



Lovlina to fight for gold
Lovlina Borghain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday.

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home
While many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu.

Lighter cars get relief under new CAFE norms
The government has notified the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, giving lighter cars relatively softer efficiency targets while requiring greater improvements from heavier vehicles.

Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree
Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part.

WINDOWS

IIT-B student suicide: Police record statements

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Crime Branch, probing the alleged suicide of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay student Sahil Wakode on September 18, has so far recorded the statements of 40 people, including his parents and fellow pupils, a police official said on Wednesday. Besides Sahil Wakode's parents, who are on a hunger strike at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, and his fellow students, the Crime Branch has also recorded the statements of IIT hostel staff and others. However, the statement of Professor Suryanarayana Doolla, booked for abetment of suicide, was yet to be recorded, he said. Investigators have sent two mobile phones, a laptop, and a tablet belonging to Sahil Wakode to the Forensic Science Laboratory at Kalina to decode and unlock the electronic devices.

India's monsoon rainfall 4th lowest since 2001: IMD

NEW DELHI: India received 87.4 per cent of the long period average (LPA) rainfall this monsoon season (June-September), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. While normal rainfall during the monsoon season is 868.6 mm, this year it was 759.4 mm over India, the IMD said, adding that rainfall over the country during this monsoon season was fourth lowest since 2001. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval, such as a month or season, averaged over a long period of time, typically 30 to 50 years. Currently, the country faces a deficit of about 13 per cent of rainfall between June 1 and September 30.

Indian sailor among 5 killed on hijacked tanker in Somalia

NEW DELHI: An Indian sailor was among five crew members killed by pirates aboard a hijacked fuel tanker in Somalia, authorities said, as the African nation's security forces retook control of the vessel. The Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) said three Pakistanis, one Indian and one Myanmar national were killed early on Tuesday, before its forces launched an operation to secure the Palau-flagged tanker MT Honour 25, news portal Somalia Today reported.

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INDIA unveils rallies, marches over electoral transparency

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE INDIA bloc on Wednesday announced a joint campaign demanding greater transparency in electoral rolls and the election process, including five rallies in October-November and nationwide demonstrations. The dates and venues will be finalised soon, with a major rally scheduled in Delhi on November 1. The parties also agreed on a common action plan on electoral issues. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded greater transparency in

changes to electoral rolls, including constituency- and booth-level details of additions, deletions and corrections. He also sought notice and an appeal mechanism before voter names are removed. Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Kharge also demanded replacing EVM voting with ballot papers and restoring the voter list prepared before the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). "Save Democracy Marches" will be held across the

- Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar
- Rahul said INDIA bloc leaders are committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and constitutional rights

country from October 2 to 8, with district-level protests. Opposition MPs will march to the Election Commission on October 6 and seek an appointment with the President. Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders were committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and

constitutional rights. The meeting followed reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections multiple times over decisions related to the SIR exercise. The Election Commission has maintained that differences during institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders



Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi with former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the INDIA bloc meeting in Delhi

have legal validity. The BJP rejected the opposition's approach and questioned the INDIA bloc's organisational strength and cohesion. BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain described the meeting as a "flop show" and claimed that the opposition grouping had neither a formal office nor a president or convenor. "There is no such thing as the I.N.D.I.A Alliance," Hussain said, alleging that the grouping lacked a clear policy and leadership structure. He also claimed that the number of parties associated with the alliance was declining with each meeting. The BJP said the outcomes of the INDIA meeting were "zero vision, 100 per cent frustration, and an advance excuse for poll defeats", with the leaders of the opposition grouping rejecting Rahul's leadership.

EC dumps SIR declaration from Form 6 after row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission on Wednesday removed the additional Special Intensive Revision (SIR) declaration from online Form 6 in states and Union Territories where the revision exercise has concluded. The change was made on the ECINET portal and comes four days after the full Commission decided that the additional requirement would apply only during the SIR exercise. Form 6 is the statutory form used by eligible citizens to apply for inclusion in electoral rolls. The additional declaration had required new applicants to indicate whether their names, or those of their parents or grandparents, appeared in electoral rolls prepared during an earlier SIR. Ap-

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules



plicants could also be asked to provide relevant electoral-roll details. With the declaration now removed in states where SIR has ended, new applicants will have to submit only the statutory Form 6 prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The additional SIR-related requirement continues in states and

UTs where the revision is still underway. The move follows controversy over the alteration of Form 6. The Indian Express had reported that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules. The report also said the two Commissioners had recorded objections on SIR-related decisions on multiple occasions, raising questions over the decision-making process within the Commission. The ECI subsequently announced that the statutory forms would be used during non-SIR periods and set up an expert panel to review ECINET's compliance with laws and rules.

Pilots fight mid-air; 'passenger' lands Israel-bound flight in Saudi

JEDDAH: A commercial flight, carrying around 180 passengers, headed to Israel made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after an apparent altercation in the cockpit. Some reports said a man pulled a knife and attacked a pilot, but officials have not confirmed that account. Cluster 2, which operates several airports in Saudi Arabia, said the captain and first officer were both injured and taken to a hospital. The incident sparked a military response from Israel, which couldn't rule out that the incident was terrorism related. Whether it was terrorism-related remains contested among Israeli officials. An Indian national was the captain of a Flydubai flight who fought with his co-pilot during a violent cockpit confrontation that forced the aircraft to make an



emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Saudi Arabia had arrested the pilot of a Flydubai flight who stabbed another pilot and apparently tried to crash a plane full of Israelis. The flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv landed in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after triggering a general emergency alert. That was briefly changed to an unlawful interference alert before reverting to a general emergency. The flight tracker also reported the plane dropped from 33,000 feet to 17,000 feet in about a minute before circling. One passenger told The Associated Press her daughter heard screaming and someone she believed was the pilot calling for help. Other passengers who spoke to The New York Times said two other pilots were on the flight. They took control of the plane and landed it in Saudi Arabia.

Why only girls? CM demands mindset shift on women's safety

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

URGING a fundamental shift in society's approach to women's safety, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta questioned why restrictions are routinely imposed on girls after incidents of harassment while boys are rarely held to equal scrutiny. Addressing students at Maitreyi College during the 'Parampara Se Pragati' event, Gupta highlighted how safety incidents routinely trigger advice instructing daughters on how to behave and where to go. "Why?" "Why?" she asked, referencing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Red Fort address to emphasize that society must counsel boys and ensure the message "no means no" is understood clearly.

Modi, Trump talk on phone, discuss ties

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump. The two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas of mutual interest, and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and agreed to maintain close engagement to deepen cooperation. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and discussed ongoing efforts to promote global



peace and security. Both leaders also agreed to remain in touch. PM Modi said he had a productive conversation with President Trump. "We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies," PM Modi said after talking to President Trump. He and President Trump have agreed to maintain close engagement to take the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward, the prime minister added.



Maha BLOs told to accept voter docu on WhatsApp

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam has asked poll officials to take voter documents sent via WhatsApp into consideration during the ongoing SIR exercise and directed BLOs to visit households for verification if necessary, an official said on Wednesday. People can respond to notices generated from the ECINET software by sending their required documents on WhatsApp to BLOs, the official in the state poll body said.

Lashkar terrorist wanted in Pahalgam attack killed

BUDGAM

SECURITY forces on Wednesday recovered the body of a Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa, along with war-like stores during a search operation in the general area of Palmaidan in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district. The killing of Moosa was confirmed by the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, which said, "During the search early morning in General Area Palmaidan, body of Pak-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa recovered along with war-like stores." The Army and other



security agencies on Wednesday launched OP KORAG in the Youmarg area based on specific intelligence input. A Joint Search Operation was launched when vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which Hashim Moosa was neutralised.

US leaves last air base in Iraq

TEXAS: US forces have completed their withdrawal from the last airbase in Erbil, Iraq, thus bringing an end to Operation Inherent Resolve. Operation Inherent Resolve was the US's military mission to defeat ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). "This milestone reflects the success of a 12-year campaign that defeated ISIS as an organised military threat in Iraq and across the region," said a statement from the US department of war. "The primary responsibility for addressing Iraq's remaining security challenges, including ISIS remnants and Iran-aligned militias that undermine Iraqi sovereignty and regional stability, now rests with the Government of Iraq."

76-year-old man gets 13-yr jail for robbing bank 38 yrs ago

KOLLAM

A 76-year-old man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined Rs 16,000 for his role in a robbery at the Nallurnad Service Co-operative Bank in Wayanad in 1988. Additional District and Sessions Court Judge L Jayavanth sentenced Kollam native Abdul Samad in

the case. He will undergo another 10 months in prison if he fails to pay the fine. According to police, the robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank. The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank. The robbers took away a safe, nearly one kilogram of



gold ornaments and Rs 5,544 in cash. According to the pros-

The robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank. The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank

ecution, two persons who reached the bank after hearing the noise were attacked

with a crowbar. Four of the accused -- Subair, Suresh Babu,

Alikkutty and Naseer -- were arrested and sentenced in 1993. Another accused, O K Babu, who had remained absconding, surrendered before the court in 2017 and was later sentenced. Police arrested Samad in October 2024. He faced trial while in judicial custody. The court examined around 40 witnesses in

the case. The prosecution produced 166 documents as evidence and 21 material objects seized under the mahazar before the court. The initial investigation was conducted by the then Mananthavady police and it was later taken over by District CB-CID. Public Prosecutor E R Santhosh Kumar appeared for the prosecution.