



# THE MILEAGE

THURSDAY 02 JANUARY 2025 | GUWAHATI | AIZAWL | IMPHAL | ITANAGAR | PAGES 06 | Rs 3.00



VOL 6, ISSUE 48

## BRIEF NEWS



### 15k Cops on New Year Duty

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police deploy 15,000 personnel for New Year's Eve security to ensure public safety.

### BPSC candidates meet Bihar chief secretary

**Patna:** BPSC candidates meet chief secretary; demand re-exam but make no headway.

### 2024: Manipur turmoil with casualties and violence

**Imphal:** The year 2024 was not kind to the people of Manipur as it witnessed another year of turmoil. Ongoing ethnic violence between Kukis and Meiteis since May 2023.

## Divided Opposition Faces Mixed Results in 2024

### Allies Uneasy as SP, Shiv Sena, RJD Back Mamata Banerjee for Alliance Leadership

**New Delhi:** When the INDIA bloc made a stunning comeback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — the world's largest democratic exercise — political pundits compared it with the successful 1977 model of the Opposition parties coming together to dislodge Indira Gandhi.

Though the Opposition alliance ended up as runners-up in the fiercely

fought electoral battle, their major accomplishment was denying the BJP the magic figure of 272 seats, needed to form the government.

The NDA alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi came back to a third term in power with 292 seats.

The INDIA bloc had more reasons to cheer about the electoral outcome as it has been widely predicted that

the alliance is bound to crumble due to infighting and vested interests. Moreover, surveys and experts were also skeptical about the alliance's ability to trump the BJP's electoral invincibility and its narratives on economic success and Hindutva. The differences among the INDIA bloc partners came to the fore in several instances. In West Bengal, CM Mamata

Banerjee refused to cede any seats to Congress in the state.

In Bihar, the alliance suffered a blow as JDU joined BJP-led NDA. Many attribute the impressive performance of the Opposition to its campaigns around 'fight to protect the Constitution and democracy'. "Despite the Opposition's strong performance, many skeptics remain.

### BJP demands CBI probe over contractor's suicide

**Bengaluru:** Opposition BJP continued to mount pressure on the chief minister to order a CBI probe into contractor Sachin Panchala's death by suicide in Bidar and drop Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge from the cabinet. BJP's Vijayendra: Waiting till Jan 3 for CM's CBI probe order.



INDIA bloc leaders meeting at Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's residence

### "BJP mocks Kejriwal as 'chunavi Hindu' with Bhoor Bhulaiyaa twist

**New Delhi:** The Delhi BJP on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of being a "chunavi Hindu" (Hindu for election purposes) after he promised Rs 18,000 every month to temple priests and gurdwara granthis in the run-up to assembly polls.

Taking to X, the party mocked Kejriwal with a poster portraying him in a theatrical priest-like avatar reminiscent of actor Ra-



ajpal Yadav's character in the film Bhoor Bhulaiyaa. The image showed Kejriwal adorned with rudraksha beads, flower garlands, and covered in vermilion, with incense sticks tucked behind his ear.

### Devastating Plane Crash in South Korea: 47 Killed

**Seoul:** A plane carrying 181 people burst into flames after veering off a runway at Muan international airport in South Korea on Sunday, killing at least 47 people on board, The National Fire Agency confirmed.

So far, two rescued and 47 confirmed dead," the National Fire Agency said in a statement.

Video shared by the local MBC broadcaster showed the Jeju Air plane -- a Boeing 737-8AS according to Flight Radar -- landing at the Muan airport runway, with smoke streaming out from the engines before the entire aircraft is quickly engulfed in flames.

Rescue authorities were evacuating passengers from the rear section of the jet, Lee said.

One flight attendant and one passenger have been rescued so far, South Korea's fire agency said.

"Currently two have been rescued, one passenger



and one flight attendant," the national fire agency said in a statement, adding that 32 fire trucks and scores of firefighters had been deployed to the crash site at Muan airport.

The crash is believed to have been caused by "contact with birds, resulting in malfunctioning landing gear" as the plane attempted to land at the airport in the country's southwest, Yonhap news agency reported.

A photo showed the tail section of the jet engulfed in flames on what appeared to be the side of the runway, with firefighters and emergency vehicles nearby. Acting President Choi Sang-mok urged full resource mobilization to save the passengers.

### Nitesh Rane calls Kerala 'Mini-Pak'; defends remark amid backlash

**Pune:** In a controversial remark, Maharashtra Fisheries Minister Nitesh Rane has compared Kerala to "Mini-Pakistan." The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said that Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi were elected as members of Parliament for precisely this reason.

"Kerala is mini Pakistan that is why Rahul Gandhi and his sister are elected from there. All terrorists vote for them. This is the truth, you can ask. They have become MPs af-



ter taking terrorists with them," Rane said while addressing a rally in Purandar Taluka of Pune district.

Rane later clarified that Kerala is part of India but cited issues like "religious conversions" and "love jihad" to justify his comparison with Pakistan. He claimed his statements were factual and invit-

ed scrutiny of his claims. Rane, son of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Narayan Rane, was speaking at a function on the occasion of Shiv Pratap Din, the anniversary of a historic incident when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had killed Afzal Khan when he made these remarks.

Rane won the recently concluded 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections from the Kankavli seat. In the new cabinet, Rane has been given the portfolio of fisheries and ports.

### SC defers Dalalwadi hospital hearing; Punjab in negotiations

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred its hearing till January 2 in compliance of its order by the Punjab government on shifting of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dalalwadi, who has been

fasting for past 35 days over various demands, to hospital.

A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia listed the matter for further hearing on January 2 after Advo-

cate General Gurminder Singh, appearing for the Punjab government, said that an application has been moved seeking three days more time for compliance of the court's December 20 order.

### Nitish denies INDIA bloc invite to returns

**Patna:** RJD MLA Bhai Birendra invited Bihar CM Nitish to return to INDIA bloc ahead of Bihar assembly elections due next year. The one-day visit of Nitish to New Delhi on Sunday has heated up the state politics.

Nitish is likely to meet family members of former PM Manmohan Singh following the latter's demise. He may also go for his routine health check up. The CM, however, turned down RJD's offer and reiterated that he would remain in NDA. Nitish said that he would not commit the mistake that he had done twice on earlier occasions. He resolved that the ruling NDA will focus more on development of the state.

JD(U) flags off 'Karpoori Rath' to broaden support. CM Nitish Kumar's JD(U) launched the 'Karpoori Rath' from the state party office

## Fundamentalist arrested by STF in Kokrajhar



**Guwahati:** The Special Task Force (STF) of the Assam Police has arrested another suspected fundamentalist from Kokrajhar. A police statement said that the suspect is among the prime suspects in an STF Police Station case (21/2024). The accused has been identified as Gazi Rahman, 35, a resident of Korajhar in Assam. The STF has initiated necessary legal action and will continue to investigate and apprehend all individuals connected to the case, the statement said. He was arrested in the ongoing 'Operation Praghat' launched by the STF. However, the police statement did not state if he was a member of the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

## Two PREPAK cadres arrested, arms & explosives recovered

**Imphal:** A team of Manipur Police apprehended two suspected cadres of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) from Imphal West district.

The arrested individuals, Leishangthem Napoleon Meitei and Thokchom Amujao Singh were allegedly involved in extortion activities targeting various individuals, including elected

representatives. During the arrest, police recovered three mobile handsets, twelve demand letters, and a four-wheeler. In separate security operations, arms, ammunition, and explosives were recovered from Churachandpur and Tengnoupal districts. The recovered items include rifles, pistols, hand grenades, and detonators.

## CM Biren Singh apologises for violence: Forgive and forget

**Imphal:** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has expressed deep regret and issued a heartfelt apology to the people of the state for the turmoil and violence that have gripped Manipur since May 2023.

Speaking at a public event, the Chief Minister described the year as "very unfortunate" and extended his condolences to the families of those who lost their



lives and were displaced during the unrest. "I feel regret, and I want to say sorry to the people of Manipur for what has been happening. Many people lost their lives and were rendered homeless.

## Tripura sees tenfold growth in solar energy generation: Union Minister

■ 81 Crore Receive Free Food Under PMGKAY, Double the EU's Population

**Agartala:** Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, commended the progress in the renewable energy sector during his two-day visit to Tripura.

Addressing the media on December 29, the Minister highlighted that Tripura has achieved a tenfold increase in solar energy generation, growing from 2.5 MW to over 20.5 MW within the last six and a half years.

During his visit from December 28 to 29, Minister Joshi participated in several programs and reviewed the implementation of central schemes. On the morning of December 29, he visited the Maa Tripura Sundari temple for a divine darshan, followed by attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat broadcast at Chan-

drapur Colony Higher Secondary School in Matabari, Gomati district.

Energy (MNRE).

Minister Joshi noted that under the PM-KUSUM



Later, the Minister toured Charilam village in Sepahijala district to inspect a centrally sponsored renewable energy project implemented by the Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA). He also reviewed various schemes under the Ministry of New and Renewable

Scheme (Component B), 27 SPV pumps covering 54 acres of agricultural land have been installed, along with 35 LED-based SPV street lighting systems under MNRE initiatives.

The Minister said India has made significant progress in ensuring food security.

## Pre-Pandemic Train a to Resume on Northeast Frontier Railway

■ All NF Railway passenger trains will resume their original train numbers

**Guwahati:** The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) will reinstate the original train numbers for all 60 pairs of passenger trains starting in January 2025.

This move aligns with directives from the Railway Board and signifies a return to the pre-COVID-19 numbering system, replacing the current '0' numbering system.

All NF Railway-operated passenger trains, including those using ICF, DEMU, and LHB coaches, will resume their original train numbers.

All the 60 pairs of passenger trains would operate as per earlier frequency with their earlier train numbers from January 2025 onwards, he said.

Out of the 60 pairs of passenger trains, four pairs would operate from Tinsukia Division, 19 pairs from Lumding Division, 10 pairs from Rangiya Division, six pairs from Alipurduar Division (West Bengal) and 21 pairs would operate from Katihar Divi-



sion (Bihar).

Passengers can find detailed information on train schedules, timings, and stoppages on the IRCTC website and NF Railway's social media platforms.

During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-21), the railway operated special trains with slightly higher fares. This system has continued until now. The restoration of original train numbers marks a shift away from these pandemic-era measures.

The NF Railway, which operates across the northeastern states, parts of West Bengal, and northern Bihar, covers over 6,400 kilometers of track. The rail-

way has consistently prioritized passenger safety and security.

In November, the NE Railway enhanced safety features by installing Thick Web Switch Point machines with clamp-type locking at 31 stations across the zone.

Furthermore, the NF Railway has implemented various upgrades and replacements to its signaling system in several sections to improve efficiency and safety.

The details of stoppages and timings of all the 60 pairs of trains are available on the IRCTC website and social media platforms of NFR, it said.

## Meghalaya Activist Urges Stop to Illegal Stone Transport from Bhutan

**Tura:** Meghalaya Activist Urges Stop to Illegal Stone Transport from Bhutan.

In a letter to Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, Momin raised concerns about "exploitative and illegal" practices, including overloading, unauthorized transport syndicates, extortion, and extensive damage to roads like NH-51 and AMPT.

Momin acknowledged the importance of the Bhutan-India-Bangladesh trade initiative but emphasized the need for strict adher-

ence to the agreement's terms.

He pointed out that Indian trucks, rather than Bhutanese trucks as stipulated in the agreement, are being used for transportation.

He also highlighted the use of multiple-axle trucks, which are not operational in Bhutan, raising questions about the authenticity and legality of the operations. Momin alleged that the transportation is controlled by "Indian mafias and illegal groups" exploiting the situation for personal gain.

## Congress foresees NPP's defeat in council elections

**Shillong:** The Congress has forecast a dismal performance for the ruling National People's Party (NPP) in the forthcoming district council elections in Meghalaya, slated for February 21. Despite the NPP's reliance on its "muscle and money power" to sway voters, Congress leaders are confident that the party will face a setback. Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Com-



mittee (MPCC) president Vincent H Pala stated that the NPP's overconfidence in its ability to buy votes will ultimately lead to its downfall. "Meghalaya's people will teach the government a lesson", Pala said.

## Missing Rangia Man Found Dead in Pond

**Guwahati:** A youth missing for nearly five days was recovered dead from a pond in Rangia of Kamrup, Assam on Monday.

According to reports, the deceased identified as Dharmendra Nath was allegedly assaulted by a group of twelve men at a picnic site.

The police had arrested two suspects in the case earlier.

The two identified as Himangshu Kakati and Amulya Lahkar were apprehended on Sunday based on allegations filed by Nath's family. However, the two did not speak much in the day but the police found some vital clues about a brawl that allegedly took place at the picnic over some dispute. Nath who was with friends was assaulted by at least 12 men.

While some manage to escape the incident, Nath was reportedly left behind.

Police Recover Body, Launch Investigation.

## Tata AIA launches Multicap Momentum Quality Index Fund: A new path to wealth creation with life cover

**Mumbai:** Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the launch of the Tata AIA Multicap Momentum Quality Index Fund, a unique investment product that combines the benefits of long-term capital appreciation with life cover and health management services. The New Fund Offer (NFO), open from 24th to 31st December 2024, aims to replicate the Nifty 500 Multicap Momentum Quality 50 Index, focusing on momentum-driven, high-quality stocks across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap segments. The fund will invest 80%-100%



in equity and equity-related instruments, ensuring strong growth potential, with 0%-20% in cash and money market instruments for liquidity. Harshad Patil, Executive Vice President and CIO of Tata AIA, emphasized that the fund's disciplined approach allows policyholders to capture market opportunities while securing their financial future with life and health cover. Mizoram's Aizawl is increasingly receptive to innovative financial products that provide both investment growth and protection. As awareness of diversified equity portfolios rises, the Tata AIA Multicap Momentum Quality Index Fund is expected to attract significant interest from investors seeking long-term wealth creation, reflecting the growing demand for balanced investment solutions in the region.

## NSDC drives workforce transformation in 2024; focus on skills, innovation and inclusivity

**Guwahati:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) marked 2024 as a transformative year in India's skill development landscape. Anchored by the government's vision of a skilled India, NSDC's initiatives, such as the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), have been instrumental in equipping the workforce with industry-relevant skills. SIDH, offering over 500 courses in emerging fields like AI, drones, and cloud computing, has seen over 1 crore registrations and 50 lakh course completions. NSDC's economic contributions include a 3.5% growth in IT and manufacturing sectors and the creation of over 2.3 lakh green jobs in renewable energy. Initiatives like the PradhanMantriKaushal-

VikasYojana (PMKVY) 4.0 and the Skill Impact Bond have enhanced job readiness and inclusivity, particularly for women and disadvantaged communities.

In Guwahati, NSDC's programs align with the city's aspirations of becoming a hub for skilled talent in the Northeast. Courses tailored to AI, robotics, and renewable energy are empowering the region's youth to tap into emerging job markets, contributing to Guwahati's economic growth and reducing unemployment. Looking ahead, NSDC's focus on international collaborations, entrepreneurship, and advanced technologies ensures India's workforce is future-ready, driving the nation closer to its \$1 trillion digital economy goal by 2030.

## Shanyo Horam's inspiring journey to global success

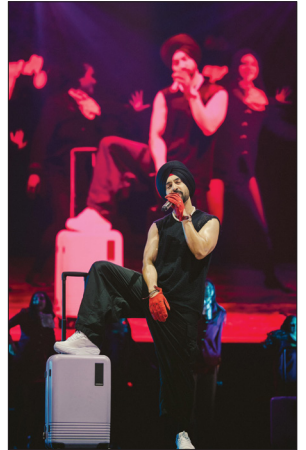


**Shillong:** The story of Shanyo Horam, a young lady belonging to a small village in Nagaland consisting of only 33 houses, is a shining example of perseverance, faith, and determination. Being the eldest sister in her house, this young lady experienced poverty and very limited opportunities in life. Born into humble beginnings, she shouldered immense responsibilities, mainly supporting her sibling's education and their dreams. In 2003, Shanyo moved to Bangalore to create a better future for her family. She worked in the travel industry for three years but realized the limitations of a salaried job prevented her from achieving financial freedom. In 2011, she returned to her village to recharge and met a Swedish holistic wellbeing brand.

Shanyo Horam, a Diamond Director with Oriflame, has transformed from a shy, inexperienced individual into a confident and inspiring leader. She mentors entrepreneurs from various backgrounds and has traveled to over 15 countries with her husband. Shanyo now owns a home, a car, and a stable life for her family. Oriflame has been a support system, unlocking her potential and building confidence. Her story demonstrates that dreams can change lives with passion and dedication.

## Diljit Dosanjh partners with Mokobara to revolutionize travel fashion

**Guwahati:** Global music icon Diljit Dosanjh has teamed up with Mokobara, a trailblazing travel brand, to bring a fresh, stylish edge to the world of travel accessories. Known for his innovative fusion of traditional and modern styles, Diljit's partnership with Mokobara highlights the brand's mission to redefine travel gear with bold design and seamless functionality. Mokobara, founded in 2020, has quickly become synonymous with high-quality, stylish luggage, backpacks, and accessories. The collaboration first took shape on the sets of Bollywood's Crew and has since evolved into a global partnership, with Mokobara products making appearances on Diljit's Dil-luminati world tour and even backstage at The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. "Mokobara's design and energy perfectly match my style, and I'm excited to bring this vibe to the stage,"



says Diljit. In Guwahati, this collaboration is set to resonate with a growing demand for premium travel accessories. As local consumers increasingly seek high-quality, stylish products that blend form and function, Mokobara's partnership with Diljit positions it as a strong contender in the region. With its bold designs and global appeal, Mokobara is poised to capture the attention of travel enthusiasts and fashion-conscious consumers in Northeast India.

## ICICI Prudential Life launches industry-first women-specific health insurance product

**Aizawl:** ICICI Prudential Life "ICICI Pru Wish," the life insurance product tailored exclusively for women. This groundbreaking policy provides up cover amount upon the diagnosis of breast, cervical, and heart ailments. A standout feature of ICICI Pru Wish is its premium guarantee, allowing policyholders to lock in their premium rates for 30 years. Additionally, customers can avail of a "premium holiday," offering the flexibility to skip payments for 12 months during the policy term. The product also covers maternity-related complications and congenital illnesses in newborns.



Insurance has introduced the insurance industry's first health policy for women. This ground-to 100% payout of the health cost of critical illnesses, including breast, cervical, and heart ailments, as well as heart ailments. A standout feature of ICICI Pru Wish is its premium guarantee, allowing policyholders to lock in their premium rates for 30 years. Additionally, customers can avail of a "premium holiday," offering the flexibility to skip payments for 12 months during the policy term. The product also covers maternity-related complications and congenital illnesses in newborns.

Highlighting its relevance, Amit Palta, Chief Product and Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, stated, "ICICI Pru Wish empowers women by providing financial strength during challenging times. With features like lump sum payouts, multiple claims for specific conditions, and rehabilitation support, this product is designed to address their unique health needs." In Aizawl, where women are key contributors to household incomes, this product could serve as a vital financial safety net. The city's growing awareness of women's health issues makes ICICI Pru Wish a timely addition to the market, addressing both medical and financial concerns.

## UP Ministers promote Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025 in Dimapur with grand roadshow

**Dimapur:** Uttar Pradesh Ministers Dr. Dayashankar Mishra "Dayalu" and Shri-Somendra Tomar led a grand roadshow in Dimapur, Nagaland, promoting the Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025. The roadshow aimed to highlight the event as a unique celebration of India's unity in diversity and invite participation from Nagaland's citizens. Dr. Mishra outlined the Uttar Pradesh government's commitment to organizing a grand, digitally enhanced Mahakumbh, expected to attract over 450 million pilgrims and tourists. The event will feature cutting-edge technologies, including AI-powered chatbots, RFID wristbands for pilgrims, and real-time moni-

toring of facilities. Additionally, efforts to ensure cleanliness and sustainability include a plastic-free environment and over three lakh plants cultivated in Prayagraj. Dimapur is keenly observing the potential economic impact of the Mahakumbh. Local travel agencies, tour operators, and influencers are preparing to capitalize on the global appeal of the event, offering packages and services tailored for pilgrims and tourists. The roadshow has sparked increased interest in promoting the Mahakumbh as a major tourism and spiritual destination for the region, with Dimapur as a hub for Prayagraj travelers.

## Air India Express expands network; adds Phuket and Dibrugarh to its routes



**Dibrugarh:** Air India Express is broadening its footprint with the introduction of direct flights between Hyderabad and Phuket, Thailand, starting January 31, 2025. The service will initially operate three times a week, increasing to daily flights by February 15. Special inaugural fares are available, starting from ₹10,500, with additional discounts for loyalty members on the airline's website and mobile app.

In a significant domestic move, Dibrugarh, Assam, has been added to the airline's network. Starting February 1, 2025, Air India Express will operate direct flights from Dibrugarh to Guwahati, with onward

connectivity to Delhi. This new route is poised to benefit the growing tea and oil industries in Dibrugarh, along with boosting tourism and trade.

Dibrugarh, renowned for its tea industry and vibrant cultural heritage, is set to see a surge in both business and leisure travel. The addition of direct flights to major cities like Delhi and Kolkata will enhance trade links and provide greater access for tourists to explore the region's natural beauty. Alope Singh, Managing Director, Air India Express, stated, "These new routes reflect our commitment to strengthening connectivity and driving regional growth."

**Melbourne:** As Rohit Sharma sat on the dais for the fifth time this year to address the media after a Test match defeat, there was a sense of unease. The usual Rohit charisma was missing. The wit and humour and those frank admissions have deserted the room. Once again he was there to discuss another loss.

The gloom before the New Year's Eve night is not something the India team would have wanted. Yet, it was, after Australia beat them here on Monday. More than the loss, the way India capitulated is something the team management should ponder about.

India had lost their last seven wickets for just 34 runs in 20.4 overs and what looked like a well-deserved draw, ended in a loss. As the bandwagon shifts to Sydney, India trail Australia 1-2 with one last Test to play for.

The press conference reflected Rohit's sombre mood. He was struggling, like his form and innings, to find the apt words. With guns training at his batting and leadership, there is little Rohit can do.

In the five innings he played in Australia, he scored only 31 runs at an average of 6.2, considered dismal by his standard. By the look of Rohit, there seemed to be something ominous brewing within.

With India needing him and the other senior player Virat Kohli most to salvage a draw, both perished in the most pitiable fashion. They had been the anti-thesis to the mercurial Jasprit Bumrah, who once again finished with a five-wicket haul. Such had been the dependency on his bowling, he had bowled almost one-third of overs sent down by India in the second innings. Kohli once again showed his vulnerability outside off and when he fell India were staring down the barrel.

If not for young Yashasvi Jaiswal (84) and Rishabh Pant partnership of 88, India would have folded up their innings well before the last session.

"There are things that we as a team need to look at," Sharma said. "I personally need to look at as well. So we will try and see what happens." He said Sydney is still there.

## Indians loses to Aussie

### Rohit, Virat fails against as India lost 4th test



Indian players walk off the field after losing the fourth test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne, Australia on Monday. Australia won by 184 runs to take a 2-1 lead the five-match series.

## India boasts the depth to overcome the absence of Rohit and Virat": Lehmann

**Melbourne:** Indian cricket has produced a generational superstar in Yashasvi Jaiswal and will remain in good health even when Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma decide to call time on their careers, feels former Australia head coach and two-time World Cup winner Darren Lehmann.

The 54-year-old, who played 27 Tests and 117 ODIs during his decade-long career, is also captivated by Jasprit Bumrah's skills, claiming to have never seen any player have more impact in a



single series. Talking about impending retirements of Rohit and Kohli following their poor show in the ongoing series where India trail 1-2, Lehmann was empathetic and practical about the transition in Indian cricket.

"Look whenever they decide to give it away and whatever happens in next

few days they have been great players for India over a long period of time," Lehmann, a member of 1999 and 2003 ODI World Cup-winning teams told PTI. "Now actually we see younger players starting to step up for India and play well at next level. There is so much depth in Indian cricket I won't worry too much," Lehmann was pretty matter of fact. "Whenever these two guys decide to retire, there are so many talented youngsters that Indian cricket will be in good stead." Lehmann said.

## Premier League

## Dismal Man United lose again at home as Ipswich upsets Chelsea

**London:** Alexander Isak scored for the sixth straight Premier League game as Newcastle beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford on Monday to condemn Ruben Amorim's side to its worst home run in the top tier since the 1970s.

Relegation-threatened Ipswich beat Chelsea 2-0



to win at home for the first time this season, and Aston Villa and Brighton drew 2-2.

Newcastle's command-

ing display marked the first time since February 1979 that Man United has lost three home league games in a row. It was also the first time since 1962 that United has lost five league matches in the same calendar month. Isak's eighth goal in six matches adds to home fans' misery.

## Barcelona's appeal to register Dani Olmo fails

**Barcelona:** Barcelona have lost another appeal to register Spanish forward Dani Olmo for the remainder of the season—just one day before the deadline.

The club signed Olmo in August for approximately €55 million (\$57.22 million). However, due to their inability to meet La Liga's wage cap, the attacking midfielder was registered only for the first half of the season. Barcelona managed to register Olmo initially by reallocating wages from long-term injured players, which allowed them to fit the 26-year-old, along with forward Pau Vctor, into their budget. However, the four-month allowance for this arrangement is set to expire at the end of the month.

On Friday, Barcelona's request to provisionally register Olmo was denied by the Commercial Court Number 10. The Court of First Instance upheld the ruling on Monday.

## Aravindh Chithambaram defeats Nakamura in Blitz



Aravindh Claims Victory Over Nakamura

**New York:** Indian grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram sparked a big upset over number three chess player in the world, Hikaru Nakamura, with a win over the American grandmaster in the third round of the World Blitz Championship being held in New York.

Chithambaram, who entered this tournament seeded outside the top 40, was able to convert an advantage with the white pieces against Nakamura. Although the 3-minute blitz version of chess is a more volatile event than classical, Nakamura is considered amongst the finest proponents in the shorter

time control, if not outright the best player in the world in speed chess.

Aravindh's win over Nakamura proved to be the standout result on the day for Indian grandmasters, as none ultimately succeeded in qualifying through the Swiss pre-knockout format of the tournament. Aravindh lost in the very next round to his compatriot, Arjun Erigaisi, but had the massive scalp of Nakamura as his consolation prize at the event.

Nakamura's disappointment is evident in a post-game video where he discusses endgame moves with Aravindh.