

Northeast's indigenous knowledge and cultural identity

Bodoland University hosts national seminar

Kokrajhar, Nov 23: The seminar was organised under the EMWSSAA project of the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DoNER, in collaboration with the North East India History Association (NEIHA). The programme opened with a warm welcome address by Dr. Zothanchhingi Khiangte, Principal Investigator of the project and Coordinator of the Centre for Women Studies at Bodoland University. She highlighted that many traditional practices of the region are rapidly disappearing and stressed the importance of collective efforts to document and protect them. In his inaugural remarks, noted historian Dr. J. B. Bhattacharjee, Retired Professor of NEHU and former Vice-Chancellor of Assam University, underscored the urgency of safeguarding traditional knowledge systems. He said that many indigenous art forms, weaving techniques, ecological skills and oral narratives are under threat due to modern lifestyles, technology and socio-cultural shifts. According to him, universities and research bodies must take a stronger role in recording local histories before they fade away. The first academic session, moderated by Prof.

Amena Passah, opened with detailed presentations from a wide range of experts. Prof. Sukhendu Debbarna of Tripura University spoke about the deep link between tribal identity and textile traditions. Pinuel Basumatary, representing the Boro Diaspora Forum, shared insights on the evolving cultural identity of Boro communities living outside the region. Bhutane scholar Dawa Penjor from BIFA reflected on the intercultural similarities between Bhutan and Northeast India, particularly in crafts and oral traditions. Journalist Preetam Brahma Choudhury and Advocate Pallavi Basumatary added perspectives on media narratives, community rights and the legal aspects of cultural protection. The second session, chaired by Dr. Zothanchhingi Khiangte, featured equally enriching contributions. Prof. Salam Irene from Manipur University discussed women's roles in preserving traditional food systems. Japanese academic Dr. Kaburagi Yoshihiro provided a comparative overview of indigenous storytelling practices in Japan and Northeast India.



Prof. Sarah Hilaly of Rajiv Gandhi University highlighted the challenges faced by tribal groups in maintaining linguistic diversity, while researcher Damewanmi Suchiang from Meghalaya focused on the importance of documenting ecological crafts that are still practiced in rural communities.

Tripura cabinet approves two new state universities

Agartala, Nov 23: In a significant push to expand higher education and strengthen public services, the Tripura Cabinet has approved the establishment of two new state universities and sanctioned 385 government posts across multiple departments. The decisions were announced by Cabinet spokesperson and Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury after a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha at the civil secretariat on Tuesday. The move marks a major milestone for Tripura's education sector. With the latest approvals, the number of state-run universities in Tripura will rise from one to three. Currently, Maharaja Bir Bikram University is the only state university operating in the state. Chowdhury said the Council of Ministers has agreed to upgrade the Tripura Institute of Technology (TIT) into the state's first technical university. Once formalities are completed, all polytechnic institutes in Tripura will gradually be brought under this new university, creating a centralised technical education system aimed at improving academic standards and expanding opportunities for students pursuing engineering, applied sciences and vocational training. In another landmark decision, the government approved the upgradation of Women's College, Agartala, into Tripura's first dedicated Women's University.

Mizoram reverses decision, state university's main centre to be set up in Lunglei



Aizawl, Nov 23: In a major policy shift seen as a response to long-standing public demand, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on November 20 announced that the main centre of the proposed state university will now be established in Lunglei. The decision reverses the government's original plan to locate the university's central campus in Aizawl. The announcement was made during a meeting of the Lunglei High Powered Committee (HPC), where the Chief Minister acknowledged the persistent appeals from residents of Lunglei and the southern districts. He said the shift reflects the government's commitment to honouring public sentiment and addressing regional aspirations. If necessary, he added, the government is willing to bring legislative amendments to ensure the university's centre is formally established in Lunglei. The Mizoram State University Bill, 2025, was passed earlier in March with the intention of creating a teaching-intensive state university in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The original blueprint placed the main centre in Aizawl, but the latest revision aims to balance regional development and create broader academic opportunities for students in the southern part of the state. Higher and Technical Education Minister Vanlalhlana, while introducing the bill in the assembly, had explained that the proposed university would operate under a cluster model, integrating colleges and institutions into a unified academic framework.

Austria and Malta named country partners for Hornbill Festival 2025, CM Rio says collaboration will boost cultural and economic ties

Kohima, Nov 23: Nagaland is preparing for a more globally connected edition of the Hornbill Festival in 2025, with Austria and Malta officially joining as Country Partners. The announcement was made in New Delhi following separate meetings between Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio and senior officials from the two nations, marking a significant diplomatic and cultural milestone for the state. According to a report from the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Malta's High Commissioner to India, Reuben Gauci, expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Nagaland for extending the partnership. Gauci said Malta was eager to participate in the iconic festival and viewed the event as a valuable platform for strengthening relationships,



promoting cultural understanding and fostering future collaborations between Malta and Nagaland. He emphasised that people-to-people connections formed through cultural events often lead to long-term cooperation beyond the festival. Austria also confirmed its participation, with Dr. Gisela Kristoferitsch, Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy, stating that

the country would be represented by trade delegations. She noted that Austria aims to explore new avenues of cooperation during the festival, particularly in areas related to art, culture, sustainable industries and creative enterprises. Dr. Gisela said the Hornbill Festival offers opportunities for building fresh partnerships while engaging with local communities and businesses. Welcoming

both nations, Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio said it was an honour for Nagaland to host Malta and Austria as Country Partners. He described both countries as nations with rich histories and vibrant creative traditions, adding that their presence would significantly enhance the global stature of the Hornbill Festival, often known as the "Land of Festivals" celebration.

Mizoram's Zo Re-Unification Organisation opposes Centre's move

Aizawl, Nov 23: On November 21, the Zo Re-Unification Organization, a Mizoram-based organization that represents the Chin, Kuki, Mizo, and Zomi tribes in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India, reaffirmed its vehement opposition to the central government's purported decision to resume fencing along the Mizoram portion of the Indo-Myanmar border. According to the group, New Delhi has resurrected the idea after it was temporarily

put on hold because of opposition from civil society organizations and the state government. The Mizo people have strong ethnic, cultural, and family ties to the Chin state of Myanmar, which borders Mizoram by 510 kilometers. L. Ramdinliana Renthlei, vice president of ZORO, spoke at a news conference and stated that the organization views the fencing plan as "unacceptable" since it could split people who have similar origin

and bloodlines. He reiterated that ZORO would continue to oppose the plan "with utmost seriousness," characterizing Mizoram's unified opposition as an attempt to avert a "barrier wall" or "Indanna bang." Renthlei said the organisation has extensively studied the Centre's proposal and fears it will bring severe negative consequences, especially for ethnic Zo communities living on both sides of the border.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat urges unity, patience and social responsibility to restore peace in Manipur



Imphal, Nov 23: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has called for patience, resilience and collective responsibility as Manipur continues its struggle

to return to normalcy after prolonged unrest. Speaking in Imphal on the first day of his three-day visit to the state, Bhagwat said that rebuilding trust and harmony would

require time, sustained effort and active participation from all sections of society. Highlighting the delicate nature of peace-building, Bhagwat remarked that "destruction takes

minutes, but construction requires years, especially when done inclusively." He said that while both community groups and social organisations were working towards restoring stability, people should not expect immediate solutions or depend solely on government interventions. According to him, durable peace in Manipur will be possible only when citizens recognise their role in strengthening social bonds. "Awareness of the general public is the main factor. Everything should not be expected from the government; the responsibility of the society is very much required," the RSS chief said. He stressed that building strong social capital is central to the organisation's vision of a self-reliant and confident India. Bhagwat also responded to what he described as decades-long misinformation campaigns about the RSS. He said that misunderstanding of the organisation—both within India and abroad—has persisted since the early 1930s, often driven

RSS chief calls for unity and patience to restore peace in Manipur. Collective effort and calm are key to overcoming challenges and fostering harmony

by narratives lacking familiarity with India's civilisational ethos. He urged people to understand the RSS through its grassroots shakha system instead of relying on perception-driven opinions. "There is no organisation comparable to the RSS, just as the sea, the sky, and the ocean have no comparison," he said. Clarifying the organisation's ideological foundation, Bhagwat said the term "Hindu" within the RSS framework is not meant as a religious label but as a cultural and civilisational identity. He described the term as "not a noun but an adjective," indicating inclusiveness rather than exclusivity. The purpose of the RSS, he said, is to organise Hindu society—including those who oppose the organisation—and not to establish any power bloc.

In Brief

Landslide near Tura

Shillong: On the morning of November 20, a landslide buried a group of workers at Danakgre on the outskirts of Tura. Three laborers were rescued by a joint rescue team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Fire & Emergency Services. Five laborers were excavating earth for a retaining wall foundation when the slope above them suddenly collapsed, trapping them beneath the rubble, according to the authorities. District officials alerted the SDRF around 9:30 a.m., according to Divisional Commandant Peniwel T. Sangma. Three guys were rescued and one man's body was recovered by responders from both agencies who arrived at the scene swiftly. A fifth labourer had been taken to the hospital by co-workers before emergency teams arrived. He later died from his injuries at Tura Civil Hospital.

Adivasi groups rally

Guwahati: After thousands of people attended a significant rally in Kokrajhar, Adivasi organizations increased their pressure on the Assam government and the Center, demanding immediate action on long-standing commitments, including the demand for Scheduled Tribe designation. The All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA) and eight affiliated organizations under the Coordination Committee of Adivasi Organizations organized the protest, which started at the Dimolmgaon Playground and moved on to Green Field. Participants emphasized what they called years of inactivity on important problems related to the Adivasi peace deal and more general welfare initiatives by the government.

Fatal crash at illegal railway crossing

Agartala: The Agartala-Silchar Express struck a truck carrying supplies close to Ambasa station in Tripura, killing three persons. The car abruptly entered the tracks in the path of train number DN 15663, which was traveling between Ambasa and Manu, at around 1:12 pm. The collision claimed the lives of the driver and two passengers. By 1:30 pm, railway workers had cleaned the debris, enabling the train to leave four minutes later. Northeast Frontier Railway has confirmed that the crossing where the accident occurred is unauthorised. Officials have attempted multiple closures of the illegal crossing point to protect both rail passengers and road users, but faced opposition from local residents each time.

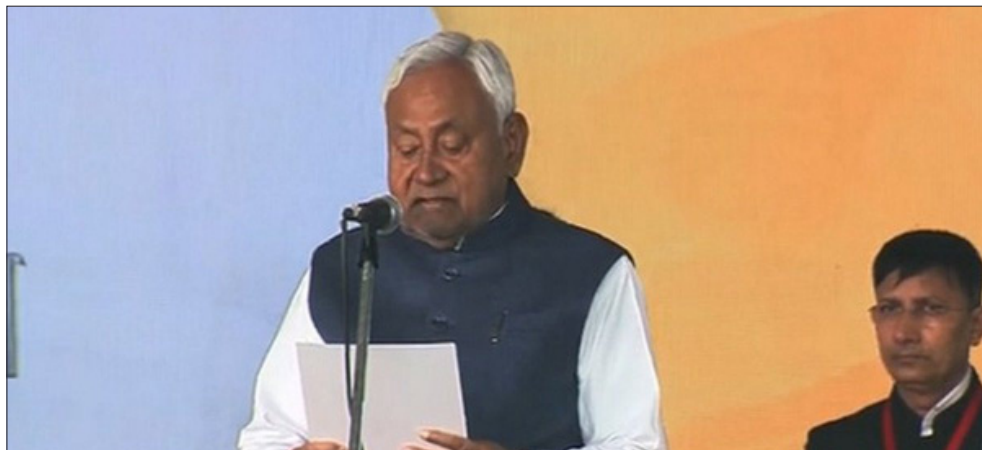
Mizoram celebrates National Traffic Award

Aizawl: The Mizoram government has announced a special one-day, 50 percent reduction in city bus fares in Aizawl to celebrate the state's recognition at the national level for its exceptional traffic discipline and management. The rebate, applicable for a single day, is intended as a gesture of gratitude to the public for maintaining a model traffic system that has earned admiration across the country. Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Minister K. Sapdanga announced that commuters using city buses on Friday would pay only half of the usual fare.

NATIONAL

Nitish Kumar took the oath of office as Bihar's chief minister for a record ten times

Patna, Nov 23: An important turning point in the political history of the state occurred on Thursday when Nitish Kumar, the leader of the Janata Dal (United), took the oath of office as Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the ceremony, which took place in Patna's famed Gandhi Maidan. Modi had not attended the oath-taking ceremony in 2020. In addition to hosting Kumar's inaugurations in 2005, 2010, and 2015, Gandhi Maidan is known for Jayaprakash Narayan's famous 1974 demand for a "total revolution." Top National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders gathered to commemorate the event, making the location the



center of attention once more. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Uttar Pradesh Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami were among the several NDA Chief Ministers present at the event. Their presence emphasized the alliance's demonstration of solidarity and solidarity.

The oath was given by Arif Mohammad Khan, the governor of Bihar.

The event's political significance was increased by the participation of leaders like Chirag Paswan, the chief of the LJP (RV).

KT Rama Rao's prosecution in the Formula E race case is approved by the Telangana Governor

Hyderabad, Nov 23: The prosecution of BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) in the Formula E race case has been approved by the Telangana Governor.

The lawsuit concerns payments of approximately Rs 55 crore, mostly in foreign currency, that were allegedly "unauthorized" and "procedurally violated" during the previous BRS government.

The payments were associated with the February 2024 Formula E event, which was subsequently canceled following the election of the Congress administration in December 2023. The event was previously held in Hyderabad in February 2023. On September 9, the Governor received a letter from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) requesting permission to pursue KTR. After nearly ten



weeks, the sanction has now been given, allowing the probe to proceed.

ACB requested to prosecute Rama Rao, senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar and former HMDA chief engineer BLN

Reddy. All three were booked in December 2024 under the Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC provisions relating to criminal misappropriation, criminal breach of trust, criminal misconduct and criminal conspiracy.

Kerala's CEO issues a warning after BLOs encounter resistance

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23: Rathan U. Kelkar, the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Kerala, warned on Wednesday that anyone who interferes with booth-level officers (BLOs) involved in the special intensive revision of electoral rolls will face severe consequences. Kelkar ignored requests from parties to delay the SIR and the recent suicide of a BLO due to alleged workload. On Sunday, Aneesh George, a BLO in Kannur, committed suicide. Martin George, the head of the Kannur district Congress committee, produced an audio recording after the death in which a voice similar to Aneesh's is heard claiming that the CPM had put pressure on him on the SIR. Aneesh also mentioned "trouble" and voiced concerns about the local enumeration drive's transparency. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the Congress, and the CPM together petitioned the Supreme Court on Wednesday against the SIR because they believe it will disrupt the local body elections that are set for December 9 and 11. Speaking at a press conference today, Kelkar stated that he has heard stories from all around the state concerning BLOs being hindered from carrying out their responsibilities, false information being disseminated about them, and incidents of cyberattacks directed at them. According to him, BLOs carrying out the SIR under the Election Commission's mandate were considered public workers, and any interference with their work, cyberattacks against them, or spreading misleading information would result in legal action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.



NIOS identifies more than 100 phony websites and channels that operate fraudulent admissions schemes

New Delhi, Nov 23: More than a hundred phony websites and fraudulent social media platforms have been identified by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), a national school board, as utilizing its name and study materials to operate a fraudulent admissions scam. The board, which provides education to thousands of students who have failed or dropped out, posted a list of 71 phony websites, 34 phony YouTube channels, and 28 other fraudulent organizations on its website last month, warning students to be wary of these platforms.

Akhilesh Mishra, the chairperson of NIOS, stated that the board has previously discovered similar misconduct by select private people and coaching centers. "An alert has been posted on our website, and we have already sent legal notices to the people and organizations abusing the NIOS name. These phony websites and social media profiles are not authorized by the NIOS to use our resources or video lectures for profit.

These organizations are flagrantly abusing the NIOS's brand and resources. For questions and other concerns, students should get in touch with the NIOS



directly, according to Mishra. About 25 lakh of the almost 30 lakh students at the NIOS are enrolled in Classes X and XII. Over the course of five years, these students are granted ten chances to pass the board exams and flexible learning possibilities. Exams are administered by the NIOS using the facilities of schools connected to state school boards and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Its

study centers around the nation exchange its study materials. According to NIOS sources, the study centers distribute the contents to private organizations without the NIOS's consent. These private people and coaching facilities then float fake websites, YouTube channels, Telegram, Instagram and WhatsApp accounts to approach students online, posing as NIOS representatives helping with the "admission process". The study materials are shared to create an impression of authenticity. The fraudsters collect money from unsuspecting students and their families in the name of admission to the NIOS. The NIOS is not the only institution to face fraud by private individuals. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have also issued public notices about fraudsters who identify themselves as officials of these regulators. "It has come to the notice of the UGC that certain unscrupulous individuals are fraudulently demanding money from the public, falsely claiming to represent UGC officials and offering approval of proposals in return," said the UGC notice issued on September 23.

Rahul Gandhi is criticized by retired officials for accusing the EC of manipulating voter rolls

New Delhi, Nov 23: Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has been sharply condemned by a number of retired judges, bureaucrats, diplomats, and defense personnel for casting doubt on the Election Commission of India's impartiality in conducting polls and creating the electoral registers. The declaration issued by former Delhi High Court judge S.N. Dhingra and former Jharkhand DGP Nirmal Kaur was signed by 272 people, including 16 former judges, 123 retired bureaucrats, 14 former ambassadors, and 133 veterans of the armed forces. "The Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha,



has repeatedly attacked the Election Commission, declaring that he has open and closed proof that the Election Commission is involved in vote theft," the statement read. Using incredibly rude language to claim that what he has discovered is an atomic bomb and that the EC would have nowhere to hide when it blows. Additionally, he has threatened to spare all members of the Election Commission involved in this

effort, from the top down. He claims that ECI is engaging in treason. He has publicly threatened to harass CECs and ECs who retire. "Yet, despite such harsh accusations, he has not filed a formal complaint along with the required sworn affidavit to avoid being held accountable for making unfounded accusations and threatening public servants while they are performing their duties." Sanjeev Tripathi, the former head of RAW, and Subhro Kamal Mukherjee, the former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court, are among the signatories. They further cited measures by other countries to check illegal immigrants.

Odisha CM tells foreign delegates about the state's democratic achievements and digital reforms

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: At Lok Seva Bhavan on Wednesday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi spoke with forty international representatives from twelve different nations, emphasizing Odisha's strong parliamentary traditions and inclusive form of government. The delegates are a part of the 37th Parliamentary Internship Program, which is run by the Parliament Secretariat's Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE). Majhi welcomed the delegation and highlighted the Odisha Legislative



Assembly's 89-year history while commending its efforts to the advancement of democracy. "Odisha has a long history of democracy. According to Majhi, its parliamentary

procedures and practices have established high standards across the country. He mentioned the Assembly's record of 62 meetings from June 2024 to June 2025, which in-

cluded a debate on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that lasted 12 hours and 25 minutes. In order to guarantee accountability and efficient governance, he also emphasized the function of 25 legislative committees, ten of which are departmental standing committees. Majhi spoke of Odisha's commitment to inclusive governance, referencing the recent hosting of the national conference for chairpersons of SC/ST committees. He emphasized the state's progress in digital transformation through platforms like National e-Vidhan,

OSWAS and AI-driven research tools, noting that Odisha had won the National Award for Excellence in Digital Applications. Turkmenistan MP Keringuly Gurbangulyevich Geldiyev praised Odisha's strides in transparency and digital reform. Rajya Sabha MP Sujit Kumar added that Odisha's legislature now serves as a national model for democratic discipline, constructive debate and innovation. Majhi also pitched Odisha as the cultural heart of eastern India. Chief secretary Manoj Ahuja and other senior officials attended the event.

The Supreme Court's ruling on the deadline for bill clearance

Discretion yes, paralysis no

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that courts cannot impose strict deadlines on constitutional authorities, overturning its previous decision that mandated governors and the President make decisions on state measures within three months. Setting timelines would "violate the elasticity available under the Constitution," according to a five-judge panel led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai. However, the panel cautioned governors against purposefully doing nothing at all. The Supreme Court emphasized that although it cannot interfere with a governor's decision, "stalling bills indefinitely and bringing bills to procedural impasse is antithetical to the Constitution" when expressing its view on the presidential reference for timetables to clear state measures. The Supreme Court stated that governors have only three constitutionally sanctioned options: assent, return the bill to assembly or refer it to President, and cannot withhold bills indefinitely to "frustrate" the legislative process. The bench said that those who occupy constitutional offices should engage in dialogue and cooperation instead of obstructionism. It cautioned that "stalling bills indefinitely and bringing bills to procedural impasse is antithetical to Constitution". The court held that the Governor normally acts on the aid and advice of the Cabinet but can exercise limited discretion under Article 200 in situations the Constitution prescribes. The Governor also has full discretion to refer bills to the Presi-



dent. The Supreme Court said it would "violate federalism to allow Governor to withhold a bill without returning it to consideration of the House". The bench stressed that referring a bill to the President "is also a part of the dialogue", not a tool to block legislation. It stated that state cabinets must remain primary decision-makers because "it is the elected government that should be in the driver's seat, cannot have two in the driver's seat". At the same time, it noted that the judiciary cannot step into the lawmaking domain. However, it clarified that "unexplained indefinite delay can come under judicial scrutiny." The top court said there is normally an "absolute bar on judicial review", but prolonged inaction by a constitutional office allows for limited intervention. The bench cautioned against judicial overreach. "Restriction on powers of governors and President is antithetical to the spirit of the Constitution and doctrine of basic structure," it observed. The judges also said the court granting "deemed assent" to bills would amount to a judicial takeover of executive functions.

Red Fort vehicle bombing probe is arrested by the NIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: An important step forward in the ongoing terror investigation has been taken with the arrest of another suspect connected to the car bombing in the Red



Fort region by the National Investigation Agency. In Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, NIA agents captured Jasir Bilal Wani, also known by the pseudonym Danish. The citizen of Kashmir is accused of giving the terror network behind the blast, which killed ten people and injured thirty-two more, vital technical know-how. Investigators claim that Wani sought to build rockets and altered drones in order to prepare for the attack. The arrest is related to case RC-21/2025/NIA/DLI, which has witnessed increased activity lately. The NIA claims that Wani, a resident of Qazigund in the Anantnag region, worked closely with Umar un Nabi, the main terrorist responsible for the blast. The two are said to have collaborated to plan the fatal attack. The anti-terror agency continues to pursue multiple investigative threads, with several teams conducting operations across different states. Authorities remain focused on identifying all individuals connected to the conspiracy and bringing them to justice. The Red Fort bombing represents one of the most serious terror incidents in the capital in recent years, prompting a comprehensive investigation involving resources from across the country's security apparatus.

Mukhi, an Indian cheetah, gives birth to five pups at Kuno National Park

Bhopal, Nov 23: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced on Thursday that Mukhi, an Indian-born cheetah, had given birth to five pups at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. He called this a "historic milestone in Project Cheetah." "In Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, Indian-born cheetah Mukhi gave birth to five cubs, marking a historic milestone. Yadav posted on X, saying, "The mother and cubs are doing well." According to him, this is



a "unprecedented" development for India's cheetah reintroduction program. According to him, Mukhi, the first female cheetah born in India at the age of 33 months, is now the first chee-

tah born in India to procreate, which is a historic accomplishment for Project Cheetah. "The successful reproduction of an India-born cheetah is a strong indicator of the species' adaptation, health, and long-term prospects in Indian habitats," Yadav said. "This significant step forward strengthens optimism about establishing a self-sustaining and genetically diverse cheetah population in India, further advancing the nation's conservation goals," he added.

Bihar BJP leader Dilip Jaiswal is appointed to a cabinet position

Patna, Nov 23: Following the NDA's landslide victory in the Assembly elections, Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Bihar's chief minister for a record tenth time on Thursday. Fourteen BJP politicians, including state party chairman Dilip Jaiswal, eight Janata Dal (United) leaders, two Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leaders, and one each from the Hindustani Awam Morcha and Rashtriya Lok Morcha were sworn in alongside Nitish Kumar. The BJP has the highest percentage of entrants into the new NDA cabinet since it became the single largest party. In addition to Jaiswal, the other 13 BJP leaders include Vijay Kumar Sinha and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary; Mangal Pandey; Nitin Navin; Ramkripal Yadav; Sanjay Singh "Tiger"; Arun Shankar Prasad;



Surendra Mehta; Narayan Prasad; Rama Nishad; Lakhendra Paswan; Shreyasi Singh; and Pramod Kumar Chandravanshi. Mangal Pandey, Nitin Naveen, Samrat Chaudhary, and Vinay Kumar Sinha returned to the cabinet, while the other ten leaders are brand-new, including two women, Shreyasi Singh and Rama Nishad.

Mizoram Governor inaugurates Cooperative Conclave 2025

Aizawl, Nov 23: Mizoram Governor, General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd), inaugurated the Cooperative Conclave 2025 in Aizawl on Tuesday, reaffirming the crucial role of cooperatives in strengthening community livelihoods and building a resilient rural economy.

Organised by the NABARD Mizoram Regional Office, the conclave was held at Hotel Regency's Conference Hall under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World", marking the International Year of Cooperatives 2025. In his address, the Governor praised the Mizo community's long-standing tradition of collective effort and mutual support, stating that such values provide a strong foundation for a vibrant cooperative ecosystem. He highlighted India's vast cooperative network — comprising over 8.4 lakh registered societies and nearly 29 crore members — and said Mizoram has immense potential to become a leader in multiple sectors if cooperatives receive proper guidance, resources, and monitoring. He emphasised the need to strengthen MPACS, FPOs, and SHGs while developing efficient supply chains and market linkages to benefit farmers and local producers. Calling for a shift from direct sale of raw produce to value addition and organised marketing, the Governor encouraged stakeholders to focus on improved production, branding, and promotion of organic and innovative products.

Assam CM says Special Intensive Revision to begin after NRC notification

Guwahati, Nov 23: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the state's electoral rolls will only begin once the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is formally notified, a step he expects to be completed by the middle of next year. His statement comes amid ongoing concerns over inconsistencies in Assam's voter lists, which continue to carry names of deceased individuals, minors, and married women whose names or addresses have changed over time. Explaining the delay, Sarma said the absence of an official NRC notification has stalled the SIR process for years.

"The NRC has not been notified yet. Once that is done — hopefully by mid-next year — the Special Intensive Revision can finally take place in Assam," he said, adding that the state cannot move ahead with a full-scale overhaul of voter records without this legal foundation. To address the immediate discrepancies, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed the state to conduct a Special Summary Revision. As part of this exercise, Booth Level



Officers (BLOs) will visit every household to gather updated details, including information on deceased voters, corrections due to marriage or relocation, and other necessary updates. Sarma said this door-to-door exercise will play a key role in improving the accuracy of the existing electoral rolls.

"I believe that before the upcoming elections, we will have a comparatively clean and accurate voter list," the Chief Minister said. He also clarified that the current revision exercise will not involve any verification of citizenship. "Citizenship will not be checked here; that determination

will happen only during the Special Revision process. First will come the Special Summary Revision, and after that, the benefits of the Special Intensive Revision will be seen," he added. According to Sarma, the two-step process — beginning with the summary revision and followed by the Special Intensive Revision after NRC notification — will help Assam achieve a more reliable and updated electoral roll ahead of future polls. He said the state government remains focused on ensuring transparency and accuracy in the voter lists as Assam heads into an important electoral cycle.

India and South Africa touch down in Guwahati as city gears up for crucial second test

Guwahati, Nov 23: Guwahati witnessed a wave of excitement on Wednesday evening as the Indian and South African cricket teams arrived in the city ahead of the second Test scheduled for November 22. The players landed at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, where they were received under tight security while fans gathered in large numbers to catch a glimpse of their favourite stars. According to airport officials, both teams moved straight to the Radisson Blu Hotel after their arrival.

The squads are expected to rest and begin preparations for the high-pressure clash, which has now



become crucial for India after their defeat in the first Test in Kolkata.

The loss in Kolkata has put the Rohit Sharma-led side under added pressure, with the team needing a win in Guwahati to keep the series alive. With the series standing at 0-1, the upcoming match has gained major importance for the home side, which is looking for a strong comeback against a confident South African unit. Meanwhile, Barsapara Stadium in Sarusajai is putting the final touches in place as it prepares to host thousands of spectators. Officials from the Assam Cricket Association said that the venue is fully ready and all necessary arrangements have been completed for the smooth conduct of the Test match.

Nagaland conclave charts bold roadmap to revitalise cooperative sector

Kohima, Nov 23: The Nagaland Cooperative Conclave concluded on a determined and forward-looking note, outlining a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen the State's cooperative movement and expand opportunities for farmers, artisans, youth and rural communities. The final-day sessions, held at the NBCC Convention Hall in Kohima, focused on youth engagement, entrepreneurship and long-term strategies to revitalise the sector, according to a DIPR report.

At the valedictory session, Orenthung Lotha, commissioner and secretary of Cooperation and Information & Public Relations, stressed the increasing relevance of cooperatives in building resilient communities and advancing inclusive economic growth. He said the three-day gathering created space for meaningful discussions, allowing participants to exchange ideas and reaffirm the role of cooperatives as key drivers of collective progress. Lotha noted that the deliberations highlighted how community-led enterprises can reshape markets, improve livelihoods and contribute to Nagaland's broader development. He expressed confidence that the partnerships formed during the conclave would support a diverse range of stakeholders—from farmers and artisans to young entrepreneurs and rural groups. Joint registrar of cooperative societies, Bokato Hesso, presented a detailed overview of the discus-



sions and laid out the way forward for the sector. He said the cooperative movement in Nagaland has reached a critical phase and requires stronger coordination, inclusive planning and a sustained long-term vision. Identifying priority areas, Hesso emphasised the need to expand opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors, strengthen cooperation between departments and address existing policy gaps, information disparities and weak institutional structures. He also underscored the importance of improving credit access, promoting financial literacy and involving young people in emerging fields such as climate-resilient and digital agriculture. Hesso further called for harmonised policies, appointment of dedicated nodal officers and consistent inter-departmental commitment to help cooperatives emerge as engines of equitable and sustainable growth. The afternoon session saw the presentation of the Best Exhibitor Awards in three categories. In Food and Processing,

Cold Mountain Food Processing and Marketing C.S. Ltd. from Burma Camp, Dimapur, received the honour. In Weaving, Handicrafts and Artisans, the award went to United Shemong Farming C.S. Ltd. of Pongo Village, Longleng. In Agri and Allied Services, Verhiyinuimi Khel Agri & Allied C.S. Ltd. from Yoruba Village in Phek district was recognised for its contributions. Earlier in the day, Alangla Tonger, additional RCS, delivered the opening remarks, followed by a series of sessions that explored the role of youth in the cooperative sector, entrepreneurship and employment generation. These sessions were led by Ritesh Dey of NCUI New Delhi and architect Richard Belho of Zynoriqie Initiatives. Post-lunch discussions featured insights from Dr. Aotoshi, who presented a cooperative vision for Nagaland, along with contributions from experts across agriculture and allied departments. Delegates also shared feedback and offered recommendations to strengthen the ecosystem.

Election Commissioner visits sacred Lum Sohpetbneng in Meghalaya Highlights cultural respect

Shillong, Nov 23: Election Commissioner Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu paid a visit to Lum Sohpetbneng, one of Meghalaya's most sacred and culturally significant sites, during his official tour of the state on November 19. The visit added a meaningful cultural dimension to his engagements, reflecting the Election Commission's effort to connect more closely with local communities while reviewing poll preparedness. Dr. Sandhu, accompanied by his wife and senior government officials, travelled to the hilltop sanctum to offer prayers according to traditional Khasi customs.

As per local belief, Lum Sohpetbneng is regarded as the "Navel of Heaven," and is deeply revered by the indigenous Khasi community. Officials said the Commissioner sought blessings from God the Creator, marking a respectful gesture towards the spiritual heritage of Meghalaya. Deputy Commissioner of Ri



Bhoi District, Abhilash Baranwal, and Meghalaya's Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. BDR Tiwari, were part of the delegation accompanying the Election Commissioner. Members of Seng Khasi Kmie—custodians of the sacred site—received the visitors with a traditional welcome. Vice President D.L. Nongbri and Assistant General Secretary Paia B. Synrem led the reception, joined by representatives of the

Jylli Pyrkhut Kam and the Lum Sohpetbneng Committee. During the interaction at the summit, Seng Khasi elders explained the cultural foundations, traditional values and spiritual beliefs associated with Lum Sohpetbneng. They presented Dr. Sandhu with publications documenting Khasi heritage, the historical significance of the sacred peak, and the community's efforts to preserve indigenous identity.

Mohan Bhagwat meets Janajati leaders in Imphal

Imphal, Nov 23: RSS Sarsangchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat met Janajati leaders in Imphal on the second day of his three-day visit to Manipur, urging communities to work together for unity, character-building and social harmony. The discussion, held against the backdrop of ongoing tensions in the state, centred on strengthening collective responsibility to secure lasting peace and progress. More than 200 representatives from various Janajati communities attended the interaction.



general secretary (organisation) B. L. Santhosh, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state BJP president Diplu Saikia, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, national secretary and MP Kamakhya Tasa, state in-charge Harish Dwivedi, and organisational general secretary Ranjib Kumar Sharma, among others.

NORTH EAST BJP announces four candidates for key Zila Parishad seats in Kalaktang

Itanagar, Nov 23: Over the course of the previous 24 hours, security forces have detained four hardline militants, including a self-described major, and confiscated an enormous cache of weapons and ammunition, including 12 advanced weaponry, from various districts of Manipur, according to officials on Monday.

Dreaded extremist Kojiam Ibochouba, also known as Inao or Sumo (45), was among those detained, according to authorities. Kojiam Ibochouba, a self-described "Major" of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its sister organization, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), is a wanted insurgent in relation to the 2017 Ambush on Assam Rifles at Sajik Tampak in Chandel district, according to a senior police official. On November 13, 2017, a strong improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in Maha Mani hamlet in Chandel District, killing two Assam Rifles troopers and injuring six others. The police officer claims that a sizable cache of sophisticated firearms, including ammunition and guns developed in the United States, was found in Kharungpat village in Kakching District as a result of Kojiam Ibochouba's admission. At a farm near Kharungpat village, the weapons and ammo were hidden inside a



plastic barrel. Three further militants from the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) were detained by the security forces. They were taken into custody in the Imphal West district. By intimidating truck drivers and stealing their keys and documents, the detained terrorists engaged in extortion activities on the Jiribam Imphal Road. Khuraijam Shyam Singh, also known as Mangal, is a 37-year-old PREPAK terrorist who engaged in extortion in the Imphal valley and unlawfully settled or mediated cases involving crimes against women. The official stated that search operations and area dominance are being conducted in the peripheral, mixed-population, and vulnerable areas across districts as part of the security forces' ongoing crackdown against the extremists.

Naga common platform pushes for early, inclusive solution to long-standing political issue

Kohima, Nov 23: The Naga Common Platform (NCP) on Tuesday renewed calls for an early, comprehensive and honourable settlement to the decades-long Naga political issue, as thousands gathered at the stakeholders' rally held at Agri Expo in Chumoukedima. The NCP unanimously adopted three major resolutions urging the Government of India and Naga negotiators to conclude the peace process without further delay, reflecting the growing frustration among citizens after nearly three decades of dialogue. Organised by the Nagaland Gaon Buras Fed-



eration along with several apex civil society bodies, the rally was marked by strong messages of unity and urgency. The NCP reaffirmed full support for the historic agreements signed between the Government of India, NSCN (IM), and the Working Committee of the Naga National Political

Groups (NNPGs) in 2015 and 2017. The platform appealed to New Delhi to work towards a political settlement rooted in the Framework Agreement and the Agreed Position, saying such a resolution was essential to bring lasting peace and stability across Naga areas.

Mizoram raises DA to 44% for state employees

Aizawl, Nov 23: The Mizoram government has approved a 4 per cent increase in dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees, raising the rate from 40 per cent to 44 per cent of basic pay with effect from November 1. The decision was finalised during a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, a senior official confirmed.

Along with the latest revision, the cabinet has also cleared an additional 2 per cent hike that will come into effect from April 1 next year. With this, the DA for state employees will reach 46 per cent in April 2026. Officials pointed out that although the increase will provide significant relief to government employees, the state still lags behind the central government, where employees currently receive around 53 per cent DA. In another key decision, the Council of Ministers approved a special incentive allowance for police personnel in the assistant sub-inspector rank and below who are serving with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on deputation. The move is aimed at strengthening anti-corruption efforts and encouraging personnel posted in sensitive assignments.



Tripura showcases its organic farming success at Global Expo in Dubai

Agartala, Nov 23: Tripura's strides in organic agriculture received global recognition this week as the state presented its farming achievements at the Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo (MENOPE) 2025 in Dubai. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath led the delegation at the Dubai World Trade Centre, where organic producers, traders, and investors from across the world gathered to explore emerging markets and sustainable farming models. Showcasing a diverse range of organic produce, Tripura attracted considerable attention from international delegates, particularly for its GI-tagged Queen Pineapple, premium aromatic rice varieties such as Kalikhasa and Harinarayan, Bird's Eye Chilli, Gandharaj Lemon, White Sesame, and Foxtail Millet. Buyers and food industry experts

BJP sets ambitious 103-seat goal for 2026 Assam polls, reaffirms NDA alliance strategy

Guwahati, Nov 23: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has set a sweeping and ambitious electoral target ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, declaring that the party—along with its NDA allies—will aim to secure 103 of the 126 seats. The decision was formalised on November 21 during a high-level core committee

meeting, signalling the beginning of an intensive political and organisational push in the state. The meeting, attended by key national and state leaders, served as a platform to review the party's groundwork, assess governance feedback, and streamline strategies for the upcoming polls. Present at the session were BJP national

BUSINESS

Volkswagen pares its EV strategy for India while looking for a local partner to increase market share

Mumbai: According to persons familiar with the situation, Volkswagen AG is looking for a local partner to help increase its meager market share while cutting the expenses of producing electric vehicles in India by a third. Skoda Automobile According to the people previously quoted on condition of anonymity, Volkswagen India Pvt. Ltd. has reduced costs to roughly \$700 million from \$1 billion for a platform it is developing to build electric cars because the biggest automaker in Europe is unwilling to keep investing billions of dollars in a market where it has only managed to eke out a 2% market share after nearly 20 years. After negotiations with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. went down last year, Volkswagen is looking for an Indian partner to share expenses and risk, according to the sources. For the time being, they stated that finding an ally is essential to obtaining additional inter-

nal finance. According to the persons, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India is in talks with several possible partners, including an Indian contract manufacturer. According to them, the business has also made contact with JSW Group, the local partner of SAIC Motor Corp. Ltd. in China, in order to discuss a possible collaboration. An email for comments on the cost reductions in India was not answered by a Volkswagen representative. Along with a portfolio of high-end brands like Lamborghini, Audi, and Porsche, the Volkswagen Group also sells vehicles under the Skoda and Volkswagen names. Carmakers must transition to greener technologies when India's stricter local carbon-emission regulations take effect in 2027. VW is considering short-term solutions, such as EV imports to cover the gap in the event that a trade agreement is reached between the EU and India, as its EV



debut is expected to occur in 2028. The spending cuts also reflect growing caution among global carmakers balancing investment between India, China and western markets. While Klaus Zellmer, chairman of the board at Skoda Auto, has called India its most important global market outside Europe last year, the automaker still hasn't seen enough traction to boost its market share. Its Skoda brand is

showing signs of progress. The locally-built compact SUV Kylaq, with an affordable price tag, is finding more Indian buyers. European automakers have long struggled to make profits in India's price-sensitive market, where homegrown players like Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., Hyundai Motor India Ltd., Mahindra and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. dominate with affordable, high-mileage models.

LTIMindtree rises 54% from its March low

Mumbai: The price of LTIMindtree's shares reached a nine-month high of ₹5,919 on the BSE today, up 3% during intraday trading on Wednesday, following the company's announcement that it is expanding its global partnership with Microsoft to accelerate the adoption of "Microsoft Azure" and promote AI-powered business transformation for businesses. The L&T Group company's stock price has recovered 54% from its 52-week low of ₹3,841.05, which it reached on April 7, 2025. Since February 2025, it has been trading at its highest level. On December 12, 2024, LTIMindtree reached a 52-week high of ₹6,764.80. The IT company's stock has outpaced the market over the last month, rising



6% while the BSE Sensex has increased by 0.63% and the BSE information technology (IT) index has increased by 4%. Shares of LTIMindtree were trading 2.7% higher at ₹5,912.30 at 10:48 AM, while the BSE Sensex had increased by 0.22%. LTIMindtree, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company, has announced expansion of its global collaboration with Microsoft to accelerate 'Microsoft Azure' adoption and drive AI-powered business transformation for enterprises. As a part of this collaboration, LTIMindtree will enable faster cloud adoption

and unlock enhanced business value for joint customers through advanced AI solutions. This collaboration, as per the company, underscores LTIMindtree's ambition to deliver significant growth in Azure-related engagements, leveraging the strength of its 360° relationship with Microsoft across all the solution areas. Earlier, on Monday, November 17, LTIMindtree had informed that the company was selected by Convatec, a medical products and technologies company, as its partner for a major upgrade of Convatec's core business systems using SAP S/4HANA. Under the agreement, LTIMindtree will guide the design and rollout of SAP's digital platform across Convatec's global operations.

Piyush Goyal opens a site for trade intelligence

New Delhi: Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal stated on Tuesday that businesses must be more open with trade data in order to assist stakeholders in making the best choices. He made this statement while introducing a trade intelligence portal. According to him, the Trade Intelligence & Analytics (TIA) portal will provide new insights for importers, exporters, startups, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). He added that smaller businesses, even those located in remote areas, will now have access to data that was previously exclusive to larger enterprises. He also noted that the portal will help exporters better utilise the free trade agreements (FTAs).

Describing the current world tariff situation as a wake-up call, he said the government and the private sector must pool resources at this critical moment to avoid regretting a lost opportunity. Goyal invited stakeholders to bring their demands and assured them that the ministry would make every effort to address them. If an issue concerns the department itself, it will be resolved quickly; if it concerns other departments, commerce will actively coordinate and work towards a solution, he said, urging stakeholders to be more demanding so that necessary improvements could be accelerated. Goyal said the ministry of commerce and industry had put in significant effort to develop this platform.

Exchanges give the reorganization plan "no objection," which causes Gabriel India to rise 8%

The buying interest on the counter came after the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE issued a "no objection" letter to the company for the merger with and into Asia Investments

Mumbai: The BSE saw an 8.3% increase in Gabriel India shares, reaching an intraday high of ₹1,066.8 per share. The share price of Gabriel India was up 7.9% at ₹1,062.9 at 11:01 AM. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was up 0.23 percent at 84,867.02. The company's market capitalization was ₹15,267.91 crore. A share's 52-week high was ₹1,386.45, while its 52-week low was ₹387.05. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE sent the company a "no objection" notice regarding the merger with and into Asia Investments and the demerger of Asia Investments' automotive enterprise into Gabriel India, which sparked the purchasing activity on the counter. The document stated, "We would like to notify you that the Board of Directors of the Company has approved the draft Composite Scheme of Arrangement at its meeting held today, June 30, 2025, after considering the recommendations of the Audit Committee and Committee of Independent Directors." Brake fluids, radiator coolants, diesel exhaust fluids (DEF) or ad-blue, and poly-



urethane (PU) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) adhesives, mainly for filtration goods and sound insulation purposes, are all produced and supplied by Anchemco India. Asia Investments is engaged in making investments in subsidiaries / joint ventures and providing management advisory services. Gabriel India is engaged in the business of manufacturing and distributing ride control products, catering to all segments in the automotive industry. The company being merged (Anchemco) is fully owned by Asia Investments and its subsidiary. Also, Gabriel India is a subsidiary of Asia Investments. This whole plan is designed to strategically reposition Gabriel India as a more diverse provider of mobility solutions. By simplifying the corporate structure, they expect to increase value for everyone involved. Specifically, merging Anchemco into Asia Investments and then demerging Asia Investments' automotive business into Gabriel India is expected to bring several benefits.

The IPO for Sudeep Pharma launches on November 21

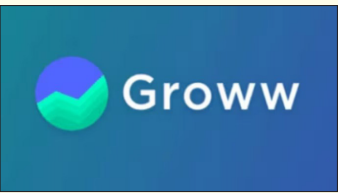
New Delhi: On Friday, Sudeep Pharma, a producer of pharmaceuticals, will begin its The public offering (OFS) with investors sell-shares valued at ₹800 crore million shares totaling ₹95 for Sudeep Pharma's IPO share. 25 shares per lot is size. Subscriptions for the through Tuesday, November 28, 2025, the company's shares are expected to make their D-Street debut. MUFG The issue's registrar is Intime India. The principal managers for the book are ICICI Securities and IIFL Capital Services. The business plans to use ₹75.81 crore from the net fresh issue proceeds to purchase machinery for the production line at the Nandesari Facility, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). The remaining money will be put toward general business needs. The company generates a significant portion of its revenue from a limited number of customers. Its top five customers contributed ₹42.57 crore or 34.08 per cent of revenue for the quarter ended June 30, 2025; ₹149.37 crore or 29.76 per cent in FY25; ₹124.5 crore or 27.11 per cent in FY24; and ₹149.2 crore or 34.8 per cent in FY23. For the three months ended June 30, 2025, the largest customer accounted for ₹182.10 million, or 14.58 per cent of revenue, while in FY25, FY24, and FY23, contributions were ₹409.22 million (8.15 per cent), ₹419.88 million (9.14 per cent), and ₹495.37 million (11.55 per cent), respectively.



November 21, 2025, er of pharmaceutical first public offering. sists of an offer for sale ing up to 13.5 million and a new issue of 1.6 crore. The pricing range is ₹563 to ₹593 per the minimal application issue will be accepted ber 25, 2025. On Friday,

Groww shares hit a lower circuit after plunging 10%

New Delhi: Billionbrains Garage Ventures, the parent company of Groww, saw its first significant setback on Wednesday following an impressive post-listing surge. In stark contrast to the over 90% gain investors had seen over the previous few days, Groww's share price dropped 10% in early trade and fell directly to the lower circuit. The decline appears to be a typical example of profit-booking following an extended run. In just four sessions, Groww nearly doubled from its November 12 listing price of Rs 100 to Rs 194. Moves like these are usually followed by a cooling-off period as early investors and traders lock in gains while sentiment is still strong. A big part of today's slide also comes from what unfolded on Tuesday. More than 30 lakh shares were pushed into the auction window at the NSE after many traders short-sold the stock expecting a dip. Instead, Groww kept rising, leaving them unable to deliver shares on the settlement date. That squeeze had signalled how overheated the counter had become, and once the pressure eased, the stock was bound to correct.



RBI's inflation model is under criticism due to ongoing overestimates

New Delhi: Economists are increasingly questioning the Reserve Bank of India's inflation forecasting process after the central bank repeatedly overstated pricing pressures this year, which led to a hawkish policy stance. In the first three months of the year, the central bank's inflation miss was 0.7 percentage points, the largest disparity in nearly six years and significantly more than what economists had predicted. The estimates for the next two quarters were likewise off, but by smaller amounts—0.2 and 0.1 points, respectively. Following an unexpectedly low inflation report in October, economists anticipate another significant miss in the coming quarter. This indicates that the RBI's 2.6% forecast for the fiscal year ending in March, which was released as recently as October, appears to be out of date. Tanvee Gupta Jain, an economist with UBS Group AG, predicts that inflation would reach a record low of between 2% and 2.2% over that time. Keeping inflation at 4% is the RBI's mandate. The conclusion is that, despite the fact that the economy undoubtedly needed a boost after US President Donald Trump imposed 50% tariffs on Indian imports, the RBI has likely been more hawkish than necessary and reluctant to lower interest rates, according to experts. An email asking for more details was not answered by the RBI. Governor Sanjay Malhotra lowered interest rates by 50 basis points in June, which was more than anticipated. However, he changed the policy stance to neutral, a rather hawkish move that indicated a more limited possibility for additional rate easing. Since then, despite the reduction in inflation, the RBI has maintained rates. Sonal Varma, an



economist at Nomura Holdings Ltd., said central banks tend to be conservative in their forecasts, which often "embed policy intentions" rather than pure predictions. The risk, though, is when inflation consistently comes in below forecasts, inflation-adjusted interest rates "end up being much higher than intended, and monetary policy becomes unintentionally restrictive," she said. "Repeated misses can also hurt policy credibility." The main reason the RBI and economists have gotten inflation forecasts so wrong this year is because of the sharp drop in food prices. Harvests have been strong after a favorable monsoon season, while improvements in supply chain management have helped lower costs. Food makes up 46 per cent of the consumer price index, which means it has an outsized impact on inflation outcomes. In October, food prices contracted a record 5.02 per cent from a year earlier. "Inflation forecasts have gone wrong for everyone this year, but what matters is that policy adjusts in line with actual outcomes and

new information," said A. Prasanna, chief economist of ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd. He expects the RBI to cut rates one last time this year by a quarter point in December. At the August monetary policy meeting, Malhotra said the volatility in food prices had swung headline inflation by as much as 3 percentage points on average over the past eight to nine years. He noted that core inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel components, had picked up only slightly. The RBI updated its inflation forecasting framework in 2023, called the Quarterly Projection Model 2.0, which incorporated more detailed modeling of fiscal-monetary interactions, domestic fuel pricing, capital flows, exchange rates, and central bank interventions. The model is now being further refined with new data to enhance its "nowcasting and forecasting of key macroeconomic variables and developing more robust models," Malhotra said in a press briefing after the first policy meeting he chaired in February. Another reason for the overestimation in inflation could be an outdated consumer price basket, which hasn't been revised for over a decade. India's Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation will release an updated gauge early next year, helping to mitigate some of the forecasting errors. Similar forecast errors have been seen in economic growth estimates as well. Gross domestic product expanded 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2024, compared with the RBI's 7 per cent projection, marking one of its biggest forecasting misses in recent years. In the April-June quarter, GDP grew 7.8 per cent, well above the central bank's 6.5 per cent estimate.

Ashok Leyland and FAMCO Qatar collaborate to boost presence in Gulf markets

The move builds on Ashok Leyland's expansion into Saudi Arabia with FAMCO KSA last year, reinforcing the strong strategic alliance between Al-Futtaim and Ashok Leyland



Mumbai: As part of its aspirations to expand internationally, commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland announced on Wednesday that it has collaborated with FAMCO Qatar, a company of the Al-Futtaim Group based in Qatar, to increase its footprint in the nation off the Persian Gulf.

The action strengthens the solid strategic partnership between Al-Futtaim and Ashok Leyland and builds on Ashok Leyland's entry into Saudi Arabia with FAMCO KSA last year. According to Ashok Leyland, the company will launch its entire line of commercial vehicles—including the new electric bus—through its collaboration with FAMCO Qatar, catering to the demands of regional companies and communities. The flagship "Falcon" and

"Oyster" buses, as well as the adaptable "Boss" and "Partner" light and medium-duty trucks, are part of the extensive product line, according to the company. Additionally, the partnership makes use of Al-Futtaim's robust regional network to provide dependable fleet and after-sales support. "In collaboration with FAMCO Qatar and the Al-Futtaim Group, we are launching Ashok Leyland's top-notch commercial vehicles in Qatar. According to Rajesh R, Head of International Operations at Ashok Leyland, "Our presence here reflects our deep commitment to shaping the future of mobility in these markets and extends our proven track record in the Middle East." Ashok Leyland said that its vehicles

across fuel types and models are designed to give operational longevity, optimal fuel efficiency, and a lower total cost of ownership to the customers from across segments -- fleet operator, logistics companies, SMEs and public transportation businesses. "Following our success in Saudi Arabia, we are bringing that (collaboration) impact to Qatar - a nation investing in its infrastructure, its people, and its future. With Ashok Leyland's trusted range, including the new electric buses, and today's debut of FAMCO Qatar, we are helping shape a more connected, more sustainable tomorrow for Qatar's businesses and communities," said Ramez Hamdan, Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Industrial Equipment.

HCLTech increases 4% as it opens a new location in Calgary to increase its presence in Canada



New Delhi: At ₹1,656.55 per share, HCL Technologies' shares reached an intraday high after rising 3.8% on the BSE. At 11:03 AM, the share price of HCLTech was ₹1,655.85, up 3.83%. At 84,856.35, the BSE Sensex was up 0.22 percent. The company had a ₹4,49,111.57 crore market capitalization. The 52-week low was ₹1,304 per share, while the 52-week high was ₹2,011. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Invest Alberta to promote technology collaboration and innovation in the province, the company announced plans to extend its operations in Canada by opening an office in Calgary, Alberta, which caused the stock to surge. The petition states that the new facility would function as a client co-innovation and delivery center and is built with cooperation as its top priority. In order to spur innovation, stimulate creativity, and provide game-changing technological solutions across industries, HCLTech is able to collaborate closely with customers and ecosystem partners. The document stated, "HCLTech supports more than 50 major Canadian enterprises by operating delivery and innovation centers in Mississauga, Moncton, and Vancouver." In order

to strengthen its position in the province and work with regional businesses, academic institutions, and governmental stakeholders, the company has also established a strategic alliance with Invest Alberta. According to Dave Chopra, executive vice president and head of Canada Country at HCLTech, "the opening of our Calgary office marks an important step in expanding our presence in Western Canada and advancing the digital transformation journeys of our clients." "We see tremendous opportunity to co-innovate with the region's growing technology community as we deepen our collaboration with Invest Alberta and accelerate our focus on AI, cybersecurity, and data," he continued. HCLTech is a global technology company, delivering capabilities centered around AI, digital, engineering, cloud and software, powered by a broad portfolio of technology services and products. Invest Alberta engages the world and provides high-end tailored support to companies, investors, and major new projects. With team members strategically positioned in key markets around the world, Invest Alberta works to break down barriers so businesses can start up, scale up, and succeed without limits.

Shriya Saran alerts fans to a WhatsApp impersonator and exhorts them to be on the lookout for fraud

Mumbai: Actor Shriya Saran has warned her fans that someone is using her name and photo to contact them on WhatsApp. The actor publicly pleaded with the impostor to quit by posting screenshots on Instagram. She expressed anxiety because the impostor was not just contacting strangers but also people she admires. Shriya posted on Instagram, saying, “Please stop writing to people and wasting time (sic).” She cautioned her followers to exercise caution and posted a screenshot of the bogus number. The ‘Mirai’ actor clarified her non-involvement, writing, “This is not me! Not my number! On a lighter note, the only good thing is, this crappy person is reaching out to people I admire and would love to work with! Very strange! Why would



you waste your time to do this? Go get a life, not someone’s impersonator (sic).” She urged her contacts to disregard any such messages. She also posted a warning on her Instagram Stories, by posting, “Scam alert Fake.. Getting calls from friends that someone is trying to im-

personate me, kindly stay away from this fake number from any communications, work booking, strictly no payments (sic).” Her posts prompted concern among fans, with many expressing support and frustration. One comment read, “Really sorry you’re having to deal with something

this stressful, Shriya Ma’am. It must be so frustrating to see someone misuse your name and trouble people like this. You handled it with so much grace, and your real fans completely understand your feelings—no impersonator can ever come close to the warmth, dignity and that lovely smile you’re known for. More strength to you Ma’am (sic).” Other followers advised Saran to ignore the scammer or report the case to authorities. One user suggested, “Why you giving attention to this? Just avoid,” while another advised, “Madam please share this number to Cyber crime or lodge complaint and they will take care of it.” Shriya Saran’s recent film appearances include roles in the Tamil film ‘Retro’ and the Telugu fantasy action film ‘Mirai’.

Javed Akhtar sobbed after seeing 120 Bahadur

Mumbai: On November 21, “120 Bahadur” is scheduled to open in theaters. Actor Farhan Akhtar, director Razneesh Ghai, and producer Ritesh Sidhwani discussed the movie with India Today’s Marya Shakil prior to its premiere. Farhan talked candidly about how his father, Javed Akhtar, felt about the movie. Farhan Akhtar revealed that the renowned author and lyricist had already seen the movie when asked how he felt about the teaser. “He loved it. He’s seen the film. He’s seen the film in an edit as well. He was very moved. He’s not somebody who cries very easily when he’s watching a film. But he was very, very teary and very, very choked up at the end. So we really felt like we’ve managed to do something.” While Javed Akhtar has watched the film, Farhan shared that his sister, filmmaker Zoya Akhtar, will “watch it now on the (November) 19th with the rest of the film industry.” Based on the Battle of Rezang La, the film also stars Raashii Khanna, Sparsh Wallia, Vivan Bhatena, Dhanveer Singh, Digvijay Pratap, Sahib Verma, Ankit Siwach, Devendra Ahirwar, Ashutosh Shukla, Brijesh Karanwal, Atul Singh, Ajinkya Deo and Eijaz Khan.

Priyanka Chopra’s ‘healing days’ in Goa before Varanasi event were replete with stunning views

Mumbai: Actor Priyanka Chopra has had a hectic agenda since her return to India from the US. The actor spent a few days in Goa before heading to Hyderabad for the major Varanasi GlobeTrotter event. She came to Instagram on Tuesday to share images of what appears to be a pleasant vacation. Take a peek. Priyanka’s images show her spending enough time at the sumptuous Goan property of Hyderabad socialites Pinky Reddy and GV Sanjay Reddy, Palacio Aguada. She also provided a look of the private beach belonging to the property. Some more photographs show her basking in the sun at the beach, collecting shells and playing carrom.



Sharing pictures of her Goan vacation, Priyanka wrote, “A few healing days in one of my most favorite cities in the world. Goa is exceptional in every way. From its hospitality, to its people, to the food and the kindness in its

very culture. She can be whatever you need her to be.” She also added, “To playing carrom with friends. Lost many times, clearly need more practice.” Priyanka also revealed that apart from Palacio Aguada, she also stayed

at Pousada By The Beach, Taj Holiday Village Resort and The Second House. She ended the note with, “It just wasn’t enough time. visit when you can.” After films like Mary Kom, Dil Dhadakne Do, Bajirao Mastani and Jai Gangaaajal in 2014-16, the only Indian films Priyanka has acted in is The Sky Is Pink (2019). The actor is all set to return to Indian cinema after years with SS Rajamouli’s Telugu film Varanasi, which also stars Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The film, launched in Hyderabad on Saturday, will be released in theatres for Sankranti 2027. The actor also has The Bluff and Judgement Day lined up for release in Hollywood.

Pankaj Tripathi produces Perfect Family

New Delhi: ‘Perfect Family’ is an eight-episode dramedy that actor Pankaj Tripathi is now producing. It will be published on YouTube under a structured pay model. The JAR Series YouTube channel will host the series’ debut on November 27. One of the first long-format Indian shows to use this distribution strategy on YouTube is Perfect Family, which was conceived by Palak Bhambri and produced by Ajay Rai of JAR Pictures and Mohit Chhabra. The first two episodes of the model are available for free, but the subsequent episodes need a one-time purchase of Rs 59. The format seeks to offer an inexpensive, worldwide viewing choice. Directed by Sachin Pathak, the show features Gulshan Devaiah, Neha Dhupia, Manoj Pahwa, Seema Pahwa, and Girija Oak, among others. The story follows a family compelled to attend therapy after an incident involving their young daughter. The series uses comedy to explore attitudes toward mental-health support in Indian households. Tripathi said he was drawn to both the story and the distribution format. He added that Pathak’s approach to the subject matter was sensitive and accessible.

Pulkit and Varun, the Fukrey team, are back in comedy Ketu Rahu

New Delhi: The upcoming movie “Rahu Ketu” is scheduled to open in theaters on January 16, 2026. Actors Pulkit Samrat and Varun Sharma, who are well-known for their roles in the “Fukrey” series, are back in the comedy, while Shalini Pandey plays a key part alongside them. The film, which was written and directed by Vipul Vig, blends aspects of modern humor with tradition. Amit Sial, Manurishi Chaddha, Chunky Pandey, and Piyush Mishra are featured in the cast. The song “Papi” is included on a recently published motion poster, introducing the tone and main characters of the movie. Umesh Kumar Bansal, CBO, Zee Studios, said in a statement, “At Zee Studios, we’re committed to championing stories that break the clutter while staying deeply connect-



ed to Indian audiences. Rahu Ketu does exactly that. It taps into our cultural belief systems with a playful twist and brings together a lead cast that’s loved for their comic timing. We are proud to back a film that pushes the comedy genre forward with originality, relevance, and heart.”

Manoj Bajpayee, Jaideep Ahlawat on reuniting for ‘The Family Man 3’

New Delhi: Manoj Bajpayee and Jaideep Ahlawat reconnect as adversaries in “The Family Man 3” after playing father and son in “Gangs of Wasseypur” years earlier. Additionally, the two are constantly complimenting one another. Ahlawat, 45, holds Bajpayee in the highest regard. In response, the 56-year-old veteran says he is astounded by the “Pataal Lok” star’s skill. “I can discuss any scene from ‘Paatal Lok’ that I witnessed. I’ve discussed it in great depth with him. I frequently discuss “Paatal Lok” since I really enjoy Jaideep’s work. In an interview, Bajpayee, Ahlawat, and the other members of “The Family Man 3” team said, “He has done such a good job.” Ahlawat, in turn,



Ranveer likens Dakota Fanning to Sara Arjun of Dhurandhar

Mumbai: The highly awaited trailer for the upcoming film ‘Dhurandhar’ in Mumbai on Tuesday, but the emphasis wasn’t just on the high-octane action – it was squarely on the film’s youngest actor. Actor Ranveer Singh provided a big vote of confidence, effusively praising his 20-year-old co-star, Sara Arjun, for her “remarkable” acting skills and comparing her to Hollywood superstar Dakota Fanning. Speaking at the premiere ceremony, Singh was quick to label Arjun a “prodigy,” marvelling at her seasoned performance despite ‘Dhurandhar’ marking her official Bollywood debut. “Sara here is a prodigy. You just know some people are prodigies since childhood. Much like Dakota Fanning in Hollywood,” Singh said. “Sara, I think it’s a testament to you that you beat thousands of other candidates to land this part. It feels like she has done 50 films before this. So precocious as a person, as a performer. You are one of the finest actors that I have shared the screen with.” Singh, known for his energy and dramatic flair, even credited Arjun with elevating his own performance, adding, “You make me look better, and I have a heartfelt gratitude for that. I can’t believe it’s your first film.” While ‘Dhurandhar’ is Arjun’s Hindi film debut, she is already a known face in the Southern cinema landscape, having earned critical acclaim for her work as a child artiste. She earlier received considerable appreciation for her performance as the young Nandini (the character represented by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan) in Mani Ratnam’s



epic ‘Ponniyin Selvan’ flicks. She originally garnered attention in 2011 for her exceptional performance alongside Vikram in the Tamil film ‘Deiva Thirumagal’ and received acclaim for her work in the 2014 film ‘Saivam’ ‘Dhurandhar’ is primed to be a huge release this holiday season, with a formidable ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi. The film is written, directed, and co-produced by Aditya Dhar, the filmmaker behind the blockbuster ‘Uri: The Surgical Strike’. It is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar under the banners Jio Studios and B62 Studios, with music composed by Shashwat Sachdev. The excitement generated by Ranveer Singh’s extraordinary commendation of Sara Arjun further amps up the anticipation for ‘Dhurandhar’s’ theatrical release on December 5.

‘Moana’ live-action adaptation to hit theatres in July 2026

The producers said on Monday that a live-action version of the 2016 Disney movie Moana, which stars Catherine Lag-aia as the title character, will open in theaters on July 10, 2026. A preview for the next movie was released by Disney Studios, giving fans a first peek at the characters. Dwayne Johnson, a Hollywood actor who provided the voice of Maui in the animated feature films, will play the character again. Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia, Beau Flynn, Hiram Garcia, and Lin-Manuel Miranda are among the producers of the live-action movie, which is directed by Emmy and Tony Award winner Thomas Kail. Kail, Scott Sheldon, Charles Newirth, and Auli’i Cravalho are executive producers. In the animated movies Moana and Moana 2, Cravalho provided the voice of Moana. The 2016 film follows the journey of a spirited Polynesian teenager Moana, who sets sail across the ocean to save her island from a curse. On the way, she teams up with Maui, overcomes obstacles, and learns about her identity as a seafarer. To bring back harmony to her people and the ocean, Moana decides to restore the heart of Te Fiti, a goddess with the power to create life. Directed by Dave Derrick Jr, Moana 2, released on 27 November, took fans on a new adventure with Moana, Maui and a group of unusual sailors.



Kunal Kemmu will portray a single parent in the upcoming comedy series “Single Papa” on Netflix

New Delhi: Netflix revealed on Wednesday that Bollywood actor-director Kunal Kemmu will star in the comedy-drama Single Papa, which also stars Prajakta Koli. In the announcement post, Netflix also revealed the comedy series’ first-look poster. “Chhota packet, aur bohot bada dhamaka.” Gehlot parivaar ke kalesh mein aapka swagat hai. The streamer posted on Instagram, “Watch Single Papa, out on December 12, only on Netflix.” Ishita Moitra and Neeraj Udhvani created and co-produced the series, which tells the tale of Gaurav Gehlot, also known as GG, who is portrayed by Kunal Kemmu. His family is so taken aback by his abrupt choice to adopt a child immediately following his divorce that they momentarily contemplate resetting him.



Unprecedented kalesh ensues as the Gehlots struggle to comprehend how a man who still loses his socks intends to raise an entire human. According to the show’s official synopsis, “Single Papa, bursting with flavor, heart, and the unmistakable energy of the Great Indian Family, premieres on De-

cember 12, only on Netflix.” “The messy, colorful chaos that makes a family unique is depicted by Single Papa. I laughed and cried while playing Gaurav. In a statement, Kemmu said, “I’m thrilled for everyone to meet my adorable baby and join this joyride with my Great Indian Family.”

said he has seen almost all of Bajpayee’s films. “There is a lot of great work that he has done. If you look at his every performance then that in itself will become a master class for many actors, I’m saying this very genuinely...” The two actors first met on the sets of “Chittagong” before they went on to work in “Wasseypur”, a two-part revenge saga by Anurag Kashyap. The two stars recall with amusement an event for Bajpayee’s film “Jugnuma” in which Kashyap, Ahlawat and co-actor Vijay Varma touched Bajpayee’s feet. The moment quickly became viral on social media. Bajpayee said he was embarrassed and blamed Kashyap for instigating others.

India’s Butter Chicken Ranks Amongst Top 5 Chicken Dishes In The World

Popular food and travel guide TasteAtlas has unveiled the list of the 100 best chicken dishes in the world. From South Korea to France, the list features delicious chicken recipes from around the globe. Topping the list on rank 1 is Pilic Topkapi, a classic Turkish chicken dish featuring boneless chicken pieces like thighs, stuffed with a savoury rice pilaf. The stuffing is a flavourful mix of pine nuts, currants, onions, and spices, creating a balance of savoury and subtly sweet flavours.In the second spot is Rfissa from Morocco, a traditional dish of stewed chicken pieces, onions, and lentils served over shredded msemmen, old bread, or trid pastry. This is followed by Korean fried chicken on rank 3 and Peruvian roast chicken on rank 4.Featured amongst the top 5 is Butter Chicken from India, pre-



pared with a combination of roasted chicken, plenty of spices, a rich gravy made with cream, tomatoes, and butter. This dish is best accompanied by naan bread and garnished with even more butter, coriander, or green chillies.

3 healthy vegan recipes recipes that you can add to your diet



For the uninformed, a vegan diet is primarily plant-based while eliminating all forms of animal-based foods, such as dairy, eggs, and even honey. Often vegan diet may be confused with a vegetarian diet because of the overlapping focus on plant-based foods. But vegetarians do consume animal by-products like cow milk, cheese, yoghurt, and honey. But vegans look for alternatives to these by-products, such as oat milk, tofu or vegan cheese. While both diets, vegetarian and vegan diets, focus on fruit, vegetables, grains and legumes, the vegan diet takes a step further towards being cruelty-free as it rejects all forms of animal products, not just meat. If on this day, you are looking to add new recipes to your vegan diet, or turn over a new leaf and test the waters of this environmentally conscious lifestyle, you can consider adding these recipes. Chef Simran Singh Thapar, executive chef at The Leela Palace in Bengaluru, shared with HT Lifestyle three nutritionally rich desi recipes that are vegan.

1. Multigrain methi missi
Combine all flours, chopped methi leaves, onion,

green chili, ginger, ajwain, and salt in a mixing bowl.zAdd a little water to knead into a soft dough. Rest the dough for 10–15 minutes. Divide into small portions and roll into flat discs. Cook each on a hot griddle with a drizzle of oil until golden brown on both sides. Serve warm with curd or pickle.

2. Ragi Idli
Soak rice, urad dal, and methi seeds separately for 4–5 hours. Grind urad dal and methi seeds into a smooth batter. Grind rice coarsely and mix with ragi flour. Combine both batters, add salt, and allow to ferment overnight. Pour the batter into greased idli moulds and steam for 10–12 minutes. Serve hot with chutney or sambar.

3. Green smoothie
Combine all ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth and creamy.Serve immediately for the best flavour and nutrition.

Ghiya halwa benefits for boosting digestion, energy and overall wellness



Ghiya halwa is one of those traditional Indian desserts that manages to feel humble and indulgent at the same time. Many people enjoy it for its soft texture and comforting flavour, without realising that it brings surprising health advantages too. Made from bottle gourd, also known as lauki or ghiya, this dessert carries nutrients that support digestion, hydration, energy levels and general well-being. When prepared thoughtfully, ghiya halwa becomes far more than a festive sweet. It transforms into a gentle, nourishing dish that suits people of all ages and lifestyles. This scientific backing helps explain why ghiya halwa benefits extend well beyond taste.

Ghiya halwa benefits you should know for daily wellness

Before exploring the detailed advantages, it helps to understand that the ghiya halwa benefits stem from the vegetable itself. Bottle gourd is naturally hydrating, rich in fibre and gentle on the stomach. When turned into halwa with mindful preparation, it becomes both delicious and nourishing. Additionally, ghiya halwa provides essential vitamins and minerals, supports digestion, aids in weight management, and can help regulate blood sugar levels, making it a wholesome dessert option that combines taste with health benefits for people of all ages.

Digestive support is one of the core ghiya halwa benefits

Among the most valued ghiya halwa benefits is its positive effect on digestion. Bottle gourd is naturally rich in water and dietary fibre, making it light, easy to process and gentle on the stomach. People who experience acidity, bloating or sluggish digestion often find ghiya-based dishes soothing because the vegetable cools the gut and helps regulate bowel

movements.

In halwa form, ghiya becomes softer and even easier to digest, which makes it ideal for those recovering from illness or dealing with sensitive digestion.

Hydration and cooling effects contribute to ghiya halwa benefits

Ghiya is known for its cooling properties, which makes hydration another important part of the ghiya halwa benefits. The vegetable contains a high percentage of water and essential minerals that help maintain fluid balance and soothe heat within the body. Even when enjoyed warm, the underlying cooling nature of ghiya helps calm the digestive tract.For people who often feel inter-

nal heat or acidity, including ghiya halwa occasionally can bring comfort without feeling heavy.

Heart-friendly nutrients are included in ghiya halwa benefits

Few people associate halwa with heart health, yet ghiya offers several cardiovascular advantages. Bottle gourd contains potassium, magnesium and fibre, all of which support heart function. One of the long term ghiya halwa benefits is the potential to help regulate blood pressure and promote better cholesterol balance when the dish is prepared sensibly.If you use minimal sugar and healthier fats, ghiya halwa becomes a nourishing way to enjoy a sweet treat without compro-

mising heart wellness.

Weight management is supported through ghiya halwa benefits

Many people attempting to manage their weight look for lighter dessert options. One of the most helpful ghiya halwa benefits is that the vegetable itself is extremely low in calories and high in water content. It offers volume without adding excess calories, which keeps you fuller for longer.When prepared with controlled ghee and sugar, ghiya halwa satisfies sweet cravings without

disrupting dietary goals. The fibre content also steadies appetite and supports smoother digestion.

Ghiya halwa benefits extend to liver support and detoxification

Bottle gourd has long been used in traditional systems of medicine to support liver health. Its hydrating and detoxifying properties ease the load on the liver by helping the body flush out toxins more efficiently. This makes liver support another key part of the ghiya halwa benefits. Of course, the halwa should

8 South Indian Rice Dishes That Go Beyond Lemon Rice And Curd Rice

Think of South Indian comfort food, and two dishes immediately come to mind: lemon rice and curd rice. They are quick, fuss-free and always soothing, the kind of recipes people reach for on busy weekdays or relaxed weekends. However, South India has far more depth. In this part of the country, rice is not simply a staple but a cultural anchor found in temple offerings, festive meals and daily family traditions.

From age-old recipes passed down for generations to easy one-pot meals that suit any schedule, the region offers a wide range of rice dishes that reflect its flavours and cooking heritage. If you are keen to try something beyond the usual, these popular South Indian rice dishes can easily become new favourites in your weekly menu.

A few of these dishes are even beginning to appear on food delivery apps, offering a convenient way to enjoy a warm, comforting South Indian meal at home.

8 South Indian Rice Dishes Worth Adding To Your Table:

1. Tamarind Rice Puliodarai:Puliodarai remains a classic in many South Indian homes and temples. Thick tamarind extract, a touch of jaggery, roasted spices and a lively tempering of curry leaves, mustard seeds, chana dal and dried red chillies create a mix that is sweet, sour, spicy and earthy at the same time. It sets the tone for the kind of layered flavours South Indian rice dishes are known for.

2.Coconut Rice:Coconut rice has a calming presence. Fresh coconut is lightly sauteed with green chillies, cashews and curry leaves, giving the rice a soft sweetness and just enough heat. Its clean profile makes it easy to pair with stronger side dishes, and the shift from tamarind-based flavours keeps the overall meal interesting

3. Bisi Bele Bath:A true comfort bowl from Karnataka, Bisi Bele Bath brings together rice, dal, vegetables and a signature spice blend. Tamarind adds tang, roasted spices add depth and ghee ties everything together. Moving from the subtle flavour of coconut rice to this richer, more robust dish keeps the palate engaged.

4. Tomato Rice:Tomato rice is a reliable choice for days when time is tight. Ripe tomatoes, onions, garlic and whole spices cook into a flavourful masala that clings to



every grain. After the depth of Bisi Bele Bath, this dish brings brightness and acidity back into the meal plan.

5. Vangi Bath:Vangi Bath gives brinjal its well-earned spotlight. The vegetables are sauteed until soft and slightly smoky, then mixed with rice and a powerful Vangi Bath spice powder. Moving from tomato-forward flavours to this earthier, stronger dish brings satisfying variety.

6. Ellu Sadam:Ellu Sadam highlights the nutty flavour of sesame seeds. The seeds are roasted, ground with chillies and mixed into warm rice, creating an aromatic dish with a gently spicy character. After the bold profile of Vangi Bath, this simpler preparation feels grounding.

7. Raw Mango Rice:Raw Mango Rice brings the vibrancy of Indian summers straight to the plate. Grated raw mango adds a sharp and uplifting tang that pairs well with green chillies and a classic South Indian tempering. It follows Ellu Sadam beautifully, adding freshness back into the rotation.

8. Pepper Jeera Rice:Often seen as a healing and soothing option, Pepper Jeera Rice uses black pepper, cumin and ghee to create something warm and comforting. After the lively flavours of raw mango, this dish brings the meal plan back to a softer, home-style finish.

Best Rice Varieties For Authentic South

Indian Cooking:Choosing the right grain makes a noticeable difference to flavour and texture, especially when preparing regional dishes.Sona Masoori: Light and mildly aromatic, ideal for puliyodarai, coconut rice, tomato rice and raw mango rice.Ponni Rice: Firm, non-sticky and ideal for everyday meals and meal prep.Jeeraga Samba: A short-grain variety with a strong aroma, excellent for pepper jeera rice and festive dishes.Kerala Matta Red Rice: Nutty, earthy and high in fibre for those who prefer wholegrain options.

How To Store And Reheat South Indian Rice Dishes?

Many of these dishes travel well, and a bit of care helps maintain their freshness and texture.

Why These South Indian Rice Dishes Deserve Attention?

South Indian cuisine is often identified with idli, dosa and sambar, but rice is central to its food identity. These dishes are versatile, balanced and ideal for everyday meals, festive spreads or travel plans. Many keep well for hours, which makes them dependable choices for busy days. So the next time you think of a South Indian meal, look beyond lemon rice and curd rice. There are plenty of flavour-packed dishes to try at home, and some are also available through food delivery apps for those days when convenience helps.

be prepared with moderation in mind. When made with balanced ingredients, it allows you to enjoy a flavourful dessert that does not overwhelm the liver.

Skin nourishment is an unexpected part of ghiya halwa benefits

The antioxidants and vitamin C present in bottle gourd contribute to healthy, glowing skin. Among the understated ghiya halwa benefits is its ability to support hydration from within and protect the skin against oxidative damage. Regular intake of antioxidant-rich foods helps reduce dullness and maintain elasticity.Even a small serving of ghiya halwa provides minerals that support overall skin wellness.

Energy-boosting qualities are included in the ghiya halwa benefits

Because ghiya is nutrient-dense yet light, one of the lesser-known ghiya halwa benefits is steady energy support. It provides natural carbohydrates, hydration and essential minerals that help the body recover from fatigue. People who feel weak after illness or digestive issues often find ghiya halwa calming and energising.Pairing bottle gourd with mild sweetness and healthy fats creates a balanced source of comfort and nourishment.Ghiya halwa is more than a seasonal dessert. When prepared mindfully, it becomes a wholesome dish with digestive, hydrating, heart-friendly, liver-supportive and energy-boosting benefits. Understanding these ghiya halwa benefits helps you enjoy the dish without guilt and appreciate the traditional wisdom that shaped its place in Indian cooking.



Where India Is Listed Among the World’s Greatest Nations

The evolving preferences in travel are significantly transforming the landscape of global tourism hotspots. Destinations that successfully combine stunning natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and modern amenities are increasingly becoming the top choices for travelers worldwide. The evolving preferences in travel are significantly transforming the landscape of global tourism hotspots. Destinations that successfully combine stunning natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and modern amenities are increasingly becoming the top choices for travelers worldwide. Are you ready to plan your next adventure? The Condé Nast Traveller Readers’ Choice Awards 2025 recently announced the top 10 best countries in the world, as voted by travelers. Modern travellers increasingly value authentic experiences over mere luxury and are looking to immerse themselves in local cultures while establishing meaningful connections. This shift in preferences is leading travelers to choose family-run accommodations, enjoy local cuisine, and explore cities at a more relaxed pace, emphasizing the importance of genuine engagement with destinations. This shift in travel style is notably redefining popular global destinations, with a growing preference for countries that offer a harmonious blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and modern comforts. While established favorites such as Italy, Japan, and France continue to attract travelers, emerging destinations like Dominica and Bhutan are capturing attention due to their strong commitments to sustainable tourism and their unspoiled landscapes. The current year’s travel list showcases a diverse array of locations across the globe that are set to enhance your travel bucket list for the upcoming year, offering unique experiences that reflect the increasingly evolving travel trends. Japan has achieved the distinction of being ranked the number one country in the world for the third year in a row, reflecting its continued appeal to travelers. Various factors

contributing to this high ranking include the country’s stunning natural landscapes, rich and vibrant culture, enticing cuisine, and exceptional hospitality. In addition to Japan’s overall ranking, specific cities have also garnered recognition, with Tokyo being named the top large city globally and Kyoto securing the position of the second-best destination. Greece has achieved a remarkable improvement in global travel rankings, moving from the tenth position in 2024 to the second best country for travel. This surge in ranking is attributed to several key factors, including the presence of numerous highly-rated islands



and resorts within Greece, which are among the top in Europe. Additionally, Athens has been recognized as one of the best cities in Europe, further enhancing Greece’s appeal as a premier travel destination. Portugal has recently been recognized as the third-best travel destination globally, showcasing its diverse and captivating natural landscapes. The country features the picturesque beaches of the Algarve, the rugged mountain ranges in the north, and the verdant islands of Madeira and the Azores, offering travelers a rich variety of sce-

nic beauty. Additionally, Portugal’s cultural heritage is notable, characterized by its historical medieval castles, the distinctive traditional music of Fado, and an array of UNESCO World Heritage sites that highlight its historical and architectural significance. This combination of natural splendor and cultural depth contributes to Portugal’s standing as an exceptional destination for tourists. Italy has been acknowledged as the fourth best country globally, highlighting its status as a cultural superpower. It boasts the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world, showcasing its rich histo-

ry and heritage. The nation’s cities are renowned for their iconic art and ancient ruins, prominently featuring landmarks such as the Colosseum in Rome and Renaissance masterpieces in Florence, which attract countless visitors and contribute to its esteemed reputation. Spain is renowned for its vibrant culture, varied landscapes, and exquisite cuisine, making it a popular destination for travelers. In recent times, there has been a noticeable shift in tourist behavior as visitors seek to venture beyond the conventional hotspots. Regions such as

the Basque Country and Granada are gaining attention for offering unique

is renowned for its picturesque green landscapes, a vibrant storytelling tra-

cient Roman ruins, medieval towns, and numerous UNESCO World Her-



experiences and adventures, thereby enriching the overall travel landscape of the country. Turkey

dition, and inviting pubs, all of which contribute to its charm.

The country’s high ranking as a travel destination highlights its attractive combination of stunning natural beauty, a rich historical tapestry, and hospitable locals, making it a perennial favorite among visitors. Croatia is renowned for its breathtaking diversity in landscapes, which captivate visitors with an array of stunning sights. The Dalmatian coast stands out, characterized by its dramatic scenery and an impressive count of over a thousand islands. Beyond the coastline, inland regions boast significant natural beauty, featuring prominent national parks such as Plitvice Lakes and Krka National Park, known for their cascading waterfalls and lush greenery. Additionally, the country’s rich cultural and historical tapestry is highlighted through its an-

itage sites, making Croatia a top destination for travelers seeking both adventure and a glimpse into its storied past. France is characterized by its rich diversity, extending far beyond the well-known city of Paris.

The country boasts an array of offerings including picturesque vineyards, quaint mountain villages, and a profound cultural heritage. France is widely celebrated for its plethora of attractions which encompass historical landmarks, vibrant cities, majestic mountains, beautiful beaches, and a distinguished culinary scene highlighted by its gastronomy and wine-making traditions. Canada stands out as the sole North American nation included in the prestigious top 10 list, distinguished by its remarkable natural beauty, rich cultural diversity, and the genuine, immersive experiences it provides to travelers. T

The US neighbourhood where cars are banned ‘It’s like being in Greece’



When Sheryl Murdock walks to her apartment in Culdesac – the US’ first modern car-free neighbourhood built from scratch – she feels transported to a Mediterranean island. As she enters the central plaza, which serves as an al fresco communal living room, the blare of traffic fades, replaced by the clink of glasses, the hum of conversation and the thump of a cornhole game. She meanders down narrow pathways between low-slung white buildings crisscrossed with fairy lights, passing pops of colour from cheerful murals and magenta bougainvillea. Although she’s in Arizona, Murdock says, “It’s like being in Greece.” Architect Daniel Parolek did have the Mediterranean in mind when he designed Culdesac, though he was influenced more by his travels to the hill towns and coastal villages of Italy and France. Travellers and locals love these settings, Parolek says, because “these are places that were built prior to the automobile, so they were designed around accommodating people”. Why then, he asks, do people have to vacation to places like these rather than living in them? The answer is that societies made a Faustian deal with the automobile. As urban planners calibrated the built environment to the needs of cars rather than people, cities spread out into vast systems of traffic-clogged asphalt that disgorge solo commuters into soul-crushingly monotonous suburbs. Car-centric design has contributed to making metropolises more polluted, more socially isolating, less sustainable and hot as hell. But the collective consciousness is shifting. Research is revealing that walkable cities make people happier, less lonely, more satisfied with life and physically healthier.

Movements are afoot around the globe toward sustainable urbanism, slow travel and 15-minute (or less) cities – such as Nordhavn in Copenhagen and superblocks in Barcelona. For travellers, strolling around Culdesac’s shops, restaurants and outdoor markets offers a glimpse into a future where cities are once again built for people, not traffic. Culdesac is an especially bold experiment because of its unlikely location: Tempe, a suburb within greater Phoenix, Arizona. This sprawling metropolitan area is cursed with an inadequate public transportation system, which means residents practically need to own a car to get around. So, when Culdesac’s first residents arrived in 2023, many sceptics wondered how a neighbourhood that doesn’t permit private vehicles could survive in such a car-dependent place. The key is to be “car free, but mobility rich”, says Parolek. The 17-acre mixed-use neighbourhood comes complete with eateries, shops, a Korean convenience store, a doctor’s office, a dog park, a pool, a gym and a coworking space – meaning locals are steps away from many amenities. For visitors, the light rail stops right outside, linking the neighbourhood to downtown Phoenix and the airport. Self-driving electric Waymo robotaxis shuttle people further afield, while Archer’s Bikes rents



e-bikes for exploring Tempe Town Lake or the Desert Botanical Garden.

The prospect of shrinking her carbon footprint by living car-light is what inspired Murdock to move to Culdesac while earning her postdoctoral degree in ocean sustainability at Arizona State University (ASU). The light rail whisks her to work at ASU in 10 minutes and to supermarkets in about the same time. She can pedal her e-bike around Tempe, a designated Gold-Level Bicycle Friendly Community. If she needs to go farther afield, she rents one of Culdesac’s handful of shared electric cars for \$5 an hour. “Being in Culdesac has taught me that I much prefer the concept of the 15-minute city,” she says. “I don’t want to have to get in my car to do everything.” Switching from vehicles to public transportation, biking and walking can cut individuals’ carbon emissions by 2.2 to 3.6 tonnes annually, according to the United Nations. That means that when Culdesac is fully built in a few years, with around 760 units and 1,000 residents, the community could prevent around 3,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere each year. The neighbourhood was also designed to mitigate heat and curb air-conditioning use. That’s essential in a city that last year sweated through 143 days at or above 100F (38C). To make Culdesac cooler, Parolek and his team at Opticos Design took their cue from sun-soaked locales like Italy, Greece and Mexico. They painted the buildings’ walls and roofs as white as the towns on Mykonos.

White paint reflects the sun much better than Phoenix’s typical sand-hued homes, helping reduce the urban heat island effect. Because no space is needed for driving and parking, the architects could also employ another classic cooling strategy in Mediterranean towns: setting buildings close together. Consequently, Culdesac’s structures almost constantly shade each other, as well as the paved or earthen “paseos” (Spanish for walkways) that connect them. These narrow paseos also act like funnels that draw in breezes. Similarly, all apartments have windows on opposite sides, allowing for cross ventilation. The shade, airflow, desert-friendly landscaping and absence of asphalt create a microclimate. As a result, in 2023, Harvard University researchers determined that the ground surface temperature within Culdesac was 30-40F (17-22C) cooler than the pavements in the surrounding area. Culdesac also nurtures a lively street life. Around 21 small businesses operate here, including a James Beard-nominated Mexican restaurant, DIY ceramics and candle-making studios, a bike shop, and a sustainable clothing store. Some of the shop owners live in Culdesac, and special zoning rules allow residents to run businesses out of their apartments – a boon for budding entrepreneurs. On market days, live music drifts through the paseos while visitors browse handmade ceramics and snack on Najavo-inspired blue corn croissants from ReddHouse bakery. “Once you pull the cars out,” Parolek says, “there’s so much more opportunity to make a vibrant, thriving community.”

SPORTS

Jannik Sinner defeats Carlos Alcaraz to win the ATP Finals again

New Delhi: In Turin, Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz 7-6(4), 7-5 to win his second straight ATP Finals title. In front of a cheering home audience, Sinner defeated the world No. 1 in a match that saw both players enter the event undefeated. Sinner celebrated after defeating Alcaraz in the last game. With the win, the Italian earned a record 5.07 million dollars and extended his indoor hardcourt winning streak to 30 games.

Sinner finished the season slightly behind Alcaraz, who took the top slot at the end of the year, despite the victory. The rivalry between Sinner and Alcaraz, who both made it to all four Grand Slam finals, marked the 2025 season. Sinner's victory in Turin followed a year in which Alcaraz defeated Sinner to win the US Open and Roland Garros. This ATP Finals result followed four losses to Alcaraz earlier in the year, but Sinner delivered when it mattered most at home. Sinner's win was marked by resilience during high-pressure moments. He saved the only break point of the first set before edging out Alcaraz in a tiebreak with precise shot-making and composure. Throughout the match, Sinner's serve



was not at its best, but he managed critical points effectively, especially in the closing stages of both sets. Key moments included a 10-minute pause at 2-2 in the first set due to a medical emergency in the stands, and a medical timeout taken by Alcaraz at 5-4. Sinner, unfazed by these disruptions, rallied to take the first set. The second

set saw Alcaraz break early, but Sinner responded by leveling the score at 3-3. Sinner then seized control of the crucial moments, breaking Alcaraz when the Spaniard served to stay in the match, closing out the contest in straight sets.

Tactically, both players demonstrated aggressive baseline play, but

Sinner's ability to maintain his nerve under pressure proved decisive. Alcaraz's decision to take a medical timeout appeared strategic, but Sinner's consistent play in the key moments shifted the momentum. For Sinner, this title capped the best season of his career, having reached all four Grand Slam finals and winning two majors.

Germany and the Netherlands qualify for the 2026 World Cup

New Delhi: After their significant victories over Slovakia and Lithuania, respectively, Germany and the Netherlands were the most recent teams to secure their places in the 2026 World Cup. Germany finished first in Group A with 15 points after defeating Slovakia 6-0 to earn automatic qualification for the 2026 World Cup. Slovakia, who had previously defeated Germany in September, finished second in the group with 12 points and advanced to the playoffs. With four goals in the first half, Julian Nagelsmann's team gained the lead early on. In the eighteenth minute, Nick Woltemade opened the score, increasing his total to four goals in his previous three games. Serge Gnabry extended the lead by converting after Martin Dubravka saved his first attempt. Leroy Sane extended the lead with two goals, both assisted by Florian Wirtz, establishing a commanding 4-0 halftime scoreline. Slovakia were unable to replicate their earlier win over Germany, struggling defensively as the match progressed. After the break, Ridle Baku and Assan Ouedraogo added further goals, capping off a comprehensive performance from the hosts. Ouedraogo's goal was notable as it made him Germany's youngest-ever debut goalscorer at 19 years old. With this result, Germany qualify for their 21st World Cup, aiming to regain international prestige after failing to reach a major final since their World



Cup triumph in 2014. In Group G, the Netherlands secured their spot at the 2026 World Cup with a convincing 4-0 win over Lithuania at home. The Dutch ended their qualifying campaign unbeaten, topping the group with 20 points, three ahead of Poland. This will be the Netherlands' 12th World Cup appearance, having been runners-up three times in their history. Tijjani Reijnders, restored to the starting lineup due to Kluivert's injury, scored the opener in the 16th minute. He nearly doubled his tally, striking the post in the 30th minute. The Dutch continued to press, and a four-minute spell early in the second half proved decisive. Cody Gakpo extended the lead with a penalty awarded by VAR for a handball by Tutyskinas, followed by Xavi Simons, who dribbled past several defenders and struck a powerful shot for the third. Donyell Malen added a fourth on the counterattack, sprinting from halfway and finishing clinically.

Satwik-Chirag pair anchors India's hopes

Australian Open

New Delhi: The focus will once again be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as the top-seeded men's doubles team aims for their first title of the season at the Australian Open Super 500, which begins in Sydney on Tuesday, while India's singles stars continue to struggle for rhythm. With a second World Championship bronze and consecutive runner-up results at the China Masters Super 750 and Hong Kong Super 500, the Asian Games champions have been the highlights of an otherwise difficult season for Indian badminton. After falling to No. 27 in May, the two, who had held the top spot in the world for eighteen weeks, battled their way back to No. 3. Before the World Tour Finals, they will be keen to put together another impressive run. Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei of Chinese Taipei will be the first opponents for the Commonwealth Games winners. India's greatest singles talents, such as Lakshya Sen and H. are bruised by injuries and lean times yet occasionally shine with flashes of brilliance. S. Prannoy will look



to regain the steady rhythm that has been elusive for a large portion of the season. After a string of disappointing performances following his devastating fourth-place finish at the Olympics in Paris, Lakshya appeared to have found his form again with a final appearance at the Hong Kong Open. The 24-year-old from Almora looked bright in Japan last week before dropping out in the semifinals. He is seeded seventh here, and when he opens against Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei, he hopes to build on the momentum. Having placed second in this competition the previous year, Prannoy, a bronze

medallist at the 2023 World Championships, has happy memories of it. The 33-year-old, one of India's most consistent performers in recent years and winner of the 2023 Malaysia Masters, returned from injury in Kumamoto last week. He defeated Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong before losing in the second round to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. Prannoy will look to regain full rhythm when he faces Canada's Brian Yang. Veteran Kidambi Srikanth, a runner-up at this year's Malaysia Masters, plays fifth seed Lin Chun-Yi, while US Open champion Ayush Shetty meets Malaysia's Justin Hoh.

Doggett, a former carpenter, plans to make his debut after chipping away

New Delhi: Qualified carpenter Brendan Doggett is aiming for a second life as a Test bowler and a fantasy Ashes debut after years of making a name for himself in Australian domestic cricket. Doggett worked in relative anonymity on construction sites and on the outside of the test team, but injuries have made it possible for the 31-year-old paceman to establish himself in Friday's series opener against England in Perth. He is anticipated to join Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland in Australia's unexpected pace attack, which includes the South Australia quick. Doggett said to reporters in Perth on Monday, "I don't know how ready you can be for test cricket." "But in terms of numbers (of wickets) and just confidence in my body, confidence in my game, the last 18 months to two years have been the most successful." Doggett claimed that while juggling his cricket ambitions with carpentry employment in the Queensland town of Toowoomba, his phone had been flooded with messages from "tradie" friends. "I was playing country cricket and working as a carpenter, and that was the dream for me," he said. "I (would) go back to Toowoomba put the nail bag on and keep building houses. I loved that life. This is all just a bonus." Doggett would become just the third Indigenous Australian to play Test cricket, following fellow pace bowler Boland and mentor Jason Gillespie, the former South Australia coach. Boland's Test debut against England in the 2021/22 Ashes on home soil is now part of cricket folklore.



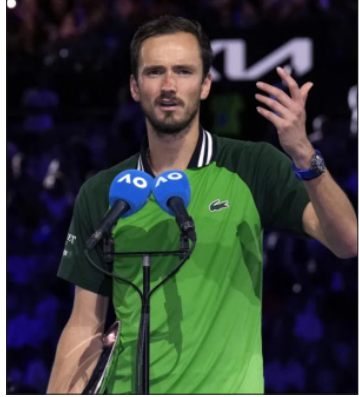
He took seven wickets in the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and 6-7 in the second innings to consign England to a crushing defeat that ensured Australia retained the urn. Australia's Indigenous communities are well represented in professional Australian Rules football (AFL) and the National Rugby League, but athletes are relatively scarce in elite cricket. Boland said it would be a boost for Aboriginal communities to see both him and Doggett in the test XI.

India's World Tennis League debut will feature Medvedev, Kyrgios, and Rybakina

New Delhi: The World Tennis League, a mixed-gender team competition, will make its debut in India next month, and some of the biggest stars to compete there will be World No. 5 Elena Rybakina, former US Open winner Daniil Medvedev, and former Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios. The exhibition-style competition will debut in India from December 17-20 at Bengaluru's SM Krishna Tennis Stadium following three seasons in the UAE. One of the best tennis line-ups to be seen in India in recent years

will be present at the event, which is licensed and run by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd. Nick Kyrgios, Paula Badosa, Gael Monfils, Arthur Fils, Magda Linette, Marta Kostyuk, and India's own Rohan Bopanna, Sumit Nagal, are in the field alongside Medvedev and Rybakina. WTL has added a number of elite Indian players to its roster, including Yuki Bhambri, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Maaya Revathi, Dhakshinewar Suresh, and Shivika Burman, in response to the country's increasing interest in tennis.

The goal, according to the organizers, is to boost domestic growth and increase Indian players' visibility alongside international celebrities. Speaking ahead of her maiden appearance in India, Rybakina said she was eager to experience the country's growing tennis culture. "I've heard so much about the tennis culture in India, and I'm thrilled to make my debut here with WTL. The league has an exciting format, and I'm ready to enjoy every moment on the court with my team," the former Wimbledon champion said.



Amit Shukla, takes eight wickets in an innings against Haryana

New Delhi: In an innings against Haryana in their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 round five encounter in Lahli on Monday, Services bowler Amit Shukla claimed eight wickets. The left-arm orthodox spinner became just the sixth member of the Services to take eight wickets in an innings when he concluded with eight for 27. However, Shukla's stats are

ideal for a bowler for the Services. The 22-year-old, who represented Punjab in Under-19 cricket, took five wickets without giving up a run. As he finished the fifer, he bowled five maidens in a row. Shukla's effort on the opening day reduced Haryana, who were aiming for Services' first-innings total of 205, to 16 for five. By taking three wickets on the second day, he significantly

ly damaged the opposition. Haryana was bundled out for 111, conceding a lead of 94 runs. Pulkrit Narang picked the remaining two wickets. Before Shukla, G Inder Dev, GS Shaktawat, SK Porel, VM Muddiah, and Iqbal Karan were the only Services bowlers to pick eight wickets in an innings in the Ranji Trophy. Inder Dev is the only bowler to achieve the feat twice.

Indian archers trapped for ten hours in Dhaka

New Delhi: After traveling through the violent capital of Bangladesh without security, Indian archers were forced to spend the night in a "sub-standard shelter" after their return following the Asian Championships was delayed by one day due to a cancelled aircraft. Due to several aircraft delays and a "complete absence of support" from the airline on which they were scheduled, eleven members

of the 23-person squad-two of whom were minors were left stranded at the airport. The group, which included senior pros Abhishek Verma, Jyoti Surekha and Olympian Dhiraj Bommadevara, had reached the Dhaka airport on Saturday for their 9.30 pm flight to Delhi, only to be told after boarding that the aircraft had developed a technical snag and would not take off.

The Rajasthan Royals have reappointed Kumar Sangakkara as head coach

New Delhi: Prior to the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, the Rajasthan Royals announced on Monday that Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka has been reappointed as head coach. Last year, Sangakkara, who held the position from 2021 to 2024, was elevated to director of cricket, with Rahul Dravid serving as the IPL 2025 coach. In August, Dravid departed the franchise. The Royals announced additional coaching staff changes, including the promotion of Vikram Rathour to lead assistant coach and the return of Trevor Penney and Sid Lahiri as assistant coach and performance coach, respectively. The fast bowling coach will remain Shane Bond, who joined the Royals in 2024. By exchanging longtime captain Sanju Samson for Chennai Super Kings players Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran, the Royals have made a striking



personnel shift in their playing staff. "We are thrilled to have Kumar return as head coach," RR's primary owner Manoj Badale stated in a statement.

We believed that his leadership, experience with the team, and in-depth knowledge of the Royals culture would provide the ideal combination of continuity and stability as we considered what the team required at this point. As a leader, we have always had total faith in Kumar. His composure, clarity, and crick-

et acumen will be crucial in leading the team into this next round, he continued. After rejoining the team for the 2025 season with a multi-year contract, former India captain Dravid's stint came to an unexpected end. Following a "structural review" of the team's subpar play earlier this year, the former national coach who won the T20 World Cup resigned. With just four victories from 14 games, the club had a poor run and finished ninth in the 10-team competition.

Portugal defeats Armenia 9-1, setting up Cristiano Ronaldo for a record sixth World Cup



New Delhi: With a convincing 9-1 victory over Armenia on Sunday, Portugal guaranteed their spot in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, ensuring that Cristiano Ronaldo will join Lionel Messi as one of the first football players to participate in six World Cup competitions. Ronaldo witnessed his team secure the top spot in Group F and remain on course for a historic campaign while serving a ban following his red card in the loss to Ireland. The 39-year-old has hinted that the competition in the US, Canada, and Mexico may be his last chance to win the one prize that has been absent from his remarkable career. In his absence, Portugal won handsily with to hat-trick efforts from Bruno Fernandes and Joao Neves. The result not only cemented their dominance in the group with 13 points but also ensured the team's momentum remains intact as Ronaldo prepares for what could be his World Cup farewell. Fernandes was at the heart of Portugal's attacking display, scoring three times, including two penalties, while Neves struck twice in the first half before completing his treble in the 81st minute. Reflecting on his first goals for the national team, Neves said, "The most important thing was qualifying for the World Cup. For me, as I always say, the

team always comes before the individual," adding, "I'm very happy to have scored my first goal for the national team, and my second and third as well. I'm happy to be able to share the pitch with great players and a great team." Portugal opened the scoring early through Renato Veiga's close-range header in the seventh minute, only for Armenia to level through Eduard Spetsyan. That brief moment of parity, Armenia's third goal of the qualifiers, was swiftly erased as Portugal surged ahead. Gonalo Ramos restored the lead, Neves added a brace—including a superb free kick - and Fernandes converted from the spot to give the hosts a 5-1 advantage at the interval. The second half saw Portugal continue their relentless approach. Fernandes netted twice more, one from a Ramos assist and another penalty, before Neves completed his hat trick. Francisco Conceio hammered in a long-range strike in stoppage time to round off the rout. Armenia, despite early resistance, struggled to cope with Portugal's pressing and fluid transitions, with Diogo Costa and the back line comfortably managing what little threat came their way. Portugal head coach Roberto Martinez praised his side's response after the previous setback.