

In Brief

Demolition of historic Bidhan Bhavan

Shillong: The scheduled demolition of Bidhan Bhavan, also called Roy Villa, a historic building in Shillong, has been ordered to remain in place by the Meghalayan High Court. A Division Bench made up of Justices Biswadeep Bhattacharjee and Hamarsan Singh Thangkiew issued the directive. The court also ordered that the case be sent to the Chief Justice's regular Public Interest Litigation (PIL) bench for further proceedings. Concerns about the property's preservation, which has historical and architectural significance for the area, led to this action.

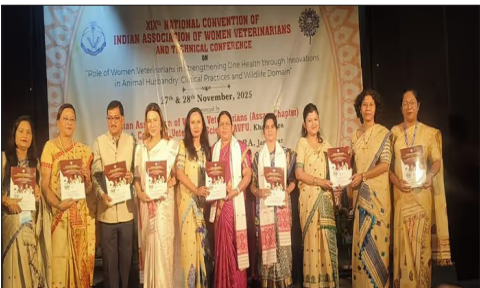
13 new amphibian species

Guwahati: Thirteen new amphibian species have been found throughout Northeast India by researchers at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which represents a major breakthrough in the documentation of the area's rich but little-known biodiversity. Six of the recently identified species were found in Arunachal Pradesh, three in Meghalaya, and one each in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur. Published in the latest volume of Vertebrate Zoology, the study resolves key taxonomic ambiguities surrounding the tiny "tik-tik" bush frogs and opens new pathways for understanding their conservation needs and ecological roles.

Five arrested

Kohima: According to a PTI report, five people have been detained in relation to the strange death of a 46-year-old Assamese man, including the proprietor of a rehabilitation facility in Chekiye village. Pradeep Basumatary, a resident of Aojan, Ganeshpuri in the Golaghat district of Assam, was identified as the deceased. His numerous injuries raised the possibility that he had been physically assaulted before to his demise.

Women veterinarians drive one health dialogue at national meet in Guwahati



Guwahati, Nov 30: The 19th National Conference of the Indian Association of Women Veterinarians (IAWV) opened today at the College of Veterinary Science (CVSE), Khanapara, bringing together women leaders, experts, scholars, and young professionals from across the country for a two-day discussion on the future of veterinary science. Hosted by the Assam Chapter of IAWV in collaboration with the Assam Veterinary and Fishery University (AVFU), the conference is centered on the theme, "Role of Women Veterinarians in Strengthening One Health through Innovations in Animal Husbandry, Clinical Practices, and Wildlife Domain." The inaugural ceremony was chaired by AVFU Vice Chancellor Dr. Niranjan Kalita, who underscored the growing influence of women veterinarians in India's animal healthcare landscape. He praised the steady rise of women in research, clinical care, and wildlife medicine, calling them "a crucial force in advancing the One Health mission." Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Munmun Sarma highlighted how women professionals are reshaping the veterinary sector through field innovations and community-based animal health initiatives. Guest of Honour Dr. Kasturi Bhattacharya, Director, stressed that the One Health approach—linking human, animal, and environmental wellbeing—can only succeed with a strong gender-inclusive workforce. She noted that women veterinarians often work directly with communities, giving them a deeper understanding of disease dynamics, livestock needs, and conservation challenges. College Dean Dr. B.N. Saikia also addressed the gathering, outlining the college's achievements and ongoing efforts to strengthen veterinary education and research in Assam.

According to Pradyot, national parties disregard tribal communities, endangering regional partners

Founder of the Tipra Motha Party, Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, on Thursday 27 November said that national political parties often fail to give due recognition to tribal communities and claimed that many regional parties ally with national parties out of self-interest, only to be sidelined or politically wiped out later.

Agartala, Nov 30: On Thursday, November 27, Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, the founder of the Tipra Motha Party, stated that national political parties frequently neglect to acknowledge tribal communities and asserted that many regional parties form alliances with national parties out of self-interest, only to later be marginalized or politically eliminated. Pradyot, a royal scion himself, was speaking at a massive One North East Unity assembly in Agartala. The royal scion warned that regional parties run the risk of political extinction if they stay isolated and urged the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), which is allied with the BJP in Tripura, to work with Tipra Motha to defend tribal rights.

"The IPFT and Tipra Motha should battle side by side. Our indigenous people's interests can only be protected by unity. Regional parties run the same peril as many others in the nation if they fight alone, according to Debbarma. He further



emphasized the difficulties encountered in setting up the public gathering, asserting that, in contrast to other political parties who allegedly conducted meetings without any problems, administrative roadblocks were purposefully put in place for Tipra Motha. Despite these obstacles, Debbarma was pleased with the high number of participants from all around Northeast India. Speaking about

the tribal community's socioeconomic situation, Pradyot acknowledged their financial difficulties while expressing faith in their tenacity and will. Even though they don't have much money now, the indigenous people are confident. For us, the Northeast Manch is an effective platform. The desire for Greater Tripaland will undoubtedly be met eventually, he stated. In closing, Debbarma urged the tribal com-

munity to speak out through the Northeast Manch, highlighting the importance of unity in securing their rights and maintaining their identity. Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya and National President of the National People's Party (NPP); James P. K. Sangma, Working President of the NPP and former Minister of Meghalaya; Daniel Langthasa, founder of the People's Party (Assam) and for-

mer Member (MAC) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council; Mmhonlumo Kikon, former Minister of Nagaland; R. K. Meghen, author, poet, social worker, and senior leader from Manipur; Hemochandra Singh, former Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly and former Minister; and Ajoy Edwards, founder and president of the Indian Gorkha Janshakti Front (Gorkhaland, Darjeeling).

MNF vows to introduce anti-defection law if voted to power in Lai Autonomous District Council

Aizawl, Nov 30: With the elections to the Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC) scheduled for December 3, the Mizo National Front (MNF) has made a strong poll pledge—promising to enact an anti-defection law if it returns to power. The announcement comes amid years of political instability in the autonomous councils, where frequent shifts in allegiance have often disrupted governance and undermined public trust. Campaigning for party candidates, MNF vice-president Lalehhandama Ralte said the absence of an anti-defection mechanism has encouraged opportunistic switching among elected members in the Lai, Mara, and Chakma Autonomous Dis-

trict Councils. He argued that such instability has harmed the credibility of local governance and eroded the dignity of the Lai people. Ralte launched sharp criticism at the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), accusing the party of failing to deliver on key promises made during the 2023 assembly elections. He described the ZPM as "a group of broken pots," claiming that the party's diversity of backgrounds has led to internal friction, resignations, and weakened public confidence. He also pointed to the ZPM's recent electoral setbacks—including defeats in the Sinlung Hills Council elections and the Dampa bypoll—as indicators of the ruling party's declining support.

Assam government would provide all HSLC candidates with a monthly stipend of Rs 300

Guwahati, Nov 30: On November 28, Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, unveiled a new program to help children get ready for the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) exams in 2026. The chief minister said in his regular interactive video message that each qualifying student will receive a monthly financial aid of Rs. 300. To ensure openness and prompt assistance, the money would be paid straight to the students' bank accounts."The government of Assam is committed to supporting our students as they prepare

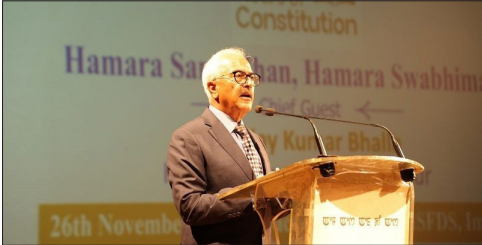
for the HSLC exam," stated Chief Minister Sarma. We will provide them Rs. 300 a month until their examinations are over to help them prepare even more. He further added that the government will provide free admission to colleges for students, strengthening educational access across the state. The government has introduced the "Nijut Moina" program, which aims to prevent child marriage and empower female students. A monthly stipend of Rs. 1,000 would be given to all female students under this plan. With an estimated 10 lakh benefi-



ciaries and a budgeted allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore, Nijut Moina seeks to raise the gross enrollment ratio of girls in higher education, delay early marriages, and increase girls' financial independence.

Manipur Governor urges citizens to uphold constitutional duties and reject violence

Itanagar, Nov 30: Marking Constitution Day, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday appealed to the people of the state to reaffirm their commitment to constitutional values, uphold unity, and reject all forms of violence. His message came at a time when Manipur continues to confront deep social and ethnic tensions, making the call for peace and constitutional responsibility particularly significant. Speaking at a Constitution Day (Samvidhan



Diwas) programme in Imphal, Governor Bhalla reflected on the extraordinary journey of India's Constitution and the immense effort that went into shaping the country's democratic structure.

He reminded citizens that the Constitution is not merely a legal doc-

ument but a guiding framework that defines the rights, duties, and responsibilities of every individual. Bhalla highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, along with other distinguished members of the Constituent As-

sembly. Their intellectual depth, clarity of vision, and unwavering commitment to democratic ideals, he said, helped build one of the most resilient constitutional systems in the world.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor stressed that peace, dignity, and equality were at the heart of the constitutional vision. He urged every citizen to uphold these principles, protect the rights of all communities, and work collectively to restore harmony in the state.

Suspected terrorists raid a border checkpoint in Saibol, Manipur, injuring four Assam Rifles soldiers

Imphal, Nov 30:

Four personnel of the Assam Rifles were injured early Friday when terrorists fired upon a patrolling team in Manipur's Tengnoupal district along the India-Myanmar border, the PRO of the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The ambush occurred near Border Pillar No. 87, close to Saibol village, during a routine patrol. Security personnel retaliated immediately, taking a calibrated response to ensure civilian safety in the vicinity, officials added.

In an official statement, the Defence Ministry (Manipur, Nagaland, Southern Arunachal Pradesh) confirmed the attack and said additional troops had been deployed as search and area domination operations continued. The Tengnoupal border belt, known for its porous terrain, has



witnessed repeated militant activity in recent months. Security forces have intensified vigil following today's armed assault. No insurgent

outfit has claimed responsibility for the attack at the time of filing this report.

The incident occurred months after the Assam Rifles gunned down 10 suspected militants in an encounter in Chandel district. The Assam Rifles unit had prior intelligence of a possible insurgency and acted quickly to neutralise the terrorists. During the operation, the terrorists first fired at the Assam Rifles unit, and the latter responded in a quick manner. As the encounter intensified, 10 terrorists died. The Assam Rifles unit kept the bodies for further identification.

Six Held in Assam for Cyber Fraud Using Illegal APK Apps

Guwahati, Nov 30: In a major crackdown on cyber-related financial fraud, police have detained six individuals from West Bengal and Assam. They are accused of using their current bank accounts to carry out fraudulent money transactions through illegal and unauthorized APK application links. Based on credible intelligence, police conducted operations at multiple locations and apprehended the suspects. Those detained include Saurav Paul (30) and Subham Paul (27) of Gosaigaon in Kokrajhar, Utsho Das (23) of Pradhan Nagar in Siliguri, Darjeeling, Sachin Saibya (25) of Kaluajote in Naxalbari, Darjeeling, Saiket Sarkar (19) of Bhaktinagar,

NJP in Jalpaiguri, and Umesh Kumar Sahani (37) of Khutiya Jal in Naxalbari, Darjeeling. They were taken to Dispur Police Station for detailed interrogation. During questioning, the accused reportedly admitted that they had travelled from West Bengal to Guwahati with the intention of conducting fraudulent money transfers. Police have seized a Bandhan Bank current account cheque book and seven mobile phones believed to have been used in the crime. Police suspect that the incident may be linked to a larger cyber fraud network. Efforts are underway to identify other members of the syndicate, and the investigation has been intensified.

Gaurav Gogoi Questions Land Pattas; Demands CM Grant Land First

Guwahati, Nov 30: Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Gaurav Gogoi on Friday raised sharp questions about the state government's decision to grant land pattas to the tea tribes, calling the move "suspicious" and "election-driven." Gogoi said the government must first prove its sincerity by granting land rights to workers employed in the tea gardens owned or purchased by the family of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. "There is serious doubt about the government's intentions regarding land pattas for the tea communities," Gogoi said. "If the government truly intended to do this, why did it not implement the decision over the past 10 years? Why bring it only four months before the election?"



He alleged that tea estates had been handed over to "incapable owners" who failed to run them properly, leading to halted PF contributions and withdrawal of long-standing festival benefits such as Durga Puja and Christmas bonuses. Gogoi further claimed that while tea workers continue to live without land rights, the chief minister and his family have purchased multiple tea gardens in recent years. "If the government was se-

rious, Himanta Biswa Sarma should have acted long ago instead of buying tea estates for himself," he added. Urging transparency, Gogoi said, "Let the chief minister make public the full list of tea gardens purchased by him and his family. Then, in front of the media, grant land pattas to the workers of those tea gardens. Only then will people know whether this decision is genuine or just another election gimmick."

NATIONAL

Congress and DMK respond to PM responsibility lecture with “what about you” jabs



New Delhi, Nov 30: The Opposition Congress sharply criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to citizens on Wednesday, questioning his personal commitment to “fundamental duties” and highlighting the significance of constitutional “duties.” “Let us reaffirm our commitment to carrying out our responsibilities as citizens of our wonderful country on this Constitution Day. In the open letter to commemorate the 1949 Constitution's centennial, Modi stated, “By doing this, we can all contribute meaningfully to the building of a Viksit Bharat that is developed and empowered.” Modi aimed to emphasize that obligations take precedence over fundamental rights. He em-

phasized the need to uphold democracy by using one's right to vote and recommended that educational institutions commemorate Constitution Day by honoring first-time voters. “All of these figures and significant events serve as a reminder of the importance of our responsibilities, which the Constitution also highlights in Article 51A's special chapter on Fundamental Duties. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi and the Constitution's founders, he added, “These responsibilities direct us on how to collectively achieve social and economic progress.” The Congress general secretary in charge of communication, Jairam Ramesh, came up with a counter. “Part IV-A, Article 51-A of the Constitution relates to

Fundamental Duties and has enumerated eleven of them. But is the Prime Minister fulfilling even his own fundamental duties as a citizen and leader?” Ramesh asked on X. Ramesh highlighted four duties and claimed Modi's commitment to them is “demonstrably suspect”. He listed the four as abiding by the Constitution and respecting its ideals and institutions; cherishing and following the noble ideals which inspired the national struggle for freedom; promoting harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India, transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; and developing scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform. Tamil Nadu chief minister and DMK chief M.K. Stalin too sought to obliquely slam the central government without directly referring to Modi's letter. “India belongs to all its people, not to one culture or one ideology. On this Constitution Day, we reaffirm our resolve to resist every force that tries to shrink Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision,” Stalin said on X. Modi, however, termed the Constitution as a “sacred document” that has continued to guide the nation's progress with “clarity and conviction.” “It is the power of our Constitution that enabled a person like me, coming from a humble and economically disadvantaged family, to serve as the Head of the Government continuously for over 24 years,” Modi said in his letter.

The President will address the Odisha House in Murmu as she returns to her legislative roots



New Delhi, Nov 30: On Friday, President Droupadi Murmu will speak in the Odisha Assembly's first winter session. She will be returning to the House, where she started her political career 25 years ago as a Rairangpur MLA. Murmu, a two-time MLA and minister in the BJP-BJD coalition government, will visit Room No. 11, the chamber she used when serving as a lawmaker, and give a speech in the afternoon. This will be the first time a sitting president has made such an address to the House.

Everything has been prepared for the President's visit,” stated Speaker Surma Padhy. It's a momentous occasion. We are all honored and happy to welcome the President, a former member of this House. She served as a cabinet minister as well. The Assembly premises, including

her former ministerial office, has been spruced up ahead of her arrival.

Deputy chief minister K.V. Singh Deo told The Telegraph: “I had the privilege to be a member of the Odisha Assembly when Madam President was the member... It is a great privilege for us to listen to the President, the daughter of Odisha who reached such a great height.” BJD MLA Arun Sahoo said: “Her journey from the grassroots to the office of the President is phenomenal... We all are inspired by her simplicity, honesty and commitment to work.” Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and others are scheduled to be present during Murmu's address. Security has been tightened with a four-tier cover and extensive deployment across Bhubaneswar.

PM Modi inaugurates Indian space start-up Skyroot's Infinity Campus

New Delhi, Nov 30: Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad was officially opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conference. Additionally, PM Modi revealed Vikram-I, Skyroot's first orbital rocket that can send satellites into orbit. With a capability to construct one orbital rocket per month, the cutting-edge facility will feature about 2,00,000 square feet of workspace for the design, development, integration, and testing of numerous launch vehicles. Skyroot is India's leading private space company, founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology and former ISRO scientists turned entrepreneurs. In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming the first Indian private company to launch a rocket to space, according to a press release by the PMO.



BLOs face assault and senior coercion as the Uttar Pradesh voter roll revision takes a toll



Lucknow, Nov 30: Assaults and administrative indifference are also driving booth-level officers (BLOs), who have complained of extreme SIR-related work pressure. In a video taken in a hospital, Vipin Kumar Yadav, a BLO in Gonda's Jaitpur who committed suicide on Tuesday, claimed that he ingested poison because his superiors had threatened to harm him severely if he didn't finish his SIR mission. District magistrate (DM) Priyanka Niranjana, however, said that Vipin's passing was caused by “some personal, family-related issues.. A

BLO is required to gather 40 or more enumeration forms each day and enter them into the Election Commission's computer or mobile app. The server typically works four hours a day and is quite slow. They continue to face punishment, intimidation, and threats. On condition of anonymity, a relative of Vipin stated, “The DM is very insensitive.” The suicide of BLO supervisor Sudhir Kumar in Fatehpur on Tuesday has also been minimized by local administrative officials. His request for a leave of absence on Wednesday, the day of his wedding, had been denied by his superiors. Sudhir's cousin Sudhir told reporters, “Some officers came to our house, threw some papers on Sudhir's face, and threatened to arrest him if he dared to step out of his constituency.” “The same officers came after his death on Tuesday and asked us to keep our mouths shut or face ar-

rest,” he added. Reports of attacks on BLOs are also trickling in from across the state. Police have arrested Mohammad Imtiyaz for attacking three BLOs on Tuesday. Sabhya Tiwari, a teacher from Shivagharh in Pratapgarh district, was also among the assaulted. Vimal Kumar, subdivisional magistrate of Raniganj under which Shivgarh falls, said: “Imtiyaz and Mohammad Jeeshan had attacked the BLOs and torn up the enumeration forms. Imtiyaz was sent to jail, and the police are looking for Jeeshan.” Rajesh Kumar Jaiswal, a senior assistant in the minor irrigation department who had been engaged as a BLO in Sahukara, Bareilly, was also beaten up on Monday. Jaiswal has filed a police complaint against his alleged attacker, Arpan Garg. Four days ago, Ashok Kumar, a BLO in Lakhimpur Kheri, had lodged a police complaint against Samajwadi Party lead-

er Laxman Gupta for manhandling and verbally abusing him during SIR work in Mohalla Bazar Khurd. Gupta denied the allegation and said: “The BLO only handed out my wife's enumeration form. I am also a voter. He didn't respond properly when I asked him to give me my form. So I berated him.” The government has ordered the deduction of a day's salary for 10 panchayat secretaries in Aligarh's Atauli block for allegedly not taking the SIR seriously. Block development officer Ved Prakash said: “There are 13 panchayat secretaries who were supposed to attend a meeting in the block on Tuesday to give updates about the SIR work. Only three of them turned up.” Earlier, in Allahabad, the salaries of seven BLOs were withheld, and an FIR was registered against one for dereliction of duty during the voter roll revision work.

The court chastises the CBI for taking so long to name the prosecutor for Anil Deshmukh's trial

Mumbai, Dec 30: The CBI was harshly criticized by a Mumbai special court on Tuesday for not appointing a Special Public Prosecutor in the corruption case against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh for more than six months, calling the agency's strategy “lethargic.” Sub-Inspector Suyesh Sharma of the CBI stated that the designation of an SPP for the case was still being considered, but Special Judge SR Navander pointed out that the SPP was not present. Advocate Raja Thakare, an SPP, was already appointed and his name was listed in court documents. But in order to make it easier to appoint a new SPP, Sharma requested an adjournment. “There has been no appointment of a prosecutor in this case for more than six months,” the court said, expressing dissatisfaction. It is an MP/MLA case, and the Supreme Court and High Court have directed that these cases be tried as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the prosecution's strategy is sluggish. Nothing has been done to guarantee that the Court is represented by an advocate. The hearing for the framing of charges has been extended as a result. The prosecution has made a grave mistake in this case. The court also noted the “road map” laid down



by the High Court, pointing out that it had last week framed charges against another former cabinet minister and NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) leader Nawab Malik. In Deshmukh's case, the court directed: “If the prosecution is serious about proceeding with the case, the prosecutor shall be appointed by the next date. Otherwise, the Court will pass the necessary order under Section 309 of the CrPC.” Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that criminal inquiries and trials be conducted as expeditiously as possible. The court directed the CBI to take note of the order and initiate effective steps. The hearing in the case against Deshmukh was adjourned to December 2 for arguments on charge. Under Supreme Court directions, cases related to MPs and MLAs are to be disposed of within a year and trials must be conducted

ed on a day-to-day basis. Deshmukh, his former personal assistant Kundan Shinde, and personal secretary Sanjeev Palande were booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2021. The CBI has accused Deshmukh of directing dismissed police officer Sachin Waze to illegally collect Rs 100 crore every month from orchestra bar owners as protection money. Deshmukh, Palande, and Shinde are out on bail. The Enforcement Directorate has also registered a related money-laundering case. Waze, initially an accused, later turned prosecution witness. He has been in jail since March 2021 after his arrest by the NIA in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder cases. The trials in the CBI and ED cases against Deshmukh are required to proceed simultaneously. The ED has already appointed an SPP in its case.

ED conducts first-ever raids along India-Myanmar border

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted maiden searches along the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram apart from some places in Assam and Gujarat in a drugs trafficking linked money laundering case, officials said. The federal probe agency also seized ₹35 lakh cash apart from some digital devices.

Locations across Aizawl and Champhai in Mizoram, Sribhum in Assam and Ahmedabad in Gujarat are being searched under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the ED

officials said. India shares a 1,643 long front with Myanmar on its eastern side. The agency undertook a financial analysis of the arrested persons and found “financial linkages” between some firms located in Mizoram and certain Gujarat-based companies. The Gujarat firms supplied Pseudoephedrine tablets and Caffeine Anhydrous to the Mizoram-based firms that allegedly had links to drug smugglers who carry out smuggling and hawala transactions through habitual offenders operating in Champhai, the officials said.

Big allegations after pan masala baron's daughter-in-law dies by suicide

New Delhi, Nov 30: The brother of the 38-year-old woman who died by suicide in Delhi's Vasant Vihar on Thursday accused the deceased's in-laws of “torture” and “harassment.” The woman, who was the daughter-in-law of the owner of Kamla Pasand pan masala company, was found dead by her husband in the dressing room inside her bedroom at their house in southwest Delhi. A diary was recovered from her room, in which an entry



mentioned “relationship issues.” Following her death, her brother on Wednesday said her husband “used to harass her”, while claiming that her family had recently brought her back home. “They used to beat her,” the brother said about the deceased's husband and

her mother-in-law. “We recently learned that he had illegally married someone else. We brought our sister back to Kolkata, but her in-laws came to take her home,” her brother alleged. He further said that the in-laws had promised to take care of her, but had continued to “torture” her after she returned. At the time of the incident, the deceased woman was alone at her house. The woman lived with her husband and two children.

ED raids ten states in connection with a medical college bribery scandal

New Delhi, Nov 30: In relation to a suspected bribery case involving government officials and medical colleges, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched 15 locations in ten states on Thursday. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi are among the states where the raids are taking place. Official sources claim that the searches are connected to a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed on June 30, 2025. According to the FIR, government officials, including those from the National Medical Commission (NMC), received payments in exchange for private information on medical college inspections. According to the inquiry, intermediaries and important management staff from several medical institutions were given access to private inspection information. According to reports, the accused exploited this information to modify inspection parameters and then get permission to conduct academic courses at the medical colleges that were implicated. The alleged scheme highlights systemic vulnerabilities in the process of granting approvals to educational institutions, raising concerns about the integrity of regulatory oversight and the potential



impact on the quality of medical education in the country. The search operations cover seven premises related to medical colleges located in multiple states. In addition, raids are being conducted on the premises of several private individuals named as accused in the CBI FIR. Officials stated that these individuals played key roles in facilitating the alleged bribery transactions. The scope of the searches reflects the widespread nature of the alleged network, with authorities targeting both institutional and personal assets in an effort to uncover the full extent of the operation. The ED's action is part of a wider crackdown on corruption in the medical education sector, following detailed leads from the CBI's ongoing investigation. Authorities are focused on uncovering the flow of illicit funds and identifying the full extent of the alleged network involving college administrators and government officials.

Supreme Court notes a “growing trend” of its own benches reversing earlier decisions

New Delhi, Nov 30: The growing practice of “bench hunting,” in which plaintiffs visit a later bench to reopen and reverse an earlier verdict, was sharply denounced by the Supreme Court on Wednesday. The court issued a warning, stating that permitting such attempts would undermine the finality of decisions protected by Article 141 of the Constitution. “In the recent past, we have rather painfully observed a growing trend in this court of verdicts pronounced by Judges, whether still in office or not and irrespective of the time lapse since pronounced, being overturned by succeeding benches or specially constituted benches at the behest of some party aggrieved by the verdicts prior in point of time,” a bench consisting of Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih as stating. The judges further pointed out that reconsidering cases that have previously been decided, even if they are res integra, jeopardizes



the unique authority granted to Supreme Court rulings and runs the risk of inconsistent legal interpretation. The panel listed a number of instances in which earlier rulings were reexamined, such as those in Vanashakti, the Delhi firecracker ban, the Tamil Nadu Governor case, and Bhushan Steel Insolvency. The comments were made at the hearing of a murder suspect's request to have his bail terms changed. He had originally been granted bail

by a bench led by Justice Abhay S Oka, with the restriction that he could not leave Kolkata. After an earlier request to relax the condition was denied, the accused filed a fresh application before Justice Datta's bench following Justice Oka's retirement, prompting sharp criticism for attempting to manipulate the system. Rejecting the plea, Justice Datta emphasised that “overturning a prior verdict by a later verdict does not necessarily

The Supreme Court dismissed a murder accused's plea to modify bail conditions, warning that approaching a new bench to overturn earlier orders undermines Article 141 and the finality of its judgments.

mean justice is better served”. Any alteration to the bail conditions, the judgment held, would violate the spirit of Article 141, which ensures the finality of Supreme Court decisions. “If any modification of such condition is made now and thereby the stringency relaxed, that would not only amount to overstepping the order of this court granting bail but would send a wrong message of this court being unconcerned with the principle of finality of judicial decisions. The stringent condition imposed by the bench while granting bail being justified on facts and in the circumstances, and there being no significant change in circumstances warranting a reconsideration, we see no reason to interfere,” the Supreme Court observed.

Richard Marx to headline Meghalaya’s Me’gong Festival 2025

Shillong, Nov 30: International pop-rock sensation Richard Marx is set to light up the Me’gong Festival 2025 in Tura, western Meghalaya, adding a major global draw to one of the state’s most anticipated cultural celebrations. Organisers formally announced his participation on Friday, November 28, confirming that the two-day festival scheduled for December 5 and 6 will feature a powerful mix of international, national and local talent. Joining Marx on the mainstage will be the acclaimed Dutch electronic duo Yellow Claw, known for their high-energy performances at music festivals worldwide. From India’s mainstream music circuit, popular Bollywood voices Kanika Kapoor and Neeti Mohan are also set to perform, adding star value and diversity to the festival’s musical lineup. The Me’gong Festival has consistently celebrated the vibrant traditions and artistic expressions of the Garo Hills, and this edition aims to deepen that cultural experience. Alongside the star-studded musical acts, home-grown



performers such as Rough Road, Hoi Hoi Makbil and the Haystack Ladies will highlight local talent, ensuring a strong regional presence throughout the event. Beyond the stage, visitors will be offered a deeper insight into the cultural fabric of the region. The festival will include traditional Garo cuisine stalls, craft exhibitions, bamboo and weaving workshops, and displays of intricate beaded jewelry created by local artisans. Festival organisers have also underscored their commitment to eco-friendly practices, with zero-plastic guidelines, community-led waste management, and environmentally conscious installations forming a core part of the 2025 edition. According to Meghalaya Tourism, the festival plays an important role in strengthening the state’s cultural economy, an initiative championed by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. Officials believe that hosting international performers of Marx’s stature will not only boost tourism but also enhance the identity of the Garo Hills as a cultural and creative hub in the Northeast.

Nagaland unveils new e-pay bill system

Kohima, Nov 30: A major step forward in the state’s quest for effective and transparent financial administration has been made with the official inauguration of a new e-Pay Bill System by the Department of Treasuries & Accounts. The application, which was created entirely within the department and is housed at the State Data Center, is intended to take the role of the previous e-Pay application. It offers faster bill production, better processing, and easier connectivity with other Treasury systems. Officials anticipate that the system will assist stakeholders throughout the state by reducing manual labor and clerical errors, particularly with regard to salary bills, deductions, and GPF contributions. A crucial component of the platform is integration with TreasuryNet, eNPS, and the Grade IV e-GPF system, which imports budget information and deduction data directly for quick bill processing. The technology ensures more uniformity and assistance for Drawing and Disbursing Officers by automatically generating challans for deductions including Professional Tax, GPF, and House Tax. These features lower the possibility of human error in financial transactions and help create a more user-friendly workflow.

Congress MLAs protest the Tezpur University situation by walking out of the Assam assembly

Tezpur, Nov 30: On the last day of the Assam Legislative Assembly’s winter session, Congress MLAs staged a walkout in protest at purported irregularities at Tezpur University and accused the ruling BJP of refusing sufficient time to address issues pertaining to students. Debabrata Saikia, the leader of the opposition, stated that the Congress had requested a thorough Zero Hour discussion over the growing tension at Tezpur University, where a protracted student uprising has resulted in the total suspension of campus operations. He claimed that by giving the Opposition only one agenda item while giving the Treasury bench two, the ruling party was not giving adequate time for debate. Saikia went on to say that Tezpur

University is the scene of a “anti-Assam conspiracy.” He said that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had influenced the Vice-Chancellor’s appointment, and he accused the official of squandering university funds by making dubious purchases, such as plastic tables and chairs at exorbitant prices. The leader of the opposition made a long-standing demand that the government grant six Assamese indigenous groups Scheduled Tribe (ST) status as soon as possible. He asked that the idea be passed at the next Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha sessions in December, reminding the House that it had been authorized as early as 1996. CPI(M) MLA Manoranjan Talukdar also joined the walkout, condemning what he described



as rampant corruption at Tezpur University. He asserted that if an RSS-backed person holds the position of Vice-Chancellor, the RSS should be held accountable for the alleged mismanagement. Talukdar reiterated that their protest would continue until the Vice-Chancellor is removed. Meanwhile, the agitation at Tezpur University continues to intensify, with students enforcing a total lockdown of the campus and vowing to continue their protest until their demands are addressed.

Assam MLA Sherman Ali suspended again

Itanagar , Nov 30: On November 29, Assam MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed was temporarily barred from the Assembly for interfering with Question Hour. Speaker Biswajit Daimary asked Ahmed, who represents the Congress, to identify the rule under which he wanted to interfere when he attempted to raise a Point of Order. The Speaker ordered Ahmed’s temporary suspension because he persisted in speaking without referencing the pertinent regulation despite the Chair’s repeated instructions. Ahmed, along with Congress MLA Nurul Huda, had earlier been suspended for the entire ongoing Winter Session on Tuesday following recommendations of the Privilege Committee over alleged mistreatment of Deputy Speaker Numal Momin. Their suspension, however,



Assam MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed was suspended from the Assembly for a brief period on November 29 after he disrupted proceedings during the Question Hour.

was revoked on Friday after legislators from various parties appealed for reconsideration. The fresh suspension on Saturday came just a day after Ahmed’s reinstatement, underscoring continued tensions in the House during the Winter Session.

Mizoram Governor honours 149 young achievers with Rajya Puraskar Awards

Aizawl, Nov 30: Mizoram Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh on Tuesday conferred the prestigious Rajya Puraskar Award on 149 Scouts and Guides at a ceremony held in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan. The Rajya Puraskar, the highest state-level recognition of the Mizoram Bharat Scouts & Guides (MBS&G), marks a major milestone in the journey of young Scouting and Guiding achievers. Addressing the award recipients, the Governor congratulated them for their dedication and hard work. He said the Rajya Puraskar reflects discipline, service, perseverance and self-improvement—values that form the foundation of the Scouts and Guides movement. He urged the awardees to consider this honour as the beginning of a greater journey and encouraged them to aspire for the Rashtrapati Puraskar, the highest national-level distinction in Scouting. The Governor also praised the commitment and community spirit of Mizo youth, expressing con-



fidence that their values and training would guide them toward responsible citizenship. He highlighted the important role of Scouts and Guides in protecting the environment, contributing to community development and preserving Mizoram’s natural heritage. As the Chief Patron of MBS&G, he reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening and expanding the movement across the state. State Chief Commissioner H. Lalhmithanga welcomed the gathering and thanked the Governor for his continued encouragement and support. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by State Commissioner of Scouts Pu K. Lalthawmmawia. To qualify for the Rajya Puraskar, candidates must clear the Tiritiya Sopan level, showcase proficiency in Scouting or Guiding skills, participate in social service initiatives and successfully complete the Rajya Puraskar Testing Camp.

Dimapur CSOs and tribal Hohos begin wider consultations on possible lifting of NLTP Act

Dimapur, Nov 30: Discussions on the possible lifting of the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition (NLTP) Act, 1989, gained momentum on Monday as Dimapur-based civil society organisations (CSOs) and tribal hohos held a three-hour joint consultative meeting at Hotel Saramati. The meeting, convened by the Naga Council Dimapur (NCD), marks the beginning of a broader series of district-wide consultations. Briefing the media after the meeting, Dimapur Urban Council Chairmen Federation (DUCCF) vice president Tonzuk Pongen said 20 tribal hohos were invited, of which five could not attend. He expressed optimism that the hohos who were absent would also contribute positively in the coming days. He added that similar consultation rounds would continue with different stakeholders. Consultative committee convenor Zasivikho Zakiesato said the NLTP issue affects “every section of society, from elders to youth,” and there-



fore requires a collective and thorough deliberation. He announced that another round of tribal hoho consultations will be held in January 2026, stressing that Monday’s discussion was only the starting point of a larger engagement exercise. Zakiesato argued that 36 years of prohibition had “done more harm than good,” especially in a border district like Dimapur where alcohol remains easily available due to its proximity to Assam. Comparing Nagaland’s situation with the United States’ 14-year prohibition era, he said history shows that blanket bans often fail to achieve their intended goals. He clarified that the demand was not for indiscriminate opening of liquor

shops but for a responsible policy approach grounded in present realities. He said the CSOs are not opposed to the stand of the Church or any group, but must address the district’s evolving social and moral challenges. Responding to the Nagaland Baptist Church Council’s (NBCC) recent statement opposing the lifting of the NLTP Act, Zakiesato said CSOs respect the Church’s views but noted that “decades of enforcement have not changed the situation on the ground.” He expressed willingness to hold future discussions with Church leadership. As part of the consultation roadmap, the NCD will meet with all villages under Dimapur district on November 26 and with the Dimapur Bar As-

sociation on November 28. The conclusions from these meetings will be incorporated into a comprehensive district-wide report. Zakiesato informed that among the hohos present, half supported lifting the NLTP Act while the other half sought more time for internal deliberations. He emphasised that the meeting’s purpose was not to seek immediate approval but to update tribal bodies on concerns that CSOs have been raising since 2023. NCD president G.K. Rengma said consultations will continue with all tribal hohos and organisations, noting that even those who could not attend Monday’s programme have responded positively. He stressed that the push to review the NLTP Act is not for the benefit of any organisation but arises from the daily realities faced by the people of Dimapur. He added that the widespread presence of illegal liquor outlets and bootlegging has undermined the very intent of prohibition.

Nagaland joins nation in observing 76th Constitution Day



Kohima, Nov 30: Nagaland marked the 76th Constitution Day on Wednesday, joining the rest of the country in commemorating the historic adoption of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950, laying the foundation of the world’s largest democracy. According to a DIPR report, officials and staff of the Nagaland Civil Secretariat gathered at the Secretariat Conference Hall in Kohima to observe the day, which also marked the conclusion of year-long celebrations held under the national theme “Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhimana.” The programme was chaired by Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha, who reflected on the Constitution’s historic journey. He highlighted that the Constituent Assembly, formed in 1946, worked meticulously for nearly three years to frame the document that defines India’s democratic, legal, and administrative framework. Sinha reminded participants that the Constitution remains a living guide, shaping governance and safeguarding citizens’ rights. During the observance, Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen led the pledge-taking ceremony. Officers and staff read the Preamble of the Constitution in unison, reaffirming their commitment to uphold justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity—the core principles enshrined in the nation’s guiding text.

Mizoram schools to make first-ever appearance at reading decathlon in Indore

Aizawl, Nov 30: For the first time, Mizoram will be represented at the prestigious Reading Decathlon, with Mount Carmel School and La Montessori School selected to participate in the competition organised by Food4thought in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on November 29. Four students, who emerged victorious in the State Level Competition, will represent Mizoram at the national event: Rebek Malsawmzuali and Krista Roluahpuia Khiantge from Mount Carmel School, and Malsawmhluai Pachau and Joshua Lalawmpuia from La Montessori School. Ahead of their depart-



ture, Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC) Chairman Malsawmzuala Ralte addressed the students at the MYC Conference Hall on Wednesday. He congratulated them for becoming the state’s first representatives at the Decathlon and encouraged them to maintain strong reading habits while representing Mizoram on a national stage. The Reading Decathlon, renowned for fostering literacy, crit-

ical thinking, and analytical skills among young students, will provide an opportunity for Mizoram’s representatives to showcase their talent and learning. Organisers and state officials expressed confidence that the students’ participation will not only bring recognition to their schools but also inspire other students across Mizoram to pursue excellence in reading and academics.

Budget growth for the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission is at an all-time high

Agartala, Nov 23: Over the past nine years, the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) has seen a notable and steady increase in its annual budget, highlighting the state’s growing commitment to women-led livelihood projects and rural development. The increase in funding coincides with the TRLM team’s participation in the ongoing National Workshop in Hyderabad to prepare the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2026–2027, under the direction of CEO Tarit Kanti Chakma, IAS. Official statistics show that from 2017–18, TRLM’s budget has increased by more than ten times. The allocation was Rs 51.77 crore in that year, and it has since increased yearly to Rs 528.20 crore in 2025–2026. The substantial rise indicates increased outreach



and development initiatives in rural Tripura. The budget was Rs 51.77 crore for 2017–18, Rs 99.53 crore for 2018–19, Rs 174.50 crore for 2019–20, Rs 182.28 crore for 2020–21, Rs 192.93 crore (revised to 258.81) for 2022–23, Rs 268.46 crore for 2023–24, Rs 417.02, and Rs 52 for 2025–26. “The Mission’s expanding budget has enabled the rollout of multiple livelihood, skill-development and enterprise-promotion programmes that now touch the lives of nearly 5 lakh Self Help Group (SHG) didis and rural beneficiaries in Tripura. Officials highlight that the growth reflects both increased central support and Tripura’s strong performance under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM),” said official.

29-year-old Iter Bam elected unopposed as youngest ZPM in Leparada district

Itanagar , Nov 30:In a major boost to youth representation in local governance, 29-year-old Iter Bam from New Bam Village has been elected unopposed as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Zilla Parishad Member (ZPM) from the 11A Basar Zilla Segment in Arunachal Pradesh’s Leparada district. Her unchallenged victory marks a significant milestone for the region, making her the youngest elected ZPM in the district. Bam’s election has drawn widespread appreciation across Basar, with residents celebrating her as a symbol of emerging youth leadership. Known for her strong academic background, she holds a BA (Honours) and MA in History, a B.Ed, and a Diploma in Yoga—credentials that many believe will enrich her administrative responsibilities. Community members say her uncontested win reflects the public’s confidence in her abilities, integrity, and commitment to serve. Her entry into public life is often viewed as a continuation of the values upheld by her late father, Er. Dagi Bam, who was respected for his work and contributions to the community. Elders from the village expressed hope that she would carry forward his legacy with the same sense of responsibility and dedication.



India is a crucial market for global talent planning and AI strategy: NTT DATA official



New Delhi: According to a senior NTT DATA executive, India is a key market in our artificial intelligence strategy and is backed by a larger endeavor from the Indian government, such as the IndiaAI Mission. According to Jan Wuppermann, Senior Vice President Service Assurance and Data & AI, APAC, NTT DATA, Tokyo-based international IT services company NTT, a market leader in data centers in India, is pleased with its early investments and acquisitions in the nation. The company anticipates more growth in the near future and already maintains a nearly 30% market share in India’s data center category. “In the field of AI, we use India as a hub for AI talent and an APAC center of excellence, a worldwide AI delivery center that complements the delivery center in India. “In our AI plan, India is a crucial market. On the fringes of the NTT 2025 R&D Forum, Wuppermann told PTI, “It is also supported by a broader initiative in India around AI, the mission AI, which is an important one with one of the selected parties on the infrastructure level.” As an organisation, the challenge is always around getting the right talent.

“In India, there’s always young talent. And then being able to train them up ...so that’s really where we’re focusing on,” he said. Elaborating on the current scenario of the Indian market, the company said it sees the country as a “very heated market”, mainly due to a high degree of competition. “We see a lot of startups, a lot of smaller boutique companies, almost doing work for free, which is (in a way) a little bit of educating the clients. They can have a safe guide into it,” Wuppermann added. India is a “price-sensitive market” in general, according to the company,

and it has to prove its value in the market. The company offers end-to-end services - from a strategy perspective to the delivery and the business process outsourcing, and then the full stack from the application development and maintenance to the infrastructure design and maintenance.

Talking about its competition in India, the global IT services and consulting company official mentioned that it sees “BCG, Accenture and Deloitte as the main competitors in the front end of the house - the strategy part”.

On the company’s ongoing development and plans ahead in the country, he said, “We are kind of following the natural Indian centres of gravity.” Apart from its recent project announcement of AI data centre footprint expansion in Hyderabad, the company official also shared that it aims to expand in major cities including Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai, “not just in data centre infrastructure but also in the AI capabilities, consulting capabilities”. The company has already invested in financial, banking & insurance sectors as well as in consulting and business transformation, among others. Further, Wuppermann said, “It will continue to invest in its second biggest vertical - broader manufacturing automotive bar - which is incredibly important in India. with a focus on its marketing capabilities, supply chain, resilience through AI, and even to the point of R&D and product development.” The 2025 NTT R&D forum, held in Tokyo, Japan, by NTT Group companies from November 19-21 and November 25-26, 2025, displayed around 100 innovative projects to demonstrate its technological leadership in the fields of optical and quantum computing, artificial intelligence, digital security, mobility, infrastructure and more.

Godrej Properties plans to purchase additional land with a potential value of Rs.30K cr

New Delhi: According to a senior corporate official, Godrej Properties is still optimistic about home demand and plans to purchase other land parcels this fiscal year with a possible total income of roughly Rs 30,000 crore. In order to grow its business, Godrej Properties is actively purchasing land parcels

outright and collaborating with landowners. Godrej Properties Executive Chairperson Pirojsha Godrej told PTI that during the first half of this fiscal year, the company’s business development—that is, the acquisition of additional land—has been fairly good, and the pipeline for the second half

also appears promising. Godrej Properties recently announced that the company has surpassed the business development guidance of Rs 20,000 crore for the current fiscal. Pirojsha said the company keeps business development target conservative to avoid any pressure on the internal team for land acquisitions.

Campa and Lahori Zeera increase their market share while Cola giants lose momentum

New Delhi: The soft drink industry in India, which has historically been dominated by PepsiCo and Coca-Cola, is undergoing its biggest change in years. According to a study by The Economic Times, the change is particularly noticeable in the first nine months of 2025, with new entrants growing more quickly than anticipated despite weather-related difficulties and limited national reach. Between January and September of 2025, smaller players led by Reliance’s Campa and Verlinvest-backed Lahori Zeera quadrupled their combined share to about 15%. These brands only held around 7% of the market a year ago. The mass-market ₹10 price range, where customers are more willing to test novel, less expensive options, has accounted for the majority of this growth. According to the news source, this change has had a negative impact on Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, whose combined share dropped from 93% last year to over 85% during that time. However, due to severe rainfall in many areas, which decreased summer demand, overall market growth stayed flat this year. According to Nikhil Doda, chief operating officer and co-founder



of Lahori Zeera, the company intends to go nationwide by the next year. According to the news article, he stated that the corporation intends to cover 80–90% of pin codes. Cousins Saurabh Munjal, Nikhil Doda, and Saurabh Bhutna launched Lahori in Punjab’s Fatehgarh Sahib in 2017.

The company is currently establishing its third plant in Lucknow. Additionally, the company is launching new goods including Lahori Aamras and Masala Cola with the goal of entering institutional sales. The majority of its more than 2,500 distributors are in general trade Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), which bought Campa Cola in 2022 and relaunched it in 2023, has pushed the brand this year. Campa signed multiple partnerships, including a co-powered

New players like Campa and Lahori Zeera doubled their market share in Jan-Sept 2025, cutting into Coca-Cola and PepsiCo’s lead

IPL sponsorship, roped in actor Ram Charan as brand ambassador and secured an exclusive beverage deal with Hyderabad Metro, allowing sales through vending machines, kiosks and retail outlets in metro premises. Campa also joined hands with Ajith Kumar Racing as the “official energy partner” for its Campa Energy drink. Reliance Consumer Products introduced Campa beverages in Sri Lanka this year through a partnership with Ceylon Cold Stores, part of the John Keells Group. The strong distribution network of Ceylon Cold Stores is expected to help Campa build quick visibility. The Sri Lanka lineup includes Campa Cola, Lemon, Orange and energy drinks such as Campa NRG Gold Boost and Berry Kik, priced at ₹100 for 250 ml bottles. RCPL also rolled out Campa Cola in the UAE at the Gulfod event, partnering with Agthia Group, a major regional F&B company.

HDFC Bank is fined Rs. 91 lakh by the RBI for breaking regulations

Mumbai: HDFC Bank was fined Rs 91 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday for breaking rules pertaining to outsourcing compliance, interest rates, and Know Your Customer (KYC). Regarding the lender’s financial situation as of March 31, 2024, the RBI carried out a Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024) of the bank. “Based on supervisory findings, non-compliance with the provisions of the BR Act, RBI directions, and related correspondence in that regard, the RBI issued a notice to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not



be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said provisions of the BR Act and RBI directions,” the RBI stated. The bank had addressed multiple benchmarks within the same loan category; a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank undertook business which is not a permissible business that can be undertaken by a banking company under Section 6 of the BR Act. The bank had also outsourced the function of determining compliance with KYC norms of certain customers to its outsourcing agents.

GVA for the farm sector increased 3.5% in Q2

New Delhi: According to the quarterly GDP estimates released today, the gross value added (GVA) in agriculture, forestry, and fishing grew by 3.5% in real terms in the second quarter of FY26, compared to 4.1% in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Nominal growth collapsed sharply. According to the data, GVA for agricultural and related industries increased by just 1.8% in the July–September quarter of FY26, compared to 7.6% in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. This decline was primarily caused by a substantial decline in food price inflation. Nominal GVA for agricultural

and related operations was 3.2% in the first quarter of FY26, down from 7.5% during the same time in FY25. Madan Sabnavis, chief economist of Bank of Baroda, stated, “Agriculture was expected to do well and growth at 3.5% is supported by a good kharif harvest, which will reflect more in Q3.” Earlier, in the day, agriculture secretary Devesh Chaturvedi speaking at a panel discussion on FICCI’s 98th Annual General Meeting said that no major spike in food inflation is expected in the next six months on the back of strong kharif harvest and expected bumper rabi production.

Meesho IPO opening on December 3

New Delhi: Meesho, an e-commerce platform supported by SoftBank, will launch its initial public offering (IPO) for subscription on December 3. This is one of the year’s most anticipated listings. The price range for each share is set at Rs 105 to Rs 111, and the issue will conclude on December 5. The company’s valuation at the upper end is close to Rs 50,100 crore. The entire amount of the problem is Rs 5,421 crore. Meesho will use a new issue to generate Rs 4,250 crore, while current owners would sell their shares for around Rs 1,170 crore. The lot size has been set at 135 shares, with the majority going to institutional investors and smaller amounts going to retail and non-institutional buyers. Meesho, which was established in 2015, has established a significant position in the value-commerce market in India. The organization, which has its headquarters in Bengaluru, links millions of small and mid-sized vendors with budget-conscious buyers, especially in tier II and III towns. By relying on outside vendors and transportation part-



ners rather than keeping its own stock, it has an asset-light business model that enables it to grow rapidly in markets including fashion, home products, and personal care.

Meesho has become a formidable rival to bigger e-commerce giants thanks to this strategy. Investor appetite appears strong ahead of the issue. The grey market premium for the Meesho IPO is currently around Rs 35.5, indicating that the stock could list at roughly Rs 146.5, or nearly 32% above the upper-end issue price of Rs 111. The premium has strengthened in the past 24 hours, signalling improving sentiment as the subscription window approaches. Traders estimate that an investor allot-

ment could yield an estimated profit of about Rs 4,792 per lot at current grey market levels. While GMP is not an official indicator and can fluctuate sharply, the current trend suggests that the IPO is likely to witness robust demand on listing day. Meesho plans to use its fresh issue proceeds to expand the business, upgrade its technology infrastructure, strengthen logistics operations and broaden its seller ecosystem. With India’s e-commerce market projected to grow sharply in smaller cities, the company aims to deepen its presence in value-focused segments where it already holds a strong foothold. Despite the enthusiasm around the IPO, analysts caution that Meesho still needs to establish a consistent path to profitability. Competition from large e-commerce players remains intense, customer acquisition costs can rise quickly and seller quality management remains a demanding task. The company will also need to keep return rates, logistics spends and working capital tightly under control to improve cash flows.

Sudeep Pharma shares make a great market debut, listing at a 23% premium

New Delhi: Sudeep Pharma listed more than 23% above its initial public offering (IPO) price on Friday, making a good debut on the stock markets. In contrast to the upper-end IPO price of Rs 593, the Rs 895-crore issue, which was subscribed an astounding 93.71 times between November 21 and 25, started at Rs 730 on the NSE and Rs 725 on the BSE. As a result, the company’s market capitalization at launch was around Rs 8,188 crore. The listing surpassed the 20% premium predicted by the gray market. Sudeep Pharma raised Rs 268.5 crore from anchor investors before to the launch, demonstrating the substantial institutional demand for the offering. Sudeep Pharma manufactures mineral-based excipients and specialty ingredients used across pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, food and nutrition products. Its portfolio includes calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, sodium and potassium salts that go into tablets, supplements and fortified foods.

The company operates multiple plants, including a key facility in Nandesari, Gujarat, and exports to several international markets. Analysts tracking the company noted that its presence across essential pharma and nutrition supply chains gives it solid long-term visibility. The IPO comprised a fresh issue of Rs 95 crore and an offer-for-sale of Rs 800 crore by existing shareholders.



Of the proceeds, Rs 75.8 crore will go toward procuring new machinery for the Nandesari Facility 1 production line, while the remainder will be used for general corporate purposes. Market watchers pointed out that Sudeep Pharma’s debut reflects a mix of strong fundamentals, global demand for excipients and broader investor appetite for technology-led manufacturing businesses. The company’s financial performance, healthy margins and wide export footprint were key factors behind the robust subscription. The strong listing also comes at a time when valuations in the broader market have moderated after months of consolidation, creating room for quality mid-sized companies to command investor attention.

In Q1 2026, Bajaj Auto plans to introduce Riki e-rickshaws to 200 cities

The company, which started a pilot test of Riki with four cities, has now scaled up its presence to eight at present as part of phase I

New Delhi: According to a senior company executive, Bajaj Auto Ltd., which entered the e-rickshaw market this year with Riki, intends to expand into 200 cities by January or March of the next year. Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma told PTI that the business, which began a pilot test of Riki with four cities, has now expanded its footprint to eight as part of phase I. “We’ve launched it in four cities, now it has become eight cities, including Patna, Moradabad, Guwahati, and Raipur... We are right now in phase one, where for another month or so we will be observing it as to what is the feedback from the customers, and what should be the communication and promotion strategy,” Sharma respond-

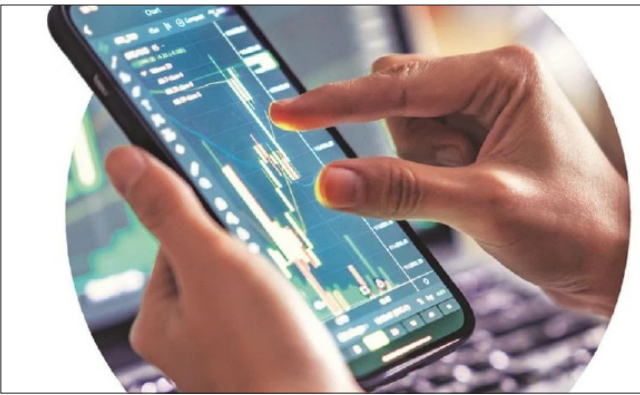


ed when asked about the plans to expand across India for the Riki smartphone “We will scale up our presence from eight to 200 cities and towns during the January, February, and March period,” he continued. We’ll start talking about figures and the kinds of volumes we’ll do once we see the traction there.” Sharma was answering a question about Riki’s potential for sales volumes. “We are just seeding, and then we are scaling up its presence, and then we will see what traction we get,” he stated regarding the upcoming three to four months.. Under its phase I expan-

sion of Riki, Bajaj Auto is targeting multiple cities and towns in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Assam. Sharma claimed that priced at Rs 1.9 lakh, Riki, which is powered by a lithium-ion battery with a monocoque body, offers a much safer and environmentally friendly last-mile mobility solution as compared to the existing lead-acid battery-powered e-rickshaws mostly from unorganised players. Riki delivers a range of 140 kilometers on a single charge with fast charging of full charge in 4.5 hours and comes with 3-year battery warranty.

The Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index Fund is introduced by Navi AMC

New Delhi: The Navi Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index Fund, an open-ended index scheme intended to mimic and follow the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index, has been introduced by Navi AMC, a division of Navi (previously Navi Technologies). Within the larger Nifty 500, the index represents the whole universe of mid-cap and small-cap firms. Subscriptions to the program will be accepted through December 5, 2025. It seeks to replicate the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Total Return Index, a free-float market capitalization-weighted index made up of 250 small-cap and 150 mid-cap firms. The NSE Indices approach is followed in maintaining and rebalancing the index. Since the Index’s composition aligns with the investment goal of the Scheme/Plan(s) and is best suited for performance comparison, the Scheme is being



benchmarked against the Index specified above. Minimum application amount: ₹100 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. Minimum additional purchase: ₹100 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter Additionally, it will help investors make better decisions about the scheme’s performance, according to Navi AMC’s Scheme Information Document (SID). According to the SID, the scheme’s main goal is to produce returns

that are in line with the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index’s performance, subject to tracking errors. The fund house has made it clear that there is no guarantee that the goal will be accomplished. Aditya Mulki, CEO, Navi AMC, said, “Mid- and small-cap companies have been at the forefront of India’s growth story, yet accessing this segment in a diversified and cost-efficient manner has remained a challenge for many

It aims to mirror the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Total Return Index, a free-float market capitalisation-weighted index comprising 400 companies - 150 mid-cap and 250 small-cap stocks

investors. With the Navi Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index Fund, we are offering a simple way to participate in this opportunity through a single, broad-based exposure.” According to the SID, the risk level for both the Scheme and its benchmark is classified as very high. According to the SID, this product is suitable for investors: Seeking capital appreciation over the long term Looking to invest in equity and equity-related securities covered by the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index Wanting returns that correspond to the performance of the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 Index, subject to tracking error.

Prabhas, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit will feature a cameo by Ranbir Kapoor



Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Spirit' has started filming featuring Prabhas as the lead. Ranbir Kapoor will reportedly make a cameo appearance in the film.

New Delhi: Filming for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Prabhas-starring film "Spirit" formally started on Sunday, November 23, with a lavish muhurat ceremony. Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi was the main guest during the launch event.

According to the most recent rumors, Ranbir Kapoor, who collaborated with Vanga on "Animal," will appear in "Spirit." Since the project's announcement, "Spirit" has created a lot of interest, initially due to Deepika Padukone's departure from the project and the letter that paired Tripti Dimri with Prabhas. According to recent sources, Ranbir Kapoor, another well-known actor, may appear in the movie. Ranbir is anticipated to make an appearance at a pivotal moment in the narrative,

according to a source cited by the Deccan Herald. At a pivotal point in the narrative, Ranbir will enter the picture. Since he has never shared screen time with Prabhas, it will be a pivotal juncture in the story and a historic moment in Indian cinema, according to the publication's source.

If confirmed, the cameo would mark the first on-screen collaboration between Kapoor and Prabhas, sparking speculation about whether Vanga is planning to expand his cinematic universe. 'Spirit' features Prabhas as an IPS officer and is positioned as a large-scale pan-world entertainer. Backed by T-Series, the film also stars Tripti Dimri, Vivek Oberoi and Prakash Raj. The project is currently in its first shooting schedule and is slated for a 2026 theatrical release.

Amar Singh Chamkila is left out of the 2025 International Emmy Awards

New Delhi: At the 53rd International Emmy Awards Gala on Tuesday, the Bollywood biography "Amar Singh Chamkila" came away empty-handed. In the TV Movie/Mini-Series category, Imtiaz Ali's "Amar Singh Chamkila" was defeated by Lost Boys & Fairies, and Diljit Dosanjh lost out on the Best Performance by an Actor award, which went to Oriol Pla for "I, Addict." Dosanjh was on the shortlist with Diego Vasquez (One Hundred Years of Solitude), Oriol Pla (I, Addict), and David Mitchell (Ludwig). "Herrhausen: The Banker," "Bomb," "Lost Boys & Fairies," and "Victory or Death" were fierce rivals of "Amar Singh Chamkila." Known as the "Elvis of Punjab," the Netflix movie chronicles the stormy life



and legacy of the late Punjabi folk hero Amar Singh Chamkila. The film, which was released in April of last year and had Parineeti Chopra in a significant part, received high accolades from critics. Director Imtiaz Ali discussed the core of the narrative during

a panel discussion at the International Emmy World Television Festival. He remarked, "I saw this as a love story between an artist and their craft." At some point, a performer and their performance become more than just money, fame, or glamour; they are like lov-

ers. The most captivating aspect of Chamkila's persona was her desire to transcend rationality and focus on the performance itself in order to connect with the audience. The International Emmy Awards 2025 is streaming on iemmys.tv.com.

Gustakh Ishq will remind of life before mobile phones

Vijay Varma

New Delhi: The movie "Gustakh Ishq," starring Vijay Varma and Fatima Sana Shaikh, was promoted on Sunday at Sahitya Aajtak 2025.

They talked about romance, love, and food in addition to the movie. Since the movie was Vijay Varma's first big-screen appearance in about five years, he also made an emotional plea to the public to see it.

On November 28, "Gustakh Ishq" will be released in theaters. "Ool



Jalool Ishq," the movie's opening song, was released some time ago and has since become well-known.

Vijay responded, "It's that thing

that's so... you don't know where it starts and where it ends," when asked what "Ool Jalool Ishq" is. Like a jalebi, a twisted, braided love, what was, what would have occurred, what should have happened, and what shouldn't have happened." "Exactly—it's sideways, crooked, here, there, say yes, say no, go near, don't go... a complete dilemma," his co-star Fatima remarked. "Ool Jalool Ishq" is just that."

Richa Chadha says deteriorating air quality has reduced Delhi to a 'gas chamber'

New Delhi: Actor Richa Chadha has voiced her concerns on the deteriorating air quality of Delhi, stating that the city has now been reduced to a 'gas chamber'. The actor urged citizens of Mumbai to voice their concerns as they do not want the same condition in their own city. Richa took to her X account and reshared a user's post in which an HT article reported on the protests in Mumbai which rose against a masterplan that allows construction within the buffer zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP).



Richa wrote: "I am from Delhi and have watched that great, historical city... reduced to a gas chamber. It's heartbreaking! You don't want that Mumbai. Show up for the lungs of Mumbai, save Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Save SGNP, Save

Mumbai In the past few weeks, Delhi's air quality has remained in the 'very poor' category. On Monday morning, the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 397 was recorded at 6 AM according to data provided by the Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB). An AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor and 401-500 is severe. Earlier, Vaani Kapoor and Kriti Sanon had raised concerns about the worsening air quality of Delhi.

In view of the pollution, the Supreme Court allowed measures from later stages of GRAP to be shifted to earlier stages. Following this, the CAQM on Saturday allowed measures under Stage 4 of GRAP to be brought under Stage 3.

Ananya promises sparks and Christmas mush to Kartik Tu Meri Main Tera teaser

New Delhi: The teaser for "Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri," which will be released in theaters on December 25, 2025, shows fans Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Pandey reuniting for a Christmas romance. The movie reunites Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Pandey, which has already generated enthusiasm among viewers who have started responding to the trailer on the internet. The relationship centers on Ray, portrayed by Kartik, and Rumi, portrayed by Ananya. It is set against a festive backdrop and is filled with love, sentimentality, and emotion. Supported by Namah Pictures and Dharma Productions, the film is directed by Sameer Vidwans, whose "Satyaprem Ki Katha" struck a deep chord with romance fans. Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Shareen Mantri Kedia, Kishor Arora, and Bhumika Tewari are the project's producers. Early fan reactions described the teaser



as "a potential Christmas favourite" due to its dreamy visual palette, intimate encounters, and seasonal vibe. "Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri" is presenting itself as one of the biggest festive re-

leases of 2025 with its drama, music, and traditional seasonal love atmosphere. Now, lovers of romance and the main actors are eager to witness how Ray and Rumi's story plays out on the big screen.

Sonali Bendre hits back at The Liver Doc

New Delhi: Actress Sonali Bendre said in a statement on Monday that her tweet on autophagy being a useful treatment was based on her own experience, following criticism from hepatologist Dr. Cyriac Abby Philips for disclosing that naturopathy helped her fight cancer. "I am definitely not a quack, but I have never pretended to be a doctor. The 50-year-old actress posted on her Instagram stories, "I am a cancer survivor, someone who has lived through the fear, pain, uncertainty, and rebuilding that the disease brings." Pointing out that her post was based on her personal experience, Sonali added, "Everything I have ever spoken has been my experience and my learning."



Salman and SRK visit an Abu Dhabi museum

New Delhi: Salman and SRK travel to Abu Dhabi to visit the Natural History Museum in Abu Dhabi. The fans of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan have recently enthralled viewers with a number of joint public appearances, garnering a lot of interest on social media. The two actors, who have long been known for their famous on-screen partnerships, were most recently spotted together posing with a massive dinosaur fossil at the Natural History Museum in Abu Dhabi. This visit highlights a time of regular public appearances for the couple and comes after other noteworthy events including a wedding in Delhi and the Joy Forum in Saudi Arabia. The fans of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan have responded favorably to their renewed cooperation. Discussions concerning the nature of their relationship and professional rapport have been sparked by their attendance at important events, including the private wedding in New Delhi and international conferences. In comparison to other years, observers have observed a significant increase in their joint outings. Im-



ages from their Abu Dhabi museum visit depict the actors side by side in formal attire against the backdrop of enormous dinosaur fossils. The photographs have quickly circulated online, drawing attention not only for the impressive setting but also for the visible camaraderie shared between the duo. Social media users have commented on the recurring theme of brotherhood in these appearances. Fan reactions have played a notable role in amplifying the buzz around these encounters. On social platforms, one user remarked, "Late-ly I've seen SRK more with Salman

than Gauri (sic)." Such comments reflect the public's engagement with their friendship and recurring joint appearances. Another social media post observed, "If you see Shahrukh with Salman more than Pooja tab kych baat banegi (sic)," further underscoring the surprise and delight among followers at the pair's frequent visibility together in recent months. A third online commentator joked, "Ye tou dono tou chipak hi gaye hain (These two are stuck together now) (sic)," highlighting the public perception of their inseparable presence both on and off stage.

Dhanush-Kriti's film ignites strong box office buzz : Tere Ishk Mein

New Delhi: Tere Ishk Mein, starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, is expected to have a strong domestic box office debut thanks to strong pre-release momentum. On November 28, the Anand L. Rai-directed movie will be released in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi. In terms of ticket sales, the movie has surpassed a number of major Bollywood movies this year since advance booking started on Monday, November 24. Nearly 18,000 tickets for Tere Ishk Mein had been sold as of Tuesday at 11 PM, amounting to an opening day gross revenue of roughly Rs 50 lakh, according to Sacnilk. The film's early performance in the three major national cinema chains -- PVR, INOX, and Cinepolis -- has been particularly strong, with over 10,000 tickets sold through these venues alone. With three days still remaining before the film's release, industry



experts note that the pre-sales are on track to be among the highest recorded this year for a romantic drama. The film benefits from a

lack of major competition during its first week, which is expected to further increase its initial box office numbers. Advance booking

trends suggest that Tere Ishk Mein could comfortably achieve a double-digit opening, a feat achieved by few films this year. The ongoing interest in romantic films and the strategic choice of release window may contribute to its strong box office showing. The film is being seen as one of the best romantic dramas, and if it manages to click with the audiences, then it will be unstoppable at the box office, as the trend of romantic films have worked this year. The early signs seem promising, and it is certain to take a good opening at the box office, preferably double-digit. The film's promotional campaign, including its trailer and soundtrack, has been credited with maintaining high audience interest. The makers have focused on building anticipation, which is now reflected in the early ticket sales figures leading up to release.

Healthy Lunch Recipes To Keep You Full Until Dinner

There are so many factors when it comes to figuring out what to eat for lunch. Sometimes you need a meal that’s quick to throw together or really easy to make, other times it’s essential that your lunch can survive the trip to work in a brown paper bag. And, for many of us, meal prepping something that’s wholesome and nourishing tops the list, too. That’s where these recipes come in handy. They’re all healthy and delicious—and there’s an option for every situation, whether you’re home or headed to the office. One of our favorites? This packable midday meal that’s loaded with tender veggies and satisfying hummus.

Eat It All Week Salad

Salads aren’t known for their keeping qualities, especially when they’re dressed. But we cracked the code on prepping, assembling and even dressing a salad that stays crisp and delicious for up to 5 days—and even gets tastier each day. The key is to use greens that are sturdy, like kale and cabbage, and vegetables that don’t get soggy when dressed, like celery and broccoli. We also added farro for whole-grain nuttiness and hard salami for extra savoriness. Finally, our salad dressing is made by simmering fennel seeds, capers and garlic in rich olive oil and then blending the mixture with red wine vinegar and whole-grain mustard to give each bite of salad a punch of flavor. It’s wonderful solo but also delicious served alongside your favorite main course.

Dill Pickle Egg Salad

If you like your egg salad with lots of dill pickles, then take things to the next level by pickling the eggs themselves! Simply prick peeled hard-boiled eggs all over with

a fork (a trick for faster flavor absorption) and submerge them in pickle brine overnight. The next day, prepare them as you would for regular egg salad. Chopped dill pickles reinforce the pickle flavor in the salad, while fresh dill stirred throughout adds a hint of green.

Healthy Mini Meatball and Stars Soup

This flavorful and filling healthy soup is filled with mini turkey meatballs that are packed with veggies, plus tiny star-shaped pasta to add a little fun and heartiness. It’s a great dinner in a bowl that comes together in less than an hour.

Kale and Fennel Dense Bean Salad

This protein-rich, veggie-packed bean salad is inspired by the viral dense bean salad trend that creator Violet Witchel started on TikTok. The idea is to make a one-bowl main-course salad that tastes great the second you make it but also holds up and gets even tastier in the fridge so you can enjoy it over several days. In this version, the kale and vegetables soften, the three beans and flaked tuna soak up the delicious dressing and even the fresh herbs stay flavorful. Whip it up and stop wondering what’s for lunch for a couple days.

Roasted Vegetable Salad Bowl

This versatile smoky-sweet salad is for anyone tired of a big bowl of greens. We’ve tossed your favorite vegetables with paprika and maple syrup before roasting them until caramelized. Drizzled with a tangy Dijon-orange vinaigrette, the bowl is topped with tangy goat cheese and crunchy pecans—though any nuts or vegan cheese options

work. If want even to make it even heartier, toss in some grains like farro or quinoa.

Saucy Tofu and Mushrooms Over Rice

Tender tofu and crisp mushrooms are blanketed in an umami-rich tomato sauce in this quick and easy dish, perfect for your weeknight dinner rotation. A bit of heat from gochugaru and sambal oelek is tempered by coconut milk and a touch of miso, bringing a beautiful balance to the sauce. Serve it with plenty of steamed rice to sop up all the flavor.

One-Pot Lemon Ricotta Spaghettoni

Move over spaghetti: Your wider cousin, spaghettoni, is moving up the trending charts. Though only slightly thicker than regular spaghetti, the extra width helps it soak up the flavors of the sauce—in this case tangy lemon juice and fragrant scallions and garlic. This dish is cooked in just one pot (no need to bring water to a boil beforehand!), so it’s a super quick and easy choice for weeknights. We top it off with creamy ricotta, salty Parmesan and bitter lemon zest for a bold but balanced finish.

Healthy One-Pan Mala Dry Pot

Known as ma la xiang guo in Mandarin, mala dry pot is a popular restaurant phenomenon in China that’s recently made its way to the United States and elsewhere. Colorful vegetables of different textures and proteins like lean beef and tofu are stir-fried and coated in a spicy umami-rich sauce. Ingredients like spicy bean paste, chili crisp and tongue-tingling Sichuan pepper typically give the dish its signature kick. We developed this recipe to streamline pre-

paring dry pot at home and also chose ingredients that skew healthier than some versions.

Tofu Tzatziki Bowls

The centerpiece of these colorful vegetarian bowls is spiced tofu that’s lightly coated with honey and pan-seared for a delicious, browned crust. It’s served atop easy-to-assemble favorites like creamy homemade tzatziki sauce, salty kalamata olives, sweet cherry tomatoes and crunchy romaine lettuce. We took the dish to the next level with a drizzle of creamy tahini dressing and serve it with warmed pita bread for a satisfying plant-based meal that’s filled with bright flavors and contrasting textures.

Tetelas

Tetelas are a traditional antojito (street food) from the Mexican region of Oaxaca. Filled with refried beans and Oaxacan cheese, these little masa pockets are shaped like triangles and typically cooked on the flat griddle known as a comal. We filled this delicious version with homemade refried beans made from black beans, jalapeños, onion and garlic. You can serve them as a snack, appetizer or lunch or dinner. They’re typically made with blue-corn masa but you can use any color you find at your local grocery store.

Hearty Pastina Soup

Inspired by Greek avgolemono soup, the broth of this hearty pastina soup has a luscious mouthfeel because it’s thickened with tempered beaten eggs. The soup is studded with shredded chicken and kale, and the tender pastina gives this soup a creamy and comforting porridge-like consistency. A good squeeze of lemon juice and chopped



fresh dill add the perfect amount brightness.

Mushroom Mapo Tofu

Though this Sichuan dish is traditionally made with ground pork, the real stars are the spicy bean paste, soft tofu and, of course, Sichuan peppercorns, which have a citrus flavor and a signature numbing effect. So switching out the meat for mushrooms

is easy and delicious. Our version (which also happens to be vegan), calls for dried shiitakes so you can use the mushroom soaking liquid as stock. If you can’t find dried, use fresh shiitakes or creminis and your favorite vegetable stock (or even water). Enjoy this quick meal over white rice to soak up all the tingling sauce.

How To Make High-Protein Jini Dosa In Just Under 20 Minutes

If you’re a fan of Indian street food, chances are jini dosa is already on your radar. This Mumbai-born delight combines the classic South Indian dosa with a medley of spicy and savoury toppings. But what if you could enjoy it with an added nutritional boost? Introducing the high-protein version of jini dosa, packed with moong dal and paneer to keep you full and satisfied. The best part? You can easily whip it up at home, or get it delivered straight to your doorstep via an online food delivery app. Whether you’re a foodie, a fitness enthusiast, or just someone who loves a good snack, this protein-packed jini dosa is sure to hit the spot.

What Is Jini Dosa?

Jini dosa is a popular Mumbai street food that blends traditional South Indian dosa with spicy and cheesy toppings. Its special appeal lies in how it’s presented - the dosa is filled with ingredients like cheese, paneer, veggies, and spices, then folded or rolled, and served hot and crispy.

What Makes This High-Protein Version Of Jini Dosa A Must-Try?

This high-protein version of jini dosa is a must-try because it combines the classic flavours of the dish with an extra nutritional boost, making it a guilt-free indulgence. The addition of protein makes it perfect for fitness enthusiasts and health-conscious foodies alike.

What To Serve With Jini Dosa?

Jini dosa is often served with a variety of chutneys and sambar to complement its flavours. Some popular options include: Coconut chutney, Tomato chutney, Green chutney (coriander and green chilli-based), Sambar.

Can You Have Jini Dosa On A Weight Loss Diet?

You can enjoy jini dosa in moderation while on a weight loss diet, but it’s essential to balance it with portion control and nutrient-dense foods. The dosa’s crispy exterior and fillings can be high in calories, so pair it with nutrient-rich chutneys and veggies to make it a healthier option.

How To Make High Protein Jini Dosa

Jini Dosa Recipe: Grind moong dal, paneer, and coriander with a little water to make a smooth batter. Add grated cheese, chopped capsicum, onion, and salt to taste.

Mix well. Heat a non-stick pan, pour a ladle of batter, and spread into a thin circle.

Cook on medium heat for 1-2 minutes or until the edges start to curl.

Place a slice of cheese and some paneer in the centre. Fold the dosa into a triangle or roll it.

Cook for another 1-2 minutes or until the cheese melts and the dosa is crispy.

Serve hot with chutney or sauce.



Peshawari Chicken Biryani Recipe



For those who are biryani lover they will definitely like this peshawari chicken biryani. You can make this delicious biryani on special occasions.

How to Make Peshawari Chicken Biryani

1. First, wash the rice nicely and soak it in water for around 20-30 minutes. Drain and keep aside.

2. For the marinade, combine the chick-

en pieces with dahi, ginger-garlic paste, haldi, biryani masala, garam masala, red chilli powder, and salt in a bowl. Mix well. Keep it in the refrigerator for a while.

3. Boil water in a kadhai and add the soaked rice to it. Add bay leaf, cloves, elaichi, a cinnamon stick, and salt. Cook until the rice is partially done.

4. In a heavy-bottomed pot, add a lay-

er of marinated chicken and top it with the partially cooked rice. Top it with some chopped tomatoes, onions, and coriander leaves. Drizzle oil and repeat the process of layering until it is full to the top. You can even add some saffron strands or kewra water for flavouring.

5. Cover the pot with aluminium foil and cook on a low flame for 40-45 minutes. Serve hot and enjoy!

Thanksgiving comes alive with lavish feasts in NCR

Celebrate the season of gratitude with your loved ones without the hassle of cooking or preparing a feast. Plush hotels across the NCR are marking Thanksgiving with lavish spreads that highlight the flavours, warmth and togetherness of the festival. From live roast stations to pumpkin pie and global culinary inspirations, Thanksgiving celebrations are now blending traditional staples with contemporary international influences. AAT ITC Maurya, the Thanksgiving Feast at The Pavilion features a thoughtfully curated spread that merges tradition with global flair. “The Café de Paris Stuffed Roasted Turkey takes centre stage, complemented by giblet gravy, cranberry sauce and a delicate orange glaze. Guests can also enjoy the doner kebab wrap from the Middle Eastern counter, the Mexican Tacos Station brimming with flavours, and the Homemade Gnocchi Station offering a taste of Italy with pesto, sun-dried tomatoes and parmesan,” shares Executive Chef Shivneet Pohoja of ITC Maurya.

Indulge in a lavish buffet featuring traditional holiday favourites with global specialties crafted by master chefs at K3. Highlights include Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni and Lamb Bolognese Pide, Continental favourites like Seafood Paella Valenciana and Roasted Vegetable Wellington add vibrant Mediterranean and British character, traditional signatures such as Roast Turkey with Cranberry Relish and Garlic Confit Chicken embody classic Thanksgiving warmth. “We’re seeing guests move beyond the traditional turkey and-cranberry format”

Thanksgiving in India is increasingly becoming a curated, experiential affair, say chefs. “This year, Thanksgiving in India is evolving into a more experiential celebration. We’re seeing guests move beyond the traditional turkey-and-cranberry format and experiment with global flavours blended seamlessly with Indian influences. Indian diners love familiarity even in global celebrations. While they enjoy traditional Thanksgiving staples, they gravitate towards dishes that have warmth, spice, and depth of flavour,” says Chef Gagandeep Bedi, Director of Culinary, Roseate Hotels & Resorts.

While Thanksgiving may not rival Diwali or Christmas in



scale, its presence is steadily growing. “Metros like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru have embraced Thanksgiving as a reason to gather, host dinners, and indulge in festive food.

Hotels and restaurants see strong demand for themed menus, takeaways, and chef-curated celebrations,” the chef adds. Buffets spotlighting classic American favourites

Other hotels in the city are also celebrating with specially curated buffets spotlighting classic American favourites. Led by Director of Culinary Gurneet Grover, the menu at Radisson Blu Plaza,

Delhi Airport, is described as grand yet comforting, featuring buttery pies, festive cocktails, and an indulgent dessert spread. Guests can enjoy a live Roast Station along with beloved Thanksgiving dishes such as Green Bean Casserole, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Mac ‘n’ Cheese, and the season’s signature Pumpkin Pie. “With warm décor and NYCstyle hospitality, the Thanksgiving offerings promise a memorable experience for families, friends, and travellers alike,” says Gurneet Grover.

Festive Season Anxiety Is Real And More Common Than We Think

The festive season is often portrayed as a time of joy, celebration, connection, and gratitude but for many people, this period brings the very opposite: emotional overwhelm, comparison, burnout, and even loneliness. The pressure to feel a certain way can amplify whatever we are already carrying, making hidden anxieties feel louder and harder to ignore. According to Dr Devanshi Desai, Counselling Psychologist and Couples Therapist, the emotional intensity we experience during the holidays is not only valid, it is now an increasingly common psychological pattern. The festive season compresses an entire year’s worth of expectations into a few short weeks. While the world around us seems to demand joy, togetherness, and abundance, our internal landscape may be dominated by stress, fatigue, or uncertainty. Dr Desai explains that this emotional dissonance, the gap between how we’re “supposed” to feel and how we actually feel is often where anxiety takes root. As people reflect on the year gone by, unachieved goals, relationship struggles, or personal setbacks resurface. Social media intensifies this by amplifying milestones, vacations, promotions,

and celebrations, making it easy to feel as if we’re falling behind. Layered on top of this is a packed festive calendar: weddings, family events, office obligations, travel, shopping, planning. With multiple roles demanding attention simultaneously, people lose access to the rest their nervous system relies on. Burnout follows naturally. Families are powerful emotional ecosystems, they are where we learned our earliest coping strategies and relational roles. Returning to them can unconsciously pull us back into outdated patterns, even if they no longer reflect who we are today. According to Dr Desai, seemingly harmless comments about appearance, career choices, relationships, or lifestyle can tap into old wounds, reactivating unresolved emotional layers. In many Indian households, difficult conversations are avoided, which pushes unspoken tensions beneath the surface. Being under one roof brings these unsaid layers closer to consciousness, often resulting in emotional complexity or discomfort. The pressure to meet cultural expectations adds another emotional load especially for adults who feel that their family still relates to an earlier version of them. Loneliness is not defined by being alone, it is defined by feeling

emotionally unseen. The festive season is saturated with images of closeness: families gathering, couples travelling, friends celebrating. This contrast can deepen feelings of isolation. People may attend multiple events yet feel disconnected; small talk rarely offers the depth or emotional safety the nervous system seeks. December also carries a nostalgic quality. Memories of lost loved ones, friendships that changed, or traditions that no longer exist resurface, intensifying emotional emptiness. Dr Desai recommends simple, science-backed techniques to help regulate the nervous system during festive overstimulation: A familiar perfume, a soft keychain, a textured object, sensory anchors can help bring the body back into safety when overwhelmed. Inhaling for 4 seconds, holding for 4, exhaling for 4, holding for 4. This structured breath pattern lowers stress hormones and regulates the heartbeat. As neuroscientist Dr Jill Bolte Taylor notes, the chemical surge of a strong emotion lasts roughly 90 seconds. A brief pause, stepping aside, splashing water on the face, or breathing consciously

allows the wave to pass before reaction. The belief that we must show up at “100%” during the holidays sets us up for burnout. Instead, Dr Desai suggests asking: “What do I realistically have capacity for today?” Offer just 30% more enough to participate, without draining your emotional battery. Boundary guilt stems from the belief that saying no is disre-



spectful, a message many Indian families unknowingly reinforce. But, as



Dr Desai emphasises, boundaries protect relationships by preventing resentment. Effective strategies include: For young people, December often brings renewed scrutiny. Marriage timelines, promotions, paychecks, weight, appearance, everything becomes a topic of commentary. Dr Desai advises reframing: these expectations re-

flect cultural norms, not personal inadequacy. Bridge responds: “I appreciate your concern, but I’m taking things step by step.” Internal anchoring: “Their timeline isn’t my timeline.” Finding an ally: Someone who can redirect intrusive conversations. Conversational boundaries: “I don’t feel comfortable discussing that today.” Beyond anxiety, December carries under-addressed emotional dynamics: Grief resurfacing. Festivals often make the absence of loved ones feel sharper. Even years later, memories can trigger fresh waves of grief. When the lights go off and social calendars quieten, many experience a no-

ticeable emotional dip. This is the nervous system recalibrating after weeks of stimulation — a normal but rarely discussed experience. Festive anxiety isn’t a sign of weakness, it’s a sign of humanity. By recognising emotional triggers, setting boundaries, honouring our limits, and understanding the psychology behind the season, we create space for a more grounded, compassionate, and meaningful celebration. As Dr Devanshi Desai reminds us, the goal isn’t to perform happiness, it’s to stay connected to yourself while moving through the season with authenticity, gentleness, and emotional clarity.

Alia Bhatt Radiates Royal Elegance In Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla’s “Crushed Silk” Lehenga For A Campaign

In a new ad campaign, Alia Bhatt embodies a picture of modern regality, effortlessly blending youthful charm with heritage craftsmanship. Dressed in a stunning creation from Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla’s “Crushed Silk” collection, she brings a fresh, luminous energy to festive fashion, one that feels both timeless and temptingly contemporary. The lehenga itself is a visual symphony. The deep, inky blue crushed-silk skirt moves like water, catching light with every step and creating a soft, fluid texture that feels almost ethereal. Paired with an intricately embroidered blouse, the ensemble celebrates the rich vocabulary of Indian artistry. Multicoloured floral embroidery sprawls across the choli in meticulous threadwork, mirroring the vibrant hues of traditional craftsmanship while maintaining a refined, couture-like delicacy. The tonal embroidered waistband and the matching dupatta border tie the look together with a sense of harmony. Her accesso-



ries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds’ signature pieces elevate the look to exquisite heights. The emerald-and-diamond choker sits perfectly at her collarbone, adding a burst of colour that complements the lehenga’s multicoloured embroidery. Matching earrings frame her face with a soft yet striking sparkle, while a statement ring and bracelet complete the jewellery story with understated glamour. Together, these pieces don’t overpower the outfit;

instead, they enhance its richness and bring a celebratory glow. Alia’s hair, styled in soft, romantic waves pulled gently away from her face, lends an effortless grace to the ensemble. The half-up, half-down styling allows the jewellery and neckline to take centre stage while keeping the overall look youthful and fresh. Her makeup follows the same elegant restraint, glossy skin, soft rosy tones, and a diffused glow that feels radiant rather than heavy.

What makes this look unforgettable is its balance: traditional craftsmanship with contemporary styling, bold colour with delicate detailing, and heritage jewellery with modern minimalism. It’s the kind of festive fashion that feels regal yet approachable, luxurious yet wearable. Alia Bhatt’s Malabar Gold & Diamonds campaign look is not just a moment of style; it’s a celebration of Indian artistry brought to life with grace, modernity, and undeniable star power.

The Wellness Reboot: Inside the Rituals, Rhythms, and Radical Shifts Defining 2026

Wellness is no longer a weekend luxury or a spa-side afterthought, it has become the heartbeat of modern travel, the new indicator of success, and the quiet revolution reshaping how we live, work, and restore ourselves. As we step into 2026, a new era of wellbeing is taking shape, slower, softer, wiser, and far more intentional. It’s a movement that rejects the quick-fix mentality and embraces healing as ritual, rest as resilience, and wellness as an elegant recalibration of the self. Across India and the world, this shift is palpable from palace sanctuaries to forest hideaways, coastal retreats to Himalaya-rooted ashrams. And the voices leading this evolution are clear: wellness is moving inward. The New Itinerary: Stillness, Slowness, Soul. At Six Senses Fort Barwara, the wellness shift is already unfolding in real time. “Travellers are gravitating toward experiences that feel authentic and culturally rooted,” says Rajat Gera, Commercial Director. Guests want time real time to pause, learn from local healing practices, and

reconnect with themselves. The fort’s ancient stone corridors and tranquil courtyards naturally encourage a slower, more intentional pace. A similar recalibration is happening in Goa. “Wellness travel is shifting from indulgence to inner recalibration,” notes Shardha Binani, founder, Amaraanth Goa. With longevity in focus, guests are choosing scientifically grounded therapies that work from the inside out. The era of surface-level pampering? Over. The modern traveller isn’t craving escape, they’re craving clarity. Nature, the Original Luxury. Amid global digital burnout, nature has become the ultimate reset button. At Jim Corbett Marriott Resort & Spa, the forest itself is the therapy. “Guests are seeking quieter moments, deeper connection with nature, and therapies that offer a true sense of reset,” shares Pawan Chahar, General Manager. There’s a sensuality to it, the misty river walks, the early-morning bird calls, the slow mountain drives, the sunrise yoga that sets the ner-

vous system humming again. These experiences are not just part of the stay; they define it. In 2026, luxury looks less like a chandeliered lobby and more like an unhurried moment under an open sky. The Soft Life, Finally Taken Seriously. Few articulate this evolution as lyrically as Jaspreet Singh, General Manager, Six Senses Vana. “The pace is slower. The intention feels clearer,” he says. Guests want healing that feels authentic and sustainable, rituals rooted



in ancient systems, supported by nature, and anchored in

stillness. The Glow of Extremes: Heat, Cold & the Rise of Ritual Biohacking. Thermal therapies are no longer fringe, they’re chic, they’re everyday, and they’re everywhere. The home sauna market alone is projected to hit \$3.5 billion by 2033, reflecting an obsession with cold plunges, infrared heat, and contrast therapy. Think: Cryotherapy journeys in alpine retreats, Roman bathing circuit in Rome, Sensory-rich Aufguss rituals in Crans-Montana, magnesium pool and cold-water immersion path and biohacking; has slipped into the mainstream, not as a trend, but as a lifestyle. Breathwork: Wellness’ Most Democratic Tool. Breathwork is having a cultural moment, with growth akin to yoga’s rise in the ‘90s. Why? Because it’s universal, accessible, and transformative.

The Sweet And Sour Truth: How Daily Food May Affect Your Enamel

The first task of a healthy morning ritual is usually brushing one’s teeth. We’ve been doing this since childhood, yet maintaining dental health requires far more effort. What most people don’t realize is that brushing should also be the last task of the day, because throughout the day we expose our teeth to numerous foods, beverages, and bacteria. Understanding what your teeth need is essential for long-term oral health and a confident smile. Something as simple as a cup of hot coffee, for instance, can soften and wear away enamel because of its acidic nature. Dr Javed Khan, BDS, MDS (Gold Medallist), FAGE, CC, Director & Head, Dr. Javed’s Royal Dental Care, Navi Mumbai shares all you need to know: Recommended Stories Enamel, the outermost layer of our teeth is the hardest substance in the human body, yet it remains vulnerable to damage. This thin protective shield guards the sensitive inner structures of the teeth from daily challenges, temperature changes, and chemical exposure. Once enamel wears away, it cannot regenerate, making its preservation vital for lifelong oral health. We often see patients even young and otherwise healthy individuals with enamel wear. Many times, this is not due to poor oral hygiene but a lack of awareness of how diet and habits affect enamel. Even foods such as citrus fruits, berries, and natural fruit juices contain acids that can gradually erode enamel. The erosion process is slow, painless, and often unnoticed until



the damage becomes advanced and irreversible. Understanding how everyday dietary choices impact enamel is key to preventing long-term harm. I have noticed many cases of enamel wear that could have been avoided with the right interventions early on. How Everyday Foods May Weaken Enamel The presence of acid is one of the

primary risk factors for enamel wear. While sugary foods are commonly associated with dental problems, it is crucial to recognize that acids naturally present in certain foods can also cause temporary softening of enamel and the loss of essential minerals. Common foods and drinks that may affect enamel include: Citrus fruits such as oranges, lem-

ons, and grapefruits Fruit juices and smoothies Fermented foods like pickles and yogurt When consumed, the acids in these foods interact with the enamel surface, causing it to soften temporarily. During this softened state, enamel becomes more vulnerable to wear. Many people assume that a standard

toothpaste provides complete protection. However, regular toothpaste is primarily designed to clean teeth and freshen breath not to safeguard enamel from acid attacks. This means that even with good oral hygiene, enamel may continue to wear down if it is not reinforced and remineralized regularly. The Role of Specialized Tooth-

Specialized toothpastes formulated for enamel protection contain optimized fluoride formulations that help strengthen and rebuild the enamel surface. Their benefits include: Remineralization: Fluoride strengthens enamel and restores minerals lost due to dietary acid exposure. Protection: They create a stronger, more resistant surface capable of withstanding acidic challenges. Gentle care: These formulations clean effectively while being gentle on weakened enamel. Simple Habits to Support Enamel Health Along with using specialized toothpaste, adopting certain lifestyle habits can significantly protect enamel from further wear: Rinse with water: After consuming acidic foods or beverages, rinsing your mouth helps neutralize acids. Wait before brushing: Avoid brushing immediately after acidic consumption—wait at least 30 minutes. Since enamel is temporarily softened, brushing right away can increase wear. Regular dental visits: Routine check-ups allow your dentist to monitor enamel health and provide personalized guidance. Protecting enamel is not just about brushing and flossing, it’s about making informed choices every day. By understanding how diet, habits, and the right products influence enamel, you can preserve your smile and protect your teeth for years to come.

SPORTS

Anil Kumble criticizes Gautam Gambhir for conducting too many experiments

Dhruv Jurel fails

New Delhi: Dhruv Jurel, an Indian batsman, had just 29 runs at the end of the two-match Test series against South Africa. Jurel, like the rest of the Indian batting order, collapsed while batting as a specialist hitter. Legendary Anil Kumble bemoaned the experiments conducted in this Test series by the Gautam Gambhir-led team management as criticism of the batter's performances against the Proteas grew.

After scoring just two runs in two innings during the second Test match at Guwahati, Jurel experienced backlash on social media. On the last day of the second Test, Jurel lost his wicket while attempting to defend Simon Harmer in the second innings after being removed by a wasteful pull shot in the first. After being chosen as a specialist batter, the batter's shortcomings in the two Test matches drew criticism from the crowd.

After scoring twin hundreds against South Africa A in the lead-up to the series, Jurel was called up into the Test XI, raising hopes that he could repeat that success at the highest level. Former India captain Anil Kumble claims that Jurel's inexperience with the batting position he was ordered to take was a major factor in his failures during the South Africa Tests. For

someone who is still unfamiliar with international cricket, Jurel, who often bats at No. 6, was placed in the lineup at No. 4, just behind Sai Sudharsan. This presented an additional challenge. "Everything changes due to the pressure of simply being a batter. and the role as well.

He hasn't, I believe, batted at number four for his team in First Class cricket. He would have batted at six or five if he had been a keeper. Knowing that you are the (specialist) batter here makes batting at No. 4 much more difficult. You have to sort of step in as a replacement because Shubman Gill is obviously unavailable for this Test match. On the broadcast on Day 5 of the second Test match, Anil Kumble stated, "So yes, that becomes a big challenge." The young batter came into the South Africa series with experience of just 6 Test matches.

The right-hander has had an impressive start to his Test career, hitting a fifty and a hundred against England and West Indies respectively, both at home. Despite this early success, he is still adapting to the demands of different match situations and varying batting positions. He kept the wickets extremely well against England and West Indies, and his performance in



the tour game against South Africa propelled him into the playing XI as a specialist batter.

However, the change in role and position required him to deliver in a way he had not been tested before. Kumble stated that Jurel should not have batted at No. 4 simply because

he did not have enough experience at that position and was still developing his game with limited exposure at the First Class level. "He is still young in his career. I mean, you know, he's just playing, what, his 8th or 9th Test match, and then he's not played too many First Class games.

I know he's got 2,000 runs in First Class cricket, but it is not enough," Kumble said. While concluding his remarks, Kumble vehemently defended Jurel, stating that he has already shown a lot of maturity in his young career. The legendary spinner pointed out the selection process of the Indian

team and stated that having two inexperienced players at No. 3 and No. 4 was never a good idea, especially in a challenging away series.

India were forced to play Sai Sudharsan at No. 3 after the neck injury to Shubman Gill, which kept him out of the Test match. Kumble said that expecting both Sudharsan and Jurel to do well in those key positions was probably wrong because of their inexperience and the pressure of the match situation. "He's already shown a lot of maturity. I mean, against England, I thought he batted really well; even against West Indies, he batted well. But those were in positions that he's comfortable with, at number six or number five, depending on where the situation of the game was.

But here, he knows that he has to handle that number four position, where number three was not a solid No. 3 that India have had for years. If it was a senior player at number three, then you can throw in someone at number four. But if you're experimenting at three, hoping that number three will do really well for you, and then also hoping that your number four will do that, then I think you are probably taking a bit too many risks. Especially when you know that you are 1-0 behind," Kumble concluded.

After Estevao's incredible score, Maresca cautions against Messi hype



New Delhi: After Chelsea's wonderkid scored an incredible single Champions League goal in a crushing 3-0 victory over Barcelona on Tuesday, Enzo Maresca downplayed parallels between Estevao and Lionel Messi. The London team won its third game out of five in the competition's league round as the 18-year-old Brazilian decisively defeated Lamine Yamal in the battle of the teenage prodigies. Ten minutes after halftime, Estevao had a magical moment when he received the ball on the right, beat two players, and hammered it into Joan Garcia's net.

Only a few months into his first season at Stamford Bridge, it was the winger's tenth goal of the season for both club and country. Chelsea's other goals were an own goal from Barcelona defender Jules Kounde and a late strike from substitute Liam Delap. The Spanish side was reduced to 10 men late in the second half when captain Ronald Araujo was sent off for a second yellow card. Chelsea boss Maresca was asked whether Estevao's strike reminded him of Argentine great Messi but he said instead it was like a goal the forward had scored for previous club Palmeiras against Chelsea at the Club World Cup in July. Maresca sought to ease the pressure on his young player, rapidly becoming a fan favourite, saying he needed to "relax" and enjoy his football.

"Him, Lamine, they are so young, at 18, that if you start to talk about Messi, (Cristiano) Ronaldo, I think it's too much pressure for young boys like them. "Eighteen, they need to enjoy, they need to arrive at the training ground, happy. But when you start to compare them with Messi or with Ronaldo, I think it's too much for them." Estevao, serenaded by Chelsea's supporters on Tuesday, said it was the "best moment" of his career so far. "I don't really have any words to sum up how I'm feeling right now," he told Amazon Prime. "It really was the perfect night." I'm just grateful to God for everything that has happened for me." "From the moment I arrived here, I felt such a connection with the fans," he added. "I'm just so happy that I could score for them and make them happy. I hope to keep making them happy and score more goals for them." Maresca said he would not be under added pressure to play Estevao despite his stunning form. "Tonight we decided, probably in the most difficult game of the season, we decided to play with Estevao," he said. "So I'm not a manager that I don't allow players to play minutes. It's just the game plan, the game plan decides always the first 11."

93 with the bat and a brutal 6-for with short-ball barrage

New Delhi: Marco Jansen was outstanding with the ball as well, and the upcoming Guwahati Test is currently his ideal match after an impactful 91-ball 93 with the bat. The lanky left-arm quick benefited greatly from the short-ball strategy, especially since he wasn't moving off the pitch enough.

Aside from Dhruv Jurel's and Rishabh Pant's weak strokes, Jansen's short-pitched stuff was a bit too much for the Indians on a surface with more bounce. Jansen subsequently remarked, "To be honest, the ball wasn't nipping as much as it was in Calcutta, so we had to figure out a plan."

"We said, 'Okay cool, let's see how long this is going to work,' when I took my first wicket (Jurel) with a bouncer, and yeah, it just came off." Given his height of six feet eight inches, Jansen found the extra bounce on that red-soil track to be perfect. "I can get more out of a wicket when it has some pace and bounce. "Especially here, I've tried to learn what's going



to work for me and what's going to help me perform to the best of my ability. It's just one of those days when everything clicks and everything works and as a player, you take those days and you run," a pleased Jansen said. Before his 6/48 on Day III of the ongoing Test, Jansen's experience of bowling in Indian conditions wasn't at all great. Jokingly, he spoke about being "jealous" of those bowlers shorter than him as he struggles to get the ball to nip back on these subcontinent pitches.

Leverkusen dazzles Manchester City, while Chelsea crushes Barcelona

New Delhi: Both Manchester City and Barcelona suffered devastating losses in the Champions League on Tuesday, throwing the league-phase standings wide open on a night filled with sweeping rotations, costly mistakes, and a brilliant moment of brilliance from 18-year-old Estevo. In his 100th Champions League game as Manchester City's coach, Pep Guardiola watched his heavily rotated team falter in a 2-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen. At Stamford Bridge, Barcelona's performance was much worse as they lost 3-0 to Chelsea due to an own goal and a red card. Erling Haaland was one of Guardiola's ten substitutions from the weekend loss to Newcastle, but the move backfired as Leverkusen's speed and accuracy in transition proved to be too much for the Premier League winners. Before Patrik Schick rose highest to head home a second early in the second half, Alejandro Grimaldo broke the deadlock in the twenty-third minute with a curling low finish into the far corner. Following the victory, Schick told DAZN, "It feels wonderful and we gave everything till the last second," highlighting Leverkusen's growing European credentials. City missed the



chance to climb to the top of the standings, with the leading trio unchanged ahead of Wednesday's fixtures featuring Bayern Munich, Arsenal and Inter Milan. Chelsea cruised past Barcelona to secure their third league-phase victory and strengthen their push towards the summit. The visitors unravelled after Ronald Arajo received a second yellow card shortly before half-time for a reckless challenge on Marc Cucurella.

Already under pressure, Barcelona were punished further when Jules Kound inadvertently turned the ball into his own net in the 27th minute following confusion in the box. The second half belonged to Estevo, who showcased his immense potential with a stunning solo effort in the 55th, holding off two defenders before finishing with composure. Liam Delap sealed

the result in the 73rd from close range. Barcelona's fourth defeat in 10 matches across competitions is likely to intensify scrutiny on coach Hansi Flick, whose approach continues to draw criticism. The result leaves Chelsea fifth and level on 10 points with City and Dortmund, while Barcelona drop to 15th as Juventus surged to 21 points with a dramatic win. While Guardiola endured frustration, Jos Mourinho finally celebrated his first Champions League victory with Benfica. Samuel Dahl's superb sixth-minute volley set the tone in a 2-0 win over struggling Ajax, with Leandro Barreiro adding a late second. Ajax, who entered the match level with Benfica at the bottom, have now lost all five of their Champions League fixtures and just once in their last 10 games overall, deepening their crisis.

Twelve months after retiring, Rafael Nadal returns to the court

New Delhi: A year after ending his professional tennis career, Rafael Nadal is back on the court for a more significant purpose rather than to play. The 22-time Grand Slam champion released a video of himself practicing with emerging talent Alexandra Eala, a former pupil from his Rafa Nadal Academy, in an emotional social media post on the anniversary of his retirement. In October 2024, Nadal announced his retirement. Later that November, at the age of 38, he played his last match at the Davis Cup Finals. "One year later, it felt great to be back on a tennis court!" he stated in his post. I'll be stronger the next time. He seemed content and at ease during the practice session with Eala; he even laughed when she



blasted a powerful forehand past him.

The session had particular significance for 20-year-old Eala. She began training at Nadal's academy in Mallorca when she was 13 years old, and she graduated in 2023. She has advanced remarkably on the WTA Tour since then. She shocked previous major winners at

the Miami Open in 2025 by defeating Madison Keys and Jelena Ostapenko before defeating Iga Swiatek 6-2, 7-5 to advance to the semifinals. Beyond the game, Nadal and Eala have a close bond. "We are extremely proud of you, Alex," he wrote on social media following her victory at the Miami Open. What a

fantastic competition! Let's continue to dream! When she won her first WTA125 title in 2025, they became even closer, and Nadal congratulated her. Eala has made rapid strides in her career, becoming the first Filipino in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam main-draw match. The then 19-year-old stunned 14th seed Clara Tauson with a thrilling 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 comeback victory at the US Open earlier this year. She also recently achieved her career-best WTA ranking of No. 50. Rafael Nadal remains one of the sport's all-time greats. He has won 92 ATP Tour singles titles, including 22 major titles, with a record 14 French Open crowns, alongside 36 Masters titles and two Olympic gold medals.

Cristiano Ronaldo scores stunning bicycle kick for Al Nassr

New Delhi: With a spectacular overhead kick, Cristiano Ronaldo turned back the clock as Al Nassr defeated Al Khaleej handily to maintain their stellar season. Ronaldo, 40, demonstrated why he is among the best players of all time with a goal that was compared to his goal against Juventus in the 2017 Champions League final. Al Nassr's supremacy was apparent right away and persisted throughout Joao Felix was a key player in the first half, setting the pace for the victory with a goal and an assist. Al Nassr applied early pressure throughout the opening stanza, creating several opportunities. Cristiano Ronaldo had two opportunities to open the score: once from the edge of the area, and again from within the box, when Al Khaleej goalkeeper Moris had to make a spectacular save. Joao Felix quickly grabbed center stage, and these early chances set the tone for Al Nassr's unrelenting assault. His squad was able to establish control because to his first-half performance. Al Khaleej's defense was always under siege as a result of Al Nassr's tactical strategy, which focused on persistent

attacking play. Wesley doubled the lead three minutes after Felix's goal in the 39th minute. Sadio Mane restored the two-goal lead early in the last quarter of the second half after Murad Al-Hawsawi reduced the gap in the 47th minute. Al Nassr's disciplined defensive strategy limited Al Khaleej's chances. It became more difficult for Al Khaleej to launch any kind of comeback against Al Nassr's fast-paced play once they were down to ten men late in the game. Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 955th goal with a fantastic bicycle kick in the game's closing play, making it the most memorable moment. Statistically, the fixture reflected Al Nassr's control, with Ronaldo's late goal serving as the most spectacular among several throughout the match. The 955-goal milestone further solidified his position as a prolific scorer. Joao Felix's involvement in both a goal and an assist added to the team's overall impressive numbers. Al Nassr's victory extended their perfect run to nine consecutive wins this season, underlining their status as frontrunners in the league.

