

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia denies Indian board has decided to pull out of ACC events

MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia has denied the report that the BCCI has decided to pull out of all tournaments organised by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to isolate Pakistan, following the escalating cross-border tensions between the two neighbouring countries. In a statement to TOI on Monday, Saikia said, “Since this morning, it has come to our notice about some news items about BCCI’s decision not to participate in the Asia Cup and Women’s Emerging Teams Asia Cup, both ACC’s events. Go Beyond The Boundary with our YouTube channel. SUBSCRIBE NOW!” Such news are devoid of any truth as till now, the BCCI has not even discussed or taken any such steps regarding ensuing ACC events, leave alone writing anything to the ACC. At this stage, our prime focus is on the ongoing IPL and subsequent England series, both men and women.”

“The Asia Cup matter or any other ACC event issue has not come up for discussion at any level, hence any news or report on that



is purely speculative and imaginary. It may be said that the BCCI, as and when any discussion on any ACC events takes place and any important decision is reached, the same will be announced through the media,” Saikia added. According to reports, the BCCI has already informed the ACC about its decision to withdraw from the Women’s Emerging Teams Asia Cup, scheduled to be held next month in Sri Lanka, and from the Men’s Asia Cup, scheduled for September, where India is the host nation. The reports cited that

one of the key reasons behind the move is that the ACC is currently headed by Mohsin Naqvi, who is not only the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, but also the Interior Minister in the Pakistani government. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Devajit Saikia has denied reports of the country pulling out of the Men’s Asia Cup that is scheduled to take place later this year. Saikia stated that the discussions regarding Asia Cup or any matter relating to ACC haven’t been discussed at any level.

A report of The Indian Express claimed on Monday that the BCCI is set to pull out of the Asia Cup due to a Pakistani heading the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). According to the report, the move came in a bid to isolate Pakistan cricket as the Indian team can’t play in a tournament headed by a Pakistani Minister. Notably, Moshin Naqvi is now the chairman of ACC. Speaking to The Times of India, Saikia said they will discuss the matters relating to ACC and Asia Cup in the coming months as their focus for now is on the

women’s and men’s tour of England. “Such news are devoid of any truth as till now, the BCCI has not even discussed or taken any such steps regarding ensuing ACC events, leave alone writing anything to the ACC. At this stage, our prime focus is on the ongoing IPL and subsequent England series, both men and women. The Asia Cup matter or any other ACC event issue has not come up for discussion at any level, hence any news or report on that is purely speculative and imaginary.” “It may be said that the BCCI, as and when any discussion on any ACC events takes place and any important decision is reached, the same will be announced through the media.” India is supposed to host the Asia Cup in Sept, but the tournament could be under a huge cloud if India pulls out of it. It is to be noted that the event will barely have any significance without an India-Pakistan game. In 2024, Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) secured a US\$ 170 million deal for media rights for the next eight years for the Asia Cup.

CSK head coach breaks silence on MS Dhoni’s IPL future, says...

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming finally addressed the elephant in the room, MS Dhoni’s IPL future, but gave little away. “I don’t know,” said Fleming during the pre-match press conference at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday, leaving fans and pundits guessing about whether the 43-year-old legendary captain has played his final IPL season. As Chennai Super Kings prepare to face Rajasthan Royals in their final match of the IPL 2025 season, the focus has shifted from results to rebuilding. It’s been a season to forget for the five-time champions, marred by inconsistency and underwhelming performances across departments. However, amid the disappointment, silver linings have emerged: none brighter than 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre. The young opener’s fearless approach and ability to score quickly in the powerplay have given CSK hope for the future. With Mhatre, along with Dewald Brevis, Urvil Patel, and Shaik Rasheed stepping up, CSK are be-



ginning to look ahead, possibly to a post-Dhoni era, one still not officially confirmed yet. The match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, a neutral venue per the revised schedule, gives these youngsters one more chance to stake their claim. On the other hand, Rajasthan Royals are limping toward the finish line. Despite boasting talent like Yashasvi Jaiswal and promising youngster Vaibhav Suryavanshi, RR’s campaign has collapsed under poor decisions, par-

ticularly in last year’s auction. Letting go of Jos Buttler and banking heavily on unproven Indian talent, combined with the lack of a frontline Indian bowler or a dependable all-rounder, has cost them dearly. With only one win while chasing in nine attempts, Rajasthan’s failure to finish games has become their defining trait this season. Both teams may be out of contention, but for CSK, the focus is firmly on what lies ahead, with or without MS Dhoni.

New study reveals 56 modifiable risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest

A new study has identified 56 non-clinical risk factors associated with sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), encompassing lifestyle behaviors, physical characteristics, psychosocial influences, socioeconomic status, and environmental exposures. The findings suggest that addressing these modifiable factors could prevent up to 63% of SCA cases. Published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, the study provides important new evidence on the role of non-medical factors in SCA prevention. Sudden cardiac arrest remains a major global public health concern, with severe physical and psychological consequences for individuals, as well as significant ripple effects on families, social networks, and communities. Due to its high mortality rate and unpredictable nature, SCA is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. In Canada alone, approximately 60,000 SCA events occur each year. Developing effective strategies to reduce this burden requires a better understanding of long-term, modifiable risk factors. Despite growing awareness, critical gaps in knowledge about how to prevent SCA still exist. Lead investigator and first author of the article Huihuan Luo, PhD, School of Public Health, Key Lab of Public Health Safety of the Ministry of Education, and NHC Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, explains, “All previous studies investigating the risk factors of SCA

were hypothesis-driven and focused on a limited number of candidate exposure factors grounded in prior knowledge or theoretical frameworks. We conducted an exposome-wide association study, which examines the relationship between a wide range of environmental exposures and health outcomes using UK Biobank data, followed by Mendelian randomization to assess causal relationships. The study found significant associations between various modifiable factors and SCA, with lifestyle changes being the most impactful in preventing cases.” Eliminating the worst 1/3 of all risk domains (conservative elimination), 40% of SCA cases could be prevented according to the study, rising to 63% SCA prevention if the worst 2/3 of all risk factors were eliminated (thorough elimination). Lifestyle habits appeared to contribute the most to SCA prevention, accounting for 13% and 18% of SCA cases under conservative and thorough elimination, respectively. Co-investigator Renjie Chen, PhD, Department of Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, points out, “To our knowledge, this is the first study that comprehensively investigated the associations between non-clinical modifiable risk factors and SCA incidence. We were surprised by the large proportion (40%–63%) of SCA cases that could be prevented by improving unfavorable profiles.”

Researchers found that factors such as higher consumption of champagne/white wine and increased fruit intake, along with maintaining a positive mood, weight management, blood pressure control, and improved education, may serve as important protective factors. The authors of the accompanying editorial Nicholas Grubic, MSc, Division of Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, ON, Canada, and Dakota Gustafson, PhD, Department of Emergency Medicine and Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada, say, “One of the study’s most intriguing findings is the cardioprotective effect associated with champagne and white wine consumption, questioning long-held assumptions about the specificity of red wine’s cardioprotective properties. Research on the underlying mechanisms remains unclear, but these findings reinforce the idea that the benefits of moderate alcohol consumption may be more complex than previously assumed.” Surprisingly, computer use showed an inverse relationship with SCA risk, seemingly contradicting sedentary behavior risks. Dr. Luo explains, “While our initial analysis showed that correlation, we strongly suspect this reflects underlying socioeconomic or occupational differences between groups, not a direct protective effect from screen time.

Thailand & Nepal progress to ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 Global Qualifier

BANGKOK: Thailand and Nepal finished in first and second place, respectively, at the Super Three competition of the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 Asia Qualifier to progress to the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier. The tournament which took place here, saw nine teams compete for the top two spots that would take them to the final phase of qualification for the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 to be held in England and Wales. Nepal, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were in the final three of the tournament, where Thailand beat the UAE by 54 runs on Sunday, followed by Nepal who emerged victorious by five wickets in their fixture against UAE today to finish in the top two and claim their place in the Qualifier. In Thailand’s match against the UAE, Nattaya Boochatham and Natthakan Chatham contributed scores of 49 and 46, respectively, to get their side to 144 for five after they



elected to bat. In reply, the UAE were restricted to 90 for five, thanks to miserly bowling by Thailand, led by left-arm spinner Thipatcha Putthawong, who took two for 27. Against Nepal, the UAE once again struggled with the bat as left-arm seam

bowler Manisha Upadhyay grabbed four for 20 to restrict the UAE to 114 for seven. Nepal’s captain Indu Barma steered her side to victory after early trouble saw them slip to 38 for three in the ninth over. Her 28-ball 30 helped her side

reach their target with three deliveries to spare. Nepal and Thailand will join eight other teams to contest for one of four places to the main event. The ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier dates will be announced in due course.

Cerium Glows Yellow: Chemists teach rare earth elements new ticks

Scientists have developed a method to alter the color and brightness of rare earth element luminescence by changing their chemical environment, enabling the design of advanced light-emitting materials. Researchers at HSE University and the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis of the Russian Academy of Sciences have discovered a method to control both the color and brightness of light emitted by rare earth elements. Typically, the luminescence of these elements is highly predictable. For example, cerium ions usually emit light in the ultraviolet range. However, the scientists demonstrated that this emission can be altered. By creating a specific chemical environment, they caused a cerium ion to emit a yellow glow instead of its usual ultraviolet light. These findings could lead to the development of advanced light sources, display technologies, and laser systems. The study was published in Optical Materials. Rare earth elements are important in microelectronics, LEDs, and fluorescent materials because they can emit light in precisely defined colors. This ability results from the behavior of their electrons when they absorb and release energy. When an atom absorbs



energy from a source such as light or an electric current, one of its electrons can move to a higher energy level. This excited state is unstable. After a short time, the electron returns to its original energy level and releases the excess energy in the form of light. This process is known as luminescence. In rare earth elements, the glow results from electron transitions between 4f orbitals—regions around the atomic nucleus where electrons can reside. Typically, the energy of these transitions is fixed, meaning the color of the glow remains constant: cerium emits invisible ultraviolet light, while terbium emits green. The 4f orbitals are situated deep within the atom and interact minimally with the surrounding environment. In contrast, the 5d orbitals are sensitive to ex-

ternal influences but generally do not contribute to the luminescence of lanthanides due to their excessively high energy. However, scientists from HSE University and the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis of the Russian Academy of Sciences have demonstrated that the color of the radiation can be altered by adjusting the chemical environment of the metals. They synthesised cerium, praseodymium, and terbium complexes using organic ligands—molecules that surround metal ions. These ligands shape the geometry of the complex and influence its properties. In all cases, three cyclopentadienyl anions were symmetrically arranged around the metal. These anions consist of regular pentagons of carbon atoms, to which large organic fragments are attached, providing the required structure for the complex. This environment generates a specific electrostatic field around the ion, which alters the energy of the 5d orbitals and, consequently, affects the luminescence spectrum. “Previously, a change in the color of the glow had been observed, but the underlying mechanism was not understood. Now, in collaboration with our physicist colleagues, we have been able to understand the mechanism behind this effect.

Will the AI boom fuel a global energy crisis?

AI’s thirst for energy is ballooning into a monster of a challenge. And it’s not just about the electricity bills. The environmental fallout is serious, stretching to guzzling precious water resources, creating mountains of electronic waste, and, yes, adding to those greenhouse gas emissions we’re all trying to cut. As AI models get ever more complex and weave themselves into yet more parts of our lives, a massive question mark hangs in the air: can we power this revolution without costing the Earth? The sheer computing power needed for the smartest AI out there is on an almost unbelievable upward curve — some say it’s doubling roughly every few months. This isn’t a gentle slope; it’s a vertical climb that’s threatening to leave even our most optimistic energy plans in the dust. To give you a sense of scale, AI’s future energy needs could soon gulp down as much electricity as entire countries like Japan or the Netherlands, or even large US states like California. When you hear stats like that, you start to see the potential squeeze AI could put on the power grids we all rely on. 2024 saw a record 4.3%

surge in global electricity demand, and AI’s expansion was a big reason why, alongside the boom in electric cars and factories working harder. Wind back to 2022, and data centres, AI, and even cryptocurrency mining were already accounting for nearly 2% of all the electricity used worldwide — that’s about 460 terawatt-hours (TWh). Jump to 2024, and data centres on their own use around 415 TWh, which is roughly 1.5% of the global total, and growing at 12% a year. AI’s direct share of that slice is still relatively small — about 20 TWh, or 0.02% of global energy use — but hold onto your hats, because that number is set to rocket upwards. The forecasts? Well, they’re pretty eye-opening. By the end of 2025, AI data centres around the world could demand an extra 10 gigawatts (GW) of power. That’s more than the entire power capacity of a place like Utah. Roll on to 2026, and global data centre electricity use could hit 1,000 TWh — similar to what Japan uses right now. And, by 2027, the global power hunger of AI data centres is tipped to reach 68 GW, which is almost what California had in total power capacity back in 2022.

Cellcom outage continues as company warns customers to beware of scams

Cellcom has warned its customers to be on the lookout for scams taking advantage of the ongoing outage, as the company continues to resolve it. Customers of this Wisconsin-based regional wireless have been facing an outage affecting voice and text services since last week. The company has reportedly assured its customers on its website that there is no indication that customer data has been compromised due to the service disruption. However, the Wisconsin-based company is strongly advising its user base to be cautious of potential scam attempts that may surface during this

service interruption. In its latest update, Cellcom noted that full restoration of services may take additional time. According to a report by Wbay, Cellcom has highlighted that it will never contact customers via texts or phone calls requesting personal information. This includes login credentials, passwords, or credit card and banking details. The company has advised users to ignore any calls or texts requesting their personal account details, as they can be scams. Cellcom customers can still dial 911 in emergencies, while data, iMessage and internet services remain fully operational.

In its statement shared on Facebook, Cellcom wrote: “We want to be upfront with you — what we hoped would be a short-term issue is now looking like a longer recovery. Our teams and partners continue working around the clock on a complex technical issue affecting voice and SMS services. Data, mobile/landline internet, iMessage, and RCS are still working for most. Number porting is currently unavailable. In the meantime, some customers are using apps like WhatsApp or FaceTime to stay connected. We know how disruptive this is — and how unacceptable it feels.

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