

Me’gong Festival Wraps Up with Grand Finale in Garo Hills

Me’gong Festival

Shillong, Dec 08: Me’gong Festival 2025 concluded in the Garo Hills with one of the largest musical and cultural events in Northeast India, drawing over 55,000 attendees and solidifying Meghalaya’s position as a major player in India’s expanding concert industry. The two-day event produced an electrifying presentation that solidified the state’s status as one of the nation’s most lively cultural destinations, with international icons, national stars, and exciting indigenous artists sharing the same stage. British pop sensation Blue, international electronic duo Yellow Claw, singer-songwriter Prateek Kuhad, and Bollywood diva Kanika Kapoor lit the Aski Stage on fire as Day 2 came to a thrilling conclusion. “Garo Hills’ Me’gong Festival is amazing,” stated Antony Costa of the band Blue. The audience was ablaze. “Great turnout; thank you everybody; one love to you all!” said vocalist Simon Webbe, along with Antony Costa, Lee Ryan, and Duncan James, to the crowd. Garo Hills is wonderful; it’s a heaven. Thank you. In addition to playing a number of her chart-topping songs, such as Chittiyaan Kalaiyan, Baby Doll, Jawaani Le Doobi, and Desi Girl, Kapoor talked about how happy she was to be performing in Meghalaya for the second time and described the crowd



Me’gong Festival 2025 in the Garo Hills attracted over 55,000 attendees, reaffirming Meghalaya’s role in India’s concert industry. The two-day event featured prominent acts like Blue, Yellow Claw, Prateek Kuhad, and Kanika Kapoor, drawing enthusiastic crowds.

as one of the greatest she had ever seen. Before Blue’s nostalgic hits, One Love, All Rise, and Guilty, had hundreds of people singing in unison, Kuhad’s soulful songs, such as Saansein and Cold Mess, created a peaceful and engrossing atmosphere. With an electrifying EDM finale, Yellow Claw brought the Bolbokgre–Watre Festival Ground to life with a sea of lights and applauding spectators. Meanwhile, performances by Hoi Hoi Makbil, G-Hills Finest, Crack Gang, Rough Road, and Nokpante brought enormous crowds to the Kingfisher

Stage. With a star-studded lineup that included Richard Marx, Neeti Mohan, Julian Marley, and Nucleya, Day 1 got things going. Marx made a rare performance in India, performing both classics and previously unreleased songs from his upcoming album Afterhours. With her performance of Mayabini, an homage to Zubeen Garg in his hometown of Tura, Mohan attracted enormous audiences and made a profound emotional impression. Day 1 was a spectacle unlike anything the area had seen thanks to Marley’s potent reggae set and Nuc-

leya’s exuberant closing show. Seven up-and-coming bands shared the festival stage alongside international performers as part of the Chief Minister’s Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project (CM-MGMP), which is still generating transformative chances. It was the biggest stage of their careers, according to several young performers. Beyond just music, Me’gong Festival 2025 attracted both tourists and families with its immersive cultural carnival. MasterChef India Season 8 runner-up Nambie Jessica Marak served as a special judge for the Great

Garo Hills Cook Off, which showcased indigenous culinary ingenuity. Throughout the weekend, the Brew Village, cosplay arena, Miss and Mr. Me’gong Contest, craft and food market, VR zone, and PRIME Meghalaya business stands were crowded with visitors, resulting in a vibrant and colorful festival environment. “Richard Marx’s nostalgic songs proved Me’gong Festival was right here waiting for him,” Chief Minister Conrad Sangma posted on social media. His theatrical presence astounded us. Me’gong provided Meghalaya with yet another amazing event and unforgettable experience. Global performers now view Meghalaya as a logical stop on their India tours, demonstrating his vision for the state as a key destination in India’s concert economy. Meghalaya’s cultural landscape has been reinforced in recent years by festivals like Me’gong, Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival, and Winter Tales, which have raised the bar for tourism and the creative industries.

In Brief

Massive torchlight rally in Boko

Boko: Since 2003, Rabha organizations have demanded the inclusion of the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council in India’s Sixth Schedule. A large protest rally organized by the Kamrup District Rabha Students’ Union, Women’s Council, and Sixth Schedule Demand Committee took place in Boko, with thousands of participants accusing the government of neglecting their request. Demonstrators marched with torches, chanting slogans like “Assam Government Hai Hai” and “Sixth Schedule is our rightful demand.” Parallel protests have occurred in Kamrup and Goalpara, with plans for a January 12 dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Leaders, including Dashanan Rabha, voiced frustration over unmet government promises and indicated that protests would intensify before the upcoming Assembly elections, including the possibility of running candidates in Rabha Hasong.

Security Forces bust ₹12.5 Cr drug

Imphal: Drug trafficking in the area suffered a significant blow when security forces in Manipur conducted a joint operation that resulted in the seizure of drugs worth approximately Rs 12.5 crore and the arrest of two men from Assam. At Leingangpokpi in the Jiribam district, an automobile was stopped by a mixed squad of Manipur Police, the Central Reserve Police Force, and the Assam Rifles. The two suspects were carrying a sizable shipment of extremely addictive contraband, according to official confirmation. Rajib Hussain Mazumder of Ranighat and Sahar Alom Mazumder of Dubang, both from Assam’s Cachar district, were recognized by the police as the men who were detained. From their car, officers found 50,000 WY/R tablets that weighed 5.185 kg.

Mizoram set for LADC–MDC results

Aizawl, Dec 08: The Mizoram election authorities have completed training for officials who will take part in the vote counting process of the Lai Autonomous District Council – MDC Elections, 2025. The one-day training was held at the DC Conference Hall in Lawngtlai on Saturday, with a special focus on accuracy and strict procedures during counting. District Election Officer (DEO) Donny Lalruatsanga, who chaired the training programme, said that the counting process must be handled very carefully in order to maintain public trust in the results. He informed the officials that the credibility of the outcome would depend on how carefully every vote is counted, and he reminded the teams to follow all guidelines step by step. According to the district authorities, the polling across Mizoram had taken place smoothly, mainly because of the cooperation extended by the polling officials, the MPF and various civil society groups and NGOs. The DEO also mentioned the Lungtian-II polling incident and said that necessary action had already been taken against the official concerned. He further added that ex-gratia assistance may be considered after the final reports are examined in detail by the authorities. During the session, Master Trainer Gilbert Lalhlimpuia explained the full counting method to the participants. The officials received instructions on handling Electronic Voting Machines as well as postal ballots. They were also briefed about the main rules, key steps, and the dos and don’ts of the counting process. After the explanation, officials were allowed to ask questions so that there would be no confusion during the actual counting day. The counting of votes for the Lai Autonomous District Council – MDC Elections 2025 will begin from 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 9, at Government Lawngtlai College. Both EVM votes and postal ballots will be taken up on the same day.

Massive torchlight rally in Boko

Boko, Dec 08: Since 2003, a number of Rabha organizations have called for the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council to be included in the Indian Constitution’s Sixth Schedule. The Kamrup District Rabha Students’ Union, in partnership with the Kamrup District Women’s Council and the Sixth Schedule Demand Committee, organized a large torchlight protest rally in Boko on Saturday night, claiming that the government has not given priority to this long-pending demand. Before ending the demonstration close to the Boko Regional Rabha Students’ Union office, thousands of Rabha members holding torches marched from Gandhi Maidan through the Boko Primary Health Center and Boko Police Station. Men and women from several villages, representing 10 regional units of the Rabha Students’ Union in Kamrup district, attended the demonstration. Slogans such “Assam Government Hai Hai,” “Assam Government Liar,” and “Sixth Schedule is our rightful demand” echoed throughout the demonstration. For the past two months, parallel protests have been held in the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara by the All Rabha Students’ Union, All Rabha



Women’s Council, and the Sixth Schedule Demand Committee. Rabha leaders say the groups will press for the demand on December 12 by holding a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Dashanan Rabha, the president of the Sixth Schedule Demand Committee, expressed deep dissatisfaction and claimed that the government had made false promises to the Rabha people. He cautioned that the Rabha organizations would step up their protest if the demand was not met before the upcoming Assembly elections. He went on to say that Rabha organizations are ready to run their own candidates in the Rabha Hasong area. Four Assembly seats in Rabha Hasong and other Rabha-dominated districts are apparently being prepared for contests.

Migratory birds return to Roumari Lake as winter begins in Assam

Guwahati, Dec 08: Roumari Lake in Jogighopa area of Bongaigaon district has again started attracting a large number of migratory birds with the arrival of the winter season. The wetland, also known locally as Roumari Beel, is located near Malegarh village and covers almost 70 hectares of land. People in the area say that the beel has now turned into a lively place as different bird species have started gathering here over the past several weeks. Local residents who regularly observe the wetland say that nearly 29 bird species can be seen around the lake throughout the year. With the cooler weather, several migratory

birds have also joined the resident species, which has made the beel more active and colourful. Many birdwatchers from nearby places are visiting the area to see the new arrivals. Roumari Lake has a natural basin-shaped formation and remains connected to the Brahmaputra River. During monsoon months, water from the river flows into the wetland carrying nutrients and fresh sediments. People familiar with the area explain that this regular flooding helps the lake maintain a rich aquatic system. Plenty of aquatic plants, including Hydrilla, grow inside the beel and these plants make the water suitable for fish. These conditions

also attract different bird species, especially during winter months. During earlier winters Roumari Lake was considered a peaceful spot for birdwatching, but the present season has brought more visible activity. Birds such as the Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard, Common Teal, Gadwall, Lesser Whistling Duck, Oriental Darter and Grey-headed Lapwing have been noticed this time. Many local youngsters and photographers are visiting the area to take pictures and observe their movement. People living near the lake say that apart from birds, the wetland also supports amphibians and a wide range of

fish varieties. Fish from this wetland are popular in the surrounding markets because local people believe that the natural vegetation inside the beel improves the taste. Fishing has become an important source of income for several families staying close to the lake. Environmental groups have said that Roumari Lake is not only helpful for wildlife but also plays a wider role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region. Wetlands such as Roumari Beel are considered natural support systems for many species and are also useful for local communities who depend on fishing and small-scale tourism.

Three Coal Labourers Feared Dead in Suspected Rat-Hole Mine Collapse

Shillong, Dec 08: Unverified reports from Thangskai village in Meghalaya’s East Jaintia Hills have alleged that three coal labourers were buried alive following the collapse of a rat-hole mine in the area recently. According to local accounts, the victims’ bodies were allegedly removed under the cover of darkness to prevent the incident from drawing attention. Police said they, too, received similar information and immediately dispatched a team to the site. “We spoke to the headmen, residents and labourers present there, but no one confirmed that any such incident had occurred,” a senior police officer told reporters. The district police further clarified that no missing person complaint or death report has been filed at any police station so far. Officers have also searched adjoining forested areas and made a General Diary (GD) entry documenting the rumour and the verification exercise. Checks are still underway, but investigators said no evidence has emerged to substantiate the claims. Despite a state-wide ban imposed in 2014, East Jaintia Hills continues to be littered with illegal and abandoned rat-hole coal mines, many of which pose severe risks to labourers. Authorities have urged caution, stating that unless concrete proof surfaces, the alleged mine collapse remains unverified.

Gauhati University felicitates Prof. B.N. Goswami on selection as ANRF Prime Minister Professor



Guwahati, Dec 08: Calling his contributions to climate and atmospheric research “Himalayan for the region,” Vice Chancellor Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta on Monday hailed the conferment of the prestigious ANRF Prime Minister Professorship on Prof. B.N. Goswami and said this was a proud moment for the University. He was speaking at a felicitation ceremony organised by Gauhati University to honour Prof. Goswami on this special feat. The felicitation programme was attended by faculty members, teaching associates, research scholars, and technical and scientific officers. Along with VC, the event was also graced by Prof. Utpal Sarma, Registrar, and senior faculty members of the University. Congratulating Prof. Goswami, Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahanta said that ANRF Prime Minister Professorship was a moment of pride for Gauhati University. “Prof. Goswami’s academic contributions have had a transformative impact on climate science, and his work has

been particularly significant for the northeast region. His association with Gauhati University will greatly strengthen our research ecosystem and inspire young researchers,” he said. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Goswami expressed his gratitude for the honour and the opportunity to be associated with the University. “I am deeply honoured by my selection as the ANRF Prime Minister Professor. I look forward to contributing to Gauhati University’s academic and research environment and to engaging closely with students and faculty in pursuing collaborative and meaningful research,” he said. He added that universities in the region have immense potential to address critical scientific and societal challenges through rigorous research and innovation. The association is expected to play a key role in advancing interdisciplinary research, strengthening mentorship, and reinforcing the University’s vision of emerging as a leading centre of academic excellence in the region and beyond.

Community engagement and youth farewell at new Songjang Village

Imphal, Dec 08: A meaningful engagement took place at New Songjang Village in Chandel District on 06 December 2025, where Kuki Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local residents interacted with representatives of Assam Rifles. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Inspector General, Sector Assam Rifles, Pallel, who discussed issues of local security, ongoing development initiatives and community welfare projects. The dialogue reflected the constructive spirit of cooperation between the security forces and community leaders, reaffirming their shared commitment to peace and progress in the region.

Following the meeting, the village authorities in collaboration with the school committee organised a Farewell Programme for students to mark the successful completion of the academic year. The event was graced by the DIG, Sector Assam Rifles, Pallel, along with the Commandant, Assam



Rifles, who joined the celebrations and interacted warmly with the students. The gathering was marked by encouragement and appreciation for the youth, with the DIG commending their dedication, discipline and hard work throughout the year. He urged them to continue striving for excellence and emphasised the importance of education in building resilient and thriving communities.

The programme witnessed the participation of 85 individuals including students, teachers and CSO members. Village chiefs expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Assam Rifles for its continued support in youth engagement, educational initiatives and

broader community development activities in Khenjoi Sub District. The presence of senior officials of Assam Rifles was seen as a gesture of goodwill and a reaffirmation of the strong bond between the security forces and the local communities. Both Assam Rifles officials and village representatives highlighted their shared resolve to maintain peace, harmony and development in the region. The interaction and the student farewell together symbolised the enduring partnership between the people and the security forces, underscoring the collective effort to nurture stability and growth in Chandel District of Manipur.

In Tamil Nadu, a class 12 student perishes after being assaulted by juniors

Chennai, Dec 08: A Class 12 student from a government school near Kumbakonam died on Sunday morning due to injuries sustained from an alleged attack by fourteen Class 11 students. The incident occurred on December 4 at the Government Arignar Anna Model Higher Secondary School in Patteeswaram, following a clash between the two classes.

The assailants reportedly struck the student on the head with a stick, resulting in severe injuries. His parents were alerted and rushed him to the Government Hospital in Kumbakonam, but he was later transferred to a private hospital in Thanjavur for urgent care, where he underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. Sadly, he succumbed to his injuries



around 2:30 am on Sunday.

The fourteen students involved in the attack have been arrested and are currently being held in a juvenile home. The Patteeswaram Police initially classified the incident as an attempted murder but stated that they would update the charge to murder following the post-mortem examination.

When Vande Mataram turned 100, the country was in a state of emergency PM Modi in LS

New Delhi, Dec 08: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Lok Sabha on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram, reflecting on its historical significance and the contrasting conditions during its previous anniversaries.

He lamented that while Vande Mataram marked its 100th year under the constraints of the Emergency, 50 years earlier, India was still under colonial rule. Modi emphasized that Vande Mataram



served as a powerful mantra that inspired the Indian freedom movement, instilling courage and determination among the

people.

He considered it a privilege to commemorate this momentous occasion and expressed pride in witnessing the historic milestone. The Prime Minister poignantly remembered the harsh realities of the Emergency, describing it as a period that “throttled” the Constitution and imprisoned those who fought for patriotism. Modi concluded by urging the nation not to let the opportunity to restore the greatness of Vande Mataram slip away.

Police in Delhi are searching for the owners of the fifth accused

Panaji, Dec 08: The Goa Police have dispatched a team to Delhi to locate Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, directors of the nightclub where a fire resulted in 25 fatalities in Arpora. The club’s chief general manager and several others were arrested following the incident. The Luthra brothers are charged under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for culpable homicide and negligent conduct. The club’s unsafe conditions, including insufficient exits and a thatched roof, exacerbated the fire. The Luthra brothers operate a multi-city restaurant chain, with two Goa establishments facing demolition due to environmental violations. Local lawmaker Sankalp Amonkar previously raised concerns about illegal constructions in sensitive areas. The Birch by Romeo Lane club, which opened in December 2023, was found to lack a construction license and a No Objection Certificate. A fire department report indicated high fire risks due to combustible materials, inadequate ventilation in the basement, and insufficient escape routes, which contributed to the rapid entrapment and toxic smoke fatality conditions for victims.

Actress assault case

Actor Dileep is cleared by a Kerala court, but six others are convicted guilty

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 08: A Kerala court has acquitted Malayalam actor Dileep in the 2017 case of kidnapping and sexual assault against an actress, while finding six others guilty, including the main accused, Sunil N S alias Pulsar Suni. The Ernakulam Principal District and Sessions Court ruled that the prosecution failed to substantiate the conspiracy charge against Dileep, with a detailed order pending.

The verdict was delivered by Judge Honey M Varghese, concluding the trial, which



began in January 2020. The incident involved the actress being abducted and assaulted in her car for two hours on February 17, 2017, by assailants who forced their entry into the vehicle in a crowded

area of Kochi. Prosecutors claimed that tensions arose between the complainant and Dileep due to revelations about his alleged infidelities, which led to a physical altercation at an event in 2016 and subsequently to the conspiracy to kidnap.

Dileep was arrested in July 2017, spending 88 days in custody before obtaining bail. He also requested a Central Bureau of Investigation probe in 2019, which was denied. During the trial, the Supreme Court mandated its completion within six months. The other accused include Martin Antony, B Manikandan, VP Vijeesh, H Salim, Pradeep, Charley Thomas, Sanil Kumar, and Sarath G Nair, each facing various charges from kidnapping to gang rape, and conspiracy.

The accused were involved in many roles from direct commission of the crime to conspiring and destroying evidence, with charges brought under several laws, including those governing sexual offences and the Information Technology Act. A total of 261 witnesses were examined throughout the trial, with 28 witnesses turning hostile, resulting in lengthy proceedings marked by multiple appeals in higher courts, which contributed to significant delays in the trial process.

SC declines urgent intervention on IndiGo flight chaos

New Delhi, Dec 08: The Supreme Court denied an urgent hearing regarding a petition about the operational collapse at IndiGo, which has led to over 4,500 flight cancellations, stranding thousands of passengers. Chief Justice Surya Kant acknowledged the disruption but stated that the Union government and aviation authorities were already taking steps to manage the situation, emphasizing the need for them to handle it without judicial interference at this stage. Despite the lawyer’s claims of the situation being “out of control,” the court found no immediate urgency. IndiGo, handling over 60% of India’s domestic air traffic, is facing its worst operational crisis due to several factors, including a pilot shortage, new flight duty time limits, and software issues with Airbus A320 aircraft. The government has suspended the new pilot rest regulations, capped airfares, and increased train services to assist affected travelers. Furthermore, the DGCA has summoned IndiGo’s CEO for an explanation regarding the disruptions. In response to the crisis, IndiGo has processed refunds exceeding ₹610 crore, offered waivers for rescheduling or cancellations, and arranged hotel accommodations and food for stranded passengers.

Akhilesh uses an MP from the Ayodhya region to mock the BJP during the Vande Mataram debate, saying, “Inhein dekh leekiye, baith jaaie”

New Delhi, Dec 08: On Monday, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav responded humorously and swiftly during a discussion on the national song Vande Mataram, when members of the ruling BJP-led NDA attempted to interrupt him.

Yadav, accompanied by his party MP Awadhesh Prasad, momentarily stood up and made a point to showcase Prasad, a significant figure who recently defeated the BJP in the Faizabad constituency,

which encompasses Ayodhya—a central element in BJP’s Hindutva politics. This is particularly notable as recently, the district of Faizabad was renamed Ayodhya by the BJP-led state government, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, a site that has been a political lynchpin since the Supreme Court’s 2019 ruling regarding the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections,

the BJP faced a substantial loss in Faizabad, where the INDIA bloc, primarily the SP and Congress, secured many seats across the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh. This electoral outcome was crucial as it contributed to the BJP’s failure to maintain a majority in the Lok Sabha. Akhilesh Yadav has now placed a particular focus on the 37 Samajwadi Party MPs, notably highlighting Awadhesh Prasad by having him frequently seated next to him on the

Opposition benches.

Prasad, hailing from the Pasi community of Dalits, is integral to the SP’s strategy aimed at appealing to backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and minority groups, as reflected in their ‘PDA’ (picchde, Dalit, alpasankhyak) pitch. Observers suggest that by endorsing Awadhesh Prasad, Yadav seeks to undermine the BJP’s entrenched Hindutva narrative, which has been pivotal to the party’s political ascent since the mid-1980s,



centered around Ayodhya and the associated Ram Mandir issues.

DKS advises supporters to get ready for a shift

Bengaluru, Dec 08: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has sparked speculation regarding a potential shift in state leadership by urging Congress workers to “prepare for a change in the state in coming days” during a government event in Hassan. His comments come amidst efforts to project unity with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, following their recent breakfasts together intended to address reported leadership tensions. Shivakumar emphasized the need for commitment and seizing opportunities, while hints of a power-sharing agreement have been circulating since the 2023 assembly elections, with both leaders involved in strategic meetings to navigate the internal divisions of the party. In related cryptic social media exchanges, Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah discussed the significance of keeping one’s word, suggesting ongoing negotiations about their leadership roles, with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge indicating future discussions on the matter.



Farmers’ concerns and the leadership divide will be the main topics of discussion during the winter session

Bengaluru, Dec 08: As the Karnataka legislature is set to convene in Belagavi for a ten-day winter session starting Monday, significant attention will be directed towards the ongoing leadership struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.



Both leaders have voiced confidence in their government’s preparedness to confront any challenges, particularly from the opposition, who have indicated that no immediate no-confidence motion will be proposed despite the ongoing tensions. The BJP and its ally, the Janata Dal (Secular), are expected to formally challenge the Congress on various fronts, particularly criticizing what they assert is a failing administrative structure due to the leadership dispute.

Key issues anticipated to arise include law enforcement controversies stemming from incidents at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, where serious lapses have been reported, leading to broader concerns about the state’s policing efficacy. Home Minister G Parameshwara has promised to address these accusations comprehensively, particularly in comparison to past BJP governance.

The plight of farmers will also be at the forefront, with rising discontent regarding

the procurement processes of various crops. The BJP has planned a large demonstration to galvanize farmer support, criticizing the Congress for delays in compensation and procurement inefficiencies. Alongside these discussions, the session will include the introduction of 21 new bills aimed at addressing issues such as hate speech, misinformation, and societal welfare themes critical to Karnataka’s socio-political climate.

Regional development topics, especially related to North

● Karnataka’s winter session opens amid leadership tensions, challenges regarding farmers’ issues, and the introduction of 21 new bills, with the Congress government under opposition scrutiny concerning law and order.

Karnataka, will be pushed by opposition legislators, with a focus on irrigation projects and infrastructure deficiencies in Bengaluru. Security measures have been heightened for the session, with around 8,000 police personnel deployed to ensure order. Additionally, a new park funded at ₹4.5 crore will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister during this session, alongside the imposition of prohibitory orders near the venue to maintain peace throughout the proceedings.

“It was their first trip to Goa”: Four members of a Delhi family perish in a nightclub fire

New Delhi, Dec 08: A tragic incident unfolded in Goa, where a fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub resulted in the loss of at least 25 lives, including four family members from Delhi: three sisters, Anita, Kamla, and Saroj Joshi, along with Vinod Kumar, husband of the fourth sister, Bhavna Joshi, who survived. The fire erupted early on Sunday, leaving the bodies of Anita and Kamla identified and preserved for impending inquest and post-mortem proceedings. However, the remains of Saroj and Vinod were so badly charred that identification proved challenging.



Kamla, the eldest sister, is mourned by her husband Naveen, a businessman, and their two children. Vinod, also a businessman and married to Bhavna, shares this tragedy as both sisters were wed into the same family, and they likewise have two children. Their elderly mother, residing in Karawal Nagar, remains unaware of her daughters’ deaths due to her frail health, as family friend Harish Singh reported. The news of the fire came as a shock to their close-knit community, especially since the sisters had traveled to Goa for the first time with enthusiasm, planning for family moments and exploring the area.

On the night of the incident, the family had just finished a meal at the club when the fire broke out. In a desperate attempt to rescue a trapped sister, the three sisters and Vinod re-entered the building amidst chaos, where panicked patrons struggled to escape through limited exits in disarray. Bhavna managed to escape after being pushed out, while the others tragically succumbed to the overwhelming smoke and chaos. Singh recounted how frantic family members were trying to reach them, resulting in a heartbreaking phone call from a policeman to Naveen that confirmed their worst fears. Local representatives, such as Neeta Bisht, expressed their intention to connect with the grieving family, though the entire family is currently engulfed in trauma, grappling with their devastating loss and the uncertainty of their future without the beloved family members.

Will act at Sabarimala at the appropriate moment CPI(M) Kerala secretary

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 08: During an interview with Hindustan Times, CPI(M) state secretary MV Govindan discussed the party’s optimism regarding the local body election campaign, noting their strong connection to the public and asserting that finding candidates is not an issue for them.

He highlighted a historical backlash against the party in Kannur corporation elections but expressed hope for change this time. Govindan dismissed BJP’s



claims of capturing power in Kerala as misinformed and stressed the need for action against communalism.

He addressed current controversies, including ongoing investigations involving party members, emphasizing transparency and commitment to justice without interfering in probes.

He criticized the UDF’s campaign, suggesting it had suffered due to internal scandals and perceived weaknesses in strategy. Govindan also stated that Congress needs to address its organizational issues to remain relevant in the political landscape. Finally, he confirmed that CM Pinarayi would lead the LDF’s Assembly campaign, asserting that effectiveness, rather than age, is crucial for leadership.

During the Vande Mataram discussion, PM Modi said, “Nehru thought it would irritate Muslims”

New Delhi, Dec 08: Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a pointed critique of the Congress Party during a Lok Sabha debate commemorating the 150th anniversary of the national song, Vande Mataram.

He accused former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of aligning with Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s opposition to the song, claiming that Nehru had suggested its suspension to avoid offending Muslims, based on a letter he wrote to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Modi emphasized that Vande Mataram, which originated in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s Bengal, was significant in India’s freedom struggle, even in the face of British efforts to suppress it.



Modi highlighted the song’s historical context, pointing out that its centenary coincided with the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975, a period he characterized as a “dark chapter” in India’s histo-

ry, where those who championed patriotism were imprisoned. He stressed the importance of seizing the current moment to reinstate the song’s prominence.

Throughout his address, Modi

linked Vande Mataram to national unity, contrasting it with the Congress’s decision in 1937 to adopt only the first two stanzas for official gatherings—a move he argued fostered divisions leading to the Partition of India. He reiterated that at this 150-year mark, it is the nation’s duty to restore the song’s revered status. Modi framed this celebration within the broader context of national commemorations, including the 75th anniversary of the Constitution and other significant historical milestones.

Concluding his remarks, Modi expressed that it was a profound honor to recognize Vande Mataram within the Parliament, reiterating its lasting significance in the Indian identity and freedom movement.

Manipur Meitei BJP MLA Breaks Barriers, Visits Kuki Villages for First Time Since 2023 Violence

Imphal, Dec 08: In a rare gesture of outreach amid Manipur’s deep ethnic divide, a Meitei BJP MLA and former Speaker, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, on Monday visited two Kuki-Zo villages—marking the first such initiative since the ethnic conflict erupted in May 2023.

Singh, a former Speaker of the Manipur Assembly, travelled to Litan in Ukhrul district and Chassad in Kamjong district, both Naga-majority regions, where he interacted with Kuki residents and sought to understand the hardships they have faced over the last two and a half years.

The visit is being viewed as a significant confidence-building move in a state that has remained severely segregated along ethnic lines since the violence began.

During the visit to Litan, the BJP leader met villagers and listened to their accounts of loss, displacement and uncertainty. He also visited a Kuki relief camp at the Litan Saireikhong Baptist Church,



where he interacted with inmates who had fled their homes amid the chaos. “With Christmas approaching, we should all pray for the return of peace to the state,” said Singh, a sportsman-turned-politician and founder of the Assam Taekwondo Association. He urged villagers not to lose hope, stressing that peace must be the primary goal for all communities. “Conflicts exist across the world, but they should not be allowed to obstruct progress and de-

velopment,” Singh said. “We should learn to live in harmony despite our differences. Visiting each other’s villages must never be a hindrance.”

The MLA added that the ongoing conflict threatens the future of children above all. “We elders may have differences, but we cannot allow this conflict to ruin our children’s future,” he said. Manipur BJP vice-president and Naga leader Hopingsong Shimray, who accompanied Singh, said the MLA had shown

remarkable courage by travelling to Kuki areas at a time when most people remain unwilling to cross into another community’s territory. Shimray noted that Singh is the first Meitei BJP legislator to enter a Kuki relief camp since the violence began. The ethnic conflict that started in May 2023 claimed more than 260 lives and displaced around 60,000 people internally. A majority of the displaced continue to live in relief camps across the state.

Ibobi Singh Calls for End to Violence at Moirangthem Ibotombi Memorial Event

Imphal, Dec 08: Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh on Sunday reiterated that violence can never be a solution to any problem, citing the brutal killing of Moirangthem Ibotombi by armed assailants as a painful reminder of its consequences.

He was speaking at the 31st death anniversary of the late Moirangthem Ibotombi Singh, observed at the Moirangthem Ibotombi Memorial Complex in Heirok Part-II, Mayai Leikai. The programme was organised by the 31st Moirangthem Ibotombi Memorial Charitable Trust.

Ibobi Singh said that violence brings no good to society and that taking another person’s life is not inherent to human nature. Calling for collective responsibility in eradicating the culture of violence, he urged citizens to work together for a secure and harmonious Manipur. “If every individual chooses to live peacefully and resolve conflicts without violence, Manipur can truly become a peaceful state,” he said.

The memorial event was inaugurated by Moirangthem Ongbi Ibemhal, the wife of the late Ibotombi. A photo exhibition depicting his life and contributions was also displayed.

Held under the theme ‘Hingsi Amadi Hinghansi’ (Peace and Harmony), the programme included a blood donation camp and a large-scale pension disbursement drive for senior citizens, widows and differently-abled persons.

Around 2,300 beneficiaries received pensions, while 200 youths donated blood during the camp.

Ibotombi, a respected figure in the area, was killed at his home on December 7, 1994. The Trust has been commemorating his anniversary every year, aiming to inspire society to follow his ideals of peace and non-violence.

The event was attended by former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, MLA K. Ranjit (Sugnu AC), MLA Th. Lakeshor (Khundrakpam AC), several Congress leaders and a large gathering of community members.



Assam Rifles promotes community harmony and youth empowerment through sportd in Manipur

Imphal, Dec 08: Assam Rifles, in its steadfast commitment to fostering community bonding and youth engagement, organised two major sporting events in Manipur on 08 December 2025, bringing together diverse communities in a spirit of celebration and healthy competition.

At Moreh in Tengnoupal District, Assam Rifles facilitated a Cricket Tournament in collaboration with Tamil Sangam as part of the Pongal festival celebrations. The matches, held at Sunrise Ground, witnessed spirited participation from local cricket teams and sports enthusiasts drawing more than 120 residents including families, elders and youth. Assam Rifles provided comprehensive logistical and security support ensuring smooth conduct of the tournament. The vibrant atmosphere reflected the unity and festive spirit of the community, with Tamil Sangam represen-

tatives and local residents expressing heartfelt appreciation for the initiative. Simultaneously, in Chandel District, Assam Rifles under Operation Sadbhavana concluded the week-long Kargil Braveheart Football Tournament 2025 with its grand final and closing ceremony at Chandel Christian Football Stadium. Organised in collaboration with the District Sports Association, Chandel and supported by the Ex-Servicemen Association of Chandel, the final match between Hnahringkhu Youth Club and Damjol Youth Club drew an overwhelming crowd of over 1,500 spectators. The electrifying contest showcased exceptional skill and discipline, culminating in Damjol Youth Club emerging as champions. The winners received a trophy and a cash prize of ₹50,000 while the runners-up were awarded a trophy and ₹30,000. The closing ceremony was



graced by the Deputy Inspector General of Sector Assam Rifles along with civil society leaders and ex-servicemen of Chandel, who commended the Force’s efforts in promoting unity, leadership and youth development. The Assam Rifles Pipe Band and Jazz Band performances further added to the grandeur of the occasion. Together, these events highlighted Assam Rifles’ enduring dedication to nation-building, cultural integration and peace through sports. By facilitating platforms for youth to showcase their talent and communities to come together, the Force reaffirmed its role as a catalyst for harmony and empowerment in Manipur.

Assam cabinet approves 3000-Bigha land transfer from Doloo te for Silchar Airport Project

Guwahati, Dec 08: The Assam Cabinet has approved the transfer of 3,000 bighas of land from Doloo Tea Estate near Silchar in Cachar district to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the construction of a greenfield airport.

“The land allocation includes an additional 500 bighas beyond the earlier 2,500 bighas earmarked for the airport project. The decision will pave the way for obtaining approval of the Union Cabinet for the project,” Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced after chairing the Cabinet meeting on Sunday evening.

Sarma informed that the need for a civilian airport was always felt since expansion of the existing defence airport at Kumbhirgram was not feasible owing to heavy air traffic and operational restrictions.

It may be noted that the move to transfer land from the tea estate had earlier triggered protests from garden workers who feared would lose their homes and jobs even as the government had allayed their apprehensions.

A controversy had surfaced after



the then Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia remarked that the Centre had not received a formal proposal from the Assam government for the project. It was later clarified that the land acquisition was initiated based on AAI’s request.

In November 2022, as many as 1,296 families in Doloo Tea Estate had received financial assistance from the government with a sum of Rs 50 crore earmarked for compensation of the workers from Doloo, Lalbagh and Mainagarh estates.

However, despite assurances

from the government, tea workers, under the Asom Mojuri Shramik Union (AMSU), had expressed dissatisfaction after the completion of a public hearing in June this year, and demanded return of the acquired land or allocation of land elsewhere for tea cultivation.

Indian National Congress gave ‘Vande Mataram’ the status of the National Song: Gaurav Gogoi

Guwahati, Dec 08: Raising sharp questions on what role the BJP—currently in power—played in India’s freedom struggle, and what steps the RSS-BJP took to oust the British from India, Member of Parliament Gaurav Gogoi today created a storm in the Lok Sabha. Delivering a powerful address on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, Gogoi, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, dissected how the ruling party governs like royalty while forcing citizens to suffer under its misrule. Speaking immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address, Gogoi once again demonstrated his oratory skills and energized the Indian National Congress.

Beginning his speech by saluting the sacred land of Bengal—the birthplace of great personalities such as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Swami Vivekananda, Aurobindo Ghosh, Khudiram Bose, Rabindranath Tagore and Subhas Chandra Bose—Gogoi said that Bengal gifted the nation both the National Anthem and the National Song Vande Mataram.

He recalled the historical period following the failure of the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, when British repression grew brutally intense. In such times, in 1872, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay penned the first two lines of Vande Mataram, which today constitute the National Song. Nearly a decade later, these lines were expanded in the novel Anandamath, transforming the hymn into a source of inspiration for farmers, youth, and common people fighting British imperialism.

Gogoi recounted how Vande Mataram



became the lifeblood of the Swadeshi Movement following Lord Curzon’s 1905 decision to partition Bengal. He noted how Bande Mataram and Yugantar, edited by Aurobindo Ghosh, turned the hymn into a symbol of national awakening. Through pamphlets, publications, translations, and gramophone recordings, the song spread across Punjab, Maharashtra, Chennai, Karnataka, Telangana and the entire Indian subcontinent. During trials against Khudiram Bose and other revolutionaries, the chant of Vande Mataram sent shivers through the British Raj.

The Congress, Gogoi said, was the first to give Vande Mataram a national platform. At the 1896 Calcutta Congress session, Rabindranath Tagore himself sang the hymn. Later, at the 1905 Benares session, Vande Mataram was officially declared the National Song, with the Bengal-centric “seven crores” replaced with “thirty crores” to represent all of India.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi’s speech earlier in the House, Gogoi accused the PM of attempting to rewrite history and injecting politics into every discussion. Gogoi pointed out that the PM repeatedly drags in Nehru and Congress unnecessarily. “Do you know how many times the Prime Minister

invoked Nehru and Congress during Operation Sindoor?” Gogoi asked. “He mentioned Nehru 14 times and Congress 50 times. In his 75th Constitution Day speech, he mentioned Nehru 10 times and Congress 26 times. During the 2022 Presidential address debate, Nehru was mentioned 15 times; in 2020, 20 times.” Gogoi asserted that no matter how much the Prime Minister tries, he cannot erase the contributions of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

He further reminded the House that the Congress never supported the Muslim League’s 1937 decision to boycott Vande Mataram. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad himself said there was no justification for opposing the hymn. Gogoi explained the fundamental ideological difference between the Congress, the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. He noted that both the League and Mahasabha criticized the Congress for insisting that the first two lines of Vande Mataram be sung at all Congress meetings. Before criticizing Congress over the events of 1937, Gogoi said, the BJP must clarify where its ideological predecessors were during the Quit India Movement of 1942—and why they opposed it.

Gogoi reminded the House that in 1950, the Constituent Assembly, rejecting the objections of the Muslim League, gave Vande Mataram the status of National Song, while recognizing Jana Gana Mana as the National Anthem. This decision reflected the cultural heritage of Bengal and the patriotic inspiration drawn by Congress from India’s freedom struggle.

He sharply criticized the BJP for failing to understand the ideals of Bankim Chan-

dra Chattopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore. Addressing the BJP benches, he said, “You do not understand Tagore. You label everyone a Bangladeshi. Rabindranath Tagore wrote Amar Shonar Bangla in 1905. You don’t know history. You haven’t read Tagore. When anyone sings Shonar Bangla, you call them Bangladeshi. You don’t understand the pain of the Bengal Partition embedded in that song. In Delhi, if anyone speaks Bengali, you brand them Bangladeshi and send them to jail.” He questioned why, even with a “double-engine government,” the long-standing issue of Assam’s D-voters remains unresolved. He said BJP does not understand the true meaning of the nation: India is built on unity in diversity—a principle the BJP is actively undermining. Connecting the ideals of Vande Mataram to contemporary realities, Gogoi said: “Hon’ble Speaker, if we truly wish to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, we must first ensure the safety of our citizens.” Citing the severe air pollution in Delhi and across North India, he said millions of farmers and labourers are struggling to breathe. “How can we talk about national security when our very air is unsafe?”

He raised concerns about border security. Referring to recent developments following the Pahalgam incident and Pakistan’s deepening ties with the US, Gogoi said, “This is being discussed globally, yet our government has no comment.”

On the falling value of the rupee, Gogoi reminded the House that the PM once said that a weak currency worsens people’s lives. “Today the rupee is nearing 100. That prediction has come true.”

Assam Rifles honours fallen brave hearts with solemn wreath laing ceremonies

Guwahati, Dec 08: Assam Rifles organised two solemn Wreath Laying Ceremonies on 07 and 08 December 2025 to honour the supreme sacrifices of Rifleman (Late) Rakesh Singh and Rifleman (Late) Lapka Damdum, whose valour and devotion to duty remain a source of inspiration for all ranks of the Force.

On 07 December 2025, a ceremony was held at Battalion Headquarters Modi to pay homage to Rifleman Rakesh Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty on 07 December 2001. Serving with Headquarters Company, he was part of the Quick Reaction Team that was mobilised following intelligence inputs about armed insurgents hiding in a nearby village. As the team approached the location, they came under heavy and indiscriminate fire. Rifleman Rakesh Singh displayed exceptional courage and presence of mind, retaliating with accurate fire to suppress the enemy and provide cover to his comrades. Despite sustaining grievous injuries, he continued to engage the insurgents until he succumbed to his wounds, making the supreme sacrifice while upholding the highest traditions of Assam Rifles and the Indian Armed Forces. The ceremony witnessed the participation of 150 officials and troops, who paid homage by laying wreaths and presenting a Guard of Honour. On 08 December 2025, Assam Rifles conducted another solemn ceremony at Tengnoupal to honour Rifleman Lapka Damdum, who made the supreme sacrifice on 08 December 1956 during an operation against Naga insurgents at Longkhim, Tuensang in Nagaland. Rifleman Damdum displayed raw courage and determination in the face of heavy enemy fire, fearlessly engaging the insurgents until he sustained fatal injuries. His sacrifice remains etched in golden letters in the proud history of the Force.

The ceremony was attended by 113 officials and troops, who paid homage by laying wreaths and according a Guard of Honour, collectively remembering his devotion to duty and comradeship. Both ceremonies reflected the deep respect of Assam Rifles towards its fallen Bravehearts and reaffirmed the organisation’s unwavering commitment to honour their selfless service and supreme sacrifice. The legacy of these heroes continues to serve as a guiding light for future generations, inspiring all ranks to uphold the highest traditions of courage, duty and devotion to the nation.

Rupee extends losing streak, closes at 90.07 per dollar amid FII outflows

New Delhi: The Indian rupee tracked the equity market cues and extended the losing streak. It closed at 90.07, down 0.1% on the day. The currency opened lower at 90.06 against the dollar and dipped further to 90.17, down 0.2% from its opening level. The rupee weakened amid persistent foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows and caution surrounding the US Federal Reserve’s upcoming policy announcement on Wednesday, which is likely to influence the future trajectory of the currency. Foreign capital flows are typically sensitive to the Fed’s policy stance. The uncertainty triggered by these global cues also weighed on domestic equities. “The rupee slipped by 13 paise to 90.06 against the dollar as prolonged FII selling, weak equity markets, and the lack of clarity on the India-US trade deal continued to weigh on sentiment. With the Fed policy outcome and India CPI data lined up this week, volatility is likely to remain elevated. The rupee is expected to trade in a weak range of 89.75-90.30,” said Jateen Trivedi, VP and Research Analyst at LKP Securities. On 10 December, the currency breached the psychologically crucial 90-level mark for the first time amid persistent foreign investment outflows, tensions over the stalled US-India trade deal, and elevated tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on Indian goods. Recently, the rupee has been among the worst-performing Asian currencies, having fallen nearly 5% on an aggregate basis. The rupee has hovered in the 89-90 range over the past week, leading to speculation among traders. “Rupee’s downward spiral to breach the 90 per dollar mark coupled with persistent foreign fund outflows this month has precipitated volatility. With the US Fed meeting scheduled later this week, investors may not be in a hurry to take positive bets on equity assets,” said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities.

As ED files a chargesheet in a case involving a false guarantee, Reliance Power drops 5%

New Delhi: After the Enforcement Directorate (ED) announced that it had filed a supplemental prosecution charge against Reliance Power Ltd. and its subsidiaries, the company’s shares plunged more than 5% on Monday. The company’s stock experienced its largest intraday decline since November 24 of this year, falling as much as 5.18% during the day to ₹35.7 per share. As of 11:53 AM, the Nifty 50 had increased by 0.47%, while the stock had limited losses to trade 4.7% lower at ₹35.9 per share. Shares of the company fell for the seventh straight session on Monday. The counter has fallen 16 per cent this year, compared to a 10.5 per cent advance in the benchmark Nifty 50. Reliance Power has a total market capitalisation of ₹14,835.01 crore. According to the company, in relation to the SECI bank guarantee case, ED has filed a supplemental prosecution complaint against the company, its subsidiaries, Reliance NU BESS Ltd. and Rosa Power Supply Company Ltd., as well as a number of persons. The business made it clear that it has already filed a criminal case. On October 16, 2024, Reliance NU BESS filed a case against the third parties that organized the contested bank guarantee with the Delhi Police’s Economic Offences Wing. On November 11, 2024, a



formal complaint was filed against the individuals. Reliance Power reaffirmed that it and its subsidiaries acted “bona fide” and that outside parties had committed fraud, forgery, cheating, and conspiracy. It further stated that the corporation has not been found guilty of any misconduct and that the ED’s claims have not yet been examined by the courts. The company stated that the filing of the complaint has no bearing on its business operations and that it will have a chance to explain its case in

court. The business promised to protect its interests and those of its stakeholders by taking all legally recommended actions. Reliance Power emphasised that its operations remain normal and that it continues to focus on growth, operational excellence and long-term value creation for its more than 43 lakh shareholders. The establishment of a Board of Management (BOM) to improve strategic business supervision and fortify governance was agreed by Reliance Power’s board last month. The CEO, im-

portant managers, and other top company executives will make up the new group. Due to higher sales, the company declared a net profit of ₹87 crore for the quarter that ended on September 30. In the second quarter of FY25, it reported a loss of ₹352 crore. During the quarter, the company’s overall income increased from ₹1,963 crore to ₹2,067 crore. The 5,305 megawatt operating portfolio of Reliance Power, a division of the Reliance Group, includes 3,960 megawatts from Sasan Power Ltd.

SAIL moves into key phase of IISCO expansion with blast furnace contract awarded

New Delhi: The ₹45,810 crore project, which is anticipated to more than quadruple the unit’s capacity, is entering a pivotal phase as the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has bid out the blast furnace package associated with the proposed expansion of its IISCO Steel Plant at Burnpur. A Danieli Corus consortium was given the BF package by SAIL earlier this week, with a 41-month completion deadline. The BF, which is the main component of SAIL’s 4.08 mt ex-

pansion, can produce 4.3 million tons of hot metal. Post completion, the IISCO capacity is projected to go up to 7.1 mt from the current level of 2.5 mt. The company said the BF will be one of the most advanced in the country and for SAIL, marking a major technological leap in efficiency, energy recovery and environmental performance. The public sector steel major had received the environmental clearance from the Union ministry of environment,

forest and climate change earlier on June 4, kicking off what could be the largest industrial investment in a single project in Bengal to date. Since then, the company has signed contracts for sinter plant, pellet plant, a new lime and dolomite calcination plant (LDCP) and now the BF package — all linked to the process of converting iron to crude steel. However, as the blast furnace anchors both output and efficiency in an integrated mill, the step marks a sub-

stantive shift from design to implementation in one of SAIL’s most ambitious upgrades. The SAIL management had guided investors post second quarter results on October 30 that the design engineering will be progressively followed by physical active supplies and physical effectively, Iron & Steel Company, built by Bengali industrialist Biren Mookerjee pre-independence, used to be. The plant has been demolished to make way for the new unit.

Apple likely to face another executive as Chip Chief Johny Srouji may depart

New Delhi: Amid an ongoing executive transition at Apple, the company’s Senior Vice President of Hardware Technologies, Johny Srouji, is reportedly considering a departure. According to Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman, Srouji has told Tim Cook that he’s “seriously considering” the switch and intends to join another company, though details about the departure remain slim. If the claims are true, then it will come as another major executive departure after Apple design

chief Alan Dye, AI chief John Giannandrea, policy lead Lisa Jackson and others in a matter of weeks. However, the change may happen under a new Apple CEO, as Tim Cook is also rumoured to announce his retirement soon. Johny Srouji has been part of Apple since 2008 and was promoted to the position of Senior Vice President of Hardware Technologies in 2015. He has been a crucial member of Apple, and now, he plans to join another company as opportunities appear.



According to Gurman, there are several reasons surrounding major executive-level departures. Firstly, the majority of executives are nearing retirement age. Other reasons

are reportedly due to Apple’s struggling future since it has not launched a new product category in decades, and it has yet to deliver the desired Apple Intelligence upgrades.

Launch date leaked for the Realme 16 Pro series

New Delhi: The future Realme 16 Pro series is currently at the center of multiple online leaks, suggesting that Realme is preparing for its first significant smartphone launch of 2025. Tipsters have already started describing what to anticipate from the Realme 16 Pro and Realme 16 Pro+, even though the firm has not yet made the devices public. The Realme 16 Pro series is expected to appear in India on January 6, according to tipster Sanju Choudhary. This would put the rollout slightly ahead of the company’s usual first-quarter refresh schedule if it were true. Additionally, according to Choudhary, the regular Realme 16 Pro will probably start out with 8GB RAM and 128GB storage, making it an affordable starting point for the lineup. A separate leak from X user Anvin (@ZionsAnvin) claims the Realme 16 Pro will arrive in four RAM and storage configurations: 8GB + 128GB,

8GB + 256GB, 12GB + 256GB, and 12GB + 512GB. The handset is also rumoured to come in grey, gold and purple finishes, marking a shift from the Realme 15 Pro’s more understated Flowing Silver, Silk Purple and Velvet Green options. Meanwhile, the Pro+ model is said to feature a telephoto camera, although details around this remain unverified. A 6.78-inch OLED screen with a 1.5K resolution and an incredibly smooth refresh rate of 144Hz is anticipated for the Realme 16 Pro. If true, the panel would preserve Realme’s emphasis on quick, fluid graphics while emulating the high-refresh performance of the 15 Pro from the previous year. With this iteration, Realme is poised to push camera hardware considerably. According to leaks, the dual back camera system consists of an 8-megapixel secondary lens and a 200-megapixel primary sensor.

Even if the US Fed cuts interest rates by 25 basis points this week, the Rupee is unlikely to see any assistance

New Delhi: The rupee has had a difficult year, and pressure only increased last week when it broke through the 90-per-dollar barrier for the first time. The currency is currently the weakest performer in Asia, having dropped by 5% since January. To alleviate dollar tightness, the RBI intervened with an aggressive series of actions, such as a 25 basis point rate drop, an open-market bond purchase of Rs 1 lakh crore, and a \$5 billion buy-sell exchange. Although these actions have reduced anxiety, attention will now turn to the US Federal Reserve’s policy choice later this week. A 25 basis point rate drop by the Fed at its meeting on December 9-10 is nearly entirely priced in by traders. Lower US rates have historically supported developing market currencies like the rupee while weakening the dollar. Analysts cautioned that the impact might be far less noticeable this time. Theoretically, a weaker dollar allows the rupee some leeway. Foreign investors are drawn to higher-yielding emerging countries by lower US yields, bringing in money that strengthens the local currency. However, economists said that the Fed’s anticipated rate decrease has already been factored in, so until general circumstances improve, the rupee may not see a big increase. India’s trade deficit is now growing, foreign inflows are still inconsistent, and international investors are still wary due to geopolitical unrest. Even with a potential US rate decrease, this lessens the likelihood of any significant rupee rise. According to Bhavik Patel, senior commodities analyst at Tradebulls Securities, “Fed rate cuts are already factored in by the currency markets, and nothing will significantly change the rupee’s direction unless India’s trade deal with

the US materializes.” Sluggish global demand and India’s record trade deficit in October point to a structural rather than a short-term problem for the currency. This year, foreign investment—both FDI and FPI—has been inconsistent and has not helped the rupee much. For now, minimal participation is making the currency more sensitive to bad news, but analysts think inflows might increase if



the US materializes.” Sluggish global demand and India’s record trade deficit in October point to a structural rather than a short-term problem for the currency. This year, foreign investment—both FDI and FPI—has been inconsistent and has not helped the rupee much. For now, minimal participation is making the currency more sensitive to bad news, but analysts think inflows might increase if

global volatility decreases. According to Jigar Trivedi, senior analyst at Reliance Securities, “weak foreign inflows and a wide trade deficit will likely cap any strong appreciation, even though the RBI’s liquidity injection and neutral policy stance can offer temporary relief.” He believes that the most important levels to keep an eye on this week are 89.3-90.4.

Kaynes Technology shares hit 52 week low, slump 31% in four days



New Delhi: Shares of Kaynes Technology India Ltd extended their sharp decline for a fourth straight session on Monday, slipping 14.05 per cent to touch a one-year low of Rs 3,746.20. With this, the stock has fallen 30.78 per cent over the last four trading sessions after Kotak Institutional Equities raised concerns over inconsistencies in the company’s FY25 related-party disclosures. Kotak pointed out mismatches across filings by Kaynes Tech, Kaynes Elec-

tronics Manufacturing, and its subsidiary Iskraemeco, flagging issues around the quality and completeness of disclosures. The brokerage also highlighted a sharp rise in contingent liabilities, which stood at Rs 520 crore, equivalent to 18 per cent of the company’s net worth. These comprised Rs 122.5 crore for Kaynes Electronics and Rs 70 crore for Iskraemeco and were stated to be linked to funding requirements following the acquisition of Iskraemeco. Kotak further

noted that purchases worth Rs 180 crore from Kaynes Electronics Manufacturing in FY25 were not disclosed in the company’s related-party filings. Kaynes stated that these transactions were eliminated in the consolidated financial statements in line with Indian Accounting Standards but were “inadvertently” not disclosed in the standalone financial statements. The company said the disclosure has since been rectified and noted for future compliance.

IndiGo meltdown exposes risky staffing model as new pilot rules trigger chaos

— With IndiGo commanding over 65 per cent of India’s domestic market, the disruptions set off a nationwide domino effect, overwhelming airports and leaving rival carriers unable to absorb the surge of displaced travellers

New Delhi: IndiGo, long celebrated for punctuality and scale, has cancelled hundreds of flights nationwide after an operational crisis exposed the risks of its tight “lean-staffing” model and its misreading of new pilot duty-time limits. The disruption, now in its sixth day, coincided with regulatory changes that forced pilots into mandatory rest even as the airline pursued an aggressive winter schedule. IndiGo’s maximise-every-aircraft, heavy-night-flying strategy — central to its low-cost dominance — faltered as large segments of its roster became unavailable at once. India’s largest airline cancelled more than 650 flights on Sunday out of its roughly 2,300 daily operations, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded. Many missed job interviews, critical business meetings and even wedding receptions, while some reported facing medical emergencies without onward travel options. The episode marks the sharpest test yet of IndiGo’s staffing strategy and raises questions about whether its growth model can withstand regulatory and seasonal shocks. Regulators have stepped in, arguably belatedly, with fare caps, advisories and oversight, while the airline has rolled out fee waivers, refunds and a phased resto-



ration plan. The steps in the near-duopoly market - IndiGo and Tata Group-owned Air India control over 91 per cent of the market share - will take time to restore normalcy. With IndiGo commanding over 65 per cent of India’s domestic market, the cancellations triggered a nationwide domino effect that clogged airports and overwhelmed other carriers unable to absorb the surge in displaced travellers. Airport terminals saw long

queues, frayed tempers and thousands of pieces of baggage lying scattered across departure and arrival halls. Under the new rules, weekly rest for pilots was raised from 36 to 48 hours; weekly number of landings a pilot can make from midnight to early morning cut to two from six earlier, maximum time pilots can fly in flights that stretch into the night capped at 10 hours, no more than two consecutive night duties and night flights defined more tightly (00.00 - 06.00 instead of earlier 00.00 - 05.00) - all of which dramatically reduced the number of flights a pilot can operate per week. DGCA had originally notified the revised limits in January 2024. The revised rules were notified with immediate effect on May 31 last year, with airlines initially required to comply by June 1, 2024, but their implementation was deferred to a phased roll-out starting July 1, 2025, and completing by November 1 this year. IndiGo reportedly underestimated how many additional pilots were needed under the new rules. For its large Airbus A320 fleet, IndiGo said it needed over 2,422 captains to operate smoothly, but had only 2,357 and a similar shortfall among first officers.

Kapil Sharma promotes KKKP 2 comedy



Mumbai: As the film’s release date approaches, the makers have released the hilarious trailer and has been promoting the film across the country. The movie promises to be filled with uncertainty, drama, turmoil, and, of course, Kapil’s distinctive comedy. The trailer provides an insight into the character’s environment and how he becomes trapped in several marriages. In the latest, Kapil shared a picture with some of his team members en route to the next promotion location.

In the pictures, Kapil was seen inside the flight with Trisha Chaudhary, Hira Warina and others. In one of the snaps the team was seen posing on the tarmac as well. In the caption, Kapil simply wrote, “Pati Pati Aur Co.” The trailer begins with Kapil speaking to a church priest about how, in his pursuit to marry the love of his life, he became confused and now has three wives from three different religions. The trailer then takes viewers on a funny rollercoaster through tumultuous settings and unexpected twists. While speaking with Free Press Journal, director Anukalp Goswami opened up about working with Kapil and shared, “Kapil is very easy to work with, and I’ve seen tremendous growth in him as an actor. It’s been 10 years. We have done so many shows together.

‘The Boys’ Season 5 arrives 2026

Mumbai: Prime Video lit up São Paulo’s CCXP arena this weekend, delivering a thunderous reveal that sent over 3,000 fans at the Thunder Stage into a frenzy. The streamer officially announced that The Boys will return for its fifth and final season on April 8, 2026, marking the beginning of the end for one of television’s boldest, bloodiest, and most culturally disruptive shows. Alongside the date announcement, fans were treated to the first explosive teaser, offering a glimpse of the chaos that awaits as the world plunges into the darkest chapter of Vought’s dominion. Showrunner Eric Kripke appeared on stage with cast members Erin Moriarty, Laz Alonso, Karen Fukuhara, Tomer Capone, and Colby Minifie, transforming the panel into a celebration of carnage, satire, and the show’s unrelenting grip on global



pop culture. The cast revisited some of the series’ most outrageous and defining moments before unveiling the adrenaline-charged first look at Season 5, igniting the hall with cheers, gasps, and the kind of chaos only The Boys can summon. CCXP is known for its explosive fan energy, but this year, The Boys took the spectacle to a new level. The Thunder Stage packed in fans hours before the panel began, waiting for what Prime Video promised would be a major announcement. As soon as Kripke and the cast walked out, the audience erupted, and the excitement only escalated when the official teaser for Season 5 dropped exclusively for attendees.

Saif Ali Khan’s Horror Film ‘Haiwaan’ Wraps; Makers Drop BTS Pics



Mumbai: Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar are reuniting after 17 years for a horror thriller, Haiwaan. They have been shooting, and today, Saif Ali Khan has officially wrapped up the shoot. The makers shared a series of behind-the-scenes photos from the set. The film is said to be adapted from Mohanlal’s acclaimed 2016 thriller Oppam and is slated for a 2026 theatrical release. The cast also includes Samuthirakani, Saiyami Kher, Shreya Pilgaonkar, Asrani, and Einar Haraldsson in key roles. Taking to their Instagram

handle, Priyadarshan shared a series of photos featuring Saif Ali Khan and announcing that the shoot has completed. The release date of the film has not been shared. Fans also reacted with heart emojis. They also asked about the other projects. Akshay Kumar, who is also in the lead role, was seen missing from the last day of the shoot. The veteran filmmaker took to Instagram to share a picture with Saif Ali Khan and Mohanlal. In the caption, he wrote, “Look at life and the way it turns... Here I am, on the shooting sets of HAIWAN, working

with the son of one of my biggest cricket heroes and my favourite film icon. Truly, God is kind.” Priyadarshan was referring to Saif, whose father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, also known as Tiger Pataudi, was a legendary Indian cricket captain and batsman, and to Mohanlal, whom he considers his favourite actor.

In the photo, Saif and Mohanlal are seen holding walking sticks and wearing sunglasses. In the 2016 original, Mohanlal played a blind man who witnesses a murder and must protect a child from a killer closing in on them. Saif steps into the same role for the Hindi remake of Oppam. Priyadarshan had earlier confirmed that Mohanlal will also appear in a cameo in the new film. In an interview with Pinkvilla, the filmmaker confirmed that Malayalam superstar Mohanlal will indeed appear in the film; however, he didn’t reveal what character he would play.

Raj Arjun Calls Daughter Sara, Ranveer’s Co-Star, His ‘Dhurandhar’ in Touching Post

Mumbai: Long before audiences discovered Sara Arjun in Dhurandhar, her biggest believer was at home — her father, actor Raj Arjun, who now admits that every milestone in his journey traces back to her. As Sara earns praise for her performance opposite Ranveer Singh, Raj has shared an heartfelt note about how his daughter didn’t just grow under his care — she helped shape the man and the artist he became.

Actor Raj Arjun penned an emotional message celebrating his daughter Sara Arjun, who has been receiving a lot of love for her role in Dhurandhar. In an Instagram post written in Hindi, Raj looked back on how becoming a father transformed his life and career, calling Sara the true “Dhurandhar” who carried him through his hardest years. Raj began his note by looking back at his early days



in Mumbai. He shared that he arrived in the city in 1999 with ambition and belief, but no connections. He said he struggled through countless auditions until life changed completely in 2005 — the year Sara was born. “Sometimes, to understand life, we have to look back,” he wrote. “We think we’re raising our children, but time and opportunity tell us... In reality, they’re the ones raising us.”

Recalling how Sara’s arrival shifted his perspective, Raj wrote that he finally understood why people say

daughters are a blessing. He revealed that soon after Sara came into his life, he landed his first lead role in Ram Gopal Varma’s Shabri. Though the film got stuck in production, Sara’s presence kept his confidence alive. “For the first time, I felt that I, too, could become someone... I, too, could achieve something,” he wrote. “Had her soul not entered my life, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.” Raj went on to describe how Sara unknowingly held him together during challenging times. “People

say fathers show daughters the path... but my story is the opposite. I reached my destination because of my daughter,” he said. Even when work stalled, he found strength in her growing presence. “She was growing... slowly... silently... holding me together.”

He added that being a father meant being more than a protector — sometimes a friend, sometimes a companion and sometimes simply giving space. “I didn’t make her path,” he wrote. “I walked beside her. I didn’t become the guard of her dreams — I became her companion.” Sara Arjun rose to fame in 2011 playing Vikram’s daughter in Deiva Thirumagal, and later starred in Saivam, Ek Thi Daayan, Jazbaa, Jai Ho, Saand Ki Aankh, and Mani Ratnam’s Ponniyin Selvan as young Nandini. Dhurandhar marks her debut as an adult actor.

Hema Malini’s Emotional 90th Birthday Wish for Dharmendra Goes Viral

Mumbai: Legendary actor Dharmendra passed away on November 24, just days before his 90th birthday. His death left his family, loved ones, and fans heartbroken. Now, his wife Hema Malini has shared an emotional post on social media to mark his 90th birth anniversary. In her note, she wrote that Dharmendra’s death left her heartbroken, and she has been trying to slowly gather up the pieces of her life. She recalled their happy moments together, and wrote that the joyful moments cannot be erased. Hema Malini added that she is thankful to God for the years they got to spend together, and for their two beautiful daughters Esha Deol and Ahana Deol.

Hema Malini took to X (formerly Twitter) to share two happy throwback photos with Dharmendra. Remembering him on his birth anniversary, she wrote, “Dharam ji. Happy birthday my dear heart. More than two weeks have passed since you



left me heartbroken, slowly gathering up the pieces and trying to reconstruct my life, knowing that you will always be with me in spirit. The joyful memories of our life together can never be erased

and just reliving those moments bring me great solace and happiness.” She further added, “I thank God for our lovely years together, for our two beautiful girls who reaffirm our love for each other and for

all the beautiful, happy memories that will remain with me in my heart. On your birthday, my prayers for God to grant you the wealth of peace and happiness that you richly deserve for your humility and goodness of heart and your love for humanity. Happy birthday dear love. Our happy ‘together’ moments.”

Earlier today, Dharmendra’s children Sunny Deol and Esha Deol paid tributes to their late father on his birth anniversary. Sunny Deol shared a throwback video featuring a warm moment between him and Dharmendra during a trip to a hill station. In the clip, Sunny is heard asking, “Papa, are you enjoying?” Dharmendra, smiling and relaxed, replies, “I am really enjoying my son.” Sunny then responds gently, “It’s beautiful.” Sunny posted the video with a short, personal caption written in Hindi, “Aaj meri papa ka janamdin hai. Papa humesha mere saath hai. Love

you papa. Miss you.” Meanwhile, Esha Deol shared a few pictures with her father, and wrote, “To my darling Papa. Our pact, the strongest bond. “Us” through all our lifetimes, all the realms and beyond... We are always together papa. Be it heaven or earth. We are one.” She wrote that she has carefully tucked him deep inside her heart to carry him with her for the rest of her life. “I so painfully miss you papa... your warm protective hugs that felt like the cosiest blanket, holding your soft yet strong hands which had unspoken messages & your voice calling out my name that followed with endless conversations, laughter & shayaris. Your motto “always be humble, be happy, healthy & strong.” I promise to continue your legacy with pride & respect. And I will try my best to spread your love to the millions who love you as I do,” she wrote.

Opening Weekend Blockbuster: Ranveer Singh’s ‘Dhurandhar’ Zooms Past ₹100 Crore

Mumbai: Ranveer Singh’s Dhurandhar is soaring at the box office, delivering big numbers over the opening weekend. The Aditya Dhar directorial is a spy thriller revolving around a RAW agent and his covert missions in the criminal underworld of Karachi and its link to India. As per industry tracker Sacnilk, Dhurandhar earned Rs 28 crore on its opening day and Rs 32 crore and Rs 43 crore over the weekend, taking the India net collection to Rs 103 crore.

The film’s Sunday earnings registered an impressive 34.38% jump from its Saturday collection. Overseas, the film earned Rs 21 crore.



As per Sacnilk, Dhurandhar had an overall 53.47% Hindi occupancy on Sunday. The film’s opening day collections and now the jump over the weekend surpassed predictions made by trade experts, who estimated that it would earn Rs 15-18 crore on day 1. The opening day collection

also came very close to Vicky Kaushal’s Chhaava’s opening day collection of Rs 31 crore, making it a solid comeback for Ranveer Singh.

Besides Ranveer, Dhurandhar features an ensemble cast featuring Akshaye Khanna, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Sara Arjun, Rakesh Bedi and

Arjun Rampal among others. The film 3.5 out of 5 and said in its review, “At the centre of this world stands Ranveer Singh, playing the hard-edged agent who slips into the shadow world of sleeper operatives as a cross-border conspiracy erupts. It’s a performance of restraint, a departure from his flamboyant screen persona. This Ranveer is raw yet internalised, driven yet fraying. The role demands both physical ferocity and emotional weariness, and he delivers both with remarkable control. His silences speak as loudly as his action beats, grounding the film even when its narrative ambitions begin to overtake its focus.”

‘Battle of Galwan’ BTS: Salman Khan, Chitrangda Singh wear military uniforms

Mumbai: A behind-the-scenes image from Salman Khan’s upcoming war drama Battle of Galwan has set social media abuzz. The photo, shared by a fan on Instagram, features Salman Khan and Chitrangda Singh in full Indian Army uniform as they pose for a quick selfie on the film’s set. The viral moment offers the first candid glimpse of the stars embodying their military roles in the highly anticipated project.

Salman Khan recently wrapped up a start-to-end 45-day shoot in Leh, Ladakh, completing the film’s primary schedule by mid-September. The actor then moved into the final leg of production from mid-October, with filming expected to conclude by the end of November. The first look of the film, unveiled on July 4, had already created buzz—showing Salman with bloodstains on his face and a rugged moustached avatar. Reports indicate that Salman portrays Colonel B Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar Regiment who led his troops during the



Galwan Valley clash of June 2020. The real-life confrontation between Indian and Chinese soldiers along the Line of Actual Control resulted in the martyrdom of 20 Indian soldiers and significant casualties on the Chinese side.

Directed by Apoorva Lakshia, Battle of Galwan draws from a chapter of India’s Most Fearless 3 by Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh, a best-selling book chronicling extraordinary stories of courage within the Indian armed forces. The film aims to bring to life the intensity of the standoff that occurred amid the

first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the raw, close-combat nature of the clash. Chitrangda Singh, who plays a key role, earlier admitted she felt “a bit nervous” joining the project because of Salman’s massive fan following. “I’m glad they accepted me with their Salman, their hero. It’s been good so far,” she told HT. Battle of Galwan is slated for a 2026 theatrical release. Salman Khan was last seen in Sikandar and is currently preparing for the grand finale of Bigg Boss 19, scheduled for December 7.

Saroj Khan disliked AR Rahman’s Rangeela music, Ahmed Khan reveals

Mumbai: Ahmed Khan may be known today as a director, but the turning point of his career came three decades ago, when Ram Gopal Varma handed him the choreography of Rangeela — a film that didn’t just redefine Hindi cinema’s grammar in the 1990s, but also launched an artistic triffecta: A.R. Rahman’s Hindi breakthrough, Manish Malhotra’s fashion revolution, and Ahmed’s own rise as one of Bollywood’s most inventive dance minds.

Looking back at that era for the inaugural edition of SCREEN Spotlight, Ahmed still sounds bewildered by how casually his life changed. “For my surprise, I still don’t know why Ram Gopal Varma offered me that film,” he laughed. “I was a very young boy, and in 1994, it was almost impossible to just walk into a studio. And here he was, offering me a film. I couldn’t tell if it was real or if he was joking.” At the time, Ahmed was an assistant



to Saroj Khan — the busiest choreographer in the country. Whenever Saroj ji was double-booked or shooting abroad, her assistants had to step in. One of those days, Saroj Khan was out of India and the shoot for Rangeela came up. Ahmed reached the set to represent his guru, assuming it would be a routine fill-in. “Ramu saw that I’d come in place of Saroj ji,” Ahmed recalled. “Within half an hour, I don’t know what caught his eye, but he asked me to come again the next day.”

Ophthalmologist Outlines Every Risk of Eye Infection

Contact Lens Wearers Should Be Aware Of

Contact lenses are a convenient alternative to glasses, offering a wider field of vision and more freedom in daily activities. But behind the ease and aesthetics lies a serious health risk if lenses aren't handled with care. Corneal infections, some of which can lead to permanent vision loss, are a growing concern, especially among those who wear lenses for extended periods or neglect hygiene routines. "Contact lenses can disrupt the eye's natural defenses, particularly the tear film that protects the cornea," explains Dr. Neeraj Sanduja, Ophthalmologist and Founder of Viaan Eye and Retina Centre. "Improper use or storage creates an environment where harmful microorganisms can thrive," he adds. Among the most serious complications is microbial keratitis, a painful and potentially blinding infection of the cornea. It can be caused by bacteria, fungi, or amoebas



such as Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Acanthamoeba, all of which flourish in moist, contaminated environments like old lens cases or tap water. "Sleeping in contact lenses or extending their wear time significantly reduces oxygen supply to the cornea," warns Dr. Sanduja. "This makes the eye more vulnerable to infections and microtrauma." Common user errors, like failing to wash hands

before handling lenses, topping off old disinfectant instead of using fresh solution, or skipping regular case replacements, can introduce pathogens directly to the eye. "Lens-related infections often stem from poor hygiene," says Dr. Sanduja. "Even something as simple as swimming or showering with lenses on can expose the eyes to waterborne microorganisms like Acanthamoeba, which are very difficult to treat." Extended wear lenses or long hours of wear, even during the day, can gradually weaken the corneal surface. Some users also blink less when wearing lenses, leading to dryness that weakens the eye's natural barriers. "Microtrauma during insertion or removal and dry eye from reduced blinking further compromise the cornea," notes Dr. Sanduja. "The best way to stay safe is to follow hygiene protocols strictly, avoid water exposure, and never ignore discomfort."

Hepatitis Hiding: Not Just Stomach Ache

Hepatitis, a liver condition affecting over 300 million people, often mimics common digestive issues, making diagnosis difficult. It can be unintentionally neglected until the liver starts to fail. Hepatitis develops when the liver gets inflamed due to viral infections or toxins like alcohol and drugs. It can cause liver cirrhosis, liver failure, or even cancer if left untreated. Diarrhea, chronic fatigue, and weakness are common symptoms of Hepatitis, as the liver plays a crucial role in processing nutrients. Chronic fatigue can impact concentration and memory, making it difficult to perform routine tasks. Dark urine and stool may appear tea-colored, while jaundice is caused by the accumulation of bilirubin, a waste substance the liver typically eliminates. Jaundice indicates a serious symptom of liver stress or damage and requires immediate medical care. Managing hepatitis involves a combination of medical treatment and healthy lifestyle choices. Antiviral medications can help control the virus and prevent complications like cirrhosis or liver cancer. In severe cases, a liver transplant may be necessary, but many individuals can manage their condition effectively through timely medication and supportive care. Simple changes, such as avoiding alcohol, eating a nutritious diet, engaging in regular physical activity, and staying updated with vaccinations, can greatly enhance liver health. Acting early not only improves recovery chances but also helps prevent long-term complications associated with chronic hepatitis.



'Knowing Your Numbers' IVF And Miscarriage: Why It Matters

Couples who undergo the procedure of IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) hope that in such a way their family will be expanded, but at the same time there are fears and doubts. Miscarriage is one of the most emotionally traumatic process setbacks. Although a woman could miscarry at any pregnancy, the loss may have deeper emotional effects at IVF since every cycle would be associated with much physical, emotional, and financial resources. Getting to grips with the factors that may cause miscarriage and what might perhaps prevent it involves going deeper into, what many patients do not give much attention to; their numbers. These are levels of hormones, quality of an embryo, chromosomal measurements and measures of uterine health. It is about being informed, it is about being empowered, with regards to saying that you know your numbers. Such hormones as AMH

(Anti-Mullerian Hormone), FSH (Follicle-Stimulation Hormone), LH (Luteinizing Hormone), progesterone, and estradiol are involved mainly in the quality of eggs, the thickness of endometrium, and embryo implantation. The abnormal levels may decrease the success rate or in some cases will cause miscarriage. These interventions are made possible by regular monitoring, which enables fertility specialists to modify protocols and address imbalances before they can progress. Not every embryo is genetic viable. PGT-A could screen out aneuploid embryos and could determine chromosomally normal embryos, which were more likely to result in successful pregnancy. This is of great significance to the women who are past the age of 35 where their chances of several chromosomal abnormalities are very high hence the risk of miscarriage is high too. Implantation and maintenance of pregnancy may be

influenced by such structural problems as fibroids, polyps, or thin endometrium. Information about the thickness of the uterus lining, the flow patterns of the blood in your body, and anatomical defects is important prior to the embryo transfer. These problems can be identified with the help of imaging devices such as hysteroscopy or sonohysterography. Thyroid syndrome and blood clotting disorders are mainly cured with the help of conventional medicine, which consists of the procedure of removal of the thyroid hormones. Recurrent pregnancy loss is known to be caused by thyroid dysfunction, as well



as by such clotting disorders as anti-phospholipid syndrome or thrombophilia not diagnosed previously. These risks can be administered through simple blood tests, and when intervention is made early, the drug can highly benefit the outcome. Each person is distinct and IVF is not a treatment that fits all. Where you monitor the personal reactions made by your body this could be the way you consistently react to the stimulation medication to the manner your lining accumulates so that you as well as your doctor would adjust the protocols to achieve optimal results.

A neurologist discusses how daily routines impair brain health and how screen time contributes to sleep loss

Our always-on lifestyle is taking a hidden toll, not just on our energy levels, but on our brain health. Long days, never-ending digital alerts, and the urge to stay linked the whole time wear the brain down. Over months and years, this can pile up and boost the odds of bigger problems: fading memory, scattered attention, and in the worst cases, strokes or the creeping shadow of dementia. "Today's world moves fast, and our minds are feeling the heat," says Dr. Nasli R. Ichaporia, Director of Neurology at Sahyadri Super Speciality Hospital, Pune. What seems like harmless scrolling or

late-night work sprints can, over time, chip away at cognitive clarity, memory, and even mental resilience. "Even little things, like zoning out at a screen for too long, can lead to sore eyes and a foggy feeling," adds Dr. Ichaporia. "Over months and years, this can pile up and boost the odds of bigger problems." Dr. Ichaporia shares how common habits are endangering brain health and simple changes that can help reverse the damage. Screens are everywhere, from phones and laptops to TVs, and their overuse is affecting how our brains function. Extended exposure leads to screen fatigue, marked by burning



eyes and mental exhaustion. Blue light messes with sleep cycles, while constant notifications disrupt focus, increase stress, and create digital burnout. Multitasking across apps can even lower creativity and lead

to mental sluggishness by day's end. A sedentary lifestyle does more than impact physical fitness. It directly affects cognitive function. Long hours of sitting slow blood circulation, limiting the brain's access to oxy-

gen and nutrients. This can impair memory and even cause shrinkage of the hippocampus, the brain region essential for learning and comprehension, raising the risk of dementia over time. Modern diets, rich in sugar

and processed food, contribute to chronic inflammation that harms brain cells. A lack of nutrients like omega-3s, B vitamins, and antioxidants further weakens brain signalling and memory. The gut-brain connection is also key: poor diet can disrupt gut health, increasing risks of mood disorders and cognitive decline. Chronic stress isn't just emotional, it's physical. Prolonged stress elevates blood pressure, a major risk factor for strokes. Over time, it causes inflammation and arterial damage, increasing the likelihood of blocked or ruptured vessels in the brain, which can lead to either ischemic or hemor-

rhagic strokes. Sleep is vital for memory consolidation and cognitive clarity. But late-night screen use and work habits are cutting into vital rest. Without proper sleep, the brain's ability to file memories and process information is weakened, leaving us forgetful, foggy, and mentally fatigued. Brain health doesn't need drastic measures. Take regular screen breaks using the 20-20-20 rule, move daily, eat whole foods, prioritise sleep, and manage stress mindfully. And don't skip routine health checks – keeping your blood pressure, cholesterol, and sugar levels in check helps protect the brain long-term.

Is It Only a Fever? Identifying Chikungunya's Warning Signs This Monsoon

Once considered a fading threat, chikungunya is making an unsettling return across several parts of India and beyond. The virus, transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, is no longer confined to seasonal outbreaks or tropical regions. Today, it's being fuelled by a complex mix of climate change, urban overcrowding, and increased human mobility. Doctors and public health experts are raising red flags as cases resurface in both familiar and new locations. "Chikungunya is re-emerging mainly on account of climate change, vector proliferation, urban congestion and human mobility," warns Dr. Subhashree Samantaray, Consultant, Infectious Diseases & Adult Immunisation, Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall have expanded mosquito habitats, while rapid urbanisation, poor sanitation, and improper water storage in cities create ideal breeding conditions for Aedes mosquitoes – the primary vectors for the virus. Further compounding the issue is the importation of the virus by infected travellers into new areas,

especially where competent vectors like Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus are already active. The European CDC has already linked the 2025 resurgence of chikungunya to such international transmissions. The symptoms of chikungunya begin with sudden fever, debilitating joint pain, headache, rash, and fatigue. While fever typically lasts less than a week, the joint pain can linger for weeks or even months, affecting quality of life. "Several patients, particularly older individuals, have symptoms similar to chronic arthritis," says Dr. Samantaray. In rare cases, neurologic or cardiac complications can arise. The likelihood of relapse or recurrence varies based on individual, viral, and environmental factors. "A relapse often occurs in immunocompromised or elderly individuals after apparent recovery," she explains. At the community level, factors such as stagnant water, low herd immunity, and ineffective mosquito control accelerate the spread. What's worrying public health officials is the ease with which chikungunya can rebound. "Unlike some infectious diseases, it can't be shut down

between places without sustained efforts," notes Dr. Samantaray. The solution lies in targeted mosquito control- eliminating breeding sites, using repellents and protective clothing, improving waste and water management, and conducting regular fogging in high-risk areas. Although two vaccines have received regulatory approvals in several countries, they are not yet widely available. "The dosing and recommendations are still being standardised," she adds. With its dense population, irregular monsoons, and inconsistent sanitation, India remains particularly vulnerable. "Storing water during supply gaps often leads to inadvertent breeding grounds," she points out. Unless prevention becomes a sustained public health priority, chikungunya is poised to stay and spread. As chikungunya re-emerges with new intensity, it's clear that controlling the disease will take more than seasonal fogging or reactive public health campaigns. Until vaccines become widely accessible and standardised, prevention remains the most powerful defence – starting at home, in neighbourhoods, and in



the way we manage our water, waste, and well-ness.

Monsoon Air Fresheners Humidifiers and Nasal Allergies

The monsoon is a welcome break from the scorching summer heat. But for many, it also brings with it a surge in respiratory issues, particularly nasal allergies. While most people attribute this to the weather or increased mould and dust, there are often overlooked indoor culprits: air fresheners and humidifiers. Dr. (Prof) Amit Kumar, Senior Consultant & Director, ENT, Narayana Hospital Gurugram helps us explore how these seemingly harmless household items may be triggering and worsening your allergy symptoms during the monsoon. Monsoon increases the ambient moisture levels (the level of dampness), which creates a perfect environment for mould, dust mites, and mildew to thrive. These allergens are among the most common triggers for allergic rhinitis, an inflammatory condition of the nasal passages. Symptoms include sneezing, nasal congestion, itchy or watery eyes, and postnasal drip. While external weather is not something we can exercise control over, we can maintain good indoor air quality, which can play a huge role in either alleviating allergy symptoms or worsening them. Air fresheners are commonly used during monsoons to mask musty odours caused by dampness. However, they may be doing more harm than good. Most air fresheners be it sprays, plug-ins, or scented candles release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, formaldehyde, and phthalates. These chemicals can irritate the mucous membranes of the nose, eyes, and throat. For individuals already suffering from allergies or asthma, this can amplify their symptoms significantly. Studies have shown that regular exposure to synthetic fragrances can lead to increased sensitivity in the respiratory tract and, in some cases, chronic nasal congestion. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions are particularly vulnerable. Tip: If you like using air fresheners, choose natural alternatives like essential oils for a diffuser which you can then use sparingly in well-ventilated spaces in your home. Humidifiers are used to balance air quality when the indoor air becomes too dry. Humidity makes the air warmer and the levels usually increase during the monsoon. Hence using humidifiers can be counterproductive to maintaining ambient air quality. Excess humidity (>50-60 per cent) creates a breeding ground for dust mites and mould spores, both of which are powerful nasal allergens. Poorly maintained humidifiers can harbour bacteria and mould. You can prevent them from being released into the air when the device is turned on, by cleaning the humidifiers regularly. This can lead to a condition known as "humidifier fever" caused from inhaling air contaminated by unclean humidifiers which mimics flu-like symptoms and aggravates allergic rhinitis.



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

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



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



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

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

Doctor's Perspective on Sedentary Living

Sedentary lifestyle leads to obesity



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

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

Dr Khura also highlighted what a sedentary lifestyle leads to:

Obesity: A sedentary lifestyle can lead to obesity, due to a lack of movement, which results in low calorie

burning and, as a result, fat deposition. All these can lead to decreased insulin sensitivity and increased risk of diabetes.

High blood pressure: A sedentary lifestyle can also cause an increased risk of high blood pressure and heart disease.

Cancer risk: It has also been seen that cancer risk goes up with prolonged sitting hours.

Bone health: A sedentary lifestyle takes a toll on our bones, making them weaker. Because our bone needs movement to stay strong.

Poor posture: Prolonged sitting also causes back pain and neck pain due to poor posture.

Depression and anxiety: Your mental health also gets affected because of a sedentary lifestyle. It can lead to depression and anxiety.

Humans need solitude

How being alone can make you happier

In Wim Wenders' recent film Perfect Days, the main character, a Tokyo toilet cleaner, spends many of his hours in solitude; watering plants, contemplating, listening to music and reading. While more characters are introduced as the film develops, for many viewers its earlier moments are, indeed, perfect; described by the BBC's own Nicholas Barber as a "meditation on the serenity of an existence stripped to its essentials", it really struck a chord. No wonder. Thoughtful and positive outlooks on solitude have been taking up more and more space on our screens, bookshelves and smartphones, from podcasts to viral TikToks. Seemingly, there's never been a better time to be alone. In the past couple of years, several titles on the topic have been released, with a few more in the works. Solitude: The Science and Power of Being Alone, and Solo: Building a Remarkable Life of Your Own hit the shelves in 2024, and Nicola Slawson's Single: Living a Complete Life on Your Own Terms was published in February. Then last month saw the release of Emma Gannon's much-anticipated novel Table For One; having made her name with non-fiction books questioning traditional ideas of success and productivity, Gannon is now reconsidering modern relationships, in a love story focusing on a young woman finding joy in being alone, rather than with a partner. Later this year, two more self-help guides, The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World and The Joy of Sleeping Alone, are coming out, as well as a paperback, English translation of Daniel Schreiber's Alone: Reflections on Solitary Living, which originally came out in Germany in 2021.

Packed with keen observations and helpful tips, this new wave of books aims not only to destigmatise solitude, but also



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

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

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

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

Why 'doing nothing, intentionally' is good for us

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

tion of the other woman's rationale but an observation on sartoria being used to subtly imprint her gall on the minds of the audience. It's an early and seemingly intentional case study of fashion rebellion.



Kidney cysts vs. kidney tumour

Often kidney cyst and kidney tumour induce the same kind of fear. But according to Dr. Sumit Bansal, consultant – urology, Manipal Hospital Dwarka, New Delhi, they are distinctly different. Dr Sumit Bansal said, "They vary significantly in their nature and implications, even though some of the symptoms overlap. Understanding the distinction between the two conditions is important for early detection." "Kidney cysts are water-filled cavities in the kidney. Simple cysts are not cancerous and usually do not cause any problems, but if the cyst has a solid component or it has septa that get enhanced on contrast CT scan, then these cysts are cancerous," the urologist said. "Kidney tumour is an abnormal growth of tissue arising from the kidneys. In the majority of cases, kidney tumour is asymptomatic and detected incidentally on ultrasound or if a CT scan is done for other reasons, Blood in the urine: This is a symptom of an advanced tumor. Urine may appear pink or red. Sometimes, blood may not be visible to the naked eye.

Pain in the side or the lower back: Persistent pain may occur if the tumor grows large and presses on surrounding tissues. People may also notice a lump in the abdominal region.

Unexplained weight loss: Sudden and unexplained weight loss is often accompanied by fatigue, anaemia, and fever in case of a kidney tumor. Cysts are usually non-cancerous, while solid tumors are usually malignant.

Cysts grow slowly and do not interfere with the surrounding tissue. In contrast, cancerous tumors grow aggressively and may even spread to surrounding tissues. Cysts require no treatment unless symptoms become pronounced, but tumors may require extensive treatment in the form of surgery, like radical or partial nephrectomy (removal of the kidney or part of it), which is frequently needed for tumors.

SPORTS

BSF hosts national golf event Tripura

Agartala: he Tripura government on Sunday organised the first-ever national-level golf tournament, Tripura Open Golf Tournament, at Tusker BSF Golf course, BSF campus, Salbagan, Agartala as part of “Bharat Golf Mahotsava” GFI Tour 2025, as per a press release by the FTR HQ of the Border Security Force While the Governor of Tripura graced the closing ceremony, the Chief Minister presided over the inaugural function. Tinku Roy, Minister of Sports and youth affairs, Govt of Tripura, Aloke Kumar Chakraborty, IG BSF Tripura Frontier, Dignitaries from administration and all walks of public life, Aryavir Arya, founder, Golf Federation of India (



GFI), David Debbarma, President, Tripura Golf Association (TGA), golfers of Tripura, others states, Army, BSF, Assam Rifles, CRPF were present on this occasion. Referring to his long association with BSF and sports, Prof (Dr) Manik Saha, CM, appreciated the efforts of the Tripura Frontier Border Security Force for maintaining such a good golf course full of greenery, marked by valleys, groves, mounds and water bodies, in such a short time. He complimented IG, BSF, and Tripura Frontier for the same. He also appreciated the efforts of the Golf Federation of India (GFI) and the Tripura Golf Association (TGA) for bringing such a major event to Tripura. CM said that organising such events will motivate the youths of Tripura and boost tourism in the state. He congratulated Tuskar BSF Golf Club, Tripura Golf Association, sponsors, organisers, and participants for making the landmark event a grand success with their passion, skills and professionalism. Tripura is naturally a gifted Golf destination, and the initiative taken by the Tripura Frontier BSF fulfilled the State’s aspirations.During the inaugural ceremony, Aloke Kumar Chakraborty, IG BSF Tripur, welcomed the Chief Minister and the Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs.

Organising the first-ever golf tournament at Tuskers BSF Golf Club in Tripura is a historic moment and the beginning of a new era in Tripura. He urged all and sundry, particularly the youth of Tripura, to indulge more and more in the sporting events and to maintain a healthy, wealthy and joyous lifestyle.

Marc Guehi’s Late Goal Lifts Crystal Palace To 4th Place

New Delhi: Crystal Palace moved up to fourth place in the Premier League after defender Marc Guehi scored late in a 2-1 win at Fulham on Sunday. Guehi headed in the winner off a corner in the 87th minute to put Palace in the Champions League spots. Palace overtook Everton and Chelsea and is four points behind third-placed Aston Villa. “I’ll have to ask if we get a bonus if we are fourth in December, I don’t think so,” said Crystal Palace manager Oliver Glasner. The visitors opened the scoring with Eddie Nketiah’s goal in the 20th before Harry Wilson equalized for Fulham in the 38th.

Guwahati Masters: Sankar wins men’s singles title; Tanvi, Roy-Sai finish 2nd

New Delhi: India’s rising star Sankar Saraswat upset the experienced Mithun Manjunath to clinch the men’s single title in the Guwahati Masters Super 100 tournament at the National Centre of Excellence here on Sunday.Sanskar got the better of the experienced Mithun Manjunath 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in an all-Indian men’s final. Saraswat, who is currently ranked 384th in the world, had an incredible run in Guwahati, winning the tournament after defeating Hong Kong’s Jason Gunawan, a player ranked in the top 50 in the qualifiers.He got off to a great start in the final, dominating his senior countryman to win the first game without losing it. After taking a commanding 8-2 lead in the second game, he appeared certain to win in a straight game, but Mithun rallied and won the game to force a decider.Sanskar regained his flow in the third game, winning the opening six points of the decisive match and securing a victory in front of the home crowd.Meanwhile, world junior champion Tanvi Sharma and the men’s doubles combination of Sai Pratheek K and Pruthvi Roy went down in their respective finals. She finished second in the women’s singles final after failing to



convert two close games against Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei. After the 2024 Odisha Masters Super 100 and the 2025 US Open Super 300, this was the current junior world finalist’s third run-ner-up result.After losing the final against the Malaysian duo of Tai and Kang, 13-21, 18-21, the young men’s doubles team of Pruthvi Roy and Sai Pratheek were also placed second.

SMAT qualification scenario 10 teams in contention Four Super League spots

Mumbai: As the group stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 domestic competition enters its home stretch, 10 teams remain in contention for the four Super League spots up for grabs ahead of the final round on Monday.Defending champion Mumbai and Andhra from Group A, along with Jharkhand and Rajasthan from Group D, have already secured their spots in the eight-team Super League phase, which begins on Friday in Pune. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir, with three wins each, only have a slim chance of sneaking through to the next round. Meanwhile, Bihar, the only winless team in the Elite division after six matches, will hope to avoid relegation, along with Himachal Pradesh, Services and Tripura, who all have just one win apiece.The competition



in Group B is wide open, with as many as six teams in the race for a top-two finish in Kolkata. Table-topper Hyderabad, the only team with five wins in the group, is primed to qualify for the next round as it faces a struggling Chandigarh side, which has won just two of its six matches and sits seventh on the eight-team table.

Former cricketer Prasad wins KSCA presidential

Bengaluru: Former Indian cricketer Venkatesh Prasad was elected President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) on Sunday. Former India cricketer Sujith Somasunder has been elected Vice-President, while Santosh Menon has been chosen as Secretary, a post he earlier held from 2019 to 2022. Venkatesh Prasad won the election, defeating K N Shanta Kumar by 191 votes. Prasad secured 749 votes, while Shanta Kumar received 558 votes. Former umpire BK Ravi has been elected as Joint Secretary, winning with 669 votes, while BN Madhukar got the better of MS Vinay for the post of Treasurer, winning with 736 votes. The KSCA elections, which were originally scheduled for November 30,



were deferred. Prasad had voiced his deep shock and disappointment over the abrupt postponement of the elections.

Assam CM honours blind cricketer Simu with Rs. 10 lakh, govt job

Guwahati: In an inspiring moment for Indian sport and social inclusion, India’s blind cricket star Simu Das received financial support and the promise of a government job from the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Assam CM awarded Simu Rs.10 lakh in financial assistance and promised a government job, which is a powerful recognition for a visually impaired woman cricketer who has represented India on the global stage.

Simu, a B1 (totally blind) category cricketer, was part of the Indian blind women’s cricket team that made the nation proud by winning the first-ever Blind Women’s T20 World Cup. The Chief Minister’s announcement marks one of the most significant gestures of state support extended to a visually impaired



woman sportsperson in the history of Indian blind cricket, which reinforces the message that excellence, courage, and contribution to sport will be recognised, regardless of physical limitations. Simu’s journey is nothing short of extraordinary. She was born completely blind and grew up in extreme hardship. Her mother shouldered the entire responsibility of the family. With no permanent home and constant financial

instability, Simu also carries the responsibility of a brother who is both blind and deaf. Despite circumstances that could have broken her spirit, she chose resilience and went on to represent the nation at the highest level of blind cricket.Simu Das’s story now stands as a symbol of what is possible when courage meets opportunity, reminding the world that true vision comes from determination, not eyesight

IND v SA ODI series Review Ro-Ko brilliance bandaids India’s morale but big questions

New Delhi: India’s ODI fortunes have been quite favourable in the last few years. A runner-up finish in the last World Cup and triumphs in the Asia Cup and Champions Trophy, however, are all well in the distant past in age of short attention spans. The 0-2 Test drubbing at the hands of South Africa meant that the Men in Blue headed into the white-ball leg seeing red.Funnily, in the span of a week, a 2-1 ODI series triumph and some replays of vintage classics from two men who have been the faces of Indian cricket’s highest highs this generation, have suddenly brought the smiles back on the faces of fans. The larger-than-life figures that are Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma gave



antsy Indian fans plenty to savour. The 40s might be fast approaching, but this pair has shown no signs of slowing down with a series haul of 302 runs and 146 runs, respectively. Their intentions to be in the reck-

oning for the 2027 World Cup are clear with their decision to feature in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer’s absence due to injury was barely felt with India’s incredible white ball

A 2-1 ODI series triumph and some replays of vintage classics from two men who have been the faces of Indian cricket’s highest highs this generation, have suddenly brought the smiles back on the faces of fans.

batting depth once again on display. Yashasvi Jaiswal, all of one ODI old, grabbed his chance with aplomb. After two matches where he seemed extra eager to make a mark, Jaiswal showed maturity to choose patience over passion as he rang in his maiden century in the format. a win in the second. That too turned in India’s favour in the decider in Visakhapatnam to put a neat blue bow on the series.

Jaiswal’s maiden ODI ton help India thrash SA by 9 wkts

New Delhi: Yashasvi Jaiswal reeled off an unbeaten maiden ODI hundred, carrying India to a nine-wicket victory in the third and final one-dayer and a 2-1 series win gainst South Africa here on Saturday. It was always a case of the margin of victory once Jaiswal (116 not out, 121 balls) and his senior opening partner Rohit Sharma (75, 73 balls) stitched 155 runs in 25.5 overs, and it turned precisely so as India finished with 271 for one in 39.5 overs, chasing 271. Virat Kohli contributed a classy 65 not out off 45 deliveries.Quinton de Kock made a refined 106 off 89 balls, his 23rd ton in ODIs, but it remained a shiny footnote as Indian batters dictated the course with authority.Jaiswal was not comfortable initially in his innings but the assured presence of Rohit at the other end was a massive blessing for him. Rohit guided the understudy, who was playing only his fourth ODI, through some early turbulent phases, and also did the bulk of the scoring.

The 38-year-old reached his fifty in 54 balls, tranquil by his standards but those patented, magical swivel pull shots, three of them sailed for sixes, lent the innings a touch of aggression. It enabled Jaiswal to collect runs unhurriedly, and walked to fifty in 75 balls. But once he reached his fifty, the left-hander grew in confidence and opened a lot more, unbuckling some of those drives and cuts that he carefully avoided in the early phase of his innings.



Rohit, who became the fourth Indian batter to reach 20000 international runs during his knock after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Kohli, looked set for another hundred.But an ill-timed sweep off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj cut short his stay. But that didn’t deter Jaiswal, who, accompanied by Kohli, kept India’s innings moving.

The 23-year-old reached the coveted three-figure mark in 111 balls with a single off pacer Corbin Bosch and immediately tore his helmet away to slip into an energetic celebration a combination of sprint, jump, roar and punch in the air. Jaiswal and a typically assertive Kohli added 156 runs for the second wicket as India calmly went past the target to whip some frenzy among a nearly 27000-strong crowd.

Silver on ISSF World Cup Final Simranpreet wins 25m pistol gold, Tomar clinches 3P silver

New Delhi: Young Simranpreet Kaur Brar overcame a challenging field to win the women’s 25m pistol gold while men’s 50m rifle 3-position exponent Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar bagged a silver on ISSF World Cup Final debut here on Sunday, completing a full set of medals at all possible world and continental championships in the sport.Simranpreet, whose father left his government job to support his daughter, did her parents proud with biggest achievement of her career by shooting a superb 41 in the final, equalling the World junior record in the process.The other Indian to qualify for the eight-shooter final, Esha Singh finished seventh. Double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker could not make the final after finishing ninth in the qualification round with a score of 581. In the qualification round 21-year-old Simranpreet, who had won a silver at the World Cup in Lima earlier this year, shot 585, while Esha tallied 585 to finish fifth and fourth respectively and make the final.

Simranpreet began slowly, missing three targets in the first series of five shots to slip to eighth, and last, position.But she rallied thereafter and fired three perfect 5s in the competition to jump to the China’s ace shooter and reigning 10m air pistol world champion Yao Qianxun, who finished a distant second with 36 points, and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp of Germany who took the bronze. In men’s 50m rifle 3-positions, Aishwary finished 0.9 points behind Czechia’s Jiri Privratsky, who shot 414.2 in the final played in the new ISSF format of 40 shots. Olympic champion Liu Yukun won bronze.Aishwary, who is a double Olympian, former junior world champion, and reigning Asian champion, has also won a silver in the World Championship last month.Aishwary shot 595 in qualification to finish second behind China’s Tian Jiaming who blazed the Lusail shooting ranges with a world record 598. Privratsky meanwhile was charting a course of his own, 3.3 ahead of Aishwary at the stage.



Olympic champion Liu was third with 20 standing position shots still to be played.Aishwary then out-gunned Privratsky over the next 10 shots to bring the difference down to 1.5. After the 31st, it went down to 0.5 as Privratsky was finding it difficult to get into the 10-ring.Peni and Tian were first to exit the final as Aishwary went into the lead after the 33rd shot.The young Frenchman Romain Aufrere then lost the battle for bronze with the Olympic champion, as Privratsky caught up with Aishwary and went 0.5 ahead again

after the 37th shot with a couple of high 10s, as the Indian faltered a bit. The gap was however a mere 0.3 ahead of the final two shots and Aishwary fired a 10.1 to the Czech’s 10.3 and then a 10.6 for his 40th, putting Privratsky decisively ahead to land gold, his third ISSF yellow metal of the year.Aishwary too ended the year on a strong note after a barren first half. It was also India’s fourth medal of the event in Doha. Sift Kaur Samra in the women’s 3P shot 584 in her relay to finish 10th and failing to qualify for the final.