



BRIEF NEWS



PM honors Atal Vajpayee on 100th birth anniversary

New Delhi: On the occasion of Good Governance Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 100th birth anniversary, hailing him as the architect of India's transition into the 21st century.

UCC is to ensure rights, duties

New Delhi: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan says UCC ensures uniform rights and duties, not unanimity in religious practices

BJP issues 'chargesheet' against AAP

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP ramped up its attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on Monday, releasing a scathing "chargesheet" accusing the ruling party of corruption and failing to deliver on its promises

J&K Govt Buys 8 Cars for Omar

Srinagar: After purchasing 90 new Mahindra Scorpio vehicles for the 90 newly-elected MLAs of the J&K Assembly, The Omar Abdullah government planned to buy eight Toyota Fortuners for the Chief Minister's use

Missing Woman 25 Years Found in Himachal

Bengaluru: A 50-year-old woman from Karnataka, who lost contact with her family 25 years ago, was traced in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi.

BJP MLAs Move Delhi HC Over CAG Report Delay

■ *HC issues notice to Saket Gokhale on contempt plea*

New Delhi: Seven BJP legislators on Monday filed a petition in the Delhi High Court seeking the immediate tabling of 14 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports concerning the city's administration before the assembly.

Senior counsel representing the petitioners mentioned the matter before a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

The court directed the matter to be listed for hearing in the "normal course." This is the second petition by the legislators about the CAG reports.

Despite a prior writ petition addressing the same concern, the Delhi government has yet to present the reports to the assembly, the petitioners' counsel argued. Senior counsel representing the petitioners mentioned the matter before

a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

The court directed the matter to be listed for hearing in the "normal course." This is the second petition by the legislators about the CAG reports.

Despite a prior writ petition addressing the same concern, the Delhi government has yet to present the reports to the assembly, the petitioners' counsel argued.

When the bench inquired about the urgency, the senior counsel highlighted that with elections looming, assembly sessions may not be convened, delaying further action.

The petitioners include Opposition Leader Vijender Gupta and BJP MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai, and Jitendra Mahajan.

MahaYuti Feud Over Education

■ *Metro Cities in Maharashtra Vie for Guardian Ministries*

Mumbai: After cabinet expansions and portfolio allocations, a slugfest is on among MahaYuti alliance partners over getting the guardian ministry of districts in Maharashtra.

A guardian minister is the de facto head of a district. The person also decides allocations of development funds in district planning committees. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde wants the guardian ministry of Thane. The other DCM, Ajit Pawar, eyes Pune. But the BJP wants to retain both districts.

In Maharashtra, the guardian ministries of metro cities like Mumbai, Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Kolhapur, are sought after.

The Beed district, which came into limelight after the murder of Massajog village Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh, is also in demand. NCP minister Dhananjay Munde, hailing from there, wants it. So



Maharashtra CM and Deputy CM in a press conference

does BJP minister Pankaja Munde. BJP MLAs from Beed have since asked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to accept the guardian ministry so that no Munde gets it.

Aware of the jostling, Fadnavis on Tuesday hinted no one should take for granted that ministers will get guardian ministries of their choice.

Sources said Fadnavis wants to see no one will dominate any district. "In Thane, DCM Eknath Shinde is eager to get guardian

ministry, but BJP is also pushing for its minister Ganesh Naik so that the party will control Thane and cut to size Shinde's dominance. The ministry can be used to expand the party base for electoral reasons."

The Beed district, which came into limelight after the murder of Massajog village Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh, is also in demand. NCP minister Dhananjay Munde, hailing from there, wants the district and so does BJP minister Pankaja Munde.

Rahul Slams Modi Govt for 'Sleeping Like Kumbhakarnan' Amid Price Rise

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that the people are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on daily needs, while the government is sleeping like 'Kumbhakarnan'.

Gandhi shared a video on his social media handles on his recent visit to a vegetable market in Giri Nagar here and his interaction with housewives who narrated their ordeal due to rising prices of food items.

"A few days ago, I went to a local vegetable market and while shopping with customers, I talked to the vendors to know how the budget of the common people is deteriorating and how inflation has troubled everyone," Gandhi said in his post accompanying the video.

"People are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on small things of daily needs,"



the former Congress chief said in his post in Hindi.

In a post on X, Rahul said, "We discussed the prices of garlic, peas, mushrooms and other vegetables, and heard the real experiences of the people. Garlic was once Rs 40 is now at Rs 400 per kg and peas at Rs 120 per kg have shaken everyone's budget.

What will people eat and what will they save, he wondered.

"While talking over tea, we closely understood the problems of the lives of housewives - how the in-

come remained stagnant, inflation kept increasing uncontrollably. How saving has become impossible and how it has become difficult to arrange even a rickshaw fare of Rs 10 due to just meeting the food expenses," the leader of opposition said. He urged people to share their experiences with him if they were also feeling the effect of inflation.

"Tell us how you are struggling with this problem - you know the condition of the market, you too share your personal experiences with us," he said.

Congress Moves SC Against Amendments to Election Rules

New Delhi: On Tuesday, Congress filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the recent amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.

The party expressed hope that the apex court will help restore the "fast eroding" integrity of the electoral process.

The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who filed the petition, said, "The integrity of the electoral process is fast eroding. Hopefully the Supreme Court will help restore it."

"A writ has just been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the recent amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961," he



said in a post on X. Ramesh said the Election Commission, a Constitutional body charged with the conduct of free and fair elections cannot be allowed to unilaterally, and without public consultation, amend such a vital law in such a brazen manner.

"This is especially true when that amendment does away with public access to essential information that makes the electoral process more transparent and accountable," he said.

Based on the recommendation of the Election Commission of India, the Union law ministry on Friday amended Rule 93(2) (a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

United Tani Army seeks cancellation of hydropower projects in Arunachal

■ Arunachal Pradesh UTA ordered Chakma and Hajong refugee relocation

Itanagar: The United Tani Army (UTA), formerly known as the National Socialist Council of Taniland, has demanded the cancellation of all Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) signed with hydropower developers for the construction of mega dams in Arunachal Pradesh.

In a statement, the UTA emphasized that any consideration for hydropower projects must prioritize the best interests of the Arunachal Pradesh people and involve full consultation with all stakeholders and the public.

"The construction of mega dams should be totally banned in Arunachal in line with the advocacy for non-construction of mega dams adopted in the UN resolution," it said.

The group, after a period of inactivity, has re-entered



Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project site

public discourse by raising several critical issues, including the controversial dam projects.

The UTA strongly advocates for a complete ban on the construction of mega dams in Arunachal Pradesh, aligning with the United Nation's resolution against such projects.

Furthermore, the UTA has demanded that non-indigenous individuals holding Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST)

certificates, including those in positions of power, resign from their positions and leave the state within three months.

The group has also urged the Arunachal Pradesh government to intensify its efforts to resolve the longstanding boundary dispute with Assam. The UTA warned that it would be compelled to take matters into its own hands if the government fails to address this issue.

Gaurav Gogoi slams Assam CM Sarma

Guwahati: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, sharply criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday, questioning his understanding of the difference between a rally and a protest.

Gogoi's remarks came ahead of the Congress party's nationwide Ambedkar Samman Yatra, scheduled for Tuesday, which will also be held in Assam.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "We sought permission from the Chief Minister, but it seems he may have confused a rally with a protest. We will clarify the nature of the event and hope for his cooperation."

The Congress rally is in response to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's controversial comments about B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

NSCN (K) faction warns against Indo-Myanmar border fencing



Itabagar: The Ang Mai-led faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) has issued a strong warning against ongoing border fencing activities along the India-Myanmar border in Naga-inhabited areas.

In a statement, the group condemned what it termed the "illegal 1972 Indo-Myanmar border," asserting that it was established without the consent of the Naga people.

The faction described the recent sighting of a border survey team near Longwa village, straddling the 1972 boundary, as a "criminal act" and vowed to use "all

available means" to oppose such activities.

The statement emphasized that the 1972 boundary violates both local and international laws and threatened to target survey agencies and contractors involved in its implementation, regardless of their nationality. The faction warned that any attempt to "enforce or perpetuate this boundary" would be met with "severe military actions," considering it a threat to Naga unity and sovereignty.

The group expressed concern that the ongoing ceasefire with the Indian government is being exploited.

Gang posing as CBI officials loot businessman's house in Cachar

Guwahati: A businessman's house in Cachar, Assam was looted by a gang who allegedly posed as CBI officials on the intervening night of Sunday.

The robbery occurred in the Baga Islamabad locality under the Dholai Legislative Assembly constituency in Cachar district of Assam.

A group of 15-20 armed robbers, disguised as CBI officials, stormed the residence of prominent local businessman Abul Hussain around 2 AM.

The robbery occurred

in the Baga Islamabad locality under the Dholai Legislative Assembly constituency in Cachar district of Assam.

A group of 15-20 armed robbers, disguised as CBI officials, stormed the residence of prominent local businessman Abul Hussain around 2 AM. The robbers, wielding firearms, threatened the family, tied them up, and proceeded to loot cash and valuables.

The stolen items included approximately Rs 35 lakh in cash and jewellery worth over Rs 10 lakh.

Meghalaya to Inventory and Map Heritage Sites

Shillong: In a bid to showcase its rich cultural heritage, the Meghalaya government has launched an initiative to identify and map heritage sites across the state.

Art and Culture Minister Paul Lyngdoh said that efforts are underway to document all heritage sites, with a focus on intensifying these efforts in the coming months.

A key aspect of this project is the state's bid to get its living root bridges recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A delegation from Meghalaya, led by Lyngdoh, recently visited Paris to advocate for this recognition, emphasizing the state's commitment to fostering cultural and educational cooperation globally.

Shah praises BJP, slams CPIM in Tripura



Agartala: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPIM), accusing it of neglecting the welfare of the people during its tenure in Tripura.

He credited the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers for their relentless efforts in bringing about a political transformation in the state.

While addressing a public gathering after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 668 crore in Dhalai district, Shah highlighted the achievements of the BJP government in Tripura under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Modi government, with state collaboration, shows democracy driving development.

The Future of Learning Unveiled at Guwahati's edu-ELEVATE

Guwahati: The Northeast Educator's Conclave, themed "edu-ELEVATE," brought together an assembly of education leaders, policymakers, and experts at Assam down town University (AdtU).

The event served as a platform for dynamic discussions on innovation and future trends in education, with a strong focus on nurturing student talent and integrating technology to enhance learning.

Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Minister of School Education, Higher Education, and Tribal Affairs (Plain), graced the occasion as guest of honour. In his address, Dr. Pegu emphasised the transformative role of education in shaping society and highlighted the importance of events like these in redefining classroom practices. The keynote address, delivered by Dr. Gargee Chakraborty, Principal of MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya, Nalbari, underscored the critical role of educators in unlocking the potential of students



and tailoring education to individual strengths. The conclave featured two engaging panel discussions that explored pivotal aspects of education. The first, titled "Education and Innate Skills: Tailoring Education to Nurture Students' Talents and Personalise Learning," was moderated by Sunandan Baruah, Director of the Directorate of Innovation, Startup & Acceleration (DISA), AdtU.

Experts from diverse fields shared insights on sociology, academic administration, and soft skills training. The second panel, "Technology in Education: Tech Tools for Skills-Based Education, Technology Integration, and Future

Trends," examined the role of technology in reshaping education. Moderated by Dr. TVVLN Rao, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at AdtU, the discussion featured perspectives from industry leaders, academic technologists, and innovators.

The conclave concluded with the prestigious AdtU Excellence Awards, celebrating outstanding contributions to education. Dr. Munindra Kumar Mazumdar, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Controller of Examinations at Maria's Public School, received the AdtU Excellence Award in Scheduled Teaching, along with a prize of Rs. 1,00,000.

Godrej Agrovet announces winter strategy to tackle seasonal fish farming challenges

Morigaon/Nagaon: Godrej Agrovet Limited (Godrej Agrovet) has introduced a targeted winter strategy to support fish farmers in Bihar addressing seasonal challenges that impact fish health and farmer productivity. Cold weather slows digestive enzyme activity in fish, reducing nutrient absorption and leading to physiological stress.

Dhrubajyoti Bannerjee, CEO of the Aquafeed Business at Godrej Agrovet, said, "By leveraging digital



platforms and community-driven initiatives, we're creating a comprehensive ecosystem that has the potential to transform how fish farmers manage seasonal productivity challenges." The multi-pronged approach combines digital knowledge dissemination,

community-building efforts, and on-ground support mechanisms.

The company's Matsya Margadarshan campaign provides farmers with expert advice via Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook, while the Aqua Mitra series promotes community learning through live broadcasts and success stories. The Godrej Aqua Insiders initiative emphasizes sustainability, green practices, and women's empowerment in aquaculture.

Shillong sees entertainment engagement surges, BookMyShow records best year

Shillong: BookMyShow's #BookMyShowThrowback year-end report highlights a groundbreaking 2024 for India's entertainment industry, with Shillong emerging as a key player in the expanding market. The year saw a major shift in entertainment consumption, driven by iconic films like Pushpa 2: The Rule, which became the most-watched movie, and a surge in live events and on-demand streaming.

November 1st, 2024, marked a record-breaking day with 2.3 million tickets sold within 24 hours.



In particular, Shillong witnessed an 18% increase in live entertainment consumption, as Tier 2 cities like it experienced a 682% growth in event participation.

The city's entertainment scene was energized by major global acts, with fans flocking to live music events and contributing to the rise of music tourism.

Over 4.77 lakh fans traveled across India to attend these events, and Shillong played a key role in this trend, with increasing engagement in both cinema and live shows. Additionally, the streaming sector soared, with BookMyShow Stream registering over 107,000 hours of content consumed.

As the year concludes, Shillong's growing market is set to continue driving India's entertainment revolution, with diverse, high-quality content and live experiences fueling the demand for more.

Uttar Pradesh Ministers lead roadshow for Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025 in Dimapur

Dimapur: In a grand initiative to promote the upcoming Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025, Uttar Pradesh Ministers Dr. Dayashankar Mishra "Dayalu" and Shri Somendra Tomar led a roadshow in Dimapur, Nagaland.

The event aimed to highlight the Mahakumbh as a monumental celebration of India's unity in diversity and to invite people from Nagaland to join the spiritual gathering in Prayagraj.

Dr. Mishra stated the Uttar Pradesh government's commitment to making the Mahakumbh a global symbol of cultural unity, boasting state-of-the-art facilities and international participation.

The Mahakumbh, to be held from January 13 to



February 26, 2025, is expected to draw over 450 million pilgrims, saints, and tourists.

Key arrangements include clean drinking water, advanced crowd management, and digital services for real-time monitoring.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mishra also announced initiatives for a plastic-free

environment, healthcare facilities for pilgrims, and digital advancements, including AI-powered chatbots and smart parking systems. Dimapur interest in the event was palpable, with local travel agencies and influencers showing enthusiasm for promoting the Mahakumbh as a global pilgrimage destination.

ICICI Pru Life swiftly resolves 99.04% of claims within 1.2 days in Q2-FY2025

Aizawl: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.04%, the highest in the industry, for the period from July 2024 to September 2024. Importantly, the average time to settle a death claim was just 1.2 days.

Mr. Amish Banker, Chief Operations Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "In Q2-FY2025, we had a claim settlement ratio of 99.04%, while our



average claim settlement turnaround time for non-investigated claims from last document received date was just 1.2 days.

Besides, we settled death claims totaling over Rs. 451 crore in the same period. Under our "Claim for Sure"

initiative, we promise to settle eligible claims in one day after all documents are submitted.

We have settled death claims amounting to Rs. 71.24 crore in Q2-FY2025 under this initiative. We have consistently had an industry-leading claim settlement ratios; in Q1-FY2024 it was 97.94%, in Q2-FY2024 it stood at 98.14%, in Q3-FY2024 it was 98.52%, and for FY2024 it was 99.17%."

Organic India tributes Farmers on Kisan Diwas, Boosts Market Trust

Guwahati: Organic India, a pioneer in the organic food sector under Tata Consumer Products Limited, celebrated Kisan Diwas with a tribute to its 2,000+ organic farmers who have partnered with the brand over two decades.

The campaign, themed "Kudrat ki Suddhta, Aapke Haathon Mein," highlights the brand's commitment to purity, sustainability, and empowering farmers across 8,500 acres of farmland. A new campaign film showcases the meticulous journey of organic prod-



ucts, from soil preparation to the careful selection of high-quality herbs, symbolizing trust and authenticity. Puneet Das, President of Packaged Beverages, India & South Asia, Tata Consumer Products, said, "This

Kisan Diwas, we honor the resilience and spirit of our farmers, who bring nature's best to homes worldwide. Together, we are nurturing growth and sowing the seeds of empowerment." In Guwahati, Organic India has witnessed growing demand as consumers increasingly prioritize organic and sustainable products.

With its focus on health and authenticity, the brand's offerings have gained traction in the city's markets, becoming a preferred choice for quality-conscious buyers.

Godrej Agrovet releases #SeedsOfGoodness film to empower farmers on Kisan Diwas

Guwahati: Godrej Agrovet Limited, a leading agri-business company, launched its #SeedsOfGoodness brand film ahead of Kisan Diwas 2024. The initiative highlights the company's efforts to support Indian farmers facing challenges posed by unpredictable weather and climate change.

The film, conceptualized by Godrej Industries Group's Corporate Brand and Communications team with Creativeland Asia, showcases various initiatives aimed at uplifting farming families. Speaking on the launch, Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director, said, "Unpredictable weather

and rising temperatures impact farmer income and yield. Advances in technology enable us to refine farming practices. At Godrej Agrovet, we are steadfast in our commitment to farmers through continuous innovation and holistic support." In Guwahati, Godrej Agrovet's focus on sustainable solutions like soil testing and drip irrigation resonates strongly.

These innovations align with the region's need to enhance agricultural productivity and tackle climate-related challenges, offering Assam's farmers a path toward resilience and profitability.

NRI deposits see \$12 bn inflows in April-October FY25, shows RBI data

Mumbai: Overseas Indians deposited around \$12 billion in non-resident Indian (NRI) deposit schemes in April-October (FY25), almost double the amount they deposited during the same period last year, data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday showed. In



April-October (FY25), inflows into the NRI schemes stood at \$11.89 billion, compared to \$6.11 billion during the same period

a year ago. With this, the total outstanding NRI deposits as of October 2024 stood at \$162.69 billion, compared to \$143.48 billion during the same period last year. In October alone, a little over \$1 billion was deposited by overseas Indians in various NRI deposit schemes.

Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards recognize pioneers in rural development and agriculture

Guwahati: The inaugural Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards were presented in New Delhi, honoring individuals for their outstanding contributions to rural development, agriculture, and social welfare.

The event, organized by the Kisan Trust, celebrated the enduring legacy of the late Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Jayant Chaudhary graced the ceremony, where Dr. Rajendra Singh, the "Waterman of India," Dr. Firoz Hossain, a leading maize scientist,



farmer Pritam Singh, and journalist Neerja Chowdhury were recognized for their exceptional work. Pradhan highlighted the

importance of Chaudhary Charan Singh's vision, noting the government's ongoing initiatives to enhance agricultural practices

through technology, including AI and machine learning. He also emphasized the establishment of Centres of Excellence for agriculture. Guwahati, a key hub for Assam's agricultural produce, stands to benefit from these initiatives. With a focus on technological integration and sustainable farming practices, farmers in the region are expected to see improved crop yields and better market linkages. These advancements can help increase local farmers' income, boost agricultural exports, and strengthen the economy of Assam.

Tata Communications powers sustainability initiatives in Meghalaya's Garo Hills

Shillong: Tata Communications, a global leader in communications technology, has introduced transformative clean energy and health initiatives in Buripara Akilang and Mandal Nokat villages under its Climate Resilient Village Programme.

The two-day initiative, part of the company's CSR efforts, saw senior leaders and volunteers collaborate to implement solar electrification and clean cooking solutions.

The program, "Beyond the Boardroom," enabled Tata Communications leaders to gain firsthand insights into local challenges while addressing energy and health needs.



Solar panels were installed in households, powering lights and fans, while solar streetlights enhanced mobility. Additionally, traditional chulhas were replaced with clean cookstoves, reducing firewood consumption by 50% and im-

proving respiratory health. The success of this initiative highlights the potential for adopting similar clean energy solutions in urban centers like Shillong.

With its vibrant markets and dense population, integrating solar-powered

lighting and energy-efficient cooking solutions could not only reduce energy costs but also promote sustainable practices across Meghalaya's capital. Mukul Kumar, Vice President of Tata Communications, remarked, "Our efforts in Meghalaya reaffirm our commitment to creating sustainable futures by embedding clean energy and healthcare solutions into communities."

"Aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals, the program has positively impacted over 62,000 lives, underscoring Tata Communications' leadership in sustainability-driven business practices.

Nissan, Honda, and Mitsubishi Motors sign an MOU for the business integration

Guwahati: Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. ("Nissan"), Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ("Honda"), and Mitsubishi Motors Corporation ("Mitsubishi Motors") have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to explore the possibility of Mitsubishi Motors' participation, involvement, and synergy sharing in relation to the business integration through the establishment of a joint holding company outlined in an MOU signed between Nissan and Honda. Mitsubishi Motors has been participating in this framework, and



the three companies have been proceeding with discussions.

Marking the announcement, Nissan Director, President, CEO, and Representative Executive Of-

ficer Makoto Uchida said: "We anticipate that if this integration comes to fruition, we will be able to deliver even greater value to a wider customer base." Honda Director and Representa-

tive Executive Officer Toshihiro Mibe said: "Nissan and Honda will start the discussion from today onwards with an aim to clarify the possibility of business integration by around the end of January in line with the consideration of Mitsubishi Motors." Comment from Mitsubishi Motors Director, Representative Executive Officer, and President and CEO Takao Kato said: "In order to realize synergies and to make the best use of each company's strengths, we will also study the best form of cooperation."

Nissan and Honda sign MOU for business integration



Guwahati: Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and Honda Motor Co., Ltd. have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to explore a business integration through a joint holding company. The partnership aims to leverage synergies

"This potential integration represents a pivotal moment for both companies," said Makoto Uchida, Nissan's CEO. "By uniting our strengths, we can deliver unparalleled value to customers."

for achieving carbon neutrality, enhancing vehicle intelligence, and addressing rapid technological advancements in the automotive industry.

The MOU, signed on August 1, builds on an earlier strategic agreement in March to collaborate on next-generation software-defined vehicles (SDVs) and fundamental technologies. If realized, the integration is expected to consolidate management resources, streamline operations, and improve long-term corporate value.

Honda's CEO Toshihiro Mibe emphasized the importance of merging resources to navigate environmental and industrial challenges, adding that a decision on integration is expected by January 2025.

Projected synergies include standardizing vehicle platforms, optimizing manufacturing, integrating R&D functions, and streamlining supply chains.

The joint holding company, set to be listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange by August 2026, will make Nissan and Honda its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

HDFC Bank Share Price Target 2025: What to expect

Mumbai: HDFC Bank shares surged on Monday, gaining nearly 2 per cent amid broad-based buying in the banking sector. The stock climbed as high as Rs 1,805.90 apiece during intraday trade on the BSE, marking an increase of 1.91 per cent and contributing to a short-covering rally in the Indian stock market.

Brokerages remain optimistic about HDFC Bank's prospects, giving "Buy" ratings with moderate upside potential:

Kotak Institutional Equities: In its December 20 report, the brokerage assigned a "Buy" rating with a current market price (CMP) of Rs 1,794 and a target price (TP) of Rs 1,900, implying a 6 per cent upside.

Antique Broking: In a December 23 report, the brokerage firm also recommended a "Buy" on the stock, citing a CMP of Rs



1,772 and the same TP of Rs 1,900, reflecting a 7 per cent potential gain. HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, has seen mixed performance over the past year. Despite a subdued trend, the stock has recently shown signs of recovery: The share price has appreciated over 3 per cent in the last month and 8 per cent over the past six months.

Year-to-date (YTD), HDFC Bank shares have delivered a modest return of 5.7 per cent, underperforming broader indices. By comparison, the Sensex has gained 8.6 per cent, and the Nifty Bank index is up 6 per cent in the same period.

Simple habits to train your brain for better clarity

Agency: In today's fast-paced world, mental clarity is becoming increasingly important. A clear mind helps you focus better, make better decisions, and feel less stressed. Fortunately, there are simple habits you can incorporate into your daily routine to train your brain and improve mental clarity. Here are some easy and effective ways to keep your mind sharp and focused.

PRACTICE MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

One of the best ways to improve mental clarity is through mindfulness and meditation. Taking a few minutes each day to focus on your breath or engage in a guided meditation can help calm your mind and clear away distractions.

Mindfulness practices can also help you stay in the present moment,

reducing stress and improving your ability to focus.

EXERCISE REGULARLY

Physical activity is not only good for your body, but it also has a positive impact on your brain. Regular exercise increases blood flow to the brain, which can improve memory, focus, and mental clarity.

You don't need to do intense workouts; even a 20-minute walk every day can make a big difference in how clear and sharp your mind feels.

STAY ORGANIZED

A cluttered environment can lead to a cluttered mind. Keeping your workspace and home organized can help you think more clearly and reduce stress. Take a few minutes each day to tidy up and organize your surroundings.

Use calendars, to-do



lists, and reminders to keep track of tasks and deadlines. An organized space can help you focus better and feel more in control of your day.

GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Sleep is essential for brain health. When you don't get enough rest, your cognitive function and memory can suffer. Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night to allow your brain to re-

charge and refresh.

Try to establish a bedtime routine and avoid screens at least 30 minutes before sleeping. A well-rested mind is a clear and focused mind.

EAT BRAIN-BOOSTING FOODS

What you eat plays a significant role in how your brain functions. Certain foods, such as those rich in omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants and vitamins can

support brain health. A healthy, balanced diet can improve memory, focus, and mental clarity.

PRACTICE DEEP BREATHING

When you feel overwhelmed or stressed, taking a few deep breaths can help clear your mind. Deep breathing relaxes your body, lowers your heart rate, and allows you to focus better.

Try taking a few deep breaths whenever you feel distracted or anxious. This simple habit can help you regain mental clarity quickly.

TAKE BREAKS

Constant work without breaks can lead to burnout and mental fatigue. Taking short breaks throughout the day can help you maintain focus and clarity. Step away from your work, stretch, go for a walk, or simply relax for a few minutes. Breaks allow your brain

to reset, making it easier to tackle tasks with a fresh perspective.

CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN

To keep your brain sharp, it's important to keep it challenged. Engage in activities that stimulate your mind, such as reading, solving puzzles, or learning something new. These activities help build new neural connections and improve your cognitive abilities. Try to do something each day that pushes your brain to think in a new way.

By adopting these simple habits, you can train your brain to work more efficiently and improve mental clarity. With regular practice, these habits will become second nature, helping you feel more focused, organized, and in control of your thoughts.

Start today, and enjoy the benefits of a clearer, sharper mind.

Diarrhea is a leading killer of children under 5, adults above 70: Lancet study

Diarrhea remains one of the leading killers of children under five and the elderly, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, despite significant progress in reducing global deaths from the disease.

A recent study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases highlights that diarrheal diseases accounted for 1.2 million deaths worldwide in 2021, down from 2.9 million in 1990—a 60% reduction.

This study, part of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) initiative coordinated by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, is the most comprehensive assessment of diarrhea-related mortality to date, as per the researchers.

The findings underscore the impact of health interventions such as oral rehydration therapy, improved sanitation, and global vac-



ination programs against rotavirus, a major cause of diarrheal infections.

CHILDREN UNDER FIVE MOST AFFECTED

The study revealed that children under five years old experienced the largest decline in deaths from diarrhea, thanks to targeted health measures. However, this age group still bears the highest mortality rate globally.

In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, over 150 deaths per 1,00,000 population were recorded among children under five, marking the region as the

worst-affected.

South Asia showed a similar concern but with the highest mortality rates observed among individuals aged 70 and older, at 476 deaths per 1,00,000 population.

Diarrhea is now recognised as a leading cause of death across all age groups, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like young children and the elderly.

Need for Preventive Measures

The Lancet study emphasised the importance of preventive measures tar-

getting key risk factors and infection-causing microbes to further reduce the global burden of diarrheal diseases.

"The new granular-level analysis in our study can help decision-makers better target and prioritize evidence-based strategies to fight diarrheal diseases," said Dr Hmwe Hmwe Kyu, an associate professor at IHME and co-author of the study.

Dr Kyu highlighted the need for a multipronged approach that includes implementing life-saving solutions such as oral rehydration salts (ORS), promoting sanitation, and expanding vaccine coverage. Combining vaccines into a single formulation, as suggested by the authors, could lower manufacturing costs and simplify immunization schedules, thereby increasing accessibility. Oral rehydration salts (ORS) remain a cornerstone of effective diarrhea treatment.

Russia develops new mRNA vaccine against cancer



Russia has developed its own cancer vaccine, the country's news agency TASS has reported.

It is an mRNA vaccine against cancer and will be distributed to patients free of charge, General Director of the Radiology Medical Research Centre of the Russian Ministry of Health, Andrey Kaprin, told Radio Rossiya. The vaccine was developed in partnership with several research centres and is expected to be released for public use by early 2025.

Previously, Alexander Gintsburg, Director of the Gamaleya National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology, shared with TASS that pre-clinical trials showed the vaccine can suppress tumor growth and prevent potential metastases.

"The vaccine's pre-clinical trials had shown that it suppresses tumor development and potential metastases," Andrey Kaprin told TASS.

Earlier this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in televised comments that "we have come very close to the creation of so-called cancer vaccines and immunomodulatory drugs of a new generation".



Naveen, Lokesh one hit away from national glory

Chennai: It was a mixed outing for shuttlers from Tamil Nadu in the ongoing Senior National Badminton Championships in Bengaluru on Monday. While top seeds Naveen P and Lokesh V posted a hard-fought victory to get one step closer to the men's doubles title, singles players Sathish Kumar K (men's) and Adarshini Shri NB (women's) lost their respective semifinal ties.

In the morning session, the duo of Naveen and Lokesh beat Shaik Gouse and Prakash Raj S in the quarterfinals. Later, they posted a 17-21, 21-12, 22-20 win over fourth seeds Ashith Surya and Vaibhaav of Karnataka. "It was the toughest match for them but they did well to come out on the winning side. Lokesh is a smart player and was taking the initiative. Let's hope they can go on to win the title," said Venkatesh Nalulamy, Tamil Nadu coach.

WCL T20 League Announces Season 2 Schedule

Mumbai: The World Championship of Legends (WCL) T20 League, which became the second most-watched cricket league with its inaugural season, has announced its much-anticipated Season 2. With an expanded schedule, marquee players, and additional venues, the tournament is set to captivate fans from July 18 to August 2, 2025. Legendary cricketers from six nations – India, Pakistan, England, Australia, South Africa, and West Indies – will once again take center stage, culminating in an electrifying grand final. Season 2 promises an even grander spectacle, with the tournament kicking off on July 18 in a thrilling opener between England Champions and Pakistan Champions at Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham.

MY KNEE IS OKAY, LET'S PLAY

Rohit Sharma injured left knee during training

Agency: Ahead of the Boxing Day Test, India skipper Rohit Sharma on Tuesday dismissed fears about the knee injury he suffered during practice, saying it was fine while keeping the suspense over his batting position.

Rohit had got hit on the left knee during the training session at the MCG on Sunday and there was speculation about the seriousness of the injury.

"My knee is fine," said Rohit during a media interaction ahead of the fourth Border-Gavaskar Test here from December 26. Rohit missed the opening test down under to be with his family for the birth of his second child.

He was expected to reclaim the opener's spot but KL Rahul's impressive 77 in India's win at Perth prompted a rejig of the batting order with the skipper moving down to No 6. The change though has not been fruitful for Rohit as he has managed 10, 3 and 6 runs in the last three innings, while Rahul has encashed on the opportunity by notching up a fine 84 in the first innings at Brisbane in the third Test.

The skipper said, he would do whatever is best for the team.

"Let's not worry about who bats where. Something that we need to figure and not something I would be discussing here. We will do what is best for the team," Rohit On Kohli's form, and his supposed shortcoming outside off-stump, Rohit said, the stalwart will find a way out of the slump.

Kohli scored a century in the second innings of the Perth Test, which India won after being dismissed for 150 in the first essay.

Kohli scored a century in the second innings of the Perth Test, which India won after being dismissed for 150 in the first essay.

Meanwhile, Yashasvi Jaiswal has failed to fire following his match-winning 161 in the first Test but Rohit said he will be encouraged to play his natural free-flowing game. "You don't want to tamper Jaiswal's mindset. He understands his batting more than anyone of us.



Konstas likely to debut as Travis Head injured

Melbourne: Teen batter Sam Konstas is set to make a dream debut at the MCG during the Boxing Day Test against India, even as an injury cloud looms over prolific run-getter Travis Head, who suffered a quadriceps muscle strain during the third game at the Gabba. Konstas, 19, will become the 468th Australian men's Test cricketer to don the Baggy Green during the fourth Border-Gavaskar match on 26 December. Selector Tony Dodemaide informed him about his inclusion during training at the MCG on Tuesday morning.

Konstas will also become the youngest Test debutant for Australia since 18-year-old Pat Cummins broke into the squad in 2011.

"We wanted clarity for our batting unit before the team meeting," Australia coach Andrew McDonald said ahead of the fourth Test, with the series locked at 1-1. Dodemaide informing



Australian batsman Sam Konstas

Konstas about his inclusion was a departure from protocol, as traditionally it is the Australian skipper who confirms the playing XI on the eve of the match or on the morning of the game. "It's (breaking the news) something we don't usually do because we haven't had too many moving parts, but we thought we'd get that out of the way so everyone knows that he's in the team," said McDonald.

"He (Konstas) has been very similar to what I've seen on the outside within (the team) -- composed, relaxed, knows his game. And what he's shown is an array of shots, the ability to put pressure back on to opponents, and he gets his opportunity," he added.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manager Mikel Arteta Gaves Grave Insight Into Saka's Hamstring Injury

London: Arsenal are in great form in the Premier League as they get closer and closer to top placed Liverpool and second placed Chelsea. Arsenal were struck by a blow to their top spot charge as star winger Bukayo Saka got injured. Saka had to go off the pitch in crutches during Arsenal's 5-1 win against Crystal Palace. Following the win it was revealed that Saka had injured his hamstring. Manager Mikel Arteta has now given some grave insight into the player's condition.

ARTETA PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO SAKA'S INJURY

Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka is expected to be out for "many weeks" with a hamstring injury, manager Mikel Arteta said Monday.

Saka limped off during the first half of Arsenal's 5-1



win at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday and was pictured leaving the stadium on crutches after the match.

"It is not looking good. He will be out for many weeks," Arteta told a news conference ahead of Thursday's home game against Ipswich. "I cannot be too specific because I don't know, but it will be many weeks."

Arsenal is third in the Premier League heading

into the busy Christmas schedule, with a home game against Manchester United in the FA Cup and the League Cup semifinals against Newcastle also on the horizon in January. Raheem Sterling Also Out For Several Weeks With Knee Injury. Making matters worse for Arsenal is that fellow right winger Raheem Sterling will also be out for "weeks" with a knee injury, Arteta said.

Pakistan sweeps South Africa 3-0 in ODI series

Johannesburg: Pakistan completed a 3-0 sweep of its ODI series against South Africa, winning the third match by 36 runs under the DLS method on Sunday.

Opener Saim Ayub hit 101 runs in 94 balls as Pakistan scored 308-9 at the Wanderers in a game reduced to 47 overs by rain. South Africa was all out for 271 in 42 overs in pursuit of a winning target of 308. Pakistan batted first after losing the toss and was 1-1 when it lost Abdullah Shafique in the first over. The innings took off with Ayub involved in two key stands — 114 runs for the second wicket with Babar Azam (52 in 71), and 93 runs for the third with captain Mohammad Rizwan (53 in 52). South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada took 3-56.