

# England captain Ben Stokes announces retirement mid-game at Trent Bridge

**TRENT BRIDGE:** England captain Ben Stokes will retire from international cricket after the third Test against New Zealand, the England team announced on Sunday. The shock announcement was made mid-way through the fourth day 4 of the ongoing Test at Trent Bridge. According to a report by BBC, Stokes was actually in the middle of a bowling spell when a statement on his behalf was released. And right after the announcement, with his first delivery, Stokes picked up the wicket of Zak Foulkes (caught at second slip by vice captain Harry Brook, who could re-



place Stokes at the helm). On its social media handles, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) posted a clip of an emotional Stokes breaking the news of his impending retirement to his England teammates in a speech. Retirement means Stokes will pull curtains on a 15-year international career that

peaked when he starred for England in its win over New Zealand in the 50-over World Cup final in 2019. In his career, Stokes played 122 Tests for England. Of these, 44 of which were as captain of the national side. Stokes also played 114 one-day internationals and 43 T20Is, this includes the role he played in the T20 2022 World Cup final. He also was a key player in England T20 World Cup-winning team in 2022, the same year he became Test captain. Stokes was dropped from the second Test of the current series for disciplinary reasons after a night out after the first Test.

# How can India qualify for T20 World Cup semi-final after South Africa beat Bangladesh?

**LONDON:** South Africa defeated Bangladesh by four wickets in the first match of the T20 World Cup double-header at Lord's on Sunday, leaving India needing to beat Australia in the second game of the day to reach the semifinals. Both teams entered the final round of Group A fixtures on six points from four matches, but India held the advantage with a net run rate of +2.268, compared to South Africa's +0.734. The Proteas chased down Bangladesh's target of 118 with four balls to spare and moved to eight points and will now await the outcome of the India-Australia clash. They end their group stage with eight points in five matches, with a net run rate of +0.633. A win for India will send them through to the semifinals alongside Australia. A defeat, however, will see South Africa join Australia as the two qualifiers from Group A. Australia have lost just three of their last 27 matches across the previous five Women's T20 World Cups, two of those defeats coming against India.



However, India have not beaten Australia in their last three Women's T20 World Cup meetings, with their most recent victory over the six-time champions coming in the 2018 edition in the Caribbean. They did, however, defeat Australia in a bilateral T20I series earlier this year. India vice-captain and opening batter Smriti Mandhana said the team was looking forward to the challenge ahead. "We all are really looking forward to

it. A very important match for us, a must-win for us to go through. Having said that, we'll stick with the processes. We'll go out there, work hard, work really hard, and try and put up the best which we can do. And I'm sure it's an important match and everyone is aware of that. But having said that, we have done well against them and we'll take that confidence ahead," Mandhana said at the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

# 'Utterly baffled': South Korea president rips into coach after FIFA World Cup exit



**TEXAS:** South Korea President Lee Jae Myung has come down heavily on coach Hong Myung-bo, blaming the nation's group-stage World Cup exit on favouritism in selection. He has also sought a sports ministry-led investigation into the team's performance. "I am not just taken aback by this unexpected outcome, I am utterly baffled," Lee wrote on X on Sunday, reacting to the team's early elimination. South Korea were fancied by most to qualify for the knockouts from a relatively easy group A. But back-to-back defeats to Mexico and South Africa left the Taegeuk Warriors with three points and outside the eight best third-placed teams progressing to the round of 32. "Once again, it has been proven that personnel decisions are everything. When 'us versus them' is prioritised over competence, and an incompetent person is selected as a leader, the outcome is as clear as day," the Korean president added. Korean media had already been alleging favouritism and a non-transparent hiring process upon Hong's

reinstatement as national team manager in 2024. Hong had denied the allegations. "The reason such botched appointments — which fail to distinguish between public and private interests and prioritise personal gain over the public good — are possible is that it is impossible or difficult to monitor, check, and hold those with appointment authority accountable," Lee further wrote. A petition to sack Hong, posted on the national assembly website on Thursday, soon gained the signatures it needed for a preliminary review, while social media posts showing signs banning Hong from the premises have gone viral in the country. "The failure to qualify... which has left the public feeling disheartened, appears to be the result of organisational and personnel failures," Lee said. "I ask that the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism thoroughly investigate the exact circumstances of this incident, analyze its causes, and develop measures to prevent recurrence and ensure improvement."

# How 3 minutes of madness in Austria-Algeria game ended Iran's World Cup



**WASHINGTON:** "I don't know, we did our best, but the rest is from God. I hope God gives us a little bit of

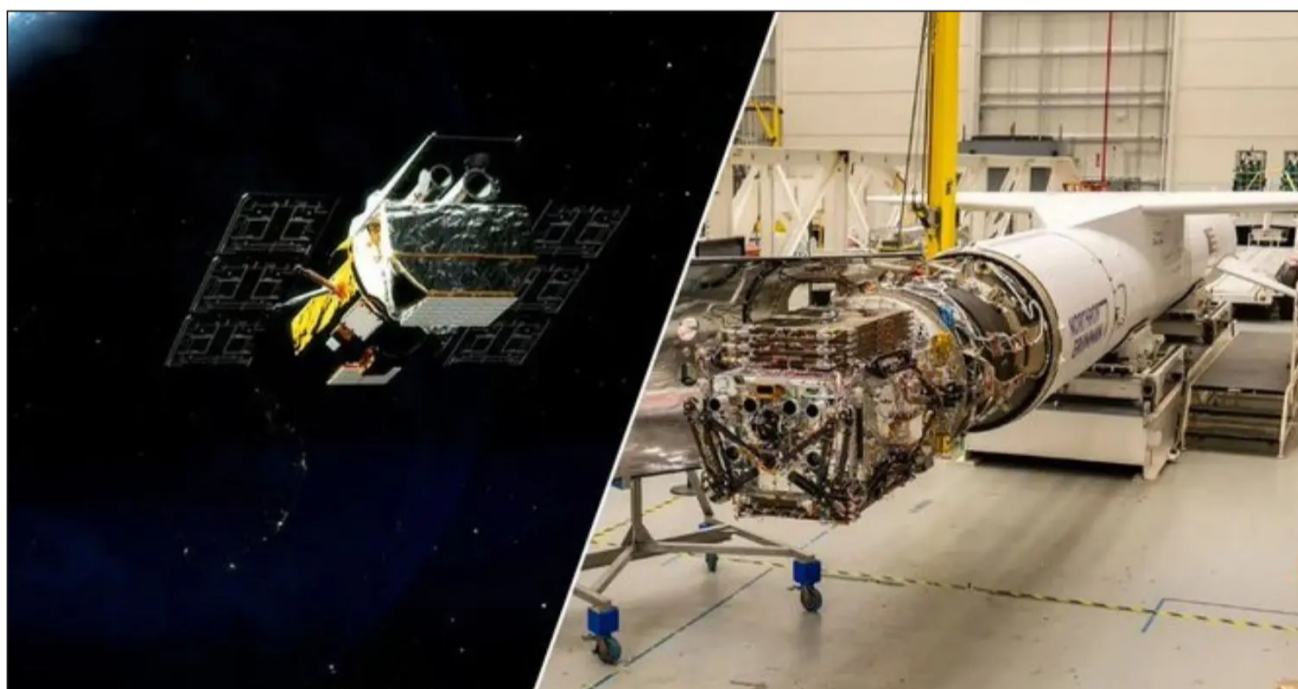
luck," is what Ramin Rezaei said in an emotional post-match interview that he gave after Iran's breathless 1-1 draw against Egypt that left their fate hanging by a thread. On Sunday, that thread snapped, but not before briefly, and rather cruelly, opening a tantalisingly small window through which Iran could see their place in the 2026 FIFA World Cup round of 32 just for a few seconds. There was only one way for

both Algeria and Austria to go through to the round of 32 and that was if the match between them, one of two final group stage games of this World Cup, ended in a draw. Austria went ahead twice in the match and Algeria equalised both times. And then, it looked like both sides had settled. There were even some farcical scenes towards the end of the match with Algeria passing the ball around sedately nearly the centre circle and

Austria not even making an attempt at pressing. The term "Disgrace of Gijon" was starting to be muttered. Then came the fourth minute of stoppage time. Algeria captain Riyad Mahrez slid in behind Austria's sleeping backline and sent the ball into the bottom corner with his first touch. The shell-shocked Austrians were forced awake from their slumber and threw the metaphorical kitchen sink at the Algerians. A shot from

Philip Lienhart whistled off target. Just before that, Austria had brought on Sasa Kalajdzic in place of Philipp Mwene. The substitute did it. The cross came in from the left, Michael Gregoritsch headed it square to Kalajdzic who nodded it home. Cue pandemonium. Defeat for either team would've meant that the third-placed side in Group J would have finished on three points.

# Nasa races to save ageing Swift telescope from falling back to earth; Hubble could be next



**N**asa is racing to save an ageing telescope from falling back to Earth with a daring rescue mission. The USD 30 million salvage operation gets underway as soon as this week with the planned launch of a robotic lifesaver. Nasa is racing to save an ageing telescope from falling back to Earth with a daring rescue mission. The USD 30 million salvage operation gets underway as soon as this week with the planned launch of a robotic lifesaver. Nasa hired startup Katalyst Space Technologies to boost the Swift Observatory to a higher orbit where it can continue hunting for some of the universe's biggest explosions. A three-armed spacecraft built by Katalyst will chase after Swift once it takes off from an atoll in the Pacific's Marshall Islands aboard an aeroplane-launched Pegasus rocket. Liftoff could occur as early as Tuesday. Scanning the cosmos since its launch in 2004, Swift has been sinking faster

and faster because of recent intense solar activity. It needs to get to a higher, more stable orbit as soon as possible to survive. Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope - also at risk - could be next. Like Swift, Hubble is losing altitude as the sun erupts with one flare after another. Katalyst Space CEO Ghonhee Lee said his company's next-generation robot, still in development, could save the day for the much bigger Hubble in a couple of years. Only China has attempted a mission like the upcoming one, successfully boosting a satellite into a higher graveyard orbit four years ago. "This is the first American space robot to go up and do anything like this," Lee told The Associated Press. "Nasa has all these big senior observatories ... all of them can benefit from a service like this. So what we're proving with this mission is this is a new play in the playbook that's available."

It will take Katalyst's autonomous spacecraft, named Lift, about a month to rendezvous with Swift and catch it, and another couple of months to raise its orbit from the current 224 miles (360 kilometres) to the desired 373 miles (600 kilometres). The 1.6-ton (1.4-metric ton) gamma ray observatory must be above 185 miles (300 kilometres) for the rescue to work. It's expected to reach that point of no return in October, according to the latest estimates. Roughly the size of a small kitchen refrigerator with a 40-foot (12-meter) solar wingspan, Lift sports three arms with a reach of just over 3 feet (1 meter). Each arm has two finger-like pinching grippers that resemble the hands of a Lego mini figure. If all goes well, Swift could be back in business by September, according to Lee. Worth hundreds of millions of dollars, Swift was never designed to be repaired,

let alone retrieved by hands - human or otherwise. That's what makes this so challenging, according to company officials, who stress there is no guarantee it will work. Nasa signed a contract with Katalyst last September with only two requests: It has to be a rush job, but please don't make things worse. Nine months later, the company is ready to rumble. "I have to be honest. No one thought it was going to be possible. No one thought we would get as far as we've already gotten today," said Shawn Domagal-Goldman, Nasa's astrophysics director. Nasa has bought a little more time for Swift, turning off all scientific instruments to slow its descent. Observations ceased in February. Nasa's science mission chief Nicky Fox said it's worth the effort. "If we let Swift reenter, we would lose that telescope. We would lose a lot of capability," she said. "We don't currently have the budget to build another one to replace that." While everything cannot be saved in space, Swift is special, said Domagal-Goldman. True to its name, Swift is designed to pivot quickly to capture late-breaking astronomical events such as gamma-ray bursts and exploding stars. With more discoveries expected by the Webb Space Telescope and soon-to-launch Roman Space Telescope, Swift, if saved, would be busier than ever as "Nasa's first responder." Katalyst sees Swift as the jumping-off point for a new repair business in space. The company's next-generation robotic rescuer, scheduled to fly next year, will tackle satellites as high as 22,300 miles (35,800 kilometres) up. Lee envisions hundreds of robots in orbit one day, not only fixing and hoisting satellites but also refuelling them and building solar farms, data centres, and other platforms. Thirty-six-year-old Hubble, which received repeat servicing by spacewalking astronauts during the shuttle era, could follow in 2028 with a life-extending Katalyst boost.

**LG's Diary**

**Manoj Sinha** @manojjsinha

Today at Baltal, I launched the Directorate of Rural Sanitation's "Shubham-Shivam" campaign, a major step to achieve sustainable, clean and zero-landfill Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Along with a slew of eco-innovations, officially unveiled the new website, pilgrimage anthem, logo, and mascot. The true backbone of this initiative is our incredible sanitation team. I am grateful for Karmyogi volunteers, whose relentless dedication will keep the base camp and both the tracks clean in the days ahead. They are the real heroes turning our zero-waste vision into reality, preserving the environment and the profound spiritual dignity of the Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage.

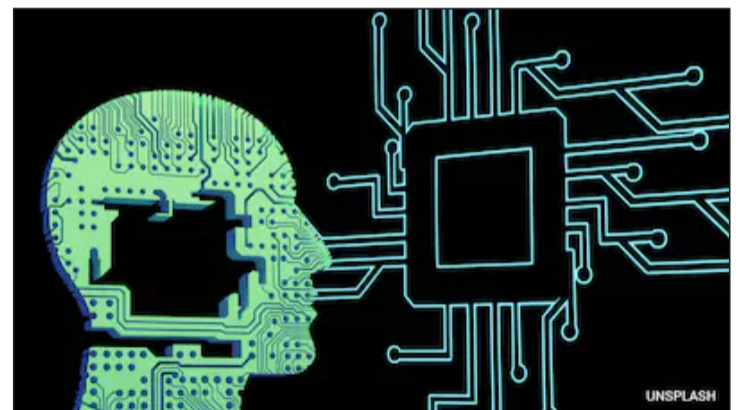
**Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir** @LokBhavanJandK

Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha visited the Baltal Base Camp today alongside senior officers to review health, lodging, and other essential facilities. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with officials and service providers, directing them to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, upkeep, and pilgrim-service management.

**Manoj Sinha** @manojjsinha

Today I visited Baltal base camp and chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Together with senior officials, I examined the infrastructure, security measures, and overall arrangements to ensure that all preparations are complete. I have instructed all the stakeholder departments to make certain that all amenities are in place and that devotees of Lord Shiva are welcomed into an environment that is safe, comfortable, and well-organized. My priority is that every pilgrim can enjoy the spiritual journey and leave with a truly enriching and fulfilling experience. The sacred Yatra is a moment of faith, and shared joy. I want the arrangements to reflect that spirit, ensuring that Teerth Yatris are well cared for.

# China's New AI Cybersecurity Tool On Par With Anthropic's Mythos



**C**hinese artificial intelligence models are catching up with top US AI systems, especially in cybersecurity, according to security researchers. A new AI model developed by Chinese company Zhipu AI (Z.ai) has shown that it can match Anthropic's powerful model, Mythos. Previewed in April, Mythos is designed to spot software vulnerabilities, yet experts warn it may enable stronger cyberattacks. This month, the US ordered Anthropic to stop exporting a less capable variant over national security concerns. Security researchers say Zhipu AI can detect software security flaws and bugs. However, they say it still trails leading US models from Anthropic and OpenAI in many other areas, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal. Chinese AI adoption is climbing as companies try to cut rising costs. Microsoft and others are now considering hosting Chinese models to rein in runaway costs. This move could reshape power dynamics in tech. "China is making sure that the gap becomes smaller and smaller over time," said Lior Div,

chief executive officer of the cybersecurity company 7AI, as quoted by WSJ. AI's growing skill at spotting software bugs has made it more urgent to use those same models to patch flaws before hackers exploit them. Without that, researchers warn of a potential "bugmageddon." Zhipu's GLM-5.2 is an open-weight intelligence model that anyone can download and run on their own hardware. Users can even modify it without any supervision. That freedom appeals to users who want full control, but it also gives hackers a tool they can operate out of sight. The development comes amid a wave of rapid AI innovation from Chinese companies. Besides Zhipu AI, cybersecurity firm 360 Security Technology recently unveiled two AI-powered cybersecurity tools under the "Yitian Tulong" banner. One of the tools, called Tulongfeng, is designed to automatically identify software vulnerabilities. Yitianzhen, on the other hand, focuses on cyber defence and incident response. The company also described Tulongfeng as China's equivalent of Anthropic's Mythos.