

In Brief

Mega medical camp

Imphal: A large-scale medical outreach was held at the Leikop DIET Centre in Kangpokpi district, providing vital healthcare services to hundreds of displaced tribal families. Organized by the Tribal Research Institute (TRI) in partnership with the Chief Medical Officer's office and supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the event was part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025 celebrations, which honor tribal freedom fighters and their contributions to India's identity. Free consultations and treatments were provided by a multidisciplinary team of doctors, with logistical support from the TRI. This initiative underscored the government's commitment to social welfare and the health needs of vulnerable populations, while also celebrating the spirit of unity and courage among India's tribal communities.

CM inaugurates Tura MPSC office

Tura: Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma inaugurated the new office of the Meghalaya Public Service Commission (MPSC) in Tura, which will significantly benefit the youth of Garo Hills by reducing travel time to Shillong for examinations. The new facility allows candidates to take exams locally, improving their performance by eliminating long journeys. The first MPSC examination in Tura is scheduled for November 14, 2025, and the government plans to expand facilities to Jaintia Hills for equitable access. Speaker Thomas A. Sangma highlighted the inauguration as a milestone for transparent and accountable governance.

Pollution board slaps ₹15 lakh fine on NHIDCL

Shillong: The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) has fined the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) ₹15 lakh for pollution caused by construction debris from the JICA-funded Shillong-Dawki Road project, which has contaminated the Umngot river. An inspection revealed violations of the Water, Air, and Environment Protection Acts, leading to a notice for the fine and a requirement for NHIDCL to submit a report on pollution causes and prevention measures within 15 days. Non-compliance could result in further penalties or suspension of the project. Environmental advocates have called for improved monitoring and waste disposal practices, urging ongoing inspections alongside fines. MSPCB plans to oversee compliance and take further action if necessary.

Mizoram Police arrests 2 drug peddlers

Aizawl: Officials stated on Friday that a lady suspected of being the brains of a significant drug trafficking network connecting India and Myanmar has been taken into custody in New Delhi. Police detained Joseph Lianthangpuia (42) in Delhi on November 5, as part of an operation related to a heroin seizure case at Saitual police station in Mizoram, involving 15 kg of heroin found on August 23. Lianthangpuia is being transported to Mizoram for further investigation. Separately, Lalchhuanthangi (50) was also captured in Delhi by a Mizoram Police team with assistance from Delhi Police and the Special Bureau.

JNC slams detention of MCTODA leaders

Shillong: The Jaintia National Council (JNC) Central Executive Committee has expressed regret over the Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association's (MCTODA) protest regarding unpaid transportation rates by cement companies. JNC President Sambormi Lyngdoh stated that only a few truckers received revised fares despite government claims. Truckers would end the strike if cement factories complied with official rates. Lyngdoh criticized the district council for supporting non-tribal businesses and urged the government to enforce local regulations. He condemned the detention of MCTODA leaders, called for their release, and invited collaboration among local truck associations to stand against divisive actions, announcing an upcoming emergency CEC meeting to determine further steps.

Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Gateway of Guwahati Terminal

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Guwahati Riverfront and Gateway of Guwahati Terminal, highlighting its significance for connectivity, trade, and tourism in Assam.

Guwahati, Nov 08: On Friday, November 7, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman opened the Guwahati Riverfront and Gateway of Guwahati Terminal and Jetty, calling it a "landmark moment" for the state's connectivity, trade, and tourism.

It is anticipated that the recently started projects will change Guwahati's position as a significant hub for river transportation and trade, fortifying connections throughout the Brahmaputra and boosting the area's tourism potential. The Radhika Shanti Udyan, a picturesque riverfront area intended to provide residents with a combination of leisure and cultural interaction, was also opened by the Finance Minister. The initiatives, according to Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, who accompanied the Union Minister, represent Assam's growing infrastructure and economic aspirations. He thanked the Center for its ongoing assistance, saying, "The Gateway of Guwahati and Riverfront development will open new doors for trade, tourism,

and employment across the Northeast."

Sitharaman also participated in "Enterprise Assam-Viksit Bharat 2047," a unique event held in Jagir Road, Morigaon, on Friday. There, she spoke with students, entrepreneurs, and start-ups. Assam's increasing involvement in economic transformation is reflected in the event's emphasis on innovation, youth empowerment, and sustainable growth. The Finance Minister visited the planned Tata Electronics Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Jagir Road, which is expected to completely transform Assam's economic landscape and establish the state as a major hub for high-tech manufacturing in India. The facility seeks to create a strong semiconductor ecosystem in the nation with the support of government efforts. A fascinating tale of local talent and women's empowerment is emerging at the Jagir Road facility. After completing advanced training in Bengaluru, a number of Assamese women will soon return to work at the new facility. To encourage their involvement, a hostel for working women is also being built on the property. A young woman from Dibrugarh is in charge of clean-room operations, a professor from Assam University is working on research with the Tata facility, a stu-



dent from Silchar is leading the R&D team, and a Guwahati-based start-up is offering AI-driven inspection tools. These examples of regional excellence are inspiring. Sitharaman valued these advancements as representations of India's new industrial

narrative, which is driven by inclusivity and innovation.

The Finance Minister will lay the foundation stone for Kanaklata Baruah University in Gohpur on November 8, the second day of her visit to Assam, and then hold a public meet-

ing. Her two-day visit is indicative of the government's ongoing emphasis on fostering industry, entrepreneurship, connectivity, and education, all of which are propelling Assam toward a more independent and powerful future.

Morigaon journalists pay tribute to Dr. Nabakanta Bordoloi

Morigaon, Nov 08: In remembrance of the late Dr. Nabakanta Bordoloi, a reputable and seasoned journalist from Assam whose life and contributions profoundly impacted the journalism industry, the Morigaon District Journalist Association (MDJA) arranged a memorial event. Senior journalists, media professionals, and well-wishers from throughout the district attended the program, which took place in the association's conference hall. MDJA president Ajit Sarma, secretary Guljarilal Sarma, and other members presented flowers to Dr. Bordoloi's image to start the celebration. As those in attendance recalled the seasoned writer for his integrity, bravery, and dedication to the truth, the atmosphere was charged with emotion. In conjunction with the event, President Ajit Sarma presided over and Secretary Guljarilal Sarma chaired a memorial gathering. Speaking about Dr. Bordoloi's lengthy and illustrious career, the speakers described him as a journalist who stood strongly for the people and the principles of ethical reporting. Senior journalists who recalled their positive experiences with Dr. Bordoloi included Pratap Hazarika, Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Bubumoni Goswami, Dalim Phukan, Birinchi Sarma, Kalpataru Choudhury, Ritumoni Mahanta, Pranab Bhattacharya, Jitumoni Nath, Jun Faridur Yunis, Achuit Nath, and Dipankar Nath. His dedication for the truth, his involvement in mentoring aspiring journalists, and his contributions to bolstering Assamese journalism. A number of speakers related personal tales that exemplified Dr. Bordoloi's devotion and humility. They claimed that his approach to journalism was both profoundly human and professional. He thought it was important to write stories that the average person could relate to. The MDJA members pledged in their addresses to preserve the principles of integrity, justice, and accountability in journalism that Dr. Bordoloi upheld throughout his life. They also mentioned how important it is to encourage the next generation to pursue similar goals. A minute of silence in remembrance of the departed soul and a vote of gratitude from the secretary marked the conclusion of the meeting.

Arunachal CM announced the launch of the CMSLS to empower ITI graduates

Itanagar, Nov 08: The Chief Minister Soft Loan Scheme (CMSLS), a new program designed to enable technically skilled youngsters from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to become entrepreneurs and contribute to an independent Arunachal Pradesh, was unveiled by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. Khandu announced the program on social media, stating that it will be run by the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and will help ITI alumni who graduated within the previous three years beginning in 2022. The Chief Minister declared, "We invest in the future of this land when we invest in skills, entrepreneurship, and in our youth." Soft loans up to ₹1 lakh in the first and up to ₹2 lakh in the second are available to qualified applicants under the CMSLS. Beneficiaries would also receive a ₹15,000 toolkit incentive to assist them in starting independent businesses in their particular trades. The government will offer a 25% loan subsidy in addition to a 7% interest subsidy to further reduce the financial strain. Khandu em-



phasized that the initiative aims to help young people transform their technical skills into sustainable livelihoods, shifting the focus from job seeking to job creation. The scheme will support small-scale entrepreneurship in various trades like electri-

cal works, welding, carpentry, and tailoring, and will enhance existing programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and Startup India Mission. Application forms for the CMSLS are available on the state's skill development portal, with submissions due by

December 31, 2025. Khandu reaffirmed his government's commitment to empowering the youth of Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the scheme as a crucial step towards building a self-reliant economy driven by young entrepreneurs.

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

Shillong, Nov 08: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction and beautification of the historic Cenotaph in Tura on November 7, marking the start of a project to honour the Garo Labour Corps who served during the First World War. The initiative aims to preserve the historical significance of the site while creating a lasting tribute to the sacrifices of the Garo community during the global conflict. A dedicated committee, formed to oversee the site's preservation and development, approved the final restoration plan after extensive consultations with civil society groups and prominent citizens of the Garo Hills.

The project seeks to blend historical accuracy with enhanced aesthetic appeal, ensuring that the memorial stands as a beacon of heritage and remembrance for future generations. Expressing gratitude to the descendants of the Garo Labour Corps, Chief Minister Sangma wrote on X (formerly Twitter), acknowledging their presence and support during the foundation stone ceremony. He also noted that the state government would provide research assistance to historians and scholars documenting the history and contributions of the Garo Labour Corps.



The committee has been tasked with preparing a comprehensive historical document, supported by government resources, to accompany the restoration. This document will

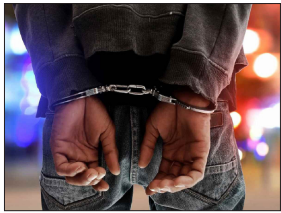
highlight the wartime experiences, challenges, and sacrifices of the Garo Labour Corps, ensuring that their legacy is formally recorded and preserved.

Love betrayal sparks suicide attempt in Kalain

Silchar, Nov 08: A young woman from Kalain Mougram apparently attempted suicide by ingesting poison in broad daylight after being duped by her lover in a startling case of love betrayal. Mallika Baishnab, the woman, is said to have ingested toxic insecticide on Friday afternoon on the Gumrah-Saderkhal PWD Road close to Gumrah Bazaar. The police were notified right away by eyewitnesses, and they quickly arrived and saved her. She was initially brought to Kalain Hospital, but because of her serious condition, medical professionals recommended that she be treated at Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH). Mallika and Sanjib Baishnab of Gumra Khelma reportedly had a long-term romantic relationship. She said that under the false pretense of marriage, Sanjib repeatedly had sexual contact with her. According to reports, they dated for around a year and a half. However, Sanjib apparently declined Mallika's recent proposal of marriage, citing reasons and stating that he wanted to break up with her. His denial distressed me. Mallika asked Sanjib's family for assistance, but they reportedly showed little interest. She made the decision to end her own life because she felt deceived and devastated. Mallika allegedly informed police before passing out that Sanjib later denied having a connection with her, saying he had paid her in exchange.

Duping Delhi trader of 20 lakh

New Delhi, Nov 08: Delhi Police arrested two men, Basudev Swain from Lucknow and Deepak Kumar from Varanasi, for allegedly cheating a rice trader out of ₹20 lakh by posing as representatives of Smartvalue Ltd., a company dealing in agricultural products. The complainant, who owns a rice and food supply business in northwest Delhi, provided rice under the impression that it was for testing and potential large-scale procurement by the company. After supplying the goods against legitimate bills, the complainant lost contact with the accused, who had switched off their phones. An investigation revealed that the documentation they provided was forged and they were not affiliated with Smartvalue Ltd. The police charged the duo with cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy, after confirming with an authorized representative of Smartvalue Ltd. that the accused were impersonators. Following extensive technical surveillance and local intelligence, both were apprehended in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. During questioning, they confessed to their involvement in similar fraudulent activities for financial gain, having forged documents to gain victims' trust. The investigation is ongoing to identify other potential victims and associates of the accused.



Operation Pimple: Two terrorists were killed in Kupwara, J-K

Kupwara, Nov 08: On Saturday, Indian forces neutralized two terrorists in the Keran sector of Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir, as part of Operation Pimple, with ongoing searches in the area, according to officials.

The Chinara Corps announced via social media that "two terrorists have been neutralized by the security forces in the ongoing operation," and that the search is still in

■ PM Modi remarked that certain prominent individuals, without naming a specific Congress leader, are now arriving in Bihar and engaging in fishing activities.

Patna, Nov 08: Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticized Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during a public rally in Sitamarhi in anticipation of the second phase of assembly elections in Bihar. Modi mocked Gandhi's recent action of diving into a pond to catch fish, making a veiled reference without directly naming him.

He commented that prominent figures are coming to Bihar to engage with the local environment, stating, "Bade bade log bhi yahan ki macchli dekhne aa rahe

hain. Paani mein dubki laga rahe hain... Bihar ke election mein doobne ki practice kar rahe hain," which translates to big names are trying to see the fish and practicing drowning in the Bihar elections. This incident follows Gandhi's visit to a fishing community in Begusarai, where he interacted with fishermen and famously dove into a muddy pond, showcasing his engagement with local issues. Accompanying him was former state minister Mukesh Sahni, who demonstrated fishing skills that impressed Gandhi.

Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar participated in a notable event alongside Rahul Gandhi, who entered chest-deep waters accompanied by several

fishermen. In the backdrop of this political gathering, Prime Minister Modi launched a pointed critique directed at Rahul Gandhi and the opposition led by the RJD in Bihar. He insinuated that should the opposition regain power, they would resort to coercive practices, metaphorically stating they would "put 'katta' to people's heads and order them to hold their hands up."

Modi expressed his discomfort regarding campaign tactics allegedly employed by the RJD, particularly mentioning the disturbing notion of children aspiring to be 'rangdaar' (street bullies). He affirmed that the citizens of Bihar are not inclined towards a government characterized by 'katta',



'kushasan' (misgovernance), 'kroorta'

(cruelty), and corruption. Throughout his campaigning, Modi has claimed to witness a strong sentiment among the electorate against a 'katta sarkar' and in favor of re-electing the NDA government.

This speech precedes the second phase of elections in Bihar, slated for November 11, following a first phase that reportedly observed a voter turnout of approximately 64.69% on November 6. The opposition is leveraging these turnout figures to challenge the ruling NDA, with Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor suggesting that the increased voter participation signals a desire for a change in governance within Bihar.

Parliament winter assembly to be held from Dec 1 to 19



New Delhi, Nov 08: Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju announced that the winter session of Parliament will take place from December 1 to 19, 2025, a notably short period compared to last year's session, which lasted from November 25 to December 20. Rijiju stated that this proposal has received approval from the Hon'ble President of India and expressed hopes for a constructive session that strengthens democracy. The Opposition criticized the brevity of the session, suggesting it indicates the government's lack of business and a desire to minimize debates on Opposition-sponsored topics. Congress' Rajya Sabha chief whip, Jaiaram Ramesh, mentioned that the short session could signal a lack of legislation to be passed. The upcoming session is particularly significant as new vice president C.P. Radhakrishnan will preside over the Rajya Sabha for the first time, and it will follow the Bihar election results, which may influence the legislative mood. Recent sessions saw considerable unrest, with the former vice president's unexpected resignation and substantial protests impacting productivity, notably leading to only 30.6% productivity in the Lok Sabha and 38.88% in the Rajya Sabha. In the previous session, key legislation included a new Income Tax bill aimed at simplifying tax law, the National Sports Governance Bill, and the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, among others. The government has yet to outline its agenda for the upcoming winter session.

In a "secret" India-Israel operation, Indira Gandhi declined to attack a nuclear site in Pakistan

Former CIA official asserts

New Delhi, Nov 08: Former CIA officer Richard Barlow revealed a proposed joint covert operation by India and Israel in the early 1980s aimed at bombing Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear facility, which he believes could have addressed significant issues.

However, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi did not approve this plan, which Barlow referred to as a "shame." He learned of the operation through intelligence channels, although he was not directly involved. This revelation coincided with US

President Donald Trump's remarks on nuclear testing, highlighting ongoing concerns about Pakistan's clandestine nuclear activities.

Barlow described the intended airstrike as a crucial step to hinder Pakistan's nuclear weapon development and its potential proliferation to adversaries like Iran. He emphasized that the Reagan administration would have likely opposed such an Israeli strike due to its potential impact on US interests in Afghanistan, as it could jeopardize covert operations against the Soviet Union.



Barlow suggested that Pakistan leveraged its relationship with the US, warning lawmakers that cutting off

aid could impede cooperation for the Afghan conflict. He cited Munir Ahmad Khan, former head of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, indicating that Pakistan was using aid flows to assert pressure on the US, reinforcing their strategic positioning. The Kahuta facility, which played a pivotal role in Pakistan's nuclear ambitions since its establishment by AQ Khan, eventually contributed to the nation's first atomic tests in 1998, illustrating the long-term significance of these geopolitical maneuvers.

Why Ajit Pawar's son Parth is not mentioned in the Pune land "scam," according to Chief Minister Fadnavis

Pune, Nov 08: In a controversial land deal in Mundhwa, Pune, involving the alleged illegal sale of government property, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth, is under scrutiny, although not explicitly named in the FIR.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis emphasized accountability, stating "no one will be spared," and clarified that the FIR addressed the involved parties rather than individuals outside the documentation process. The undervaluation of the land, valued at ₹1,800 crores but reportedly sold to Parth Pawar's Amedea Enterprises for ₹300 crores, sparked allegations of collusion and corrupt practices among higher officials.

Key figures involved include Parth's business partner, Divvijay Patil, and two suspended land revenue officials, Ravindra Taru and Suryakant Yewale, under



der investigation for their roles in the transactions. Ajit Pawar defended his son, claiming ignorance of the fraudulent nature surrounding the land sale. This matter revolves around the controversial disposition of 40 acres of 'Mahar Watan' land, traditionally allocated for the use of the Mahar community, which the government cannot sell without explicit permission.

The deal initiated through a long-standing power of attorney to Paramount Infrastructure allegedly benefited from improper exemptions, as detailed in complaints by activist Dinkar Kotkar, who reported the waiver of approxi-

Allegations have emerged surrounding a land deal in Pune involving Parth Pawar's firm, where government land valued at ₹1,800 crore was reportedly undervalued to ₹300 crore, and government levies were waived.

mately ₹21 crores in stamp duties.

Following an internal investigation initiated by the Inspector General of Registration, criminal complaints were lodged, resulting in the FIRs that gained national attention for addressing potential financial misconduct and the safeguarding of public resources.

Nitish Kumar's NDA poll schemes have backfired Cong Bihar chief says

Aurangabad, Nov 08: As Bihar approaches the final phase of elections, Rajesh Kumar Ram, the state Congress chief and a leading Dalit figure within the Grand Alliance, articulates the coalition's strategy to oppose the incumbent government of Nitish Kumar in an interview. He highlights that despite Kumar's perceived popularity among women voters, the Jeevika scheme's ₹10,000 loan has become burdensome, with reports of only one out of many women in a village benefiting from it.

This dissatisfaction is echoed by male voters as well. The Grand Alliance proposes a more effective plan for women, the Mai Behan Maan Yojana, promising ₹2,500 monthly to each household and offering a ₹1,500 pension compared to the current government's amount. Discussing the Extremely Backward Classes

and Mahadalits—the latter comprising 22 sub-castes—he refers to a recently announced charter by Rahul Gandhi that includes financial loans and job quotas for EBCs, which he argues does not empower these communities adequately. Ram underscores the disillusionment within Mahadalit societies toward the NDA, perceived as self-serving. When asked about potential threats to their voter base from Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party, Ram asserts that merely fielding candidates from disadvantaged groups does not pose a significant threat to the Grand Alliance. Lastly, he addresses the NDA's campaign claims regarding "jungle raj," asserting that relying on fear tactics cannot garner votes and emphasizing the prevailing anti-incumbency sentiment against Nitish Kumar's administration, which he believes is diverting attention from its failures.

Delays in passing Assembly bills are denied by Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan

Chennai, Nov 08: The Raj Bhavan has refuted claims that Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi delayed granting assent to bills passed by the State Assembly, stating that 81% of these bills have received his approval.

The comments were made in response to alleged "unfounded and factually incorrect allegations" circulating in public discourse suggesting the Governor's actions were detrimental to the interests of the people. According to official records, as of October 31, of the bills reviewed, 95 had received assent within three months. Additionally, 13% of the bills were reserved for presidential consideration, 60% of which were recommended for such action by the State Government.



The Raj Bhavan emphasized that remaining bills received late in October 2025 are still under consideration. It highlighted that claims of delays were baseless, pointing out that bills previously returned to the Assembly had subsequently been passed again and received assent. The Governor withheld

assent on 10 bills, which were later reserved for presidential consideration as they were deemed inconsistent with the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations established by parliamentary law, thus surpassing the jurisdiction of the State Legislature.

The statement reiterated the Governor's commitment to upholding the rule of law, ensuring legislative conformity with the Constitution of India, and acting with transparency and diligence. It underscored that the Governor respects Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage and actively supports initiatives in the spiritual, cultural, and linguistic domains, underscoring his dedication to the welfare of the state's people within the constitutional framework.

The first semi-high-speed train linking Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka is called Vande Bharat

Bengaluru, Nov 08: The Ernakulam-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat is Southern Railway's inaugural inter-state semi-high-speed service, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, connecting Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

This eight-coach train travels through significant cities like Thrissur, Palakkad, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, and Salem, aiming to enhance business and tourism in the region. Chair car seats are priced at ₹1,095, while executive class seats cost ₹2,289. The train will reduce trav-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vande Bharat Express trains at the railway station.

el time from over 11 hours to 8 hours and 40 minutes for the 583-km route. Regular service will commence on November 9, 2025, with departures from Bengaluru

at 5:10 am, arriving in Ernakulam at 1:50 pm, and returning from Ernakulam at 2:20 pm, arriving back in Bengaluru at 11 pm, running six days a week, barring

wednesdays.

This service is notable for offering the quickest connectivity on this busy corridor and being the first Vande Bharat train to serve Palakkad.

It facilitates various types of travel, including business, education, and tourism, featuring amenities like GPS-based infotainment, bio-vacuum toilets, ergonomic seating, automatic doors, reading lights, and Wi-Fi. The Railway Ministry reports over 164 Vande Bharat trains currently operating across India.

The proposed law seeks to address the issue of misinformation

Karnataka minister

Bengaluru, Nov 08: Defending the proposed Misinformation Regulation Bill, Karnataka's IT minister Priyank Kharge emphasized that the draft aims to address "growing digital misinformation" and "malicious fake news," rather than criminalizing free speech.

He assured that the Bill

would not target expressions such as satire, parody, opinion, art, and dissent, and stressed that it would specifically focus on misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and fake news without silencing criticisms of the government.

Kharge dismissed concerns about potential overreach,

clarifying that the Bill would rely on existing legal measures, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), to combat false information within constitutional limits. He described a previously circulated leaked draft as fake and an example of misinformation itself.

Kharge asserted that the

New Bill would withstand court scrutiny, in contrast to the Union government's 2023 amendment rules that were struck down by the Bombay High Court. The Congress government is poised to finalize the draft for presentation during the upcoming State Assembly session in Belgaavi.

In a police encounter in Panipat, two criminals were hurt

Chandigarh, Nov 08: On Friday night, two criminals, Sandeep and Naveen, were injured during a police encounter near the Sector 29 police station in Panipat. The police attempted to apprehend them around 2-3 am in Jind district, where the suspects opened fire and attempted to flee on a motorcycle. Both were shot in the legs and are currently stable at PGI Khanpur. An earlier FIR (number 591/13.10.2025) was filed by Rajwanti, who reported that Sandeep, alias



Baja, led a robbery gang that broke into her home, stealing Rs. 3 lakhs in cash and various jewelry while firing at her family. The police later recovered three illegal pistols and six live cartridges at the scene, resulting in a new FIR (number 356/08.11.2025) registered against the accused.

Jairam Ramesh makes fun of PM Modi's attendance after Trump skips the G20

New Delhi, Nov 08: Jairam Ramesh, a Congress leader, criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the announcement that US President Donald Trump will boycott the upcoming G20 Summit in South Africa on November 22-23, citing human rights abuses against Afrikaners. Ramesh remarked that the "self-styled Vishwaguru," referring to Modi, would have to attend the summit in person now that Trump has opted out. Ramesh previously mocked Modi for not attending the ASEAN Summit, suggesting he was avoiding confrontation with Trump. Trump's Truth Social post condemned the alleged killings of Afrikaners and claimed that US officials would not participate in the G20 as long as these abuses persist, expressing anticipation for hosting the 2026 G20 in Miami. The G20, an international forum of 19 countries and the European Union, aims to address global economic policy and significant international challenges.

Victor Das faces NSA hearing after arrest

Guwahati, Nov 08: Victor Das was taken from the Central Jail for a hearing under the National Security Act (NSA) after being detained in relation to the violence that erupted during demonstrations demanding justice for the late music legend Zubeen Garg. Officials claim that Das was charged under the strict NSA regulations for allegedly instigating disturbance during the demonstrations. While being led to the courtroom, Das spoke to media and insisted that he was innocent and that the accusations against him were unfounded. “There is a conspiracy here. I’ve been wrongly accused,” he said. The NSA hearing is set for later today, and in preparation for public gatherings by his supporters, security has been increased around the court grounds. Ajoy Phukan, a music composer, and Victor Das were previously arrested by Assam Police on September 26 in relation to the same protest-related occurrences. Both had previously been arrested for allegedly inciting protesters and causing chaos in public during Zubeen Garg’s supporters’ demonstrations. According to reports, the protests outside Zubeen’s manager Siddharth Sharma’s home had descended into violence. Both Phukan and Das were brought before the Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court in the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district following their original detention, and bail was granted. But soon after being freed, the two were arrested again in a different case connected to the same protests. Ajoy Phukan had voiced his dissatisfaction after his re-arrest, stating, “A false case was filed against us.” The police even assaulted ladies. All we wanted was justice for Zubeen Da. The public must now speak up, or else the true offenders will be allowed to escape punishment.

Following the sudden death of one of the state’s most well-known musicians, Zubeen Garg, protests broke out throughout Assam as supporters called for an impartial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his passing.

Imphal, Nov 08: A large-scale medical outreach was organised at the Leikop DIET Centre in Kangpokpi district on Friday, providing critical healthcare services to hundreds of internally displaced tribal families. The initiative, conducted as part of the upcoming Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025, marked a significant step in improving healthcare access for displaced communities in Manipur. The camp was organised by the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Government of Manipur, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Kangpokpi, and supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, observed annually on 15 November, honours



India’s tribal freedom fighters, including Bhagwan Birsa Munda, and celebrates the enduring contributions of tribal communities to India’s cultural and national identity. This year’s event also coincides with the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The medical camp offered free consultations, treatment, and medicines to displaced persons sheltering at the facility. A multidisciplinary team of doctors attended to patients, including Dr. Chongnu Hachokip (MO i/c PHC Kalapahar), Dr. S. Dimgel (ENT),

Dr. J. Touthang (Paediatrics), Dr. Archana Nayak (Obstetrics & Gynaecology, DPR RIMS), and Dr. Angelin Francis T. (General Medicine, DPR RIMS), under the supervision of Dr. Paokai Kipgen, Chief Medical Officer of Kangpokpi. The TRI ensured full logistical

support, providing transportation, meals, and refreshments for all participants and beneficiaries. Officials from both the TRI and the District Health Department described the event as a meaningful demonstration of service and solidarity with displaced communities. The initiative not only extended essential healthcare services to tribal families affected by displacement but also reinforced the spirit of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas—honouring courage, unity, and the legacy of India’s tribal heroes. By addressing urgent health needs and promoting well-being among vulnerable populations, the camp highlighted the government’s commitment to inclusive development and social welfare in tribal areas.

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



Kohima, Nov 08: The Kohima Lotha Hoho marked its 50th anniversary on November 7 with a grand celebration that coincided with Tokhü Emong, the major festival of the Lotha community. Held at the NBCC Convention Centre under the theme “future-ready reasoning,” the event brought together tribal leaders, community members, and officials from across Nagaland, highlighting the organisation’s enduring legacy and commitment to community development. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, the chief guest, congratulated the organisation for reaching this significant milestone and praised the gathering for uniting Lothas from various districts alongside leaders from other communities. He described the occasion as a strong testament to unity and emphasised the importance of preserving Lotha traditions for future generations. Highlighting Wokha district’s rich natural resources and

the community’s high ranking in per capita income and human development indices, Rio credited the Lotha people’s hardworking and innovative approach for their progress. He called for sustained peace and urged citizens to channel their energies toward constructive goals. Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, guest of honour, encouraged the youth to pursue education while maintaining unity and harmony, rejecting divisive attitudes. He acknowledged the significance of the golden jubilee coinciding with Tokhü Emong and expressed gratitude for the Lotha community’s continued support to the state government. During the event, Rio launched “The Divine in the Ordinary”, a book authored by Sentienla P Ezung. Kohima Lotha Hoho chairman K.N. Mhonthung Lotha traced the community’s history in Kohima back to 1878, noting that the first Lotha

settler married an Angami woman, laying the foundation for goodwill between the two communities. He described the golden jubilee as an opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate present achievements, and prepare the younger generation to adapt to rapid changes responsibly. The programme featured the jubilee song “A Lotha” by Eyilobeni Kikon, performances by the jubilee choir, and cultural dances by the Lotsu village troupe. Speeches were delivered by representatives from Lotha Hoho Oking, Lotha Officers’ Association, and Kohima Lotha Ekie Ekhung. Ministers Salhoutonuo Kruse, Mhathung Yanthan, advisors Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, Chumben, Kropol Vitsu, MLAs Y Mhonbemo Huntsoe, Achumbemo Kikon, as well as church and tribal leaders, graced the occasion, marking it as a grand celebration of Lotha heritage and future aspirations.

JNC slams detention of MCTODA leaders

Shillong, Nov 08: The Meghalaya Commercial Truck Owners and Drivers Association (MCTODA) started a protest over unpaid transportation rates by cement firms, and the Jaintia National Council (JNC) Central Executive Committee has expressed sincere remorse. According to JNC CEC President Sambormi Lyngdoh, the council met with MCTODA members in Mawryngkneng and discovered that only a small number of truckers had received the updated tariffs, despite the government’s claim that firms had paid them



according to official rates. According to Lyngdoh, provided cement firms followed government-notified rates, truckers had promised to end the strike. Lyngdoh accused corporations like Star Cement, Topcem, and Amrit of operating

hundreds of trucks freely in violation of local restrictions, pointing out that the district council, which was supposed to protect local trade, was instead encouraging non-tribal businesses. In order to safeguard Indigenous interests, he en-

couraged the state government and the district council to impose restrictions on such actions. The JNC President also denounced the imprisonment of MCTODA leaders and called for their release so that the Transport Minister may invite them to a dialogue. Declaring that the JNC will soon call an emergency CEC meeting to determine next steps, he urged the Jaintia Hills Trucks Association, East Jaintia Trucks Association, and MCTODA to band together against efforts to split the Hynniewtrep people.

Rewati Raman Sapkota has a few lines for CM Didi with a goodwill gesture

Udalguri, Nov 08: Rewati Raman Sapkota has a few lines for CM Didi with a goodwill gesture. Please don’t take it otherwise. CM Didi is a wonderful leader, not only of her state but of the country as a whole. Trinamool Congress was founded by her on 1 January 1998 as a break-away faction of the Indian National Congress and rapidly rose to prominence in the politics of West Bengal under her leadership. TMC has won the West Bengal assembly elections consecutively since 20 May 2011. But with the rolling of time, the TMC changed its policy and now it seemed to be stuck only at party level. Recently we experienced a wonderful and peaceful election in the BTC in Assam. Indeed, you must learn from Assam and BTC within it. The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) was formed after a long Bodo struggle for autonomy, with a 2003 peace accord supporting lasting peace and development. In the new BTR setup, people continue to place their trust in regional parties like BPF led by Hagrama Mohilary and UPPL led by Pramod Boro. The political-

ly conscious population of the new BTR gave a chance to the new political party UPPL for a term of five years from 2020 to 2025, and the party has learned a lot. In the fifth BTC elections, parties urged voters to choose wisely, resulting in Hagrama Mohilary’s BPF winning a record majority with 28 seats, while UPPL secured 7 and BJP 5. The BTC elections were marked by peace and fairness, with all parties following election rules and voters freely casting their votes. There were no reports of violence or malpractice during the recent elections, and even the defeated parties accepted the mandate, demonstrating a healthy democratic process. In Bihar, assembly elections are being conducted peacefully, with rising voter turnout ahead of the next phase. Citizens are urged to trust the Election Commission of India (ECI) and collaborate for a successful electoral process. A message was sent to CM Didi, encouraging her to support the ECI and inspire her supporters to focus on development rather than anti-social activities.

Pangolin scales seized in Dima Hasao



Haflong, Nov 08: The Dima Hasao Forest Department, working with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, made a big breakthrough against the illegal wildlife trade when they apprehended four people engaged in the illegal trafficking of wildlife parts and confiscated a sizable amount of pangolin scales. The operation, which took place in Assam’s Dima Hasao area, was a crucial step in stopping the widespread exploitation of endangered animals. On Friday, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Tuhin Langthasa confirmed the arrest and the seizure in a briefing to the media. Langthasa stressed the department’s dedication to preserving biodiversity and issued a warning that individuals who commit crimes against animals would continue to face severe consequences. The Wildlife Protection Act protects pangolins, which are frequently targeted for their scales used in illicit markets and traditional medicine. Trading pangolin parts is forbidden. Authorities have called for public assistance in reporting suspected wildlife-related activities and are still conducting investigations to unearth the larger network behind the trafficking.

Tripura sees sharp rise in rice production; Khowai and Dhalai near food self-sufficiency

Agartala, Nov 08: Tripura has witnessed a remarkable increase in rice production this year, with Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath expressing confidence that Khowai and Dhalai districts are on the verge of achieving food self-sufficiency. The minister made the announcement during a visit to Lankamura in West Tripura, where he inspected paddy fields and joined local farmers in harvesting. Highlighting the state’s encouraging yield, Nath noted that farmers are adopting improved practices and cultivating diverse rice varieties. “Binupada Adhikari, with government assistance, has cultivated six varieties of rice



on five kani of land — including black rice, Harinarayan, Kali Khasa, Binni, and Basmati,” he said. “It’s now time for harvesting, and I’ve come here with the Agriculture Department to encourage the farmers of this area.”

The minister added that three districts and 30 blocks across Tripura are already self-sufficient in food grain production. “We are hopeful that this year, Khowai and Dhalai will also achieve self-sufficiency if the weather

remains favourable,” he said. To further support farmers, the government plans to distribute harvesting machines to enhance efficiency. “Our production is strong. India now exports rice, fish, milk, and other products. We must continue to stand beside our farmers — agriculture is our main foundation,” Nath emphasised. Officials attributed the improved output to timely government assistance, better farming practices, and growing enthusiasm among cultivators across the state. Local farmers expressed optimism that consistent support and modern techniques will help Tripura consolidate its position as a food-secure state and expand agricultural exports in the coming years.

Assam tops in central fund utilisation



Guwahati, Nov 08: Assam has emerged as the leading state in India in effectively utilising the Centre’s Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) fund, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday. Speaking at the inauguration of the Brahmaputra Riverfront project in Guwahati, she praised the state government for its prompt and efficient deployment of 50-year, interest-free central loans earmarked for infrastructure development, including hospitals, roads, and other critical capital assets. “The way Assam is planning and creating assets, it is utilising the central fund to the maximum level. Assam tops the list,” Sitharaman said. “While all states are creating assets, nobody is doing it like Assam is working.” During her visit, the Finance Minister inaugurated two major urban projects in the state capital: the Gateway of Guwahati, which includes a terminal and jetty on the Brahmaputra riverbank built at a cost of ₹305 crore, and the Brahmaputra Riverfront project at Sati Radhika Udyan, developed for ₹327 crore. Highlighting the balance between infrastructure growth and local livelihoods, Sitharaman noted, “I heard there was a fish market beneath this riverfront project. The Chief Minister told me that it still exists and people can still go to the river to catch fish. This is a good blend between livelihood and development.” The minister emphasised that urban development must progress “without displacing people,” adding, “Bringing in changes by not disturbing the livelihood of people is an example of good governance.” Sitharaman, on a two-day visit to Assam, also inspected the upcoming Tata Electronics Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Jagiroad in Morigaon district. She described the Rs 27,000-crore semiconductor plant as a milestone project that would place Assam “in the driver’s seat of the engine for developed India.” On Saturday, she is scheduled to visit Gohpur in Biswanath district to lay the foundation stone of the Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University, approved by the Assam Cabinet in June at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore.

At Haflong, Tribal Farmers’ Conclave-cum-Exhibition 2025 inaugurated

Haflong, Nov 08: The two-day Tribal Farmers’ Conclave-cum-Exhibition 2025 was opened at the Haflong Government College Auditorium Hall by Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), in an important effort to empower tribal farmers and improve the agricultural sector. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dima Hasao, and the ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone VI, Guwahati, are working together to host the event. The colloquium encourages tribal farmers from all across Assam to embrace contempo-



rary methods and look into market-oriented farming potential by providing an essential venue for agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, and value addition. During a two-day session, participants showcased their inventions and success stories, highlighting the importance of empowering local farmers through technical interventions and value addition to

enhance income and boost the rural economy. CEM Debolal Gorlosa praised the efforts of ICAR and KVK Dima Hasao for merging grassroots experience with scientific knowledge. Awards were presented to top-performing farmers and innovators for their contributions to rural development. The event featured various dignitaries, including Nandita Gorlosa and Dr. G. Kadirvel. Knowledge sharing on sustainable farming and agribusiness aimed to create opportunities for tribal agripreneurs, advancing Dima Hasao towards a self-sufficient agricultural community.

BUSINESS

Swiggy board clears up to Rs 10,000 crore fundraise via QIP

Mumbai: Swiggy Ltd on Friday said its Board of Directors has approved raising up to Rs 10,000 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP). The company stated that the fundraising may be carried out in one or more tranches via public or private offerings, subject to necessary approvals from shareholders and regulatory authorities. "The Board has considered and approved the raising of funds by way of public or private offerings, including qualified institutions placement or any other permitted modes under applicable laws, for an aggregate amount of up to Rs 10,000 crore," Swiggy stated in an exchange filing. Swiggy's Instamart vertical reported a strong performance, with GOV reaching Rs 7,000 crore in Q2 -- up 24 per cent QoQ and 108 per cent YoY -- driven by higher



order volumes and an 8 per cent increase in monthly users. Nomura said the fundraising would help Swiggy bolster its quick commerce expansion amid rising competition from Zepto and Eternal.

cRs 560 from Rs 550 earlier, implying a potential upside of 39.44 per cent from today's closing level of Rs 401.60.

Sensex down 95 points, Nifty below 25,500 weak global trends

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global markets hit investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent to 82,670.95. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 17.40 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 25,492.30. From the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel tumbled 4.46 per cent after Singtel said it has sold about 0.8 per cent stake in the firm for Rs 10,353 crore (SGD 1.5 billion). Tech Mahindra, Trent, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were also among the laggards. However, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra,



and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Thursday, however, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 5,283.91 crore, according to exchange data. Brent

crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.31 per cent to USD 64.21 per barrel. Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global

markets hit investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent to 82,670.95.

Q2 results Bajaj Finance, Vodafone Tata Steel, HAL, MRF, ONGC to post

New Delhi: The earnings season will hit its peak next week, with several heavyweights set to unveil their financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2025.

The action kicks off on Monday, November 10, with non-banking finance major Bajaj Finance and PSU giant Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) announcing their September-quarter numbers. The telecom sector will also be in focus as Vodafone Idea declares its results the same day. On Tuesday, Novem-

ber 11, attention will shift to the financial and power segments, with Bajaj Finserv and Tata Power releasing their quarterly performance.

The pace intensifies midweek on Wednesday, November 12, as marquee names such as Asian Paints, Tata Steel, and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) line up their results, alongside Ashok Leyland, which will detail its commercial vehicle earnings. The automobile sector takes centre stage later in the week, with Eicher Motors—the parent

of Royal Enfield—and Hero MotoCorp announcing their results on Thursday, November 13.

The week wraps up on Friday, November 14, with key updates from Marico, Oil India, and tyre major MRF. Apart from these heavyweights, several other prominent names including Muthoot Finance, IRCTC, Voltas, and KPIT Technologies will also declare their numbers, ensuring a data-heavy and eventful week for investors and analysts on Dalal Street.

ATC Guild warned of automation gaps months major Delhi airport glitch

Mumbai: A major systems failure at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport disrupted air traffic operations for several hours between Thursday evening and Friday, delaying over 500 flights and leading to the cancellation of nearly 100. The disruption stemmed from a crash in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) — a critical platform that integrates radar feeds, processes flight data, and enables communication between air traffic control units. With the system down, controllers were forced to switch to manual coordination, triggering cascading delays. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) confirmed the failure and said preliminary checks pointed to software and power supply issues. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and

the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) have sought a detailed report on the incident from AAI and the Air Navigation Services team. The episode has reignited concerns over ageing air traffic infrastructure. In July 2025, the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild had warned about "performance degradation" in automation systems, citing lags and slowness particularly at high-traffic airports like Delhi and Mumbai. The Guild had called for periodic upgrades aligned with global benchmarks such as Eurocontrol and the FAA. "India's systems must align with global benchmarks such as Eurocontrol and the FAA, which emphasise predictive tools, AI-enabled conflict detection, and real-time data sharing," the Guild wrote in its communication.

Nykaa Q2 figures show a 25% increase in revenue and a 243% increase in net profit to Rs 34 crore

Mumbai: FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd, the parent company of beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa, reported a stellar set of numbers for the September quarter, with consolidated net profit attributable to equity shareholders jumping 243 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 34.43 crore, compared with Rs 10.04 crore in the corresponding period last year. Revenue from operations rose 25.1 per cent YoY to Rs 2,345.98 crore in Q2 FY26 from Rs 1,874.74 crore in Q2 FY25, while total income for the quarter stood at Rs 2,354.01 crore, up from Rs 1,880.19 crore a year ago. Operationally, Nykaa delivered a robust 53 per cent YoY growth in EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) to Rs 158.5 crore, against Rs 103.6 crore in the year-ago period. The company's EBITDA margin improved to 6.7 per cent in Q2 FY26 from 5.5 per cent a year earlier, reflecting improved operating leverage



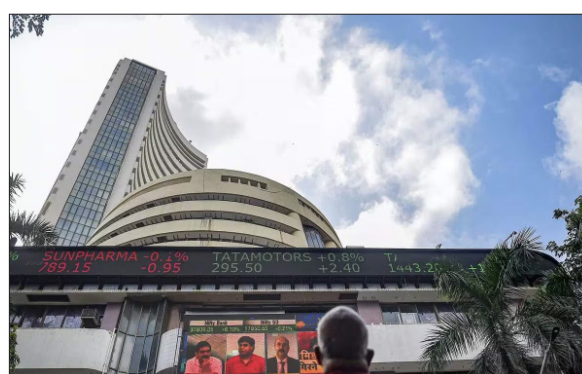
and cost efficiencies. Profit before tax jumped to Rs 55.38 crore from Rs 21.26 crore in the same quarter last year. The results included net exceptional items of Rs 1.04 crore, comprising an income of Rs 9.34 crore from an arbitration award, partly offset by a provision of Rs 10.38 crore

related to inventory misappropriation at a subsidiary's warehouse. The company said an insurance claim has been filed to recover the loss. Segment-wise, the 'Beauty' business continued to drive growth, with revenue rising to Rs 2,131.88 crore from Rs 1,702.89 crore a year ago.

Segment profit rose to Rs 105.39 crore from Rs 72.23 crore last year. The 'Fashion' division's revenue increased to Rs 201.00 crore from Rs 166.09 crore, while its loss narrowed sharply to Rs 21.35 crore from Rs 32.40 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Sensex down 95 points, Nifty below 25,500 weak global trends Dalal street ends lower

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global markets hit investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent to 82,670.95. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 17.40 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 25,492.30. From the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel tumbled 4.46 per cent after Singtel said it has sold about 0.8 per cent stake in the firm for Rs 10,353 crore (SGD 1.5 billion). Tech Mahindra, Trent, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were also among the laggards. However,



er, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Thursday, however, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 5,283.91 crore, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.31 per cent to USD 64.21 per

barrel. Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global markets hit investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent to 82,670.95.

Medanta's strategic expansion strengthens healthcare infrastructure; Q2 revenue up 15%

Aizawl: Medanta Global Health Limited (NSE: Medanta, BSE: 543654) has reinforced its role in India's private healthcare sector with the launch of a 550-bed super-specialty hospital in Noida. Operational since September 2025 with 226 beds, 81 ICU beds, and five operating theatres, the facility has deployed advanced medical technologies and on-



boarded 151 doctors, reflecting the government's emphasis on improving tertiary healthcare capacity in high-demand regions.

For Q2 FY2026, Medanta reported consolidated total income of INR 11,189 million, up 14.8% year-on-year, with net profit rising 21.1% to INR 1,584 million. EBITDA excluding Noida in-

creased 13.7% to INR 2,804 million. Mature hospitals contributed INR 7,200 million in revenue, while developing hospitals excluding Noida grew 28.3%, supported by increased patient volumes. International patient revenue jumped 48.5% to INR 762 million, and OPD pharmacy revenue rose 23.9% to INR 456 million, highlighting growing consumer demand for high-quality healthcare services.

Additional quarter highlights include capacity expansions in Patna and Lucknow and the proposed 500-750 bed super-specialty hospital in Mumbai, reflecting Medanta's network-wide growth and contribution to India's healthcare infrastructure.

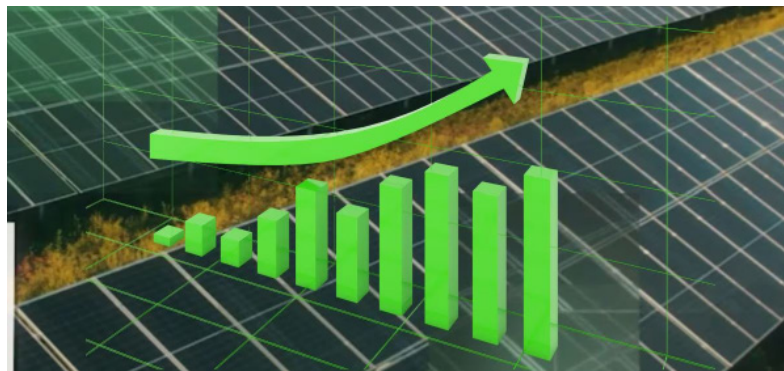
Delhi Airport issues fresh advisory for fliers day

Mumbai: Delhi Airport has issued a latest passenger advisory confirming that all flight operations are normal. In its social media post, the airport said, "All flight operations are normal at Delhi Airport. Wishing all passengers a smooth and pleasant journey ahead!" It has also advised flyers to stay in contact with respective airlines for all the latest updates on flight operations changes and schedules. Following the technical glitch, IndiGo Airlines, India's largest carrier, announced adjustments to some flight.

Motilal Oswal sees up to 19% upside for this renewable energy stock

Mumbai: The renewable energy sector is in focus, and the Waaree Energies share price has seen over 26% jump in the last 6 months. Motilal Oswal has initiated coverage on the stock with a Buy rating. It has set a target price of Rs 4,000 per share. This implies about 19% upside for the solar cell and module manufacturer from current levels. Waaree Energies plans to expand its total cell/module capacity by FY26/FY27-end. With a current order book of Rs 47,000 crore, "earnings visibility for FY26-FY27 remains high," stated Motilal Oswal.

The management has guided for EBITDA of Rs 5,500-6,000 crore for FY26. As the company expands capacity, Motilal Oswal estimates "annualised growth of 43% in EBITDA and 40% in profit over FY25-FY28. By FY28, the earnings contribution from new businesses is estimated to rise to 15% of EBITDA." Explaining the rationale driving the recommendation, Motilal Oswal detailed out that they "expect cell margins and pricing to remain resilient through FY27, supported by limited supply additions and elongated stabilisation timelines for new capacity in the industry." Motilal Oswal pointed out that "emerging verticals such as battery energy storage systems (BESS), EPC, and green hydrogen



are set to become key growth drivers, contributing an estimated 15% of EBITDA by FY28, thereby enhancing business diversification."

While profitability is likely to stay firm in H1FY28, Motilal Oswal expects "potential margin pressure beyond FY28 as incremental cell capacity begins to align with demand" for this renewable power sector stock.

Motilal Oswal also pointed out that an ambitious government vision supports the prospects of the stock going forward. The report stated that, "The central government, aiming to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030 using domestically manufactured components, has introduced supportive policies such as the Approved List of Module Manufacturers (ALMM)."

An Approved List of Cell Manufacturers (ALCM) is proposed

from June 2026, while an Approved List of Wafer Manufacturers (ALWM) has already been conceptualised. "Industry participants also anticipate a similarly favourable policy framework for ancillary equipment including batteries, inverters, and transformers," Motilal Oswal added. Waaree Energies plans to expand its total cell/module capacity by FY26/FY27-end. With a current order book of Rs 47,000 crore, "earnings visibility for FY26-FY27 remains high," stated Motilal Oswal. The management has guided for EBITDA of Rs 5,500-6,000 crore for FY26. As the company expands capacity, Motilal Oswal estimates "annualised growth of 43% in EBITDA and 40% in profit over FY25-FY28. By FY28, the earnings contribution from new businesses is estimated to rise to 15% of EBITDA."

'Digital gold products different from SEBI regulated gold products'

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a public statement cautioning investors against dealing in 'Digital Gold' or 'E-Gold' products by unregulated online platforms. The market regulator said such investments are not under its regulatory framework and may pose significant risks to investors. "It has come to the notice of SEBI that some digital/online platforms are offering investors an opportunity to invest in 'Digital Gold/E-Gold Products'. In this con-

text, it is informed that such digital gold products are different from SEBI-regulated gold products as they are neither notified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives. They operate entirely outside the purview of SEBI," investing in gold, including gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) offered by mutual funds and electronic gold receipts (EGRs) traded on stock exchanges, and exchange-traded commodity derivative contracts. These instruments, SEBI said

Iglesias Tour Boosts Maharashtra Tourism



Agency: After a 13-year hiatus, multi-Grammy Award-winning music icon Enrique Iglesias made an unforgettable return to India for a two-day concert at the MMRDA Grounds, captivating over 60,000 fans and generating a record-breaking economic impact to Maharashtra Tourism worth over \$ USD 10 million. This landmark event showcased not only Iglesias's most ambitious concert series in India to date but also the commitment of the promoter company EVA Live to produce a world-class entertainment experience within the live event landscape of India.

The legendary singer-songwriter wowed the audience with a 19-track set list that spanned his illustrious career, delivering a high-energy 90-minute performance that resonated deeply with the audience, which spanned from teenagers as young as 15 to senior citizens in their 70s. The sold-out concerts held on October 29 and October 30, 2025, marked his debut performance in Mumbai following previous shows in the country in 2004 and 2012. Supporting acts for the event included Indo-Canadian singer Jonita Gandhi and the electrifying EDM duo Progressive Brothers. The concert's demand extended beyond Mumbai, with more than 50% of fans traveling from over 30 states, including Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Ahmedabad, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab. This geographic diversity underscored Iglesias's pan-Indian appeal and the event's significance as a cultural moment that transcended regional boundaries. Bollywood celebrities in attendance included Malaika Arora Khan, Anand Pirkamal, Vidya Balan, Nattasha Dalal, Rakul Preet Singh, Jacky Bhanani, Rubina Dilaik, Anu Malik, Abhinav Shukla, Tina Dutta, Aditya Seal, Anushka Ranjan, Sonal Chauhan, Tanisha Mukherjee, Disa Parmar, Jai Bhanushali, Gurmeet Choudhary, Debina Bonnerjee, Elnaaz Norouzi, Orry Awatramani, Natasha Dalal, Pragma Jaiswal, Shriya Saran, Rahul Vaidya, Divya Dutta, Aahana Kumra, Aditi Sharma, Rohit Reddy, Meiyang Chang, Viraj Ghelani, Nyra Banerjee, Abhimanyu Dasani, Sharad Malhotra, Rajat Bedi and Waluscha D'Souza, who joined thousands of nostalgic fans under the Mumbai skies. Deepak Choudhary, Founder, EVA Live states, "Enrique Iglesias's return to India transcends mere nostalgia. It's about reigniting the shared connection he has with his fans. The sincerity in the venue was palpable. For those who had eagerly awaited his return, this concert was more than just a performance; it was a powerful reminder of why his music resonates across generations. We are excited to bring one of the biggest shows in India this year with this sold-out, two-day spectacle. This collaboration represents a significant investment in bringing world-class entertainment to Indian audiences."

Abhishek Bajaj and Neelam Giri Eliminated From BB19



Mumbai: Bigg Boss 19, which premiered in August 2025, is slowly inching towards its finale. As per media reports, the show's grand finale might happen on December 7. Ahead of that, the makers reportedly introduced a new shocking twist this week. If social media buzz is anything to go by, Abhishek Bajaj and Neelam Giri's BB 19 journeys have ended after the double eviction twist. They were nominated along with Ashnoor Kaur, Gaurav Khanna, and Farrhana Bhatt.

According to a page on X (formerly Twitter), Bigg Boss 19 host Salman reportedly declared Gaurav and Farrhana as safe contestants. Later, Pranit More was ap-

parently given a power to save one person from eviction. Ashnoor, Neelam and Abhishek were the options. As per the tweet, Pranit decided to save Ashnoor. And ultimately, Abhishek and Neelam's journeys reportedly ended on the show. The tweet further read, "Pranit was the captain, but had to leave the house due to a sudden medical emergency. Because of that, he missed his captaincy powers. So today, Salman gave him a special privilege, Pranit got the power to save one contestant this week."

'Family Man 3' Trailer OUT: Srikant Tiwari Becomes India's Most Wanted; The Fight Just Got Personal



Agency: India's most-loved spy thriller series The Family Man is back! After years of anticipation, Manoj Bajpayee returns as the fan-favourite Srikant Tiwari and this time, he's not just fighting enemies, he's fighting for survival! Amazon Prime Video unveiled the trailer for The Family Man Season 3, and as expected, it has taken social media by storm.

Directed by Raj & DK, the newest installment of the high-octane spy thriller follows Srikant, who now finds himself branded as the nation's "most wanted man." Once an undercover agent, he's now on the run with his family, trapped in a dangerous web of lies, betrayal

and power struggles. The 2-minute 50-second video teases a gripping ride that blends action, humour and family drama, everything that has made the show a fan favourite since its very first season. Fans went frenzy after watching a trailer packed with suspense, emotion and edge-of-the-seat moments. It has sparked a wave of

excitement on social media, especially on X. One user wrote, "Just watched The Family Man Season 3 trailer, I love it! The thing is, I know Family Man never disappoints us... but I'm a bit concerned about my mood. When I see her again, my blood's gonna start boiling (Those who know, know) peak character writing." One

wrote, "The Trailer Looks good & Promising! Hopefully, Season 3 keeps up the same fun and sharp writing as the previous two. #The-FamilyMan3"

One fan tweeted, "The Family Man 3 Trailer is 3x MORE BOMBARDING than the previous seasons. This time more Mass & Masala with the ANGAAR CAST. Manoj Bajpayee and the cast look SURREAL. This season promises more fun, more twists, more drama and more mystery!" Alongside Manoj Bajpayee, fan-favourite actors Priyamani, Sharib Hashmi, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Ashlesha Thakur and Vedant Sinha reprise their iconic roles in the upcoming sea-

son. This time, the series also welcomes new faces who add fresh energy to The Family Man universe. Jaideep Ahlawat joins the cast as a drug smuggler from India's Northeast, bringing a dark and intense new dimension to the story. Nimrat Kaur also takes on a pivotal role, introducing a compelling dynamic that could turn Srikant's world upside down. The Family Man Season 3 is set to premiere on November 21. The trailer has been widely praised by audiences for maintaining the show's trademark blend of sharp wit, high-octane action, and suspense, while setting up Srikant Tiwari's most dangerous challenge yet.

"Haq" Registers Solid Opening, Earning Over ₹1.5 Crore on First Day of Release

Mumbai: Suparn Varna's courtroom drama Haq, starring Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi, hit theatres on November 7. The film opened to positive reviews and registered a decent start at the box office.

According to the latest Sacnilk report, Haq grossed Rs 1.65 crore on its opening day. The film is expected to see growth over the weekend, with strong word-of-mouth likely to boost audience turnout in the coming days. On Friday, the movie recorded an overall 9.97% Hindi occupancy with night shows seeing the highest footfall (16.50%), followed by evening (9.54%), afternoon (8.19%), and morning shows (5.66%). Haq draws inspiration from the life and legal battle of Shah Bano Begum, whose landmark 1985 case led the Supreme Court to grant divorced Muslim women the right to maintenance. Recently, the Madhya Pradesh High Court dismissed a petition filed by Shah Bano Begum's daughter that sought to halt the film's release. The plot revolves



around Shazia (Yami Gautam), a simple lady who marries Abbas Khan (Emraan Hashmi), a wealthy advocate. One day, Abbas unexpectedly brings home a second wife. Not long after, he terminates their marriage using triple talaq. The remainder of the film revolves around Shazia's legal fight for her rights. Sheeba Chaddha and Vartika Singh play major roles in the film. Haq, produced

by Junglee Pictures in conjunction with Insomnia Films and Baweja Studios, continues Junglee's tradition of delivering controversial and timely films. Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi add another riveting performance to their filmography with Haq, one that not only investigates gender and justice but also fosters important conversations about India's socio-legal progress.

Kapoor, Sheikh Shoot 'Hisaab' in Punjab: Behind-the-Scenes Glimpse



Agency: Sanjay Kapoor shared a couple of photos from his latest workation with Shaheer Sheikh, Mouni Roy and others. They were spotted hanging out at the beautiful abode and indulging in some delightful meals.

On Instagram, Sanjay Kapoor dropped a series of pictures from his recent visit to The Patiala Ranbaas, a luxury heritage hotel located within the historic Qila Mubarak complex in Punjab. In the opening photo, we can spot the cast members of the upcoming web series titled Hisaab. It included Shaheer Sheikh, Mouni Roy, Aasheema Vardaan, and filmmaker Divyanshu Malhotra, known for his work in Flames, Cubicles, Sixer, Brochura and Adulging. He has also written lyrics for Bandish Bandits, Flames and Industry, and was an associate writer on Lionsgate's Hic-

cups & Hookups. All five of them were seen posing for happy glimpses in various corners of the palace. Afterwards, one of the frames in the carousel also featured a glimpse at Kapoor's scrumptious meal at the palace. It featured what appears to be a dish of lamb tikka, consisting of boneless lamb chunks marinated and grilled with spices and yogurt. The North Indian tandoori classic was served with naan bread and an assortment of flavourful chutneys. Reacting to the post, Mouni Roy also commented, "I love us." In reply, Kapoor posted two evil eye emojis. Aasheema stated, "My lovely people." Divyanshu dropped three white heart emojis. Actress Sayani Gupta said, "It's a beautiful property! Had such a good time." Again, the actor mentioned, "It's stunning and great food too." In reply, the actress talked about "palak patta chaat." Soon after the post was shared, social media users began flooding the comment section showcasing their immense anticipation for the web series, Hisaab. A user said, "Excited for the web series Hisaab." Another added, "Can't Wait For Hisaab." Someone commented, "Best of luck for the New movie." The Khauf star posted a series of glimpses from their trip to Punjab.

"Jatadhara" Box Office Underwhelms; Needs a Miracle to Recover



Hyderabad: Actor Sudheer Babu's latest release 'Jatadhara' didn't set box office on fire, rather had to contend with meagre collections on day in two Telugu states. "It has just grossed Rs 90 lakhs which is not truly encouraging for much-hyped supernatural thriller" says a distributor, who adds, "Sudheer Babu couldn't pull in crowds despite a semi-divine role and

may be due to familiar plot and disenchanted narration," he adds.

Even Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha debut hasn't enthralled Telugu fans but her dark performance stands out for her eerie looks and behavior. "She has done justice to her evil spirit avatar and the collections have to pick up drastically to turn into a winner," he adds. The budget of

the film is reportedly pegged at Rs 15 crore and it has been released in Hindi belt too, but it has mostly received mixed response. "The supernatural thriller revolving around treasure pots guarded by evil spirits but the narration wasn't exciting enough, to bring out the novelty factor," he concludes. With its reported budget pegged around ₹15-20 crore, Jatadhara faces an uphill battle. The modest opening means the film is heavily reliant on a significant jump in collections over the upcoming weekend and positive word-of-mouth to achieve a profitable run. The film's commercial fate will be determined by whether it can sustain audience interest into the week despite the muted start.

'Chakda Xpress' Ready to Roll: Anushka Sharma's Comeback After Nearly a Decade



Mumbai: Anushka Sharma has been missing from the screen for over seven years now. She was last seen in the 2018 movie Zero with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. The actress then shot for Chakda Xpress, but although the movie's shooting was wrapped up in 2022, it was never released. However, according to a recent report, the makers of Anushka Sharma's Chakda Xpress are now eager to release the movie.

As reported by Mid-Day, after the Indian women's cricket squad's historic win, the makers of Chakda Xpress have written to the top executives from Netflix, urging them to release their movie. "We have personally written

to top executives at Netflix India to see if they can rise above the conflict so that the film can see the light of day. A biopic on a legend like Jhulan di deserves to reach the audience," a source cited by the portal claimed. The publication also claims that the film has been stuck for years because the heads at Netflix

did not like how the movie turned out. "The production house went over-budget. What added to the woes was that the platform heads didn't like the way the project was shaping up. But it's still a solid film," the insider added. Chakda Xpress's rights are currently with Netflix. "The recent victory has put the

attention back on the biopic. Internal discussions at the streamer have started, and the team is expected to take a final pass this month to determine if it can be released after additional work," added another source. For the unversed, Chakda Xpress is a biopic on the life of cricketer Jhulan Goswami. The upcoming sports drama will be released on Netflix. Meanwhile, on the personal front, Anushka Sharma, who is married to Virat Kohli, has moved to London, where they are living a calm life away from all the glitz and glamour. They moved out of India in 2024 but keep visiting the country for work commitments.

Sivakarthikeyan & Sai Pallavi's Amaran Storms IFFI, Earns Major Award Nod



Chennai: Sivakarthikeyan's 2024 hit Amaran continues to make headlines a year after its release. The film, directed by Rajkumar Periyasamy, has been nominated for the prestigious Golden Peacock Award in the International Competition section at the 56th International Film Festival of India in Goa. It has also been chosen as the opening film for the Indian Panorama segment, a distinction reserved for the

most acclaimed Indian works of the year. The announcement brought a wave of pride for the team, especially producer Kamal Haasan, who said he was honoured that the story of a brave Indian officer "that moved the nation will now reach hearts across the world." The film celebrates the life and courage of Major Mukund Varadarajan, an officer in the Indian Army who received the Ashok Chakra

posthumously for his exceptional bravery during an anti-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir. In Amaran, Sivakarthikeyan delivers one of his most intense performances to date, portraying Major Mukund with a blend of discipline and vulnerability. Sai Pallavi brings warmth and conviction as Indhu Rebecca Varghese, his wife and emotional anchor. Together, they breathe authenticity into a story that balances patriotism with deeply personal human emotion. When Amaran released in theatres on October 31, 2024, it was met with widespread acclaim. Audiences and critics praised its gripping storytelling, emotional depth, and realistic portrayal of military life. The film struck a chord for its sincerity and restraint, steering clear of exaggerated heroism while highlighting the human cost of service and sacrifice. The

ensemble cast features Rahul Bose as Colonel Amit Singh Dabas, Bhuvan Arora as Sepoy Vikram Singh, and strong supporting performances from Lallu, Shree Kumar, Shyam Mohan, Ajaey Naga Raaman, Mir Salman, and Gaurav Venkatesh. Each role adds depth to the world that director Rajkumar Periyasamy creates with precision and care. Adapted from India's Most Fearless: True Stories of Modern Military Heroes by journalists Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh, the film blends fact with cinematic storytelling without losing sight of authenticity. The technical crew played a key role in achieving this tone: cinematography by CH Sai captures the stark beauty of conflict zones, editing by Kalaivanan maintains a tense yet fluid pace, and GV Prakash Kumar's stirring score ties emotion and action seamlessly.

Rowdy Rathore 2 Gets a Makeover: Makers Pivot to a 'Pan-India' Lead Actor

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar's 2012 action comedy, Rowdy Rathore, remains one of the most loved movies to date. If reports are to be believed, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who produced the film, is now planning a sequel to his hit movie. However, this time, Akshay Kumar won't return as Vikrant Singh Rathore, but a pan-India star is likely to replace him. If a report by India Today is to be believed, Bhansali Studios has decided to go big on Rowdy Rathore and convert it into a franchise. "Bhansali Productions is actively working on several major projects, including 'Rowdy Rathore 2'. It's one of the studio's biggest franchises with a strong pan-India fan base," a source cited by the portal claimed. The publication also shared that the cast is not locked yet and the film is still in its early stages. However, it also reported that in Rowdy Rathore 2, a 'big



pan-India star' is likely to lead the film in a cop avatar. "Given the film's wide popularity, the makers are looking to cast a major pan-Indian star," the insider added. It should also be noted that there is no official announcement regarding Rowdy Rathore 2 from the makers as of now. For the unversed, Rowdy Rathore originally starred Akshay Kumar and Sonakshi Sinha. Directed by Prabhu Deva, the film was an official Hindi remake of the 2006 Telugu film Vikramarkudu. It was widely loved by the audience and had earned a little over Rs 200

crore at the box office. Meanwhile, Akshay Kumar will soon be seen in Welcome To The Jungle. The film marks the third chapter in the Welcome franchise, following Welcome (2007) and Welcome Back (2015). The 2007 release Welcome, starring Katrina Kaif, Paresh Rawal, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar, and Mallika Sherawat, went on to become a superhit, attaining the position of being a cult classic Bollywood comedy movie. The release date for Welcome 3 has not been announced as of now.

5 Decadent & Easy Homemade Treats to Win Over Your Partner’s Heart

World Chocolate Day 2025

Chocolate Day is celebrated on February 9, marking the third day of Valentine’s Week, which begins on February 7 and culminates on February 14 with Valentine’s Day. On this special day, chocolates are exchanged as a sweet token of love, affection, and gratitude among friends, family, and loved ones. It’s also the perfect excuse to forget your diet and indulge in some decadent, choccolicious treats. Not sure what to make? Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered. Here’s our special guide to delicious and easy-to-make chocolate recipes that are sure to melt hearts. So, grab your apron, put on your chef’s hat, and let’s get cooking.

Chocolate Walnut Fudge
Ingredients: 15-20 walnuts, 4 tbsps butter,¾ cup chopped dark chocolate,1 cup condensed milk,¾ cup grated mawa/khoya.

Chop walnuts. Heat a nonstick pan. Add butter and dark chocolate and cook on low heat till chocolate melts. Add condensed milk and cook on medium heat for 2-3 minutes. Add khoya, half of the chopped walnuts and mix well. Cook for 5-6 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a lined glass tin, sprinkle remaining walnuts and set aside for 2-3 hours. Cut into squares and serve.

Chocolate Mousse
Ingredients: 1½ cups dark chocolate,½ cup cream,1½ cups whipping cream,4 tsp fine-grain sugar,Few drops of



vanilla extract,Grated chocolate for garnish.

Melt chocolate and 100ml cream in a double boiler and remove when it dissolves completely. Mix whipping cream, sugar and vanilla extract and thicken it till it froths. Now fold in the melted chocolate and pour it into cups. Garnish with some grated chocolate. Refrigerate and once chilled serve.

Chocolate Brownie
Ingredients: 1/2 cup plain flour (maida),4 tbsp cocoa powder,2 tbsp sour curds (khatta dahi),1/4 tsp soda bi-carb,1/4 cup melted butter,5 tbsp powdered sugar,1/2 tsp vanilla essence,1/4 cup roughly chopped walnuts (akhrot),1 tbsp butter for greasing. Sift together the flour

and cocoa powder using a sieve. Keep aside. Combine the curds and soda-bi-carb in a bowl, mix well and keep aside. Combine the curds and soda-bi-carb in a bowl, mix well and keep aside. Combine the melted butter, powdered sugar, vanilla essence and ½ cup of hot water in another bowl and whisk well. Add the curds-soda mixture and mix well.

Add the flour mixture and walnuts and mix gently to make a smooth batter of dropping consistency. Grease a 150 mm. (6”) diameter shallow microwave safe dish using butter. Line it with a piece of greaseproof paper at the bottom of the dish and again grease it using a little butter. 7. Pour the batter into the greased and lined microwave safe dish, spread it evenly using a spoon and microwave on high for 4 minutes. 8. Cool slightly and unmould by turning upside down on a plate. Remove and discard the grease proof paper and serve hot.

1. Boil water in a pot. Then put 1 bowl of chocolate and 1 bowl of butter in glass bowl which is kept on the pot with boiling water and melt it with butter. 2. Whisk 3 nos. eggs in this, add 1 tbsp. Sugar and whisk again. Now add 1 tbsp refined white flour and whisk it again. Coat the small oven-proof bowls with butter and then dust it off with dry refined flour to line it with dry refined flour. Pour this mixture into these small bowls. Just fill the cups till 3/4th of the bowl as it rises.

Marwar meets the world

Perched against the backdrop of the Aravalli range, Taraksh—Sanskrit for ‘starry-eyed’—stands as the culinary home of Sayaji Udaipur resort. The restaurant pays homage to Rajasthan’s rich artisanal legacy. With over two decades of experience, its Executive Chef Rajendra Singh blends local Rajasthani ingredients with global flavours, shaping dishes that delight both adventurous and traditional palates alike. Food: The appetisers are nothing short of a culinary revelation. The Keema Kaleji Potli Samosa is a must-try, where spiced mutton mince and earthy mutton liver melds within a crisp, golden shell. For those with a penchant for robust flavours, Thai Kai Pani Pooi brilliantly marries the street food charm of the Indian subcontinent with Thai flavours. Perhaps the most



intriguing offering is the Ker Sangri Cappuccino, a clever play on presentation that transforms this Rajasthani delicacy into an elegant broth. The Rajasthani Murg Mathania ka Shorba balances tender chicken with Mathania chilli. Maas ka Sula, slow-cooked with dry kaachri, exudes irresistible smokiness, and Safed Maas (White mutton) in a velvety yogurt gravy is pure indulgence. The standout Gulab Jamun ki subzi surprises with its sweet-savoury contrast. For desserts, the chilled rabdi cannelloni offers a creamy contrast of textures, while the tri-colour dessert dome layers carrot, lauki and moong halwas with crunchy nuts.

Too much vitamin B6 can be toxic

3 symptoms to watch out for

Side effects from taking too much vitamin B6 – including nerve damage – may be more widespread than we think, Australia’s medicines regulator says. In an ABC report earlier this week, a spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says it may have underestimated the extent of the side effects from vitamin B6 supplements.

However, there are proposals to limit sales of high-dose versions due to safety concerns. A pathologist who runs a clinic that tests vitamin B6 in blood samples from across Australia also appeared on the program. He told the ABC that data from May suggests 4.5 per cent of samples tested had returned results “very likely” indicating nerve damage. So what are vitamin B6 supplements? How can they be toxic? And which symptoms do you need to watch out for?

Vitamin B6, also known as pyridoxine, plays



an important role in keeping the body healthy. It is involved in the metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates and fats in food. It is also important for the production of neurotransmitters – chemical messengers in the brain that maintain its function and regulate your mood. Vitamin B6 also supports the immune system by helping to make antibodies, which fight off infections. And it is needed to produce haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body. Some women take a vitamin B6 supplement when pregnant. It is thought this helps

reduce the nausea associated with the early stages of pregnancy. Some women also take it to help with premenstrual syndrome.

However, most people don’t need, and won’t benefit from, a vitamin B6 supplement. That’s because you get enough vitamin B6 from your diet through meat, breakfast cereal, fruit and vegetables. You don’t need much. A dose of 1.3–1.7 milligrams a day is enough for most adults. Currently, vitamin B6 supplements with a daily dose of 5–200mg can be sold over the counter at health food stores, supermarkets and pharmacies.

Chef Deepti Jadhav says ‘modernising South Indian food is about reimagining it, not changing its identity’

South Indian food has evolved and modernised over the years, incorporating new flavours, ingredients, and cooking techniques while still retaining its traditional roots. “Modernising South Indian cuisine, for me, is not about changing its identity — it’s about reimagining how it’s experienced. I believe in taking the soul of traditional ingredients and reinterpret them using modern techniques, refined presentation, and a deeper understanding of core memories. The goal is to retain authenticity while elevating the overall dining experience,” says chef Deepti Jadhav, Head Chef of Avartana, ITC Maratha Mumbai. Sharing how she incorporates traditional South Indian flavours even though she gives a modern take to her food, the chef adds, “The foundation of my food always begins with traditional ingredients — whether it’s the sharp earthiness of black



Tellicherry pepper from Kerala, the umami of fermented raw rice batters from Tamil Nadu, or the delicate fragrance of curry leaves and coconut from coastal Andhra

and Karnataka. Every dish I make starts with a deep respect for its roots. I might present a rasam as a consommé or serve a Talegaon potato sandwich instead of a

classic vadaï, but the soul of the ingredient remains South Indian. I also focus on balance — South Indian food is incredibly nuanced in its play of sour, spice, sweet, and

bitterness. That complexity allows me to be creative without compromising on identity.”Some of her go-to ingredients include Tellicherry pepper.

Why Bengalis love ‘khus khus’: The story of poppy seeds, opium, and an easy recipe for ‘alu posto’

The land of the poppy eaters – that would be a fitting name for Bengal, given the quantities of poppy seed we consume in the state. Posto, as poppy seed is called in Bengali, or khus khus in Hindi, is considered a delicacy. The white seeds are soaked in water and ground to a paste, which is then added to vegetables, resulting in a creamy, nutty coating. Sometimes the soaked seeds are ground and mixed with green chillies and a little rice flour, shaped into small cakes or tikis, fried, and served with dal. Poppy seed is so commonplace in Bengali cuisine – and held in such high regard – that I almost took a packet as a gift for my hosts in Singapore. Thankfully, I didn’t. I was later informed that poppy seeds are banned in Singapore and carrying them could have led to my arrest, and possibly a very extended stay behind bars. In India, we use white poppy seeds. In the United States of America, lemon cake with black poppyseed is popular; those seeds are almost impossible to find in India. Trust me, I’ve tried. While many Indian communities use khus khus in their cuisine, Bengalis have made it nearly a staple. During the Mughal period, poppy seeds were even used in khjurru, a sweet, leavened bread where they were kneaded into the dough along with sugar, shaped into flatbreads, and deep-fried. Singapore’s ban stems from the fact that the capsule of the poppy flower is the source of opium, known as opion in Greek, afyun in Arabic, ahiphena in Sanskrit, and aphin in Hindi. Opium was brought to India by the Arabs around the 11th or 12th century, and soon, regions like Uttar Pradesh and Malwa became centres of opium



production. In 1511, a Florentine agent and merchant, Giovanni di Empoli, recorded that Portuguese admiral Albuquerque chanced upon opium aboard eight captured ships from Gujarat. By 1516, Barbosa had listed opium as a key export from India. In 1668, French traveller François Bernier observed that the Rajputs consumed opium as a stimulant on the eve of a battle — this may explain why they lost most of them. Jesuit priest Father Monserrate referred to poppy seed not as khus khus, but by the older term “post,” from which the Bengali posto is derived. By now, I’m assuming it’s clear that opium was of great importance to India and was heavily consumed by the haves, if not the have-nots. During Akbar’s reign, the poppy transitioned from being a medical plant to being a recreational drug. A royal decree increased cultivation, and the crimson flower began to appear as a motif in royal textiles. The dried white seeds, formed after the opium-rich latex had been extracted and which contain negligible narcotic properties, also entered the royal

kitchens. Singapore’s ban stems from the fact that the capsule of the poppy flower is the source of opium, known as opion in Greek, afyun in Arabic, ahiphena in Sanskrit, and aphin in Hindi. Opium was brought to India by the Arabs around the 11th or 12th century, and soon, regions like Uttar Pradesh and Malwa became centres of opium production. In 1511, a Florentine agent and merchant, Giovanni di Empoli, recorded that Portuguese admiral Albuquerque chanced upon opium aboard eight captured ships from Gujarat. By 1516, Barbosa had listed opium as a key export from India. In 1668, French traveller François Bernier observed that the Rajputs consumed opium as a stimulant on the eve of a battle — this may explain why they lost most of them. Jesuit priest Father Monserrate referred to poppy seed not as khus khus, but by the older term “post,” from which the Bengali posto is derived. By now, I’m assuming it’s clear that opium was of great importance to India and was heavily consumed by the haves, if not the have-nots.

Food for thought

The bell above the café door chimed softly. Twenty-two-year-old Kajal—70 per cent blind in one eye and visually impaired in the other—walked over to the café’s door, her breath caught somewhere between fear and excitement. This was her first job as a barista and she wanted to prove that there was more to her than her disability. But it wasn’t easy. Not just because of the physical challenges, customers often looked past her; some avoided eye contact altogether. She went home those nights with bruised pride. By the second week, Kajal had found her rhythm. She could make the best caramel flat white in the shop. She started to recognise regulars by their voice and often by their perfume. The café had become her safe space—not because life was perfect, but because she had shaped it to include her. She had made herself seen. Kajal’s story of inclusivity and independence is not an offbeat example. There are many young women and men like her who have found the courage within to soldier on even after life dealt them a crushing blow. And they are supported by individuals and organisations to reinvent themselves and proudly participate in society, which was unthinkable a few years ago. Suchis-



mita Das, assistant professor of sociology, Govt Degree College, Mangalkote, West Bengal believes acceptance is key to helping survivors or victims heal. “Accepting food served by survivors of any attack, disease, or deformity is the first step towards helping in the process of normalising their lives. Our need for an illusory idea of ‘perfection’ in our consumption often prevents us from accepting food from the survivors of trauma,” she says. As far as clients are concerned, accepting food from a differently abled person carries a profound message of dignity and inclusion. It transcends the act of simply receiving sustenance and becomes a gesture of mutual respect and recognition of equal worth. It also shows how much Gen Z has changed the national conscience in a country like India, where food is the ultimate line to be crossed, accepting it from persons or

communities from the other side of the spectrum places them on an equal footing. Also, for many differently abled individuals, preparing or serving food is a powerful expression of independence and contribution—their values and capabilities break stereotypes and promote a sense of belonging. It fosters empathy and solidarity. It sends a message that everyone has something to offer, and everyone deserves to be seen and valued for who they are—not for what they lack. The decision by Kallol Ghosh from Kolkata to open a café run by HIV-positive people was met with stiff resistance—most posh localities in south Kolkata refused to allot space. Café Positive finally found a spot in the Lake Terrace area. It employs HIV-positive young women and men to serve customers. Ghosh wanted to prove that they are as much a part of society as everyone else.

Chakka Alias Jackie!

Fruits with powerful fragrances have a unique way of connecting with our brains, evoking memories and sensations. Even sans their physical presence, the thought of their fragrance or the texture we feel when devouring them is enough to stir a vivid image. Jackfruit, with its distinctive aroma and texture, is a classic example. Whether it’s a fresh fruit hanging from the tree or a weathered one lying on the path, the air around it is filled with a fragrance that’s hard to ignore. Large in size and with its striking colour or flesh, this tropical fruit is not only a treat for the senses but also a delight for the eyes.

Native to the rainforest of western India, jackfruit has been cultivated for over 3,000 years. It gradually spread throughout Southeast Asia, reaching the Caribbean and the Americas via trade and migration. Valued for its size, versatility and nutritional value, jackfruit adapted to diverse climates, becoming a staple food and a symbol of resilience in tropical regions worldwide. Today, jackfruit is cultivated in over 60 countries, especially India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

When Lauren Winslow-Llewellyn saw a photo of Attabad Lake in Pakistan’s Hunza Valley pop up on her social media feed, she immediately went into planning mode. “[It] was taken from up high, not from a drone but a hiking trail... someone was precariously sitting on the edge of a cliff above vibrant blue water,” she said. Based in south-east England, Winslow-Llewellyn and partner Craig Hubbard, known online as the Non Stop Travelling couple, work seasonal hospitality jobs between their trips to save up for their next adventure. After studying foreign travel advisory sites, mapping safe paths and scouring Google Earth, all that was left was to reach Hunza’s capital, Karimabad, as their base camp and hitch a ride to the trailhead. Perched atop an open truck piled high with rugs and appliances, the couple and a local family barrelled through tunnels, wind whipping their faces and laughter spilling into the air – until, suddenly, Attabad Lake burst into view, majestically blue and breathtaking, ringed by arid peaks jutting straight out of glacial water. “It’s probably my favourite memory of our time in Pakistan,” said Winslow-Llewellyn. “It felt like we were on a crazy rollercoaster ride.” Pakistan was their 88th country, but even for seasoned travellers, the drama of the Gilgit-Baltistan region stood out. “We’ve become a little spoilt to say the least,” Winslow-Llewellyn smiled. But, “the views in Gilgit-Baltistan were dramatic, even before the hikes began”. “The Karakoram ranges are [one of] the highest, steepest mountains on Earth – greater even than the Himalaya,” said Professor Mike Searle, Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford. From riverbed to mountaintop, Hunza Valley doesn’t rise; it lunges from 1,850m to 7,788m. The 6km vertical gain is a stretch of earth and stone so steep it turns roads into legends. Chief among them is the Karakoram Highway, the highest paved road on Earth, often called the world’s eighth wonder. But such epic terrain comes with danger stitched into every slope. Along the Karakoram Highway,



Attabad Lake: The stunning legacy of a natural disaster

hand-built barricades and hours-long delays due to landslides are routine. Winslow-Llewellyn recalls a harrowing encounter with a fresh mudslide – a crushed car hundreds of metres below and locals casually making their way across shifting ground. “It was eye-opening... to see how fragile life is and how vulnerable people are in this setting,” she says. Amid this restless landscape, Attabad Lake is a striking case of beauty born from disaster, and a vivid reminder of nature’s force and fallout. On 4 January 2010, a massive landslide dammed the Hunza River for five months. By late January, water levels were rising by 1.1m per day, according to Nasa data. Users on Earth and Space Science blogs spoke about the cataclysmic event with a kind of reverent thrill – how a formation that usually takes geologic ages was unfolding within a single human lifespan, shaped by rupture and growing in real time. By June, the newly formed lake stretched 21km long and more than 100m deep, swallowing Shishkat village

and partially flooding the town of Gulmit. Twenty people died, 6,000 were displaced and a 25km stretch of the Karakoram Highway was destroyed, along with six bridges. In 2012, blasting lowered the lake’s level by 10m, and a \$275m (£202m) project rerouted the highway, adding five tunnels to restore the road to Xinjiang, China, and making the region more accessible. Today, Attabad Lake has become “a must-visit destination”, known for its piercing, cobalt-blue waters and stark mountain backdrop, says Misa Talpur, one of Pakistan’s pioneering solo female travellers. But the past still lingers below the surface, with remnants of submerged orchards and rooftops frozen in time. Despite its tragic origins, the lake has become a rare source of economic opportunity. “Attabad Lake is fully served by local Shikhet families directly impacted by the landslide,” said Talpur, who is now a licensed tour manager. Dozens of food kiosks, handicraft shops and boating facility providers have sprung up around the lake,

bringing income to the affected families, while larger hotels lease land from local families, generating further revenue. Sania Malik, a training officer at AKAH (Aga Khan Agency for Habitat) notes there is a robust system of female entrepreneurs selling handicrafts and food items, and the community is rebuilding stronger than ever. In the village of Shisket, which has a population of just 3,000, Malik recently trained 75 locals in emergency response. “We predominantly try to empower women to become first responders,” she said, “They’re the ones managing on a homestead level.” Talpur leads at least five to six tours to Attabad Lake in peak tourist season from June to September, and says that local tourists love to boat, jetski and zipline over the lake. They can also walk along the lakeside promenade and enjoy local cuisine at the lake-edge tea stalls. However, she recommends hiking up to Baskochi Meadows for the best vantage point. “It gives you an incredible bird’s eye view,” Talpur says – es-

pecially at sunset for breathtaking photography opportunities as the mountains shimmer golden. The lake also hosts frequent bonfire nights and musical events in the summer. Many travellers also visit the legendary Hussaini Suspension Bridge and the cathedral-esque, often-photographed craggy spires of the Passu Cones – both just around a 30-minute drive from the lake. The lake’s central location also means travellers can explore the Hopper Glacier, roughly a two-and-a-half-hour drive away. With its black ice and surrounding peaks, it is another dramatic example of the shapeshifting landscape of Gilgit-Baltistan. Alternatively, many plan day trips to the ancient Altit and Baltit Forts – more than 900- and 700-year-old vestiges of ancient royal architecture – to get a glimpse of the region’s royal past. Yet there’s no guarantee this popular travel destination will last. “Everything depends on how well-cemented the landslide debris [is],” said Searle. A sudden breach – triggered by something like a major earthquake – could drain the entire lake and “cause disastrous flood damage all the way down to Gilgit and beyond”, he adds. Studies of silt deposits indicate that the lake is shrinking over time. Ephemeral as it may be, Attabad Lake leaves a lasting impression. In the meadows above the lake, Winslow-Llewellyn and Hubbard met a family and asked to purchase fresh apricots, and were, of course, invited in. Over tea and bread, a young nephew revealed two of his siblings died in the landslide. “The kindness and smiles were contagious,” Winslow-Llewellyn said, “Somehow it feels more real when you meet people directly affected by the disaster.” And it’s those people, not just the landscapes, that stay with you. “Pakistan didn’t just wow us with its huge snow-capped mountains and jaw dropping lakes,” she said, “the people [were] the most genuinely friendly and hospitable people we’ve ever come across.” For a lake that was never meant to exist, now, it’s difficult to imagine a trip to Hunza, Pakistan, without it. To Talpur, Attabad Lake is testament that tragedy can be beautiful.

Why Oslo might be Europe’s most liveable city break

If you’re after a city break that combines culture, comfort and quiet innovation, Oslo might surprise you. Barely a two-hour flight from Heathrow, the Norwegian capital offers something unexpected: a relaxed, walkable escape where everyday life is designed for ease, from all-electric transport to sustainable neighbourhoods. In short, the perfect city for me to explore on my daylong layover. I started my 24-hour Oslo immersion in the pocket-sized Vulkan neighbourhood, a once-derelict industrial site that has become one of Europe’s most forward-thinking micro-communities. Set on the banks of the Akerselva river, Vulkan is packed with art, culture and delicious food – something of a microcosm of Oslo itself. As soon as I arrived, the main square buzzed with friends catching up over coffee, people enjoying a mid-afternoon stroll and vendors hustling provisions through the streets in preparation for the dinner rush. Ringed by a food hall, a concert venue, a climbing gym and a dance theatre, Vulkan felt like a city within a city. Vulkan wasn’t always this welcoming. Just 20 years ago, this riverside plot in central Oslo was a derelict tangle of concrete and broken windows. Today, it’s a compact urban village powered by geothermal energy, cooled with rooftop solar panels and home to community-driven cultural spaces. Designed with a focus on density, design and sustainability, Vulkan is a model for how cities can rethink old spaces to create new futures. And, as I’d learn over 24 hours, it’s also a gateway to understanding the quiet innovation at the heart of Norway’s capital – a place where liveability is taken seriously. While the hip, vibrant life is a recent development, the neighbourhood dates to the Middle Ages, when it was a longstanding trading hub. During the industrial revolution of the mid-19th Century, the area evolved into a manufacturing centre, where several of the city’s foundries could be found. Then, in 2004, after much of the neighbourhood’s industry had vanished and the once-thriving Vulkan Factory – so named for Vulcan, the Greek god of fire and handiwork – closed, morphing into simpler warehouse space, city officials asked themselves: why not build a city within a city, one that can re-envision what a cities of the future can and should look? The project started in 2004 when a pair of property developers – Aspelin Ramm and Anthon B Nilsen – purchased the land that would become Vulkan; land that was, at the time, severely blighted. “Kids were not allowed to play here,” said Sverre Landmark, a former commercial director for Aspelin Ramm. “Glass windows were damaged, there was a lot of graffiti, drug addicts were hanging around. It was really nasty.”



The Archdruid of Stonehenge’s guide to Pagan Glastonbury

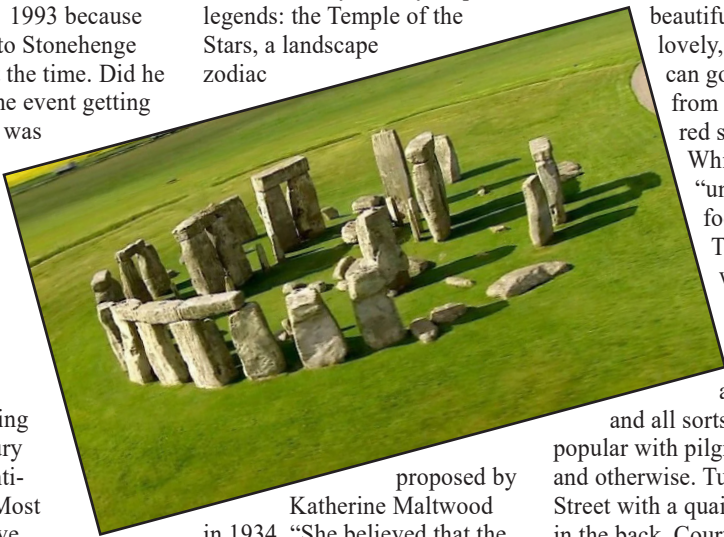
Glastonbury, a small town in Somerset, England, is most famous for hosting the Glastonbury Festival, a five-day bonanza of music and performing arts. The event attracts more than 200,000 people annually, with iconic performers from Paul McCartney to Beyoncé taking the stage over its 55-year history. But Glastonbury’s contribution to local culture is far more ancient. Set amid the hilly wetlands of the Somerset Levels, Glastonbury has been a spiritual magnet for centuries. In the Middle Ages, many believed that Joseph of Arimathea visited with the Holy Grail, and the sacred cup is central to the Arthurian legends that infuse the town and its landscapes. Glastonbury is also considered the hub of English “Neo-Paganism”, a collection of pre-Christian beliefs and spiritual practices undergoing a modern renaissance, including witchcraft, Wicca, the Goddess movement and Druidry. To find the heart of Glastonbury’s spiritual side, we spoke to Rollo Maughfling, the Archdruid of Stonehenge and Britain. For decades, Maughfling has helped spearhead a modern, inclusive form of Druidry. For Maughfling, Glastonbury’s interwoven Christian and Pagan lore is what makes it special. Originally from Cornwall – a land of “quoits and dolmens and strange Druid outcrops and witchy stories, too” – Maughfling moved to Glastonbury in 1971, drawn by its spiritual appeal, where he has lived on and off ever since. Glaston-

bury is dotted with shrines and sacred landmarks, from the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey (founded on a 7th-Century church) to Glastonbury Tor looming above. Its streets stir with witches, Druids, hippies and New Age believers of every stripe – especially during Pagan events, and when festivalgoers spill into town each June, turning it into a kaleidoscope of colour and spirituality. Maughfling was involved with Glastonbury Festival for 30 years. Along with other Druids, he consecrated the site’s famous stone circle, created in



1993 because public access to Stonehenge was revoked at the time. Did he ever imagine the event getting so big? “There was an enormous feeling that it would,” he recalls. But despite its astonishing growth and the town’s own development, Maughfling says Glastonbury remains authentically Pagan. “Most people who have been in Glastonbury for any length of time are immersed in the culture,” he says. Here are Maughfling’s favourite ways to experience modern – and ancient – Pagan Glastonbury.

Glastonbury Tor (“tor” means hill, in some parts of England) rises 158m above sea level on the town’s eastern edge. For Maughfling, it’s the preeminent example of how Glastonbury’s blend of Neolithic, Pagan and Christian history give some landmarks “a certain energy or presence or power about them, which is sacred”. The discovery of flint tools suggests human activity since the Neolithic period. The Christian ruin of St Michael’s Tower sits on top, but the Tor is deeply significant to Neo-Paganism. “It’s towards the centre of a great ley line known as St Michael’s Line,” says Maughfling. “[It] goes across the landscape from St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall, up through Glastonbury up to the ancient site [of] Avebury, and on the mound at Eye in Suffolk.” The Tor offers views over town and across the picturesque Somerset Levels, including one of Glastonbury’s many disputed legends: the Temple of the Stars, a landscape zodiac



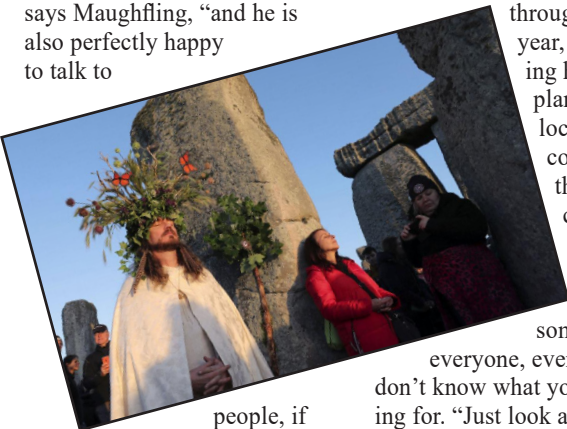
proposed by Katherine Maltwood in 1934. “She believed that the stories of the knights and the ladies and their quests – as described in the High History of the Holy Grail, a 12th century manuscript discovered at the Abbey – all seemed to centre



around names that were still local,” Maughfling says. “She gradually deduced that there was a pattern... a zodiac pattern.” No Glastonbury Tor visit is complete without visiting its two sacred springs, both said to have healing powers: Chalice Well is “a little garden, beautifully kept and lovely, where you can go and drink from the iron-laden red spring”, and White Spring is “underneath the footing of the Tor – a cave with calcium-rich water pouring through it and candles and all sorts.” Both are popular with pilgrims, Pagan and otherwise. Tucked off High Street with a quaint courtyard in the back, Courtyard Books is Maughfling’s favourite place for Pagan literature and learning. “It specialises in esoteric books, old and new, and they have some fantastic titles,” he says. The mysterious little shop

stocks everything from magic to alchemy to witchcraft – including many rare finds and lots of second-hand tomes. The shop helps keep Glastonbury’s second-hand book culture going, says Maughfling. “It’s become a collector’s art again, in a second-hand bookshop, to find things that are rare and unusual.” It’s also an excellent place to get chatting, either in search of recommendations or insights into local culture. “The owner is very interested in all of this, mythologies and such,” says Maughfling, “and he is also perfectly happy to talk to

apothecary and herbalist on High Street, is a veritable treasure trove. It’s “a very special shop indeed for the Pagans and esotericists and occultists and witches and travellers and festival-going people... a whole mix of people!” says Maughfling. Star Child is a sensory delight, its shelves brimming with herbs, oils, ointments, ceramics and candles – all hand-crafted, and many dedicated to zodiac signs and Pagan deities. “The guy who runs it actually goes out in the early morning dew



people, if he’s not too busy, about Glastonbury’s Pagan culture.” This Pagan-infused

throughout the year, collecting herbs and plants from the local area and compounding the incense,” says Maughfling. There’s probably something for everyone, even if you don’t know what you’re looking for. “Just look around to see the things that seem to resonate with you,” Maughfling recommends. The George & Pilgrims

Inn has been in operation since the 15th Century, making it the oldest pub in Glastonbury. “It’s got a lovely terrace out the back and they do good food there,” says Maughfling. It was originally the hospitium of Glastonbury Abbey, hosting pilgrims and guests. The Grade I-listed building on High Street features an ornate stone frontage in the 15th-Century style, battlement parapets on top and crooked wooden beams inside. The George & Pilgrim has long been a gathering place for Pagans and the wider community. It’s “the sort of meeting place where everyone who was anybody in Glastonbury has stayed,” Maughfling says. “John Michell, the famous mystic and antiquarian vision philosopher, stayed there and used to hold court out the back on summer evenings... it gives you an idea of the charm of the courtyard.” Glastonbury revels in Pagan festivals as well as musical. For Maughfling, one looms large: Beltane, a week-long Pagan celebration of summer’s arrival, in early May. “[It’s] really special in the year,” says Maughfling, “connected with celebrating the season and merriment... but it’s also linked with what we consider to be important world healing time.” poetry and other revelry. The Glastonbury Order of Druids, including Maughfling, also host sunrise ceremonies atop the Tor. “Prayers are said to the God of the Sun, and the Goddess of the Earth, and a Blessing is sent out to those in need in various troubled parts of the world,” says Maughfling. “The coming months of summer is celebrated in song and dance: a very ancient global tradition, with its own unique Glastonbury flavour.” Joining a ritual is the best way to engage with Druidry, says Maughfling, because “you’re seeing it in practice and you’re learning how to do it”.

Alcaraz and Djokovic are paired in the ATP Finals draw, while Sinner Zverev

Mumbai: Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz was drawn in a group with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, while defending champion Jannik Sinner was grouped with Alexander Zverev on Thursday. The Jimmy Connors group features Alcaraz, Djokovic, Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur. The Bjorn Borg group has Sinner, Zverev, Ben Shelton and Felix Auger-Aliassime or Lorenzo Musetti, who are battling for the final spot. Auger-Aliassime occupies the eighth and final qualifying spot but Musetti can leapfrog the Canadian if he wins a tournament in Athens this week. The status of Djokovic, who is also playing in Athens, is questionable. Djokovic, who is a record seven-time champion at the



finals, sat out the event last year and has said he will decide whether to play or not after the Athens tournament.

The finals start on Sunday with round-robin play. The top two fin-

ishers in each group advance to the semifinals. The final is scheduled for Nov. 16. Alcaraz will be playing in the finals for the third time; his best result was the semifinals in 2023. Alcaraz and Sinner are

still fighting for the year-end No. 1 ranking which will be determined by their performances at the finals. Zverev won the finals in 2018 and 2021 while Fritz lost last year's final to Sinner. De Minaur is making his second consecutive appearance, and Shelton is making his debut. Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz was drawn in a group with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, while defending champion Jannik Sinner was grouped with Alexander Zverev on Thursday. The Jimmy Connors group features Alcaraz, Djokovic, Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur. The Bjorn Borg group has Sinner, Zverev, Ben Shelton and Felix Auger-Aliassime or Lorenzo Musetti, who are battling for the final spot.

Women's World Cup World champions Harleen get grand welcome in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: The Women's World Cup-winning cricketers Amanjot Kaur and Harleen Deol were greeted as heroes upon their return from Mumbai on Friday, turning Chandigarh into a joyous place. As jubilant family and supporters arrived to celebrate their victory, the two Punjabi celebrities—important members of India's winning women's cricket team—were greeted with candies, shawls, and the sounds of dhol.

With a 52-run victory over South Africa in the final at Navi Mumbai last Sunday, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led team made history by winning India's first 50-over Women's World Cup trophy. The celebrations in Chandigarh were a reflection of the pride and emotion that accompanied the triumph, which was a turning point in Indian women's cricket. For Amanjot Kaur, the homecoming was deeply emotional. "This victory belongs

to entire India, entire Punjab," she said, overwhelmed by the reception. Recalling the intensity of the campaign, she added with a smile, "We didn't sleep after the semi-final win over Australia, and we couldn't sleep even after winning the final." Harleen Deol, who has emerged as one of India's most consistent middle-order batters, expressed gratitude to her family for their unwavering support. "Girls can bring laurels when given freedom and opportunity. let your daughters follow their passion and work hard," she said. "We had belief that we would do well and lift the Cup." The celebrations carried through as Amanjot's relatives and local fans broke into dance outside the airport. Her cousin, Satwinder Kaur, recalled with laughter how the cricketer's childhood enthusiasm sometimes caused chaos. "She used to play cricket with boys in the neighbourhood and



broke many window panes while practising. But our family always supported her and believed she would achieve something big one day," she said.



Lionel Messi leads MLS Best XI after 48 goal

Mumbai: Messi opened the scoring with a diving header in the first half, then capped the scoring in the 96th minute as Inter Miami opened the Major League Soccer playoffs with a 3-1 win over Nashville SC in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference best-of-three first-round series on Friday night. Messi and Ian Fray had the assists on Tadeo Alencadre's second-half tally for Inter Miami, which now gets two chances to advance out of the first round for the first time in Messi's 2 1/2-year tenure with the team. Game 2 is at Nashville on Nov. 1. Game 3, if necessary, would in Fort Lauderdale on Nov. 8. Hany Mukhtar got Nashville's goal off a free kick in the 101st minute. It was the final play of the match. The win capped a big couple of days for Inter Miami, which announced Messi's three-year contract extension on Thursday. I don't think we ever could have imagined that Leo would have been able to deliver for this club, for this city and for this league the way he has," said MLS Commissioner Don Garber, who presented Messi with the Golden Boot — the trophy presented to the league's top goal scorer — in a pre-game ceremony. "You know, he has reset the trajectory for Major League Soccer and we were already doing pretty well," Garber added. "And I think having three more years is just going to be another gift. Hopefully it's the gift that keeps on giving."

SC Delhi score ever point as Rajasthan AIFF Super Cup:



New Delhi: Rajasthan United FC were held to a 2-2 draw by Sporting Club Delhi in their final Group D match of the AIFF Super Cup, at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Goa, on Thursday, November 6, 2025. The Desert Warriors led 2-0 at half-time. Pedro Astray (22') and Robinson Blandón (35') struck in the opening half to give Rajasthan United a 2-0 lead, but SC Delhi fought back. Gaurav scored in the 61st minute to reignite the contest, and deep into stoppage time, Alan Saji (90+4') scored the equaliser and sealed his side's first and only point of the campaign, while also dashing Rajasthan United's hopes of semi-final qualification. The Desert Warriors, who needed a big win to have any chance of making the final four, Mumbai City will fight for the top spot and the last semi-final berth later in the day at Fatorda.

WPL 2026 Harmanpreet, Mandhana, Rodrigues, Verma amongst players

Mumbai: Indian World Cup-winning stars Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma are some of the stars likely to be retained by their respective franchises ahead of next year's Women's Premier League (WPL) season. Aussie stars Meg Lanning (Delhi Capitals), Alyssa Healy (UP Warriorz), and New Zealand star all-rounder Amelia Kerr (Mumbai Indians) are just a few who are likely to enter the auction pool after being released by their respective franchises, as per ESPNcricinfo. Also, the World Cup 'Player of the Tournament', Deepti Sharma, who led UP Warriorz in Healy's absence this year, is likely to be released by the franchises. As per ESPNcricinfo, two teams, the defending champions Mumbai Indians (MI) and Delhi Capitals (DC), have retained five players, the maximum limit set by WPL. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have retained four, Gujarat Giants (GG) have retained two, while UP Warriorz have retained just one. While the individual amounts for players cannot be confirmed, the following, as per ESPNcricinfo, stand as likely retentions: As per WPL retention rules, the teams can retain a maximum of three capped Indian players, a maximum of two overseas talent and a maximum of two uncapped



players. If a franchise aims to retain five players, one of them should be an uncapped Indian. WPL has also, for the first time, allowed the usage of the right-to-match (RTM) option at the auction to buy back a player who was a part of their team in the 2025 season. Franchises have been given a purse of Rs 15 crores each, and the auction is understood to be scheduled for November 27 in the national capital. WPL also issued the guideline prices for retention

slabs (in order): Rs 3.5 crore (Player 1), Rs 2.5 crore (Player 2), Rs 1.75 crore (Player 3), Rs 1 crore (Player 4) and Rs 50 lakh (Player 5). If a player opts to retain all five players as per the quota, Rs 9.25 will be deducted from the auction purse. In case of four retained players, the deduction would be Rs 8.75 crore, for three retained players, Rs 7.75 crore, for two retained players, Rs 6 crore, and for one retained player, Rs 3.5 crore.

Chess World Cup 2025 Round 3 Game 1: Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa back in action

New Delhi: Fans queued up to have a look at the young superstars of Indian chess at Resort Rio here on Tuesday. That queue, to see the likes of D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi, is getting longer, and longer, reflecting not just the newer heights they continue to scale, but the rapid increase in popularity of the mind game. Among India's terrific trio, the top three seeds at the World Cup, only second-seeded Arjun was able to post a win. Top seed Gukesh and the No. 3 seed R. Praggnanandhaa had to settle for draws. That means, they have to win on Wednesday to advance to the third round without having to play the tie-breaker games. On the third board, Praggnanandhaa, who was the runner-up in the last edition of the tournament, was held by Temur Kuybokarov of Australia, for whom it was an excellent result with black pieces. On the second board, however, white prevailed, with Arjun cruising to a 37-move victory over Bulgaria's Martin Petrov. Arjun was the only one to get a win among the top seeds. Dutchman Anish Giri and American Wesley So, seeded fourth and fifth, were held by Bojan Maksimovic (Bosnia) and Titas Stremavicius (Lithuania). Besides Arjun, V. Pranav was the only Indian to post a win on



the day. He defeated Norway's Aryan Tari. On the top board, Gukesh, who had white pieces, was made to play 84 moves by Kazakhstan's Kazybek Nogerbek. The game,

featuring a rook-and-minor-piece ending, went all the way, in fact, with just two kings remaining on the board. D. Gukesh drew with Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz); Mar-

tin Petrov (Bul) lost to Arjun Erigaisi; R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Temur Kuybokarov (Aus); Bojan Maksimovic (Bih) drew with Anish Giri (Ned); Wesley So (USA) drew with Titas Stremavicius (Lit); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) bt Gergely Kantor (Hun); Dennis Makhnev (Kaz) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb); Vladislav Kovalev (Blr) lost to Vincent Keymer (Ger); Wei Yi (Chn) bt Kacper Piorun (Pol); Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) drew with Hans Niemann (USA); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) bt Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Lorenzo Luis Supi (Bra) lost to Richard Rapport (Hun); Le Quang Liem (Vie) drew with Baadur Jobava (Geo); Levon Aronian (USA) bt Aronyak Ghosh; Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) drew with Hans Niemann (USA); Dip-tayan Ghosh drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus). Vidit Gujrathi drew with Faustino Oro (Arg); Karthik Venkataraman drew with Aravindh Chithambaram; Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis (Gre) drew with Nihal Sarin; Aryan Tari (Nor) lost to V. Pranav; Rasmus Svane (Ger) drew with P. Harikrishna; Dmitriy Kollars (Ger) drew with M. Pranesh; Thai Dai Van Nguyen (Cze) drew with Pa. Iniyani; Pouya Idani (Ira) drew with Karthikeyan Murali. Hovhannisyan (Arm) drew with Raunak Sadhwani.

Dhruv Jurel's rearguard hundred rescues India



New Delhi: In seaming conditions that constantly tested technique and temperament, Dhruv Jurel once again stood tall. His superb counterattacking century helped India A recover from 124 for 7 to post a respectable 255 on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against South Africa A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on Thursday. Jurel's knock — his fourth first-class hundred and third since June — was a masterclass in composure and control. Coming in at No. 6 after India A's top order had crumbled, he absorbed pressure, stitched together Harsh Dubey (29) provided brief resistance before being bowled by van Vuuren, while Akash Deep was cleaned up by Subrayan for a seven-ball duck.

KL Rahul Key As 3-Down India A Eye Big Lead vs SA

Mumbai: India A vs South Africa A, Second Unofficial Test Highlights: KL Rahul hit an unbeaten 26 as India A reached 78/3 at Stumps on Day 2 in the second innings of their 2nd unofficial Test against South Africa A in Bengaluru. The hosts extended their lead to 112 after the visitors were bowled out for 221 in reply to India's 255 in the first innings. Earlier, Captain Marques Ackerman scored a quickfire 134, but failed to prevent South Africa from conceding a nar-

row 34-run first-innings lead. Ackerman fought a lone battle during his 118-ball stay in the middle, before Harsh Dubey ended his stay in the middle. In response to India A's 255, the visitors were bowled out for 221. On Day 1, Dhruv Jurel almost singlehandedly took India A to a total of 255, slamming an unbeaten 132 off 175 balls. (Scorecard) India A vs South Africa A, 2nd Unofficial Test Highlights: KL Rahul hit an unbeaten 26 as India A reached 78/3 at Stumps on Day 2 in the



second innings of their 2nd unofficial Test against South Africa A.

Max Verstappen admits he may need a bit of 'luck' haul in rivals

Mumbai: Max Verstappen said on Thursday that he will need a bit of luck in one of the four remaining Grands Prix this season if he is to catch McLaren's drivers' championship leaders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri. Speaking ahead of this weekend's Sao Paulo Grand Prix at Interlagos, where he is seeking to complete a hat-trick of Brazilian wins, Red Bull's four-time champion said he hopes both Ferrari and Mercedes can help him overhaul McLaren.



"Being faster than them would be nice," he said of Red Bull's main rivals in a three-way scrap for second place in the constructors' championship behind McLaren. I'm like 'yeah, no problem, easy', but this season has been a little bit different. Verstappen added he might "need a little bit of luck at one round" to haul in the McLarens. As Verstappen evaluated his challenge, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton revealed he will be racing in a new helmet in the colours of the Brazilian flag and in memory of Ayrton Senna this weekend. "I remember growing up watching Ayrton and I always wondered what it would

be like if Ayrton was in a Ferrari," the Briton told GQ Globo. "Now, for the first time, you will see a helmet with the Brazilian flag running at Sao Paulo in a Ferrari." "I hope to make the people here proud as well as Senna and his family. When I'm here, I am always so well received. It's very special for me to come to Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro. After going a record 20 races without a podium finish for Ferrari, Hamilton said it was not totally unexpected and he was anticipating a very different season in 2026.