

# Suryakumar's gritty 84, Siraj's fiery spell power India to win over USA

Mumbai: India has started its T20 World Cup campaign with a victory. The team defeated the USA by 29 runs in Saturday's match. At the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, India, after losing the toss and batting first, scored 162 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 20 overs. The Indian team lost its first four wickets for just 46 runs. Captain Suryakumar Yadav scored 84 runs off 49 balls to guide the team to a respectable total.

Chasing a target of 162 runs, the USA team could only manage 132 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in 20 overs. Shubham Ranjane and Sanjay Krishnamurthy scored 37 runs each, while Milind Kumar contributed 34 runs for America. For India, Mohammed Siraj took 3 wickets, while Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel took 2 wickets each.



opening overs: Batting first against the USA, the Indian team suffered a major setback in the very second over. Opening batsman Abhishek

Sharma was dismissed on the first ball without scoring a single run. He was bowled by fast bowler Ali Khan. After Abhishek's dismissal,

Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma tried to stabilize the innings. The duo put on a 37-run partnership for the second wicket off 24 balls, which helped the team recover to some extent.

American bowler Shadley van Schalkwyk delivered a superb spell in the final stages of the powerplay, taking three wickets in the sixth over. This over significantly slowed down the Indian innings. Following this, Rinku Singh couldn't stay at the crease for long and was dismissed after scoring just 6 runs off 14 balls. Hardik Pandya also failed to find his rhythm and returned to the pavilion after scoring only 5 runs off 6 balls. Axar Patel contributed 14 runs off 11 balls to help boost the team's score. Arshdeep Singh added 4 runs off 6 balls, while Varun was run out.

# Arif Khan leads India at Milano Cortina Winter Olympics



Milan, (UNI)

Alpine skier Arif Mohammad Khan led the Indian contingent at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony, carrying the national flag during the traditional Parade of Nations held at the Livigno Snow Park in Italy. The opening ceremony of the Winter Games took place at Milan's San Siro Stadium on Friday, with simultaneous events held across Cortina, Livigno, and Predazzo, as per Olympics.com.

While Arif Khan carried the Indian Tricolour, cross-country skier Stanzin Lundup held the country placard. The two athletes constitute India's contingent at the Games. The ceremony featured performances by internationally renowned artists, including Mariyah Carey, Laura Pausini, and Andrea Bocelli, as the Winter Olympics marked their centenary edition, having begun in 1924.

Milano Cortina 2026 marks Arif Khan's second appearance at the Winter Olympics. He made his debut

but at Beijing 2022, where he competed in both slalom and giant slalom events.

Arif remains the only Indian athlete to have secured direct quota places in two alpine skiing disciplines at a single edition of the Games.

At Beijing 2022, Arif finished 45th in the giant slalom, the best-ever result by an Indian in that event, while he did not finish the slalom race. At Milano Cortina, he will compete only in the slalom event, having secured India's quota place through the Olympic FIS points system.

The alpine skiing competitions will be held at the Stelvio Ski Centre in Bormio, with the slalom event scheduled for February 16.

Stanzin Lundup, the only other Indian athlete at the Games, will compete in the men's 10km interval start freestyle cross-country skiing event. He secured India's quota place through the Olympic FIS points system. The alpine skiing competitions will be held at the Stelvio Ski Centre in Bormio, with the slalom event scheduled for February 16.

# ICC Chairman Jay Shah wishes teams luck ahead of T20 World Cup



Mumbai, (UNI)

ICC Chairman Jay Shah on Saturday underscored the competitive depth of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, noting that six different teams have emerged champions across the tournament's nine editions, as the 10th edition of the marquee event began in India and Sri Lanka.

"Six different champions already in nine editions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Wishing the teams the very best of luck as they battle for the crown over 55 exciting matches in India and Sri Lanka," Shah posted on X ahead of the tournament opener.

which will run from February 7 to March 8, features 55 matches spread across venues in the two co-host nations. The campaign opener saw Pakistan take on the Netherlands at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo on Saturday.

India, led by Suryakumar Yadav, also begin their World Cup campaign on the opening day, facing the United States of America at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. After the USA clash, the Men in Blue will take on Namibia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi on February 12.

India are scheduled to face arch-rivals Pakistan in their third group-stage match at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on February 15. However, the high-profile encounter remains uncertain following Pakistan's earlier announcement that it would boycott the fixture.

India's final group-stage match is slated against the Netherlands at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 18.

# Pakistan edge Netherlands by three wickets in T20 World Cup opener

Colombo, (UNI)

Pakistan kicked off their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign with a thrilling three-wicket victory over the Netherlands at the Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo, on Saturday.

A tense chase saw all-rounder Faheem Ashraf emerge as the hero, while Sahibzada Farhan's brilliant performance led by Salman Mirza (3/24) proved decisive.

Chasing 148, Pakistan got off to a shaky start, losing Saim Ayub (24 off 13) in the third over, caught by Aryan Dutt. Captain Aga Salman tried to steady the innings along-

side Farhan but was dismissed for 12 in the fifth over. At one stage, the match seemed under Pakistan's control, but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs put them under pressure.

In the 12th over, Paul van Meekeren removed Sahibzada Farhan on the very first ball, giving Pakistan their third wicket. Farhan had played an impressive 47 off 31 balls, hitting four boundaries and two sixes. In the same over, he had sent Usman Khawaja (0) back to the pavilion. In the next over, Rulof van der Merwe dismissed Babar Azam (15), putting Pakistan under pressure.

# BOXAM Elite 2026: 12 Indians through to finals as Sachin, Lovlina Lead the charge

La Nucia, (Spain), (UNI)

Twelve Indians, including eight women and four men, will compete for gold on the final day of BOXAM Elite International 2026, following another session full of assured performances on Friday. Leading the men's charge was Sachin (60kg), who extended his brilliant run with another dominant win over England's Jack Dryden. Over in the women's section, Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) stormed through to the finals with a unanimous victory over Wales' Rosie Eccles.

The BOXAM Elite 2026 has featured over 200 boxers from 20 nations. India (12) is the most well-represented nation in Saturday's finals-ahead of heavyweights Kazakhstan (11), Ukraine (5), and hosts Spain (4)-and is assured of at least one gold, with the Elite Women 54kg final being an all-Indian affair.

India's women continued their



strong showing with commanding semifinal wins across divisions, headlined by the confirmation of a gold in the 54kg category, where Preeti and

Poonam will face off for the title. Elsewhere, Manju Rani (48kg), Nitu (51kg), Priya (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), and Naina (80kg) all advanced

to the finals with emphatic victories, underlining India's depth and consistency across weight classes.

In the men's competition, India added further finalists through dominant displays from Deepak (70kg), Akash (75kg), and Ankush (80kg). Deepak produced one of the session's standout moments by forcing a first-round RSC against Kazakhstan's World Boxing Cup Finals' silver medallist Nurbek Mursali, while Akash and Ankush negotiated tough bouts against Kazakh opponents to seal their places in Saturday's gold-medal contests.

India's campaign also saw several boxers finish on the podium with bronze medals after falling at the semi-final stage, including Pranjal Yadav (65kg), Kajal (65kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), and Mankirat Kaur (80kg) in the women's competition. Jadumani Singh (55kg), Mohammed Hussam Uddin (60kg), and Hitesh Gulia (70kg) secured bronze finishes in the men's draw.

## BUSINESS

# Aim is to achieve \$500 bln trade between India, US annually: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, (UNI)

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the government objective is to achieve bilateral trade of USD 500 billion between India and the United States annually.

Addressing a presser on India-US joint statement on Saturday, he said, "India-US joint statement will significantly widen access for Indian exporters to the US market under the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) framework, opening up major new trade opportunities." "The US market will open wider for Indian



exporters with MFN status, which will greatly enhance our trade prospects," Goyal said.

"Most-Favored Nation" is a principle requiring countries to treat all trade partners equally, ensuring lowering tariffs and fewest

barriers for all members.

The Minister said that 18 per cent duty is less than India's competitors like China, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Describing the outcome of the talks as a

landmark moment, Goyal said, "This is a major step towards a developed India 2047. The India-US trade talks mark a historic milestone in strengthening our economic relationship."

The minister said several of India's leading export sectors will now enjoy zero-duty access in the United States. "Products like gems and diamonds, pharmaceutical products and smartphones will face zero duty in the US," he said.

Highlighting the scale of the benefit, Goyal noted that India's pharmaceutical

exports to the US are valued at about USD 13 billion, and duty-free access would further improve their global competitiveness.

He said the agreement also delivers substantial gains for India's agriculture and allied sectors, with the US agreeing to eliminate reciprocal tariffs on a wide range of Indian products.

"In agriculture, spices, tea, coffee and related products will face zero tariffs. This also includes copra, coconut oil, vegetable wax, groundnut, cashew nut and chestnut," Goyal said.

# 50 Years, One Nation, Countless MAGGI 'Moments of Togetherness' - Now Officially Stamped

Bhopal: Nestlé India is thrilled to mark a special milestone with the launch of a commemorative postal stamp celebrating 50 years of MAGGI in India. The stamp was unveiled by Mr. Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India, alongside Mr. Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. The stamp is a tribute to MAGGI's evolution, staying ahead of the curve and becoming synonymous to a much-loved category - all while continuing to bring people together, one shared moment at a time, across generations.

Over the past five decades, MAGGI has found its way into Indian homes in many delicious forms - from noodles and masalas to sauces, soups and ready-to-cook favourites. From quick solo fixes to meals that bring the family together, and from hostel kitchens to big get-togethers, MAGGI has been part of countless food mo-



ments across the country. The "50 Years of Togetherness" stamp is a tribute to these shared experiences, capturing the warmth, comfort and connections that MAGGI continues to bring to tables across India.

Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India said, "India's processed food sector has come a long way in earning the trust of households over decades. Pioneering brands have shaped new categories and strengthened our food ecosystem. I congratulate MAGGI on completing 50 years as part of this remarkable journey."

Announcing the launch of the stamp, Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India said, "It is a truly special milestone for MAGGI in India. Completing five decades in a country as vibrant and diverse as ours reflects the trust, affection and everyday love that millions have showered on the brand."

# RepcO Home Finance announces financial results

Chennai: The Board of Directors of Repco Home Finance Limited in its meeting held on 05th February 2026 has approved the financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2025.

**Loan Book and composition:** The overall loan book stood at Rs. 15,394 crores at the end of December 31, 2025, as against Rs. 14,155 crores a year back registering a growth of 8.8% with AUM at Rs. 15,033 crores as of September 30, 2025. As of December 31, 2025, loans to the non-salaried segment accounted for 52.9% of the outstanding loan book and loans for salaried segment accounted for 47.1% of loan book. Housing loans accounted for 71.0% of the loans while Home Equity products accounted for 29.0% of the loans given by the Company are retail loans.

## Asset Quality

\* GNPA amounted to Rs. 450 crores as of December 31, 2025, as against Rs.546 crores as of December 31, 2024 and Rs. 475 crores as of September 30, 2025.

\* NNPA constituted Rs. 213crores of the loan assets as of December 31, 2025, as against Rs. 209 crores as of December 30, 2024 and Rs. 225 crores as of September 30, 2025.

\* The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio stood at 2.92% and Net NPA ratio stood at about 1.38% of the loan assets as of December 31, 2025. This is against 3.86% and 1.51% as of December 31, 2024 respectively.

\* As required under IND AS, the Company has carried provisions for expected credit losses to the tune of Rs. 359 crores, which is 2.3% of total loan assets. The Stage-3 assets carry

a Coverage Ratio of 53%.

## Performance in Q3 FY26vs Q3 FY25

\* Loans sanctions stood at Rs. 1,087crores in Q3 FY26 as compared to Rs. 806 crores in Q3 FY25, registering a growth of 35%.

\* Loan disbursements stood at Rs. 1,064crores in Q3 FY26 as compared to Rs. 761crores in Q3 FY25, registering a growth of 40%.

\* Total income stood at Rs. 457crores in Q3 FY26 as compared to Rs. 445 crores in Q3 FY25, registering a growth of 3%.

\* Net interest income stood at Rs. 208crores in Q3 FY26 as compared to 198crores in Q3 FY25, resulting in a healthy growth of 5%.

\* Net profits stood at Rs. 109crores in Q3 FY26 as compared to Rs. 107 crores in Q3 FY25.

\* Loans pread remained healthy at 3.8%

# Indian REITs Association welcomes RBI's decision to permit bank lending to REITs

Chennai, (UNI)

The Indian REITs Association (IRA) on Friday welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to allow banks to lend directly to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

The decision of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee was announced by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

This landmark move strengthens the financial framework for REITs and supports their long-term growth, IRA said.

Direct access to bank



According to IRA, the ability to borrow at the REIT level is also expected to result in more efficient financing costs. REITs today raise debt funds through issuance of debt securities which are subscribed by mutual funds, NBFCs and others.

Since these investors prefer instruments with 3-5 years tenor, long term funding remains a challenge.

With RBI allowing banks to lend to REITs, these vehicles will be able to access long term fund-

ing, said IRA.

With greater financial flexibility and access to long-term capital, REITs will be better positioned to support portfolio expansion and contribute to the formalisation and institutionalisation of India's commercial real estate sector.

India's five publicly listed REITs are Brookfield India Real Estate Trust, Embassy Office Parks REIT, Knowledge Realty Trust, Mindspace Business Parks REIT and Nexus select Trust.