

Cabinet greenlights India's 2030 CWG bid; Ahmedabad top-tier stadiums a perfect fit

NEW DELHI: The union cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, naming Ahmedabad as the "ideal" venue because of its "world class stadiums, cutting-edge training facilities, and a passionate sporting culture".

The decision comes days after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) gave its nod to the proposal after a submission of the 'Expression of Interest' in March.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for submission of bid for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030," stated a release from the Press Information Bureau. "It also gave its approval to sign the



Host Collaboration Agreement (HCA) along with the required Guarantees from concerned Ministries, Departments and Authorities and sanction of required grant-in-aid to Gujarat Government, in case the bid gets

accepted," the release added. August 31 is the last date to submit the bid for the event and the IOA is expected to complete the formalities in the next 48 hours. India last hosted the CWG in 2010. The General Assembly

of Commonwealth Sport will decide the host country in the last week of November in Glasgow. India's chances of bagging the event have brightened as Canada has pulled out of the race citing budgetary constraints.

Shubhankar Sharma joins global star cast at DP World India Championship

NEW DELHI: Two-time DP World Tour winner Shubhankar Sharma will lead the home charge when he joins global stars Rory McIlroy and Tommy Fleetwood at the USD 4 million DP World India Championship here from October 16-19.

Sharma, who enjoyed a career highlight by representing the country at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, became the youngest Indian player to win on the DP World Tour when he claimed the Joburg Open title in December 2017, aged just 21.

He lifted a second trophy two months later after carding a sublime final round of 62 to win the Maybank Championship, and capped off the season by claiming the 2018 Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year award and topping the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

The 29-year-old has also recorded six wins on the Professional Golf Tour of India, and boasts a Major Championship top 10, following his impressive tied 8th finish in The Open at Royal Liverpool in 2023.

Sharma joins reigning Masters champion and career grand slam winner McIlroy and his Europe Ryder Cup team mate Fleetwood, who



is also a seven-time DP World Tour winner, Olympic silver medallist and newly-crowned FedExCup champion, in the inaugural DP World India Championship at the Delhi Golf Club.

Global smart logistics provider DP World and the DP World Tour launched the DP World India Championship this season.

Co-sanctioned with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the tournament features the largest prize fund ever offered for a DP World Tour event in India, with an exciting field set to join Sharma, Fleetwood and McIlroy.

Amateur Mannat takes first round lead at WPGT

HOSUR: Amateur Mannat Brar struck a purple patch in the middle of the opening round with four birdies in a row and grabbed the first round lead in the 12th leg of Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

Playing in the Rs. 15 lakh prize money event, Mannat shot 2-under 70 for the only under par round of the day at the Clover Greens.

Mannat, who was tied eighth last week in the 11th leg at Prestige Golfshire, was two shots clear of the trio comprising Kriti Chowhan, Jasmine Shekar and Ananya Garg, all of whom shot even par 72.

Mannat opened with a birdie and then dropped shots on the fourth and the sixth to go to 1-over. She then produced four birdies in a row from the ninth to 12th. The birdie run stopped as she had five pars in a row, but unfortunately closed with a bogey at the tricky Par-3 18th.

Kriti, looking for her maiden win on the WPG Tour, birdied the second and the third, but gave back both those shots on the seventh and the eighth. She parred her last 10 holes for her 72.

Jasmine, a multiple winner on the Tour, had an early birdie on the fifth, and then three in a row from the 11th to the 13th. She bogeyed the eighth, ninth, 14th and the 16th for a par score.

NorthEast United FC honoured with President's Cup by President Murmu

NEW DELHI: NorthEast United FC, which scripted history by becoming the first team to defend its Durand Cup title in over three decades, was conferred with the prestigious President's Cup by President Droupadi Murmu, in a special ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Wednesday.

The Durand Cup, Asia's oldest club competition, presents three trophies to its winners: the Durand Cup (instituted in 1888), the Shimla Trophy (donated by the citizens of Shimla in 1903), and the President's Cup, instituted in 1956 by then President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. This marked the first occasion since its institution that the President of India invited the winning team to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "This moment transcends football and stands as a symbol of pride. To have the President of India



recognise NorthEast United FC's achievement is one of the greatest honours we could ever receive.

I humbly dedicate this recognition to the people of the NorthEast, whose passion, resilience, and unwavering support continue to inspire us every single day," NorthEast United FC, owner, John Abraham, said.

Abraham said, "Receiving the President's Cup from the President of India is a moment that will forever be etched in golden letters in the history of NorthEast United FC and

Indian football." "We would also like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Durand Cup Organising Committee and the Eastern Command for hosting the tournament in such a spectacular manner and for giving us the privilege of being present here today," NorthEast United FC, CEO, Mandar Tamhane, said.

"For the President of India to invite the winning team to Rashtrapati Bhavan and personally acknowledge this achievement is a landmark moment for Indian football," he added.

Anish wins 25m rapid fire pistol silver at Asian C'ships

SHYMKENT: India's Anish Bhanwala once again showed why he is the best rapid fire pistol shooter in the country, clinching the silver medal in the ongoing Asian Shooting Championships here on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Olympian finished with a total of 35, just one shy of gold winner Su Lianbofan of China. The bronze went to Korea's Lee Jaekyoon. The Indian had a one-point lead after the first four series but fell behind after that.

Another Indian in the competition, Adarsh Singh, finished fifth. Bhanwala, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, was placed sixth with a score of 290 after the precision round of 30 shots on Tuesday, but in the rapid fire round on Wednesday, the Haryana marksman shot a superb 293 to jump to fourth place, aggregating 583 points. Heading into the six-

man final, Bhanwala led 18-17 against Su Lianbofan but missed shot in the remaining three series of five shots each saw him being beaten by the 20-year-old Chinese, whose best achievement so far has been a silver at this year's World Cup in Lima, Peru.

Bhanwala also bettered the colour of his medal from the bronze he won at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea two years back.

On Tuesday, the trio of Bhanwala (583), Adarsh Singh (585) and Neeraj Kumar (570) had aggregated 1738 points to win the team silver in the event. South Korea, with an aggregate of 1748, had taken the gold.

In men's 50m pistol, which is not an Olympic discipline, the team comprising Amanpreet Singh (543), Yogesh Kumar (548) and Ravinder Singh (542) took the silver, aggregating 1633.

Inaugural Archery Premier League in Delhi from October 2-12, says AAI

NEW DELHI: The inaugural edition of the Archery Premier League will take place at the national capital's Yamuna Sports Complex from October 2 to 12, the sport's apex body said on Wednesday.

The Archery Association of India (AAI) also unveiled the league's logo, symbolising dynamism, focus and precision that define the precision sport.

Apart from supporting India's Olympic movement, the Archery Premier League also aims to intersect sports, entertainment, education in history and culture to differentiate itself from other sporting leagues, and increase the global popularity of the sport, the national federation said in a press release. AAI president Arjun Munda said, "We are proud to host this landmark event at the nation's capital, reflecting our com-



mitment to elevate the sport, both nationally and globally. The dates have been decided keeping multiple factors in mind, including the schedule and workload of archers and the weather conditions in the city. "With this league, we aim to not only showcase top-tier talent from around the world but also highlight and celebrate India's rich archery heritage. The tournament will feature 36 Indian archers and 12 top global players divided into six franchises. The de-

tails regarding the franchises will be announced soon.

"With its dynamic format and inclusive approach, the league will bring an unprecedented visibility to both re-curve and compound archery. "We are excited to welcome all the international talent to the capital and give them a taste of India's hospitality, while also providing fans with a thrilling and cultural-ly resonant experience," AAI secretary general Virendra Sachdeva said.

Meta to launch California super PAC backing pro-AI candidates

Meta said on Tuesday it will launch a California-focused political action committee (PAC) to back state-level candidates favouring lighter regulation of technology, particularly artificial intelligence.

The group, named "Mobilizing Economic Transformation Across (Meta) California," will support candidates for state offices from either party who advocate AI innovation over stringent rules, the company said. The Facebook and Instagram parent plans to spend tens of millions of dollars through the PAC, potentially positioning the company among the state's top political spenders ahead of the 2026 governor race.

California will elect its next governor in November 2026. Governor Gavin Newsom's national profile

has surged amid a series of confrontations with President Donald Trump, positioning him as a high-visibility Democratic figure.

"The Governor takes a balanced approach to ensure that as the AI industry continues to grow, it does so with appropriate guardrails to protect the public," a spokesperson for the office of the California governor said in an emailed response. Meta's move to back candidates who favour AI-friendly policies aligns with its business interests, as the social media company is pouring billions to better compete in Silicon Valley's intensifying AI race and develop new cash flows. "Sacramento's regulatory environment could stifle innovation, block AI progress, and put California's technology leadership at risk," said Brian Rice, Meta vice president of public policy.

How B Vitamins Could Slow Cognitive Decline and Protect Against Dementia

Eight vital nutrients form the group of B vitamins known as the B complex. Research at Tufts University and beyond has shown that these vitamins play a role in many areas of health, influencing brain function, heart health, recovery after gastric bypass surgery, the prevention of neural tube defects, and even the risk of cancer.

"It's hard to study the B vitamins in isolation," explains gastroenterologist Joel Mason, senior scientist at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRC) and professor at the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Tufts University School of Medicine. "Four of these B-vitamins cooperate as co-factors in many critical activities in cells in what we call 'one carbon metabolism'."

One carbon metabolism refers to interconnected pathways that enable cells to transfer single-carbon units for vital functions such as DNA synthesis and amino acid processing. Because B vitamins are central to these processes, they



are both indispensable to human health and difficult to evaluate individually, as their effects often overlap.

Mason, along with two other long-time B vitamin researchers, outlines what is currently understood about how five of the most extensively studied B vitamins influence both cognitive performance and cardiovascular health.

Cognitive health remains one of the most heavily studied areas of B vitamin research. According to Mason, by the time individuals reach ages 75 to 80, about 40% experience reduced ability

to absorb food-bound vitamin B12. This shortage contributes to deterioration in nerve health, particularly in the brain and spinal cord, increasing the risk of dementia in older adults.

For many years, clinicians assumed that plasma B12 measurements were sufficient to determine whether supplementation was needed.

Mason notes, however, that many older adults whose B12 levels fall within the "low to normal" range still develop neurological impairments caused by vitamin B12 deficiency.

"The contribution of vitamin B12 deficiency to cognitive decline and the vascular disease that results in many cases of dementia is underdiagnosed and underreported," explains Irwin H. Rosenberg, Jean Mayer University Professor Emeritus at Tufts and former dean of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, who also taught pharmacology at the School of Medicine.

"Age-related cognitive decline is not just Alzheimer's," Rosenberg adds. "We've lumped together many kinds of brain dysfunction under one name.

Buried Secrets Reveal How Humans Changed the Great Salt Lake Forever

For thousands of years, Utah's Great Salt Lake has responded to shifts in climate and water supply. But new research using sediment isotope analysis shows that in just the past two centuries, human activity has driven the lake into a chemical state not seen for at least 2,000 years.

A geoscientist at the University of Utah studied sediments from the lakebed to trace how the lake and its watershed have changed since the time it took its modern form, after the immense freshwater Lake Bonneville receded and left behind today's Great Salt Lake.

"Lakes are great integrators. They're a point of focus for water, for sediments, and also for carbon and nutrients," said Gabriel Bowen, a professor and chairman of the Department of Geology &



Geophysics.

"We can go to lakes like this and look at their sediments, and they tell us a lot about the surrounding landscape."

According to Bowen's study, published last month in Geophysical Research Letters, sediment records help place today's rapid changes in perspective. These

natural archives offer crucial insights into the past behavior of terminal saline lakes, which sustain delicate yet essential ecosystems, and they may also guide future efforts to manage and protect them.

This research helps fill critical gaps in the lake's geological and hydrological records, coming at a time when the drought-depleted level of the terminal body has been hovering near its historic low.

"We have all these great observations, so much monitoring, so much information and interest in what's happening today.

We also have a legacy of people looking at the huge changes in the lake that happened over tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of years," Bowen said. "What we've been missing is the scale in the middle."

Book authors settle copyright lawsuit with AI company Anthropic

A group of book authors has reached a settlement agreement with artificial intelligence company Anthropic after suing the chatbot maker for copyright infringement. Both sides of the case have "negotiated a proposed class settlement," according to a federal appeals court filing Tuesday that said the terms will be finalised next week.

Anthropic declined to comment on Tuesday. A lawyer for the authors, Justin Nelson, said the "historic settlement will benefit all class members."

In a major test case for the AI industry, a federal judge ruled in June that Anthropic didn't break the law by training its chatbot Claude on millions of copyrighted books.

But the company was still on the hook and was scheduled to go to trial over how it acquired those books by downloading them from online "shadow libraries" of pirated copies.



Alibaba results likely to show limited AI payoff for China tech

China's Alibaba is likely to highlight its artificial intelligence strategy with its quarterly results on Friday, but in line with its peers Tencent and Baidu, may struggle to show that its big AI investments are paying off.

The companies have invested billions of dollars into AI over the past three years following the global success of ChatGPT, hailing it as a key revenue driver.

They rolled out their own large language models and infused them into their flagship products. But making money from these efforts has proved difficult so far, as Chinese users, unlike Western customers, have demonstrated strong resistance to paid subscription models, analysts said.

Alibaba has been among the most aggressive in China's AI industry, showcasing advancements on an almost weekly basis.

The weak contribution from the AI push dampens Alibaba's growth outlook at a time when its core e-commerce business is locked in an intense price competition with rivals to keep consumers spending amid persistent economic weakness in China.

Analysts estimate revenue from its cloud business which includes AI-related product sales grew just 4.3% in the April-June quarter from the previous quarter to ¥31.4 billion (\$4.4 billion), according to LSEG data. That would be up 18% from a year earlier, but suggests growth is slowing.

Tencent's earnings showed this month that revenue from the business that includes selling AI services is growing more slowly than its core gaming business. Baidu's did not expand fast enough to offset declines in its advertising revenue.

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