

In Brief

76th Constitution Day

Kohima: Nagaland celebrated the 76th Constitution Day, commemorating the Indian Constitution's adoption on November 26, 1949. Events took place at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat in Kohima, concluding a year-long celebration under the theme "Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman." Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha emphasized the Constitution's historical significance and its role in guiding governance and protecting citizens' rights. Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen oversaw a pledge-taking ceremony, during which participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to the foundational principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Districts conduct mass evacuation drill

Bongaigaon: On Thursday, the fire departments of Bongaigaon and Chirang districts actively participated in a large-scale mass evacuation and joint mock drill organized by NHIT, NEPPI, and SDRF. Senior officers from the District Commissioner's office, the Superintendent of Police office, and NHA officials kept an eye on the operation. The goal of the exercise was to increase road emergency readiness, with a focus on first aid response, fire safety precautions, and the golden hour rule. Agencies collaborated to guarantee efficient crisis management, showcasing their abilities, cooperation, and preparedness. During the simulation, senior NHIT personnel were also present, including officials from the regional office, corridor operations, environment, health, and safety.

Seize Heroin

Nazira: The Assam police have made a significant breakthrough by apprehending three people involved in the illegal trade and seizing a sizable amount of heroin. On Wednesday night, the police conducted the operation at Nanti Chariali after receiving a tip regarding a vehicle's questionable activity. Based on the information, the police, under the command of CDSP Tushar Desai, stopped a Toyota Glanza (AS03AK2942) and discovered 19 heroin packages concealed within. Amrit Karmakar, Sandeep Singh, and Ravindra Singh were arrested and provided police with three cell phones and cash. A significant quantity of heroin was discovered, leading authorities to investigate the larger smuggling network associated with the case.

Accident

Silchar: Two young students were instantly killed when an oil tanker struck a scooter, and the woman operating the vehicle was hurt. On Thursday at noon, the terrible event took place in the Lalpani neighborhood of Jirihat on the Silchar-Imphal National Highway. Santatombi Miya and Abdus Samad, two KG 1 pupils from Lalpani Sunrise School, were identified as the deceased. According to an eyewitness, Samad's mother was driving the kids back from school in a scooter, just like on other days.

Nagaland joins nation in observing 76th Constitution Day

Kohima, Nov 28: Nagaland marked the 76th Constitution Day on Wednesday, joining the rest of the country in commemorating the historic adoption of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950, laying the foundation of the world's largest democracy. According to a DIPR report, officials and staff of the Nagaland Civil Secretariat gathered at the Secretariat Conference Hall in Kohima to observe the day, which also marked the conclusion of year-long celebrations held under the national theme "Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman." The programme was chaired by Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha, who reflected on the Constitution's historic journey. He highlighted that the Constituent Assembly, formed in 1946, worked meticulously for nearly three years to frame the document



that defines India's democratic, legal, and administrative framework. Sinha reminded participants that the Constitution remains a living guide, shaping governance and safeguarding citizens' rights. During the observance, Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen led the

pledge-taking ceremony. Officers and staff read the Preamble of the Constitution in unison, reaffirming their commitment to uphold justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity—the core principles enshrined in the nation's guiding text.

Assam Assembly enters Day 4 with full lineup of bills and resolutions

■ *The Assam Legislative Assembly commenced its fourth day of the Winter Session, focusing on several significant bills and public interests.*
■ *Opposition leader Debabrata Saikia proposed the ASHA Bill, aimed at improving social security for gig workers, and the Maintenance of Cleanliness in Assam Bill, which seeks stricter sanitation oversight.*

Guwahati, Nov 28: At 9:30 a.m. today, the fourth day of the Assam Legislative Assembly's Winter Session got underway with a packed schedule as members got ready to discuss a number of legislation, resolutions, and public-interest concerns that would have an impact on communities throughout the state.

Debabrata Saikia, the leader of the opposition, requested permission to present two bills from private members. The Assured Security and Humanitarian Assurance for Gig Workers and Atypical

Workers (ASHA) Bill, 2025 seeks to improve social security benefits and protection for gig economy workers who presently lack fundamental protections. The Maintenance of Cleanliness in Assam Bill, 2025, his second proposal, focuses on enhancing sanitation and guaranteeing more stringent oversight of public areas. Additionally, Saikia demanded that the government boost related agricultural sectors, address long-standing issues in the tea industry, raise farmers' wages, and give land pattas to workers in tea gardens who lack land. He also asked the government to think about providing tea workers with a special welfare package. The Assam University and Boards (Regular Conduct of Examinations and Timely Declaration of Results) Bill, 2025 was introduced by AIUDF MLA Ashraf Hussain with the intention of resolving persistent delays in examination and result publication.

The proposal to make Katigarg in the Cachar district a co-district was one of the main demands made today. Members



claimed that inhabitants of Katigarg experience difficulties and expensive transportation when trying to access facilities in Silchar. It was also anticipated that issues like building more cancer centers, offering free medical care to patients, rehabilitating families impacted by erosion and floods, enhancing rural connectivity with new bridges, and limiting the

rise in violence against women would be highlighted. Six communities—Tai Ahom, Moran, Matak, Koch Rajbongshi, Chutia, and Tea Tribes—need to be granted Scheduled Tribe status in order to protect their land and rights, according to Congress MLA Diganta Barman. The government will discuss a number of significant bills pertaining to auton-

omous councils and tribal welfare. It is anticipated that amendments will be proposed for the Mising, Rabha Hasong, Tiwa, Deori, Sonowal Kachari, Thengal Kachari, Bodo Kachari, Karbi Welfare, Moran, and Matak Autonomous Councils. The Assam Fixation of Ceiling of Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2025 will also be discussed by the Assembly.

'One North East' not against anyone, aims to strengthen indigenous unity: Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma

Agartala, Nov 28: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Thursday underlined that the 'One North East' initiative is a unifying platform for indigenous communities, not a movement directed against any individual, organisation, or state. Speaking to reporters after arriving in Agartala to attend a large public gathering at Swami Vivekananda Maidan, Sangma said the initiative seeks to ensure that the voices of the region's diverse tribal communities are heard strongly and collectively. Sangma stressed that when indigenous groups act alone, their concerns often go unnoticed or undervalued. "When people remain individual and are not united, their voices are suppressed and sometimes not heard," he said, adding that the platform aims to unite communities so they can advocate more effectively for their rights, culture, and development.

Clarifying misconceptions, the Chief Minister said, "This has nothing to do with anybody else, nor are we trying to go against anyone."

This is purely about bringing all of us together." He explained that the initiative is anchored in solidarity—sharing concerns, supporting one another, and ensuring that no community feels isolated. He expressed satisfaction over the strong response from leaders representing various tribes and communities across the region, describing it as an encouraging sign of collective resolve. The initiative, he added, would help amplify northeastern voices not just within the region but across the entire country. "This will send a powerful message—that indigenous people of this region are coming together, and we are going to work together and fight together for future generations," Sangma



said. While acknowledging that challenges persist, he noted that the commitment to unity and collaboration remains strong. "We are focused and sure that we will take this forward for the welfare of our people," he added.

Meghalaya cabinet greenlights land deals for tourism, airport & power projects

Shillong, Nov 28: The Meghalaya Cabinet has approved a series of major development proposals aimed at boosting tourism, improving road and air connectivity, and expanding household electrification across the state. The decisions, taken on Wednesday, reflect the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure and uplift underserved regions. A key approval involves the procurement of land to develop tourism facilities at Umpardong, Umden in Ri Bhoi district—widely known as the Silk Village. The project seeks to enhance visitor amenities in the popular weaving hub, where local communities have

long demanded better lodges, rest facilities, and tourist support infrastructure. To further support accessibility, the Cabinet sanctioned ₹50 crore for constructing the road from Nongpoh to Umden, addressing a long-standing need for better connectivity to one of the state's prime cultural tourism destinations. In another significant decision, the Cabinet cleared the proposal to acquire land in connection with the expansion of Shillong Airport, including land identified for exchange with the Defence establishment. The expansion will allow the airport to accommodate larger aircraft, a move expected to im-



prove air traffic capacity and strengthen the state's aviation network. Officials informed that the tender process for the project is already underway. To ensure smooth progress, the Deputy Chief Minister in charge of Transport will hold consultations with local community members and the

concerned headman regarding land acquisition and exchange matters. The Cabinet has given in-principle approval to accelerate these efforts. Pushing forward with its electrification agenda, the government also approved additional household coverage under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Several villages and households that were left out during the 2011 census will now be included, following the Government of India's sanction of nearly ₹500 crore to electrify these updated areas. The move is expected to bring power access to thousands of residents still living without reliable electricity.

East Jaintia Hills district administration mulls internet ban ahead of DSC examination

Shillong, Nov 28: In a bid to tighten security and enhance transparency in government recruitment, the East Jaintia Hills District Administration on Thursday announced that it is exploring measures such as installing CCTVs, enforcing temporary internet shutdowns and deploying mobile signal jammers during District Selection Committee (DSC) examinations.

The move comes after a high-level consultative meeting chaired by district officials and attended by Khliehriat MLA Kyrmen Shylla, Sutnga-Saipung MLA Santa Mary Shylla, MDCs, DSC members, legal experts, school principals and other stakeholders.

The meeting was convened to address concerns over recruitment procedures, following a letter submitted by R. Siangshai and advocate K. Ksoo highlighting issues related to transparency.

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The meeting was convened to address concerns over recruitment procedures, following a letter submitted by R. Siangshai and advocate K. Ksoo highlighting issues related to transparency. Concerns were raised regarding the disclosure of cut-off marks, interview ratios, and the need for improved communication with candidates. Officials confirmed that the DSC will publish qualifying marks after final results to enhance transparency.

The current 1:2 ratio for shortlisting candidates for interviews will remain, and the committee will update candidates at each recruitment stage through email and SMS.

Central welfare schemes percolating to Tripura tribal beneficiaries: NCST

Agartala, Nov 27: National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) chairperson, Antar Singh Arya, on Thursday said welfare schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the development of tribal communities are effectively percolating to beneficiaries in Tripura.

Addressing the media after chairing a review meeting on the implementation of various safeguards and interventions for Scheduled Tribe development, Arya stressed the need to establish a Tribal University in Tripura, noting that the state has a predominantly tribal population.

He informed that the Tripura government has already identified the requisite land for setting up the proposed university.

The NCST chairperson said the government is taking proactive measures to prevent sickle-cell and anaemia cases prevalent among tribals by conducting health camps.

Arya further stated that the NCST is committed to safeguarding and protecting the rights of nearly 11.5 crore tribals residing across different parts of the country.

An NCST delegation led by the chairperson and other members of the Commission is currently on a four-day visit to Tripura since November 25, 2028.

Opposition leader Debabrata Saikia slams govt

Guwahati, Nov 28: Leader of Opposition and senior Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia today criticised the Assam government for what he described as its continued silence on key issues affecting landless tea workers and the state's farmers. Speaking during the Assembly session, Saikia said the government once again failed to give clear answers on matters that have remained unresolved for years. Saikia said he had raised the long-pending concerns of the tea industry, which he described as the backbone of Assam's economy, and the difficulties faced by farmers across the state.

He added that despite placing specific questions and proposals, the government's reply did not offer any concrete direction. "The response only showed an evasive attitude," he said. During his speech in the House, Saikia presented a set of major points for the government's consideration.

The first was the need to address

the growing crisis in the tea sector. He said the tea industry has been facing various challenges for a long time and demanded that the government give priority to strengthening the agriculture and plantation economy. The second point he raised was related to land pattas for landless tea workers and the rising unemployment in tea garden areas.

Saikia said that many families continue to live without secure land rights and that the government must take special steps to resolve the livelihood problems faced by tea communities. Saikia also proposed the creation of a special fund for the welfare of tea workers. He said a dedicated financial allocation would help address housing, healthcare, and basic support needs for those working in the state's tea gardens. However, according to the Opposition leader, the concerned minister did not give any specific assurance on these issues.

NATIONAL

Rahul Gandhi demands an immediate parliamentary discussion on pollution and attacks the Center for the “toxic air crisis”

New Delhi, Nov 28: Rahul Gandhi, a Congress leader, criticized the central government for the worsening air quality in India, asserting that parents are anxious about their children’s health due to hazardous pollution levels in various cities.

In a strong social media statement, he expressed that mothers share a common fear that their children are “growing up breathing toxic air.” He described families as “exhausted, scared, and angry,” highlighting the absence of a clear government interven-

tion as pollution continues to escalate. Labeling the situation a “health emergency,” Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of inaction while children suffer from pollution.

He questioned the government’s lack of urgency, account-

ability, and planning, calling for an immediate parliamentary debate on air pollution and the establishment of a strict, enforceable national action plan. Gandhi emphasized that clean air is a fundamental right for every child, rejecting excuses and dis-

tractions related to the issue.

His remarks coincide with alarming air quality indices across North India, particularly in the Delhi-NCR region, which have fallen into the severe category, intensifying parental concerns and health warnings.



Centre asks SC to urgently hear plea on states’ mineral tax power

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Union government has urged the Supreme Court to urgently reconsider its July 2024 judgment that allows states to levy taxes on minerals and mineral-bearing lands, in addition to the Centre’s royalties. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta warned that this decision could disrupt mineral pricing and hinder India’s competitiveness internationally. He requested that the curative petition be prioritized over over 800 related appeals. The original July ruling reversed a long-standing interpretation from 1989, allowing states to impose additional charges on mineral extraction. While the judgment is seen as favorable for mineral-rich states, it poses significant financial challenges for mining companies, with potential liabilities estimated between ₹1.5-2 lakh crore. The retrospective tax implications and competitive issues remain contentious, and the Supreme Court is considering how to address these matters in the future.

Delhi vendors are detained after attempting to burn a mannequin in order to get insurance money

New Delhi, Nov 28: Two traders from Delhi were arrested for attempting to commit insurance fraud by staging a cremation of a mannequin in place of a human body. The incident took place when four men arrived in a Haryana-registered vehicle at a cremation ground, claiming to have a corpse. They purchased ghee and other materials for the last rites, but their nervous demeanor raised suspicion. Nitin, a municipal employee at the cremation site, uncovered the ruse when he revealed the covered “body” and found it was a mannequin

instead.

Authorities were notified, and upon arrival, police recovered the vehicle along with three mannequins. Arrested were Kamal Somani and his associate Ashish Khurana, both from Uttam Nagar in Delhi, while two accomplices managed to evade capture. During police interrogation, Somani disclosed that he was struggling with a debt of ₹50 lakh, which prompted him to concoct the fraudulent scheme.

To execute this plan, he had obtained the Aadhaar and PAN cards of Anshul, his employee Neeraj’s

brother, under the guise of needing them for paperwork. He subsequently purchased a ₹50 lakh insurance policy from Tata AIA in Anshul’s name, ensuring regular premium payments over the preceding year. The intent was to send Anshul away, pass off the mannequin as him, conduct a cremation to receive an official receipt, and subsequently claim the insurance money.

The police established communication with Anshul, who was located in Prayagraj at the time, to inform him of the staged death, confirming he

- *Somani confessed to incurring a debt and planned the scheme to claim insurance money using the identity of Anshul, an employee’s brother.*
- *Police arrested Kamal Somani and Ashish Khurana, while two accomplices escaped.*

was unaware of the plot’s details. Circle Officer Stuti Singh classified the incident as a case of insurance fraud and indicated that the investigation continues to track down the absconding suspects.

Minor rape case accused in MP injured in encounter

Bhopal, Nov 28: The accused in the alleged rape case of a six-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh, identified as Salman, was injured during a police encounter on Friday. After attempting to flee and attacking a sub-inspector to snatch his gun, Salman was shot in the leg by the police in self-defense and subsequently taken to the hospital. He had been on the run for five days prior to his arrest in the Gandhinagar area while being transported to the police station. During transit, he attempted to escape, seized an inspector’s pistol, and fired at the police. This incident unfolded against the backdrop of protests in Raisen, where local markets were shut down, demanding justice for the child. Activists from various Hindu organizations participated in the demonstrations, prompting a heavy police presence to maintain order. The child, who was raped on November 21 in Raisen while playing at a neighbor’s house, is currently receiving treatment at AIIMS Bhopal. State Congress president Jitu Patwari visited the victim’s family and criticized the BJP government for its handling of law and order, highlighting the prevalence of such crimes in the state.

Odisha improves financial assistance and updates its Maoist surrender and rehabilitation policies

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The Odisha government has introduced a revised Maoist surrender and rehabilitation policy aimed at eradicating left-wing extremism in the state, particularly focusing on persuading hardcore Left Wing Extremism (LWE) cadres to surrender.

The policy’s primary goal is to prevent former Naxalites from reverting to extremism by providing them with employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. A notification from the Home Department states that surrendered cadres will be divided into two categories:

Category A, including high-ranking members such as central committee secretaries and regional



committee members; and Category B, comprising lower-ranking members like divisional committee secretaries and area committee members. Under this updated scheme, the financial assistance for Category A cadres has been increased from ₹2.5 lakh to ₹5 lakh, while Category B cadres will receive ₹2.5 lakh. The rewards for surrendered weapons have

also been significantly enhanced. For instance, if a Maoist surrenders with weapons in working condition, such as an AK-47 or light machine gun, they can receive up to ₹4.95 lakh in financial assistance. Additionally, Naxalites who are already carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh or more will receive an extra lump sum of ₹10 lakh, which will be deposited as a fixed deposit

■ *Rewards for surrendered firearms have also been raised significantly; for instance, surrendering a light machine gun or AK-47 qualifies for ₹4.95 lakh.*

in their name by the district Superintendent of Police (SP).

The interest accrued will be paid to the surrendered Naxalite, and after three years, the principal amount will be released upon satisfactory behavior and conduct, as assessed by the Surrender and Rehabilitation Committee and the district SP’s recommendations. This comprehensive approach is designed to not only deter ongoing extremism but also to reintegrate former insurgents into society successfully.

Rahul Mamkoottathil, a Kerala MLA, has been charged with sexual assault

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 28: Congress MLA Rahul Mamkoottathil faces serious allegations, including sexual assault, forced abortion, physical assault, criminal intimidation, and illegal trespass, following a complaint by a woman.

The FIR was filed at Valiyamala Police Station in Thiruvananthapuram after the woman presented her case to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Her statement was taken late at night by women officers, leading to the filing of charges under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Joby Joseph, a friend of Mamkoottathil who allegedly provided abortion pills, is also named as a co-accused. The case has



been transferred to Nemon Police Station for further investigation, led by a special team under the Thiruvananthapuram City Police Commissioner.

Authorities intend to record the complainant’s confidential statement in court and are forming a medical board to evaluate her health as part of their evidence collection. Mamkoottathil has reportedly gone into hiding amid difficulties in contacting him, although Congress leaders state he was seen campaigning until the after-

noon before the complaint.

The new FIR arrives alongside previously circulated audio clips indicating he had discussions with the woman about having a child and requesting her to have an abortion. Amid growing allegations, Mamkoottathil was suspended from the Congress party and had previously resigned as Youth Congress state president after facing misconduct allegations from actress Rini Ann George.

Following that incident, multiple other complaints from women and a transgender person have surfaced against him. Mamkoottathil, elected in a bypoll in November, succeeded former MLA Shafi Parambil who left to join the Lok Sabha.

At the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana ceremony, PM Modi said, “Udupi has been karmabhoomi of Jana Sangh, BJP”

New Delhi, Nov 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi commemorated the governance model of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s precursor, Jan Sangh, during the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana event at Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi, where he recited shlokas from the Bhagwat Gita alongside one lakh devotees.

This large gathering included students, monks, scholars, and various citizens, culminating in a spiritual experience that Modi described as showcasing India’s “divinity.” In his address, Modi underscored the significance of Udupi as both a key area for the Jana Sangh and a birthplace for progressive governance models. He recalled the election of VS Acharya, a former Karnataka MLA, to the Udupi Municipal Corporation in 1968, marking the dawn of innovative governance. Modi noted that Udupi pioneered cleanliness initiatives and developed water supply and drainage systems as early as the 1970s.

Emphasizing the event’s spiritu-



al energy, he mentioned the collective recitation of the Bhagwat Gita as a source of unity and strength in a diverse society. He established a historical connection between Udupi and Dwarka in Gujarat, referencing Jagadguru Madhwaacharya, the Math’s founder, and recounting personal experiences linked to Lord Krishna’s idol, which holds profound spiritual significance for him.

Furthermore, Modi interacted with children at the event, requesting their artwork, and was honored

by Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji, the current pontiff of the Jagadguru Madhwaacharya lineage, who presented him with traditional gifts. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Suvarna Teertha Mantapa and dedicated the Kanaka Kavacha for the sacred Kanakana Kindi, historically significant for the saint Kanakadasa’s divine experiences. The Sri Krishna Math, established over 800 years ago, exemplifies the Dvaita philosophy of Vedanta as founded by Sri Madhvacharya.

In Bihar polls, there were no requests for EVM burnt memory checks: ECI

Patna, Nov 28: On Thursday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) reported that authorities in Bihar have not received any applications from candidates who lost in the recent assembly elections requesting verification of burnt memory or microcontroller data from the electronic voting machines (EVMs) used in the polls. The ECI highlighted that no candidates who finished second or third in any constituency submitted requests during the required seven-day filing window after the results were announced on November 14.

This situation also applied to the eight assembly bypolls conducted concurrently with the second



Polling authorities in Bihar have not received verification requests from defeated candidates regarding the burnt memory or microcontroller data of electronic voting machines (EVMs) used in the recent assembly elections, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

phase of polling on November 11. New Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), introduced on June 17 following a Supreme Court directive, allow candidates who come directly

behind the winner to request post-counting examinations of EVM components. Despite the ECI’s open verification process, which aims to ensure transparency for candidates

seeking scrutiny of EVMs post-counting, no requests were filed statewide during the specified timeframe. Consequently, the ECI has officially closed the window for any filings related to the 2025 Bihar elections and the concurrent bypolls.

The ECI maintains that if any valid requests for verification are made, district election authorities are responsible for acknowledging and processing these requests, ensuring that the verification process occurs in the presence of the applicants or their authorized representatives.

With the deadline for submissions now lapsed, no further applications can be made in relation to these elections.

After losing the Bihar elections, RJD starts looking for “saboteurs”

Patna, Nov 28: Following a disappointing defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has initiated an internal review aimed at identifying members who may have undermined the party’s campaign. This effort began with a meeting at the RJD’s headquarters in Patna, involving central leadership, victorious MLAs, and losing candidates from the Magadh region. The aim is to compile a list of purported with possible disciplinary actions including expulsion pending a two-stage review conclusion by December 9.

During the initial phase, candidates were instructed to report any misconduct by party workers, local leaders,



and alliance partners. The review will also include discussions with Saran candidates on Thursday and Purnea candidates on Friday, while also gathering strategic insights from senior leaders for future initiatives. However, some RJD leaders have voiced concerns about factionalism, inadequate coordination, and internal dissent undermining the party’s potential.

They suggest that a failure

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is conducting an internal review to identify individuals who allegedly undermined the party and its alliance during the campaign.

to establish proper eligibility criteria for candidates contributed to the inability to effectively combat the opposition’s narrative, particularly regarding allegations of ‘jungle raaj.’

Confusion over Karnataka’s leadership will be cleared up by a meeting in Delhi

Mallikarjun Kharge

Bengaluru, Nov 28: On Thursday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar engaged in a notable exchange that highlights their differing views on promises and political power. Following Shivakumar’s statement on social media declaring, “word power is world power,” Siddaramaiah countered by emphasizing that a word does not hold power unless it positively impacts people’s lives. This exchange was likely a reference to Shivakumar’s earlier suggestion

of an unspoken agreement among Congress leaders regarding a power shift within the Karnataka government, specifically suggesting that Siddaramaiah would step down after two-and-a-half years in office.

As the political timeline stands, Siddaramaiah reached the two-and-a-half-year mark on November 20, and Shivakumar’s supporters have been vocal in their belief that he is due for the chief ministership. Shivakumar reiterated the significance of keeping promises in power dynam-



ics, stating, “Keeping one’s word is the greatest strength in the world.” In his own response, Siddaramaiah asserted that the people of Karnataka entrusted him with a mandate lasting a full five years, highlighting that he would remain in power throughout this period and underscoring the welfare

schemes enacted during his term. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge announced plans to hold a meeting to resolve ongoing leadership ambiguities and stated that he would gather key leaders, including both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, to discuss the issue in detail. Kharge expressed that the meeting would seek to clear up any misunderstandings and set a definitive path forward. He also mentioned that Rahul Gandhi would participate in the discussions.

Shivakumar indicated

a willingness to travel to Delhi for this meeting if required by the party, reiterating a collaborative approach with Siddaramaiah. Furthermore, Home Minister G Parameshwara, an ally of Siddaramaiah, expressed readiness to accept Shivakumar as chief minister should that decision be made by the party, despite previously suggesting his own ambitions for the role. This political drama continues as the party navigates its leadership dynamics and aims to unify its strategies moving forward.

RGU Welcomes Prof. Borah as Advisor & Author-in-Residence

Guwahati, Nov 28: Distinguished medical professional, educator, administrator, and celebrated intellectual Prof. Dhrubajyoti Borah, former Vice Chancellor of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, joined The Assam Royal Global University (RGU) today as Advisor to the Chancellor and Author-in-Residence. Prof. Borah, a former President of the Asam Sahitya Sabha—the apex literary body of Assam—has made exceptional contributions to literature, culture, public life, and academics, particularly in the fields of medical and allied health



sciences. His works have been widely translated into several Indian languages. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2009 for his acclaimed novel Katha Ratnakar. Expressing his delight, Dr. A.K. Pansari, Chancellor, RGU, said, “Prof. Borah will guide strategic initiatives that integrate knowledge, creativity, and social vision into our university’s broader mission.” The Chancellor further added that, as Author-in-Residence, Prof. Borah’s presence will serve as a source of creative inspiration, enriching the intellectual and artistic vibrancy of the campus. The university envisions this residency as a space for reflection, writing, dialogue, and creative engagement—benefiting students, faculty, and the wider academic community.

Tinsukia police arrest prime accused in trafficking racket

Human-trafficking racket

Tinsukia, Nov 28: On Wednesday, the Phillobari police station in Tinsukia apprehended the mastermind of a child trafficking scheme from the Phillobari neighborhood. The individual has been identified as Peter Sona. He is suspected of trafficking at least six minors from tea gardens to Arunachal Pradesh, a neighboring state. Peter was apprehended while hiding in Pengree, according to the police. “After his accomplices were recently arrested from Duarmara Singpo village when they went to remove a minor from the village, Peter was running away for several days.” The villagers captured and turned over Dipak Phukan to the police. Five more people connected to human trafficking were detained after he was questioned. Umakanta Chetri, Bobby Deori Sona, Rohit Khadal, Peter Sabashi, and Ajit Munda are the accused. However, a police officer stated that Peter Sona, the primary mastermind, was fleeing. “We launched an operation and arrested Peter after learning that he was hiding in Pengree,” he stated. According to sources, Peter Sona manip-

ulated the impoverished tea garden workers under the guise of the Assam Tea Tribe Students’ Association (ATTSA). “He sold the Adivasi children in Arunachal Pradesh after taking them.” He identified himself as an ATTSA leader to everyone. According to a source, the arrest of Peter Sona, the mastermind of the child trafficking scheme, will aid law enforcement in identifying the primary network. According to sources, Peter Sona has been part of this human trafficking scheme for a number of years. As a former ATTSA leader, Peter Sona exploited that. We urge severe punishment and denounce his actions. “He trapped the poor Adivasi people,” an ATTSA leader stated. Phillobari police station officer in charge “We have arrested Peter Sona in connection with a case registered in the Phillobari police station,” declared Ajit Sonowal. Six people connected to child trafficking were detained earlier. Additionally, we have confiscated a vehicle with the license plate AS23AF5952, which the traffickers used to kidnap the children.

Seize Heroin

Nazira, Nov 28: The Assam police have made a significant breakthrough by apprehending three people involved in the illegal trade and seizing a sizable amount of heroin. On Wednesday night, the police conducted the operation at Namti Chariali after receiving a tip regarding a vehicle’s questionable activity. Based on the information, the police, under the command of CDSP Tushar Desai, stopped a Toyota Glanza (AS03AK2942) and discovered 19 heroin packages concealed within. Amrit Karmakar, Sandeep Singh, and Ravindra Singh were arrested and provided police with three cell phones and cash. A significant quantity of heroin was discovered, leading authorities to investigate the larger smuggling network associated with the case.

ARO Narangi conducts career outreach programme at Narangi Cantonment

Guwahati, Nov 28: As part of the AROHAN Project initiated by the Government of Assam, the Army Recruiting Office (ARO) Narangi, under ZRO Shillong, conducted an extensive Career Option Motivational Lecture at Brahmaputra Hall, Narangi Cantonment, on 27 November 2025.

The programme aimed to guide and inspire students about the diverse career opportunities available in the Indian Army. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 297 students and 26 teachers from the districts of Sivasagar, Sonitpur, and Udalguri attending the session. The outreach initiative focused on providing young aspirants with a clear and comprehensive understanding of the Army’s recruitment process. Representatives from ARO Narangi delivered detailed presentations on various entry schemes, including Agniveer, NDA, TES, and CDS, outlining their eligibility criteria, selection procedures, and the long-term benefits of a military career. To further enhance engagement, the organisers set up dedicated information centres at the venue. These facilitated face-to-face interactions between students and Army representatives, allowing attendees to clarify queries, gain first-hand insights, and develop a realistic understanding of life in the Armed Forces.

Three ‘Gogois’ together can’t match BJP’s thousands: Dilip Saikia

Guwahati, Nov 28: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Assam showcased its growing strength and organisational depth during a large-scale joining ceremony at the state party headquarters organised by the BJP Yuva Morcha. Over 300 participants from various political parties, organisations and social influencers attended the event. During the ceremony, Ayushmita Deka, the eldest daughter of senior BJP leader Romen Deka, formally joined the party. Ayushmita, who completed her higher education and early career in the United States returned to India with a clear commitment to serve her motherland and contribute to the work of the party. Her induction was widely welcomed by party members present at the event. Addressing the gathering, BJP state president Dilip Saikia criticised the Congress party, accusing it of amending the Constitution 106 times for political gains. He said this reflects a culture of vote-bank poli-



tics and appeasement. Saikia further alleged that Congress has misused constitutional provisions for vested interests, imposing policies in the name of religion in states where it is in power, thereby undermining the core values of the Constitution. “The Congress has trampled the country’s Constitution with its misdeeds in the past,” Saikia said adding that the BJP remains committed to upholding every provision of the Constitution meticulously.

On land issues, Saikia criticised those who make false promises to return evicted land to illegal occupants, stating that such individuals are pursuing personal ambitions rather than genuine governance. Highlighting the growing strength of the party, Saikia said, “Even though the three Gogois have united, the BJP has thousands of leaders like them.” He said that the party continues to expand its leadership base, strengthening its presence at all levels.

Assam government announces Rs 300 monthly aid for HSLC students ahead of 2026 exams

Guwahati, Nov 28: To support students preparing for the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examinations, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a new financial aid scheme today. The scheme provides Rs 300 per month to every eligible student, with funds directly transferred to their bank accounts to ensure transparency and timely assistance. CM Sarma said, “The government of Assam is committed to stand by our students as they prepare for the HSLC exam. To give them an extra push in their preparation, we will give them Rs 300 per month till their exams are over.” He also highlighted that the government would provide free admission to colleges for students, further strengthening educational access across the state. The announcement is part of a series of initiatives introduced by the Assam government to uplift the student community. Earlier this year, the government launched the ‘Nijut Moina’ scheme, designed to empower girl students and combat child marriage. Under the scheme, girls receive a



monthly stipend of Rs 1,000. With a budget allocation of Rs 1,500 crore and nearly 10 lakh expected beneficiaries, the programme aims to enhance financial independence, delay early marriages, and improve girls’ enrollment in higher education.

MNF vows to introduce anti-defection law

MNF assures voters of anti-defection reforms in Lai Council if it forms the Board

Aizawl, Nov 28: With the elections to the Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC) scheduled for December 3, the Mizo National Front (MNF) has made a strong poll pledge—promising to enact an anti-defection law if it returns to power. The announcement comes amid years of political instability in the autonomous councils, where frequent shifts in allegiance have often disrupted governance and undermined public trust. Campaigning for party candidates, MNF vice-president Lalthhandama Ralte said the absence of an anti-defection mechanism has encouraged opportunistic switching among elected members in the Lai, Mara, and Chakma Autonomous District Councils. He argued that such instability has harmed

the credibility of local governance and eroded the dignity of the Lai people. Ralte launched sharp criticism at the ruling Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM), accusing the party of failing to deliver on key promises made during the 2023 assembly elections. He described the ZPM as “a group of broken pots,” claiming that the party’s diversity of backgrounds has led to internal friction, resignations, and weakened public confidence. He also pointed to the ZPM’s recent electoral setbacks—including defeats in the Sinlung Hills Council elections and the Dampa bypoll—as indicators of the ruling party’s declining support. Alleging that the ZPM government has undermined the rights of district councils, Ralte said the adoption of the Forest Con-

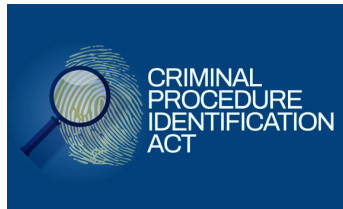


servation Amendment Act has affected land ownership and transfer rights traditionally held by the councils. He asserted that an MNF-led council would work to safeguard these rights and restore stability through strong legislative measures. This year’s election will see 80 candidates contesting 25 seats, including 11 independents. The ZPM is contesting all 25 seats, the MNF has fielded 20 candidates, while the Congress and

BJP have nominated 14 and 10 candidates respectively. Counting will take place on December 9, and the current council’s term ends on December 18. In the previous elections held in December 2020, the MNF—then the ruling party—secured a landslide victory, winning 20 of the 25 seats. The BJP and Congress won one seat each, while three independents were elected. Established in 1972 under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the Lai Autonomous District Council represents the Lai tribal community. Headquartered in Lawngtlai, Mizoram’s southernmost district adjoining Myanmar and Bangladesh, the council includes 25 elected members and four nominated representatives.

Assam Police introduce high-tech MCU to track criminals digitally

Guwahati, Nov 28: Assam Police have introduced Measurement Collection Units (MCU) under the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022. The new system is designed to scientifically collect and store criminal data, making it harder for repeat offenders to evade the law. The MCU will record and preserve DNA samples of criminals using advanced scientific techniques. In addition to DNA, retina patterns and full-body data of offenders. This information will be kept in a centralized digital database, similar to the state’s existing fingerprint records. Once stored, the data can be accessed from anywhere in India. This means police officers can quickly cross-check information related to criminal cases, helping investigations move faster. The software built into the MCU allows instant verification of offenders involved in crimes, reducing the time required to identify suspects. The initiative has already been implemented in all district headquarters across Assam and is the first of its kind in the state. Police officials said that the MCU will also store DNA samples of criminals involved in offenses against women and children, which is expected to enhance safety and accountability.



Five arrested for poaching in Gohpur

Biswanath, Nov 28: Up to five suspected rhino poachers were apprehended by a team of Biswanath police on Thursday in Forsutapur in Dathkala village under the Halem police station in Biswanath district, thanks to a tip. In this regard, Kukheswar Doley (40 years) of Gogamukh, Dhemaji; Binandra Tayung (55 years) of Gerkhowa, Dhemaji; Utpal Pegu (26 years) of Panigaon, Lakhimpur; Tamar Gino (60 years) of Kangku, Lower Siang, Arunachal Pradesh; and Rupeswar Doley (25 years) of Bihpuria, Lakhimpur, according to a press conference. Additionally, police confiscated a bike without license plates and a car with the license plate AS06N5495. At the Halem police station, the poachers are presently being questioned. But two alleged poachers, Lakhya Pegu of Amguri, Gohpur, and Leela Doley of Gomariati, are allegedly fleeing.

Manipur Governor urges citizens to uphold constitutional duties and reject violence

Imphal, Nov 28: Marking Constitution Day, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday appealed to the people of the state to reaffirm their commitment to constitutional values, uphold unity, and reject all forms of violence. His message came at a time when Manipur continues to confront deep social and ethnic tensions, making the call for peace and constitutional responsibility particularly significant. Speaking at a Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) programme in Imphal, Governor Bhalla reflected on the extraordinary journey of India’s Constitution and the immense effort that went into shaping the country’s democratic

structure. He reminded citizens that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but a guiding framework that defines the rights, duties, and responsibilities of every individual. Bhalla highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, along with other distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly.

Their intellectual depth, clarity of vision, and unwavering commitment to democratic ideals, he said, helped build one of the most resilient constitutional systems in the world. Addressing the gathering, the Governor stressed that peace, dignity, and equality

■ *Marking Constitution Day, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla urged citizens to reaffirm their commitment to constitutional values and promote peace amidst ongoing social and ethnic tensions.*

ty were at the heart of the constitutional vision. He urged every citizen to uphold these principles, protect the rights of all communities, and work collectively to restore harmony in the state. He emphasized that fulfilling constitutional duties—ranging from respecting the law to promoting fraternity—was essential for strengthening democracy and rebuilding trust among diverse groups.

Body found

Hailakandi, Nov 28: The lifeless body of a baby boy was found on Friday morning close to the Gemon Bridge in Thandapur, under the Paigram Police Station, in a very unsettling and humiliating occurrence that has horrified the people of Hailakandi district. The discovery of an abandoned infant has led to significant criticism and inquiries concerning the circumstances of the child’s abandonment. Eyewitnesses found the baby, estimated to be three to four months old, on a guardwall next to a bridge and promptly alerted the police.

The Paigram Police Station dispatched a team to retrieve the body, which was then sent to Hailakandi Civil Hospital for a post-mortem examination to establish the cause and time of death. Local residents expressed shock and indignation, demanding a thorough investigation and severe consequences for the parents once identified.

Tragic accident

Two kids killed in Jirighat oil tanker mishap

Silchar, Nov 28: Two young students were instantly killed when an oil tanker struck a scooter, and the woman operating the vehicle was hurt. On Thursday at noon, the terrible event took place in the Lalpani neighborhood of Jirighat on the Silchar-Imphal National Highway. Santatombi Miya and Abdus Samad, two KG 1 pupils from Lalpani Sunrise School, were identified as the deceased. According to an eyewitness, Samad’s mother was driving the kids back from school in a scooter, just like on other days. The youngsters were instantaneously killed when an oil tanker struck the scooter, and the woman suffered severe injuries. The tragedy caused a great deal of stress in the neighborhood as irate locals stopped the roadways, claiming that the highway had



become a dangerous accident-prone location since there was no adequate traffic infrastructure.

The crowd was subdued by police officers from the Jirighat outpost and later from the Lakhipur police station. The children’s bodies were brought to the hospital for a postmortem examination.

Mizoram court sentences 67-Year-old man to 10 Year's imprisonment for molesting minor girl

Aizawl, Nov 28: A fast-track court in Mizoram’s Kolasib district on Thursday sentenced a 67-year-old man to 10 years of imprisonment for molesting a minor girl six years ago, officials said.

The order was pronounced judge R. Vanlaleina, sentencing Vanlalruata to 10 years of jail term for sexually abusing the

8-year-old girl. A fine of Rs 7,000 was also imposed on the man.

Notably, the court had earlier convicted the man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and sentenced him to 10 years of imprisonment with a Rs 5,000 fine in November 2021. According to reports, the father of the girl had

filed an FIR in a police station on January 16, 2019, a day after the girl informed him about the incident that took place in mid-2018.

A criminal case under POCSO Act, 2012, was registered and the suspect was arrested. The police investigated the case and submitted the chargesheet. Moreover, a district court convicted him and sen-

tenced him to undergo a prison term of 10 years and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on November 17, 2021. The accused thereafter appealed to the Aizawl bench of Gauhati High Court which subsequently instructed the judge of the fast-track court to undertake the trial afresh and complete the trial within six months.

GMR Airports secures Rs 750 crore loan Axis Bank for Delhi airport

New Delhi: GMR Airports’ subsidiary GMR Cargo and Logistics has received a term loan facility worth up to Rs 750 crore from Axis BankGMR Airports’ subsidiary GMR Cargo and Logistics has received a term loan facility worth up to Rs 750 crore from Axis Bank for developing the cargo city at the Delhi airport, the company said in an exchange filing.

The infrastructure company has availed the loan for its upcoming cargo city project, spread over 50.5 acres of land within Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). The airport is operated by the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports. To secure the loan facility, GMR Airports has provided a Sponsor Support Undertaking (SSU) along with the creation of a pledge or the provision of Non-Disposal Undertaking (NDU) or a mix of pledge and NDU on 51 per cent of its shares of



GCLL in favour of Axis Bank, the filing said. “The SSU shall remain valid throughout the construction period of Phase 1 plus 1 year of operations of the project, unless otherwise agreed between the company and Axis Bank Ltd,” the company said in the filing. Under the SSU, GMR Airports has giv-

en an undertaking that the subordinated loans provided and/or to be provided by the company to GCLL shall be subordinated to the facility. Also, the company is required to infuse additional funds in GCLL in case of cost overrun under the first phase of the project and shortfall by GCLL in repayment of the facility.

Revenue growth in India slows as tax cuts limit room for fiscal policy

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 Gambhir 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, and a 43.3 per cent achievement of the budget target, compared with 49

per cent in the corresponding period of FY25. 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 Gambhir 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. AdvertisementThe widening gap between revenue receipts and spending has sharpened concerns over meeting the fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP.

Canara Robeco hits Assam roads with ‘Nivesh Bus Yatra’ to boost investor education

Jorhat: Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited (AMC), India’s second-oldest asset management firm, has launched its investor education initiative, the ‘Nivesh Bus Yatra’, in Assam. The campaign aims to raise awareness about mutual fund investments and financial planning across Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, and Silchar. The Yatra commenced in Guwahati, engaging local residents through interactive sessions and digital demonstrations to simplify investing and dispel common misconceptions. “An informed investor not only makes better personal financial decisions but also strengthens the broader economy. The Nivesh Bus Yatra brings investment knowledge directly to communities, making it accessible and actionable,” said Rajnish Narula, Managing Director and CEO of Canara Robeco AMC. Gaurav Goyal, Head of Sales & Marketing at Canara Robeco AMC, added that the Yatra reflects the company’s commitment to empowering communities by delivering financial knowledge directly to the public. Having successfully conducted similar drives in Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, Assam marks the next strategic expansion for the program.

61% of India now high-risk, new quake map pushes Himalayan belt into highest danger category

New Delhi: India has released a sweeping new seismic zonation map under the revised Earthquake Design Code issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), placing the entire Himalayan arc in a newly created Zone VI the highest seismic risk category ever assigned in the country. The overhaul marks one of the most consequential updates to India’s hazard assessment in decades, showing that 61% of the nation is now classified in moderate to high seismic zones. Under the old system, the Himalayan belt was split across Zones IV and V despite facing uniform tectonic hazards.

Experts say earlier maps understated threats from long-dormant but highly capable fault segments, particularly in the central Himalayas, which have not experienced a major surface-rupturing earthquake in nearly 200 years.Why the Himalayas fall in the highest danger zoneThe Himalayas straddle one of the world’s most forceful tectonic collision boundaries. The Indian Plate continues to push into the Eurasian Plate at nearly five centimetres per year — the same collision that formed the mountain range and still drives it upward. This constant compression builds enormous

stress in the Earth’s crust. When that stress releases, it produces some of the planet’s most powerful earthquakes. The region’s young, actively deforming geology amplifies instability. Beneath the range lie major fault systems — the Main Frontal Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust, and Main Central Thrust — each capable of triggering significant earthquakes. Scientists have also identified several seismic gaps where large events have not occurred for centuries, signalling substantial accumulated strain. The new map underscores the ongoing Indian–Eurasian plate collision and the

resulting stress beneath populated states including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and parts of Uttar Pradesh. It also calls for retrofitting vulnerable infrastructure and halting construction on soft sediments or near active faults. Experts have welcomed the uniformity, describing it as an essential step toward long-term resilience as urbanisation accelerates. Driven by enhanced data and modelling, the revised zonation compels a nationwide recalibration of disaster preparedness. The update incorporates advanced modelling that accounts for southward rupture propaga-

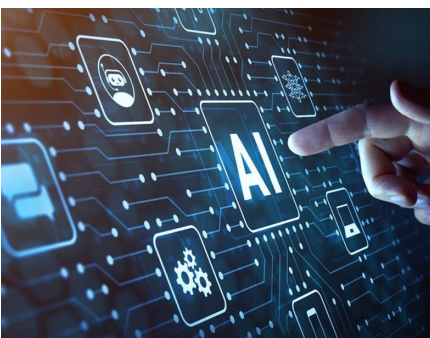
tion along the Himalayan Frontal Thrust, populated foothills. Boundary towns positioned between previous zones will now automatically fall under the higher-risk classification. BIS officials say the shift aligns zonation with geological realities rather than administrative boundaries — a change that directly impacts building codes, infrastructure design and long-term urban planning. The overhaul marks one of the most consequential updates to India’s hazard assessment in decades, showing that 61% of the nation is now classified in moderate to high seismic zones.

Income Tax Dept begins second NUDGE drive closed assets

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has begun issuing text messages and emails to individuals who may have failed to disclose foreign assets in their income tax returns for the current assessment year. These alerts form part of the second phase of NUDGE, a Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) initiative that promotes voluntary compliance through data-driven insights rather than enforcement-led action. In an update posted on X, the department said the latest round of domestic filings, according to people familiar with the programme. Why are the alerts being sentIndia regularly receives detailed financial data of its residents from partner countries under the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework, including the Common Reporting Standard s flagged cases where foreign assets or income appeared to exist but were not declared in returns filed for AY 2025-26.

Infocom to erve centre AI, cyber security work

Mumbai: 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. At the same time, the digital economy’s exponential expansion has made cybersecurity and workforce transformation boardroom priorities. Parallely, the future of work is undergoing a fundamental reset, where hybrid environments, skill fluidity, digital collaboration tools and AI-augmented roles are redefining productivity and talent models. As enterprises navigate these tectonic changes, those that combine technological foresight with human-centred innovation will set the pace for the next era of global competitiveness. It is in this backdrop that the 24th edition of the ABP Infocom, a flagship event of the ABP group, will be held from November 27 to 29 in Calcutta, anchoring conversations around the theme ‘Technology: Fu-



ture Forward’.

This year’s edition aims to decode the disruptive forces reshaping digital infrastructure, AI, cybersecurity, enterprise innovation and the future of work.

The three-day event will feature more than 80 sessions, including keynotes, fire-side chats, roundtables, startup showcases and leadership dialogues.Among the marquee speakers are — Stephen Ibaraki, chairman and managing general partner, REDDS Capital; Bishwajit Mohapatra, CIO advisory lead, AWS; Arundhati Bhat-tacharya, president and CEO, Salesforce – South Asia; Bhaskar Ghosh, chief strategy and innovation officer, Accenture; Amar Babu, president, Lenovo Asia Pacific; Calum Chace, international AI futurist and author; Sean West, co-founder, The Unruly Company (USA); Juan A. Pujadas, chief mentor, Intueri Institute of Innovation

Sensex, Nifty end flat a day after hitting fresh highs what’s next

New Delhi: Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty slipped on Friday, reversing their early gains amid selling pressure in heavyweight counters such as Power Grid Corporation of India and Bharti Airtel.At the close, the Sensex fell 13.71 points, or 0.02 per cent, to end at 85,706.67. The Nifty50 dropped 12.60 points, or 0.05 per cent, to settle at 26,202.95. Power Grid led losers on the Sensex, declining 1.35 per cent to Rs 270. Bharti Airtel followed with a 0.68 per cent drop. Among other laggards, Eternal, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finserv lost 0.66 per cent, 0.56 per cent, 0.36 per cent and 0.35 per cent, respectively. “On the index front, the Nifty edged slightly higher in early trade, but a mixed trend across heavyweight stocks kept the momentum in check throughout the session, eventually closing flat at the 26,205 level. Sectoral performance was uneven, with auto and pharma posting gains while energy and financials ended in the red. Market breadth remained subdued as both mid-cap and small-cap indices closed largely unchanged,” Mishra said.“The strong rebound in global markets, supported by expectations of continued liquidity, is aiding the ongoing momentum in domestic equities. Additionally, improving geopolitical developments are offering further comfort to in-



vestors,” Mishra added.Five stocks, namely, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Power Grid, contributed heavily to the Sensex’s decline. Among sectoral indices, the BSE Energy index declined 0.64 per cent to close at 12,018.27, while the BSE Oil & Gas index dropped 0.97 per cent to end the session at 28,207.28. Overall, of the 4,312 actively traded BSE stocks, 2,024 closed higher, 2,121 declined, and 167 remained unchanged. During the session, 117 stocks touched their 52-week highs, while 161 fell to 52-week lows. Meanwhile, 190 scrips hit their upper circuits, and 163 were locked in lower circuits. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said Indian equities remained

resilient, though some selective profit-taking surfaced in the broader market after the recent upswing.“Sentiment was buoyed by progress in India–US trade discussions, while strong performance in large-cap sectors, Auto, Financials, and Pharma helped maintain positive momentum. Supportive global cues, including a continued tech-driven rally and rising expectations of a Fed rate cut, further strengthened investor confidence. With Q2 GDP and IIP data due shortly, the overall outlook remains constructive, and the prints are expected to affirm an improving macro trend,” Nair said.Ajit Mishra, SVP – Research at Religare Broking, said the markets were largely lacklustre on Friday, pausing after their recent record high and closing almost flat.

Centre, RBI plan unified portal to help recover unclaimed financial

New Delhi: The finance ministry is working with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to build a single, consolidated portal that would allow savers and retail investors to recover unclaimed assets across multiple financial instruments, including dormant bank deposits, pension balances, equity holdings and unpaid dividends.The initiative aims to streamline what is currently a fragmented, time-consuming process and bolster consumer protection in one of the world’s fastest-growing retail investment markets. organised by Punjab National Bank in New Delhi.“The DFS is working with the RBI to develop a unified integrated portal...for across all the regulators and to be coordinated by the RBI,” he said. To recover unclaimed assets, RBI has launched the UDGAM portal, while the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) have MITRA and Bima Bharosa portals, respectively.The integrated portal would make it substantially easier for citizens to locate their unclaimed funds and provide convenience, transparency and trust.On October 4, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a three-month nationwide awareness campaign on unclaimed assets in the financial sector.Providing an update on recoveries, Nagaraju said the outreach and facilitation efforts have already enabled the return



of ₹1,887 crore to rightful owners or their nominees.Citizens often find unclaimed financial assets, including insurance policy claims, bank deposits, dividends, shares and mutual fund proceeds, hard to recover due to the rigorous and frustrating process they face at financial institutions.During the campaign, citizens are expected to be given on-the-spot guidance on how to search for their unclaimed assets, update records and complete claim procedures. Digital tools and step-by-step demonstrations will be showcased.

Paytm shares at Rs 2,320 Goldman Sachs’ blue-sky scenario factors

New Delhi: Goldman Sachs finds risk-reward favourable for One 97 Communications Ltd (Paytm), as it believes regulatory environment is incrementally getting better. It was a key drag on the Paytm stock price in the past, the foreign brokerage said. This, Goldman Sachs said, is translating into early signs of recovery in Paytm’s payments market share, better earnings visibility, and relaunch of products (postpaid and potentially wallets), which should help Paytm sustain 20 per cent revenue growth for the foreseeable future. The brokerage upgraded the stock to ‘Buy’ from ‘Neutral’.

“While the stock is up 26 per cent YTD (vs BSE Sensex 10 per cent), we see room for more upside; our revised 12m target price of Rs 1,570 (was vs Rs705) implies 21 per cent upside (vs 4 per cent for India TMT coverage). More importantly, we see a skewed risk-reward for Paytm, with 45 per cent/79 per cent upside in a bull case/blue-sky scenario, vs 28% downside in a bear case,” Goldman Sachs said. Paytm trades at 52 times FY27E EV/Ebitda and 64 times EPS, at the mid-point of our India internet coverage. On a growth adjusted basis, Paytm trades at the lower end of Goldman’s coverage. “Ad-

ditionally, there could be upside risks and optionality over the next 1-2 years from any positive regulatory interventions around payments charges or further recovery in market share, which we partly reflect in the form of higher multiples in our base case for Paytm, and fully reflect in a bull-case/blue-sky scenario,” Goldman Sachs said. Goldman Sachs set a base case 12-month price target of Rs 1,570 against its previous target of Rs 705, suggesting a 21 per cent potential upside. It sees 45 per cent upside (Rs1,870 per share implied value), in a bull case; and 79 per cent upside in a blue-sky scenario with a target of Rs 2,320. “In a bear-case, where we assume lower payments market share due to increase in competition and slower than expected recovery in MTUs, and prolonged weakness in consumer lending and marketing services segments, we see 28 per cent downside from current levels (Rs 930 per share implied value),” it said. Goldman Sachs said Paytm’s cost control has been a big positive surprise, and given its expectation of rising share of high-margin financial services segment, it forecast Ebitda margins to more than double over the next 3-4 years for Paytm.

Mohanlal’s Drishyam 3 to Hit Screens Before Ajay Devgn’s Hindi Remake

Kochi: The anticipation surrounding Drishyam 3 has been steadily growing, with fans eager to see how the next chapter of Georgekutty’s gripping story unfolds. The buzz around the film heightened further after Panorama Studios recently acquired its theatrical, digital rights. This major deal also triggered widespread speculation on social media about whether the Hindi version starring Ajay Devgn and Malayalam version led by Mohanlal would be released simultaneously. Director Jeethu Joseph has recently dismissed all rumours and confirmed that the Malayalam version will release first.

Times Now has reported that Jeethu Joseph reacted to the question related to the release date of Drishyam 3. He said, “No...we will release first after 2 months; only they



can release.” Earlier, Panorama Studios announced that they have acquired the rights of Drishyam 3 from the Malayalam production house, Aashirvad Cinemas. Speaking exclusively to SCREEN, Jeethu Joseph emphasized that his approach to Drishyam 3 is rooted strictly in the internal logic of the characters. “I’ve created only one franchise so far, that’s Drishyam. Nonetheless, it’s an organic approach that I have used there,” he said.

“That was the case with Part 2, and it will be the same with Drishyam 3.” Jeethu addressed audience expectations head-on, after many fans expressed hopes that the new film would surpass the brilliance of Drishyam 2. “People told me, ‘Drishyam 2’s script was amazing, and we expect something better than that.’ But I’m not consciously trying to write a ‘better-than-Drishyam 2’ script just for the sake of it.

My focus is only on Georgekutty and his family, and on what could have happened in their lives over the six or seven years since Part 2.” Jeethu revealed that while Georgekutty retains certain defining qualities, other elements of his personality and circumstances will reflect the passage of time. He explained that Rani (Meena), Anju (Ansiba Hassan), and Anu (Esther Anil) have also undergone meaningful evolution. The filmmaker noted how Anu, who was a child when the pivotal incident occurred, has now matured into a young adult—a change the film will acknowledge with emotional nuance. The Drishyam franchise has been one of the most successful crime thrillers. The film has been made in different languages, including Bollywood.

Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao, Children Join Mumbai Marathon 2026 for Charity

Mumbai: Aamir Khan and his family will run as part of the Home Run Squad to support the Paani Foundation and Agatsu Foundation at the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026 in January. Khan, ex-wife Kiran Rao, son Azad Rao Khan, and daughter Ira Khan will join the Dream Run , Junaid Khan will take on the Open 10 K, and the actor’s son-in-law Nupur Shikhare will run the 42 K full marathon, as per a press release.

Founded by Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao, Paani Foundation has transformed drought-hit villages in Maharashtra through training, science, and teamwork. Agatsu Foundation, created by Ira Khan, makes mental health accessible, affordable, and humane. The foundation provides a free community centre and low-cost therapy clinic in Bandra and hosts programmes on mental health awareness. “We are running the Tata



Mumbai Marathon,” Azad said as the family gathered around to announce the news on Ira’s Instagram page. “As one big chaotic family,” Ira said. A running Aamir joined them later and said he had already started training for it. Both founda-

tions believe that long-term change is possible when people take ownership of the solutions. One teaches farmers to read the land; the other teaches individuals to understand their minds, the release added.

Surprise! Rajisha Vijayan Joins Cast of Mammootty’s Kalamkaval Ahead of Release

Agency: With only a few days remaining for the arrival of Mammootty’s much awaited Kalamkaval, the makers have dropped an unexpected announcement that has instantly set social media buzzing. A newly unveiled poster confirms that Rajisha Vijayan is part of the film, marking the first official word about her involvement. Until now, the team had kept her appearance completely under wraps, making this reveal a genuine pre release surprise.

Kalamkaval marks the directorial debut of Jithin K Jose, who has co written the film with Jishnu Sreekumar. The story is set against a moody crime thriller backdrop with Mammootty in the lead, supported by Vinayakan who plays a police officer with considerable impact. The cast also features Dies Irae actor Jibin Gopinath in an important role. Behind the scenes, the film brings together a strong technical team that includes cinematographer Faisal Ali, editor Praveen Prabhakar, composer Mujeeb Majeed and production designer Shajie Naduvil. Produced by Mammooty Kampany and distributed in Kerala by Wayfarer Films, the project has already been cleared with a U/A 16+ certification. The announcement of Rajisha’s presence adds a final stroke of mystery to the film’s promotion. With the poster focusing entirely on her steely presence, the makers seem to be hinting at a character who holds narrative weight within Kalamkaval’s tense world.

For Rajisha, this film marks her return to Malayalam cinema after a brief gap. She was last seen in the 2023 release Amala in a cameo appearance and her most recent full length Malayalam role was in Madhura Manohara Moham



in the same year. Since then, she has been active in Tamil cinema, including a key role in Mari Selvaraj’s Bison Kalamadaan, where she shared the screen with Dhruv Vikram and Anupama Parameswaran.

Her performance drew praise, reinforcing her reputation as one of the more dynamic talents among the younger generation of actors. She is also part of Karthi’s Sardar 2 where she is expected to reprise her earlier role from the first film. With this slate, Rajisha is clearly moving between industries with impressive versatility. Her presence in Kalamkaval therefore raises curiosity about the tone and texture of her character and how it fits within the film’s shadowy world.

Suniel Shetty Explains Why He Turns Down South Film Offers

Mumbai: Actor Suniel Shetty has opened up about why he rarely signs films from the South despite being a familiar name across industries. Speaking at the Lallantop Adda 2025 in Delhi, the Bollywood star revealed that while he regularly receives offers from filmmakers in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada, most roles pitched to him fall into one category: villains.

According to Suniel, a trend has emerged in South cinema where Bollywood actors are frequently cast as antagonists to amplify the hero’s on-screen presence. “I do get offers from the South,” he said. “But you will notice that most of them are negative roles. They want to cast the Hindi heroes as powerful... from an antagonistic point of view. That may work for the audience, but it’s something I don’t enjoy doing repeatedly. The actor clarified that this pattern is the primary reason he turns down most such projects. However, he has made notable exceptions, especially when the project holds personal significance. Suniel revealed that he agreed to appear in Rajinikanth’s Dar-



bar solely to fulfil a long-cherished dream. “I did a film with Rajini sir only because I wanted to tick that box of having worked with him,” he said, calling it a milestone moment in his career. He recently appeared in a cameo in the Tulu film Jai, which has become one of the most widely screened Tulu releases in recent years. Suniel took up the role purely to support regional cinema from Karnataka. “I wanted to encourage the film and my language,” he shared.

Farah Khan, Bajaj share shoot BTS



Mumbai: Bigg Boss 19 fame Abhishek Bajaj surprised fans as he shared glimpses of his shoot with Farah Khan. The reality TV star joined the filmmaker in a conversation, possibly for Farah Khan’s upcoming vlog. Taking to Instagram, Abhishek shared behind-the-scenes glimpses from the shoot, where the two could be seen sitting on a couch and having a fun conversation.

In the picture, Abhishek was seen looking handsome in a powder-blue button-down shirt, which he paired with light-wash white denims and clean white sneakers. On the other hand, Farah Khan looked comfy in a black co-ord set, featuring a short kurta and loosely fitted pants. In another video, Farah was seen delivering Abhishek’s famous dialogue, “Badiya bande hood pe baki sab thood pe,” making fans excited about their upcoming collaboration. Sharing the post, Abhishek wrote, “A conversation that elevates you – that’s @farakhkander Mam,” followed by a red heart emoji. Soon after sharing the pictures, fans flooded the comment section. “Vlog is coming!!!! Super excited,” wrote one user. “Can’t wait for the interview,” commented another. Someone else stated, “Farah Khan and our Robin Hood.” One fan complimented his personality, saying, “Your personality is like a hero,” while another anticipated, “Agli film Farah ma’am ke sath.”

As Bigg Boss inches 19 closer to the finale, the reality show has become more intense. Following the Ticket to Finale task, ex-contestant Abhishek Bajaj was seen supporting his close friend Ashnoor Kaur. During the task Ashnoor accidentally hit Tanya Mittal with a wooden ply and apologised to her, saying it was not intentional. Ashnoor had to face extreme backlash as Tanya Mittal’s fans demanded her eviction. During an interview with Free Press Journal, Abhishek opened up about the incident and supported Ashnnor.

Dharmendra’s Emotional Poem for Ikkis Goes Viral; Jaideep Ahlawat Responds

Mumbai: Veteran actor Dharmendra, who passed away on November 24, will be posthumously seen in Sriram Raghavan’s film ‘Ikki’, which also stars Agastya Nanda and Jaideep Ahlawat. The film is set to release in December, and will be an emotional moment for Dharmendra’s fans as it will mark his final film. Now, the makers of Ikki have unveiled a special poem ‘Pind Apne Nu Jaanwa’ from the film which had been written by Dharmendra himself. The makers shared a video of Dharmendra’s scenes from the film, in which he recites the beautiful lines that express a longing to return to his childhood village. The video, and the poem, left fans emotional. Jaideep Ahlawat shared the video, and wrote that he is missing the late actor.

On Friday, Maddock Films unveiled the poem ‘Pind Apne Nu Jaanwa’ from Ikki, on YouTube. The poem expresses the actor’s yearning to return to his village, where he spent his childhood. Sharing the video, the makers



wrote, “‘Aj bhi ji karda hai, pind apne nu jaanwa.’ Dharam Ji was a true son of the soil, and his words carry the essence of that soil. This poem by him is a yearning; a tribute from one legend to another. Thank you for this timeless verse.” Sharing this video, Jaideep Ahlawat wrote, “We all missing you Sir,” along with a red heart emoji. One of the most touching moments in the video shared by the makers is the sight of the late actors Dharmendra and Asrani appearing together on screen. That particular still from Ikki has left fans emotional. “Seeing dharam paaji & asrani in one frame gave goosebumps,” commented one fan, while another one wrote, “wait a second

this second person is asrani ji...so both of them left the world with their last movie together.” A third comment read, “Aankh mein Aasu a gya.” ‘Ikki’, directed by Sriram Raghavan and produced by Dinesh Vijan under Maddock Films, revisits the life of Arun Khetarpal, whose extraordinary bravery on the battlefield turned him into a national hero. The film follows his journey from a young officer full of promise to a wartime legend whose sacrifice continues to be remembered more than five decades later. In Ikki, Dharmendra plays Agastya Nanda’s grandfather, Brigadier ML Khetarpal. The film is set to release on December 25.

Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday’s Chemistry Ignites in Tu Meri Main Tera Title Track

Mumbai: The much-awaited title track Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri is finally out, and fans of Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday are in for a treat. The song brings together the popular on-screen duo in a vibrant, romantic, and high-energy setting that their sparkling chemistry. As soon as the track dropped, social media was flooded with excitement, celebrating the reunion of the two stars who previously won hearts in Pati Patni Aur Woh.

The song opens with romantic dance between Ananya Panday and Kartik Aaryan. Both are looking like they are faking dating and is not completely serious about each other. However, their hook step immediately went viral with fans calling it blockbuster. Sharing the song, Kartik Aaryan wrote, “Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri Mootha Hi Sahi #TuMeriMainTera Title Track out now.” Within hours of its release, the teaser began trending across platforms, prompting the actor to express gratitude to his fans for what he described as a “pyaar ka



tsunami.” Ananya Panday also thanked fans for their love. Taking to his Instagram handle, Kartik Aaryan shared the video and thanked fans for their love. “Thank you for your Pyaar ka Tsunami... Ray ka heart literally doing ‘Tu Mera Main Teri’ #TuMeriMainTeraMainTeraTuMeri in cinemas December 25.” Earlier, Dharma Productions shared a clip announcing that the teaser has crossed the 70-million milestone online. Expressing gratitude, the makers wrote, “2025 end ho raha hai, but aapka pyaar nahi. Thank you for making us the most viewed teaser across all

platforms for a rom-com... see you in Christmas for our date?!” The teaser of Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri kicks off with the line, ‘If you’re going to live another week, live the best week of your life.’ We are then introduced to ‘mama’s boy’ Kartik Aaryan flexing his abs, and saying that whether it’s Malaika or Uorfi, no one would want to let a guy like him slip away. Meanwhile, Ananya Panday is then introduced as Rumi, who seeks a 90s-style romance amid the 2025 hook-up culture. Kartik is then seen taunting her about feminism and

women wanting chivalry during an airport scene. Later, we get glimpses of their growing chemistry as love begins to blossom between them. The teaser further shows glimpses of a big dance number at a beautiful location. The teaser also includes a FRIENDS reference towards the end!

Directed by Sameer Vidwans, the film promises a simple yet sincere love story set against a visually captivating backdrop. The project is produced by Dharma Productions and Namah Pictures, with support from Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Shareen Mantri Kedia, Kishor Arora, and Bhumika Tewari. Releasing on Christmas Eve, the film aims to offer audiences a light-hearted, feel-good romantic experience. Kartik and Ananya first shared the screen in the 2019 film Pati Patni Aur Woh, where their on-screen chemistry caught widespread attention. Their easy camaraderie was evident throughout the film’s promotions, and now fans are eagerly looking forward to seeing them reunite on screen once again.

Two Films Selected: Kiran Rao, Dia Mirza Features Headed to Top Environmental Film Fest

Mumbai: Two notable films, Humans in the Loop and Panha, will be showcased at the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF), India’s premier platform for cinema that addresses social and ecological issues. The feature film Humans in the Loop is executive produced by filmmaker Kiran Rao, while the Marathi short film Panha involves Dia Mirza

as a key contributor and is produced by One India Stories. Panha tells the story of a young boy from a Maharashtra village whose family mango farm is threatened by the construction of a bullet train. The short film explores the tension between modernization and tradition, portraying themes of displacement, loss, and the resilience of rural communities. Dia Mirza, an actor, producer,



and environmental advocate, reflected on the film’s inclusion in the festival: “Panha is a story very close to my heart because it reflects what so many communities across

India are experiencing, the delicate struggle between progress and preservation. I’m so grateful that ALT EFF is giving this story a platform to reach audiences who care about the world we are shaping for the next generation.” The feature film Humans in the Loop examines the intersection of artificial intelligence and traditional knowledge through the journey of an Adivasi

woman working as an AI data labeler. The narrative raises questions about the human costs of technological advancement and the continued relevance of indigenous wisdom in a rapidly digitalizing world.

Filmmaker Kiran Rao commented on the film’s relevance, “This film speaks to the times we live in, where human intuition and indigenous wisdom

are often overlooked in our race toward automation. It’s a reminder that technology should serve humanity, not the other way around. I’m thrilled that ALT EFF, a festival that deeply values such conversations, is showcasing Humans in the Loop this year.” Anaka, Programming Director and Co-founder of ALT EFF, highlighted the importance of the selections: “At ALT EFF, we

believe in showcasing stories that challenge, inspire, and provoke thought about the way we coexist with our environment. Both Panha and Humans in the Loop reflect the diversity of India’s storytelling — one rooted in the soil of our villages, the other in the digital landscapes of the future, yet both carry the same urgent message of balance and empathy.”

Discovering Goa

A Dream Getaway to Paradise and Hidden Gems

Almost everyone around us has dreamed of a GOA getaway, inspired by the iconic movie Dil Chahta Hai. While some proudly share stories of their first trip to Goa, others, like me, have had their fair share of “maybe next time” moments. But as they say, good things come to those who wait. After all the planning, the waiting, and the “MAYBE NEXT TIME” moments, I FINALLY got the opportunity, and this time, there was no turning back. Yes, I visited Goa for the first time! Trust me, the experience was beyond anything I could have imagined. You’ll see what I mean as you read on. As I stepped onto Goan soil for the first time, I realized how perfectly those words (“Goa is not just a place, it’s a state of mind”) fit. The relaxed vibe, the charm of the beaches, and the laid-back atmosphere left me completely in awe. And if I’m being honest, South Goa, in particular, is where the magic really happened. For my long-awaited trip to Goa, I boarded my flight from Delhi to Goa on a Tuesday morning in December. I wasn’t just looking for a place to visit—I wanted an experience that would refresh my soul and provide the perfect balance of relaxation and indulgence. Little did I know, my stay at Cloud9 Sarovar Premiere in Palolem would exceed all my expectations and offer me a slice of paradise. The hotel, about 62 km from Dabolim International Airport, was along

a beautiful, peaceful route that set the mood for my entire trip. Located in the Canacona Valley, the luxury hotel was the perfect getaway. Upon arrival, I was greeted with a refreshing welcome drink, and as I checked in and entered my room, I felt like I had stepped into a utopian world. The room was so well-equipped with modern amenities, ensuring that I had everything I needed for a comfortable stay—from a flat-screen TV and high-speed internet to a mini-bar and a luxurious bathroom. On top of that, I chose the ocean-view room from the 160 rooms and suites available. The tropical vibes, soothing decor, and calming atmosphere made it obvious that this was going to be a stay I’d never forget. As a vegetarian, my experience at Cloud9 Sarovar Premiere in Goa was truly exceptional. I had the pleasure of dining at Trophe, the hotel’s multi-cuisine restaurant, and was pleasantly surprised by the wide variety of vegetarian dishes, many with a delightful Goan twist. I savored everything from rich soups and dim sums to the refreshing taste of virgin mojitos, finishing off with a traditional Goan dessert. However, if you’re a non-vegetarian, you’ll be in heaven (just like my friends), as there were so many mouth-watering dishes that I lost count of them all. Don’t worry, even if you indulge in a lot of food, the Elysium gym is right in the hotel. So, just eat and burn off those calories! For an even more unforgettable dining

experience, I visited 74° NE, the hotel’s rooftop restaurant. As the sky transitioned into stunning shades of orange and pink, I sipped exclusive drinks and cocktails while soaking in the breathtaking Goan sunset. The combination of delicious drinks and the incredible views made for a moment of pure joy—one I will never forget in my entire life. It’s true what they say, “With a drink in hand and a view like that, what more could you ask for?” But wait... there’s so much more than just the delicious food! The best part of my stay was being part of an event that truly captured the lively spirit of the São João Festival, which honors Saint John the Baptist with lively celebrations, including music, dance, and symbolic water-jumping rituals. Coming back to the festival-like setup at the hotel, I must say... the atmosphere was buzzing with energy as we enjoyed fresh fruits, drinks, and mouth-watering Goan dishes. We couldn’t help but dance along to the live Goan music, and let me tell you, it truly felt like the heart of Goa was alive at that moment. The next day, I enjoyed a spa session at Hebe, the hotel’s spa center. The exclusive oils and treatments were incredibly relaxing and left me feeling both refreshed and recharged. Honestly, it felt like all my stress just melted away. After the spa, I relaxed by the poolside with a drink, soaking in the stunning view. Trust me, it was one of those moments that words can’t fully capture.

Then, we decided to go shopping—after all, we are girls! We had the opportunity to visit a nearby street market in a Mini Van (provided by the hotel, free of charge). Then, we headed to Palolem Beach (which is just a walk away) to feel the soft sand beneath our feet. It was truly an unforgettable experience! Now, I completely understand the meaning of this phrase, “If you didn’t feel the sand between your toes and the rhythm of the waves, did you even go to Goa?” While there were many other amazing spots to visit, like Patnem and Raj Bagh Beach, the Malika Arjun Temple, and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, all of us decided to take a different route and discover a hidden gem with the help of the hotel’s staff—a waterfall deep in the Netrawali Jungle. I know its name, but let’s keep this beautiful secret between us for now. To sum up my Goa experience, I have to say that throughout the trip, I couldn’t decide whether to enjoy a refreshing coconut water or treat myself to a cocktail by the sea. It’s one of those little dilemmas that make a Goa getaway so memorable. Goa is truly a place where every moment feels special and every experience unforgettable. Whether I was relaxing on the beautiful beaches, savoring delicious food, or just soaking in the vibe, it was a trip that left me with countless memories. Now that you know where to stay, it’s time to book your tickets and make your way to Goa!



Mount Fuji hikes and Kyoto nights

Kyoto authorities announced Tuesday plans to hike lodging taxes, as Japan’s ancient capital seeks to assuage grumbles from locals about too many tourists. Lured by its myriad sights and a weak yen, Japan has seen foreign tourism numbers explode in recent years, with arrivals in 2024 expected to have hit a record of more than 35 million. But like other hotspots worldwide such as Venice in Italy or Maya Bay in Thailand, this is not universally welcome, particularly in tradition-steeped Kyoto. The city, which is a modest bullet train ride away from Tokyo -- with a view of Mount Fuji on the way -- is famed for its kimono-clad geisha performers and Buddhist temples. Residents have complained of disrespectful tourists harassing the geisha like paparazzi in their frenzy for photos, as well as causing traffic congestion and littering. For rooms costing between 20,000 and 50,000 yen (\$127-317) per night, visitors will now see their tax double to 1,000 yen (\$6.35) per person per night, under the new plans. For accommodation over 100,000 yen per night it will soar tenfold to 10,000 yen. The new levies will take effect next year, subject to approval from the city assembly. “We intend to hike accommodation tax to realise ‘sustainable tourism’ with a high level of satisfaction for citizens, tourists and businesses,” a statement said. Tensions are highest in the Gion district, home to teahouses where “geiko” -- the local name for geisha -- and their “maiko” apprentices perform traditional dances and play instruments.



Last year authorities moved to ban visitors from entering certain narrow private alleys in Gion after pressure from a council of local residents. One council member told local media about an instance of a maiko’s kimono being torn and another who had a cigarette butt put in



her collar. In 2019, the Gion district council put up signs saying “no photography on private roads” warning of



fines of up to 10,000 yen. “I appreciate tourists visiting the city, but there are also some downsides like the impact on the environment,” resident Daichi Hayase told AFP, welcoming the new taxes. “But it doesn’t mean the city should impose excessive taxes. Tourists are coming

despite painful inflation,” the 38-year-old photographer said. “If there’s a burden on the infrastructure, I do think taxing tourists is a good idea,” said Australian tourist Larry Cooke, 21. But he said that the city had to find the “right balance”. Tourism has been booming for over a decade in Japan, with foreign arrivals rising five-fold between 2012 and when the Covid pandemic torpedoed foreign travel in 2020. Since restrictions were lifted, and the government is hoping to welcome 60 million tourists per year by 2030, almost double last year’s expected total. Authorities have also taken steps beyond Kyoto, including introducing an entry fee and a daily cap on the number of hikers climbing Mount Fuji. Last year a barrier was briefly erected outside a convenience store with a spectacular view of the famous snow-capped volcano that had become a magnet for photo-hungry visitors. And in December Ginzan Onsen, a Japanese hot spring town with made-for-Instagram snowy scenes began stopping anyone arriving after 8:00 pm if they don’t have a hotel booked.

From frozen Dal Lake to Sonamarg Tunnel

Amid the ongoing cold wave in the Kashmir valley, the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar developed a thin layer of ice on its surface on Monday. Earlier, on Sunday, Srinagar had recorded a steep decline of 3.1 degrees Celsius in its seasonal minimum temperature, with the mercury settling at -5.1 degrees Celsius during the coldest hour of the day. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature was recorded at 10 degrees Celsius, a deviation of 3.4 degrees Celsius from the normal, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Visuals from the Dal Lake area showed a group of tourists, dressed in layers of woollens, taking a stroll in the city amid the cold and dry weather conditions. Speaking to ANI, Zubair, a tourist from Delhi, said, “The cold here is twice as much as in Delhi. It feels great to be here. I visit this place every year, and that too around this time only.” His enthusiasm reflected his admiration for the Kashmir valley. “Though there are lesser chances of snowfall this time, visiting Kashmir is always a pleasant experience,” Zubair stated. “The Dal Lake is partially frozen right now, but the ice gets shattered once the ‘shikaras (houseboats)’ make their way through the water,” he added. Zubair also urged the people to visit Kashmir during the winter. His brother also showcased the same spirit, saying, “If you are here for the winters, then you should enjoy the winters... There are some tourists who cut their trip short due to the cold. This should not be the case.” Speaking further, the young man said, “Everyone should visit this place at least once. Kashmir is indeed a paradise.” Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir today and inaugurate the Sonamarg Tunnel project, a 12 km long, has been constructed at a cost of over ₹2,700 crore. It comprises a main tunnel of 6.4 km in length, an egress tunnel and approach roads. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes and ensuring safer and uninterrupted access to the strategically critical Ladakh region.



The Peak District sights featured in Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice

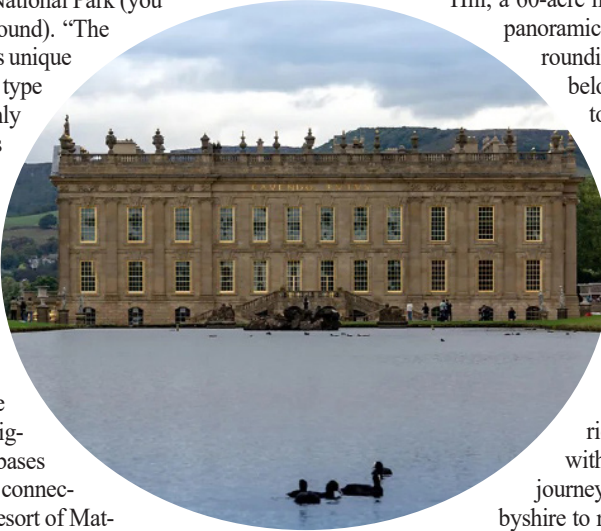
There is not a finer county in England than Derbyshire,” wrote 19th-Century novelist Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*, arguably her most famous novel. Indeed, its idyllic stone villages and towns, verdant valleys, deep caverns, towering gritstone edges and windswept moorlands make the East Midlands county one of the best places to enjoy England’s great outdoors. Derbyshire played a starring role in Austen’s novel, shining particularly in the latter half when its heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, travels north from Hertfordshire to the Peak District and is reunited with the book’s romantic hero, Mr Darcy. Joe Wright’s 2005 film adaptation brought the stunning scenery to the big screen, leading travellers to flock to Derbyshire and see the sights through their own eyes. Yet, according to Hazel Jones, editor of the Jane Austen Society’s Annual Report, there is no evidence that Austen actually ever visited Derbyshire. Instead, Austen would have read romanticised descriptions in contemporary journals of the county, which experienced a Georgian period boom in tourism, and completed “scrupulous research”, says Jones. “We just have to trust Jane Austen’s instinct that Derbyshire is the perfect county for Pemberley [Mr Darcy’s home]” says Jones. “It is, after all, far enough away from Mrs Bennet.” This year not only marks the 250th anniversary of Austen’s birth but also the 30th anniversary of the adapted BBC miniseries and the 20th anniversary of the four-time Oscar-nominated film – which will be re-released in select cinemas in the UK, US and Australia starting 20 April. As the weather warms and wildflowers blanket the region, it’s an opportune time to explore the many landmarks and filming locations connected to one of the world’s great love stories. Any tour of Austen’s Derbyshire should begin at Chatsworth House. Fittingly, the opulent Grade

centuries. Visitors will eventually come to the sculpture gallery, which fans of the film will recognise – particularly the Veiled Vestal. Keep your eyes peeled in the gift shop for a bust of Darcy’s head, though, unfortunately, it’s not available to purchase – or kiss! While you could easily spend a day exploring Chatsworth’s 105-acre garden, dipping your toes into the 300-year-old Cascade waterfall, winding through the giant maze or running around the Willow Tree Fountain (a brass tree that might just soak you when standing underneath it), there are plenty of free walks you can take around the estate too. Derbyshire is home to many of England’s finest aristocratic houses – including Sudbury Hall, which was used for the interior shots of *Pemberley* in the BBC adaption. And just a five-minute drive south of the town of Bakewell is Haddon Hall, which has been owned by the Manners family for the last 900 years. There’s something magical about this country house, especially when the pale pink and red roses adorn the walls in the summer months. Wandering through the Elizabethan gardens feels like you’re stepping back in time. Film location scouts agree. Haddon Hall’s medieval and Tudor architecture was also featured in *Franco Zeffirelli’s* adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, *The Princess Bride* film, and more recently, *Firebrand*. Fans of the *Pride & Prejudice* film may recognise the wood-panelled banquet hall, which served as the interiors of the fictional Inn at Lambton; and the parlour, which became Elizabeth Bennet’s bedroom. “There’s a palpable magic at Haddon Hall, where centuries-old architecture meets the vibrant hues of summer,” says Julie Mellor, filming coordinator at Haddon. “Beyond its visual splendour, Haddon offers a sanctuary of learning and culture.” Haddon runs a specialist film tour with experts who have been on the film sets, as well as variety of workshops and events ranging from art and craft sessions to eco-



It’s also the start of the 8.5-mile walking, jogging, cycling and wheelchair-accessible Monsal Trail, built atop a former Manchester-to-London railway line. Bakewell is home to two traditional English sweet treats: the Bakewell pudding and Bakewell tart. For an authentic taste of both, head to The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, which has sold the former since the 1800s (made with their secret recipe), and now sells tarts too. In the film adaptation, Bennet’s arrival in Derbyshire is marked with an iconic shot of actress Keira Knightley standing atop the four-mile-long gritstone ridge of Stanage Edge, looking out onto the vast and dramatic Hope Valley beneath her. Two decades later, many *Pride and Prejudice* fans scour the Edge to find the exact spot where the actress stood – so much so it’s often called “Keira Knightley rock”. The windswept landmark’s rugged terrain attracts climbers and hikers from across the country. Geologist Rob Donnelly tells the BBC that Stanage Edge’s millstone grit is emblematic of the Peak District National Park (you will spot the circular stones as you travel around). “The gritstone edges form part of the Peak District’s unique landscape,” he says. “They are an iconic rock type in the region, having been laid down roughly 300 million years ago.” The Edge overlooks the village of Hathersage (reached via a six-mile walk through trails and woodland or a short drive), whose heated 30m outdoor pool makes for a scenic swim. Set in the Peak District’s south-eastern side and characterised as “celebrated beauties” by Austen are the twin towns of Matlock and Matlock Bath. Bennet travels through both locales on her way to Pemberley, and these namesake neighbours (Matlock is slightly bigger and lies about one mile north), are great bases for a stay in Derbyshire, with good transport connections, independent shops and cafes. The spa resort of Matlock Bath is frequently described as a seaside town without the sea. It has attracted visitors since the late 17th Century, when its thermal springs (which had previously been discovered and mined by the Romans) became used for medicinal purposes.

Today, there is a historic outdoor swimming pool fed by mineral-rich natural spring water tucked around the back of the New Matlock Bath Hotel & Spa. Austen was likely well aware of the town’s famed thermal waters. When Bennet enters Derbyshire with apprehension about seeing Darcy, she says, “But surely ... I may enter his county without impunity and rob it of a few petrified spars without his perceiving me.” Austen might have been referring to Matlock Bath’s petrifying well – where the mineral-rich thermal water, turns objects into stone. Matlock is also popular with walkers as it lies in a valley of the River Derwent. *Pride and Prejudice* fans may opt to explore the fittingly named Lovers’ Walks, a series of footpaths along the riverside, or if you’d prefer something more challenging, there are also trails that go up and over the wooded cliffs. But perhaps the most famous tourist attraction is the Heights of Abraham, where you can take a mountain cable car to the top of Masson Hill, a 60-acre hilltop estate with a panoramic view of the surrounding valley and town below. It is remarkable to think that an author who may not have set foot in Derbyshire cast such a bright light on the county. By intertwining real places into her narrative, Austen masterfully carried the reader along with Bennet on her journey through Derbyshire to reconcile with Darcy. As Jones says, “What should be a truth universally acknowledged is that Jane Austen knew exactly what she was doing when she sent her liveliest heroine on the road north to Pemberley.”



I-listed estate and stables were transformed into Pemberley, the home of *Pride and Prejudice’s* wealthy suitor, Mr Darcy, in the 2005 film. Chatsworth sits on 1,822 manicured acres on the banks of the Derwent river, and it is home to herds of deer and sheep as well as wild animals. Owned and lived in by 17 generations of the Devonshire family, it opened its doors to the public in 1708. Today, visitors can tour the stately home to admire one of Europe’s most significant private art collections, whose paintings, rare books and historical documents span more than four

logical walks. “It’s an idyllic setting that encourages reflection and discovery, making summer 2025 an ideal time to experience the romance and elegance that define it,” says Mellor. According to local lore, Austen stayed in Bakewell at the Rutland Arms Hotel and wrote much of *Pride and Prejudice* here. Some Austen experts dispute this claim, yet she does reference the market town in the novel as Elizabeth travels through it on her way to Pemberley. Set on the banks of the river Wye, bustling Bakewell is ideally situated between Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall.

5 Desi millet recipes that are perfect for summers

The scorching heat often takes a toll on the appetite and gradually leads to reduced intake of nutrients. While the summer season calls for extra nutrition, a poor diet may leave you drained, and this is why a healthy diet is necessary to sustain the harsh weather. Well, a simple solution to this is to fall back to the basics, and what can be better than gorging on some delicious millet recipes? Here are some simple, summer-friendly recipes that are worth trying. Millets, also known as mota anaj, are one of the most ancient staples of India. However, with growing inclination towards health and well-being, there has been a demand for these grains across the world. Loaded with the goodness of nutrients, millets make for a great addition to the summer diet. Another major reason why adding millet to the summer diet is a great idea. Here are five easy and wholesome millet recipes that are perfect for summers.

Ragi Ambli: Ragi Ambli is a staple in Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Ragi Ambli is a nourishing summer drink made from finger millet and buttermilk. To prepare, ragi flour is first mixed with water and gently cooked into a thin porridge. Once it cools, it’s blended with buttermilk, seasoned with salt, cumin powder, and sometimes curry leaves or green chilli. This drink is excellent for gut health, hydration, and energy, making it a natural cooler during intense heat.

Bajra Khichdi: While bajra is often associated with winter due to its warming potency but if you are looking for a light meal, then this khichadi served with curd is a perfect treat for the summer season. Soak bajra overnight to reduce its heaviness, then cook it with moong dal, a bit of turmeric, and cumin. Finish with a tadka of ghee and asafoetida. Served with a bowl of curd, this dish becomes a cooling, filling, and protein-rich meal for lunch



or dinner.

Jowar Dosa: Jowar dosa is light, crisp, and naturally gluten-free. To make it, mix jowar flour with rice flour, a bit of curd, water, chopped onions, green chillies, and coriander. Allow it to rest and then cook like a regular dosa. It’s a quick, summer-friendly breakfast or snack, especially when paired with mint chutney or coconut chutney, which further add a cooling effect.

Kangni Dalia: Foxtail millet, or kangni, is ideal for summer porridges. A simple sweet or savory dalia can be made using this grain. For the savory version, cook foxtail

millet with chopped vegetables, ginger, green chilli, and curry leaves. For a sweet version, cook it with milk (or coconut milk), jaggery, and cardamom. Foxtail millet is light and alkaline in nature, aiding digestion and soothing the stomach, especially when served slightly warm or at room temperature.

Samak Chawal Pulao: Traditionally used during fasting days, samak chawal (barnyard millet) is one of the best grains to consume during hot weather. It’s non-acidic, cooling, and easy to digest. For a summer pulao, cook samak with seasonal vegetables like bottle gourd, carrot, or green beans, and mild spices like jeera and green chilli. Finish with lemon juice and coriander. This dish is light yet satisfying, making it a great choice for lunch during peak summer.



Why should you avoid eating too much bananas in kidney issues

Bananas are one of the most popular and nutritious fruits around rich in fiber, vitamin B6, and natural sugars. However, when it comes to kidney health, especially in people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) or other kidney-related issues, too much banana can actually be harmful. Here’s why. Bananas are naturally high in potassium, a mineral that’s essential for muscle function, nerve health, and heart rhythm. But in people with compromised kidney function, the body cannot filter out excess potassium efficiently. This can lead to a condition called hyperkalemia where potassium levels in the blood become dangerously high, potentially causing irregular heart-beat or even cardiac arrest. Healthy kidneys help maintain a balance of electrolytes like sodium, potassium, and phosphorus. When kidneys or are damaged, this balance is disrupted. Eating potassium-rich foods like bananas adds more potassium to the body, making it harder to maintain a safe internal environment. Too much potassium affects the kidneys directly. Symptoms of excess potassium include muscle weakness, numbness, and grous heart arrhythmia. For kidney patients, one or two bananas a day can contribute to dangerously high potassium levels if not monitored properly. People on dialysis are particularly vulnerable. Dialysis helps remove waste and excess fluids, but it doesn’t always remove potassium completely. That’s why many dialysis patients are placed on a low-potassium diet, and bananas along with other high-potassium fruits like oranges, avocados, and potatoes are usually restricted. This doesn’t mean bananas must be completely eliminated. In early stages of kidney disease or under proper dietitian guidance, small amounts may be okay depending on individual potassium levels. However, self-medicating with “healthy fruits” without monitoring can backfire when it comes to kidney care. If you’re craving fruit but need to control potassium intake, lower-potassium fruits like apples, berries, grapes, and watermelon are often safer options. Always consult with a nephrologist or renal dietitian to tailor your fruit intake to your specific condition.



SPORTS

Gautam Gambhir to remain coach all formats despite South Africa

Gautam Gambhir will remain India head coach despite a 0-2 Test series loss to South Africa at home, news agency ANI has reported.

Guwahati: Despite the recent 0-2 whitewash in the Test series against South Africa, Gautam Gambhir will continue to coach India in all three formats, according to news agency ANI. The Temba Bavuma-led team crushed India in the second Test at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, resulting in their second Test series defeat in as many years. The two losses have



severely damaged In current World Test Championship (WTC) cycle as a result of the South Africa whitewash. Fans are particularly unhappy with Gambhir for the team’s poor performances under his tenure, as they were even heard shouting “Gautam Gambhir hay hay” outside the Barsapara Stadium after India collapsed to a 408-run defeat against South Africa — their largest defeat in terms of runs.

PM meets team historic blind World Cup win

New Delhi:Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met the Indian team players to congratulate them on their historic win in the inaugural Blind Women’s T20 World Cup. India clinched the title by defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final, remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament.The win came just days after the Indian women’s cricket team lifted its first ever ODI World Cup trophy, marking an extraordinary phase for women’s cricket in the country.During the interaction, the team gifted an autographed bat to the Prime Minister, while Modi signed a cricket ball for the squad. He applauded the players for their determination, discipline, and commitment to the sport.Following the team’s World Cup victory earlier this week, the Prime Minister had taken to social media to celebrate the achievement, posting: “This is indeed a historic sporting achievement, a shining example of hardwork, team work and determination. Each



player is a champion! My best wishes to the team for their future endeavours. This feat will inspire generations to come.”The team’s victory sparked widespread celebrations across the country and is being hailed as a major milestone for inclusivity in Indian sports. Many believe the success of the women’s blind team will encourage more aspiring players with disabilities to pursue competitive sports.

Ashes: Fit-again Australia captain Pat Cummins set to return for Brisbane Test

New Delhi: A significant boost has been given to Australia ahead of the second Ashes Test in Brisbane, as skipper Pat Cummins is anticipated to be included in the team following his rapid recuperation from a back stress injury. The fast bowler, who was not present for the first Test victory in Perth, has made an impression in two recent bowling sessions. He bowled with the pink ball on Tuesday at Cricket NSW headquarters and in the Perth nets. Cummins’ return appears increasingly likely, though Australia coach Andrew McDonald said the final call may only come close to the start of the day-night Test next Thursday.“There’s a lot of positives there, but now it’s just really building that resilience and making sure we’re not putting him in harm’s way by accelerating it too much,” McDonald said. “It will be a genuine discussion leading into this Test, and that one may eventuate late for us.” Cummins trained alongside Josh Hazlewood in Sydney, but Hazlewood is not expected to be fit for the Gabba Test as he continues his recovery from a hamstring injury. As things stand, Cummins is likely to be the

Australian captain Pat Cummins is poised to make his comeback for the second Ashes Test in Brisbane, with selectors expected to name him in the squad.

only addition to a 15-member squad otherwise unchanged from Perth. Usman Khawaja will be included despite back spasms that hampered him in the opening Test, though his place in the XI remains uncertain. Selectors also have a decision to make on debutant Brendan Doggett, who delivered an excellent first impression in Perth with match figures of 5-78 in Australia’s eight-wicket win. cleared to play:“Pat is looking pretty good in the nets now, so we’ll see where that lands,” Doggett said on Thursday. “I’m going to control what I can control - keep the legs ticking over, keep bowling, and try to improve every session. If I get called on in that second Test, I feel like I’m ready to go again.”The 31-year-old quick said he has not received any indication from selectors about his prospects.“There have been no conversations whatsoever. We’re soaking in the win and letting every-



one see their families. We arrive in Brisbane on Sunday, so I assume conversations will start there about what the line-up looks like.”Doggett, who has limited pink-ball experience, said he would adapt quickly to the Gabba conditions. In Perth, he beat the bat consistently with his length but claimed his wickets with well-directed short balls that unsettled Eng-

WPL 2026 Auction: Full list of team-wise purse left and slots remaining

New Delhi: WPL Players Auction 2026 LIVE Updates: The first Women’s Premier League Mega Auction is all set to take place in New Delhi on Thursday. Since the inception of the showpiece event in 2023, after three seasons have been completed, this is the first Mega Auction being held. 277 players were confirmed recently as part of the final auction list, of which 194 are Indians, and 83 are overseas, leaving just 73 slots available.Shafali Verma, the Player of the Match in the Women’s World Cup final. Her path to glory involved being initially excluded from the tournament squad. Instead of letting this setback deter her, she dedicated herself to extensive training and excelling in domestic cricket, focusing on scoring runs and increasing her bowling contributions. This commitment resulted in her eventual recall and a match-winning performance in the final, proving her dedication and culminating in the dramatic comeback that delighted her father. (Read more from Nitin Sharma)THE DAY after Kranti Gaud wins the player-of-the match award for her three wickets against Pakistan in the ICC Women’s World Cup game in Colombo, her family in Ghuwara, a nagar panchayat in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, receives the ultimate honour. The narrator at the ongoing Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Ghuwara praises Kranti, India’s newest 22-year-old pace sensation, from the dais in front of a 5,000-strong congregation.“Sirf Ghuwara ko iss beti pe ghamand nahin hai, aaj pure Bharat ko iss beti pe ghamand hai

WPL Auction 2026 Date, Time, Live Streaming Details: Check Here
As this is the first chance for teams to rebuild, teams were allowed to retain a maximum of five players. Only two-time champions Mumbai



Indians and three-time finalists Delhi Capitals opted to go for the full capacity of retentions, while second season champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained four players. Deepti Sharma, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Amelia Kerr, Sophie Ecclestone, Alyssa Healy, Meg Lanning, and Laura Wolvaardt are the first set of marquee players available in today’s auction. Teams have need to have at least 15 members in the squad, and the maximum number that can be allowed is 18. Teams can also use five Right To Match cards, depending on the retentions they have made, and the ones with lesser retentions will get more Right To Match options through the evening. Gujarat Giants and UP Warriorz have the most funds available at Rs 9 crore and Rs 14.5 crore respectively.

Sanju Samson, Rohan Kunnummal script SMAT history with record opening stand

New Delhi: Kerala’s Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign got off to a record start thanks to Sanju Samson and Rohan S. Kunnummal, who formed the best opening partnership in the competition’s history. At the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, Kerala defeated Odisha by 10 wickets thanks to their uninterrupted 177-run partnership. After choosing to field, they chased down 176 in just 16 overs.

With a scorching 121 not out off 60 balls, including 10 sixes and 10 fours, Rohan Kunnummal controlled the chase. Samson reached his half-century by finishing the game with a crisp strike over long-on after anchoring the opposing



end with an undefeated 51 from 41 deliveries. Earlier, Odisha posted 176 for 7, with Samantray top-scoring with 53 off 41 balls and Sambit Baral adding 40 from 32. Despite the early momentum

provided by Swastik Samal and Gaurav Choudhary, Odisha struggled to build on their starts. Kerala’s bowlers kept control throughout, led by Nideesh’s four-wicket haul, while KM Asif and Ankit Sharma chipped in with key breakthroughs to prevent any substantial partnerships. Once Samson and Kunnummal walked out, the match quickly drifted out of Odisha’s reach. Their stand not only surpassed all previous opening records in the competition but also underlined the authority with which Kerala approached the chase. Neither batter offered a chance as they kept the run rate high and ensured the middle order was not required.

Rishabh Pant says sorry to fans in long post

New Delhi: Following India’s 0-2 series loss to South Africa, vice captain Rishabh Pant apologized to the supporters. In the Guwahati Test, where Pant served as the team’s substitute captain in Shubman Gill’s absence, the Proteas crushed the Indian squad by 408 runs. Pant only managed to score 49 runs at an average of 12.25 in four innings during the series, making it difficult for him to have an influence. The loss in Guwahati was India’s greatest in terms of margin of runs and Pant’s captaincy and batting were questioned during the course of the series. The Indian wicket-keeper acknowledged that the squad hasn’t played good enough cricket over the last two weeks in an emotional appeal to the supporters on social media.

Fourth Season Starts January 9, Final



New Delhi: The fourth edition of the Women’s Premier League will be held from January 9 to February 5, 2026, with DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, and Vadodara confirmed as the two host venues. The season will culminate with the final on February 5, bringing another month of elite women’s T20 action across India. The fourth edition of the Women’s Premier League starts on January 9, 2026, with the final on February 5 across Navi Mumbai and Vadodara. The fourth edition of the Women’s Premier League will be held from January 9 to February 5, 2026, with DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, and Vadodara confirmed as the two host venues. After the Indian women’s team won their maiden ICC title, the focus now shifts to the mega auction for the Women’s Premier League (WPL). The mega auction is set to take place in the last week of November, with November 5 being the deadline to name the retentions. Ahead of the WPL 2026 mega auction the governing council of the WPL allowed each franchise of the five franchisees to retain up to five players. If any WPL team doesn’t retain a player at the auction. The franchisees are expected to reveal their retentions by 5 PM IST on November 5.

Bleak as Liverpool’s slump deepens 4-1 defeat to PSV Champions League

New Delhi: A dejected Liverpool boss Arne Slot admitted the mood is bleak at Anfield after his team’s shocking slump continued with a 4-1 throttling by PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Wednesday. The pressure on Slot was cranked up a notch after



ter a humbling defeat that was the Reds’ ninth in their last 12 games across all competitions, their worst 12-game stretch since the 1953-54 season -- when Winston Churchill was the UK’s Prime Minister.“The emotions are very negative and disappointing,” Slot said. “I was also hoping and expecting a better performance, because the performance was far from what we are used to, even if we’re losing, our performances have been better.”the summer transfer window, bolstering its squad with the arrivals of British-record signing Alexander Isak, among others.But Isak, who was a late substitute against PSV, has been all but absent on the pitch in the games he has played since joining from Newcastle United.Plus Liverpool talisman Mohamed Salah has been a shell of the player who was the Premier League’s top scorer last season.“It’s hard because I’m playing for the team I support,” Liverpool midfielder Curtis Jones told RTE Sports. “I’m a fan, and I’ve seen this club all my life. In a long, long time, I haven’t experienced a Liverpool team going through a period like this with results like these.

WPL Mega Auction Preview Could Charani Litchfield stand out in pool stacked

New Delhi: On November 2, women’s cricket in India had its red-letter day when the national team defeated South Africa to win the ODI World Cup for the first time. Before November draws to a close, an opportunity to build on the warmth of that joyous occasion and propel many more of India’s women cricketers into the lime-light is in store. It will all transpire on Thursday afternoon when the Women’s Premier League’s mega auction, ahead of the fourth edition in 2026, is held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Aerocity here. For an action-packed season to unfold, the auction exercise on Thursday — the first major revamp of the five teams since the league’s initiation in 2023 — will hold the key as 277 players (194 Indians and 83 overseas) go under the hammer for a maximum of 73 slots. The highest base price bracket of ₹50 lakh features 19 players, among which six — Deepti Sharma, Harleen Deol, Kranti Goud, Uma Chetry, Pratika



Rawal and Pooja Vastrakar — are Indian. Of this lot, only Vastrakar wasn’t part of India’s World Cup-winning squad. Among the five franchises, UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants are set to be the busiest. Having retained just the uncapped Shweta Sehrawat for ₹50 lakh, Warriorz have the highest purse of ₹14.5 crore going into the

auction. Giants, which retained the Australian pair of Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney, have ₹9 crore in their kitty. Besides these high-profile names who will attract bidding wars, it will be worth watching out for left-arm spinner N. Shree Charani (₹30 lakh) and Australian opener Phoebe Litchfield (₹50 lakh).Charani, a 21-year-

old who made her debut for India just six months ago, took 14 scalps in nine games at the ODI World Cup. Similarly, the 22-year-old Litchfield, earmarked for greatness from her mid-teens, stood out like a beacon for Australia in the World Cup, notably hammering a century against India in the semis.Two-time champion Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, runner-up in all three seasons, have retained five players each. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which won the title in 2024, has also kept its core group of Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh, Ellyse Perry and Shreyanka Patil. With recency bias tending to be a factor at auctions, the leading performers of the ODI World Cup, although a different white-ball format, are likely to be in high demand. The event will kick off with the marquee set of Deepti, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Sophie Ecclestone, Alyssa Healy, Amelia Kerr, Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt.