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BRIEF NEWS



Rahul Gandhi's Citizenship

New Delhi
The Allahabad High Court has asked the Union Home Ministry to take a decision on the representation filed by a citizen raising questions about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Indian citizenship.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde resigns

Mumbai
Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde resigns, asked by Governor to serve at caretaker CM for the time being.



Assam CM calls on Governor

Guwahati
Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday called on Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya at the Raj Bhavan here and apprised him of the progress of various developmental and welfare schemes of the state.

Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire



Tel Aviv
In a significant development in West Asia, Israel has agreed to a ceasefire with Lebanon. The agreement comes into effect at midnight (Israel time) on November 27.

Shinde falls in line, decks clear for BJP CM in Maharashtra

Mumbai

Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde on Wednesday said that he has left the decision to decide the next Maharashtra Chief Minister to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership. "I have told PM Modi that I would not be an obstacle. We will go with whatever he decides," Shinde said while addressing a press conference in Thane.

After Shinde's indication to accept the BJP high command's decision about the Maharashtra government, sources told India Today TV that the chances of Devendra Fadnavis to become the new Chief Minister is almost clear.

The leaders of Mahayuti have been summoned to Delhi for a meeting with the BJP leadership to break the deadlock. Despite the



BJP-led Mahayuti alliance securing a massive victory, winning 230 seats in the 288-member Assembly, the uncertainty over who will occupy the top post has raged on.

Eknath Shinde, while addressing a press conference in Thane, said that he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and assured him full support in forming the Maharashtra government.

"I spoke to PM Modi and told him not to consider me an obstacle while making

any decision regarding government formation in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena will support whatever decision the BJP's high command will take about forming a government. You (PM Modi) are the head of our family. The way the people of BJP accept your decision, we will also accept your decision in the same way. I made a phone call to PM Modi and HM Amit Shah yesterday and told them that there will be no problem in forming the government because of me." Shinde said.

PM Modi Slams Congress Ahead Of Winter Session

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched an all-out attack on Congress, saying those who were "repeatedly rejected by people disrespect Parliament and democracy". Addressing the media ahead of the start of the winter session of Parliament, he said he was "hoping for healthy discussions".

"Unfortunately, some people who have been rejected by the public for their political interests are constantly trying to control the Parliament with the hooliganism of a handful of people. The people of the country count all their actions and when the time comes, they also punish them," he said two days after the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) took a massive drubbing in the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

"Those who have been

continuously rejected by the people 80-90 times do not allow discussions to take place in the Parliament," he added.

The BJP-led Mahayuti coalition on Saturday registered a landslide victory in the Maharashtra elections, clinching 235 seats and reducing the MVA to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member House.

PM Modi said the Opposition neither respects the spirit of democracy nor understands the importance of people's aspirations.

"They have no responsibility towards them, they are unable to understand them and the result is that they never live up to the expectations of the people," he said. He also said the important parts of the Constitution are the Parliament and the MPs and that there should be "healthy discussions" in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.



Supreme Court Dismisses Claims of EVM Tampering

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated a level of hypocrisy attached to criticism about Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), saying "EVMs are tampered when you lose and fine if you win".

The oral remark was made by Justice Vikram Nath before dismissing a petition filed by evangelist K.A. Paul, who sought a judicial order to return to paper ballots.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday (November 26, 2024) indicated a level of hypocrisy attached to criticism about Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), saying "EVMs are tampered when you lose and fine if you win".

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K.A. Paul, who sought a judicial order to return to paper ballots.

Justice Nath, during the hearing, asked Mr. Paul whether he wanted to turn the court into a political arena.

Mr. Paul said he was not playing any politics in court. He said his visits abroad to various countries revealed that the paper ballot system was being followed in democracies across the world.

The evangelist, appearing in person, said the Election Commission of India must be directed to disqualify candidates found distributing largesse, money, liquor during elections for at least five years.

Mahayuti sweeps Maharashtra, oppn INDIA to bag Jharkhand

Mumbai/Ranchi

Maharashtra was coloured a vivid saffron on Saturday with voters giving the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance a landslide win over a tottering MVA while the opposition INDIA bloc looked set to return to power in Jharkhand.

As votes were counted for the assembly elections in the two states, it was time for celebration in the BJP with the party poised to win 125 of the 149 seats it contested in the powerhouse state of Maharashtra. Together with its partners Shiv Sena and NCP, the ruling Mahayuti alliance could win 219 of the 288 seats in the state, leaving the Congress-Shiv Sena(UBT)-NCP(SP) tie-up with just 51 seats.

As the opposition reeled under the impact of the decisive mandate against it in Maharashtra,



Jharkhand offered some consolation with voters in both states going for continuity rather than change.

In the 81-seat Jharkhand assembly, the BJP was ahead in 27 seats, while the Chief Minister Hemant Soren-led JMM was leading in 30 seats, the Congress in 14, the RJD in four and the CPI-ML in one, according to the Election Commission website.

"We are going to get the reward for the work we did... and also for the manner in which we remained connected to the public. What can be seen

in trends, we can say that we are going to form the govt again and the fulfil the promises we made," Congress leader Rajesh Thakur told PTI Videos as the INDIA bloc neared victory in Jharkhand.

"I thank everybody for this victory. We have such a big victory because of the work Mahayuti did. Very grateful," Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told reporters while his alliance colleagues attributed the stunning win to welfare schemes such as the Laadli Behna scheme.

President's rule needed in Manipur to address ethnic violence: Mizoram MP

Aizawl

K Vanlalvena, the lone Rajya Sabha member from Mizoram, has called for the imposition of President's rule in Manipur to address the ongoing ethnic violence in the state. The violence, which erupted in May last year, has claimed more than 250 lives.

Vanlalvena, a member of the Mizo National Front



(MNF), emphasized that imposing President's rule is "the need of the hour" to restore peace and stability

in the state. He highlighted that direct intervention by the central government would be crucial in bringing the situation under control and ending the ongoing unrest.

The plea for President's rule comes as ethnic clashes continue to devastate Manipur, further escalating concerns about the state's security and governance.

Mild Quake Hits North District in Tripura

A 3.6-magnitude earthquake struck the Damcherra area of Tripura's North District early Monday morning, as centred by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The tremor occurred at 3:56 am at a depth of 10 km, with its epicentre located at 24.20°N latitude and 92.27°E longitude. Damcherra, situated near Tripura's interstate border with Assam and Mizoram, experienced mild shaking, but no damages or casualties have been reported so far, according to local sources.

Two Arrested in Mizoram for Violating Firecracker Ban

Aizawl

The Mizoram government has intensified its enforcement against illegal fireworks and pyrotechnic materials ahead of Christmas and New Year celebrations. Mizoram police, on Monday, raided a godown in Aizawl and seized a large quantity of banned items, including firecrackers, sky lanterns, and toy guns with dischargeable pellets, valued at over ₹9.1 lakh.

The godown, located in the Dawrpui locality, was owned by Sahidul Alam (28), originally from Karimganj, Assam. Following the raid, Alam was



arrested, and a case was registered under Section 223 of the BNS, based on a complaint by Aizawl District Magistrate Lalhriatpuia.

Further investigation led to the arrest of another individual, Lalthawmmawia (34) from Chawlhmun locality. He was found to have imported and stored additional banned materials worth Rs 1.2 lakh. The crackdown comes in response to a prohibitory order issued by the Mizoram government

CM Pema Khandu lays foundation of two projects over Rs 105 crore

He also announced the establishment of a new convention centre and a football academy in the district.

Namsai

Chief Minister Pema Khandu today laid the foundation stones for two significant projects in Namsai district: an augmentation of the water supply system with a capacity of 7.80 million liters per day (MLD) and a multi-sports facility and outdoor stadium.

The projects, valued at Rs 105 crores, aim to bolster the district's infrastructure and promote its rapid development.

Hailing Namsai as one of the fastest-growing districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Khandu praised the local community for their cooperative approach in resolving issues related to development projects.

"Kudos to all stakeholders, the hardworking locals, dedicated officers, and visionary leadership for making Namsai a beacon of progress in the state," he remarked.

Responding to requests from local legislators, Khandu outlined a vision to transform Namsai into a center of learning and excellence. He announced



Arunachal CM lays foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 105 crore in Namsai

plans to establish a medical college, a nursing college, and a fishery college in the district. Additionally, he pledged the development of a new convention center and a football academy, further boosting the district's prospects.

Drawing attention to the issue of drug abuse prevalent in the region, Khandu appealed for collective action. He urged community leaders, elders, civil-based organizations, and student groups to partner with the government in tackling the menace. "The state government has a comprehensive Act to combat substance abuse, but the support of every member of society is crucial in saving our youth," he emphasized.

Highlighting the poten-

tial of Arunachal's youth, Khandu stressed the importance of providing platforms for positive engagement. He cited the ongoing Arunachal Rang Mahotsava as an example of nurturing talent and diverting attention from harmful activities.

As part of the state's push for sports development, Khandu, also the President of the Arunachal Pradesh Football Association (APFA), announced plans to collaborate with the North East United Football Club to run two football academies. These academies, to be established at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia and the proposed football stadium in Namsai, aim to nurture young athletes and promote sports.

BSF Combatants Assist In Emergency Fire Incident, Safeguard Border Village

Guwahati

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Assam's Bhogdore village swiftly responded to a fire emergency, evacuating residents and preventing the blaze from spreading to neighboring homes. The prompt action of the BSF troops ensured no casualties and limited damage to one house.

The fire broke out at around 9:45 AM at the residence of Najrul Hoque.

Nizamuddin Ahmed, Vice President of Bhogdore Gram Panchayat, reported the incident, prompting an immediate response from BSF troops of the 19 Battalion, BOP Bhogdore, who rushed to the scene with firefighting



equipment. BSF personnel evacuated children, elderly individuals, and women from nearby kucha houses, while another team worked to extinguish the fire using available tools.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the BSF and local villagers, the fire was brought under control within 30 minutes, preventing it from damaging 14 nearby houses. The affected house sustained only minor damage, and no injuries were reported.

7 More Arrested in Manipur Arson Case

Imphal

Manipur Police arrested seven more people for causing damage and engaging in arson at the residences of legislators in Imphal Valley on November 16, an official statement said on Sunday.

The arrests were made in the last two days.

From Kakching district, police arrested three persons on Friday, the statement read. From Imphal West district, police arrested four persons on Saturday.

With the arrests, the total number of people who have been arrested for arson at residences of elected members reached 41, the statement added.

Himanta Biswa Sarma hails NDA's wins in Assam, Meghalaya by-polls

Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrated the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) strong performance in recent northeastern by-polls, highlighting victories in both Assam and Meghalaya as significant political gains.

"We have maintained our winning marathon, or winning sprint," Sarma told reporters on November 24, emphasising the BJP's consistent electoral success in Assam. He pointed to these results as crucial indicators ahead of the 2026 state assembly elections.

The Chief Minister stressed the timing of this victory, noting, "This result has given a big boost on the eve of the Assembly election, as the Assem-



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma in a press conference

bly election in Assam will be held in April 2026, and after this, there will be no by-election."

The BJP's success extended beyond Assam's borders, with notable gains in Meghalaya, where Conrad Sangma's party secured victory.

Sarma characterised this as particularly meaningful, stating, "In the backdrop of the Lok Sabha election,

where we were almost routed in Meghalaya, I believe this is a good comeback."

Later, Sarma reinforced the regional success on social media, tweeting about BJP's expanded footprint in Meghalaya during these by-polls. "Not just in Assam, even in Meghalaya BJP has made significant gains in the recently concluded by elections," he wrote on X.

Air India Express expands winter operations with over 105 weekly flights from Guwahati

Guwahati: Air India Express is enhancing its winter flight schedule with a substantial increase in operations from Guwahati, now offering over 105 weekly flights.

This marks a significant rise from the 63 flights last winter, reflecting the airline's strong focus on the region.

The airline's expanded network from Guwahati includes direct connections to key domestic cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Imphal, Jaipur, and Kolkata, along with one-stop

options to 18 more destinations. Dr.

Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer of Air India Express, emphasized, "This expansion is a testament to our commitment to connecting people and boosting the economy of Northeast India.

With a 25% share of the Guwahati market, we're helping drive trade and tourism in the region." Guwahati, poised as a key economic hub, benefits from the increased connectivity, not only facilitating tourism but also

providing businesses with greater access to national and international markets. This surge in flight operations is expected to further solidify Guwahati's position as an essential gateway to Northeast India, making it a crucial point for trade and travel. The airline's winter schedule also sees a rise in total flight operations across its network, offering over 400 daily flights, with new routes and increased frequencies to international destinations like Abu Dhabi, Muscat, and Singapore.

Air India Express expands operations from Agartala to strengthen northeast connectivity

Agartala: Air India Express has ramped up its operations from Agartala, increasing its weekly flights from 14 to 21 as part of its winter schedule. The expanded frequency includes additional flights on the Agartala-Kolkata route, enhancing connectivity for the region. This move follows the airline's addition of Agartala as a station in September 2024 and is part of its larger network expansion, which now includes daily flights linking Agartala to key hubs such as Guwahati, Delhi, and Kolkata. Dr. Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer of Air India Express, highlighted that the increased flights would not only support regional economic growth but also boost trade and tourism. "Our expanded oper-

ations will connect Agartala with a wider range of destinations, facilitating seamless travel for both business and leisure travelers," said Dr. Garg. From Agartala, the airline now operates 21 weekly flights, directly linking the city to Guwahati and Kolkata, while also offering one-stop connectivity to destinations like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, and Indore. The Agartala market, with its growing demand for improved connectivity, is set to benefit from these enhanced services, helping local businesses and tourism flourish. This expansion is part of Air India Express' broader strategy to grow its network, now operating more than 400 daily flights across India.

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder crosses 1 lakh sales milestone in India, strengthens hybrid adoption

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has proudly announced that its Urban Cruiser Hyryder has achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 1,00,000 units in sales in India. Launched in July 2022, the Hyryder has quickly gained strong market acceptance, particularly for its advanced hybrid technology, which aligns with the growing demand for sustainable mobility solutions in the Indian automotive landscape.

The Urban Cruiser Hyryder offers three distinct powertrains: the Self-Charging Hybrid Electric (SHEV), Neo Drive, and CNG variants, with the hybrid model leading the charge, offering an impressive fuel efficiency of up to 27.97 km/l*. Its seamless



performance, cutting-edge technology, and superior comfort make it a preferred choice among urban and rural drivers alike.

The Hyryder's popularity has surged due to its efficient hybrid powertrain, which is ideal for the city's hilly terrain and environ-

mentally conscious consumers. The AWD option in the Neo Drive powertrain also appeals to those seeking power and versatility for the region's diverse driving conditions. Commenting on this achievement,

Sabari Manohar, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, TKM, said, "This milestone underscores our commitment to meeting the evolving preferences of Indian customers and advancing sustainable mobility solutions."

NESFB's merger with slice sparks innovation, strengthens northeast banking landscape

Guwahati: North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) has merged with slice, marking a significant milestone in the region's financial ecosystem. Completed on October 27, 2024, this merger combines NESFB's deep regional presence with slice's innovative technology, creating a new force in banking that is poised to drive financial inclusion and digital transformation in Northeast India. With a strong Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 23.5% and a net worth of ₹920 crores, NESFB is positioned for rapid growth and scalability. The bank's improved financial health is also reflected in the reduction of

its Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) to 4.6%, showcasing its commitment to financial discipline and robust risk management.

This merger brings an exciting opportunity for innovation in banking. NESFB's adoption of slice's tech-driven solutions will empower local consumers with seamless digital banking experiences, offering easy access to essential financial products. As the demand for accessible and inclusive banking rises, NESFB is set to redefine financial services in the Northeast, making banking more efficient, transparent, and inclusive for communities across the region.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor celebrates 1 lakh units sold of Innova HyCross in India

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has marked a significant achievement by crossing the milestone of 1,00,000 wholesale units of the Innova HyCross in India, just two years after its launch in November 2022. This achievement underscores the growing popularity of the model, which has garnered trust and admiration from customers across the country, including in tier 2 and 3 markets. The Innova HyCross, built on Toyota's advanced Global Architecture (TNGA), combines cutting-edge hybrid technology with Toyota's renowned Quality, Durability, and Reliability (QDR). Powered by a 5th Generation Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric System, the vehicle delivers an impressive power output of 186 PS while offering best-in-

class fuel efficiency. The model's hybrid system al-

Cross continues to deliver exceptional performance,



allows it to operate in electric mode for up to 60% of the time, making it a top choice for customers seeking a balance between performance and environmental consciousness. Commenting on the milestone, Sabari Manohar, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, expressed gratitude to customers for their support, noting that the Hy-

efficiency, and luxury. The Innova HyCross has seen growing interest due to its versatile features, such as powered Ottoman second-row seats, dual-zone air conditioning, and Toyota Safety Sense. This makes it an appealing choice for families looking for comfort and innovation, cementing its position as a leader in the segment across diverse Indian markets.

AllcargoGati launches fastest direct air express service to Imphal and Varanasi

Imphal: AllcargoGati Limited, a leading player in India's express logistics sector, has launched its fastest direct air delivery service to Imphal and Varanasi from key metro cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, and Kolkata. This strategic move aims to provide businesses in these regions with quicker, more efficient connectivity, meeting the growing demands for time-sensitive shipments.

The service is now connected to 34 commercial airports nationwide, offering rapid deliveries and supporting industries with end-to-end logistics solutions. By enabling multiple cut-off times, late pickups, and next-day delivery options, AllcargoGati continues to set new industry standards

for speed and reliability.

The launch of direct air delivery to Imphal is expected to have a significant impact on the local market, improving trade efficiency and opening new avenues for businesses. Local enterprises will benefit from faster access to goods from major cities, enhancing their ability to meet customer demands and reduce inventory costs. This could also boost Imphal's standing as a key business hub in the region. Uday Sharma, Chief Commercial Officer, stated, "Our Air Express service empowers businesses to improve operational efficiency and expand their reach." With this expansion, AllcargoGati strengthens its commitment to offering scalable logistics solutions tailored to businesses of all sizes across India.

HMD Fusion: The next-gen smartphone with customizable "Smart Outfits" – available at special launch price of ₹15,999

Shillong: HMD has launched its groundbreaking smartphone, the HMD Fusion, which combines high-tech features with personalization like never before. The device introduces "Smart Outfits," customizable add-ons that transform both the phone's design and functionality. The Fusion is available in three outfits: Casual, Flashy, and Gaming, each designed to cater to various needs from gaming to



content creation. At the heart of the HMD

Fusion is its 108MP dual main camera and a 50MP front-facing camera, offering impressive photography capabilities with Night Mode 3.0 and advanced selfie features. Powered by the Snapdragon® 4 Gen 2 processor, the Fusion provides smooth performance with 8GB RAM and up to 256GB expandable storage. The phone also boasts a long-lasting 5000mAh battery and a 6.56" HD+ display with a 90Hz refresh

rate. What sets the Fusion apart is its Gen 2 reparability design, allowing users to easily repair the device, reducing e-waste. HMD's collaboration with Digital Turbine and Aptoide brings a seamless gaming experience, with exclusive games for the Gaming Outfit. Available at a special launch price of ₹15,999 (down from ₹17,999), the HMD Fusion will be available on Amazon starting November 29.

Tata AIA Life Insurance app achieves 1 million downloads milestone

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance has marked a major milestone with its mobile app surpassing 1 million downloads. This achievement underscores the company's strong focus on digital innovation and customer satisfaction. The app, which has earned stellar ratings of 4.7 on Android and 4.6 on iOS, enables users to manage their life insurance policies with ease, anytime, anywhere.

Offering more than 60 services, including premium payments, claim tracking, portfolio updates, and instant loans, the app is a key part of Tata AIA's digital strategy. The app also provides industry-first features like real-time customer service and health and wellness services, such as

virtual consultations and emotional wellness support, contributing to a holistic customer experience.

In Guwahati, the app has resonated strongly with consumers seeking convenient, digital-first solutions to manage their life insurance needs. As the market in Guwahati increasingly embraces digital tools, Tata AIA's app positions itself as a go-to platform, providing a seamless experience in line with local demand for accessible and efficient services. Tata AIA's commitment to enhancing the customer journey through digital innovation is evident in its impressive customer satisfaction score and a robust 97% Straight Through Processing ratio for FY24, ensuring swift and efficient service delivery.

Super.money launches SuperFD, offers up to 9.5% returns via UPI



KYC. All FDs on SuperFD are insured up to ₹5,00,000 by the DICGC, ensuring safety alongside competitive returns. Prakash Sikaria, Founder & CEO of Super.money, said, "SuperFD combines the ease of UPI with attractive FD rates to redefine savings. This aligns with the RBI's vision of making deposits appealing for the modern investor." Guwahati, a key emerging market for fintech adoption, stands to benefit significantly from SuperFD. With its low entry point and high returns, the product is an ideal savings solution for the city's growing pool of young professionals and entrepreneurs seeking secure and rewarding financial tools. SuperFD is the latest addition to Super.money's suite of UPI offerings, including superUPI and superCard, aiming to bridge India's credit and deposit growth gap while offsetting inflation.

Guwahati: Super.money has unveiled SuperFD, a pioneering fixed deposit (FD) product leveraging UPI for a fully digital and paperless investment experience. In partnership with leading small finance banks, users can now open FDs on the app with amounts starting at ₹1,000 and earn interest rates of up to 9.5%. This industry-first initiative targets India's young, digitally-savvy investors, providing an easy onboarding process that takes under two minutes, complete with eKYC and optional video

Quality assurance drives milk purchases, reveals Godrej Jersey's Milk Report

Guwahati: A new report nai (31%), with unadulterated milk being a significant purchase driver, especially in Mumbai and Pune (33%). Bhupendra



by Godrej Jersey underscores that quality remains the top priority for over half (54%) of Indian consumers when purchasing milk. Released ahead of National Milk Day on November 26, the study highlights a surge in consumer readiness to increase milk consumption if assured of its quality and safety. Titled "Bottoms Up...India Says Cheers to Milk!", the survey offers insights into evolving consumer preferences across cities like Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, and Kolkata. Hygiene was identified as a key factor in cities such as Pune and Chen-

Suri, CEO of Godrej Jersey, noted that the findings emphasize the enduring relevance of the White Revolution's principles—quality, transparency, and consumer trust—today. In Guwahati, similar trends are observed, with local consumers prioritizing quality and transparency when purchasing milk. With growing concerns over milk adulteration, the demand for premium, hygienically sourced milk has risen, reflecting a broader regional shift towards ensuring the safety and quality of dairy products. This trend mirrors the increasing importance of trusted brands in the Guwahati market.

Infosys Employees To Get 90% Performance Bonus For Q2 FY25



Bengaluru: Infosys employees are in for some happy news as the IT bellwether company has announced 90 percent of performance bonuses to eligible employees for the second quarter of FY25.

Reports published in both Business Standard and Economic Times have said that the bonus is applicable to mid to junior levels employees.

Although the average performance bonus is 90 percent, the percentage payout will differ based on individual performance. Furthermore, the bonus will also be independent of Infosys' return to office policy, both the financial daily reported.

"In Q2, we delivered a strong performance with broad-based growth, reinforcing our market lead-

ership. This success is a result of your unwavering dedication, our strategic focus on margin performance, and our industry-leading expertise in Cloud and Generative AI. Your commitment has been critical in building our capabilities and delivering exceptional value to our clients. Thank you for your invaluable contributions, and we look forward to a future full of endless possibilities with you," ET quoted the email as saying.

Infosys posted consolidated net profit of Rs 6,506 crore in July-September -- the second quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year. It was 4.7 percent higher than the year-ago earnings and 2.2 percent more than the net profit in the preceding quarter, according to a company statement.

Vi's strategic network expansion: 100 towers added every hour, strengthens India's digital infrastructure

Mumbai: Vi has reached a significant milestone in its network expansion strategy, achieving the goal of adding 100 towers every hour. This accomplishment is central to its ongoing 'Be Someone's We' campaign, aimed at enhancing connectivity across the country, especially in underserved and challenging regions. The campaign, launched during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, un-



derscores Vi's commitment to improving network reliability and fostering connections across diverse environments, from urban centers to remote areas.

The campaign's TVCs highlight scenarios where Vi's advanced network makes a difference, such as a birthday celebration conducted over a video call in an underground metro, demonstrating how Vi's infrastructure overcomes connectivity barriers. From an economic perspective, the expansion will have a far-reaching impact, particularly in regions like Guwahati. As a grow-

ing commercial and educational hub in Northeast India, Guwahati is seeing increased demand for reliable telecom services, especially in sectors such as e-commerce, digital services, and education. Vi's enhanced network will not only cater to consumers but also provide businesses in the region with the robust infrastructure needed to thrive in an increasingly digital economy.

Ekart achieves 8X growth in supply chain monetization, revolutionizes India's logistics sector

Bengaluru: Bengaluru, November 25, 2024: Ekart, India's leading 4PL supply chain company, has achieved an impressive 8X growth over the last three years by monetizing its robust logistics network. With a daily capacity exceeding 6 million shipments, Ekart's network now spans 98% of Indian postal codes, backed by 50+ million cubic feet of warehousing and a fleet of 7,000 trucks. This has enabled significant improvements in delivery efficiency, with a 30% in-

crease in Day-2 deliveries and a 40% expansion in zonal coverage for e-commerce brands. In addition to e-commerce, Ekart has diversified into offering comprehensive document delivery solutions for financial institutions, bolstering its position as a trusted partner for enterprise supply chain needs. Ekart's client base has expanded by 10X, outpacing the logistics industry's typical 5-10% growth rate. The impact on regional markets, such as Siliguri, has been notable. Local businesses

in Siliguri now benefit from Ekart's extended reach and faster delivery capabilities, allowing them to meet rising consumer demand and streamline their supply chain operations. Ekart's end-to-end solutions, including PTL, FTL, and refurbishment, have also helped partners optimize their supply chains, improving conversions by 3-4% and reducing costs by 10-12%. With a focus on scalability and efficiency, Ekart continues to drive innovation in India's logistics sector.

DSP Mutual Fund announce the launch of the DSP Business Cycle Fund

Mumbai: DSP Mutual Fund has announced the launch of the DSP Business Cycle Fund, an open-ended equity following business cycles-based investing theme. This fund provides investors with the opportunity to invest across various market capitalizations, including large, mid and small cap companies. The investment strategy focuses on dynamically allocating assets to industries and sectors that exhibit strong growth potential, improving fundamentals, and attractive valuations. The DSP Business Cycle Fund employs a framework-driven approach to select industries and companies with high growth or turnaround potential. It allows for active allocation to sectors during upcy-

cles while also implementing cash calls and other risk management strategies. By focusing on identifying strong industry cycles, the fund offers an unconstrained investment approach across market capitalizations, enabling investors to participate in growth opportunities regardless of company size. "Timing entry and exit of themes can be tricky for investors on their own and may sometimes lead to errors. Redeploying capital after exiting a sector also calls for a thorough evaluation," said Charanjit Singh, Fund Manager, DSP Mutual Fund. The New Fund Offer (NFO) for the DSP Business Cycle Fund will open for subscription on November 27, 2024, and will close on December 11, 2024.

Godrej Professional launches spotlight to empower India's salon talent

Guwahati: Godrej Professional, a leading brand under Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), has introduced Godrej Professional Spotlight, a platform designed to showcase the creativity of India's hairstyling community. Partnering with the Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council (B&WSSC), the initiative aims to upskill 30 shortlisted hairstylists while awarding up to ₹5 lakh in funding to winners. The grand finale, scheduled for December in Mumbai, will feature curated hair shows judged by industry icons, including celebrity stylist Gianni Tsapatori. First, second,



and third-place winners will receive ₹5 lakh, ₹2.5 lakh, and ₹1.5 lakh, respectively, along with opportunities for advanced training and celebrity collaborations. In Guwahati, where the salon industry is expanding with increasing consumer aspirations, initiatives like this could be transformative. "Programs like Spotlight offer stylists a chance to hone their skills and ca-

ter to the city's growing demand for premium hair care services," noted a Guwahati-based salon owner. Abhinav Grandhi, General Manager of GCPL, highlighted the initiative's inclusivity, encouraging participation from stylists with disabilities. Monica Bahl, CEO of B&WSSC, emphasized its role in advancing professionalism in the beauty sector.

realme unveils India's first Snapdragon 8 Elite flagship, realme GT 7 Pro

New Delhi: realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, has unveiled the much-anticipated realme GT 7 Pro with India's first Snapdragon 8 Elite Flagship chipset. Each generation of GT is designed with the motto "Born to Exceed", striving to deliver unrivaled performance and push the boundaries of what's possible. The realme GT 7 Pro is a groundbreaking device that boasts several industry firsts. It is the first in India to feature the Snapdragon 8 Elite Flagship chipset, setting new standards for performance and stands out with an impressive Antutu score of 3 million. Commenting on the launch, a realme spokes-



person said, "We are thrilled to introduce the latest addition to our renowned GT series—the realme GT 7 Pro." Commenting on the launch, Saurabh Arora, Business Head, Mobile, Compute, and XR, Qualcomm India, said, "We are thrilled to collaborate with realme on

the launch of their smartphone powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite mobile platform." The realme GT 7 Pro is available in two stunning colors: Mars Orange and Galaxy Grey, and two storage variants: 12GB + 256GB priced at INR 56,999 and 16GB + 512GB priced at INR 62,999.

FBAI and Godrej Vikhroli Cucina honour Visionaries of Indian Food Culture at IFBA 2024

Guwahati: Godrej Vikhroli Cucina, a brand-agnostic food and lifestyle platform by Godrej Industries Group (GIG), in partnership with the Food Bloggers Association of India (FBAI), has proudly hosted the India Food & Beverage Awards 2024 (IFBA) at Seven Rivers, Taj Holiday Village, Goa.

Celebrating India's diverse food ecosystem, the IFBA continues to honour individuals and entities whose exceptional work has shaped and redefined the food and culinary industry.

The 2024 IFBA recognized talent across 11 main categories, encompassing 33 sub-categories, including Facebook, Instagram, Blog, YouTube, Media, Hospitality, Public Voting, FBAI Star, Industry Support, Education, PR Agency, and Contribution to the Hospitality and Culinary Industry.

A total of 155 winners were honoured at this year's ceremony, representing an exciting cross-section of India's thriving food and beverage industry. One of the most anticipated moments of the eve-



ning was the launch of STTEM 2.0, India's Frozen Snacks Report by Godrej Yummiez, unveiled by Mr. Sujit Patil, Chief Communications Officer, Corporate Brand & Communications, Godrej Industries Group, along with Chef Sanjyot Keer, Chef Sabyasachi Gorai, and Kalyan Karmakar.

Speaking on the launch, Abhay Parnerkar, CEO of Godrej Foods Ltd said, "I am excited to present the second edition of the Indian Frozen Snack Report, which explores the evolving snacking culture in India."

Reflecting on the awards, Sujit Patil, Chief Communications Officer, Corporate Brand and Communi-

cations, Godrej Industries Group, said, "Vikhroli Cucina stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing an inclusive and innovative food community.

We're thrilled with our longstanding partnership with the FBAI recognizing the outstanding talent and creativity that defines India's culinary landscape. Honouring these accomplishments drives our shared mission to celebrate and elevate culinary excellence, connecting diverse cultures and flavours from across the country.

Congratulations to all the winners for bringing new dimensions to India's food scene, one inspired dish at a time."

Union Minister Giriraj Singh launches Bihar's largest apparel training and production centre, empowers rural women

Guwahati: Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, inaugurated the Jeevika Didi Training Cum Production Centre in Begusarai, Bihar, a ground-breaking initiative aimed at empowering rural women in the textiles sector. This 10,000 square foot facility, developed in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), NIFT Patna, and five Sector Skill Councils



(SSCs), will provide spe- cialized training in apparel,

textiles, and e-commerce, equipping women to transform raw fabric into globally marketable products. The center also focuses on creating sustainable business opportunities for women by offering financial literacy, digital marketing skills, and advanced production techniques. With the launch of this facility, Begusarai is set to become a hub for women-led entrepreneurship, fostering self-suf-

ficiency and economic empowerment. Guwahati, a growing center for textiles and handicrafts in the Northeast, is witnessing increasing demand for locally made products. The expansion of similar training centers and production units across the region will offer SHGs a direct route to larger markets like Guwahati, where the need for unique, handcrafted goods continues to rise.

Yes Bank to Open 350+ Branches



Mumbai: Yes Bank plans to open 350-400 new branches across the country in next 3-5 years, Rajan Pental, Executive Director, said on Tuesday.

"So far we have been a West and North centric bank although we have branches in East and South. Our next set of branches will be large deposit centres and these can be in South, East or North", Pental said.

Pental, who was in the capital, noted that the right strategy for the bank would be to go to the large deposit centres instead of looking at tier 1, 2 or 3 towns.

Currently, Yes Bank has a network of 1,234 branches across the country with as much as 553 branches in the entire North. In National Capital Region (NCR) alone, Yes Bank has 175 branches.

Air India Express expands winter schedule, boosts connectivity with 20 additional flights from Imphal

Imphal: Air India Express has unveiled a robust winter schedule with a significant boost to its operations from Imphal. The airline has added 20 new weekly flights, bringing the total to 34 flights per week, marking a substantial increase in services. This expansion underlines Air India Express's commitment to strengthening connectivity in the Northeast.

In addition to the Imphal boost, the airline has also

ramped up its operations from Kolkata with 160 weekly flights. This includes new direct routes to Port Blair and Indore, alongside enhanced connectivity to several other major cities. The increased operations come as part of the airline's wider strategy to expand its network by 30% this winter, with over 400 daily flights scheduled across India and international routes.

In Imphal, this increase in flight frequency is expected

to drive economic growth and bolster tourism. The added services will provide better access for travelers, fostering trade, tourism, and business connectivity. The direct flights to Kolkata and Guwahati, along with one-stop connectivity to cities like Chennai, Delhi, and Bengaluru, are anticipated to further integrate Imphal into the national and international air travel network, positioning it as a critical gateway in the Northeast.

NTPC Green Energy shares jump 13 pc in market debut

Mumbai: Shares of NTPC Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of NTPC, ended with a premium of 13 per cent against the issue price of Rs 108 on Wednesday.

The stock made its debut at Rs 111.60, up 3.33 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 13.65 per cent to Rs 122.75. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 122.10 apiece, rallying 13.06 per cent.

On the NSE, it listed at Rs 111.50, up 3.24 per cent. The stock ended at Rs 121.25, a jump of 12.26 per cent.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,02,885.49 crore.

In terms of volume, 343.59 lakh shares of the

firm were traded on the BSE and 3,009.61 lakh shares on the NSE during the day.

Shares of NTPC climbed 2.09 per cent to settle at Rs 369.20 each on the BSE.

The initial public offering of NTPC Green Energy Ltd got subscribed 2.40 times on the closing day of the share sale on Friday.

The Rs 10,000-crore share sale had a price band of Rs 102-108 per share.

Proceeds from the IPO, about Rs 7,500 crore at the upper band, will be used to repay or prepay part or all of its subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's (NREL) outstanding loans, and a portion will be utilised for general corporate purposes.

Ola Electric, Adani Green, GMR Power, 384 more stocks hit upper limit today

Mumbai: Shares of Ola Electric Mobility, Vodafone Idea, Adani Total Gas, Adani Green Energy, Adani Energy Solutions, Cochin Shipyard, GMR Power & Urban Infra and 381 other stocks were locked at their respective upper circuits on the BSE in Wednesday's trade.

Paras Defence and Space Technologies, Ravindra Energy, Zaggie Prepaid Ocean Services, Oriental Rail Infrastructure, Puravankara and Veritas (India) from the BSE Smallcap index were locked at the upper limit, the BSE data showed.

At 03:21 pm; shares of four Adani Group companies, Adani Power (20 per cent at Rs 525.30), Adani Total Gas (20 per cent at Rs 695.60), Adani Green Energy (10 per cent at Rs 989.30), and Adani Ener-



gy Solutions (10 per cent at Rs 661.25) were locked at the 20 per cent upper circuit after the group company Adani Green Energy today clarified on allegations against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and senior executive Vneet Jaain, stating that the charges under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) were "incorrect." However, the company acknowl-

edged that the executives face three other charges, including securities and wire fraud, in the indictment.

Meanwhile, senior advocate and former attorney general Mukul Rohatgi stated on November 27 that neither Gautam Adani nor his nephew were accused of violating the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the indictment filed by US prosecutors in a bribery case.

Cooperative banks expected to be digitised by March 2025

New Delhi: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Chairman Shaji K V on Tuesday said cooperative banks are expected to be digitised by March 2025 with a view to streamline operations and enhance the efficiency of these financial institutions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all cooperative banks to adopt the Core Banking Solution (CBS) marking a significant step towards modernisation.

"We are on behalf of central government under-

taking digitisation of cooperatives. By March 2025 it will happen and by that time we will invite fintechs to work on that. We need a lot of technology solutions to work on these digitised database that we will have besides looking at transaction trails of digital platform," he said.

Speaking at a CII event here, he said Nabard is proposing to set up a common shared services entity across the country for all rural cooperatives.

"Both government and the RBI have agreed in principle for this entity.

Nand Kishore Takes Charge at SBI Funds



Mumbai: SBI Funds Management has appointed Nand Kishore as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Kishore was Deputy Managing Director (Global Markets) at SBI's Corporate Centre in Mumbai, where he oversaw the bank's treasury operations. He will take over from Shamsher Singh.

Kishore has over 34 years of experience working with SBI across major banking verticals such as Branch Banking, International Operations, Treasury Operations and Investment Banking, Corporate Banking and Retail Operations.

What does heart attack pain feel like? How not to confuse it with acidity

Heart attack pain is often misunderstood, as it is not a typical sharp pain but rather a sensation of diffuse discomfort. This discomfort is broad and cannot be pinpointed to a specific spot. Individuals experiencing heart attack symptoms usually place a closed fist over their chest rather than pointing to a precise location. Understanding how to differentiate heart attack pain from acidity is crucial, though it can be challenging.

Take antacids

One key indicator is how the discomfort responds to antacids and water. If the discomfort is relieved after taking an antacid or drinking water, it is more likely to be due to acidity. This relief suggests that the problem might be related to the stomach rather than the heart. However, if there is no relief after taking antacids, it could indicate a cardiac issue that requires immediate medical attention.

Check for physical



exertion

According to Dr. Sanjeev Chaudhary, Clinical Director – Cardiology, Marengo Asia Hospitals, Gurugram, “Another important factor to consider is the relationship between the pain and physical exertion. If the pain or discomfort increases with physical activity, it is more likely to be related to the heart. This kind of exertion-related pain is a common symptom of

cardiac issues, including heart attacks. On the other hand, if the pain does not change with physical exertion, it is more likely to be non-cardiac in origin.”

The takeaway

The difficulty in distinguishing between heart attack pain and acidity often leads to delayed treatment. Many people mistakenly attribute heart attack symptoms to acidity and continue taking antacids, thinking the

problem will resolve itself. This delay in seeking proper medical treatment can have serious consequences. Therefore, it is essential to err on the side of caution and seek medical attention if there is any uncertainty about the nature of the pain. Being aware of these differences and responding promptly can be life-saving, ensuring that potential heart attacks are treated swiftly and effectively.

5 Warning Signs That You Have High Uric Acid

Signs Of High Uric Acid: Hyperuricemia is a very common health condition which is usually diagnosed after gout or kidney stones cause symptoms. High uric acid levels can be a condition where the body makes too much uric acid or may not be able to get rid of enough of it or both. Opting for healthier food choices can be effective in treating high uric acid levels. But before that, it is important to identify the signs of high uric acid. Here are some warning signs of high uric acid.

of your urinary tract, from your kidneys to your bladder. Often, stones form when the urine becomes concentrated, allowing minerals to crystallise and stick together.

Swelling

Sometimes either your body produces too much uric acid or your kidneys excrete too little uric acid. When this happens, uric acid can build up, forming sharp, needlelike urate crystals in a joint or surrounding tissue that cause pain, inflammation and swelling, states Mayo Clinic.

Urinary Problems

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are a common symptom of high uric acid. You may experience frequent urges to urinate, as a result of high uric acid levels.

Hypertension

The WHO states that hypertension (high blood pressure) is when the pressure in your blood vessels is too high (140/90 mmHg or higher). It is common but can be serious if not treated.

Gout

Also known as gouty arthritis, gout is triggered by high uric acid levels. A drop in uric acid levels can also cause gout. Gout affects any joint in the body but first appears in the large foot. Feet, ankles, knees, and elbows are also common sites of gout.

Kidney Stones

According to Mayo Clinic, kidney stones are hard deposits made of minerals and salts that form inside your kidneys. Kidney stones can affect any part

What Happens to Your Body When You Lift Weights Every Day

Lifting weights every day is a popular fitness routine for many, aimed at building muscle, increasing strength, and improving overall health. However, like any exercise regimen, it comes with its own set of pros and cons. Understanding what happens to your body when you engage in daily weightlifting can help you make informed decisions about your fitness journey. Let's explore the effects, both positive and negative, that daily weightlifting can have on your body.

The Pros of Daily Weightlifting

1. Increased Muscle Strength and Size

One of the most significant benefits of lifting weights every day is the improvement in muscle strength and size. Resistance training stimulates muscle fibres,

leading to muscle growth (hypertrophy) and increased strength over time. This is because lifting weights causes microscopic damage to muscle fibers, which then repair and grow stronger with adequate rest and nutrition.

2. Enhanced Metabolic Rate

Weightlifting can boost your metabolic rate, meaning you'll burn more calories even when you're not exercising. Muscle tissue is metabolically active, requiring more energy to maintain than fat tissue. Therefore, the more muscle you have, the more calories you burn at rest.

3. Improved Bone Density

Regular resistance training increases bone density and reduces the risk of osteoporosis. By putting stress on your bones,



weightlifting prompts bone-forming cells into action, making bones stronger and more resilient.

4. Better Physical Function

Lifting weights can improve your physical function in daily life, making it easier to perform tasks like carrying groceries, climbing stairs, or playing with your kids. It enhances your balance, coordination, and overall mobility.

5. Positive Mental Health Effects

Exercise, including

weightlifting, releases endorphins, chemicals in your brain that act as natural painkillers and mood elevators. Regular exercise can also reduce symptoms in people suffering from anxiety and depression.

The Cons of Daily Weightlifting

1. Risk of Overtraining

Lifting weights every day without adequate rest can lead to overtraining syndrome. Symptoms include prolonged muscle soreness, decreased perfor-

mance, fatigue, and even injury. Your muscles need time to recover and grow, so rest days are crucial.

2. Potential for Injury

Without proper form or adequate rest, the risk of injury increases significantly. Common injuries include strains, sprains, and joint issues. Ensuring proper technique and not overloading the muscles are essential precautions.

3. Imbalanced Muscle Growth

Focusing on the same muscle groups every day can lead to imbalances and overdevelopment in certain areas while neglecting others. A well-rounded routine that targets all major muscle groups throughout the week can prevent this.

4. Plateaus in Progress

Your body adapts to consistent stress over time, which means doing the same exercises every

day can lead to plateaus in muscle growth and strength gains. Varying your routine can help you continue to see progress.

5. Mental Burnout

Just as your body can get tired from too much exercise, your mind can also experience burnout, leading to a lack of motivation and enjoyment in your workouts. Keeping your routine diverse and allowing for rest days can keep your mind engaged and your motivation high. In conclusion, lifting weights every day can offer numerous benefits to your physical and mental health, but it's essential to approach your routine with knowledge and caution. By understanding the pros and cons, you can tailor your weightlifting regimen to achieve your fitness goals safely and effectively, ensuring a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

India Padel Open

Spain dominate, win men's and women's pair titles



Noida

If any further proof of Spain's dominance in padel was ever required, one needed to be court-side at the Bennett University where, on the balmy Sunday evening, the men's and women's pair from the tennis-mad nation walked away with titles as the first edition of FIP Promotion India Padel Open drew to a close.

The day began with the women's doubles final where Ainize Santamaria Landa and Aitana Solan Domenech showed remarkable resolve to bounce back from a set down to beat the Japanese-Spanish pair of Ko-

tomi Ozawa and Elisabeth Noguera Lorenz. Egged on by a sizeable crowd, the Spaniards secured the title with a scoreline of 3-6, 6-1, 6-2. The Spanish pair took a while to find their bearings as Kotomi and Elisabeth regularly sent balls to tricky corners. Elisabeth, who has been active on the circuit for a decade, was impeccable with her returns, her lethal backhand being particularly effective.

The tide, however, turned entirely in the second set as Ainize and Aitana barely put a foot wrong. Clinical in attack and defence and deft with their placements, the duo controlled the pace of the rallies and cantered to the win.

Gill unlikely to play India vs Australia day-night Test in Adelaide: Report

Mumbai

India might have to wait a bit longer for the return of their regular No.3 as Shubman Gill is reportedly doubtful for the second Test match in Adelaide set to begin on December 6. India are slated to play a pink-ball practice game starting Saturday to prepare for the day-night affair at the Adelaide Oval and according to The Times of India, Gill is certain to miss that match in Canberra while there are serious doubts



about his availability for the second Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gill missed the series opener in Perth due to a fractured left thumb sustained while fielding in the intra-squad match in the lead-up to the series. The right-handed batter has been advised to rest for a couple of weeks and will re-

quire some match practice before being considered for selection. "Gill was advised a 10-14 day rest by the medical specialist after suffering that injury. He won't play in the practice match on the weekend, and is doubtful at the moment for the second Test too. Let's see how much his injury has healed, how his finger feels. Even after it has healed, he'll need some quality practice before playing a Test match," a source was quoted as saying in the report.

Kohli doesn't need us, we need him: Bumrah

Perth

Virat Kohli returned to form with a classy century as India claimed a thumping win against Australia in their series opener and stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah said the veteran batsman's importance to the side cannot be overstated.

Kohli, 36, came in for heavy criticism in the run-up to the Perth test after scoring only 192 runs in his previous 10 innings and posting an average of 15.50 in India's three home test defeats by New Zealand.

The pressure mounted on the former skipper when he was dismissed for five as India were skittled for 150 in their first innings in Perth, but he responded with an unbeaten 100 in the second innings to put the tourists on course for victory. The pressure mounted on the former skipper when he was dismissed for five as India were skittled for 150 in their first innings in Perth.

Bellingham willing to adapt to help Real find winning formula

Madrid

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham feels he is most effective playing as an attacker but the England international said he is willing to play a more withdrawn role to accommodate his team mates and help the side win.

Bellingham was a key player in Real's Champi-



ons League and LaLiga double last season but has not been as effective since being moved to a less attacking role following the

signing of Kylian Mbappe.

The 21-year-old got off to a spectacular start in Spain last year, netting eight goals in the first nine LaLiga games, but has just two in nine in this campaign after scoring in back-to-back matches this month.

"It's been like any other adaptation," Bellingham told reporters on Tuesday.

Djokovic appoints Murray as Interim Coach for early 2025 season



Murray will be Djokovic's coach for early 2025 season

Serbia

Serbian tennis icon Novak Djokovic sent shockwaves through the tennis world on November 23 by announcing the appointment of his former rival Andy Murray as his coach for the early 2025 season. Djokovic, currently ranked world number 7, shared the surprising news through a special video collaboration with Murray on his social media platforms. The coaching arrangement, according to Djokovic, will continue at least until

the 2025 Australian Open.

The announcement caught fans and pundits off guard, given the storied rivalry between Djokovic and Murray during their playing careers. The duo faced off in multiple high-stakes matches, including four Australian Open finals (2011, 2013, 2015, and 2016), all of which Djokovic won. Despite this intense on-court rivalry, the two have consistently expressed mutual respect and camaraderie off the court.

South Africa's next two test series are like cup finals: Bavuma

Durban/South Africa

South Africa's home test series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan over the next six weeks could possibly be considered like cup finals as the country bids to reach the World Test Championship showpiece, captain Temba Bavuma said on Tuesday. A clean sweep of the two-match series against Sri Lanka, which starts at Kingsmead on Wednesday, and the two tests with Pakistan from Dec 26, would put South Africa into June's final at Lord's. "We have four games left in our Test Championship (campaign), and every game is as important as a final. The guys are excited and I think you should be seeing some good stuff from the guys," Bavuma told a press conference.

RR can offer Suryavanshi a conducive environment to develop: Rahul Dravid

Mumbai

Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid believes the franchise can offer 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi the ideal environment to develop his talent during his upcoming stint in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The eighth-grade student from Samastipur, Bihar, made history by securing a Rs 1.10 crore contract with the Royals, becoming the youngest cricketer ever to earn an IPL deal. "I think he's (Suryavanshi) got some really good skills, so we thought it might be a good environment for him to grow in. Vaibhav just came to our trials and we were really happy with what he saw," said Dravid in an IPL video.

Suryavanshi's meteoric rise has already made waves in Indian cricket. The eighth-standard student from Samastipur, Bihar, recently became the youngest



batter to score an international century, smashing a 62-ball 104 in a Youth Test for India U-19 against Australia U-19 in Chennai. He also debuted in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy last Saturday, scoring 13 off six balls for Bihar.

Despite these achievements, Suryavanshi is still finding his footing in first-class cricket. Having debuted at just 12 years and 284 days in the Ranji Trophy last season, he averaged 10 across five matches, with a top score of 41. However, his stellar performance in the Vinoo

Mankad Trophy, where he scored nearly 400 runs in five matches, has cemented his reputation as a rising star on the junior circuit.

While the acquisition of Suryavanshi has captured headlines, Dravid shed light on the team's broader strategy during the auction.

"A big target for us in this auction really was bowlers," he revealed. Rajasthan Royals strengthened their pace department with additions like Jofra Archer, Akash Madhwal Tushar Deshpande, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Ashok Sharma, and Kwena Maphaka.