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Indian domestic air travel records 4.4 per cent growth with 1.37 crore passengers in May

Mumbai: Domestic air passenger traffic went up 4.4 per cent to around 1.37 crore in May, according to official data released on Friday. The Indian scheduled air operators flew 1.32 crore passengers on domestic routes in May last year. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-May 2024 were 661.42 lakhs as against 636.07 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 3.99 per cent and monthly growth of 4.40 per cent," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)



said.

In terms of on-time performance (OTP), Akasa Air topped the list at 85.9 per cent, followed by Vistara (81.9 per cent), AIX Connect (74.9 per

cent), IndiGo (72.8 per cent), Air India (68.4 per cent) and SpiceJet (60.7 per cent), as per the data.

During the previous month, no-frills carrier IndiGo saw its

market share growing to 61.6 per cent, while that of Air India declined to 13.7 per cent from 14.2 per cent in April.

The market share of Vistara stood at 9.2 per cent but that of AIX Connect fell to 5.1 per cent from 5.4 per cent, the DGCA said.

Air India, Vistara, and AIX Connect are part of the Tata Group.

Meanwhile, Akasa Air's market share increased to 4.8 per cent in May from 4.4 per cent in April. At the same time, SpiceJet's market share declined to 4 per cent from 4.7 per cent in the previous month.

Food department purchase 5 trucks

Agartala: As part of the ambitious plan of the Department of Food, Public Procurement and Consumer Affairs of the State Government to speed up its integrated management and timely delivery of foodgrains at subsidized prices to all the beneficiaries by mobilizing the Public Distribution System of the State, the Food Department has spent about Rs.186 crore from its own cash crediting account 5 (five) purchased new freight trucks. Food Minister Sushant Chowdhury attended a ceremony organized at the Central Store in Arundhatinagar, Agartala today and waved the green flag to officially flag off these new trucks and included them in food grain transportation work related to the Department of Food and Public Procurement. Food Minister Sushant Chowdhury was present in this ceremony among other distinguished guests, Tripura. Zohar Saha, chairman of Horticulture Corporation, Raval Hemendra Kumar, special secretary of the Department of Food, Public Procurement and Consumer Affairs, Nirmal Adhikari, director of the Department of Food, Public Procurement and Consumer Affairs.

Apple Beats Microsoft To Briefly Become World's Most Valuable Company

New York: Apple on Wednesday briefly reclaimed its berth as the world's biggest company when measured by stock price, taking back the top position for a few hours from Microsoft. The iPhone juggernaut is on a Wall Street tear following its announcements of AI features at its annual developers' conference on Monday. Apple, which had taken its time to formulate its AI strategy, lost its longheld top spot in January as investors rewarded Microsoft's unabashed rollout of new generative AI products under its CoPilot brand. For a few hours on Wednesday, Microsoft lost the pole position but managed to finish the day very narrowly back on top with a valuation of \$3.27 trillion. Apple stood at \$3.26 trillion. On Monday, Apple unveiled a new AI platform called Apple Intelligence that will be gradually added to a new version of the iOS 18 operating system.

The technology will only be available on Apple's highestend hardware, forcing interested customers to pay premium prices to enjoy the AI capabilities. Analysts, while initially lukewarm, have grown to believe that the iPhone's new powers will motivate the company's 1.5



billion-strong user base to update their phones in order to take advantage of the AI features. In an interview, Apple CEO Tim Cook explained the company has carefully embraced generative AI, "which has its downsides," but that the ChatGPT-style technology "was never off the table." "It was always about pursuing it in a thoughtful way," he told the Marques Brownlee podcast on Wednesday. "We've implemented it in ways that are less likely to create issues" on violating data privacy, he said.

Assam tea garden workers to get free healthcare through mobile medical units

Guwahati: In a bid to improve healthcare access for tea garden workers, the Labour Welfare Department of Assam and the Hans Foundation (THF) have joined hands. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on June 14 to launch the Hans Mobile Medical Unit Project, targeting 120 tea gardens in the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts.

The collaboration will see the launch of the "Hans Mobile Medical Unit Project" targeting 120 of the most vulnerable tea gardens in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts.

The project aims to bridge the healthcare gap for tea garden communities by deploying 24 mobile medical vans equipped with medical professionals. "This partnership will bring

essential healthcare services directly to tea garden workers, improving their health and overall well-being," said Tea Tribe and Labour Welfare minister Sanjoy Kishan, at the signing ceremony. The mobile units will offer OPD consultations, diagnostic tests, counselling sessions, and awareness programs. Home visits for the elderly and those with disabilities, along with referrals for critical cases to advanced healthcare facilities, are also part of the initiative.

The Hans Foundation will cover the project's implementation costs and ensure free healthcare services for the beneficiaries. The Labour Welfare Department and district administrations will provide administrative support.

Wholesale price inflation hits 15-month high at 2.6 per cent due to surge in food prices

New Delhi: The wholesale price inflation accelerated for the third consecutive month in May, reaching a 15-month high of 2.61 per cent, driven primarily by a surge in food prices, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry on Friday.

Economists said the data paints a picture of rising wholesale prices, driven by food costs and global factors. While this contrasts with the recent decline in retail inflation, it raises concerns about future price pressures and potential challenges for the RBI's monetary policy stance. The main culprit behind the soaring wholesale inflation was a sharp increase in food article prices, which jumped to a 10-month high of 9.82 per cent in May compared with 7.74 per cent in April. This rise was fueled by a significant increase in vegetable prices, particularly onions (58.05 per cent) and potatoes (64.05 per cent). Pulses inflation also remained elevated at 21.95 per cent.

While fuel and power inflation remained subdued at 1.35 per cent, manufactured product inflation was higher at 0.78 per cent against -0.42 per cent in April. Analysts attributed this uptick to rising global metal prices driven by supply chain disruptions and a potential demand pick-up from China. Aditi Gupta, an economist at Bank of Baroda, noted that the uptick in WPI inflation is largely because of elevated food prices, particularly vegetables and fruits.

She also highlighted the potential for further pressure from global commodity prices and severe heatwaves impacting domestic production. Progress of monsoon will play a key role in determining the trajectory of food inflation going forward.

Icra chief economist Aditi Nayar pointed out that core-WPI (excluding food articles) returned to positive territory for the first time in 14 months, contributing significantly to the overall inflation rise. However, she expects some moderation in WPI inflation for June because of a recent retreat in global commodity prices.

Suman Chowdhury, chief economist at Acuité Ratings, expects a continued upward trend in WPI throughout the year, potentially impacting retail inflation in the coming quarters.

Oxford University to return stolen 500-year-old bronze idol to India

London: The UK's prestigious Oxford University has agreed to return a 500-year-old bronze idol of a saint believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu to India. "On 11 March 2024, the Council of the University of Oxford supported a claim from the Indian High Commission for the return of a 16th-century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar from the Ashmolean Museum. This decision will now be submitted to the Charity Commission for approval," said a statement from the university's Ashmolean Museum. The 60 cm-tall statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford from Sotheby's auction house in 1967 from the collection of a collector named Dr J R Belmont (1886-1981). The museum says that it was alerted to the origins of the ancient statue by an independent researcher in November last year, following which it alerted the Indian High Commission. The Indian government made a formal request for the bronze idol believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu and found its way to a UK museum through auction. There have been several instances of stolen Indian artifacts being restored from the UK to India, most recently in August last year when a limestone carved relief sculpture, originating from Andhra Pradesh, and a "Navaneetha Krishna" bronze sculpture originating from 17th century Tamil Nadu, were handed over to the Indian High Commissioner to the UK following a joint US-UK investigation involving Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Unit.



Flipkart team ups with DPIIT to empower Indian Toy Manufacturers

Guwahati: Flipkart, India's ecommerce marketplace, in partnership with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), organized a workshop to enhance India's global toy supply chain capabilities, aiming to position the country as a "Toy Export Hub." The workshop focused on upskilling and reskilling domestic manufacturers to produce innovative and high-quality toys that represent India's rich cultural heritage.

The event was graced by Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, (DPIIT); Shri. Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT; Mohammad Isharar Ali, Director, DPIIT; Rajneesh Ku-

mar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart and Manjari Singhal, Head of FMCG and General Merchandise, Flipkart. Commenting on the event's success, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said, "By collaborating with industry leaders like Flipkart, we are taking significant steps towards making India a leading exporter of high-quality toys."

A workshop with Flipkart attracted hundreds of Indian toy manufacturers, focusing on quality improvement, innovation, and industry standards. The workshop aimed to equip manufacturers with tools,



knowledge, and resources to boost competitiveness and online business growth. Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart said, "We are happy to support DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce's efforts to help strengthen the Toy industry in India, and accelerate India's development as a global toy manufacturing and export hub."

Shopsy launches a diverse range of budget mobile phones



Guwahati: Shopsy unveils a wide range of budget mobile phones to cater to the evolving needs and preferences of its rapidly growing e-commerce platform. Shopsy offers an array of mobile phones from top brands including Motorola, vivo, OPPO, realme, Samsung, MI and several other top brands, all priced under Rs. 15,000/- with a starting range of Rs. 5,000/-.

Shopsy, a mobile phone category, has experienced a 5x growth in demand since its launch earlier this year. New mobile launches every month generate excitement among users, resulting in a 3x surge on launch days. Top cities like Ahmedabad, New Delhi,

Hisar, Kolkata, and Jind show strong engagement with the mobile category. Kapil Thirani, Senior Director, Shopsy, said, "The response has been amazing, and we're just getting started. Get ready to see even more incredible deals as we ramp up this exciting new segment!"

Shopsy offers attractive deals like no-cost EMI options and bank offers to incentivize purchases. Smartphones are becoming the go-to device for entertainment and gaming, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Shopsy's curated selection of budget mobiles ensures users enjoy an immersive multimedia experience without breaking the bank.

Marico expert Dr. Shilpa Vora recommends using coconut and methi for protective hair care

Guwahati: Summers in India are harsh, with high temperatures and humidity affecting overall health. Hair is particularly vulnerable to damage due to excessive sweat and heat, leading to frizz, dryness, increased hair fall, and brittleness. Marico expert Dr. Shilpa Vora recommends using coconut and methi for protective hair care during this season.

Prioritizing hair health and protecting it from UV rays during summer is crucial.

A regular hair oiling routine can reduce dullness and dryness caused by heat. Nihar Naturals offers a lightweight, non-greasy oil infused with light fragrance, containing Coconut & Methi for 2X thick hair and Jasmine for fresh-smelling hair. This non-greasy oil is lightweight and non-greasy. Methi is a highly effective hair care ingredient, rich in protein, that combats hair dryness, making it soft and shiny. It also serves as a natural scalp

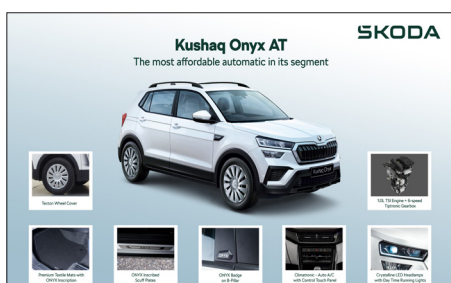
moisturizer, especially beneficial in the summer heat.

Oiling your hair during summers is best done on a clean scalp, not a greasy one. Oil can be applied for 30 minutes to 4 hours, and not left overnight in hot weather. Avoiding oiling can cause heat damage to your hair. To maintain moisture, wash your hair with cold water and avoid leaving it overnight. This will help keep it hydrated and soft.

Škoda Auto India upgraded the Kushaq Onyx with an automatic transmission

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India, in its strategy of continuous product actions, have implemented one more enhancement in its 5-star safe fleet -- the introduction of the Kushaq Onyx AT. The Onyx was originally released in Q1 2023 based on customer feedback with an aim to provide satisfaction and high value to Škoda fans and customers. Škoda Auto India, based on latest customer feedback, has now further enhanced the Kushaq Onyx with an automatic transmission and a host of new features, making it the most affordable automatic in its segment.

The Onyx AT, a new SUV from Škoda, is a blend of the Active and Ambition variants. It features Crystalline LED headlamps with DRLs, front fog lamps with static cornering function, wiper and defogger, Tecton Wheel covers, and 'Onyx' badging in the B-pillars. Inside, the Onyx AT offers Hill



Hold Control and Paddle Shifters, a 2-spoke, multifunction leather steering Cwheel with a chrome scroller, Škoda's Climatronic touches panel, and an 'Onyx' inscription on the front scruff plates. Onyx-themed cushions and textile mats are also standard, and the car comes with six airbags as standard. Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The Onyx variant has been a key addition in our line-up combining the value of the Active trim with features from the higher variants."

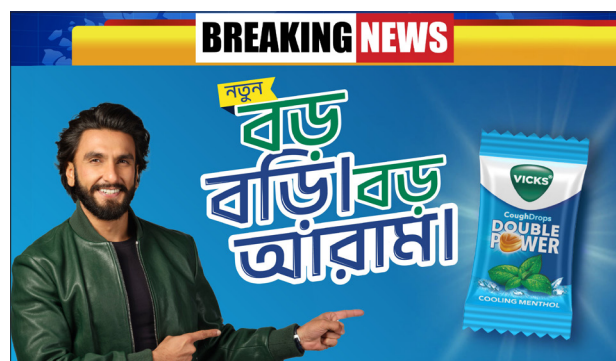
This season, enjoy all the sports action with Vi Movies & TV App

Guwahati: A recent report by Ormax Media stated that there are 678 million sports audiences in India, with cricket and football being the top two sports with an audience base of 612 million and 305 million, respectively. To cater to this audience's growing preference for digital viewing experiences, Vi, a leading telecom operator, is making it easier for them to find and watch sports content.

Vi users can now watch the World's Biggest T20 Cricket Tournament on Disney+ Hotstar, UEFA Euro 2024, and Copa America with a single subscription plan on the Vi Movies & TV App, enhancing their viewing experience by streaming these events through connected TV. Vi has introduced an exclusive bundled subscription for cricket and football fans, simplifying access to Disney+ Hotstar and Sony LIV. For just Rs 169, users can enjoy a three-month subscription and 8GB of data for 30 days.

Vi post-paid offers two data add-on packs for cricket fans and football fans. For Rs 499, users can enjoy a Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription for 1 year and 20GB of data. For Rs 100 per month, users can access the UEFA Euro 2024 on TV/mobile phone.

Vicks Breaks SabseBadiKhabar with Powerhouse Ranveer Singh



Siliguri: Vicks breaks SabseBadiKhabar "Vicks ki Goli Ab Ho Gayi hai Badi" with powerhouse brand ambassador Ranveer Singh unveiling the First-ever Double Powered Transformation of India's iconic Triangular Vicks Cough drops in two decades.

The iconic Vicks Cough Drops brand jingle, "Vicks ki Goli Lo, KhichKhich Door Karo," has been a source of nostalgia for generations of Indians since the 1960s. The Vicks Double Power Cough Drops, launched alongside Superstar Ranveer Singh, are a double-powered transformation of India's iconic triangular Vicks Cough drops. The new product, formulated based on consumer feedback,

is a BADI GOLI that provides BADI RAHAT, a larger size to relieve throat irritation and cough symptoms. The product is a BADI GOLI that offers relief. Powerhouse Ranveer Singh shared, "Proud to represent such an iconic brand as Vicks. I'm excited about the new Double Powered Cough Drops."

Vicks, the world's #1 cough and cold brand, has launched its fourth innovation in India in the last 15 months. The company's latest product, New Vicks VapoRub Steam Pods, is the first steam inhalation capsules globally, and the roll-on for fast and on-the-go relief from headaches, aiming to provide superior products for families and friends.

Guwahati to host SIDBI SWAVALAMBAN Mela 2024

Guwahati: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India announces the SWAVALAMBAN Mela 2024, to be held from 14th to 18th June 2024 at the NEDFi Convention Centre, Ganeshguri, Guwahati. The event will feature participation from key SIDBI officials, including Shri Pradeep Kumar Nath, Deputy General Manager of SIDBI, Guwahati, who will play a pivotal role in the proceedings.

The SWAVALAMBAN Mela will showcase the products of micro enterprises, artisans, SHGs, and women entrepreneurs from vari-

ous sectors, including handloom, handicraft, processed food, FMCG, cane, bamboo, and water hyacinth products. The event aims to offer a platform for small businesses to showcase and sell their unique products, promoting local industries and economic growth. Key features include interactions between buyers and sellers, SIDBI's assistance in connecting with banking and formal credit systems, and training and support for sustainable business practices, including e-commerce platforms like GeM/ONDC. The Mela offers free daily entry from 11 AM to 8 PM for programs focusing on business development, marketing strategies, and sustainable livelihood.

Flipkart to hosts its the second edition of Glam Up Fest 2024

Guwahati: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, announces the second edition of its highly anticipated Glam Up Fest 2024 on June 14, 2024, at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. This Glam Up Fest, one of India's largest beauty event gatherings, will feature 3,500+ Beauty and Lifestyle influencers and participation from over 70 top brands across consumer categories. The Glam Up Fest will provide an unparalleled and immersive platform for the lifestyle influencers who will bring the experience of a diverse range of beauty and lifestyle products to life for their followers through social media, showcasing interactive features.

The Glam Up Fest, a beauty event, will feature innovative brand launches, experiential zones, and celebrity appearances. It will unite over 3,500 influencers and 70 popular brands across Beauty and Skincare. Top celebrities like Taapsee Pannu, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Rohit Saraf, and Adah Sharma will also be present. The Glam Up Fest will feature top beauty and grooming brands, including Mamaearth, Revlon, Wild Stone, and Lotus Herbals, as well as technological interventions like Virtual Try-On, Video Commerce, and Skin Analysers to enhance shopping experiences in fashion and lifestyle categories. Manjari Singhal, Head of Business, FMCG and General Merchandise, Flipkart, said, "Flipkart is elevating the beauty shopping experience for its customers with the second edition of Glam Up Fest - our largest beauty extravaganza."

Jayant Chaudhary, MSDE Minister, Scrutinizes Ministry's Schemes in Comprehensive Review

Guwahati: Shri Jayant Chaudhary, the Hon'ble Minister of State for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, conducted a comprehensive review of all ongoing schemes and their divisions. He participated in the immersive session to gain a deep understanding of the operations of various MSDE divisions, their achievements, and the challenges they face. This engagement provided valuable insights into enhancing the Ministry's strategic approach and future roadmap towards skill development.

Elaborating on the necessity of a unified effort to ensure the successful implementation and expansion of skill development initiatives across the nation, Shri Jayant



Chaudhary said that we must focus on close collaboration and convergence with other Ministries and States to bring scale and speed to the skill ecosystem.

The Hon'ble Minister praised the MSDE's efforts in creating a skill ecosystem, emphasizing the importance of building demand for skills and bridging the skills gap. He also reviewed the latest data

and feedback to identify areas requiring immediate attention and improvement, highlighting the Ministry's efforts in creating a conducive environment for innovation and employment. Minister Chaudhary emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and self-reliance, highlighting the Ministry's initiatives to promote entrepreneurial skills.

TKM launches T-TEP Facility and STAR Scholarship Program at The Government Polytechnic, Bareilly

Guwahati: Toyota Kirloskar Motor [TKM] announced the launch of the 66th Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) facility and the "Scholarship program for Technical Education and Recognition" [STAR] initiative under T-TEP at institute at The Government Polytechnic, Bareilly, in line with its 'Skill India' mission. The primary objective of these initiatives is to improve the skills of students, particularly those from rural areas, and increase their employability through the company's unique training program, the Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP).

The launch event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. D C Verma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of Principal of Government Polytechnic, Bareilly Mr. Narendra Kumar, Director of Commercial Toyota, Mr. Shivam Gupta and TKM senior management.

T-TEP is a comprehensive year-long program tailored for final-year ITI/Diploma students, offering specialized training for lead trainers, practical skills development at Toyota dealerships, and a curriculum tailored to the Indian auto industry. TKM also launched the STAR scholar-



ship program to help economically challenged students pursue technical studies. Over 13,000 students have been trained through T-TEP. Present at the event, Chief Guest Mr. D C Verma, Member of

Punch.ev and Nexon.ev achieved a 5 star Bharat-NCAP safety rating

Guwahati: Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEM), a subsidiary of Tata Motors and the pioneer of India's EV revolution, in a significant announcement declared that the Punch.ev and the Nexon.ev have achieved the 5 star Bharat-NCAP safety rating. While the Punch.ev set a major milestone by receiving the highest ever scores achieved by any vehicle till date -31.46/32 and 45/49 points for adult occupant protection (AOP) and child occupant protection (COP) respectively, the Nexon.ev scored 29.86/32 and 44.95/49 points for AOP and COP respectively. With this, Tata Motors is now the only OEM with the safest range of SUV portfolio scoring 5-stars across Bharat-NCAP and Global-NCAP tests.

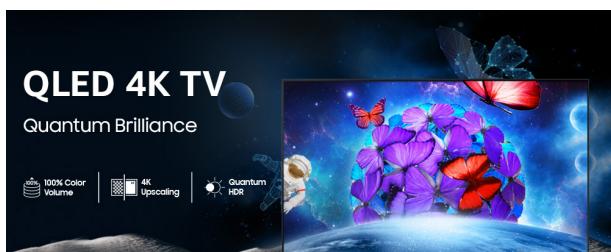
Tata Motors has prioritized safety as a top priority for Indian car buyers, making them an industry benchmark. The company has been pioneers in driving safety conversations and has been the first manufacturer to lead the Bharat-NCAP protocol with superlative results. The Punch.ev, an electric SUV, has attracted over 10,000 owners, particularly from rural markets, due to its long range, high performance, and advanced technology, while the Nexon.ev has sold over 68,000 units. Mr. Nitin Gadkari - Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, expressed, "My heartfelt congratulations to Tata Motors on this significant milestone as the Nexon.ev and Punch.ev receive a 5-star rating, under Bharat-NCAP."

Blackberrys join hands with Randeep Hooda to celebrate Dads who inspire to #KeepRising

Shillong: Blackberrys, a leading contemporary Indian menswear brand known for its commitment to quality and innovation for over three decades celebrates Father's Day by recognizing the power of fathers in inspiring their children to #KeepRising despite all odd challenges. Celebrating this breed of fathers, Blackberrys, has unveiled a touching Father's Day campaign featuring actor-par-excellence Randeep Hooda and his father Ranbir Hooda. The brand values strong, confident fathers who drive their children to reach their full potential.

The Indian menswear brand, known as India's 'fit expert', has launched a Father's Day campaign featuring an actor expressing gratitude to his father for being the wind beneath his wings and pushing him to reach his full potential. The campaign film highlights the bond between actor Randeep Hooda and his father, who played a pivotal role in his success in the acting world. Dressed in Blackberrys attire, the duo engages in a conversation, appreciating the freedom and confidence given to him by his father, which shaped his career and life. Randeep Hooda said, "My father has always been my pillar of strength, encouraging me to chase my dreams and to rise above every challenge. I am delighted to be associated with a brand like Blackberrys that celebrates the unwavering spirit in men."

Samsung launches Galaxy Watch FE



Guwahati: Samsung Electronics announced the release of Galaxy Watch FE, a new addition to the Samsung smartwatch lineup designed to extend Samsung's advanced and holistic wellness experience to even more users. Incorporating the groundbreaking hardware performance and advanced health and fitness monitoring features of Galaxy Watch, the Galaxy Watch FE features a stylish design and durable de-

sign. This new smartwatch is ideal for those looking to begin their journey to improve their overall wellness with comprehensive insights.

The Galaxy Watch FE, available in three colors (Black, Pink Gold, and Silver), offers a stylish and durable device with a Sapphire Crystal glass for superior durability. It also features a variety of watch faces for customization and a one-click band

for easy pairing. The device is equipped with Samsung's advanced BioActive Sensor, providing personalized fitness and wellness tips. The watch allows users to monitor Blood Pressure and ECG for a deeper understanding of their heart health. The watch is designed to make daily life healthier and more motivated. Junho Park, VP and Head of the Galaxy Ecosystem Product Planning Team, Mobile eXperience Business at Samsung Electronics, said, "We're excited to add the new Galaxy Watch FE to our wearables portfolio, offering more people access to personalized health insights that empower them to be motivated and stay healthier day and night."

BSV and FOGSI Collaborate for India's First Colposcopy Workshop in Tier 2 Cities

Mumbai: Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) a leading bio pharmaceutical company in India, has partnered with the Public Awareness Committee, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) to increase awareness and access of colposcopy, a diagnostic method that allows for detailed examination of the cervix, vagina, and vulva, in the early detection of precancerous changes and cervical cancer. Dr. Priya Ganeshkumar led the first colposcopy workshop at New Ramakrishna Sevasadan Hospital, Siliguri. The workshop, which is the first-ever attempt in a Tier 2 city aiming to raise awareness among gynaecolo-

gists and specialists about the importance of colposcopy in early detection and accurate diagnosis of cervical cancer.

Colposcopy also aids in preventive care, preventing the progression to invasive cervical cancer and reducing the incidence and mortality rates associated with the disease. Alok Khettry, COO, India Business, BSV, said, "In line with this vision, we are delighted to partner with FOGSI to educate our Healthcare Practitioners on the availability of such critical diagnostic tools such as Colposcopy, as part of the Continued Professional Development (CPD) under the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP)."

AIFF Calls for Probe into Controversial Goal in World Cup Qualifier vs. Qatar

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has called for an official probe into a contentious goal that occurred during India's World Cup qualifying match against Qatar in Doha, which potentially cost India advancement to the next round. AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey announced on Wednesday that the federation has reached out to FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) demanding a thorough review of the incident.

During the match held at the Jasim Bin Hamad Stadium, a goal was scored by Qatar under questionable circumstances, where the ball appeared to have completely crossed

the goal line but was still played and led to Qatar's winning goal. This incident has sparked significant uproar, as it may have deprived India of a historic chance to progress to the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the 2026 tournament.

Chaubey expressed in a statement, "While victory and defeat are intrinsic to sports, the manner of this loss due to a supervisory error raises serious concerns that must be addressed." He further elaborated that communications were sent to the FIFA Head of Qualifiers, AFC Head of Referees, and the match commissioner outlining the need for action



to be taken against the oversight.

The controversial moment happened in the 73rd minute when Qatar's Abdullah Alahrak took a free-kick that led to a sequence of events culminating in the disputed goal. India's goalkeeper, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, initially blocked a header but while he was down, the ball, having

crossed the line, was kicked back into play and led to Qatar scoring.

India's protests were dismissed by the South Korean referee Kim WooSung, who allowed the goal to stand, a decision that has since been widely criticized. According to FIFA's rules, the ball is considered out of play if it has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.

AIFF's call for investigation highlights the need for fairness and the potential implications of refereeing decisions on the sport's integrity. The federation has also suggested looking into "sporting compensation" to rectify the perceived injustice.

Kumble Advocates for Arshdeep's Inclusion as India Plans Strategy for Caribbean Matches

New Delhi: Anil Kumble, the esteemed former Indian spinner, has endorsed Arshdeep Singh for inclusion in India's fast bowling lineup if the team opts for only two specialist seamers in the upcoming Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup. This recommendation comes after Arshdeep's impressive performance in the recent match against the USA, where he claimed four wickets for just nine runs.

Mohammed Siraj, who has been less effective in the tournament, capturing only one wicket in three games, may need to step aside for Arshdeep, according to Kumble. With Jasprit Bumrah already a fixture in the lineup, Kumble believes pairing him with the left-arm pace of Arshdeep Singh alongside all-rounder Hardik Pandya could prove advantageous, especially on the Caribbean's slower pitches.

"In his latest performances, especially the last over against Pakistan and his adaptability across different phases of the T20 game, Arshdeep has shown he's a better choice than Siraj," Kumble commented to ESPNcricinfo. He also highlighted the added variety Arshdeep brings with his left-arm pace. Arshdeep's statistics from the tournament—seven wickets with an economy rate of 6.225 and a strike rate of 10.28—further justify Kumble's confidence in him. India is set to conclude its Group A engagements against Canada this Saturday in Lauderdale, Florida, before heading to the Caribbean.

Diksha to lead strong Indian challenge in Italian Open golf

Rome: Experienced Diksha Dagar will look to leave behind a rare missed cut, when she leads a strong five-member Indian contingent at the 2024 Ladies Italian Open starting here tomorrow. Diksha will return to action here, after a rare missed cut last week. The Indian star, who is headed to the Olympic Games in Paris, is just outside the Top-10 on the Ladies Order of Merit, where she was third last year. Diksha is one of the five Indians in the field this week, with rookie Pranavi Urs, experienced Tvesa Malik, Vani Kapoor and Ridhima Dilawari also teeing up at the Golf Nazionale, which is hosting the event for the first time.

Messi says he won't play for Argentina at Paris Olympics

New Delhi: Lionel Messi has decided not to be part of Argentina's squad for the Paris Olympics as he is no longer at an age where he can play in every tournament.

Messi shared his thoughtful perspective, expressing his gratitude for the invitation from former teammate and under-23 manager Javier Mascherano.

"I talked to Mascherano and the truth is we both understood the situation," Messi told ESPN.

However, with the rigors of Copa America looming large and the demands on his aging physique becoming more pronounced, Messi recognised the importance of pacing himself.

Balancing club commitments, international tournaments, and personal well-being, he conceded that participating in two consecutive tournaments would be too taxing at this stage of his career.

"It's hard (to think about the Olympics right now) because we're in Copa America. It would be two, three straight months of not being with the club, and more than anything I'm not at an age to be in everything."

"I have to choose carefully, and it would be too much to play two straight tournaments. I've been very lucky to play in the Olympics, of winning it together with (Mascherano). It was a wonderful experience on a football level. Olympics, U20, memories I'll never forget."

Manchester United to Retain Manager Ten Hag After Performance Review, AP Source Reveals



Manchester: Erik ten Hag will continue as Manchester United manager and is currently in talks to extend his contract, according to a source familiar with the situation who spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday. The decision brings an end to months of speculation surrounding Ten Hag's future following a challenging league campaign for United, although he did conclude the season on a high note by

clinching the FA Cup with a victory over Manchester City.

Despite overseeing United's lowest Premier League finish in 34 years and enduring 19 losses across all competitions, the club conducted an end-of-year review after last month's cup final and opted to retain Ten Hag, who has secured two trophies since his arrival from Ajax in 2022. Ten Hag's tenure saw United lift the English League Cup in his debut season, followed by the FA Cup triumph this year. However, his failure to secure Champions League qualification for the upcoming season posed a significant challenge, especially amidst a major overhaul of United's soccer operations by new coowner Jim Ratcliffe.

British billionaire Ratcliffe, who acquired a 27.7% stake in the club in February, has initiated significant changes,

appointing a new CEO and technical director, with a sporting director expected to join soon. Ten Hag's retention marks Ratcliffe's final major decision in reshaping United's managerial structure. Despite falling short of Ratcliffe's objectives, Ten Hag's success in securing silverware played a pivotal role in his continuity as manager.

United's quest for stability in the managerial department has been tumultuous since the departure of Sir Alex Ferguson in 2013, with Ten Hag becoming the club's fifth permanent manager during this period. While the Dutchman faced intense scrutiny leading up to the cup final, his team's impressive performance and victory provided a much-needed boost, reinforcing Ten Hag's commitment to achieving success at Old Trafford.

East Bengal Club Revamps Leadership, Adds Jhulan Goswami to Committee

Kolkata: East Bengal Club has announced a significant leadership shakeup, marking the end of Kalyan Majumdar's tenure as secretary after more than two decades. This change came about without the usual elections, as the current leaders took charge in a seamless transition. Highlighting the new committee is the appointment of Jhulan Goswami, the former captain of the Indian women's cricket team.

This move is part of a broader strategy to infuse the committee with prominent figures from diverse backgrounds. The announcement was made during a press conference held on Wednesday afternoon at a five-star hotel in the city.

Murari Lal Lohia steps in as the new president, with Dr. Pranab Dasgupta, the outgoing president, serving as an advi-



sor Rupak Saha fills the role of secretary. Although Kalyan Majumdar has relinquished his secretary position, he remains involved as a vice president, alongside co-presidents Ajay Krishna Chattopadhyay, Shankar Bagri, Shubhashis Chakraborty, and Rahul Todi. Shantiranjana Dasgupta is the new deputy secretary, with Sadananda Mukhopadhyay as the finance secretary, Debdas Samajdar as the treasurer, and a team of sports-specific secretaries to support the club's diverse athletic interests.

Shivam Dube Compares Challenging NY Pitches to Ranji Trophy Conditions

New York: Indian cricketer Shivam Dube expressed his struggles with the challenging pitch conditions during the T20 World Cup in New York, likening them to those found in India's domestic Ranji Trophy matches. The Chennai Super Kings all-rounder found it tough to adapt his game to the two-paced tracks, which significantly differed from the high-scoring surfaces in India.

Dube, who regained some form with a 35-ball 31 in India's victory over the USA, pushing the team into the Super Eight stage, discussed his approach to overcoming his initial poor form. "The conditions here required a different approach, which meant adjusting my batting to suit the pitches rather than attempting my usual style," he explained.

The pitches at Nassau County

International Cricket Stadium posed a significant challenge, with Dube taking six deliveries to get off the mark and initially struggling to find his timing. However, he managed to adapt, hitting an impressive 87-metre six off Corey Anderson, reminiscent of his performances in the Indian Premier League (IPL). "It felt like playing in a Ranji Trophy game. The conditions dictate how you play here. You have to wait for the right opportunity to hit a six," Dube said, describing the necessity of a cautious approach on the unpredictable surface. He reflected on the overall experience, stating, "I won't delete this from my memory because this is my first World Cup. As the World Cup moves to the Caribbean, Dube and the Indian team hope for more favorable conditions that align better with their playing style."