

Conrad calls for NE unity in Agartala rally



Agartala, Nov 27: Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party (NPP) president Conrad K. Sangma and other tribal leaders in the North-eastern states on Thursday called for 'One North East' unity to protect the land rights, customs, languages and culture of the people of the region. Addressing a rally under 'One North East Thansa (Unity)' in Agartala, NPP chief Sangma called for unity among the people of the Northeast to protect the land rights, customs, languages and culture of the indigenous people. Sangma, addressing the rally organised by the ruling BJP's ally Tipra Motha Party (TMP), said that the region can advance only through collective strength and solidarity. Speakers at the rally said regional forces, despite being closer to people's aspirations, had been pushed into junior roles with limited bargaining power in successive alliances with national parties. They underlined that the "One North East" initiative was conceived as a long-term political and ideological platform rather than a mere electoral understanding. Apart from Sangma, Tipra Motha founder Pradyot Kishore Debbarman, Assam People's Party leader Daniel Langthasa, former BJP national spokesperson Mmholnumo Kikon and Indian Gorkha Janashakti Front leader Ajay Edwards were among those who addressed the rally.

Gaurav Gogoi Escapes Unhurt in Jorhat Car Accident

Jorhat, Nov 27: Assam Congress president and deputy leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi had a narrow escape after his car met with an accident in Jorhat district on Thursday morning. However, the driver received injuries after the vehicle hit a bridge. The left side of the car was damaged in the mishap. The driver was immediately rushed to the hospital.

Assamese cinema steals the spotlight at IFFI 2025



Guwahati, Nov 27: Assamese cinema cast a luminous spell at IFFI 2025 as the teams behind two remarkable works—"Bhaimon Da" (Feature Film) and 'Patralekha' (Non-Feature Short Film) opened their hearts and creative journeys to an enthralled audience during a warm, emotionally charged press conference. Steeped in the cultural soul of Assam, both films stood as heartfelt tributes to two towering artistic giants: Munin Barua, the beloved Bhaimon Da of Assamese cinema, and Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the musical maestro whose voice continues to echo across generations. Their legacies pulsed through the stories, visuals, and emotions presented, making the moment not just a festival appearance, but a celebration of Assam's enduring creative spirit. Bhaimon Da: A landmark tribute to

The Art of Global Friendship: Byatikram International Writers' Meet 4.0 Wraps with Resounding Success

Guwahati, Nov 27: The Byatikram International Writers' Meet 4.0, organised by Byatikram Group, concluded successfully in Guwahati after four days of vibrant literary exchange, cultural immersion, and global dialogue. Supported by NEDFi, IDFC, and Three Leaves, the event brought together an impressive constellation of writers, poets, and intellectuals from across the globe, making it one of the most culturally enriching literary gatherings in the region.

This prestigious fourth edition welcomed distinguished international delegates from 10 countries, including Maria Mistrioti (Greece), Dr. Ali Al-Shalal (Iraq), Dr. Mark William MacLeod (Australia), Dr. Alice M. Sun-Cua (Philippines), Alex J. Cua (Philippines), Tran Huu Viet (Vietnam), Ahmed Zaabar (Tunisia/UK), Stefan Alexandru Băişanu (Romania), Professor Dr. Bordeianu Cătălin Ion (Romania), Pedro Enriquez (Spain), and Aminur Rahman (Bangladesh), along with renowned Indian writers Prof. (Dr.) Suman Gun, Ashok Chakraborty, and Bikash Sarkar, making the platform a vibrant tapestry of global literary brilliance. Reflecting upon the success of the event, Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, Patron-in-Chief, Byatikram Group, stated, "The Byatikram International Writers' Meet continues to illuminate the shared human experience through the powerful medium of literature. This edition beautifully strengthened cultural



ties and reaffirmed the timeless value of global literary dialogue." On 24th November 2025, the delegates were received at the airport and guided to the Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Memorial Site, where they offered a floral tribute to the legendary icon. This was followed by a comforting luncheon at Vaibhavam and the prestigious Globals Honors Night organized by Mirchi powered by Byatikram was held at Mayfair Spring Valley Resort, Sonapur, where the delegates were recognised for their exemplary contributions in their respective fields. The day concluded with a serene visit to Zubeen Kshetra, where they offered prayers to the revered legend. Aminur Rahman, while appreciating

the remarkable execution of the event, expressed, "Byatikram has once again proven how literature can build bridges of understanding and friendship across nations. The passion and efficiency of the team truly made this fourth edition a milestone. I feel proud to see Guwahati emerging as an international hub of creative and cultural collaboration." On 25th November, the event commenced at the NEDFi Hall, Dispur, with an intellectually stimulating panel discussion followed by heartfelt poetry recitations by both Indian and international poets. The event was graced by Mr. M. Riaz Hamidullah, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India along with his better half Sazia Ahmed.

Mr. M. Riaz Hamidullah extended his heartfelt gratitude to Byatikram, remarking that, "Byatikram International Writers' Meet stands as a powerful testament to how literature can harmonize diverse cultures and fortify global understanding. It is truly admirable to see such insightful conversations on Assam's soul-stirring literary legacy. Icons like our own son of the soil, Zubeen Garg, remind us that creativity and cultural pride are the true bridges that connect nations. It is indeed a moment of honour to witness Assam's vibrant voice being shared with the world." Upholding this mission, the event witnessed the launch of books -"Benge Achi Tai" by Jiten Nath and "Bemused Time" by Dils Laxmindra Sinha, presented to international delegates thereby further enriching literary exchange and inter-linguistic connectivity. Thereafter, the delegates were taken for a cultural exploration at the Mahabahu Brahmaputra Heritage Centre, Panbazar. The day reached a graceful closure with a distinguished dinner hosted by Mr. Zikrul Hasan Fahad, the Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Guwahati at Novotel Guwahati, where the poets were felicitated and appreciated for their literary contributions. On 26th November 2025, the program continued at The Green School International, Nalapara, Guwahati, where the delegates were received with warmth and admiration before being escorted to

the auditorium. They were felicitated by the Principal of the school, and special dance performances by the students added a cultural splendour to the occasion, followed by moving poetry recitations by the young learners. After a gracious lunch arranged by the school, the delegates were taken to Oitijjo - Heritage Emporium, where Founder Anu Mandal extended a heartfelt felicitation, and the delegates purchased traditional items as cherished mementos of their visit. Tran Huu Viet from Vietnam said that, "This gathering has been a profound celebration of literature and cultural harmony. The hospitality of Byatikram and the warmth of the people of Assam made us feel truly connected. I am honoured to be part of this meaningful fourth edition, which will remain a cherished memory." The day concluded with an eloquent valedictory program on 27th November 2025, where the delegates expressed their reflections on the three-day literary experience, after which each was presented with a beautiful souvenir and Assam tea as a token of love and appreciation from Byatikram. The Byatikram International Writers' Meet 4.0 concluded on a high note, strengthening cross-cultural friendships and celebrating the universal power of literature. With inspiring exchanges, creative collaboration, and heartfelt camaraderie, this edition has set a shining benchmark for future global literary engagements.

Accident

Mankachar, Nov 27: The area was rocked by a terrible traffic accident that occurred on Wednesday near Pathuria, which is under the jurisdiction of Mankachar Police Station. A school student was struck by a speeding passenger tempo on the Mankachar-Hatshingimari PWD route at around nine in the morning, resulting in his premature death and injuring another person. The witnesses claim that Swahidur Islam, a 13-year-old boy, was the deceased. He attended Namor Gaon High School and lived in Pathuria. The small child was traveling to take a test. The child was walking down the roadside when the tempo, approaching from behind, first lost control and then hit him hard. The tempo instantly overturned after striking the youngster due to the impact of the collision. Yakub Ali, one of the occupants in the overturned car, suffered serious injuries. Shahidur and Yakub were taken to Gazarikandi Hospital for quick medical assistance by locals who raced to the scene. But when medical personnel arrived, they pronounced Shahidur Islam dead.

29-Year-Old Iter Bam Elected Youngest ZPM Unopposed

Itanagar, Nov 27: In a historic development for local governance, Iter Bam of New Bam Village has been elected unopposed as the Zilla Parishad Member (ZPM) from the 11A Basar Zilla Segment, making her the youngest representative to assume the post in the region. Bam contested on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. At just 29 years old, Bam comes with a strong academic background, holding a BA (Honours) and MA in History, a B.Ed degree, and a Diploma in Yoga. Her uncontested win is widely regarded as a strong vote of confidence from the local community, reflecting faith in her leadership, dedication, and vision for public welfare. The election has sparked widespread enthusiasm across the Basar region, with community members praising her rise as a milestone for youth leadership in local governance. Many hope that her education and fresh perspective will bring renewed energy to grassroots development initiatives. Supporters also recall her late father, Er. Dagi Bam, a respected figure known for his service and contributions to the community. Locals see Iter Bam's election as a continuation of her father's legacy, trusting her to uphold his ideals while driving inclusive growth in the region. Iter Bam is set to formally assume office soon, with her tenure expected to focus on public welfare, participatory governance, and accelerated development in the Basar Zilla Segment.



Margherita Coal Workers, Silchar Unions Protest New Labour Codes

Silchar, Nov 27: Following the Central Government's enforcement of labor codes, widespread demonstrations broke out throughout Assam. The Central Trade Unions and All India Farmers Unions launched a united protest in front of the Khudiram Statue in Silchar, Cachar district. Roughly 400-450 people participated in the demonstration, shouting slogans opposing the same cause. November 26, 2025, was designated as a day of "nationwide resistance" by the united platform. The call was to organize farmers and laborers throughout India to support social justice and labor rights. Other Cachar District Leaders' trade unions, including Supriyo Bhattacharjee, President (CITU), Subash Deb, Secretary (AIKS), Shyam Deb Kurmi, Secretary (KKMS), Ranjan Das, General Secretary (EWTCC), and Subrata Nath, President (AIUTUC), also spearheaded the protest. In a similar vein, the National Coal Workers' Union, which is linked with the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), organized a large-scale protest in front of the General Manager's Office of North Eastern Coalfields in Margherita, Tinsukia district. Hundreds of workers assembled,



yelling slogans and calling for the labor laws to be lifted on the grounds that they would undermine workers' rights to organize, safety precautions, and job security. Both the central and state governments were accused by Union President Pradip Ghoshal and Secretary Mantosh Teye of favoring corporate interests over those of laborers. They warned that if the government did not comply with their requests, the movement will intensify. Workers and farmers throughout Assam are prepared for a protracted campaign, awaiting the government's reconsideration to reverse what they see to be labor laws endangering their livelihood, rights, and dignity. Both protests ended peacefully, but they sent a strong and unambiguous message.

Former NE Ministers call for unity

'When Northeast speaks as one, Delhi must listen'



Kohima, Nov 27: Former Manipur Legislative Assembly Speaker and Minister Hemochandra Singh, along with former Nagaland Minister Mmholnumo Kikon, on Wednesday emphasized the urgent need for unity among North-eastern states to address long-standing regional challenges. Their statements came ahead of the One North East Unity Rally, organised by the Tipra Motha Party, scheduled to be held in Agartala tomorrow. Speaking to the media

at MBB Airport, Singh described the vision of a united Northeast as a "long-cherished dream" finally coming closer to reality. "Perhaps our time has come now to realize this dream. North East as one entity is the answer for all of us, all the indigenous people of the region. Look at the warmth, the sheer feeling from our hearts. I think this is going to be a great movement for all of us to come together under one platform," he said. Addressing the ongoing

situation in Manipur, Singh expressed hope for peace and stability in the state. "When I arrive in Agartala, I come with a lot of hope that Manipur will soon become peaceful. Yes, it will take some time, as the process is ongoing. But the concept of unity—to speak for Manipur from Tripura, to speak for Nagaland from Assam—means that when all our voices resonate together, Delhi will take us seriously. We must all pray for the restoration of normalcy and peace in Manipur," he added.

Calling for regional solidarity, Mmholnumo Kikon stressed the importance of a collective voice in addressing issues of common concern. "It's about one united voice, standing together to address issues of common concern," he said, highlighting the need to bridge the gap between policy and implementation. "One of our goals is to ensure that the vision of our leaders reaches the Northeastern region, so that intended beneficiaries actually see results on the ground," Kikon added.

In the 2022 Pocco case, the court acquits the pope

Chennai, Nov 27: A Chitradurga court has acquitted Shivamurthy Murugha Sharan, the leader of the Murugha Mutt, in one of two cases against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocco) Act, related to the sexual harassment of girls at a hostel run by the mutt. The judge found Murugha Sharan and two co-accused not guilty of the charges.

The case stemmed from allegations made in August 2022 by two minors who claimed to have been abused by five individuals, including the accused, leading to the FIR being registered under various sections of the Pocco Act and the Indian Penal Code. Initially filed in Mysuru, the case was transferred to Chitradurga, where Murugha Sharan and a warden were arrested shortly after the allegations emerged. The case has seen developments such as the dropping of two names from the charge sheet due to insufficient evidence. A separate sexual harassment complaint against Murugha Sharan concerning an em-

ployee's daughters remains unresolved.

After spending nearly 14 months in jail, he was granted conditional bail in November 2023 but was arrested again shortly afterward in a different case. Following high court intervention, he was released the same day. The Supreme

A Chitradurga court acquitted Shivamurthy Murugha Sharan, the leader of Murugha Mutt, of sexual harassment charges under Pocco due to insufficient evidence.

Court later ordered his custody until key witness examinations were completed, after which he secured bail in October 2024.

Child rights activists have criticized the verdict, highlighting investigative errors and potential lapses in justice, with calls for the state to pursue the case further.

Activist ML Parashuram described challenges faced during the investigation, while another activist emphasized the need for an appeal if the government does not act.

Samay Raina is asked by SC to generate money for children with uncommon illnesses

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Supreme Court ordered comedian Samay Raina and four other social media influencers to host events for persons with disabilities (PwD) at least twice monthly, aiming to raise awareness and funds for children suffering from rare medical conditions like Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). This directive followed a video where the comedians mocked physical disabilities, prompting the court to transform the negative event into an opportunity for positive engagement rather than punitive measures.

The bench, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, stressed the importance of the influencers showing repentance and commitment to the well-being of specially abled individuals.

The bench indicated a preference for reparative actions over fines, provided the influencers submitted a viable proposal for fundraising to a

reputable institution. By sharing success stories of children with SMA presented by the petitioner NGO Cure SMA India Foundation, emphasis was placed on the negative impact of mockery on dignity and fundraising efforts, as film in question had serious social consequences.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta corroborated that the humor was scripted rather than spontaneous, highlighting a serious intent behind the content. The court expressed readiness to treat the influencers' actions as genuine mistakes, contingent on their commitment to engage in regular fundraising events. They proposed conducting shows bi-weekly to generate support for the disable community, while emphasizing the notion of self-regulation as an effective form of oversight. In addressing broader issues, the bench discussed regulatory reforms pertaining

PM Modi presents the Vikram-I rocket and opens the Infinity Campus of Indian space startup Skyroot

New Delhi, Nov 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Skyroot's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad via video conference, unveiling the company's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I, which can launch satellites into orbit. The facility will span approximately 200,000 square

feet and is designed for the full lifecycle of rocket development, including designing and testing, with a production goal of one orbital rocket per month. Founded by IIT alumni and former ISRO scientists Pawan Chandana and



Bharath Dhaka, Skyroot became the first Indian private entity to launch a rocket to space with Vikram-S in November 2022. Furthermore, PM Modi inaugurated Safran Aircraft Engine Services' new Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) fa-

cility in Hyderabad, which will bolster India's aviation sector, positioning it as a global MRO hub. He emphasized India's rapid growth in aviation, noting it is the third-largest domestic market worldwide and that the government aims to localize

high-value aviation services, reducing dependence on overseas facilities for MRO work. PM Modi called on investors to participate in India's development journey, highlighting the nation's ambitions and aspirations in the high-tech space industry.

Congress is split on how to handle suspended MLA Rahul Mamkootathil

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 27: The Congress party is experiencing internal division regarding the handling of Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, who was suspended in August due to allegations of inappropriate behavior towards women. Mamkootathil, a first-time MLA, has been unofficially campaigning for party candidates in the upcoming local body elections. Former KPCC president K Sudhakaran expressed discontent by stating he was not informed about the suspension decision and had not attended the meeting where it was made. This contradicts the stance of Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan, who claims the suspension was a collective decision by the party.

Sudhakaran has also indicated a will-

ingness to share the stage with Mamkootathil if an opportunity arises. Although he acknowledges the need for Mamkootathil to reform, he opposes those who aim to ruin his political future over the allegations. Conversely, senior party leader K Muraleedharan asserted that Mamkootathil should not participate in party meetings or events, emphasizing that he remains suspended and must face consequences for his actions. Muraleedharan noticed that while Mamkootathil could engage in grassroots campaigning for the workers who aided his election, he is not entitled to share the platform with party leaders.

In response, Mamkootathil expressed his commitment to support the party workers who stood by him, stating he



has not attended any party meetings but feels obligated to campaign when requested. The allegations against him include sending obscene messages to a woman actor and audio clips allegedly featuring him urging a woman to abort a pregnancy. Mamkootathil has denied these accusations, and no formal charges have been filed against him as of yet.

World power comes from word power Shivakumar's enigmatic statement that Siddaramaiah will travel to Delhi due to the Karnataka CM post dispute

Bengaluru, Nov 27: The ongoing leadership struggle within the Congress-led government in Karnataka, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has intensified with Siddaramaiah indicating he may travel to Delhi if summoned by the party's high command. Concurrently, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar made a cryptic post on social media stating, "word power is world power," suggesting a deeper connotation amid their power-sharing discussions.

Since Congress's victory in the Karnataka assembly elections in March 2023, discussions of a possible power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have surfaced. This arrangement is believed to have support from the party's central leadership, contemplating a power transition after two and a half years of Siddaramaiah's administration. Over recent months, speculation has increased, particularly as Siddaramaiah hinted at a potential cabinet reshuffle while asserting his intention to remain in power. Meanwhile, Shivakumar's supporters are actively advo-



cating for his promotion, both within the state and at the national level.

In response to the ongoing conflict, Shivakumar shared a striking image on social media that emphasizes the significance of keeping one's word, suggesting integrity in leadership. This was accompanied by a message reiterating that maintaining one's

promises is a crucial strength, applicable to all, including himself, judges, and presidents alike.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge announced plans to convene a meeting with senior leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, and Shivakumar, in New Delhi, aiming to address the ongoing leadership dispute and provide clarity on the situation. He stressed the necessity of discussing the way forward and resolving the "confusion" surrounding the leadership issue. Kharge confirmed the intention to involve all relevant leaders in the dialogue, including both the CM and the Deputy CM, to reach a decisive conclusion after thorough discussion.

In a strategic response to the escalating tensions, Siddaramaiah engaged in meetings with senior ministers and trusted associates, such as G Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, HC Mahdevappa, and K Venkatesh, as reported by news agencies, indicating a concerted effort to solidify his position and strategize the next steps amidst the political turbulence.

Mysore couple arrested for allegedly Nandini Ghee operation



Chennai, Nov 27: A couple from Mysuru, Shivakumar (45) and Ramya (40), were arrested in connection with a large-scale counterfeit Nandhini ghee racket.

The central crime branch (CCB) seized 8,136 litres of fake ghee during a raid in Chamara-jpet and linked the couple to a distribution network. Investigators traced the manufacturing setup to a clandestine factory in Tamil Nadu.

Forensic analysis of samples is pending, and approximately ₹60 lakh in their accounts has been frozen. Previous involvement in a similar case suggests the network's long-term operation. CCB is extending investigations to establish the distribution scale and the potential out-of-state shipment of counterfeit products.

Ex-DyCM slams MLA's call for separate North Karnataka state

Bengaluru, Nov 27: Former deputy chief minister Govind Karjol criticized MLA Raju Kage's call for North Karnataka to become a separate state, arguing that it reflects a misunderstanding of the state's history.

Karjol emphasized that Karnataka, formerly Mysore State, was built through struggle, and the BJP opposes the split. Kage had urged the government for a new state due to perceived neglect and had launched a signature campaign supporting his



demands.

He argued that North Karnataka deserves separate status for better development and compared its situation to other large Indian states, advocating for division based on population. This renewed the long-standing debate over regional separatism in Karnataka politics.

My response was influenced by my upbringing BR Gavai, a former CJI, talks about the shoe-throwing incident

New Delhi, Nov 27: Former Chief Justice of India, BR Gavai, discussed his experiences following a shoe-throwing incident directed at him last month. He indicated that his decision not to take action against the lawyer involved was influenced by his upbringing and personal values, stating, "Maybe it is a result of my upbringing... I didn't even know it was related to some alleged utterances or observations made by me in court." Gavai described his choice to address the situation as one made "in the spur of the moment."

On October 6, during a court session, Advocate Rakesh Kishore at-



tempted to throw a shoe at Gavai but was quickly removed from the courtroom by security personnel. Despite the incident, Gavai chose not to pursue any formal action

against the advocate. In light of ongoing criticisms surrounding the Supreme Court collegium, Gavai vehemently defended its operations, asserting that the "Collegium

is transparent." He rejected claims that its workings are opaque, explaining the comprehensive selection process involving discussions with shortlisted candidates, consultations with judges, and input from the law ministry.

Gavai emphasized that all factors are considered in final decisions. He further addressed criticisms aimed at constitutional bodies, insisting that cases are adjudicated based solely on the law and the judges' interpretations. He welcomed fair criticism of judicial rulings but deemed attacks on judges for their decisions as inappropriate and unconstructive.

Meeting with Jarkiholi to plan state elections in 2028: DKS

Agency, Nov 27: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has refuted any links between his recent meeting with Congress leader Satish Jarkiholi and the ongoing leadership change crisis in Karnataka, stating that their discussion was focused solely on preparing the party for the upcoming 2028 assembly elections.

Shivakumar, who also holds the position of state Congress chief, emphasized that Jarkiholi is a significant asset to the party and affirmed their cordial relationship. He remarked that the discussion aimed to address actionable plans for the remaining two and a half years of their current term.

Additionally, Shivakumar downplayed his ambitions for the chief minister position, asserting that collective work for the party's resurgence is prioritized over personal ambitions. He dismissed rumors



regarding Congress legislators lobbying in Delhi on his behalf and indicated that any leadership decisions would be made by the party's senior leadership.

Jarkiholi, a close associate of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, echoed Shivakumar's sentiments by reiterating his support for Siddaramaiah and clarifying that their meeting was routine and does not signify any shift in leadership dynamics.

If the government self-destructs, the BJP will take over: former chief minister

Bengaluru, Nov 27: Former chief minister DV Sadananda Gowda remarked that the BJP would follow directives from national leadership if the Congress-led state government, which he accused of bringing instability, were to collapse. He mentioned that the BJP aims to form a government should the high command decide against mid-term elections, describing the Congress as a "sinking ship" governing only three states, two of which are small.

R Ashoka, the leader of the opposition in the assembly, amplified his criticism of the ruling Congress, urging the high command to announce the next chief minister to prove their strength. He stated that the BJP and JD(S) would raise pressing concerns about north Karnataka, especially regarding irriga-

DV Sadananda Gowda mentioned that the BJP would adhere to the national leadership's directives if the Congress government collapses, while R Ashoka expressed criticism regarding the instability of the Congress party.

tion and school closures, with a resolution ready for discussion at the assembly session's outset.

Ashoka asserted that the Congress's political status has weakened irreparably, claiming "the Congress is dead in the state" and suggesting that discussions about a change in leadership revolve around who would succeed as the next CM. On agricultural issues, Ashoka highlighted the farmers' losses from a second crop failure due to the absence

of a crest gate at the Tungbhadra dam, demanding compensation of ₹25,000 per acre. He reiterated that matters such as support prices for maize and sugarcane across 29 taluks are clear demands from the BJP.

Furthermore, he questioned D.K. Shivakumar's claim to Vokkaliga leadership, emphasizing his past and the community's perspective.

In response, Shivakumar clarified that he identifies as a Congress leader born into a Vokkaliga community rather than asserting a leadership role based on caste. He addressed Ashoka's criticisms by stating that internal party matters should be left to the Congress, asserting confidence that his party will safeguard his interests without interference from opposition leaders.

Meghalaya Cabinet approves land for tourism, Shillong airport expansion and Rs 500 crore for electrification

Shillong, Nov 27: In a series of significant infrastructure and development decisions, the Meghalaya Cabinet has approved the procurement of land to enhance tourism facilities, expand Shillong Airport, and improve household electrification across the state. The Cabinet sanctioned the acquisition of land at Umpardong, Umden in Ri Bhoi District to develop tourism infrastructure in the renowned Silk Village, a popular destination for visitors. To improve connectivity, Rs 50 crore has been allocated for constructing the Nongpoh-Umden road, responding to local demand for better tourist amenities, including lodges and related facilities. In a related move, the Cabinet approved land acquisition and exchanges necessary for the expansion of Shillong Airport. The project, crucial for enabling the airport to handle larger aircraft, has already entered the tender process. The Deputy Chief Minister, in charge of Transport, has been tasked with consulting local communities and headmen to facilitate the smooth progress of the land exchange and acquisition. In-principle approval



has been granted to move the project forward. On the social infrastructure front, the Cabinet approved additional household electrification under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Many villages and households previously excluded from electrification under the 2011 census are now included. Following a request in 2022, the Government of India has sanctioned nearly Rs 500 crore to cover the updated list, ensuring wider access to electricity throughout the state.

Meghalaya Cabinet approves training academy for teachers

Shillong, Nov 27: The State Cabinet has approved the establishment of a teacher training academy as an autonomous society under the Directorate of Education, Research and Training, aimed at enhancing teacher education, capacity building, and professional development.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said on Wednesday that the Meghalaya Teacher Training Academy will focus on providing specialised training to teachers across various levels. It will ensure professionals oversee the training process, allowing for more effective and targeted capacity building.

Cabinet Approves Beacon SOP, Allocates Electrification Funds



Shillong, Nov 27: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Wednesday said the state cabinet has approved a standard operating procedure (SOP) to regulate the use of beacons, flashers, sirens, tinted glasses and similar equipment in official vehicles. He said the SOP will clearly outline which officials are authorised to use sirens and beacons and who may use tinted glasses or flashers.

The cabinet agreed on the need for strict regulation to prevent misuse.

According to officials, the proposal was thoroughly discussed in the Cabinet meeting, where members expressed a strong consensus on the need for a robust mechanism to prevent misuse of these vehicle features.

The move is intended to bring uniformity, accountability, and transparency to the use of special equipment in government vehicles.

The government noted that the new SOP will serve as a guideline to monitor and regulate the deployment of these devices, curb arbitrary usage, and reinforce proper protocol in line with administrative and public safety standards. The step reflects the state administration's broader effort to ensure discipline, transparency, and adherence to rules in official transport management.

Union Minister demands NHIDCL report on Tripura Highway

Agartala, Nov 27: Union Minister for Tribal Welfare Jual Oram on Wednesday requested a detailed report from the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) concerning the worsening condition of an alternative national highway in Tripura, officials confirmed. The highway, which connects Agartala to Kumarghat via Khowai and Kamalpur, had been upgraded by NHIDCL just a year ago.

However, local complaints indicate that several stretches have deteriorated sharply, with some areas described as a “death trap.” The issue first drew attention when Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha raised concerns in July with Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, urging immediate intervention. Oram, who arrived in Tripura on Tuesday and visited Kailashahar in Unakoti district, reviewed the progress of centrally sponsored schemes with senior officials and state ministers. During the meeting, Unakoti District Magistrate Tamal Majumder briefed the Union Minister on the highway’s condition, highlighting the rapid deterioration and Oram’s dissatisfaction with the situation. Majumder reports that Oram has requested a maintenance report from NHIDCL regarding the highway.

Christian Book Fair brings curated faith literature to Kangpokpi

● *A Christian Book Fair organized by Beautiful Books at Parazeau Maranatha Academy in Kangpokpi was inaugurated by Rev. Paolenlal Singson.*

Kangpokpi, Nov 27: A spiritually enriching Christian Book Fair, organised by Beautiful Books, the literature ministry of the Layman’s Evangelical Fellowship (Chennai), was inaugurated today at Parazeau Maranatha Academy, Kangpokpi. The event was formally opened by Rev. Paolenlal Singson, Pastor of Chongthu Baptist Church Kangpokpi, who cut the ribbon in the presence of church leaders, school authorities, and eager visitors. Beautiful Books, widely recognised for bringing authentic Christian literature to areas with limited access, has curated a diverse selection of Bibles and faith-based books for readers in Kangpokpi. The fair will continue until Saturday,

November 29, before the ministry team moves to its next location. The exhibition features a comprehensive range of titles catering to all age groups and spiritual needs, including children’s literature, youth resources, devotionals, discipleship materials, theology books, marriage counselling guides, pastor-support tools, commentaries, dictionaries, and a wide selection of Bibles, including major versions and local-language translations. Organisers emphasised that every book displayed has been carefully vetted to ensure alignment with sound doctrine, aiming to provide readers with reliable and uplifting spiritual guidance in an era of increasing misinformation. “Our aim is not just to conduct a book fair,” said Pastor Daniel, Manager of Beautiful Books. “We want to ensure that no one is misled in their spiritual journey. Every book here has been prayerfully chosen to help readers grow, be strengthened, and be blessed. Whatever book you buy here will surely be a blessing.” The opening day drew an enthusiastic crowd, with visitors browsing and purchasing books and Bibles. Organisers expressed gratitude for the warm response and encouraged the community to take full advantage of the rare and valuable resources available during the fair.



ened, and be blessed. Whatever book you buy here will surely be a blessing.” The opening day drew an enthusiastic crowd, with visitors browsing and purchasing books and Bibles. Organisers expressed gratitude for the warm response and encouraged the community to take full advantage of the rare and valuable resources available during the fair.

DLSA Dima Hasao Observes Constitution Day

Dima Hasao, Nov 27: Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) was observed on Wednesday at the district court premises in Haflong and the PI court in Jatinga by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dima Hasao, in cooperation with the Dima Hasao District Judiciary. A group recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution reaffirmed the participants’ dedication to its principles. The event was attended by members of the Bar Association, personnel of the PI court, Dima Hasao, and the Legal Aid Defense Counsel Office.

Khandu Praises Bomdila Museum Promoting Music & Culture

Itanagar, Nov 27: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu praised Raag-Vista, a new initiative launched at the district museum in Bomdila, for promoting youth empowerment, heritage preservation, and community engagement. He highlighted its role in providing opportunities for unemployed youth and fostering cultural learning.

Conceptualized by West Kameng Deputy Commissioner Akriti Sagar, the initiative has transformed

the museum into a vibrant hub for music education, with skilled trainer Tsering Soisow offering lessons in various disciplines. Khandu encouraged community involvement and emphasized the importance of integrating skill development with heritage preservation for cultural sustainability. The state government is focused on enhancing cultural outreach and grassroots skill programs, and initiatives like Raag-Vista support these objectives.

Assam cabinet approves ST status for six communities, greenlights textile heritage museum in Khanapara

● *In a significant meeting, the Assam Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved critical policy decisions aimed at enhancing community inclusion and preserving cultural heritage.*

Guwahati, Nov 27: In a landmark move aimed at strengthening community inclusion and preserving Assam’s cultural heritage, the Assam Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved key policy decisions during its recent meeting. In a significant development, the Cabinet cleared the report recommending Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six major communities in the state: Tai Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motok, Koch-Rajbongshi, and the Tea Tribes (Adivasis). The report, prepared by a Group of Ministers (GoM) led by Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu, with Ministers Pijush Hazarika and Ke-

shab Mahanta as members, will now be placed before the Assam Legislative Assembly and subsequently forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action. The move addresses a long-standing demand by these communities, which has been a major socio-political issue in Assam. Analysts say the approval marks a crucial step toward social equity and recognition for historically marginalized groups in the state. The Cabinet also sanctioned the transfer and modification of three bighas of land from the Government Muga Farm at Reshom Nagar, Khanapara, to the Cultural Affairs Department.

This land will host a state-of-the-art textile heritage museum, to be developed with the support of JSW I&P Holdings Pvt. Ltd. The museum will prominently feature the historic Vrindavani Vastra, a rare textile from the Vaishnavite renaissance of Srimanta Sankardeva,



on loan from the British Museum, London. Officials said the museum is expected to become a landmark destination celebrating Assam’s rich weaving traditions, including its famed muga silk heritage. Additionally, the Cabinet approved the Assam Survey and Settlement Training Centre Teachers’ Service

Rules, 2025, which will regulate recruitment, service conditions, and career progression for faculty at the ASSTC in Dakshingao, Guwahati. The new framework is intended to improve professional standards, enhance training quality, and strengthen capacity-building in land administration across the state.

Me’gong Festival 2025

Richard Marx, Yellow Claw to headline in Me.Gong Festival 2025

Shillong, Nov 27: Meghalaya is set to elevate its cultural calendar to new heights as the Me’gong Festival returns to Tura on December 5th and 6th with a global lineup led by pop-rock legend Richard Marx and internationally acclaimed electronic duo Yellow Claw. The 2025 edition reinforces the State’s rapidly expanding cultural economy framework envisioned by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon’ble Chief Minister, where festivals serve as engines for tourism, livelihoods, and community-led growth. Me’gong has, over the years, transformed into one of Meghalaya’s most influential cultural showcases. The 2024 edition recorded over 3 lakh visitors across two days, one of the largest festival footfalls in the Northeast, reflecting its rising national and international appeal. This growing scale is central to the Chief Minister’s vision of building an economic ecosystem fuelled by music, culture, creativity, and indigenous heritage. From hospitality and transport to artisans, food entrepreneurs, and local youth, the festival generates widespread economic opportunities and anchors the emergence of Garo Hills as a major cultural and tourism hub. The Me’gong Festival is set to return with a spectacular lineup, headlined by Bollywood sensations Kanika Kapoor and Neeti Mohan. They will be joined by an impressive roster of local bands, including Rough Road, Hoi Hoi Makbil, Haystack Ladies, G-Hills Finest, Crack Gang, and Ahaia. This festival in the Garo Hills features a vibrant mix of local and international artists, including the iconic Swedish rock band EUROPE performing for the first time in Northeast India in 2024. Attendees can enjoy authentic Garo cuisine, craft exhibitions, weaving workshops, and bamboo artistry, showcasing the region’s craftsmanship. Committed to sustainability, the festival implements zero-plastic operations and eco-friendly practices that align with Meghalaya’s environmental ethos.

783 recruits join Assam regiment in Shillong passing-out parade

Shillong, Nov 27: The Assam Regimental Centre in Shillong on Wednesday inducted 783 recruits, including 274 Agniveers and 509 Territorial Army troops, during an Attestation Parade of the Sixth Batch of Agniveers. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma attended the Attestation Parade, which marked the culmination of 31 weeks of rigorous military training and the formal induction of young recruits into the Indian Army. The Agniveer batch comprised Naga/Kuki (08), Mizo/Lushai (02), Assamese/Kachari (20), Arunachali (18), and other recruits from across the North East Region (226), showcasing the region’s rich and diverse martial heritage. The Chief Minister reviewed the parade, which included the march-past, presentation of Regimental Colours, trooping of the National Flag and administration of the oath. Selected parents were presented the ‘Gaurav Padak’ in recognition of their contribution to national service. In his address, Sangma praised the distinguished legacy of the Assam Regiment, noting that it was raised in Shillong on June 15, 1941 and “bravely fought against the Japanese during the Second World War,” playing a critical role in safeguarding the nation. “It is a matter of great pride that today, after successfully completing your training, you have become an integral part of the Assam Regiment and the Indian Army,” the Chief Minister said. He highlighted the future responsibilities of the recruits, observing that the newly attested soldiers would serve “in extreme weather conditions on high mountains and in remote border areas,” and urged them to uphold the Regiment’s motto, Asam Vikram. He also reminded them of the Army’s core values—“Duty, Sacrifice, Discipline and Patriotism... the hallmarks of a true soldier.” The Chief Minister congratulated the families present and expressed confidence that the recruits were “ready for every challenge that lies ahead.”

Assam Regiment Holds POP for 6th Agniveer Batch

Shillong, Nov 27: Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma, today, attended the Attestation Parade of the 6th Batch of Agniveers at the Assam Regimental Centre, Happy Valley.

The event marked the culmination of 31 weeks of rigorous military training and the formal induction of young recruits into the Indian Army.

A total of 783 trainees participated in the ceremony, including 274 Agniveers and 509 Territorial Army recruits who commenced training on 1 May 2025.

The Agniveer batch comprised Naga/Kuki (08), Mizo/Lushai (02), Assamese/Kachari (20), Arunachali (18), and other recruits from across the North East Region (226), showcasing the region’s rich and diverse martial heritage. The Chief Minister reviewed the parade, which included the march-past, presentation of Regimental Colours, trooping of the National Flag and administration of the oath. Selected parents were presented the ‘Gaurav Padak’ in recognition of their contribution to national service.

In his address, the Chief Minister, praised the distinguished legacy of the Assam Regiment, noting that it was raised in Shillong on 15 June 1941 and “bravely fought against the Japanese during the Second World War,” playing a critical role in safeguarding the nation.

He emphasized the pride of joining the Assam Regiment and the Indian Army after training, highlighting the soldiers’ future responsibilities in challenging environments. The Chief Minister reiterated the Army’s core values of Duty, Sacrifice, Discipline, and Patriotism, expressing confidence in the recruits and recognizing the instructional staff’s efforts. The ceremony included a march, songs, and a group photograph, alongside a PT display and parent interaction.

Nagaon Intensifies Tobacco-Free Drive; DTCC Fines ₹2,600

Nagaon, Nov 27: The District Tobacco Control Cell (DTCC), Nagaon, in collaboration with the District Administration and Police Department, carried out a strong enforcement campaign throughout Nagaon town on November 26 in an effort to reduce youth tobacco usage. The program is a component of the continuing Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0, which emphasizes strict adherence to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003. Violators face fines of up to ₹2,600. On November 26, 2025, a ‘nationwide resistance’ was declared to mobilize Indian workers and farmers in defense of labor rights and social justice. Demonstrations were led by various trade union leaders in Cachar District, including Supriyo Bhattacharjee (CITU) and others. In Tinsukia district, coal workers demonstrated demanding the withdrawal of new labor codes perceived as threats to job security and rights. Union representatives criticized both state and central governments for favoring corporate interests over laborers.

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

Aizawl, Nov 27: For the first time, Mizoram will be represented at the prestigious Reading Decathlon, with Mount Carmel School and La Montessori School selected to participate in the competition organised by Food4thought in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on November 29. Four students, who emerged victorious in the State Level Competition, will represent Mizoram at the national event: Rebek Malsawmzuali and

Krista Roluahpuia Khiante from Mount Carmel School, and Malsawmhlui Pachuau and Joshua Lalawmpuia from La Montessori School. Ahead of their departure, Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC) Chairman Malsawmzuala Ralte addressed the students at the MYC Conference Hall on Wednesday. He congratulated them for becoming the state’s first representatives at the Decathlon and encouraged them to maintain



strong reading habits while representing Mizoram on a national stage. The Reading Decathlon, renowned

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

Anand Rathi mentions these points as reasons Carysil shares rise by 33%

Carysil shares: Anand Rathi increased its target price to ₹1,265, valuing at 30x FY27e/FY28e average EPS.

New Delhi: Brokerage Anand Rathi predicts a 33% increase in Carysil shares from their present level. The brokerage company valued Carysil at 30 times FY27e/FY28e average EPS, maintained its “Buy” recommendation, and increased the price objective from Rs 1,161 to Rs 1,265. Carysil reported healthy earnings in the September 2025 quarter. Revenue rose 16% YoY to Rs 240 crore, EBITDA increased 24% YoY to Rs 46 crore, and profit grew 62% YoY to Rs 27 crore.

While economies of scale aided healthy growth in EBITDA, higher other income and lower depreciation/interest expense boosted earnings, said the brokerage adding that the management expects revenue to grow



by 15% in FY26 with EBITDA margin of 18-20%. 17/25% CAGR over FY25-28, we maintain BUY rating on the stock with a 12-mth target price of Rs 1,265 (from Rs 1,161 earlier),” said Anand Rathi. Carysil shares were trading on a flat note at Rs 957.20 in the afternoon session today. revenue

increased 7.8% to ₹24.5 crore, on a 7.6% rise in volumes to 43,000 units and steady realisation at ₹5,656 per unit. Kitchen appliances and other categories registered a 38% year-on-year growth in revenue to ₹33.9 crore, while the surface business rose by 2.2% to ₹650 crore.

Rs 3,000-crore IPO: This renewable player is heading to the markets in December

New Delhi: The initial public offering of Juniper Green Energy is likely to hit the primary market in December 2025, according to market sources. The forthcoming public offer will be a completely fresh issue of Rs 3,000 crore with no offer for sale component. The company is an independent power producer focused on developing, building, and operating large-scale renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and hybrid power plants. Founded in 2018 and based in Delhi NCR, it handles end-to-end project execution through its internal EPC and O&M teams and has a significant portfolio, with both operational and under-construction projects. Here are key things you should know about the company and IPO:The company plans to use the net proceeds for repayment or prepayment of borrowings at the company level. Debt reduction in key subsidiaries including Juniper Green Gamma One, Juniper Green Three, Juniper Green Field, Juniper Green Beam, Juniper Green Kite and Juniper



Green Ray Two. The company also proposed to utilise funds for general corporate purposes.Financials

Data available with Tracxn showed that the revenue of the company jumped to Rs 424.4 crore in FY24 against Rs 362.5 crore a year ago. The figure stood around Rs 14.1 crore in FY20. On the other hand, net profit Juniper Green Energy jumped to Rs 40.10 crore in FY24 against a loss of Rs 12.1 crore in FY23. The company had a total

debt of Rs 2671.70 crore in FY24, the data showed. ICICI Securities, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India), JM Financial, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company are the book run lead managers. On the other hand, KFin Technologies is the registrar to the issue.Business and background

Juniper Green ranks among India’s top 10 renewable IPPs in total capacity as of December 31, 2024. Its portfolio has grown since com-

missioning its first 100 MW solar project in 2020. As of May 31, 2025, the company has built a diversified renewable energy portfolio totalling 7,898.45 MW across 48 projects. This includes operational solar and wind assets, under-construction contracted projects, and advanced hybrid and FDRE (firm and dispatchable renewable energy) projects supported by battery energy storage systems (BESS). The company has signed up for 1 GW of Envision’s 5 MW wind turbine generators, enabling efficiency gains and scale in project execution. The company’s operating footprint spans key renewable-rich states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.Other information

The promoters of the company are Juniper Renewable Holdings, AT Holdings, Arvind Tiku, Hemant Tikoo and Niharika Tiku. In general, the company’s upcoming IPO is set to be closely watched by investors to the next phase of India’s clean-energy growth story.

Ashok Leyland shares jump 6% on Hinduja Leyland merger

New Delhi: Shares of Ashok Leyland Ltd climbed 6 per cent in Thursday’s trade after its material subsidiary, Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited, approved a scheme of merger by absorption with NDL Ventures Limited. The board of directors of HLF approved the scheme on November 25, 2025. Following the announcement, the stock witnessed strong buying interest, notably outperforming the broader sector. The scrip rose as much as 6.4 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 158.50 on the BSE, compared to the previous close of Rs 148.95. At the last check, the stock was trading 6.11 per cent higher at Rs 158.05. This bullish momentum comes even as the broader market remained muted, with the BSE Auto index trading 0.25 per cent lower at 61,452.19.Ashok Leyland has been a consistent wealth creator for investors this year, with the counter gaining over 50 per cent in 2025 so far.According to the regulatory filing, the merger aims to consolidate the business of financing commercial and personal vehicles under a listed entity. NDL Ventures Limited will issue and allot 25 fully paid-up equity shares (face value Rs 10 each) for every 10 fully paid-up equity shares (face value Rs 10 each) held in Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited, the company said in its exchange filing. The ‘Appointed Date’



for the merger is slated for April 01, 2026, subject to approvals from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and other regulatory authorities.

For the financial year ended March 31, 2025, Hinduja Leyland Finance reported a total income from operations of Rs 4,473.33 crore and a net worth of Rs 7,299.23 crore, it said.In a note dated November 19, brokerage firm Deven Choksey revised its rating on the stock from ‘Buy’ to ‘Accumulate’, setting a target price of Rs 156. Similarly, ICICI Direct maintained a ‘Hold’ rating on the stock with a target price of Rs 165 in its November 15 note.

Bitcoin rebounds 6% to hit \$91,500 amid rate cut hopes

New Delhi: Crypto tokens made sharp rebound on Thursday, with Bitcoin surging more than 6 per cent from its 24-hour lows, amid the volatility in the riskier asset class in the anticipation of the rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. Other tokens from the digital asset pack followed the suit. According to the data from Coinmarkcap, Bitcoin reclaimed \$91,500-mark on Thursday as it recovered over 6 per cent from \$86,320 mark. Despite this rebound, Bitcoin is down 20 per cent in last the one month and 27.5 per cent from its all time high at \$126,198.07 hit on October 07, 2025.Short-term rallies remain constrained by risk budgets, but deep oversold readings and negative sentiment may be setting the stage for a gradual reset, said Vikram Subburaj, CEO at Giottus. “Macro factors continue to drive short-term



direction. The AI-equity linkage that lifted Bitcoin earlier in the week is already fading and expectations for a December US Fed cut have rebounded.Bitcoins dominance in the crypto market stood at 58.6 per cent. The fear and Greed Index was at 18 level, signaling extreme fear sentiment in the crypto markets. Bitcoin has reclaimed the \$91,000 level, supported by renewed buying interest and improving sentiment across the market. An estimated 1.8 million BTC were withdrawn

from exchanges overnight, leading to speculation around strong institutional activity, said Edul Patel, CEO at Mudrex“ETH whale wallets holding 10,000–100,000 ETH added 440,000 ETH in a week, reinforcing confidence despite recent caution. If retail demand builds on this momentum, BTC could test and potentially clear \$95,000. A breakout above this level would strengthen the bullish structure and open the path toward new highs,” he said.

Revenue growth in India slows as tax cuts room

Analysts from Moody’s and Morgan Stanley highlight weak H1FY26 revenue, expenditure trends, and potential reliance on monetary policy to sustain economic growth.

New Delhi: India’s revenue growth has come under pressure in the current financial year with tax sops, limiting the room for further fiscal policy support, analysts at Moody’s and Morgan Stanley said on Tuesday

Martin Petch, vice president – senior credit officer (sovereign risk) at Moody’s Ratings, said at a webinar that revenue performance has been noticeably weak. “Revenue growth has been fairly weak, and there are probably some constraints in terms of fiscal consolidation ... We have seen some tax cuts as well, and that is additionally weighing on revenue growth. There is probably less scope for fiscal policy support for the economy,” Petch said. A Morgan Stanley report by chief India economist Upasana Chachra and economist Bani Gam-

bhir echoed this concern, noting that government revenue growth in the first half of FY26 is significantly below expectations. “Government (total) revenue growth is lagging budget estimates by a wide margin as growth in H1FY26 stands at a meagre 4.5 per cent year on year (YoY), driven by broad-based moderation in tax collection while non-tax revenues have surprised positively (with record RBI dividend transfer of ₹2.68 lakh crore),” the economists said.CGA data show that net tax revenue at end-September stood at over ₹12.29 lakh crore, lower than ₹12.65 lakh crore in the same period last year, corresponding period of FY25. As of September, total expenditure has reached ₹23 lakh crore, rising 9.1 per cent year-on-year, driven by accelerated capital spending. Morgan Stanley noted that expenditure has remained broadly in line with the budgeted share but there is a sharper tilt towards capex compared with the previous fiscal, when revenue expenditure had dominated.

iQOO 15 launched in India with Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor at Rs 72,999

New Delhi: Smartphone brand iQOO today launched its latest premium flagship device, the iQOO 15. Engineered for power users, the smartphone combines top-tier hardware, including the new Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor, with a significant software overhaul.

The iQOO 15 is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 Mobile Platform, built on a non-Arm public architecture CPU, which achieved an AnTuTu score exceeding 4 million.The internal cooling system features India’s largest 8K single-layer VC Cooling System. The device features a Samsung 2K M14 LEAD™ OLED display, a first for any Android smartphone. It boasts India’s brightest display with 2600 nits High Brightness Mode (HBM) and an extraordinary 6000 nits local peak brightness. The display is Dolby Vision certified and holds TÜV Rheinland double eye protection certification.For the first time on an iQOO device in India, the iQOO 15 ships with OriginOS 6 based on Android 16 out of the box, offering a commitment of five years of OS updates and seven years



of security patches.The camera system is equally robust, featuring a triple 50MP Camera System. This includes a 50MP Sony IMX921 VCS main sensor, a 50MP ultra-wide lens, and a 50MP 3X

Telephoto Periscope camera. Enhanced computational imaging is driven by the NICE 2.0 night algorithm and AIGC-driven visual intelligence for complex editing effects.

Infocom to turn city into tech centre

New Delhi: ‘Technology: Future Forward’ is no longer a catchphrase but a defining agenda as businesses confront transformative shifts across artificial intelligence (AI), digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and workforce paradigms.AI has evolved beyond automation, and is fast emerging as a noticeable component in decision-making, creative intelligence, predictive analytics and personalised experiences. Enterprises are rapidly re-architecting their systems around AI-native platforms, and data-driven ecosystems are reshaping how services are built, scaled and delivered. economy’s exponential expansion has made cybersecurity and workforce transformation boardroom priorities.

Paytm shares: ICICI Securities ups target price by 17%;

New Delhi: ICICI Securities has upped its target price on One 97 Communications (Paytm) by 17 per cent, underpinned by the company’s substantial earnings growth potential. The domestic brokerage noted that any rise in Paytm share price would likely stem from growth in payments and loan distribution, margin expansion supported by product upgrades, an improving UPI mix skewed towards chargeable offerings, savings initiatives and operating leverage, as well as optionality from possible new offerings across postpaid, wallet and international businesses. It added that Paytm’s broad presence across the payments ecosystem continued to strengthen these prospects. ICICI Securities viewed the risk-reward as favourable and pointed to improving success in product innovation, customer and merchant retention and free cash flow maximisation. Regulatory challenges, particularly their implications for loan growth, remained the key risk, it said.The brokerage retained its ‘Buy’ rating and raised its target price to Rs 1,450

from Rs 1,240 earlier. On Wednesday, the scrip climbed 2.69 per cent to hit a high of Rs 1276.50 +33.40 (+ICICI Securities factored in a compound annual growth rate of about 23 per cent in gross merchant value between FY25 and FY28, compared with a 66 per cent CAGR over FY21–24. It said GMV growth in FY25 stood at 3 per cent owing to regulatory impact. Net payment take rates excluding UPI and subscription incentives were estimated at around 2.9, 3.3 and 3.6 basis points for FY26, FY27 and FY28. ICICI Securities assumed UPI incentives of Rs 70 crore annually for FY26–28, broadly similar to FY25. Subscription revenue was projected at Rs 1,390 crore, Rs 1,670 crore and Rs 1,950 crore over FY26–28, against Rs 670 crore in H1 FY26. Financial services income is estimated at Rs 2,510 crore, Rs 3,210 crore and Rs 3,970 crore over FY26–28, compared with Rs 1,180 crore in H1 FY26, with contributions expected from businesses beyond loan distribution, including postpaid products.

MCX stock reaches a record high and surpasses Rs 10,000 for the first time

New Delhi: Shares of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) created record on the Dalal Street in Wednesday’s trade, crossing the five-digit mark for the very first time. The stock rallied as much as 3.03 per cent to touch a fresh all-time high of Rs 10,171.05 on the BSE, surpassing its previous close of Rs 9,871.65. At last check, the counter was trading 2.84 per cent higher at Rs 10,152, cementing its position as a market heavyweight with a market capitalisation of Rs 51,773 crore. The scrip is currently trading 130.2 per cent off its 52-week low of Rs 4,410.10.India’s largest commodity derivatives exchange reported a standalone net profit of Rs 197.47 crore in the second quarter of FY26, registering a robust growth of 28.5 per cent from Rs 153.62 crore recorded in the year-ago period. Revenue from operations in Q2FY26 increased 31 per cent to Rs 374.23 crore, compared to Rs 285.58 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year. Leading brokerages had earlier flagged the potential in the counter, largely pricing in the benefits of commodity volatility. Motilal Oswal Financial Services had issued a ‘Neutral’ rating but raised its target price to Rs 10,700, citing healthy participation, new product launches, and strong volume growth in September and October.

Similarly, ICICI Direct had recommended a ‘Hold’ rating on the stock with a target price of Rs 10,000—a milestone the



stock has now successfully breached. The brokerage highlighted that persistent volatility in commodities, particularly gold and silver, continues to boost MCX’s average daily turnover.According to data from Trendlyne, the stock has a 1-year Beta of 1.8, indicating very high volatility. However, momentum indicators are not yet flashing overbought signals. The relative strength index (RSI) stands at 65.7, and the money flow index (MFI) is at 60.6, placing both in the mid-range. The underlying trend remains firmly positive, with the current price trading significantly above key moving averages: higher than the 50-day SMA of 8,874 and the 200-day SMA of 7,299.6.

Kartik Aaryan's Third Film with Dharma Productions Signed

Mumbai: Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan are set to team up once again, marking their third film together. This new project is expected to begin filming in August 2026, right after the duo completes Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri and Naagzilla. Their repeated collaborations clearly show how Kartik's association with Dharma Productions is getting stronger, alongside his growing presence in the

industry. A Bollywood Hungama report mentioned that Kartik has already agreed to take on another lead role under Dharma's banner. While the plot is still under wraps, the report suggests that the film is being developed from scratch. A source quoted in the piece said, "Kartik has already given Karan Johar the green light for another film, the details of which are being closely guarded. Within Dharma,



he's now being positioned as the banner's new poster boy, rapidly scaling up by fronting multiple big-ticket projects. Karan is convinced that Kartik is

among the most bankable heroes in the country right now and is staking huge box-office hopes on Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri and Naagzilla as major money-spinners at the ticket windows." This upcoming venture is being described as genre-defining, even

though the makers haven't revealed much about it yet. What is confirmed is that the shoot begins in August 2026, setting up a packed period ahead for both Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan. The news arrives alongside fresh buzz around Naagzilla, which is reportedly being shaped as a franchise. Kartik will remain the only constant across all instalments, while the rest of the team may change.

The same source shared that, "As soon as the first Naagzilla film is launched, the pre-production for the next film in the series will start. Kartik will be the only constant in the series. The rest of the cast and crew will change in every instalment." In the film, Kartik plays Preyama-vadeshwar Pyare Chand, an Ichhadhaari Naag, and the fantasy drama is set for release on August 14, 2026 timed with Naag Panchami.

Dhanush, Kriti Starrer Crosses Rs 5 Crore Advance



Mumbai: Tere Ishq Mein, directed by Aanand L Rai and starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, is all set for a good start this weekend. The film has already acquired substantial traction, with advance bookings showing signs of massive popularity. The numbers indicate the film is headed to be one of the most successful projects this year.

According to Sacnilk, Tere Ishq Mein has sold approximately 107402 tickets across 10394 shows in India, with pre-sales totalling Rs 5.32 crore. According to sources, the Central Board of Film Certification ordered no visual adjustments and left the intense romance and action scenes untouched. Only one word was altered during the conversation. The picture received a U/A 16+ certificate. The certificate also validates a runtime of 169.17 minutes (2 hours, 49 minutes, and 17 seconds). Tere Ishk Mein's trailer delves deeper into Shankar and Mukti's raw, passionate, and unpredictable world, a love story that transcends logic, time, and fate. Aanand L Rai's particular storytelling technique, mixed with the emotional depth of Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav's screenplay, offers an exciting cinematic experience. Tere Ishq Mein will be released internationally in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu on November 28, 2025.

The initial response seemed promising, indicating that the picture has a good possibility of being another box-office triumph this year. While it is still early, if the present buzz persists, the film might earn significant revenue even before its premiere. Since the trailer's release, Tere Ishq Mein has generated a lot of talk among fans, with AR Rahman's soundtrack adding to the excitement. With the ₹5 \text{crore} milestone achieved solely through advance ticket sales, the film is well-positioned for a solid opening weekend. The actual box office performance will now heavily rely on positive word-of-mouth and the critical reception following the film's release this Friday. The industry will be closely watching to see if the audience buzz can sustain the momentum and translate into a long run at the box office.

Vijay Devarakonda Film Adds Hollywood's Arnold Vosloo

Hyderabad: South African-American actor Arnold Vosloo is all set to debut in Indian cinema. Best known for his chilling turn as villain in films like The Mummy (1999) and The Mummy Returns (2001), Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo has reportedly joined the cast of Vijay Devarakonda's film. Tentatively titled, VD14, the period drama is being directed by Rahul Sankrityan.

Arnold Vosloo was spotted on the sets of Vijay Devarakonda's film, VD14, accompanied by actor Vinod Sagar. The picture has sparked fresh buzz around the project and has quickly gained traction on social media. Many netizens have started predicting that The Mummy star will play antagonist opposite Vijay in the film. Since the film is set between 1854 and 1878, during the



British colonial rule, many speculate that Vosloo may play a Brit officer. The plot is reportedly inspired from historical events, exploring themes of resistance, revolt and identity. Director Ra-

hul Sankrityan reportedly chanced upon Arnold after his impressive filmography. VD14 marks a reunion of Vijay Devarakonda and Rahul Sankrityan after their successful earlier collabora-

tion Taxiwaala (2018). The film's first look was unveiled on Vijay's birthday (May 8). The poster shows the young actor like a meditating warrior. The also touches Rayalaseema backdrop, and Vijay will speak in the region's accent for the first time.

Meanwhile, Vijay Devarakonda made a revelation on what he is doing it for the first time. In what is called an 'update to the fans,' the actor surprised himself by working on two films. He also added that both films are extremely so demanding that they have taken his life. Vijay also gave a sneak peek into what's happening in his life of late. From new watch collection to gadgets to not missing out on anything that's spiritual(pooja), Vijay reveals that he's always trained and game for the war.

Rinku Dhawan, Rupali Ganguly Reunite on Anupamaa



Mumbai: Kahani Ghar Ghar Kii actress Rinku Dhawan, who also appeared on Bigg Boss 17, has joined the hit television serial Anupamaa, headlined by Rupali Ganguly. The show, which began in 2020, has consistently remained among the top-rated serials across channels.

With Rinku's entry, the storyline is expected to get even more engaging, bringing in a fresh plot along with new twists and turns. In an interview with IANS, Rinku

shared that this opportunity felt like a new beginning for her, adding it finally broke a long-standing "jinx" in her career. She also revealed that she has been wanting to work with Anupamaa producer Rajan Shahi for nearly 20 years. She said, "Finally the wait is over, I feel the jinx has been broken. The minute I got a call from his team I just knew I was saying yes. Rinku shared that she felt genuinely blessed to join a show with such a loyal fan-base, adding that she hopes

to do full justice to the opportunity coming her way. Her character in the show is of a politician who also happens to be Anupamaa's childhood friend. Rinku describes her as someone practical and worldly, someone who cares for her people, but isn't afraid to put herself first. This balance, Rinku says, makes the character both layered and interesting. Talking about preparation for the role, Rinku said, "The team explained every detail of the character very minutely, and thanks to director Romesh Ji and his associates for guiding me through everything." Anupamaa (Rupali Ganguly) is overjoyed to reconnect with her old school friend Rajni (Rinku Dhawan), and to make her birthday special, she arranges a surprise celebration. The two then spend time reminiscing and reliving their shared memories.

Farhan Akhtar Confirms Don 3 Starts Shooting 2026

Mumbai: Farhan Akhtar has shared a big update on Ranveer Singh's next movie, Don 3. In a recent interview, the actor-filmmaker, who is currently enjoying the success of 120 Bahadur, revealed that they are planning to start shooting for Don 3 early next year. "We start filming next year. That's probably the biggest update that I can give you," Akhtar told Filmfare.

Previously, makers of Don 3 were planning to begin shooting in September 2025. However, it was then delayed due to unknown reasons. Don 3 is one of the most awaited films. Replacing Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan will be Ranveer Singh as Don. In the third franchise of the movie, Singh will be seen locking horns with Vikrant Massey. Interestingly, this film will also mark Ranveer and Vikrant's reunion after Dil Dhadakne Do. The duo had shared screen space in Vikramaditya Motwane's Lootera in 2013 too. However, this is the first time that they'll be seen locking horns onscreen. "Be assured that there will be a lot of stylised action sequences, including bike chases, between the duo. Vikrant, who has pretty much been the darling of heartland cinema, will be seen in a brand new avatar in Don 3, leaving fans surprised," a source close to the film told us previously. Initially, Kiara Advani was signed on to play the female lead oppo-



site Ranveer. However, recent reports suggest that she has exited the project, with Kriti Sanon stepping in to take her place. But there is no official announcement regarding the leading lady as of now.

Despite the buzz, the project hasn't been without its share of controversies. When Ranveer Singh was officially announced as the new Don, many fans took to social media expressing their disappointment, drawing inevitable comparisons with Amitabh Bachchan, who originated the role, and Shah Rukh Khan, who carried it forward in Farhan Akhtar's earlier films. However, insiders reveal that Ranveer is unfazed by the backlash and is committed to bringing his own interpretation to the role. With Farhan Akhtar at the helm and fresh faces joining the ensemble, Don 3 is shaping up to be one of Bollywood's most ambitious projects yet.

RJ Mahvash Takes Swipe at Palaash Muchhal Over Screenshots

Mumbai: The wedding of Indian cricket star Smriti Mandhana and Bollywood music composer Palaash Muchhal has become the centre of widespread social media chatter. While the official reason for postponing the November 23 ceremony was linked to the ill health of Smriti's father, online conversations suggest otherwise. The internet has been flooded with speculation after an alleged chat, purportedly involving Palaash, began circulating. Despite no confirmation from either family, the timing of the viral screenshots has only intensified the frenzy.

Amid this storm of rumours, RJ Mahvash has now stirred further conversation with a video that many users believe is an indirect jab at Palaash Muchhal. RJ Mahvash, known for her witty and relatable Instagram videos, posted a clip shortly after the wedding postponement became a trending topic. The content and timing of her remarks made many viewers assume she was talking about Palaash Muchhal. In the video, she begins jokingly: "Mard bhi na bada hee pyari cheez hota hai, jab poocho toh single hee hota hai... see brother, I don't know the truth and lie,



but mere shaadi ke waqt na main apna dulha krri hoon internet pe 1 hafta pahle launch..."Continuing her humorous commentary, she adds: "You make its screenshots public, otherwise send them to me, I will make them public... I just want to leave peacefully... You people have kept everything like a mountain." Mahvash further advises her followers to keep records of their conversations—especially disappearing messages—saying: "And if you have disappearing messages or talk on Snapchat, then make it from

another phone... send it to me on time... Just tell me before the wedding, it will be fine." Though her tone remains playful, social media users quickly connected the dots, suggesting the remarks mirrored the online allegations surrounding Palaash. Smriti Mandhana and Palaash Muchhal were set to tie the knot on November 23. Reports initially confirmed that the wedding was postponed because Smriti's father, Shrinivas Mandhana, suffered a health emergency. He has since been discharged and is reportedly stable.

Nawazuddin's Raat Akeli Hai Teaser & Release Date Out

Mumbai: Nawazuddin Siddiqui returns as Inspector Jatil Yadav in a new chapter, as the makers of Raat Akeli Hai unveiled the teaser of its much-awaited follow-up, Raat Akeli Hai: Bansal Murders. Featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui in yet another intense investigative role, the teaser has already begun generating massive buzz among fans.

Taking to their official Instagram handle, Netflix shared the teaser and also announced the released date. "Inspector Jatil ka raat ke andhere se purana rishta hai, lekin Bansal Murders ka case aur bhi gehra hai Watch Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders, out 19 December, only on Netflix," read the caption. The video opens with the introduction of crime scene. A murder has happened in an unique way which has left everyone shocked. Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who is in charge, looks



out for all possible hints but it all leads to nowhere. It will be interesting to know how he manages to find out the culprit. Set a few years after the events of the 2020 film, The Bansal Murders follows Inspector Jatil Yadav as he takes on another challenging case involving a high-profile family and a murder wrapped in secrecy. As the investigation progresses, buried truths begin to surface, forcing him to navigate the fine line between justice and consequence. The film will have its World Premiere at the 56th

International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa this November, ahead of its release on Netflix.

Speaking about returning as Jatil Yadav, Nawazuddin Siddiqui said, "Jatil Yadav is a character very close to me, flawed and restless, yet relentless in the pursuit of justice. In the sequel, Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders, he faces a case that tests everything he believes in. Smita and Honey have created a world that feels real and raw, where every clue hides a secret.

Mohanlal Marks Kireedam's 4K Comeback at IFFI

Agency: Mohanlal has never hidden his affection for Kireedam, the 1989 drama that shaped his career and left a mark on Malayalam cinema. Now, more than three decades later, the film is back in the spotlight with a world premiere of its 4K restoration at the 56th International Film Festival of India in Goa. The actor shared his excitement on social media, calling the moment an honour and a deeply emotional milestone.

He revealed that the film was restored from a 35mm release print preserved by the National Film Archive of India. The original camera negative had deteriorated over time, which makes the survival of this print all the more important. Mohanlal thanked the NFDC and NFAI team and highlighted how gratifying it is to see the film revived under the National Film Heritage Mission. He also noted that cinematographer S Kumar



personally supervised the final grading, ensuring the restored version stays true to the film's visual soul. For fans who grew up watching Kireedam on VHS tapes and scratchy television reruns, the idea of seeing its emotional churn in crisp 4K is nothing short of a full circle moment.

Directed by Sibi Malayil and written by A K Lohithadas, Kireedam is remembered not for spectacle but for its simple and

devastating human core. Mohanlal plays Sethumadhavan, a young man who dreams of joining the police force, only to watch his life twist into tragedy after one fateful confrontation. His performance is often cited as one of the finest in Malayalam cinema, a controlled portrayal of a man crushed by fate and circumstance. The role earned him a Special Jury Mention at the National Film Awards and remains a reference point for

actors studying restrained emotional craft. The film's influence grew with time. It inspired remakes in several languages and continues to be discussed in conversations about the best Malayalam films ever made. Critics still praise its grounded writing and its heartbreaking final stretch, both of which shaped a generation of filmmakers who admired its honesty. The restoration now gives new audiences a chance to experience the film the way it was meant to be seen on the big screen. The return of Kireedam is part of the Indian Panorama Special Package at IFFI 2025, which features eighteen restored classics. These restorations cut across Hindi, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, and Telugu cinema and honour the legacy of some of the country's greatest storytellers. This year's programme carries even deeper meaning as it celebrates one hundred and twenty five years of V

Shantaram and marks centenary tributes to legendary names such as Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Ritwik Ghatak, Bhupen Hazarika, P Bhanumati, Salil Choudhury, and K Vaikunt. Film enthusiasts attending the festival will notice the growing emphasis on film preservation in India. The restored lineup at IFFI reflects the larger push by the National Film Heritage Mission to protect and revive classics that risk being lost to time. With each restoration, the gap between past and present narrows. Films once limited to aging prints and memories now have a chance to thrive before a new generation. In this context, Kireedam stands as both a tribute and a reminder. It celebrates the power of performance-driven storytelling and underlines why preserving cinema matters. As Mohanlal said, watching the classic return to the screen is an honour. For audiences, it is a gift.

LIFESTYLE

Enter the opulent Mumbai house of Ram and Gautami Kapoor, which has a chic bar and stunning walls that even Farah Khan would be impressed by

Actor Ram Kapoor's lavish Mumbai home, where he lives with his wife, Gautami Kapoor, two kids and their two adorable dogs, is a perfect blend of comfort, quirk, and luxury. On June 30, filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan gave fans an exclusive tour of the actor's stylish space through a video shared on her YouTube channel. As Farah stepped inside, she couldn't help but admire the stunning front door, so grand and secure-looking that their cook, Dilip, jokingly calls it "vault gate." As they stepped into the hallway, a large, artistic painting greeted them, adding a sophisticated charm to the space. Speaking about the piece, Ram shared, "I got this



painting because of the face, but I wanted the face to be seen from here," pointing to a strategically placed mirror that reflected the artwork perfectly. The entire home was done up in nude tones with

warm lighting that created a cosy and elegant touch. Ram then gave a tour of the guest room, which stood out with its bold red walls and a sleek modern TV mounted above a custom wooden shelf, striking a

perfect balance between style and convenience. The attached bathroom echoed the bold theme with a striking red lip-shaped sofa, adding a quirky yet stylish touch. In the living room, a spacious pastel sofa sat beneath a large, colourful painting, while expansive French windows allowed natural sunlight to flood the space. On the other side of the hall stood a chic dining area, complete with ruby-red chairs and a contemporary overhead light fixture. At one corner of the home was a luxurious bar setup lined with an impressive collection of alcohol bottles. The kitchen, in contrast, embraced minimalism with a clean black-and-white palette, staying true to its sleek and modern aesthetic.

Seven colors dominate ethnic clothing and provide flair and flare to accessories

Pastels are the show-stoppers that turn heads with their soft-spoken, sorbet-like shades. The pastel style is the quiet sister of dopamine dressing, flattering both in person and on camera, with soft colours bringing in the sweet charm. Ethnic wear is now seeing pastels take up space, from brunches and weddings to festive functions and everything in between. While fuchsia, hot pink, parrot green, scarlet, tangerine, or navy blue once ruled the celebration scene with their dramatic flair, pastels are for those who seek a refreshing alternative, quiet

yet beautiful. Pastels may not dominate the frame the way brighter, more vibrant colours do. **Mint:** A mint green sharara with mirror work is ideal for a daytime function. It appears fresh, flirty, and photogenic in bright sunlight. **Blush pink:** Blush pink lehenga is a go-to for main character energy because of the romantic hue. Pair it with pearl jewellery to look regal. **Lilac:** Lilac is a dreamy and soft colour. It has a luxurious vibe to it, making you stand out. A lilac anarkali looks good for functions. **Ice baby blue:** A powder blue kurta set with chick-

ankari embroidery evokes understated elegance. Add silver jhumkas with a potli for added grace. **Peach:** Peach is a versatile shade. A peach saree is perfect for all kinds of functions. Go for a blouse with a contrasting colour. **Sage:** Sage green co-ord sets with light threadwork are perfect for haldi skin and brunch vibes. Style your hair in messy curls with co-ords. **Buttercream:** A butter yellow palazzo brings warmth and brightness to a festive gathering. Add some oxidised silver jewellery as accessories.

Doctor's Perspective
on Sedentary Living
Sedentary lifestyle leads to obesity



Working officials often spend the majority of their office hours sitting at their desks while working on their computers, leading a sedentary lifestyle. With hectic work schedules, some people do find time to go to the gym. However, most of their time throughout the day is spent sitting, and this could lead to increased health risks. Dr Jayanti Khura, consultant-internal medicine, Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar, talked about how a sedentary lifestyle increases disease risks, what you can do to be more active apart from hitting the gym, and how a lack of body movement affects our health. Dr Khura explained, "A sedentary lifestyle, which includes more sitting and less movement throughout the day, increases various health risks. It

is as harmful as smoking, even if you are not a smoker." According to the expert, our bodies are designed for movement. Therefore, when we deny them that essential activity, "we not only reduce our physical health but also interfere with vital bodily functions like metabolism, circulation, and digestion." Even people who go to the gym regularly but remain seated for the rest of the day are not fully protected from the risks of a sedentary lifestyle. It's important to integrate frequent, light activity throughout the day to keep the body active and the mind alert," Dr Khura stated. Dr Khura also highlighted what a sedentary lifestyle leads to: **Obesity:** A sedentary lifestyle can lead to obesity, due to a lack of movement, which results in low calorie

burning and, as a result, fat deposition. All these can lead to decreased insulin sensitivity and increased risk of diabetes. **High blood pressure:** A sedentary lifestyle can also cause an increased risk of high blood pressure and heart disease. **Cancer risk:** It has also been seen that cancer risk goes up with prolonged sitting hours. **Bone health:** A sedentary lifestyle takes a toll on our bones, making them weaker. Because our bone needs movement to stay strong. **Poor posture:** Prolonged sitting also causes back pain and neck pain due to poor posture. **Depression and anxiety:** Your mental health also gets affected because of a sedentary lifestyle. It can lead to depression and anxiety.

Humans need solitude
How being alone can make you happier

In Wim Wenders' recent film Perfect Days, the main character, a Tokyo toilet cleaner, spends many of his hours in solitude; watering plants, contemplating, listening to music and reading. While more characters are introduced as the film develops, for many viewers its earlier moments are, indeed, perfect; described by the BBC's own Nicholas Barber as a "meditation on the serenity of an existence stripped to its essentials", it really struck a chord. No wonder. Thoughtful and positive outlooks on solitude have been taking up more and more space on our screens, bookshelves and smartphones, from podcasts to viral TikToks. Seemingly, there's never been a better time to be alone. In the past couple of years, several titles on the topic have been released, with a few more in the works. Solitude: The Science and Power of Being Alone, and Solo: Building a Remarkable Life of Your Own hit the shelves in 2024, and Nicola Slawson's Single: Living a Complete Life on Your Own Terms was published in February. Then last month saw the release of Emma Gannon's much-anticipated novel Table For One; having made her name with non-fiction books questioning traditional ideas of success and productivity, Gannon is now reconsidering modern relationships, in a love story focusing on a young woman finding joy in being alone, rather than with a partner. Later this year, two more self-help guides, The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World and The Joy of Sleeping Alone, are coming out, as well as a paperback, English translation of Daniel Schreiber's Alone: Reflections on Solitary Living, which originally came out in Germany in 2021. Packed with keen observations and helpful tips, this new wave of books aims not only to destigmatise solitude, but also



to make a case for its benefits and pleasures. Such a powerful stream of publications might come as a surprise, at first, to everyone who has lived through the pandemic and inevitably heard of – or got a bitter taste of – the so-called "loneliness epidemic", a term popularised in 2023 by then US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. "Post pandemic, there [was] a huge focus on loneliness, for a really good reason," says Robert Coplan, a professor in psychology at Carleton University in Ottawa and author of The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World. But because of the concerns about the effects of loneliness, he says, solitude ended up "with a bit of a bad reputation – throwing the baby out with the bath water, so to speak". Now, though, the discourse is course-correcting itself. The distinction between loneliness and solitude, according to Coplan, is an important one, and many writers echo this sentiment. "While loneliness is a serious and harmful problem for some

people, it is a subjective state very different from solitude, that someone has [actively] chosen for positive reasons," says journalist Heather Hansen. In 2024, she co-authored the aforementioned Solitude: The Science and Power of Being Alone with Netta Weinstein and Thuuyvy T Nguyen. Hansen had watched the media telling us we're very lonely for a while; but as a counter to this narrative, she says, "people are reflecting on their own lives and recognising that they are choosing solitude for various reasons that benefit them". "I have a theory that since the pandemic we've been able to clearly understand the difference between loneliness and chosen solitude," says Emma Gannon, who is also a big proponent of "slow living". The extremes of the pandemic – being cooped up with all your loved ones, or, contrastingly, going for months without human contact – had prepared us, Gannon says, "to have nuanced conversations about the differences between isolation and joyful alone time".

Inside Jyotika and Suriya's holiday in 'paradise' Seychelles

Suriya and Jyotika, two actors, recently shared a video on Instagram of their holiday in the Seychelles, a tropical paradise known for its pristine beaches, turquoise waters, and lush landscapes. The archipelago, located in the Indian Ocean off the eastern coast of Africa, comprises 115 islands, each offering a unique experience. The actors' Seychelles getaway was unforgettable, featuring relaxing activities and breathtaking views. They took a private helicopter ride above the turquoise waters and emerald islands, while also relaxing in a luxurious infinity pool overlooking the Indian Ocean. The Seychelles is known for its picturesque rock formations and shallow, calm waters, and the actors explored them by hiking to panoramic sea views and trying local cuisine and tropical fruits. They also shared a romantic beach getaway with powdery white sands and encountering free-roaming giant tortoises in a natural reserve. Jyotika also shared candid photos of herself sipping fresh coconut water and lounging in their luxury hotel room. The Seychelles offers a perfect blend of adventure, relaxation, and romance for couples, offering a perfect blend of thrilling experiences, serene moments, and cultural immersion.

Why 'doing nothing, intentionally' is good for us

How does the idea of doing nothing for a year sound? No work, no emails, no career progression, no striving or achieving or being productive. For many of us, such a thought might once have brought its own anxiety attack – surely, work is status, earning money is achievement, and being busy is a brag? But these days, a year of nothing is more likely to sound dreamy, even aspirational – there has been, as they say, a vibe shift. Millennials are embracing the concept of #SlowLiving – the hashtag has been used more than six million times on Instagram (despite posting on Insta being fairly antithetical to its principles of a mindful, sustainable lifestyle, with much reduced screen-time). Gen Z, meanwhile, have pioneered quiet quitting and "lazy girl jobs", where one does the minimum at work to preserve your energy for the more meaningful parts of your

life, be that hobbies, relationships, or self-care. And people across the generations are united to wanting to work less: in the UK, the concept of the four-day week is gaining serious traction. To be facetious about it: hustle is out, and rest is in. And this is something Emma Gannon knows all about: the prolific author, podcaster, and Substack entrepreneur published A Year of Nothing – her account of taking an entire 12 months off – earlier this year. It quickly sold out when published earlier this summer, and has proved so popular it will now be reprinted and available to buy in November. Not that it was, initially, a lifestyle choice: Gannon suffered such extremely bad burnout, she had no choice but to stop working. Her account of her year of rest and recuperation is now published in two small, sweetly readable volumes by The Pound Project, charting her journey back to health via gentle activities such as journaling, watching children's TV, birdwatch-



ing, and the inevitable cold-water swimming (which Gannon knowingly acknowledges is a cliché for "Millennial writers with their boots and tote bags", but comes to love anyway). Having been fully on-board with the girl-boss culture of the 2010s, Gannon had already stepped away from that with her last book, The Success Myth: Letting Go of Having It All, which explored how relentlessly striving

for success rarely brings true happiness. But it was experiencing complete burnout that forced her to really confront the importance of rest. "Looking back, there were lots of red flags – feeling very confused, pulsating headaches, not being able to focus on things in the room, quite scary stuff. But I overrode it, [thinking]: 'I'm busy, I've got to crack on'," she recalls. Suddenly, in 2022, her body went into a

forced shut-down mode. "Couldn't look at a phone, couldn't look at a screen, couldn't walk down a street without feeling fragile. It was the feeling that, 'oh you can't muddle your way through this – you have to stop'. Many people with chronic burnout have to get to that point before they'll take time off [work], because we're so conditioned in this society to push through at all costs. "But we were designed to have naps, and [walks in] the park. To go for a swim, and look at the sky. That stuff's really important," Gannon insists. And she's determined to carry the lessons from her burnout, and her recovery, into a slower, more spacious life. "Nothing is worth your health." But she's far from ploughing a lonely furrow, here – a scan of the self-help or pop philosophy sections of your local bookshop, or indeed a glance at the list of recommended reading at the back of A Year of Nothing, reveals a flourishing crop of books encouraging us to slow the heck down.

How Rekha's styling in Silsila attempted to redefine the taboo trope

Alia Bhatt, known for her role in the 1981 film Umrao Jaan, was re-released in theatres on June 27. The film was a significant year for Rekha Rekha, who won her first National Film Award for her portrayal of the titular character, Chandni. Silsila, a controversial yet morally-grounded love triangle, was also released that year. Amitabh Bachchan starred as Amit, the object of desire, bound by duty and torn by love, while Jaya Bachchan played his demure wife, Shobha. Rekha played Chandni, the 'other woman', who followed a winding road of misery and misfortune

as she found love, lost it to fate, and reclaimed it for a few fleeting moments before losing it. The iconoclastic nature of Rekha's Chandni wins over the traditional portrayal of the other woman in cinema. The film's use of bold colors, luxurious satin, and subtle bling in Chandni potentially represented the audacity of a woman to prioritize her heart over societal expectations. The character's signature gaze of defiant love is beautifully framed by Rekha's signature gaze. This is not a justification of the other woman's rationale but an observation on sartoria being used

to subtly imprint her gall on the minds of the audience. It's an early and seemingly intentional case study of fashion rebellion.



Explore true Icelandic culture in the country’s less-travelled north

Iceland wasn’t always the blockbuster travel destination it is today; in the early 1990s, the country saw just a little more than 130,000 visitors a year. By 2023, however that number had surged to 2.21 million, far outpacing Iceland’s tiny population of around 380,000. Experts chalk it up to a mix of savvy marketing, social media virality and sheer natural spectacle. The 2014 #MyStopover campaign turned layovers into week-long adventures, flooding Instagram with images of steaming hot springs, glacier lagoons and volcanic black-sand beaches. Soon, Iceland was no longer just a niche destination for intrepid explorers; it was on every traveller’s bucket list. But with soaring popularity came new challenges, pushing the country to grapple with the pressures of overtourism. Most visitors touch down in the capital city of Reykjavik and make a beeline for the Blue Lagoon or the well-trodden Golden Circle. But as Iceland’s tourism boom shows no signs of slowing, the country is looking for ways to ease the strain on its most popular spots. The conversation around overtourism has become impossible to ignore, and one solution is clear: encouraging travellers to venture beyond the usual highlights. The country’s north, with its dramatic fjords and geothermal hotspots, offers a quieter yet equally spectacular alternative to the capital, with idyllic towns like Akureyri and Húsavík providing a gateway to breathtaking landscapes without the crowds. Húsavík is the country’s oldest settlement as well as its whale capital. The small coastal town was once known for its whaling industry, and indeed Iceland is still one of only three countries that allows commercial whaling. However, many former whale hunting boats are now being converted to whale watching vessels in an effort to attract more visitors. “I’ve been told there’s a 97% chance of seeing a whale on any trip you take here,” said BBC Travel Show presenter Roma Wells. “Depending on what time of year you visit, you can see all sorts of different species.” That’s because a variety of whales, including humpbacks, orcas and minke, migrate through this area. In addition, many whale-watching vessels use electric rather than diesel engines, creating a quieter, more relaxing experience for both passengers and sealife. The northern part of the country is also a great place to get a glimpse of Icelandic history and culture. Start in the town of Sauðárkrúkur, around 200km west of Húsavík, visitors can explore 1238: The Battle of Iceland – a museum and virtual-reality experience that allows visitors to be a part of the renowned battle of Örlygsstaðir, which is recounted in one of the country’s most famous Icelandic sagas. The exhibition also includes historical items from the 11th Century that provide tangible proof of the country’s Viking past. “Every generation has the responsibility to preserve history and to mediate it in a way that can be understood,” said museum manager Freyja Rut. “I think we’ve come to the next step. We need to use technology to kind of make it more interesting.” Another piece of Iceland’s history is its iconic turf houses. These grass-covered dwellings, inspired by Viking longhouses, blend seamlessly into the landscape like something out of a fairy tale. Built with wood and stone and insulated with thick layers of turf, they stand as a testament to the resilience of Icelanders who found ingenious ways to survive in an unforgiving climate. The north is home to some of the country’s finest examples, including the Glaumbær turf farm, a cluster



of beautifully preserved homes, and the striking Víðimýri Turf Church. Sheep farming and knitting are also central to Icelandic heritage. The region’s hardy, free-roaming sheep – believed to be direct descendants of those brought by Viking settlers – produce the wool used for Iceland’s famous lopapeysa sweaters. Recognised worldwide for their warmth and distinctive circular yoke patterns, these sweaters are a living connection to Iceland’s pastoral traditions that remain a cornerstone of rural life. “Icelandic people only survived here because of the sheep,” quipped Hélène Magnússonis, one of the country’s leading knit designers. Visitors interested in purchasing an authentic lopapeysa sweater should look for a label that says “Hand-knitted in Iceland” – a mark of quality that according to

Magnússonis, often includes the knitter’s name. Operators such as Green EdVentures offer tours where travellers can learn more about Icelandic life and practice their knitting skills with a local lopapeysa expert. Along with the boost in tourism, Iceland has had to wrestle with environmental degradation and unsafe behaviours from visitors, such as taking selfies too close to active volcanic sites. In 2017, the country proposed the Icelandic pledge, which encourages responsible and considerate behaviour in visitors. The hope is that the combination of this pledge and the push to encourage visitors to explore more of the country will help Iceland remain on the top of everyone’s visitor list, without further damage to the local ecosystem or culture.



Could yogurt help protect against colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer worldwide, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting Trusted Source that it makes up more than 10% of all cancer diagnoses. Lifestyle factors, such as being sedentary, smoking, obesity and excessive alcohol consumption, as well as high intake of processed meats and low intake of fruits and vegetables, can all increase a person’s risk of developing colorectal cancer. Eating a healthy, high-fiber diet, with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, calcium and dairy products is associated with a lower colorectal cancer risk. A study led by researchers from Mass General Brigham — and published in the journal Gut Microbes — has now found that yogurt could also decrease the risk of some types of colorectal cancer. The researchers found that people who ate 2 or more servings of yogurt containing live bacteria each week had a 20% lower risk of developing colorectal tumors that were positive for Bifidobacterium, a strain of bacteria that is common in the gut microbiome. “While this study has shown a correlation between long-term consumption of yogurt and lower rates of proximal colorectal cancer positive for Bifidobacterium, more work is required to understand any causative role of Bifidobacterium and the mechanisms involved if so,” she added. “Live” yogurt contains several strains of bacteria. Lactobacillus bulgaricus and Streptococcus thermophilus are commonly used to ferment milk to form yogurt, but many other bacterial strains, or probiotics, may also be added. Research has suggested that probiotics may boost the immune system, improve gut health, reduce the risk of osteoporosis, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and could even reduce the risk of some cancers Trusted Source. To investigate whether yogurt consumption affects colorectal cancer risk, the researchers in this study used data from the Nurses’ Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study Trusted



Source, which have followed more than 100,000 female nurses since 1976 and 51,000 male health workers since 1986. Participants in both studies answer frequent lifestyle, diet and health questionnaires, which include questions about intake of both plain and flavoured yogurts, as well as other dairy products. For those people diagnosed with colorectal cancer, researchers assessed tissue samples for Bifidobacterium DNA. Of the cohort, 3,079 people developed colorectal cancer and, of these, the researchers could access Bifidobacterium data for 1,121. A total of 775 people had Bifidobacterium negative colorectal cancer, and 346 were Bifidobacterium positive. Although researchers did not see a significant difference between long-term yogurt intake and overall incidence of colorectal cancer, they found a 20% lower rate of incidence of Bifidobacterium-positive tumors in those who ate more yogurt. Kelsey Costa, MS, RDN, a registered dietitian nutritionist and owner of Impactful Nutrition, not involved in this study,

explained for MNT how Bifidobacterium might affect colorectal cancer risk. “This study does not suggest that yogurt reduces Bifidobacterium in the gut; just the opposite. In fact, it highlights that Bifidobacterium is an important bacterial strain in yogurt that produces short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) in the gut and has anti-cancer properties through antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immune-boosting effects,” she

pointed out. According to her: “The research suggests that the Bifidobacterium found in Bifidobacterium-positive tumor tissue could reflect impaired intestinal barrier function. And cited studies show that Bifidobacterium may improve the intestinal barrier by reducing harmful inflammatory proteins like tumor necrosis factor and interleukin 6.” “Yogurt may help strengthen the gut barrier and support Bifidobacterium’s beneficial role in suppressing Bifidobacterium-positive tumor growth, rather than suppressing Bifidobacterium itself,” she added. “There are different subtypes of Bifidobacterium in the human gut and different strains have different functions, including the metabolism of dietary carbohydrates, for example. This study did not explore whether there is a causative role for the microbiome, or Bifidobacterium, or any potential mechanisms involved,” she told MNT. While live, natural yogurts are a good addition to a balanced diet, not all yogurt is good for you. Flavoured and fruit yogurts often contain high quantities of added sugar, and other added ingredients that are not healthy. However, natural, live yogurts contain plenty of nutrients, including calcium, phosphorus, potassium, vitamin A, vitamin B2, and vitamin B12, protein and essential fatty acids. They are also a good source of probiotics — live microorganisms which, when consumed in adequate amounts as part of food, confer a health benefit on the host.



New test may predict which IBD patients have higher colorectal cancer risk

Previous research shows that people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) — including ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease — are at an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer compared to people who do not have IBD. People with IBD are at a higher risk of developing colorectal cancer, also known as bowel cancer, due to the chronic inflammation associated with IBD, which can cause the growth of abnormal cells — known as dysplasia — and cause the development of precancerous polyps in the intestinal tract. Currently, people with IBD are screened for colorectal cancer every one to three years Trusted Source through a colonoscopy. However, past studies show that detecting pre-cancerous cells in people with IBD can be difficult. Now, researchers from The Institute of Cancer Research in London have developed a new test that they report can predict bowel cancer risk in people with IBD with more than 90% accuracy. According to Trevor Graham, PhD, professor of genomics and evolution and director of the Centre for Evolution and Cancer at The Institute of Cancer Research in London and senior author of the study, although people with IBD have an increased risk of developing bowel cancer, there is no good way to predict that risk at the moment. “For people who are thought to be imminently at risk of developing cancer, the only effective treatment is surgery to remove some or all of the large bowel Trusted Source,” Graham explained to Medical News Today. “This surgery can be lifesaving. But because we cannot, currently, be sure if someone really does need the surgery, people are having unnecessary surgery which has life changing consequences.” “On the other hand, for people whose risk of bowel cancer we think is low and for whom we don’t operate, these people continue to have anxiety about the uncertainty of their cancer risk,” he added. During the study, researchers found that people with IBD who had pre-cancerous cells that lost or gained multiple copies of DNA had an increased risk of developing bowel cancer. From there, the scientists created an algorithm to calculate future colorectal cancer risk by using the exact pattern of the changed DNA in the pre-cancerous cells. “In the UK, people with IBD have regular colonoscopies — a camera pushed up their bottom — to look for early signs of cancer,” Graham explained. “If something unusual is spotted, a biopsy — small tissue sample — is collected.” “Our test is a genetic test that we perform on the biopsy. We compared the genetic signals from people who did go on to develop cancer to those who did not, and we have created a test to predict someone’s risk based on the genetic signals in their biopsy,” he said. During the study, Graham and his team found that their new test was able to predict which study participants with IBD who developed pre-cancerous cells would go on to develop colorectal cancer within five years with more than 90% accuracy. “We hope that the accuracy with which we can predict who really is at risk of cancer will mean that we can give treatment appropriately,” Graham said. “For those at high risk of developing cancer, they can have surgery to remove their bowel and their risk of cancer. For those at low risk, we can spare them unnecessary worry and unnecessary treatment. For patients to be able to benefit from this, we need to show that our predictions hold true in clinical trials that we hope to run in the future,” he explained. MNT also spoke with Rudolph Bedford, MD, a board certified gastroenterologist at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, CA, about this study, who praised the study as “wonderful, great, and amazing.” “The fact of the matter is that our patients who have IBD, we’re doing frequent colonoscopies, biopsies looking for dysplasia or cells or tissue that can lead to cancer. Then we have to have these discussions with them. If they do have these low-grade dysplastic cells, do we take out your colon, or do we do more frequent surveillance? What do we do?” Bedford explained. “If somebody is going to give me a test that has a 90% accuracy as to those patients with inflammatory bowel disease that might develop cancer, then that’s a wonderful study,” he continued.

Sumit Nagal’s winning start in the Australian Open wildcard playoff

New Delhi: India’s top singles player, Sumit Nagal, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff after recovering from a first-set lapse against China’s Minghui Zhang here on Tuesday. Nagal, seeded sixth, recovered from a slow start, having lost the opening set, to dominate the next two and secure a 2-6, 6-0, 6-2 win. The Chengdu event, which runs from November 24–29 at the Sichuan International Tennis Centre, offers the men’s and women’s singles winners wild card entry into the main draw of the 2026 Australian Open. The Indian’s path had been clouded earlier by visa uncertainty; his initial application to enter China was rejected, prompting Nagal to publicly appeal to Chinese officials. The issue was later resolved, and he was cleared to travel. Nagal now awaits the winner of the match between top-seeded Bu Yunchaokete and Zijiang Yang in the quarterfinals. India’s top singles player Sumit Nagal advanced to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off after recovering from a first-set lapse against China’s Minghui Zhang



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South Africa wins the Test series by defeating India by 408 runs

New Delhi: Spinner Simon Harmer took six wickets as South Africa romped to victory by 408 runs in the second Test for its first series win in India in 25 years on Wednesday. Ravindra Jadeja resisted with 54 before Keshav Maharaj had him stumped, and the spinner soon got the final wicket of Mohammed Siraj, with Marco Jansen pulling off a stunning catch in the deep. India was bundled out for 201 to concede a first-innings lead of 288, but South Africa did not enforce the follow-on and decided to bat again. Left-arm quick Jansen returned figures of six for 48 in India’s first innings after the bowler hit a quickfire 93 with the bat. South African all-rounder Senuran Mthusamy led the batting charge with his 109, his maiden Test century. India lost the opening Test in Kolkata inside three days on a pitch with uneven bounce before South Africa once again beat the host in its own game of spin on a batting-friendly track. The visiting

side declared its second innings on 260 for five on day four to hand India a record chase, but the host side’s batting once again failed, and never threatened to get close. India rode its luck early in the day when Jansen had Sai Sudharsan caught behind, but the delivery was declared a no-ball after the bowler overstepped.

The batter was on four. In the next over, another overnight batter, Kuldeep Yadav, survived a reprieve on four when Aiden Markram dropped him at first slip off Harmer. But the relief was short-lived for India as a relentless Harmer soon bowled Kuldeep for five for the first wicket of the day. The off-spinner then dismissed Dhruv Jurel for two, three balls later and soon sent back skipper Rishabh Pant for 13 as India slumped to 58-5. The batters fell like nine pins on a pitch where South Africa posted 489 after it elected to bat.

India slips to 5th place South Africa second

IND vs SA 2nd Test:

Carysil shares: Anand Rathi increased its target price to ₹1,265, valuing at 30x FY27e/FY28e average EPS.

New Delhi: India slipped to fifth place in the ICC Test World Championship 2025–27 standings after suffering a 408-run defeat to South Africa in the second Test in Guwahati on Wednesday. The Gautam Gambhir-coached side has now won four matches, lost four and drawn one in the current cycle. The 0–2 series sweep also marked India’s first series defeat of this WTC campaign. South Africa remained second in the standings with 36 points from four matches, having lost only once so far, against Pakistan earlier this year. Australia continued to lead the table after winning all four of their matches.

Here are the latest updated standings from the ICC World Test Championships 2025-27 after the second Test between India and South Africa. WTC 2025-27 Points Table updated after IND vs SA 2nd Test: India slips to 5th place; South Africa stays second. The big win over the Shan Masood-led side at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium



helped the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) winners rise from the No. 7 to the No. 5 position in the WTC 2025-27 points table, but Pakistan have dropped from the No. 2 to the No. 4 position. Australia continue to top the WTC 2025-27 points table, but Sri Lanka and India are now up by one place each. Sri Lanka have 66.67 PCT% whereas India have 61.90 PCT%. South Africa’s rise from 7th to 5th also means that England dropped from 5th to 6th position.

Penny Oleksiak, Accepts Two Year Ban abouts Violation

New Delhi: Olympic champion Penny Oleksiak has accepted a two-year eligibility ban. The most decorated Canadian Olympi-



an in the pool withdrew from the 2025 World Championships because of an ongoing case about her failure to reveal her whereabouts for testing, the International Testing Agency (ITA) announced on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The International Testing Agency confirmed the violation, stating that Oleksiak had committed three whereabouts violations between October 2025 and June 2025. The World Anti-Doping Code defines a Whereabouts failure as any combination of three missed tests or filing failures in a 12-month period. Now the decision has been made official and Oleksiak

has agreed to the two-year suspension that retroactively dates back to July 15. “I want to emphasize that this Whereabouts case does not involve any banned substance; it’s about whether I updated my information correctly,” Oleksiak wrote when she withdrew from worlds. “I am and always have been a clean athlete and will be making no further comment at this time.” Oleksiak, 25, has seven Olympic medals, most in Canadian history. Her 2016 gold medal in the 100 freestyle was her big moment at age 16 (tying with Simone Manuel). Her last competition was the 2025 Canadian Trials, which ended June 12. She qualified in the 50 free (24.70) and 100 free (54.03) for the world championship roster. Then when the whereabouts case began, she withdrew from worlds.

Jayden scores 2 goals as Como beat Torino 5-1 to move into Serie A top 6

New Delhi: Jayden Addai scored a goal in each half as Como beat Torino 5-1 on Monday to move into the top six of Serie A and extend its unbeaten run to 11 matches in all competitions. The 20-year-old Dutch winger put Cesc Fàbregas’ team ahead nine minutes before the break when he got on the end of a precise cutback from Jesus Rodriguez. Torino equalized on the stroke of halftime when Nikola Vlašić scored a penalty after a handball in the box. But Addai slotted home a low right-footed shot from 20 meters seven minutes after the restart to put Como back in the driver’s seat. Spaniard Jacobo Ramón added a third with a header in the 71st before Nico Paz made it 4-1 five minutes later.

Martin Baturina took advantage of a poor back pass to rifle the ball under the goalkeeper to close out the scoring. Como’s first victory at Torino since April 1986 lifted the team into sixth place, one point above Juventus. Torino remains in 12th place. Later, Sassuolo and Pisa



drew 2-2 in a clash of clubs led by World Cup winning teammates Fabio Grosso and Alberto Gilardino. Kristian Thorstvedt poked home a cross for Sassuolo in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time to salvage a point. Pisa took the lead after just four minutes when a video

review pulled back play and awarded it an early penalty. Angola striker M’Bala Nzola scored his second spot kick of the season. However, Sassuolo was level two minutes later. A headed clearance fell kindly to Nemanja Matic whose swiveled volley gave keeper Adrian Semper

no chance. Henrik Wendel Meister’s deflected shot with nine minutes left put Pisa back in front before Thorstvedt’s late equalizer for ninth-place Sassuolo. Pisa has now gone six league games without defeat, although Gilardino’s team remains in 16th place.

Champions League 2025–2026: After Estevao’s incredible goal, Maresca cautions against Messi hype

New Delhi: Enzo Maresca on Tuesday played down comparisons between Estevao and Lionel Messi after Chelsea’s wonderkid scored a spectacular solo Champions League goal in a thumping 3-0 win against Barcelona. The 18-year-old Brazilian emphatically won the battle of the teenage prodigies against Lamine Yamal as the London club won its third match out of five in the league phase of the competition. From the moment I arrived here, I felt such a connection with the fans,” he added. “I’m just so happy that I could score for them and make them happy. I hope to keep making them happy and score more goals for them.” Maresca said he would not be under added pressure to play Estevao despite his stunning form. “Tonight we decided, probably in the most difficult game of the season, we decided to play with Estevao,” he said. Magic came 10 minutes after half-time when he received the ball on the right before beating two defenders and lashing it into the roof of Joan Garcia’s net.

It was the winger’s 10th goal of the season for club and country, just months into his first campaign at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea’s other goals were an own goal from Barcelona defender Jules Kounde and a late strike from substitute Liam



Delap. The Spanish side was reduced to 10 men late in the second half when captain Ronald Araujo was sent off for a second yellow card. Chelsea boss Maresca was asked whether Estevao’s strike reminded him of Argentine great Messi but he said instead it was like a goal the forward had scored for previous club Palmeiras against Chelsea at the Club World Cup in July. Maresca sought to ease the pressure on his young player, rapidly becoming

a fan favourite, saying he needed to “relax” and enjoy his football. “Him, Lamine, they are so young, at 18, that if you start to talk about Messi, (Cristiano) Ronaldo, I think it’s too much pressure for young boys like them. “I don’t really have any words to sum up how I’m feeling right now,” he told Amazon Prime. “It really was the perfect night.” I’m just grateful to God for everything that has happened for me.”

The Indian men’s hockey team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia on Wednesday.

New Delhi: Selvam Karthi, Sukhjeet Singh, Amit Rohidas, and Sanjay (53’) struck a goal each as India clinched a well-deserved 4-3 victory against Malaysia in the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh on Wednesday. Karthi opened the scoring in the 7th minute, while Sukhjeet Singh (21’), Amit Rohidas (39’), and Sanjay (53’) scored for India. Seasoned Faizal Saari (13’), Fitri Saari (36’), and Marhan Jalil (45’) got on the scoresheet for Malaysia. India started the game on the front foot, forcing the hosts back in their own half as they looked to assert themselves on the opposition. They earned their first opportunity from a Penalty Corner at the foot of the three-minute mark and built a sustained period of pressure that eventually paid off. A neat move from Sukhjeet Singh set up Selvam Karthi (7’) to score a tap-in, helping India take a 1-0 lead. From there on, they largely controlled the tempo of the game until a foul from Yashdeep Siwach resulted in a green card and a Penalty Corner for Malaysia. An unfortunate deflection for the Indian keeper helped Faizal Saari (13’) level the score at 1-1 to end the first quarter. Determined to regain their advantage, the Indian forwards looked sharp and were attacking in waves as they dic-



tated terms with a well-coordinated high-pressure system. They managed to get back in front through a calm finish from Sukhjeet Singh (21’) after a shot from Abhishek came his way. India had a couple more opportunities to increase their advantage, but had to settle for a 2-1 lead at halftime. India earned a Penalty Corner early in the third quarter as they pushed to double their advantage. However, they weren’t able to make the most of their chances. Malaysia had a one-man advantage after Jugraj Singh received a green card in the 34th minute, and they made the most of it with Fitri Saari (36’) scoring the equaliser. India responded instantaneously, though, with Amit Rohidas (39’) converting from a Penalty Corner, showcasing his composure and experience. India had

to dig deep to hold onto their advantage after Selvam Karthi received a yellow card in the 43rd minute, but the hosts equalised right at the end of the third quarter through Captain Marhan Jalil (45’). With all to play for in the final quarter, India were pushing forward to find the winner while ensuring they held firm at the back. Malaysia were denied an opportunity as Pawan pulled off a sensational save, keeping his team on level terms. The Men in Blue then took the lead for the fourth time in this contest, with their captain Sanjay (53’) converting a penalty stroke. Determined to see the game out, India remained resolute to defend a couple of late Penalty Corners from Malaysia to prevail 4-3 in this contest. India will next play New Zealand on November 27 at 1330 hours IST.