ltd has established itself as the leader in India's asset management industry. This IPO will unlock the value jointly created by SBI and Amundi, which will continue their long-term partnership in India's fast-growing market."

Kotak MF bets on Bharat boom with new Rural Opportunities Fund NFO is available till November 20

Kotak Mutual Fund has launched the Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund, a thematic equity scheme aiming to tap into India's rapidly evolving rural economy. The fund seeks long-term growth companies driving.

Mumbai: Kotak Mutual Fund has introduced the Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed to capitalise on India's evolving rural landscape. The fund aims to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity and equity-related securities of companies involved in, or benefitting from, the on-

going rural transformation. The scheme's benchmark is the Nifty Rural Index (TRI), and investors can subscribe during the new fund offer (NFO) period, which ends on 20 November. The minimum investment amount during the NFO is Rs 1,000, while systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions start at Rs 500. The fund house emphasises that rural India is undergoing a significant transition, moving beyond its traditional agricultural roots. "Rural India is no longer just about agriculture; it's the new growth frontier of Bharat. From financial inclusion to digital connectivity and local manufactur-

ing, rural India is witnessing a transformation driven by opportunity, aspiration, and policy. Rising rural income growth and consumption are now integral to India's macro story. The Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund aims to help investors participate in this shift, one that aligns with India's journey toward inclusive and balanced economic development," said Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company. Recent data from the fund house highlights that around 40% of rural workers are now engaged in non-agricultural jobs, and female participation in the workforce has near-



ly doubled since 2018. This change has resulted in a rise in dual-income households. Furthermore, more than half of rural spending is now allocated to non-food items, reflecting a shift towards increased consumption and varied income sources. The fund will be co-managed by Arjun Khanna (equity) and Abhishek Bisen (debt), with an exit load of 0.5% for redemption within 90 days of allotment, and nil thereafter.

Stock market Sensex falls 148 pts, Nifty below 25,550 losses ahead

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the second straight session on Thursday as profit booking and selling pressure in heavyweight stocks such as Power Grid, Eternal, and Bharat Electronics offset gains in Asian Paints and Reliance Industries. At the closing bell, the Sensex declined 148.14 points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 83,311.01, while the Nifty50 slipped 87.95 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 25,509.70. Power Grid emerged as top loser on the Sensex, slipping 3.15 per cent to Rs 270.20. Eternal followed with a 2.42 per cent decline, while Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank and NTPC fell 1.67 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 1.21 per cent and 1.21 per cent, respectively. Five stocks, namely, ICICI Bank, Eternal, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid and Bajaj Finance, contributed heavily to the Sensex's decline.

Among sectoral indices, the BSE Metal index slipped 2.03 per cent to end at 34,058.31, while the BSE Oil & Gas index declined 0.57 per cent to close at 28,632.24. Overall, out of 4,353 actively traded stocks on the BSE, 1,214 ended higher, while 2,993 declined, and 146 closed unchanged. During the session, 124 stocks scaled t Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said volatility dominated the domestic market as broad-based profit booking persisted amid continued FII outflows, despite supportive cues from Asian peers. "Early optimism from the inclusion of four Indian companies in the MSCI Global Standard Index and strong U.S. macro data was offset by weak domestic PMI readings, indicating softening



sentiment. Most sectors traded lower, though IT stocks remained resilient, supported by in-line earnings and improvement in US macro data. Amid overall caution, selective buying emerged in fundamentally strong companies due to better-than-expected Q2 earnings," Nair said. Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said the 50-pack index slipped below the critical 21EMA on the daily timeframe, indicating weakness.

"However, the index has declined towards the support of the previous swing high, placed around 25,450. Going forward, if the index falls below 25,450, the short-term trend might weaken further. On the other hand, if it holds above 25,450, a significant trend reversal might occur," De said. Heir 52-week highs, whereas 173 slipped to 52-week lows. Meanwhile, 176 scrips were locked in their upper circuits and 210 in lower circuits. Rupak De, Senior Technical

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Air India introduces flexible contract model for pilots to balance work

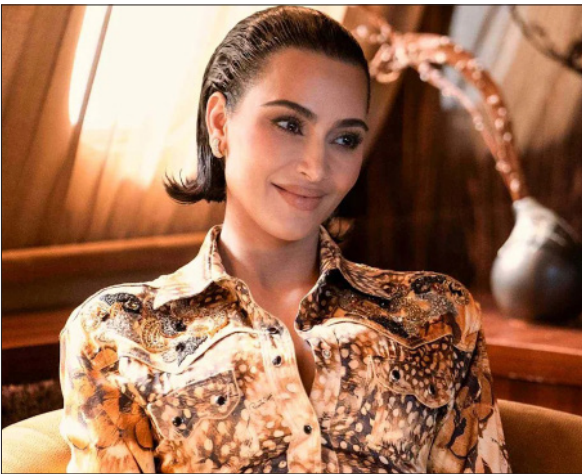


Mumbai: Air India rolls out a "Flexi-Contract for Pilots," a new work model that lets flight crew choose shorter duty patterns while keeping operations running smoothly. The airline says the plan aims to match pilots' preferences with roster needs and focuses on work-life balance without hurting efficiency. Under the policy, Line Pilots and Line Training Captains on A320, B777 and A350 fleets are eligible. Junior First Officers, Type Rating Instructors and Direct Entry pilots are not. The contract offers two fixed patterns: for wide-body aircraft, 15 days on and 15 days off; for narrow-body aircraft, 20 days on and 10 days off. Annual leave aligns with these rosters—eight privilege and four sick leaves for wide-body pilots, and 12 privilege plus six sick leaves for narrow-body colleagues. The contract tenure will be 12 months, which can be extended at the company's discretion. After the contract ends, pilots return to their original terms. Air India states that selection is made through an Expression of Interest process, with seniority and operational needs guiding the final list. An exit needs three months' notice. If a pilot is selected for a fleet or command upgrade, the pilot returns to the original contract from the start of training; if an upgrade is refused, the existing career policy on freezes applies. The company may also revert a pilot to the old contract if required, and this does not change pay terms that applied before switch-

ing to flexi terms. Pay follows a calculator shared with crew, with minimum monthly availability set at 12 days for wide-body and 15 days for narrow-body to receive 40 hours of pay under the new structure. Flying above 40 hours is paid at the same rate as on the original contract. Trainer, wide-body, deadhead and layover allowances stay protected. Car lease and NPS EMI are adjusted against flexi salary components. On off-days, pilots remain exclusively engaged with the airline and are not permitted to take on outside work. Leave bidding under the flexi track runs on an ad-hoc system, and previous bids are forfeited. Total bid points during the tenure are 20 for wide-body and 30 for narrow-body. Loss of License coverage continues, including on off-days. Medical insurance remains unchanged. Seniority is protected, and base and merit/demerit processes remain as per the current policy. When pilots revert to the old contract, they join the next regular leave-bidding cycle. The process runs in two cycles, one beginning in January 2025 and the other in March 2025. Slots are allocated by seniority. According to the plan, commanders have 50 A320 slots at Bengaluru, Delhi and Hyderabad, 30 B777 slots at Mumbai and Bengaluru, and 20 A350 slots at Delhi. First officers have 20 A320 slots at Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad, 70 B777 slots at Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, and A350 slots to be announced for Delhi.

All's Fair, Kim Kardashian's new show, receives harsh reviews and a Rotten Tomatoes score of 6%

Agency: The new drama series "All's Fair," featuring Kim Kardashian and an impressive ensemble cast, has faced significant backlash from critics and audiences since its premiere on November 4. The show centers around a group of female divorce attorneys launching their practice in Los Angeles and has received a dismal 6% rating on Rotten Tomatoes from 18 reviews, indicating a poor reception. Critics have panned various aspects of the series, particularly the plot, writing, and Kardashian's performance. Reviews from prominent sources depicted an unflattering picture; The Wrap criticized Ryan Murphy's direction, claiming it lacked the appeal characteristic of his previous works, with one remark suggesting that his signature snark had



devolved into contempt for both the audience and the art. Similarly, the Sydney Morning Herald depicted Kardashian as merely a "walking billboard" with a performance described as "monotonal and emotionally negligent." The Hollywood Reporter underscored a stark similarity between Kardashian's

flat performance and the writing, both considered devoid of authenticity and emotional depth. Reactions from social media mirrored these harsh critiques, with users questioning Kardashian's stiffness and monotone delivery while expressing disappointment in the show's overall execution. Some viewers,

The new legal drama All's Fair, created by Ryan Murphy, features a star-studded cast including Glenn Close, Naomi Watts, Sarah Paulson, and Teyana Taylor.

however, provided a counter-narrative by celebrating the show as "high-end camp," suggesting it operates in a space intended for entertainment rather than serious drama. These fans acknowledged the potential waste of talent among the cast, yet expressed hope for more seasons, highlighting the enjoyment of over-the-top, soapy television that "All's Fair" aims to deliver. Overall, while the initial response to "All's Fair" has been largely negative, there remains a niche audience embracing its campy aesthetics and entertainment value.

Raha's third birthday! Here are some outfit ideas from Ranbir Kapoor's little style icon and Alia Bhatt

Mumbai: Raha Kapoor, the daughter of Bollywood stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, is celebrating her third birthday on November 6, capturing the affection of fans with her charming moments and stylish outfits. As an inspiration for expectant parents seeking adorable yet practical fashion choices, Raha's wardrobe exemplifies how to dress babies without over-styling them. One notable appearance was during the Kapoor family's annual Christmas celebration where Raha and her mother Alia coordinated their looks. Alia donned a vibrant velvet dress, embodying festive elegance, while Raha dazzled in a fluffy tutu dress complemented by matching red velvet shoes and a whimsical reindeer-themed shirt. This outing offered a valuable style lesson: incorporate a matching fun element to create a cohesive look with your little one.

Raha showcased her playful fashion sense again during a family airport outing, appearing delighted in a comfortable white co-ord set adorned with tiny red stars. This style choice highlighted the importance of comfort in toddler



outfits, while also showing that twinning mini versions of adult wardrobes can be both cute and chic.

Her charm was on full display at the pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant, where a viral video depicted Alia carrying her while both wore matching brown-and-

gold floral ensembles. Such instances of coordinated styling serve as delightful reminders of the joys of dressing up as a family. As we celebrate Raha's special day, we anticipate more adorable moments filled with laughter, cuddles, and fashionable milestones in her journey ahead.

Salman Khan praises Farhan Akhtar's action drama in the 120 Bahadur trailer, saying, "Yeh kahani har Indian ke dil mein utregi"

Mumbai: Since the release of the poignant teaser for the action drama film *120 Bahadur*, anticipation has surged among fans for more updates about its launch. The filmmakers unveiled a gripping trailer on Thursday, highlighting the film, set to premiere on November 21, 2025. The trailer opens with a voice-

over by Amitabh Bachchan, who reflects on India's past camaraderie with China, juxtaposed against the backdrop of the 1962 conflict, where hostilities arose, revealing the fragility of that relationship. This call to arms is embodied by Farhan Akhtar's character, Major Shaitan Singh Bhati, whose portrayal showcases

the tremendous valor exhibited by him and his fellow soldiers from the 13 Kumaon Regiment as they valiantly stood against overwhelming enemy forces. Key moments in the trailer illustrate the grit, bravery, and sacrifices made by these soldiers, encapsulating the sentiment of defiance when Major Bhati

asserts, "Main ladey bina haar nahi manna chahta (I don't want to accept defeat without fighting)." The trailer also features a brief appearance by Raashii Khanna, portraying Bhati's love interest. The impactful visuals of the trailer received acclaim from Salman Khan, who expressed his admiration on Instagram,

declaring, "Bahut kamal trailer hai. Congratulations @faroutakhtar and the entire team of #120bahadur. Yeh kahani har Indian ke dil mein utregi (Fantastic trailer, this story will stay in the hearts of each Indian)." *120 Bahadur* is directed by Rameesh "Razy" Ghai and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar

under the banner of Excel Entertainment, along with Amit Chandra from Trigger Happy Studios. The film has been shot in authentic locations spanning Ladakh, Rajasthan, and Mumbai, promising an immersive cinematic experience that reflects the historical and emotional weight of the narrative.



Madhuri Dixit shares 1st post after Toronto fiasco

Chicago: On November 2, Bollywood fans gathered at The Theatre at Great Canadian Toronto to watch Madhuri Dixit as part of her international tour across the USA and Canada. However, many attendees left disappointed due to several issues: Madhuri arrived three hours late, left the event early, and opted for a brief interview rather than a proper performance. Audience feedback on social media highlighted these grievances, with some noting that the show did not meet the expectations of a concert as advertised. Organizers True Sound Live Ltd. later explained that Madhuri's management had incorrectly informed her about the event's start time, which led to her delayed arrival around 10 PM.

In the aftermath, Madhuri shared a social media post thanking fans for the "lovely first show" and announcing upcoming meet and greet events in locations such as New Jersey, Boston, Chicago, Houston, and New York. Despite her gratitude, the post faced criticism; many users expressed discontent over the shift in event format from what was initially promised as "unforgettable live shows" to being branded as "meet and greet." Comments reflected sentiments of disappointment, with some long-time fans feeling misled about the nature of the tour. One user articulated the frustration stemming from the lack of transparency and proper information, calling for Madhuri and her team to be more straightforward moving forward.

While the negative feedback dominated the discussion, a minority of fans continued to express their admiration for Madhuri, recalling past performances and displaying ongoing support. The next event in her tour is scheduled for today, November 6, in New Jersey.



Saiyami Kher on seeing India win the World Cup

Watching grown men cry was amazing

Mumbai: To coincide with the historic victory of the Indian women's cricket team at the World Cup, Abhishek Bachchan and Saiyami Kher's Ghoomer is being re-released, highlighting the triumph of women both on and off the field. As the only Indian actor present at the celebrations, Saiyami had a front-row view of the post-match euphoria and offered exclusive insights into the emotional moments that unfolded. The actor spoke with Hindustan Times to provide a detailed account of how the historic moment unfolded. Saiyami Kher reflected on her vivid experience following a victorious cricket match, describing conversations with players who had not fully absorbed their win. Observing the emotional reactions of both players and their families, she noted a stark shift in demeanor once they held the trophy, particularly moments that moved her, such as veterans Jhulan Goswami and Mithali Raj sharing the trophy, leading to tears amongst an emotionally charged crowd. This moment marked a significant cul-



tural progression for women in sports, showcasing the powerful impact of the victory.

In her acting career, Saiyami shared the rigorous preparation she underwent for her role in "Ghoomar," where she portrayed a cricketer with a disability. R

Balki, the director, acknowledged her cricketing skills but pushed her to become a left-handed player, as her character loses her right hand. She candidly articulated the struggles of adapting to life with a disability, emphasizing that the emotional journey of inhabiting

her character was the most taxing part of the process.

As for her place in Bollywood, Saiyami expressed her contentment with selecting non-traditional, author-backed roles that resonate more deeply with her, such as in "Choked" and "ATM Metro,"

rather than just aiming for commercial success. She recounted a heartwarming interaction with a young fan who expressed a desire to become a cricketer because of her, highlighting the genuine impact of her work, noting that audiences have also found solace in her films during tough times.

Finally, Saiyami articulated her belief that her life extends beyond the film industry. She underscored the meaning she derives from inspiring others and contributing positively to their lives, affirming that such influence holds more significance than the pursuit of mainstream commercial achievements.

The film "Ghoomar," released in 2023, narrates her character's journey of overcoming debilitating odds to follow her cricket dreams, drawing inspiration from the real-life story of Károly Takács, a Hungarian shooter who triumphed over his circumstances to achieve Olympic glory. The film will re-release on November 7 and also features Abhishek Bachchan.

Kaantha trailer

Dulquer Salmaan, the "King of Acting," will stop at nothing to keep his fame

Mumbai: The trailer for the film "Kaantha," directed by Selvamani Selvaraj and featuring actors Dulquer Salmaan, Samuthirakani, and Bhagyashree Borse, was released on Tuesday evening. This film, set in 1950s Madras, is co-produced by Dulquer and Rana Daggubati under Wayfarer Films and Spirit Media.

Dulquer shared the trailer on Twitter in both Tamil and Telugu, stating, "The world of Kaantha unfolds today!" The narrative centers around a conflict of egos between the renowned actor Chandran, played by Dulquer, and his director Samuthirakani, leading to a thrilling escalation as Chandran takes control to ensure his personal vision is realized.

The storyline delves into the complicated relationship



between legendary Tamil director Ayya and the movie star he helped elevate to fame, Chandran. The teaser hints at a fierce struggle for dominance, exemplified when Chandran decides to change the title of Ayya's female-driven film from

"Shaantha" to "Kaantha," highlighting a war of bruised egos that may evolve from emotional quarrels into physical confrontations, as confirmed by the trailer.

In July 2023, the collaboration between Dulquer and Rana for this project was

announced, with Selvamani of "Nila" fame at the helm. The film will feature Spanish cinematographer Dani Sanchez-Lopez, known for his work on Dulquer's debut Telugu film "Mahanati" (2018). The music is composed by Jhanu Chanthar, with songs like "Panimalare," "Kannmani Nee," and "Rage of Kaantha" already released.

"Kaantha" is set to be released in theaters on November 14, with versions available in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi. Its launch was initially slated for September 12 but was delayed to ensure a successful run for another film, "Lokah: Chapter 1 - Chandra," which opened on August 28 and is recognized as the highest-grossing Malayalam film of all time.

The director of Thamma responds to criticism regarding three songs

New Delhi: Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's film Thamma has achieved significant commercial success, grossing over ₹125 crore worldwide, yet it has generated controversy primarily due to its bold item songs rather than its plot. As part of producer Dinesh Vijan's expanding horror-comedy universe, Thamma has polarized audiences concerning its musical elements. Director Aditya Sarpotdar, known for his previous success with Munjya, defends the usage of these songs, suggesting that they serve an essential narrative role rather than merely functioning as item numbers. In an interview with SCREEN, Sarpotdar articulates that these songs represent crucial marketing tools, designed to complement the film's storytelling. He insists that the music contributes to the film's overall experience, stating, "What counts is what the film gives you in the end." Sarpotdar also addresses the shift in audience perception regarding item songs, noting that similar tracks in his prior works, such as Taras in Munjya, were well-received without controversy. He posits that increased exposure may have led to heightened sensitivity from audiences in this instance. He justifies his artistic choices by indicating that the premise of Thamma, which revolves around a vampiric theme, naturally necessitates more lavishness in presentation. Although he acknowledges that viewers may form opinions before watching the film, he expresses gratitude that audiences still choose to engage with it. Thamma, directed by Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, premiered on October 21, 2025. This darkly comedic supernatural thriller features a stellar cast including Khurrana, Mandanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Paresh Rawal. The narrative centers on Alok (Khurrana), a journalist whose existence is upended following an encounter with Tadaka (Mandanna), a member of an ancient clan tied to Betals, mythological figures akin to vampires.

Endangered axolotl release raises hopes for rare amphibian

One of the world’s most endangered amphibians - the strange, perpetually smiling Mexican axolotl - has thrived after being released in artificial wetlands, scientists have discovered. In a study that provides hope for the long-term future of a creature that was pushed to the brink of extinction, scientists released 18 captive-bred axolotls in restored and artificial wetland close to Mexico City. The researchers fitted the animals with radio trackers and found that they “survived and foraged successfully at both sites” - even gaining weight. Lead researcher Dr Alejandra Ramos from the Autonomous University of Baja California said this was an “amazing result”. The findings are published in the journal PLoS One and they suggest, the researchers say, that the axoltol can be brought back to its native habitat. The waters of Xochimilco - shaped by traditional farming practices and flushed with spring water from the mountains - used to teem with these amphibians. But as Mexico City grew, urbanisation, pollution and other pressures pushed axolotls to the brink of extinction, with some estimates suggesting that there were as few as 50 left in



the wild. “If we lose this species, we lose part of our Mexican identity,” said co-lead researcher Dr Luis Zambrano from the National University of Mexico. It is no exaggeration to call the axoltol an icon. Aztec legend has it that the creature is a god in salamander form - the Aztec god of fire and lightning, Xolotl, disguised as a salamander. “If we can restore this [wetland] habitat and restore the axolotl’s population in a city of more than 20 million people,” Dr Zambrano

continued, “I feel that we have hope for humanity.” To lay the foundations for releasing the animals, the researchers worked with local farmers and a team of volunteers to create wetland “refuges” for the axolotls. They installed natural filtering systems to clean the water. The scientists released their captive-bred animals at two sites - one in Xochimilco and one at a disused quarry that, over decades, has turned into what they called an “artificial wetland”.

Every animal was tagged with a radio tracking device. “The amazing news is that they all survived,” Dr Ramos told BBC News. “And not only that, but the ones that we recaptured had gained weight - so they’re hunting.” The monitoring also revealed intriguing insights into axolotl behaviour. “We found that some spend most of their time with one other individual - like they make these little friendships,” Dr Ramos explained. Somewhat ironically, these charismatic salamanders are found in the world’s laboratories and pet aquariums in their hundreds of thousands. The species is biologically fascinating - it has the remarkable ability to regrow any part of its body that is damaged or lost. So there is research underway to understand whether that ability could be harnessed medically. But in the murky wetlands of Mexico City, there is still a great deal of work to do to clean up and restore the habitat, and to give the wild axolotl a chance to recover. “Many animals are losing their habitat around the world,” said Dr Ramos. “And restoration projects are not easy, but they can be done - they just need a lot of people.” “You don’t need to be a scientist to get involved - everybody in the world can help out.”

Soviet-era spacecraft likely to crash back to Earth

Part of a Soviet-era spacecraft is expected to crash back to Earth this week after being stuck in orbit for more than half a century. Kosmos 482 was launched in 1972 as part of a mission to Venus but it never escaped low Earth orbit and separated into four pieces, according to Nasa. One of those pieces, believed to be the lander probe, is expected to re-enter our atmosphere around 10 May and at least part of it could survive the journey without burning up, according to Nasa. There is much we don’t know about the re-entry, including where it might land, but even if any of it does survive, 70% of the planet is covered by sea so it is unlikely to cause significant damage. “It’s much more likely that you win the lottery than that you get impacted by this piece of space debris,” said Mr Stijn Lemmens, Senior Space Debris Mitigation Analyst at the European Space Agency. The lander capsule is a tough, spherical object about a metre wide and weighs nearly half a tonne. It was built to survive the extreme heat and pressure of Venus’s atmosphere, meaning it has a robust heat shield and durable structure. This is why experts think it may survive an uncontrolled descent through Earth’s atmosphere. The parachute system, originally intended to slow the lander’s descent towards Venus, is likely long since degraded after more than 50 years in space. The risk to people on the ground is considered low, but the capsule’s projected flight path could see it land anywhere between 51.7° north and south latitude, covering most of the inhabited world. This means it could potentially land anywhere from as far north as London to as far south as the southern tip of South America. Uncontrolled space debris incidents have occurred before. Mr Lemmens explained that the “re-entry of human-made objects into Earth’s atmosphere occurs quite frequently,” happening weekly for bigger spacecraft and daily for smaller ones. Objects typically burn up in the earth’s atmosphere before they reach the ground. China’s Long March 5B booster re-entered over the Indian Ocean in 2022, and the Tiangong-1 space station mostly burned up over the Pacific in 2018. Kosmos 482 is now being closely tracked by international space agencies. Mr Lemmens said that future spacecraft “should be designed in such a way that they can take themselves out of orbit safely, preferably by doing controlled re-entries”. This allows for precise predictions of landing locations, reducing the risk of any debris impacting populated areas, thereby protecting people and property while “managing the environmental impact of space debris.”

The Indian Ocean’s laid-back ‘paradise on Earth’

On a recent visit to Perth, I mentioned to a local that I was heading to Rottnest Island the next day. She sighed wistfully. “I love it there,” she said. “You’re going to love it too. It has a special kind of magic - the kind of place where you kick off your shoes the minute you arrive. Everything slows down and you can breathe a little more deeply.” I already felt that Perth was a little like that - at least, life there felt slower and less frenzied than in my hometown of Melbourne on Australia’s east coast - but I smiled back, not really knowing what she meant. However, she was right. Rottnest Island, a peaceful 19-sq-km isle off the coast of Western Australia, is, in fact, magical. The spell was cast as soon as our ferry left the mainland, skimming over the Indian Ocean. Humpback whales breached nearby, sending jets of sea spray into the air and flipping their tails as if in welcome. The sky was clear with the promise of a perfect day to come. Just 19km and 30 minutes later, I stepped off the ferry into another world. Rottnest Island has been famously car-free since 1931, and those more in the know than me immediately jumped onto bikes they’d brought with them or wandered off to hire one from Pedal and Flipper, said to be the largest bike hire place in the southern hemisphere. Kids zoomed around in packs, dodging groups of tourists ambling through the main settlement. Some people had fishing rods under one arm; others, surfboards strapped to their bikes. Families stopped at the bakery for a flat white and vanilla slice before heading off to explore the island’s 63 beaches and 20 bays, many with evocative names like Little Parakeet Bay and Cathedral Rocks that in no way came close to capturing the grandeur of the scenery in real life. There was no urban noise, no traffic and nothing to worry about. It was idyllic and glorious and everything I imagined a nostalgic care-free (and car-free) island holiday to be. The isle has long been a cherished playground for generations of Western Australian families. “Rottnest is very, very special, particularly to the people of Perth, like me,” explained Paul Campbell, a volunteer guide I met not long after I arrived. Campbell spent his childhood holidays on Rottnest and now returns regularly to tell people about his beloved island. “There are no multi-storey high-rise hotels here,” he added. “There is no private ownership. If you ever tried to put a multi-storey anything here for wealthy people, you would be absolutely torn to shreds. We are very protective of our beautiful island.” Once a well-kept secret from the rest of the world, in recent years Rottnest has become one of Australia’s most Instagrammed destinations, thanks to a certain fuzzy-faced resident: the quokka. In 2013, Huffington Post dubbed the quokka “the happiest animal in the world”, and the internet responded in glee. Quokkas - tiny marsupials found only in this small pocket of south-western Australia - seem to smile for selfies in a way that feels almost staged. Tennis star Roger Federer to actress Margot Robbie were among the first celebrities to pose with the infamous animal, helping spark a wave of global attention. Then in 2019 came Chris Hemsworth’s now-iconic #QuokkaSelfie with Matt Damon, which racked up more than four million likes. “Rotto”, as locals call it, became the hottest ticket in town, transforming from local secret to global sensation. According to the Rottnest Island Authority, annual visitor numbers have nearly tripled in the last decade, peaking at more than 800,000 at last count. Rottnest, once simple and sleepy, has had to quickly grow up to meet the demands of all these domestic and international tourists. That meant



creating more accommodation than the basic cabins and camping that existed, as well as better food and activity options. And what it has done is exemplary, transforming into a model of eco-conscious tourism without losing its soul. As Campbell put it: “When I was nine years old, the [cultural] experience that I had on Rottnest is not that much different to what you’re going to experience today.” You won’t find any private cars here - just a few vehicles for rangers and staff - so most everyone gets about on two wheels or two feet (or the odd skateboard, scooter or Segway), having to occasionally dodge quokkas lounging on the road. Accommodation ranges from beachside cottages with bike racks out front to backpacker dorms to relaxed boutique hotels. While many tourists come on a day trip from Perth, it’s much better to stay the night: quokkas are nocturnal and will spend most of the day sleeping under shady bushes. In addition, most day-trippers leave by 16:30, at which point the island truly comes into its own. “Someone once said to me that you can feel the island exhale [when they leave],” said Erin Gallagher from the Rottnest Island Authority. “I just thought it was the most beautiful thing - and it’s so true.” I was staying at Discovery Resorts, the island’s first eco resort, whose 83 glamping tents are shaded by gum trees and Aleppo pines, tucked behind Pinky Beach in the sand dunes. My tent had no aircon or TV, just a ceiling fan for airflow and the sound of the ocean through canvas walls. It was perfect in its simplicity. “[The resort] is designed to immerse guests into the environment,” explained Krizza Miclat, the resort’s sales and event manager. “A lot of the infrastructure is elevated on steel poles to ensure that we’re not damaging the sand dunes. So, if ever we were to pick up and move, we haven’t impacted it too much.” In fact, nearly everything here works in harmony with the natural environment. Renewable energy is provided by the Indian Ocean’s sea breeze

and sourced cuttings and seeds. In 2023, a new management plan reaffirmed Rottnest’s commitment to sustainability, conservation and culture. “We’re always striving to improve,” said Gallagher. “Our target is to achieve 75% renewables. There’s even an app where anyone can see how much power the island is generating in real time.” In the spirit of low-impact activities, I decided to take a Segway tour around the undulating landscape, rolling along the endless beaches, gliding past the cluster of salt lakes in the north-eastern corner and looking out for whales on the island’s Humpback Highway. I steered past the scrub heath that covers much of the island, breathing in its signature salty-sweet smell and dodging prickly lily and feather speargrass. The island is just 11km long and 4.5km at its widest point, but its biodiversity is vast - a Class A reserve where everything from the blue-flowered Rottnest daisy to the



es and the strong Western Australian sun; while drinking water is drawn from the sweeping white semi-circle of Longreach Bay, desalinated and filtered. Marine sanctuary zones below water mean world-class snorkelling and diving, and an island nursery grows native plants from locally

long, black king skink I saw on the side of a trail is protected. But not all scenes here are so idyllic. In 1838, Rottnest was turned into an Aboriginal prison. Over the next century, more than 4,000 Indigenous men and boys were incarcerated here for “crimes” that they often didn’t know they’d committed. Some were as young as eight years old. Many never returned home. It’s a dark legacy that the island is only beginning to address. As I wobbled my Segway back to the main settlement, we passed what looked like an ordinary field. But, my tour guide explained, it is a place of immense significance: the Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground where 373 unmarked graves of prisoners were uncovered, with the first discoveries made during construction work in the 1970s. Shockingly, holidaymakers continued to camp on the site until the practice was finally banned in 2007. “It was the largest



face, the next watching irresistibly cute quokkas hop around at sunset. I snorkelled an underwater trail through turquoise shallows, gazed onto shipwrecks just offshore and had sunset drinks looking out to incredible ocean vistas. I even tried to get my own quokka selfie, respecting the signs not to feed or touch them in any way but to keep my distance and let them come to me. I laughed as I tried - and failed - to get both myself and a quokka fully in shot, and was reminded of something Gallagher had said to me about the smiling-faced marsupial: “Why wouldn’t you be happy if this is where you lived?” It was more than just a line - it was a truth that settled into the bones of the island. Rottnest may be famous now, but it hasn’t lost what makes it feel like a local secret: the sense that once you arrive, you can slow down, breathe deeply and kick off your shoes for a while.

Wadjemup Project, an Aboriginal-led initiative, focusses on acknowledging Wadjemup’s history of Aboriginal incarceration and the memorialisation of former prison sites. Volunteers play a huge part, too, from the Winnit Club, formed in 1931 by a group of regular campers, to the yellow-shirted Rottnest Volunteer Guides. These and other groups collectively contribute more than 40,000 hours a year to maintaining the island, and their dedication to preserving and sharing its stories speaks volumes about how deeply the island is loved. “There’s this balancing act between having enough people to make the place work financially, but not so many people coming here that you lose the reason to come,” said Campbell. “It is a very, very special place.” I certainly felt that on my visit. One moment I was riding my bike past salt lakes ringed with grey saltbush and coastal pig-

Seeds and edible gums that help reduce the effects of sunstroke



Sunstroke is a serious condition, which often leads to dehydration, fatigue, diarrhea, headaches,dizziness, etc. While there may be several reasons that lead to sudden heatstroke, exposure to heat and sunlight, loss of nutrients and imbalance of electrolytes are some of the most common causes of this condition, which can be fixed by adding the right ingredient to the regular water or drinks. Here are some edible gums and seeds that are known for their cooling properties and nutrients that help in reducing the effect of heat-stroke by replenishing the lost nutrients of the body. So, add these 6 simple edible seeds and gums that can help fix sunstroke. Basil Seeds Basil seeds, also known as sabja seeds,, are one of the most extensively used seeds in Indian desserts and coolers. Known for their cool potency, these seeds are naturally packed with cooling properties. When soaked in water, they swell up and release antioxidants that help in reducing body heat. They also improve hydration levels, which is crucial for preventing sunstroke. Adding them to lemon water or a cool drink can provide instant relief.Fenugreek Seeds-Methi dana, also known as fenugreek seeds,, are extensively used in Indian cuisine as well as in several home remedies for their umpteen benefits and their ability to cool the body. In fact, soaking these seeds overnight and consuming the water in the morning helps maintain body temperature and reduces internal heat. The anti-inflammatory properties also aid in soothing the digestive system during hot weather.Fennel SeedsSaunf also known as fennel seeds, has natural cooling properties that help keep the body temperature regulated. In fact, including fennel water, made by soaking the seeds overnight, is also a nice way to reap the benefits of fennel seeds,, and consuming these seeds as a tea or a drink can help lower body heat and also helps prevent sunstroke.Coriander SeedsCoriander seeds are an excellent natural coolant. Boiling these seeds and consuming the water after it cools helps in lowering body temperature and alleviating symptoms of heat exposure. Adding a bit of sugar to coriander water enhances its cooling effect. Gond KatiraTragacanth Gum Gond Katira is a natural edible gum that has immense cooling properties. When soaked in water, it becomes jelly-like and can be consumed with milk or rose water for instant relief from heat. It also helps in hydration, making it a perfect summer drink.Chia SeedsChia seeds are loaded with antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids. When soaked in water, they expand and form a gelatinous texture that helps keep the body cool and hydrated. A chia seed drink with lemon and honey is a perfect way to combat sunstroke.

Top 5 healthiest cheese you can eat

For most of the foodies, cheese is something one would describe as a kidnapper's bait! For whenever they would hear the word 'cheese', hunger pangs would follow, and the craving for some delicious cuisine, garnished with a lot of cheese, would kick in!Due to its delectable taste and a failproof ability to elevate the taste of almost any dish, cheese has a pretty wide fanbase. However, due to the a fair amount of calorie intake when one consumes cheese, it's got a bad name too!In fact, cheese can be a beneficial part of a balanced diet, offering nutrients like calcium, protein, and vitamins, particularly A and B12. However, it's also high in saturated fat and sodium, so moderation is key. However, there are some kinds of cheese that are healthier than the rest and make the indulgence almost guilt-free. Mozzarella is a soft white cheese with high moisture content. It originated in Italy and is usually made from Italian buffalo's or cow's milk. Mozzarella cheese can be considered a relatively healthy choice, especially when compared to other types of cheese. It's lower in fat and calories, and it's a good source of protein, calcium, and other essential nutrients. Mozzarella also contains bacteria that act as probiotics, including strains of Lactobacillus casei and Lactobacillus fermentum. Nutrient source: Cheese is a good source of calcium, fat, and protein. It also contains vitamins A and B12, zinc, phosphorus, and riboflavin.Mozzarella tastes delicious in caprese salad, which is made with fresh tomatoes, basil, and balsamic vinegar. It can also be added to many other dishes. Feta is a soft, salty white cheese originally from Greece. It's typically made from sheep's or goat's milk. Sheep's milk gives feta a tangy and sharp taste, while goat's-milk feta is milder. Feta cheese can be part of a healthy diet when consumed in moderation. It's a good source of protein, calcium, and some vitamins, and it can contribute to bone health and potentially gut health. However, it's also high in sodium and saturated fat, so it's important to be mindful of portion sizes, especially for individuals with high blood pressure or heart conditions. Protein: Feta cheese is a good source of protein, which is essential for various bodily functions, including muscle repair and tissue growth.Parmesan cheese can be considered healthy due to its nutritional benefits. It's a good source of protein, calcium, and phosphorus, which support bone health and muscle function.

Peanut butter vs. almond butter

Whether you are trying to lose weight or simply switch to a healthy diet, opting for nut butters can be a great idea to accentuate the taste and texture of your toasts, sandwiches, smoothies and desserts. Nut butters have less fat content as compared to regular salted butters. However, with growing demand for nut butters, it can be difficult to select the best. Here are two of the most popular nut butters, peanut butter and almond butter, that are extensively used in daily meals, but do you know which one is better? Are nut butters better than regular butter?When it comes to choosing a better butter both peanut butter and almond butter are two of the most popular options. While both are nutty, creamy, delicious, and versatile, these butters are ideal for spreads, smoothies, and snacks. However, when it comes to nutrition and health benefits, there are distinct differences between the two. Understanding these differences can help you decide which one is the better choice for your dietary needs and lifestyle.Nutritional value of the but-



Peanut butter and almond butter are both excellent sources of protein, healthy fats, and essential vitamins and minerals. However, almond butter has slightly high nutritional density as it contains more vitamins like vitamin E, magnesium, and calcium, which are crucial for bone health and immune function. On the other hand, peanut butter is slightly higher in protein, making it a great option for those looking to boost their protein intake without adding extra calories.Both nut butters have unique health benefits. Almond butter is known for its high vitamin E content, which acts as an antioxidant to protect your cells from

damage. It's also rich in magnesium, supporting heart health and muscle function. Peanut butter, meanwhile, is packed with niacin and folate, which contribute to brain health and cellular repair. The monounsaturated fats in both help lower bad cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. Allergies and sensitivitiesAnother common issue with most nut butters is the risk of allergies that can often go bad in some cases.Peanut allergies are far more common and can be severe. Almond allergies, while possible, are less frequent. If allergies are a concern, almond butter may be the safer choice. Moreover, according to some people almond butter is easier to digest as compared to peanut butter due to its smooth texture.Which is better?In a nutshell, it can be concluded that both peanut butter and almond butter have their own strengths. However, in terms of nutritional value, almond butter is a better choice than peanut butter, as it has protein, omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E, but if you are looking for a smooth texture and taste, then peanut butter is the perfect one. The choice of the butter depends on the needs and requirements of the delicacy.

Red rice vs brown rice vs white rice vs black rice

Rice is a staple food worldwide, and while it's often seen as just a source of carbs, it can be quite nutritious, especially when you choose the right type. Each variety of rice has its own unique benefits, depending on your dietary needs. Red, brown, white, and black rice each offer different amounts of fiber and flavour. Let's look at these options to help you pick the best one for your meals. Red rice stands out for its rich reddish colour, thanks to anthocyanins—the same antioxidants found in berries. It's unpolished, meaning it retains most of its bran and germ, so it's higher in fiber compared to white rice. This fiber helps regulate digestion, stabilises blood sugar, and keeps you feeling full longer. Red rice also contains a good amount of iron, which is essential for transporting oxygen throughout your body. It's a perfect addition to a balanced diet, especially if you're looking for something that supports your gut health and boosts immunity.Nutritional value: Red rice contains around 110 calories, with approximately 2.5 grams of protein, 23 grams of carbohydrates, and about 1.8 grams of dietary fibre. It has a modest fat content of 0.8 grams, offers around 0.7 milligrams of iron, and provides roughly 45 milligrams of magnesium.White rice is the most commonly eaten type, but it's also the most refined. The milling process removes the bran and germ, leaving behind mostly starch. While it doesn't offer as much fibre or nutrients as whole grains, white rice is easy to digest, making it suitable for sensitive stomachs. It cooks quickly, has a soft texture, and provides a fast source of energy. However, because of its high glycemic index, it's best enjoyed in moderation, especially for those managing blood sugar or weight. Nutritional value: White rice, being the most processed, offers about 130 calories, 2.4 grams of protein, and 28 grams of carbohydrates, but only 0.2 grams of fibre. It is very low in fat (0.2 grams), iron (0.2 milligrams), and magnesium (13 milligrams). Brown rice is a popular whole grain packed with fibre, vitamins, and minerals. Since it's only lightly processed, it keeps its bran and germ, offering nutrients like magnesium and selenium. Its low glycemic index helps manage blood sugar, while the fibre supports digestion, lowers cholesterol, and promotes heart health. It's a filling, versatile grain



that fits easily into everyday meals.Nutritional value: Brown rice provides around 112 calories per 100 grams, with 2.6 grams of protein, 23 grams of carbs, and 1.8 grams of fibre. It contains 0.9 grams of fat, 0.4 milligrams of iron, and about 43 milligrams of magnesium. Black rice, also known as "forbidden rice," is a unique and nutrient-rich grain. It's packed with antioxidants like anthocyanins, which help reduce inflammation and support overall health. With its deep colour, nutty flavor, and chewy texture, black rice adds variety to your meals. It's also a good source of iron, which helps produce red blood cells and maintain energy. Its high fibre and plant-based protein content make it a nourishing choice for boosting daily nutrition. If you're after something a little different that's both tasty and wholesome, black rice is a great pick.Nutritional value: Black rice, often called forbidden rice, is the most nutrient-rich of the group, offering around 145 calories, 4.9 grams of protein, and 29 grams of carbs per 100 grams. It also has 1.8 grams of fibre, 1 gram of fat, a notable 1.8 milligrams of iron, and 49 milligrams of magnesium.Each type of rice has its

own benefits, and the best choice depends on your needs. Brown rice is great for daily consumption as it supports digestion, heart health, and provides steady energy. If you want more antioxidants, iron, and fibre, red or black rice are excellent options. White rice can be enjoyed now and then, especially for those with digestive sensitivities, but it's best to balance it with whole grains for long-term health. Variety is key, so try mixing different rice types for a colourful and nourishing meal. Your body will appreciate the range of nutrients, and your taste buds will enjoy the variety. According to a research study published in ScienceDirect, pigmented rice varieties such as black and red rice offer superior nutritional value and health benefits compared to non-pigmented types like white rice. The study used UPLC-MS/MS-based metabolomics to analyse and compare black, red, glutinous, and white rice. A total of 732 metabolites were identified, with pigmented rice showing significantly higher levels of beneficial compounds such as flavonoids, anthocyanins, and phenolic acids like vanillin and p-coumaric acid. These compounds are known for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Pigmented rice also tends to have a richer, nuttier flavour compared to the mild taste of white rice. The study found that flavonoid and anthocyanin biosynthesis pathways were more enriched in pigmented varieties, highlighting their potential role in developing healthier rice-based foods.

South Indian comfort meals perfect for a weekend feast

Summer season is here and if you want to enjoy some simple light meals, then South Indian cuisine is the best option. This is because most of the South indian delights are known for their rich, flavorful, and comforting taste, which makes these delicacies perfect for a hearty weekend treat. So, here are eight classic South Indian meals that are a must try if you are planning to eat something delicious and healthy.Idli SambarSoft, fluffy idlis paired with aromatic sambar (a lentil-based vegetable stew) make for a wholesome, comforting dish. The combination of steamed rice cakes and spicy sambar is not only nutritious but also a popular favorite for weekend

mornings.Vada SambarCrisp and golden vadas served with hot sambar is another most loved South Indian dish. The crispy texture of the vada combined with the rich, spicy sambar makes it a perfect indulgence for any festive meal.



DosaA crispy, thin crepe made from fermented rice and urad dal batter, dosas are versatile and can be paired with chutneys and sambar. Whether you like your dosa plain or stuffed with a spiced potato filling (masala dosa), it's an iconic dish that never fails to

impress.PesarattuA savory chilla made from green gram (moong dal), pesarattu is healthy and delicious. Often served with coconut chutney or ginger chutney, it's a hearty, protein-rich dish that's perfect for a Sunday brunch. Bobattu (Obbattu)A sweet flatbread stuffed with a mixture of jaggery, coconut, and lentils, bobattu (or obbattu) is a traditional dessert-like dish from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It's a delicious treat to round off your meal with, offering a sweet end to your feast.Curd RiceA soothing, comforting dish, curd rice (yogurt rice) is made with plain rice mixed with yogurt, seasoned with mustard seeds, curry leaves, and chilies. It's light on the stomach and often enjoyed as a cooling dish after a heavy meal or as the perfect accompaniment to spicy foods.PongalThis dish, made from rice and moong dal, is seasoned with black pepper, ginger, and ghee. It's a savory, comforting dish that's often served with coconut chutney and sambar, making it a delicious option for any South Indian feast.Appam



with StewSoft, fluffy appams (fermented rice pancakes) served with a creamy vegetable or chicken stew is another fantastic Sunday dish.

The mild sweetness of the appam complements the rich, spiced stew, creating a perfect harmony of flavors.

Betlehem Posts 1500 Free Ranking At Hungarian Championships

Mumbai: Dávid Bethlehem Posts 1500 Free Rankings Top-per At Hungarian ChampionshipsDávid Bethlehem became the first man inside 14:30 this year as he went top of the 1500 free rankings at the Hungarian Short Course Championships in Debrecen.The Olympic 10k bronze medallist posted 14:27.39 which was 2.61secs swifter thanwould include the short-course Europeans in Poland next month. “It hurt, and it had been hurting for a long time, but there was no one to watch next to me, so in the end I thought that if I beat everyone else, maybe I could swim an early 14:20 or even better. It



didn’t work out, I was already scratching a lot at the end, and it wasn’t the time I wanted. I should go to the European Short Course Championships, where there would be five or

six people next to me who know what I do. But maybe I’ll leave it to them now and take a rest, and then next year, at the European Championships in Paris.”

Ranji Trophy defeated Nagaland by innings

New Delhi: Jharkhand inflicted a massive innings defeat on Nagaland to earn a bonus point as left-arm spinner Anukul Roy returned a career-best match haul of 13 wickets in a Ranji Trophy game, here on Tuesday.A day after Roy grabbed a career-best innings haul of eight wickets (8/55) to dismiss Nagaland for 154 in response to Jharkhand’s 510 for 8 declared, the 26-year-old ripped through the opponent’s batting lineup in the second essay as well with 5/35 as they won by an innings and 196 runs in their Elite Group A game.Nagaland, who were asked to follow-on on and were reduced to 104 for 5 at stumps on day three, didnot have the wherewithal to ward off a combative Jharkhand bowling attack. Roy, who had started the demolition work on day three by taking two second-innings wickets with compatriot slow-bowler Manishi grabbing the other three, came back to finish

off Nagaland’s resistance in no time.Nagaland could add just 56 runs to their overnight total as their innings folded up at 160 in 57.4 overs. Manishi, who had got just one wicket for his effort in the first innings, took four more in the second as he returned match figures of 5/103. Between them, the two left-arm spinner accounted for 18 wickets.Nagaland lacked the resistance they showed against Tamil Nadu in the previous Ranji game where they fought doggedly to take the game to a hard-fought draw with Dega Nischal and Imliwati Lemtur crafting big centuries.Opener Nischal did put up a fight in the first innings by scoring 41 but was dismissed for just two runs in the second. Nagaland skipper Rongsen Jonathan was the highest scorer in the second innings with a combative 50 and no other batter could stand up to the spin duo who looked virtually unplayable.

Ons Jabeur reveals depression battle amid packed tennis schedule

Mumbai: Former world number two Ons Jabeur said she was putting herself first for a change and would take control of her schedule after becoming depressed during a punishing run on tour. The men’s and women’s circuits have come under scrutiny recently due to their packed calendars, with a host of players including Naomi Osaka, Emma Raducanu, Daria Kasatkina, Elina Svitolina and Paula Badosa cutting their seasons short.Three-time Grand Slam runner-up Jabeur, who has been dubbed the ‘Minister of Happiness’ for her jovial personality, took a break from competitive tennis in July to focus on her health. “I hope the tennis community will listen to us and lower some of the tournaments. It’s piling up, for example, Doha and Dubai. I want to play there, but two WTA 1000 tournaments in a row? It’s too much. I feel they want to add more. Also, two-week WTA 1000 tournaments. I don’t know whose idea it was... none of the players like it.”Three-time Grand Slam runner-up Jabeur, who has been dubbed the ‘Minister of Happiness’ for her jovial personality, took a break from competitive tennis in July to focus on her health.Reuters



has contacted the WTA for comment. The WTA has previously said athlete welfare is its top priority, and it listened to views on the calendar, both through the players’ council and their representatives on the WTA board, to improve the structure in 2024 and boost compensation.Top players are obliged to compete in all four Grand Slams, 10 WTA 1000 tournaments and six WTA 500 events under WTA rules, with the punishment for missing

them ranking points penalties.“I’m done letting the schedule dictate what I should do and what I shouldn’t do,” Jabeur added.“I suffered a lot, mentally more than physically. But my body was screaming for help for a long time. I haven’t listened. I think I had depression without even knowing and people call me the ‘Minister of Happiness’. I was sad for a long time. I’m putting myself first. That’s a huge step.”

Hanuma Vihari turns a new chapter

New Delhi: Hanuma Vihari is a purist’s delight. The gentle shuffle of his trigger movement, the seamless transfer of weight, the measured arc of the bat—there’s poetry in his precision. If you put him on a pitch stripped of demons, give him a bat, and feed him deliveries, the 16-Tests-old batter will ply his trade all day with the quiet defiance of a journeyman. Manisankar Murasingh and Co. were 21 away from overhauling Bengal’s first-innings mark and hence largely out of the woods. Eventually, the side not only managed to register a historic draw against Bengal—this is only the second time it has happened in 18 First-Class games since 1985-86—but also pocketed three points for securing an innings lead.

Mirabai Chanu likely to switch to 53kg division 2028 LA Olympics

Mumbai: World and Olympic medalist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu is likely to switch to 53kg after the 2026 Asian Games. Following a change in weight classes by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Mirabai — who landed a silver medal in Tokyo 2020 and finished fourth in Paris 2024 in 49kg—dropped down to 48kg this year and claimed a gold in the Commonwealth championships in Ahmedabad and a silver in the World championships in Forde, Norway.According to Sportstar report, the IWF on Monday removed 49kg and made 53kg the lowest body weight for women athletes for Los Angeles 2028. The minimum weight for men was set at 65kg. Mirabai, who is seeking an elusive medal in the Asian Games next year in the 48kg division,will have to move up to 53kg if she wants to qualify for the 2028 Olympics.



Chief national coach Vijay Sharma said going up to the heavier weight would help 31-year-old Mirabai, who used to maintain a body weight of 51kg when she competed in 49kg. “Now, shedding an additional one kg is difficult for her. It would have been tough for her to qualify for the Olympics in 48kg. Moving up to 53kg will not be difficult. This has brightened her chances,” said Sharma. In 2022, Mirabai competed in 55kg at the Singapore International Meet to check her snatch technique ahead of the Commonwealth Games. Mirabai, who is seeking an elusive medal in the Asian Games next year in the 48kg division, will have to move up to 53kg if she wants to qualify for the 2028 Olympics.For now, Mirabai will focus on competing in 48kg as she aims for a hat-trick of Commonwealth Games gold and her maiden Asian Games medal in 2026.

India hopes to take the series lead on Gold Coast, but Shubman Gill is under pressure

IND vs AUS, 4th T20I preview

Mumbai: The penultimate Twenty20 International of the five-match series between Australia and India will take place at Carrara Oval in Gold Coast on Thursday, November 6. India will now play at People’s First Stadium, which will host just its third Twenty20 International and its first since 2022, after previously playing in conventional locations in Canberra, Melbourne, and Hobart. India was able to arrive in Gold Coast early and get ready for the task because of the long break between the third and fourth Twenty20 Internationals. After three games, the series is tied at one, and both sides know how crucial a win on Thursday is to gaining an unbeatable lead. As bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Wednesday, India have been keen on mixing things up and giving opportunities to as many players as possible in the lead-up to the T20



World Cup early next year. While winning the series remains a priority, the team management has not shied away from experimenting. A few players, such as Sanju Samson and Arshdeep Singh, have been rotated, with the confidence that they remain

firmly in the mix. The series in Australia has provided an opportunity to test the bench and assess depth. However, India are yet to gain the same level of confidence from one key batting position — the opener’s slot occupied by vice-captain Shub-

man Gill. Since returning to the T20I side, the Test and ODI captain has struggled to make an impression. In the ongoing series, Gill has managed only 57 runs in three matches.India broke the fearsome opening combination of Abhishek Sharma and Samson to accommodate Gill at the top in T20Is. appeared to make him an automatic selection, questions have been raised about the merit of his place in the T20I set-up, particularly given the options available for the opening role.Former captain Kris Srikkanth questioned how Gill earned the vice-captaincy in T20Is —Tilak Varma and Samson. Gill was seen in an intense chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir during training on Wednesday. The 26-year-old will certainly be eager to convert the management’s backing and trust into substantial runs sooner rather than later.

WTA Finals: Gauff maintains his title chase after defeating Paolini in straight sets

New Delhi: Defending champion Coco Gauff kept alive her hopes of reaching the semi-finals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No.8 seed Jasmine Paolini in a Group stage match of the WTA Finals, the year-end championships. While Paolini was eliminated from the Stefanie Graf Group because she lost in straight sets, Gauff (1-1) must wait for the conclusion of the later match between No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 5 Jessica Pegula to learn what scenarios will deliver her to the semifinals. Paolini was ill in advance of the tournament,

and never once looked to be her perky, upbeat self.In her opening three-set loss to Pegula, Gauff served 17 double faults and nine breaks, and her forehand (45 unforced errors) were all over the place. Against Paolini, she was far more buttoned down. Gauff suffered only three career Top 10 wins in her young career. Gauff was thrilled to put that opening match behind her. “I’m really happy with how I was able to turn it around,” Gauff said afterwards. “Only three double faults — 17 is a big difference. It just shows I can serve like this.



Asia Cup trophy handover issue could be raised in ICC meeting

New Delhi: The ongoing standoff over the Asia Cup 2025 trophy comes after India, led by Suryakumar Yadav, defeated Salman Agha’s Pakistan side by five wickets at the Dubai International Stadium to secure their ninth Asia Cup title.But the post-match celebrations took an unbelievable turn when the Indian team opted not to accept the trophy or winner’s medals from Mohsin Naqvi, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman who also serves as Pakistan’s Interior Minister and Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).The refusal, linked to cross-border tensions between two nations, led to chaotic scenes and an unusual trophy-less victory celebrations for India. Despite the BCCI’s formal request to resolve the issue, the matter remains unsettled.IANS also understands that a word on discussing how cricket in USA should be run will also be discussed in the board meeting. Earlier this year, ICC had suspended USA Cricket’s membership over governance failures, though they are eligible to play in the 2026 Men’s T20 World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka. The 2025 Asia Cup trophy handover issue could be brought up during the board meeting in the ongoing ICC quarterly meetings scheduled for Friday in Dubai, said sources familiar with the matter to IANS on Wednesday.“Friday is when all board heads will be meeting in the ICC Board Meeting and the Asia Cup trophy handover issue still in limbo will be raised there by the BCCI.

As of now, nothing has emerged on the trophy handover despite a formal letter written to ACC,” further said sources. A Speaking to IANS on November 1, BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia had indicated about raising the grievance around delay in trophy handover in the ICC quarterly meetings, adding that a letter for the same was sent to ACC 10 days ago.

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International Stadium to secure their ninth Asia Cup title. But the post-match celebrations took an unbelievable turn when the Indian team opted not to accept the trophy or winner’s medals from Mohsin Naqvi, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman who also serves as Pakistan’s Interior Minister and Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).The refusal, linked to cross-border tensions between two nations, led to chaotic scenes and an unusual trophy-less victory celebrations for India. Despite the BCCI’s formal request to resolve the issue, the matter remains unsettled.IANS also understands that a word on discussing how cricket in USA should be run will also be discussed in the board meeting. Earlier this year, ICC had suspended USA Cricket’s membership over governance failures, though they are eligible to play in the 2026 Men’s T20 World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka.

Ferran scores after Barcelona’s defense is destroyed by Club Brugge in Champions League

New Delhi: A frustrated Ferran Torres lashed out at Barcelona’s defensive frailties after the club managed only a hard-fought 3-3 draw against Club Brugge in the UEFA Champions League. Barcelona were repeatedly exposed by the Belgian side on Wednesday, November 5, conceding the lead three separate times during a chaotic group-stage encounter.

The Catalan giants fought back on each occasion, with goals from Ferran Torres and Lamine Yamal keeping them in contention before a



late own goal from Christos Tzolis salvaged a draw. Despite the comeback, Ferran’s

post-match remarks reflected deep frustration with the team’s defensive display, as

FC Barcelona had to make a comeback three times to secure a 3-3 draw against Club Brugge in the Champions League. Their defensive frailties were exposed once again this season.

he urged his teammates to raise their standards often breaking down under pressure. The club has conceded 13 goals in 11 LaLiga matches and a further 7 in just 4 Champions League outings so far — a worrying statistic for a team with title ambitions.