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FDA busts Rs75-lakh expiry scam involving Maggi, Lay's Chips and Kurkure

Navi Mumbai, Sept 3: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in collaboration with the Central Crime Branch, Navi Mumbai, has busted a fake labelling and date-tampering racket operating out of an industrial unit in Turbhe. Authorities seized 4,942 cartons of tampered and expired food items valued at over Rs 75.21 lakh.

The six-day operation, conducted between August 24 and August 29, targeted Sadhna Enterprises in the TTC Industrial Area. According to officials, the premises were used to store stock belonging to multiple exporting companies. The syndicate allegedly used chemical thinners to wipe off the original dates of manufacture and expiry/use-by dates on packaging before reprinting extended dates using an industrial inkjet printing machine.

The seized stock comprised popular household brands, including variants of Lay's, Kurkure, Bingo, and Fun Flips, alongside Maggi's Masala and Atta noodles. Ready-to-cook meal kits from Rasoi, Knorr soups,



Hellmann's Mayonnaise, and tins of Thums Up and Limca were also confiscated. Furthermore, FDA investigators revealed that fresh stickers containing altered ingredient lists and nutrition details were pasted over original labels on items such as Wagh Bakri Tea, MDH Kitchen King, Kasuri Methi, and Deggi Mirch. Action has been initiated against 13 exporter firms linked to the facility. While companies with valid FSSAI

licences and proper documentation had their genuine export stock cleared, three entities—Unique Fragrances, Pristine Worldwide, and Vipul Doshi—failed to produce valid paperwork, prompting sample seizures for lab testing. An FIR has been lodged at the Turbhe police station against the unit's partners, Jayprakash Singh and Jaya Navrang Bahadur Singh, along with 10 exporter firms. Charges have been invoked

under several sections of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, as well as provisions for cheating and forgery under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The FDA has also immediately suspended the facility's food licence. FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe stated that Maharashtra maintains zero tolerance for food quality violations and promised strict legal action against anyone risking public health.

Climate risks put India's small fishers under growing strain

Kochi, Sept 3: Climate change is increasingly putting the livelihoods of India's small-scale fishers at risk, with rising temperatures, rough seas, stronger storms, and changing monsoon patterns affecting both fishing days and catches, warns a new assessment.

The new diagnostic assessment, prepared by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), with the support of national experts and technical guidance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), of the sector has identified climate change and disaster risks as major concerns for small-scale fishing communities.

The assessment comes as India moves into the next stage of preparing a National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF).

A draft of the national plan is expected by November 21.

The report says fishers are already noticing major changes in weather and fishing conditions.

They have reported rising temperatures, changing seasons, and stronger storms.

New govt primary school building comes up days after CJP flagged condition

Jaipur, Sept 3: Work on a new building for the Government Primary School in Rampura-Kanwarapura village, under the Bagru Assembly constituency in Rajasthan's Jaipur district, began on Wednesday after the administration demolished the school's dilapidated structure using a bulldozer. The school is the same site that a team from the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) had visited on August 21 to inspect its condition.

The team was allegedly prevented from entering the village by residents and was attacked, with CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka among those allegedly assaulted. The team was subsequently forced to leave the area.

Following the confrontation between the CJP team and villagers, the state government approved the construction of a new school building to replace the deteriorating structure.

A total of Rs 18 lakh has been sanctioned for the project, comprising Rs 12 lakh from the District Mission Foundation Trust (DMFT) and Rs 6 lakh from the MLA Local Area Development Fund.

The old building, constructed in 1999, had reportedly fallen into disrepair because of prolonged neglect and inadequate maintenance. The school was subsequently closed to



children, with classes shifted to an alternative location. CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka also shared a video highlighting the condition of the school.

He said the facility in Rampura was the same school that had previously been operating from a buffalo shed and welcomed the commencement of construction work at the site.

Referring to the August 21 incident, Ranka alleged that stones were thrown at the CJP team, women accompanying the team were assaulted, and vehicle windows were smashed.

"Once a good school is built for our children, it will all be worth it," Ranka said.

The commencement of construction work reportedly brought relief and happiness among residents.

Villagers welcomed the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led Rajasthan government's decision to replace the dilapidated building with a new school building. Residents said the controversy surrounding the school had been unnecessary and that the peaceful atmosphere of the village had been disrupted by the actions of a few individuals.

They stressed that a school is a place of learning and should not become a subject of political conflict. Villagers expressed hope that once construction is completed, children will be able to study in a safer and better-equipped environment. On August 21, a confrontation broke out between villagers and a CJP team that had arrived in Rampura-Kanwarapura to assess the condition of the Government Primary School. According to reports, an argument between the two sides escalated into a physical altercation.

The CJP alleged that Bharatiya Janata Party workers attacked its members, while villagers opposing what they described as political interference, said that they would take responsibility for the school's repair.

HC quashes NSA detention of Noida protest activists



Prayagraj, Sept 3: The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday quashed the National Security Act (NSA) detention of 25-year-old Aakriti Chaudhary, ordering her immediate release if not wanted in any other case. Chaudhary, a Delhi University history graduate, spent nearly five months in custody following her arrest in connection with the Noida workers' protest of April 2026. Allowing her habeas corpus petition, a Division Bench comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Achal Sachdev concluded that the detention order was built on a "concocted story" fabricated by the state. The ruling followed a strict judicial evaluation of procedural timelines under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The State maintained that police arrested Chaudhary at 10:56 AM on April 12, 2026, after she allegedly incited a mob to stone-pelting and arson, and subsequently issued her a notice under Section 130 BNSS. However, the Bench exposed severe procedural contradictions during the hearing. Justice Sreedharan questioned why no prior notice under Section 126 BNSS was served, pointing out that Section 130 procedures naturally follow Section 126. Highlighting irregularities in the official General Diary (GD), Justice Sreedharan remarked, "As per the notice under S. 130 BNSS, if she was willing to give a statement, she wouldn't be arrested. As is-me GD entry dekho, usko arrest karliya fir notice banaya" (Look at the GD entry here; they arrested her first and then drafted the notice). The court's decision comes a day after it confronted the State regarding the lack of direct evidence. Despite claims by Gautam Buddha Nagar Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh that authorities possessed "strong electronic and videographic evidence," the State failed to produce video footage demonstrating Chaudhary instigating violence. Rejecting the prosecution's request for additional time, the court emphasized that Chaudhary had already spent five months in jail. Chaudhary and activist-journalist Satyam Verma were among several individuals arrested and slapped with the stringent NSA on May 13 following the unrest. A detailed order outlining the full judgment is awaited.

Faridabad teen commits suicide over biryani controversy

Faridabad, Sept 3: A Class 11 student at Navodaya Vidya Niketan Senior Secondary School in Faridabad's Dabua area tragically died on September 1 after falling from the third floor of the school building. The incident occurred around 1:00 PM, just as classes had ended and students were preparing to leave. Following the fall, school staff rushed the teenager to a nearby private hospital, after which she was referred to BK Hospital, where doctors ultimately declared her dead.

The death has brought forth sharply conflicting accounts regarding the events leading up to the fall. According to the victim's family, the trouble began over an argument among students concerning biryani, though they maintain their daughter was not directly involved. Her father alleged that after being scolded by a teacher for going out to eat without permission, the student was subjected to a severe punishment, being forced to stand outside the classroom in the sun for approximately four hours. The family asserts that this prolonged ordeal left her deeply humiliated and emotionally distressed, directly impacting her state of mind prior to the fall.

Conversely, the school administration has flatly denied all allegations of corporal punishment or mistreatment. Principal R.K. Sharma stated that the student was never punished and explained that she had simply asked for permission to use the washroom before leaving the classroom. According to the school's account, she then made her way to the third-floor terrace on her own accord before falling.

Dabua police station SHO Inspector Sumer Singh confirmed that law enforcement received word of the fall and commenced an investigation to determine the exact sequence of events. Authorities are actively gathering statements from school management, teachers, fellow students, and the victim's family to reconcile the contradictory claims. At present, police have not established a direct cause for the fall or confirmed whether the alleged punishment took place, emphasizing that every angle of the case remains under thorough examination to determine if any party bears legal responsibility.

Gujarat FDCA cancels licences of 50 drug firms; seizes 42,988 kg of suspected food products

Gandhinagar, Sept 3: Gujarat's Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA) cancelled the sales licences of 50 drug firms and ordered the closure of two drug manufacturing units after inspections found serious deficiencies, while more than 42,988 kg of suspected products worth an estimated Rs 93.47 lakh were seized across the state in August.

The action was reviewed at the high-level meeting at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of state Health Minister Praful Pansheriya, who directed officials to maintain a 'zero tolerance' approach towards fake, substandard and illegally sold medicines and food products. According to the details presented at the meeting, the FDCA also suspended the licences of eight drug manufacturing firms and cancelled manufactur-



ing licences for 11 medicines following risk-based inspections.

Show-cause notices were issued to manufacturers of 20 medicines that were found to be substandard during laboratory testing.

Of 42 blood storage centres inspected across the state, three were issued closure orders and 12 received show-cause notices. Pansheriya said the government would take strict legal action against those compromising public health.

"A special drive to assess the quality of antibiotics in rural areas resulted in 588 medicines samples being collected for testing," he said.

The FDCA also carried out action against alleged networks involved in the illegal sale of narcotic and counterfeit medicines in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Mehsana.

During a joint investigation with the Special Operations Group, officials seized a stock of narcotic injections, including tramadol,

from a shop next to a medical store in Waghodia of Vadodara district.

Proceedings under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act are being initiated, according to the department.

In a separate case involving counterfeit 'Nicaida Retard 10' tablets, inspections were conducted at more than 30 locations as officials traced the supply chain of tablets falsely shown as having been manufactured by J.B. Chemicals. Suspicious stock worth more than Rs 1.75 lakh was seized or prohibited.

The investigation traced a supply chain from Sena Pharma in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to Ahmedabad and Sanand. A complaint was registered with the Ahmedabad Crime Branch for further investigation into the source of the counterfeit medicines.

India to establish unified intelligence grid to counter multi-front security threats

New Delhi, Sept 3: India's national security planners are preparing to establish a unified intelligence grid to enhance operational capabilities and counter multi-front security threats posed by foreign adversaries, senior officials have said. India has been facing a changing threat landscape that includes home-grown terror modules, honey-trapping, surveillance and information-gathering networks.

The threats include the terror module recently exposed in Faridabad and surveillance activities linked to the Shahzad Bhatti network. At the same time, the borders with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and with Bangladesh remain areas of concern amid heightened terror-related activity.

An official said the Narendra Modi government has consistently kept national security among its top priorities. "With continuous threats from adversaries, the need to boost intelligence capabilities becomes very important," the official said. The Ministry of Home Affairs under Amit Shah has further strengthened its focus on national security spending, with particular emphasis on improving counter-intelligence measures. According to another official, recent deliberations have focused on enhancing the operational capabilities of intelligence agencies. "The current mechanism is more about pre-emption, and with the threats going up with each passing day, it becomes important to expand operational capabilities," the official said. The officials said that Pakistan has been employing a range of methods to gain an advantage over India, with surveillance and information-gathering activities increasing substantially. Networks such as the one allegedly operated by Shahzad Bhatti had even managed to install solar-powered CCTV cameras at sensitive and crowded locations. Security officials believe the nature of the threat is also changing.

Zubeen Garg death case: Singapore-based Assamese witness deposes before fast-track court



Guwahati, Sept 3: Parikshit Sharma, associated with the Assam Association in Singapore, appeared before the special fast-track court in Guwahati on Wednesday to record his testimony in the death case of singer and musician Zubeen Garg.

Sharma is understood to be the first member of the Assam Association who was present aboard the yacht in

September 2025, when Garg died in Singapore. He appeared before the court as a witness. His presence on the yacht has made his testimony significant to the ongoing trial.

Garg, 52, died on September 19, 2025, after he went into the sea for swimming while on a yacht outing near Lazarus Island in Singapore. He had travelled to Singapore for the fourth edition of the North East India Festival.

The death triggered widespread grief and protests in Assam and subsequently led to multiple police complaints and a detailed investigation by the Assam Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT). More than 60 FIRs registered across the state were later clubbed and transferred to the CID. The SIT filed its charge sheet in December 2025, naming seven accused. Four of them

-- North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma, bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and singer Amritprabha Mahanta face murder charges. The other accused are Garg's cousin Sandipan Garg and his personal security personnel, Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya. The Gauhati High Court constituted an exclusive fast-track sessions court in March this year for day-to-day proceedings in the case. Charges were formally framed against all seven accused in May, paving the way for the trial. The trial began on June 8, with witnesses being examined on a daily basis. The proceedings have continued despite a Singapore Coroner's Court finding in March this year that Garg died from drowning and ruling out foul play in Singapore.

Rahul's Indore student event postponed

Indore, Sept 3: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's proposed 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme in Indore has been postponed by a week and will now be held on September 19, with the party seeking an alternative venue after the district administration denied permission for Nehru Stadium.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, was earlier scheduled to visit Indore on September 12 for the student outreach programme. The Congress had sought permission to hold the event at Nehru Stadium.

Who is Jeetendra Mishra? The decorated Air Marshal chosen to lead Ram Temple Trust

Ayodhya, Sept 3: Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (ret'd), a decorated former Indian Air Force officer and veteran fighter pilot, has been appointed the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya.

Mishra was selected for the key administrative position on Wednesday from a pool of more than 5,000 applicants. His appointment comes as the Ram Temple complex enters a crucial phase of development and administration. With his appointment as the Ram Temple Trust's first CEO, Mishra now moves from military command to a major institutional responsibility at one of India's most promi-

nent religious and cultural sites.

His most recent military distinction was the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal, awarded on Independence Day 2025 for his role during Operation Sindoor. He had earlier received the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2024 and the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2013.

A veteran of more than 38 years in the Indian Air Force, Mishra brings extensive administrative experience to the trust. He retired after serving as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Air Command, one of the IAF's most strategically important commands. Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on



December 6, 1986, Mishra is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, the Air

Force Academy, and the Air Force Test Pilots School. He also attended the Air

Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, in the US, and the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom.

During his distinguished career, Mishra accumulated more than 3,000 hours of flying experience across more than 18 types of fighter and transport aircraft and helicopters. His appointments included commanding a fighter squadron, serving as chief test pilot at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), and commanding two frontline air bases.

Mishra also played a role in the operationalisation of laser-guided bombs on Mirage 2000 aircraft during the Kargil War. The weapons were subsequently used in

attacks on strategic targets including Tiger Hill and Muntho Dhulo during Operation Safed Sagar.

His senior assignments included serving as the Director of the Operational Planning and Assessment Group at Air Headquarters, the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Projects, the Commandant of ASTE, and the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff for Doctrine, Organisation and Training. He later served as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Operations.

On January 1, 2025, Mishra took charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command, succeeding Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha.

EDITORIAL

kitchen to sky: Fuel hikes squeeze common citizen

Few things hit a domestic economy faster or harder than the quiet, steady ticks of a fuel price revision. Recent adjustments in the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, commercial cooking gas, and Aviation Turbine Fuel offer a sobering, unvarnished reminder that when energy markets shift, it is the common citizen who ultimately pays the bill. While headline inflation figures and global commodity charts provide useful analytical tools for central bankers and treasury officials, they rarely capture the human reality unfolding on the ground. At the dinner table, in the small neighborhood kitchen, and inside the commuter bus, macroeconomics ceases to be abstract; it becomes a direct tax on daily survival. Energy is the fundamental input to everyday modern life, and its pricing never operates in isolation. While steep increases in jet fuel rates might initially seem distant to a middle-class family navigating a tight monthly budget, high aviation costs ripple outward far beyond the airport terminal. Jet fuel accounts for nearly forty percent of an airline's operating overhead. When those prices surge, airfares inevitably follow suit, penalizing not just luxury travelers, but small business owners seeking clients, migrant workers flying home for family emergencies, and critical highvalue supply chains. Furthermore, high transport costs across all logistics sectors create an inflationary environment where distributors preemptively raise prices across consumer goods long before structural shortages actually materialize. Simultaneously, the escalation of commercial LPG rates strikes directly at the informal economy—the very bedrock of daily urban life. When the cost of a commercial gas cylinder jumps, the impact is instantaneous for street vendors, small tea stalls, local bakeries, and family-run diners. Operating on razor-thin profit margins, these small enterprises cannot simply absorb persistent cost spikes. Their only recourse is to pass the burden along to their patrons. Consequently, the price of a modest daily meal, a morning cup of tea, or a basic snack creeps upward. For millions of daily-wage workers, students, and low-income laborers who rely on affordable local eateries for nourishment, this quiet creep consumes an ever-larger share of their daily earnings. When combined with previous upward revisions in domestic cooking gas, municipal piped natural gas, and compressed natural gas for transport, the cost of living undergoes a relentless, compounding ratchet. What makes fuel price hikes particularly punishing is their non-discretionary nature. A household can postpone buying new clothes, delay replacing home appliances, or cut back on weekend entertainment, but it cannot simply choose to stop cooking food or traveling to work. The hearth remains the physical and emotional center of every home, and basic mobility is the non-negotiable prerequisite for economic participation. When keeping the stove lit and commuting to a job become sources of constant financial anxiety, family budgets are forced into brutal trade-offs.

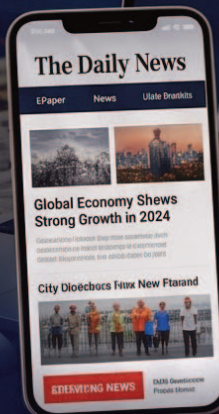


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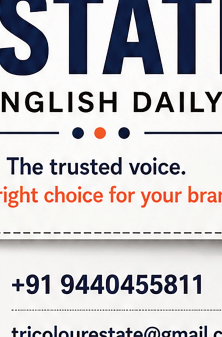
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A hand-drawn illustration of a hand writing on a notepad, with a newspaper clipping titled 'TRICOLLOUR ESTATE' and a pen resting on it. The newspaper clipping features a city skyline and the text 'THE NEWS THAT MATTERS'. The background is a light beige color with a subtle texture.

Captain Tilak's unbeaten fifty leads South Zone into Duleep Trophy final



(32 not out) milked 80 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket stand.

South ended with 182 for three towards the end of the second session and they will face East Zone in the title clash in Chennai from September 6. Tilak, who had made an unbeaten 116 in the first innings to help South gain a match-clinching 117-run lead, came to the middle when his side was wobbling at 102 for three.

But the left-hander, who is also India's vice-captain for the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan, once again displayed temperament and technique to counter North bowlers led by fiery pacer Gurnoor Brar and the wily left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq. Brar tested his series of rib-crackers while Mushtaq exploited the variable bounce on the pitch to challenge Tilak's footwork. Heaced those challenges in spectacular fashion, essaying some sumptuous drives on the off-side. Once he settled down, Tilak played a reverse sweep and paddle sweep off Mushtaq to take South closer to the target. Smaran, at the other end, was an able ally, rotating the strike with efficiency and occasionally freed his hands. The young left-hander's cracking off-drive off Nishant Sindhu was a sight for sore eyes. Both southpaws' confidence knocks meant that South also overcame early dismissals of Narayan Jagadeesan (43) and Ricky Bhui (42), who added 64 runs for the opening wicket and Shaik Rashseed. Jagadeesan, who was dropped in 14 by stumper Kanaiah Wadhawan off Brar, had some heated engagements with the strapping fast bowler. Eventually, Tilak, who batted on all four days of the match, fittingly, brought the winning runs eventually when he creamed a part-time leg-spinner Qamran Iqbal for a boundary through the covers. However, North had their own little once they resumed their second innings from 256 for seven for an overall lead of 139 runs. Anshul Kamboj's 29-ball 36 helped them stretch that lead over a healthy 180.

Bengaluru, Sept 3: Skipper Tilak Varma played a second successive in-fluential knock, guiding South Zone to the Duleep Trophy final with a seven-wicket win over North Zone on the

Cristiano Ronaldo's sister Elma Aveiro meets Keralam CM

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 2: Football star Cristiano Ronaldo's sister Elma Aveiro met Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan during her visit to the state, the CMO said on Wednesday. The meeting took place in Kozhikode on Tuesday, according to the Chief Minister's Office. Satheesan shared a video of their brief interaction on his social media handles. "Had a warm interaction with @Cristiano Ronaldo's sister, Elma Aveiro, during her visit to Keralam. Shared with her the boundless passion and love Malayalis have for football and for Cristiano," Satheesan said in a post on X. He said Aveiro had graciously promised to convey the warm wishes and affection of Keralam's football fans to Ronaldo. In the video, Satheesan can be heard saying that Ronaldo has many fans in the state, including himself, while Aveiro is seen asking to take a photograph with him.

City to host state ranking TT championship

Jamshedpur, Sept 3: The 2nd Jharkhand State Ranking Table Tennis Championship 2026 will be organised at the JRD Tata Sports Complex from September 4 to 6. The three-day state-level championship will bring together leading and emerging table tennis players from different districts of Jharkhand. The championship will be inaugurated on September 4. Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, Managing Director of Tata Steel UTISL, will attend the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest and formally launch the event. Players will compete for championship titles and valuable ranking points during the tournament. All necessary preparations have been completed by the organising committee for the smooth conduct of the competition. The championship will conclude with a prize distribution ceremony on September 6 at 1:30 pm. Outstanding performers will be felicitated and awarded during the ceremony. Sports enthusiasts have been urged to attend the event in large numbers and encourage the participating players.

JSA League: Manbhumi FC thrash PRM Foundation 4-1



Jamshedpur, Sept 3: A convincing 4-1 victory was registered by Manbhumi Football Club over Pandit Raghunath Memorial Foundation in the JSA Football League Super Division match played at Sumant Moolgaokar Stadium on Wednesday. After a closely contested first half, the teams entered the break with the score locked at 0-0. The deadlock was broken in the 49th minute when Dhyanbant Soren scored the opening goal for Manbhumi FC. The lead was doubled by Soren in the 58th minute, giving his side complete control of the match. A brief comeback was attempted by Pandit Raghunath Memorial Foundation as Ishwar Hansdah reduced the margin in the 61st minute. However, the challenge was quickly ended when Salkhan Murmu struck twice in the 66th and 68th minutes. With the emphatic win, all three points were secured by Manbhumi Football Club in the Super Division League.

India-Brazil football friendly tickets gets huge response

Kolkata, Sept 3: Kolkata's football-crazy fans have responded with overwhelming enthusiasm to the much-anticipated India-Brazil friendly next month, with the lower-priced tickets for the once-in-a-lifetime encounter selling out within an hour of going online on Wednesday. India will take on five-time world champions Brazil on October 3, with football fever already reaching a crescendo in the city, renowned for its passionate following of the sport and the Brazil national team. Ticket prices range from Rs 999 to Rs 15,000. While the exact number of tickets made available on Wednesday could not be ascertained, the lower-priced slabs were snapped up within an hour of the online window opening on District in for the match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK). The tickets are priced at Rs 999, Rs 2,000, Rs 2,500, Rs 3,500, Rs 4,500, Rs 6,000, Rs 7,000, Rs 9,000 and Rs 15,000 for VIP seats. The VYBK has a seating capacity of around 67,000, with 70 percent of the seats expected to be put on sale. The Indian side will also face Panama and two-time world champions Uruguay in a high-profile friendly series. India will host Panama on September 26 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru before travelling to Kolkata to take on Brazil and then Uruguay on October 6. Tickets for the Brazil match were put on sale online, with no counter sales. This time, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) will not issue physical tickets, with all passes being provided in digital format, as was done during the FIFA World Cup. India coach Khalid Jamil has already named a 26-member squad for the FIFA friendlies, with the national camp scheduled to begin in Bengaluru on September 14.

Gauff, Andreieva prevail in women's singles opener



New York, Sept 3: The No. 4 seed Coco Gauff played excellent tennis to take down a resilient Zeynep Sonmez, 4-3 in the second round of the US Open. The 22-year-old American, competing in her eighth US Open main draw, entered this year's Open as one of the favorites, courtesy of a recent run of fine form that included semifinal showings at Wimbledon and Toronto and the title in Cincinnati. The last time she won the Cincinnati Open, in 2023, she went on to win that year's Open for her first Grand Slam title. Gauff added a second Slam crown at Roland Garros in 2025. Gauff posted two aces and a service winner in her first service game, dominated on serve in her next two service games, broke Sonmez for a 4-2 lead and held strong to claim the opening set in a tidy 32 minutes. Sonmez showed her mettle and upped her game in the second set, charging the net to change momentum and rallying from down an early break to make it interesting. The world No. 53 forced three break points, but Gauff saved all three, held on the 16th point of the game and promptly broke her oppo-

Eala marches into Rd-2

New York, Sept 3: Alexandra Eala kicked off her 2026 US Open campaign with a dominant win over American qualifier Mary Stoiana, advancing to Round 2 at Flushing Meadows for the second consecutive year. Eala's win continues a strong run on the North American hard-court swing, highlighted by her title run in Washington, D.C. She has now won nine of her past 11 matches on hard courts since Wimbledon, where she reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time in her career. In her US Open debut in 2025, Eala upset 14th seed Clara Tauson before losing to Cristina Bucsa in the second round. Continuing her Grand Slam success this season, she has now won her opening match at two consecutive majors, including a career-best Slam run to the Wimbledon fourth round earlier this summer.

Zverev survives Sonogo scare

New York, Sept 3: Top-seeded Alexander Zverev escaped an upset scare from unseeded Italian Lorenzo Sonogo to prevail, 6-4, 3-6, 6-7(7), 7-5, 6-4, in the first round of the 2026 US Open at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Zverev, who captured his first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros this year, was two points from defeat at 4-5 in the fourth set, yet he seized control in the latter stages to keep his title hopes alive after a gruelling four-hour, 53-minute battle. The German entered the match with a perfect 6-0 ATP head-to-head record against Sonogo, but that history counted for little as the World No. 89 delivered an inspired net-rushing performance, pushing the German to the brink. In his 10th US Open, Sonogo has never made it past the second round.

India to stage inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027



Dubai, Sep 2: The International Cricket Council on Wednesday moved outlined at the ICC's Annual Conference in July. "The ICC assessed the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy to India from Sri Lanka and the six-team event will be played in Mumbai and Vadodara from February 14 to 28. Sri Lanka was dropped as the host as the sport is grappling with governance issues in the island nation. The ICC Board approved India as the new host on Wednesday. "The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka but will now be staged in India as Sri Lanka Cricket continues to make the requisite reforms

three candidates - Bangladesh, India and South Africa - against its established host evaluation criteria before recommending India as the replacement host, a decision ratified by the ICC Board on 2 September," said the ICC in a statement. The Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium will be the venues for the landmark tournament that will bring together six of the world's leading women's cricket teams - Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Those six teams, who qualified as per their positions in the ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings on the July 6 qualification cut-off date, will compete in a round-robin league, with the top two sides advancing to the final on 28 February.

India need to fix batting frailties against Hong Kong

Dubai, Sept 3: India will need to sort out their batting frailties for a more complete performance when they face Hong Kong in their second match of the Women's T20 Asia Cup here on Thursday. The seven-time champions, who won four Asia Cup titles in the ODI format and three in the T20 format, survived some anxious moments after a bat-ting collapse in the second half of the first innings in their opening match against Thailand. Sitting pretty at 101 for two after 10 overs, India were looking good for a 200-plus total but lost seven wickets for just 29 runs to finish at 159. Although it did not

affect the outcome of the match as India comfortably defeated Thailand by 94 runs, the collapse left them with a lot to ponder, as against a top team, it could prove costly. However, Hong Kong being a minnow team, India will have more leeway to iron out their issues ahead of bigger battles, including against Pakistan in their last Group A game. For India, Shafali Verma shone brightly with a quick-fire 64, while Deepti Sharma too proved her mettle, taking three wickets without conceding a run to emerge as the highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is.

NTHA opens girls' wing for young hockey talents

Jamshedpur, Sept 3: The new Girls' Wing of the Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), a joint initiative of Tata Steel and Tata Trusts under the Hockey Ace Foundation (HAF), was inaugurated on Tuesday to provide young female hockey players with a stronger pathway from grassroots training to national and international competition. The inauguration was attended by Chief Guest Ruchi Narendran and Guest of Honour M. M. Somaya, Olympic gold medalist and former captain of the Indian men's hockey team. DB Sundara Ramam, Vice President-Corporate Services, Tata Steel and Chairman, Hockey Ace Foundation, was also present. Speaking on the occasion, Ruchi Narendran said sports had always been an important part of the Tata Steel legacy and the commitment was being continued through institutions such as NTHA.

"This Girls' Wing will provide a safe and world-class home where young athletes can learn, train and dream bigger," she said. "Jharkhand has given Indian hockey some of its finest players, and it must be ensured that its daughters get every opportunity to take their talent to the highest level," she added. The new high-performance facility has been designed to accommodate 30 players in the first year, with the capacity planned to be increased to 35 in the second year. A gymnasium, physiotherapy room, massage and recovery facilities, central kitchen and canteen have been provided. A video analysis room, audio-visual classrooms and offices for the technical team have also been included. Dedicated residential facilities for players, wardens and coaching staff have been developed. M. M. Somaya said a three-tier hockey development



structure had been created by the Hockey Ace Foundation, covering grassroots training, Regional Development Centres and NTHA as a high-performance centre. He said the age of 10-11 years was impor-

tant for identifying talent and nurturing players progressively. DB Sundara Ramam said the Girls' Wing marked an important step towards creating a stronger and more inclusive pathway for hockey.

Lakshya makes another early exit; Srikanth, Tanvi progress in China Masters



Shenzhen, Sep 2: Lakshya Sen was knocked out of the China Masters after a listless performance in the opening round but Kidambi Srikanth and Tanvi Sharma registered straight-game wins to progress to the second round of men's and women's singles competition here on Wednesday. Lakshya, a 2021 world championships bronze-medallist, played an error-riddled game to go down 14-21 7-21 in 38 minutes to world No. 9 Canada's Victor Lai, who won his second bronze medal at the World Championships last month. It was Lakshya's third defeat to the Canadian with his only win being at the All England Championships in March this year. Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver-medallist, however, progressed after beating Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen 21-16 21-15 in another men's singles opener. The former World No. 1 Indian, who reached the US Open final this year, will face Lai next. Tanvi, who won her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Taipei Open last month, defeated Denmark's Amalie Schulz 21-16 21-17 to also advance to the women's singles second round. The 17-year-old from Punjab, a bronze medallist at the Junior World Championships in Guwahati last year, will face Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki next. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, a two-time world championships bronze winner, also moved to the next round with a 21-11 21-16 win over Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Kang Khai Xing.

Tiger Woods to change plea after crash arrest

Stuart (Florida, USA), Sep 2: Tiger Woods entered a plea agreement Wednesday to a reckless driving charge following a rollover crash in March near his home in Florida. Woods appeared in a courtroom in Martin County where he agreed to a reduced charge after he was initially charged with DUI. A judge ordered that his driver's license be suspended for five years. Woods, 50, said little during the hearing and beforehand sat at the defense table, looking back at the courtroom gallery. He arrived at the courthouse with his girlfriend, Vanessa Trump, President Donald Trump's former daughter-in-law.

Tamannaah Bhatia, Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'The Vvaan' to now release in cinemas on Sept 25

Mumbai, July 10:) The makers of the upcoming film 'The Vvaan', which stars Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia, have announced the new release date of the film.

The makers took to their social media on Thursday, and shared a new poster of the film announcing the fresh release date.

The poster features a powerful hero standing between a circling bull and tiger. It is heavy on symbolism, and foreshadows the conflict at the heart of the story and deepens the mystery surrounding the film's folklore-driven narrative.

Mounted as a grand theatrical experience, 'The Vvaan' is among the most ambitious attempts to bring Indian folklore to the big screen. It blends fantasy, action, comedy and adventure, the film promises an immersive cinematic experience backed by expansive world-building and cutting-edge visual effects. It aims to celebrate rooted Indian stories that resonate with audiences across generations.

The film has undergone multiple release date changes since its announcement. It was initially slated for a Chhath Puja 2025 release, on October 24, 2025. It was later postponed to May 15, 2026, with the makers citing the need for additional time to mount the film's ambitious scale.

In March 2026, the release was pushed again to August 28, 2026. The successive delays are primarily attributed to extended



post-production and visual effects work for the supernatural fantasy.

Presented by Balaji Motion Pictures, a division of Balaji Telefilms Ltd, in association with

TVF, and 11.11 Production, the film is a big-screen folklore spectacle. It is written by Arunabh Kumar, directed by Deepak Mishra, and produced by

Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R Kapoor, Arunabh Kumar and Niraj Kothari. The film is set to release in cinemas on September 25, 2026.

Shiny Doshi reveals she wasn't allowed to even dream of becoming an actress

Mumbai, July 9 (IANS) Actress Shiny Doshi looked back on her journey in the entertainment industry and revealed how once even thinking or dreaming of being an actress, was never considered an acceptable career choice for girls in her family.

However, she credited her mother for being the pillar of strength who stood by her through every step of her journey.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Shiny said, "The kind of family that I belong to, we girls didn't have the liberty to go on screen and act or become a heroine. We didn't have so much of support back then."

The actress noted that times now have changed and families have become far more accepting of careers in the entertainment industry.

"Now, people have become very supportive about it. So, coming here without the support of my family, wherein my mother was the only person who was standing like a rock, and the support that I have received from her, the support that I am where I am today. So, it was a very beautiful journey," she shared.

Shiny also reflected on her professional growth over the years, and said every project has contributed to her evolution as an actor.

"I have worked with a different team in every



show. I have learnt something new from every show. And I have seen a

growth from every show, which I feel is very important.

Akanksha Chamola: I am very unlucky in love



Mumbai, July 10:) After being in a decade-long love marriage with actor Gaurav Khanna, actress Akanksha Chamola shared that she is "very unlucky in love". In the latest episode of the Netflix show "Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa" hosted by Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh, Akanksha was seen having a conversation with her show bestie Pamala Serena and contestant Varun Yadav about love and relationships.

Akanksha was seen telling the two: "There's this female friend of mine; she's also told me this as well that 'unfortunately, you are unlucky in love and you will always be very unlucky in love and I was like, I have accepted that.'"

Varun re-asked: "You are unlucky in love?"

To which, Akanksha replied: "I am very unlucky in love."

It was during the launch of "Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa", when Akanksha revealed that she and Gaurav had been living separately for a year and are heading for a divorce leaving Farah and their fans in shock.

Akanksha and Gaurav had a love marriage in November 2016. They were married for over 9 years before she confirmed their separation.

It was on last week's Judgement Day, when Akanksha made more headlines and she shared that she is bisexual, and had relationships with females before getting married to Gaurav. The show currently has popular names such as Akanksha Chaudhary, Yogesh Rawat, Sunita Ahuja, Ram Kapoor, Shreya Kalra, Shivangi Joshi, Harshad Chopra, Sufi Motiwala, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Madhuri Jain Grover, Riyaz Aly and Varun Yadav aka Ila. The first edition of "Lock Upp" was hosted by Kangana in 2022. Karan Kundrra was introduced as Jailer for the entire season. Munawar Faruqui was named as the winner. The second installment will have fourteen inmates, two jailers, and one lock-up for 6 weeks. As per the rules, inmates must complete tasks to earn in-game currency required for even the basic necessities such as food, supplies, and privileges.

Neha Kakkar reveals parents, brother Tony insisted she marry Rohanpreet Singh after meeting him for just 20 minutes

Mumbai, July 10:) Singer Neha Kakkar has revealed that it was her parents and brother Tony Kakkar who insisted she marry former co-star and singer Rohanpreet Singh after meeting him for just 15-20 minutes.

Speaking on the upcoming episode of 'Tum Ho Naa - Ghar Ki Superstar', hosted by Rajeev Khandelwal, Neha shared how her family instantly approved of Rohanpreet, after she expressed her liking for him.

Recalling the moment, Neha said, "Toh kya hua, maine Tony bhai ko bola ki Rohan mujhe bahut pasand hai. Unhone bola hum milna chahenge. Ioh meri

mumma-papa aur bhai, meri family hi sweet hai. Unhone kaha hum wahan aa jaate hain. Hum Punjab jaake dekhenge ki woh hume kaise lagte hain. Akele baat ki Rohan se aur sirf 15-20 minutes baithe honge. Uss room se is room mein aakar kaha, 'Shaadi karni hai toh Rohan se hi karo.' Mumma, Papa, Tony bhai, un teeno ke shabd humein yaad hain. Humari taraf se clearly haan hai, koi doubt hi nahi hai. Mujhe lagta hai woh wahi karwa rahe the. Itni quick-quick cheezein ho rahi thi. Kai baar yeh bhi ho sakta tha ki bachpana ho gaya, itni jaldi kaise aapne poori life ka decision le liya?"

(I told Tony bhai that I really liked Rohan. He said



he wanted to meet him. My mom, dad and brother, my family is really sweet, they said they would come to Punjab and meet him themselves. They spoke to Rohan privately for just 15-20 minutes. When they came out of the room, they said, If you want to get married, marry only Rohan. My mom, dad and Tony bhai's words are something we still remember. From our side, it was a clear yes, without any doubt. I feel it was all destined. Everything was happening so quickly. Many people could have felt it was childish to take such a big decision so quickly)

Earlier in the conversation, Neha recalled how destiny brought her

and Rohanpreet together during the COVID-19 lockdown while she was working on her song 'Nehu Da Vyah'.

She said, "Mujhe lagta hai ki yeh sab na likha hua hota hai. Pehle mujhe genuinely nahi lagta tha ki yeh sab likha hua hai, but jab yeh actually hua mere saath toh mujhe laga Bhagwan ji actually likhte hain. Ek ek cheez life mein sach ho jaati hai. Aur yeh hua ki lockdown mein hum sab bore ho rahe the, kuch kaam nahi tha karne ko aur mujhe laga jab sab log gaana bana sakte hain, main bhi bana ke dekhti hoon, shayad main bhi ek gaana create kar sakun. Aur tab maine 'Nehu Da Vyah' gaana banaya."

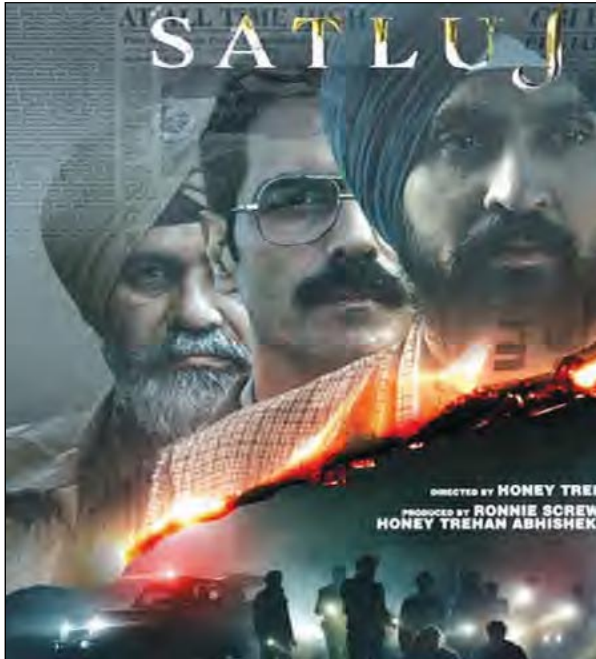
PIL in Punjab & Haryana HC seeks restoration of Diljit Dosanjh-starrer 'Satluj'

Chandigarh, July 10:) A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday, seeking restoration of Diljit Dosanjh-starrer film 'Satluj' that was removed just days after its digital release on an OTT platform.

The petition said the removal of the film, based on activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa's efforts to uncover alleged disappearances during Punjab's insurgency era, without any public statutory or judicial order, "is violative of the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression and citizens' right to information".

Petitioner Sharwan Singh has named the Central government, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the Punjab government, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited, and ZEE5 as respondents in the petition.

"The abrupt removal of the film, without disclosure of any statutory order, judicial direction or lawful authority, has not only curtailed the fundamental right of the public to receive information and artistic expression under



Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India but has also deprived thousands of bona-fide subscribers of access to content for which they had already paid consideration," the petition said.

The PIL said the sudden withdrawal of the film based upon documented historical events and the life of a human rights defender whose case has already been adjudicated

upon by constitutional courts has given rise to serious concerns regarding transparency, freedom of artistic expression, and the possible existence of undisclosed executive interference.

"The film 'Satluj' is a biopic based upon true facts and the life story of late Jaswant Singh Khalsa and does not affect the sovereignty and integrity of our country in any manner nor is it aimed to disrupt

public order," it said.

Meanwhile, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has said it would screen "Satluj" across Punjab.

"This is aimed at ensuring that today's youth and our coming generations know about the unspeakable tragedy and repression unleashed by the then Congress governments against Bhai Jaswant Singh Khalsa and thousands of other innocent Sikh youth who were eliminated through fake encounters," Akali Dal President Sukhtir Singh Badal said in a statement on Wednesday.

However, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu has said allegations by certain politicians regarding the BJP or the Central government's role in the removal of "Satluj" from the OTT platform "are baseless, misleading and devoid of facts". He said the government certification and regulatory provisions relating to films primarily apply to theatrical releases, while satellite television and cable broadcasts are governed under separate statutory and regulatory frameworks.

Health

Beauty creams have excessive mercury, lead levels



New Delhi, July 10:) The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (MFDA) has reportedly issued a public warning against the use of three cosmetic products after laboratory tests found dangerously high levels of mercury and lead, prompting concerns over serious health risks.

The regulator declared Goree Beauty Cream, Face Fresh Gold (Beauty Cream + Beauty Serum) and Golden Star Beauty Cream as substandard after tests revealed that the products contained heavy metals beyond the permissible limits.

The MFDA cautioned that prolonged use of these cosmetics could have severe health consequences, including damage to the kidneys, nervous system and skin. Consumers have been advised to immediately stop using, purchasing or distributing these products.

The investigation also found that the products failed to comply with mandatory labelling requirements. According to the regulator, the cosmetics did not carry essential details such as the manufacturer's name and address, batch number, manufacturing date and expiry date, raising further concerns about their authenticity and safety.

In response, the MFDA has directed retailers, wholesalers, distributors and e-commerce platforms across Maharashtra to immediately stop selling and stocking the identified products. Businesses have also been instructed to submit reports to the FDA detailing the quantity of products recalled from the market and the remaining stock in their possession.