

UP govt orders three-tier probe announces ex gratia for affected kin

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday ordered a three-tier probe into the massive fire that killed ten newborn babies at Jhansi's Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College late on Friday. The state government also announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the parents of each of the deceased babies and ₹50,000 to families of each injured. Of the ten deceased babies, seven have been identified and the process to identify the rest three is still underway, with parents and relatives seeking answers from authorities over the incident. Avinash Kumar, the Jhansi District Magistrate, said that the fire broke out around 10:45 pm on Friday in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of the facility, which is one of the largest government hospitals in UP's Bundelkhand region. He said that the fire erupted due to possible electrical short circuit. While a three-tier probe has been ordered into the incident, CM Yogi has also directed the Divisional Commissioner of Jhansi and the deputy inspector general of police to submit a report within 12 hours. A statement from the state government said that as soon as the CM found out about the incident, he sent deputy CM Brajesh Pathak and the principal health secretary to the medical facility. Pathak told PTI on Saturday that strict action would be taken against those found guilty. Further, in a post on X, he said, "Instruc-



tions have been given for a three-tier investigation into the unfortunate fire accident that occurred in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNCU Ward) of Maharani Laxmibai Medical College, Jhansi." He added that a magisterial inquiry has also been ordered into the incident. Speaking to reporters, the deputy CM also noted that efforts are underway to identify the remaining newborn babies who lost their lives in the tragic incident. "We will find out the reasons behind the incident and whose negligence led to it. The first challenge is to give quality treatment to the injured children," he said. According to an India Today report, expired fire extinguishers were found at the NICU of the Jhansi hospital. It said that as per a preliminary probe, the filing date on the fire extinguisher cylinders was 2019 and expiration

date for the same was 2020. Reportedly the safety alarms also did not go off, which led to a delayed evacuation at the ward. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the incident and announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the parents of the newborns who died in the incident and ₹50,000 to the family of each of the injured from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, a statement from his office said. Meanwhile, addressing an election rally at Prayagraj's Phulpur, Adityanath said, "To ensure that other children were rescued, we were up all night coordinating (with officials) for relief and rescue efforts," adding that "My heart goes out to those who lost their children." Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio of the state, told PTI that 16 babies are undergoing treatment in other wards

of the medical college. "The children, who were three to four days old, have been kept on a warmer," he added. Dr Narendra Sengar, principal of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, said that 16 children, who did not suffer any burn injury or suffocation, were admitted to the NICU ward for treatment of other diseases. He said that they are being attended to at the district hospital. It was also reportedly said that after the fire broke out at the NICU, some parents took their children. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sudha Singh told reporters that cops are trying to verify the tally of the babies who were in the NICU and find out their current status. "The medical college has informed that 52 to 54 children were admitted at the time of the incident. While 10 of them died, 16 are undergoing treatment. Verification for others is ongoing," she added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the unfortunate incident. In an X post from the PM's Office, he said, "Heart-breaking! The fire accident at Jhansi Medical College in Uttar Pradesh is heart-wrenching. My deepest condolences to those who lost their innocent children in this. I pray to God to give them the strength to bear this immense loss." "The local administration, under the supervision of the state government, is making every possible effort for relief and rescue," the prime minister added.

Union minister praises tribal communities for respecting nature

Shillong: Civil Aviation Minister Kinjurapu Rammo-han Naidu praised the tribal communities of Meghalaya for their profound respect for nature and their invaluable knowledge in environmental conservation, speaking at an event marking Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. This day, celebrated nationwide, commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of the revered tribal leader Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Naidu, addressing a gathering in the state, emphasized that the world has much to learn from the tribal communities, especially in Meghalaya, where environmental preservation is deeply embedded in their culture. Speaking on his personal visit to the sacred Mawphlang Grove, located 25 km from Shillong, Naidu described the experience as eye-opening, underscoring the region's spiritual and practical ties to nature. "The people of Meghalaya have a strong connection to nature, and this is something the world can learn from. The knowledge within the tribal communities offers solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges the world faces today," said Naidu. He referenced the sacred forests of the Khasi community, quoting a local guide who remarked, "The sacred forests are not something the Khasi community inherited from their ancestors, but something they are borrowing from future generations." The Union Minister also lauded the state's progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. Naidu expressed his optimism regarding the potential growth of civil aviation in the region, particularly highlighting plans for enhancing connectivity. He assured the ongoing support of the central government in expanding Umroi Airport and operationalizing the Baljek Airport in Tura to improve travel and transport links. Naidu stressed the importance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, acknowledging the sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters and leaders who have fought for their rights, identity, and culture.

Suitcase stuffed with woman's body found near Delhi highway

New Delhi: The Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday found a woman's body stuffed inside a red suitcase on the Delhi-Lucknow Highway in Hapur district. Senior Superintendent of Police Vineet Bhatnagar said that the woman is believed to be between 25 and 30 years old. "The body was found near a service road. A team of police personnel and forensic experts were dispatched to inspect the area," Bhatnagar said. "The body has been sent for a post-mortem." Bhatnagar also said that the woman's injuries indicate that she could have died approximately a day prior. "There are no signs which could indicate us to her identity," he added. Last month, a woman's body was retrieved from near the

Kanpur District Magistrate's bungalow four months after she was killed. The woman had gone missing and a subsequent investigation had found that she was dead. The woman's gym trainer - Vimal Soni - has been arrested in connection with the case. During the interrogation, the gym trainer who operates in the Green Park area, confessed that he had buried the body of the businessman's wife in an area which comprises bungalows allotted to government officials. The accused, who is a resident of Kanpur's Raipurwa locality, told the investigators officials about the spot from where the body was found after digging the ground. He was reportedly upset over the trainer's wedding getting finalised.

Northeast emerging as growth engine centre's allocation increased four times

Agartala: Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday stated that the Central Government's fund allocation for the North Eastern states has increased fourfold in the last ten years compared to the UPA-led Congress regime. Addressing a press conference at Agartala on Friday, Minister Scindia said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions the Northeast as a growth engine. "Northeastern states have witnessed massive changes in the last 10 years due to efforts by the Central and State governments. There was a time when the budget for the Northeast was Rs 24,000 crore, but after 2014, it is approximately Rs 1,03,000 crore, which is four times higher. In the last 65 years, around 10,000 km of National Highways were constructed, whereas after 2014, more than 5,000 km of National Highways have been built by the PM Modi government. Currently, three states in the Northeast are connected by railways, and in the coming 2-3 years, the goal is to connect all Northeastern states with railway connectivity. In the civil aviation sector, there were only nine airports in the region, with two states lacking airports altogether in the last



65 years. Today, the Northeast has 17 airports. Such rapid development has occurred across every sector in the Northeast," he said. The minister highlighted that Tripura has experienced significant progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha. "The GSDP has reached approximately Rs 90,000 crore, and the per capita GDP has increased by 15%. The per capita income in our state is around Rs 1,06,000. From 2004 to 2014, during the Congress government, Tripura received Rs 8,900 crore as tax devolution.

Toyota launches special limited editions of Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor & Hyryder

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is bringing cutting-edge innovation to the automotive market with the launch of Special Limited Editions of its flagship models — Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor, and Urban Cruiser Hyryder. These editions are equipped with advanced Toyota Genuine Accessories (TGA) packages, allowing customers to personalize their vehicles with modern enhancements like 3D floor mats, chrome garnishes, and body cladding, designed to elevate both the aesthetic appeal and functionality of each model. Prices for these accessories range from INR 17,381 for the Glanza to INR 50,817 for the Urban Cruiser Hyryder. In addition to the accessories, TKM is offering exclusive year-end deals, with savings of over INR 1 lakh on select models (excluding CNG variants), valid until



December 31, 2024. According to Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President of Sales-Service-Used Car Business at TKM, these innovations are a reflection of Toyota's commitment to delivering advanced, customer-centric solutions that offer a unique combination of style and technology. In Sikkim, where the demand for high-tech,

feature-loaded cars is steadily rising, these Special Limited Editions are expected to resonate with buyers looking for innovative features and customization options. Toyota's reputation for reliability and technology-driven features makes these models an ideal choice for Sikkim's discerning car buyers.

UTI Mutual Fund expands reach with new financial centre in Dibrugarh

Dibrugarh: UTI Asset Management Company (UTI AMC), a leader in India's asset management sector, has announced the opening of a new UTI Financial Centre (UFC) in Dibrugarh. Located at 1st Floor, House of Subhas Chandra Jain, New Market, H S Road, near Hotel East End, this UFC is part of UTI's expansion drive, adding 19 new centers across South, East, and Northeast India on November 18, 2024. This move aims to bring mutual fund investments closer to investors in smaller cities, or "B30 cities," fostering financial inclusion on a larger scale. Mr. Imtaiyazur Rahman, MD and CEO of UTI AMC, commented, "Our new UFCs are designed to make our services more accessible to individual investors. The remarkable growth in participation from B30 cities reflects a strong appetite for mutual fund investments in these areas." For Dibrugarh, the addition of UTI's Financial Centre aligns well with the city's emerging financial market, providing local investors with direct access to a trusted mutual fund brand. This new UFC is expected to draw interest from small and mid-size investors looking to diversify their portfolios, strengthening Dibrugarh's position in Assam's investment landscape. UTI's extensive distribution network also includes partnerships with banks and mutual fund distributors, further enhancing its reach.

Fostering Collaboration & Knowledge Exchange

Guwahati: The 7th edition of the Apollo Cancer Conclave, organized by Apollo Cancer Centers, Mumbai was attended by over 2,000 Oncologists with over 400 faculty from leading national and international cancer care experts and researchers. The event focused on discussing the latest advances and innovations in cancer care, navigating the evolving landscape from contemporary treatments to precision oncology. Held from November 8th to 10th, the conclave provided a dynamic platform for healthcare professionals to engage in panel discussions, workshops, and research presentations. Dr. Elisabete Weiderpass, Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) at the World Health Organization, remarked, "IARC's 2022 estimates show that the global cancer burden is projected to rise from 20 million new cases in 2022 to 35 million by 2050, primarily impacting low- and middle-income countries. In India, the cancer burden is expected to rise from 1.41 million new cases in 2022 to 2.69 million in 2050." The Apollo Cancer Conclave 2024 set the stage for continued advancements in cancer care, establishing new benchmarks in precision oncology, robotics, AI-based patient care, and clinical collaboration. This year's event exemplified Apollo's commitment to pushing the boundaries of oncology and reinforced its role as a global leader in transforming cancer care.

Godrej jersey's milk report: 60% of Indian parents prioritize calcium intake for kids

Guwahati: Godrej Jersey's latest survey, Bottoms Up... India Says Cheers to Milk!, reveals that 60% of Indian parents give milk to their children primarily to maintain adequate calcium intake. The nationwide study, covering Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, and Kolkata, found that milk plays a vital role not just in providing essential nutrients, but also in promoting fitness, weight management, and energy.

Hyderabad topped the list, with 66% of parents choosing milk for its calcium content, while Lucknow and Kolkata had the lowest preference at 55%. "Milk's

nutritional benefits are well-documented globally, and it remains a key dietary component for children's growth," said Bhupendra Suri, CEO of Godrej Jersey. The survey also found that 90% of children consume milk more than 4-5 times a week, and over 40% of parents are willing to offer flavored milk as a school meal or during playtime.

In Guwahati, local parents are also increasingly opting for milk as a key nutritional source for their children. This aligns with a broader regional shift towards health-conscious choices, further fueling the demand for quality dairy products in the city.

UTI Mutual Fund launches financial centre in Aizawl to boost investment accessibility in Mizoram

Aizawl: UTI Asset Management Company (UTI AMC), a leading force in India's mutual fund industry, has announced the launch of a new UTI Financial Centre (UFC) in Aizawl at A 57, Zote Bakery, Lower Zarkawt, Chanmari. This center is part of UTI's larger strategy to establish 19 new UFCs across South, East, and Northeast India by November 18, 2024, aiming to increase financial inclusion and draw investors from B30 cities into the mainstream financial sector.

Mr. Imtaiyazur Rahman, UTI AMC's Managing Director and CEO, expressed the company's dedication to accessibility, stating, "Our expansion is about proximity and seamless access. The rise in mutual fund participation in B30 cities is motivating, and we're committed to fostering financial awareness across India." In Mizoram, the Aizawl UFC is expected to bridge significant gaps in financial access, offering local investors a reliable platform for mutual fund investments. Given the limited financial service options in the region, UTI's presence in Aizawl aims to boost local market participation, empowering residents with investment options and opportunities to build wealth.

Tata Motors launches 'Customer Care Mahotsav' to enhance commercial vehicle experience

Aizawl: Tata Motors has launched its nationwide "Customer Care Mahotsav 2024," a pan-India engagement program aimed at enhancing the after-sales experience for commercial vehicle customers. The event, which runs from 23rd October to 24th December 2024, is being hosted at over 2,500 authorized service outlets across the country, offering a range of benefits to fleet owners and drivers. The Customer Care Mahotsav provides customers with comprehensive vehicle check-ups conducted by trained technicians, alongside access to Tata Motors' value-added services. Drivers will also receive specialized training in safe and fuel-efficient driving, as part of the Sampurna Seva 2.0 initiative, which is designed to



support all aspects of the vehicle lifecycle—from purchase to post-purchase services.

Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director of Tata Motors, emphasized the company's commitment to delivering best-in-class service, saying, "The Mahotsav is an opportunity to strengthen relationships with our customers and offer tailored solutions that benefit their businesses." Aizawl is

seeing increased enthusiasm for Tata Motors' services, as customers recognize the value of comprehensive vehicle maintenance. The local service centers are bustling with fleet owners taking advantage of the extensive offerings, from vehicle check-ups to driver training, ensuring optimal vehicle performance and operational efficiency for businesses in the region.

ICAI organises such an awareness seminar-cum-workshop in partnership with ITMA

Guwahati: The International Copper Association India (ICAI), in partnership with the Indian Transformer Manufacturers Association (ITMA), has successfully hosted a seminar-cum-workshop on November 08, 2024, at Vivanta Guwahati, Assam. The event, supported by key power sector bodies such as the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and aimed to provide valuable insights to officials from distribution companies and distribution transformer (DT) repair units. The workshop was Ashish Das, Sr. Vice President (East Zone) - ITMA and Shri Shouvik Chanda, Scientist-E & Head, Guwahati Branch Office (GHBO) - Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Shri Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Chairman - Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), Shri Manas Kundu - Senior Advisor, ICA India. Mr. Jain warmly welcomed all attendees, distinguished guests, and delegates. This workshop



featured knowledgeable speakers from the power sector who provided valuable insights into the distribution transformer industry. Their expertise shed light on current challenges, innovations, and best practices crucial for advancing transformer performance and reliability. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Ashish Das, Sr. Vice President (East Zone) - ITMA.

Godrej Industries strengthens food & beverage portfolio with Savannah Surfactants acquisition

Guwahati: Godrej Industries' Chemicals Business has signed a business transfer agreement to acquire the Food Ester and Emulsifier Business of Savannah Surfactants Limited. This strategic acquisition aims to enhance Godrej's offerings in the food and beverages sector, expanding its portfolio in specialty chemicals. Vishal Sharma, Executive Director and CEO of Godrej Industries (Chemicals), commented, "In line with our strategy, this acquisition will allow us to grow our specialty chemicals business and is aligned with our commitment to sustainable growth and innovation." Savannah Surfactants, based in Goa, has a manufacturing capacity of 5,200 MTPA,

producing high-quality food esters and emulsifiers. This acquisition strengthens Godrej's footprint in the growing food and beverages segment, where demand for sustainable and specialty ingredients is rising. In Guwahati, this acquisition positions Godrej to meet the increasing need for innovative, sustainable food solutions. As businesses in the region seek eco-friendly and high-performance ingredients for food processing, Godrej's expanded portfolio will cater to the growing local demand for greener, specialized food products. This will allow Godrej to further solidify its presence and leadership in North East India's rapidly developing food & beverage sector.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor's skill development initiatives empower youth on National Education Day

Bangalore: Celebrating National Education Day, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) emphasized its dedication to youth empowerment through skill development initiatives, particularly benefiting economically underprivileged youth across Karnataka and India.

TKM's programs, including the Toyota Technical Training Institute (TTTI), have trained over 1,10,000 young people, fostering industry-ready skills and self-reliance, thus supporting India's economic and industrial growth. A cornerstone of TKM's mission, TTTI provides a three-year, free residential training in automobile manufacturing. Recently expanded to ac-

commodate 1,200 students, including 600 women, TTTI combines hands-on technical training with personal development. Another initiative, the Toyota Kaushalya Program, offers a "Learn and Earn" model for rural Karnataka youth, blending academic and on-the-job learning. TKM's collaboration with 60 industrial training centers nationwide through the Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) has also impacted over 13,000 students, equipping them with practical skills through Toyota dealership internships.

These initiatives align with the region's demand for skilled professionals, as automotive technology

and industry practices advance. With limited training facilities in the North-east, TKM's programs open doors for youth from smaller cities like Shillong, where employability in technical fields remains challenging, thus bolstering local economies and increasing job prospects. G. Shankara, Executive VP of TKM, noted, "Our initiatives align with the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, offering practical training to bridge educational and industry needs, contributing to a developed and progressive India." Through extensive partnerships and skill-building programs, TKM continues to play a crucial role in shaping India's skilled workforce.

MG Windsors felicitates Indian Olympic Medalists 2024



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Guwahati: The Indian contingent at the 2024 Paris Olympics has exhibited sheer resilience in gaining a respectable feat and paving the way for other aspiring future athletes. In recognition of their hard work and relentless pursuit of excellence, JSW Sports and JSW MG Motor India honored these sports stars with the MG Windsor, India's 1st intelligent CUV that has created a disruption in the Indian passenger electric car market. The Olympic medalists from India participated and won medals in various sporting events such as Javelin Throw, Pistol & Rifle Shooting, Wrestling and Hockey. These celebrated Olympians received the keys to their MG Windsors at an event in Chandigarh from company representatives. The MG Windsor combines the comfort of a sedan and the expanse of an SUV, offering a luxurious business-class experience to customers. In addition, customers are ensured complete peace of mind ownership experience through various initiatives such as Battery-As-A-Service, a lifetime warranty on the battery for the first owner, assured 60% buyback after three years, and one-year free charging at public chargers using the eHUB by MG app.

Nissan kicks off an exclusive 'Weekend Carnival'



Guwahati: Nissan Motor India is delighted to announce the 'Weekend Carnival' across its dealership network in India between November 15-17. The weekend carnival aims to bring together existing and prospective Nissan customers and their families for an unforgettable experience with exciting prizes, lucky draws, and fun activities. All Nissan showrooms will offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the guests to enjoy, with an interactive showcase of Nissan vehicles. Guests can test-drive the New Nissan Magnite and Nissan X-TRAIL and participate in family-oriented games and contests. There will also be a dedicated play corner for kids of all age groups. Existing customers are welcome to share their Nissan experiences – of cherished moments, celebrations, driving experiences, or any Nissan moment they hold close to their heart – with the other guests. They can also upload video testimonials on their social media handles using the hashtag #NissanFamilyConnect. Nissan Motor India warmly invites existing Magnite and prospective New Nissan Magnite owners and their families to their nearest Nissan dealership for an unforgettable weekend of family fun, exciting prizes, and fond memories.

Minister Jayant Chaudhary champions MESC to propel India as global media skills hub

Guwahati: In a pivotal move for India's media and entertainment sector, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary emphasized the role of the Media and Entertainment Skills Council (MESC) in advancing the "Skill India to Build India" mission. Chaudhary and MSDE Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari joined industry leaders, including Oscar-winner Dr. Resul Pookutty and Pocket Films founder Saameer Mody, in advocating for skill-based education to meet global media demands. Chaudhary highlighted MESC's new mandate to cultivate talent in broadcasting, media, and AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics), aligning skill development with the international market's rapid evolution. "With a strengthened Governing Council, MESC is focused on skill initiatives that prepare our youth for global opportunities," he



stated, lauding the AVGC policy's role in fostering creativity and employment. In Guwahati, MESC's initiatives have significant potential. By equipping local talent with competitive media skills, the organization can tap into Guwahati's growing creative sector, driving job cre-

ation and economic growth within the regional market. Supported by MSDE, NSDC, and industry partners, MESC's skill development programs aim to position India as a global leader in media talent, empowering youth to excel in an increasingly digital economy.

EESL launches NECP in Tripura with the distribution of 2000 induction cooktops

Agartala: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the administration of the Ministry of Power, has announced the inauguration of the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) in Tripura and is set to distribute 2,000 induction cooktops to Anganwadi Centres in the state in coordination with the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) and support from Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). This initiative aims to advance the large-scale adoption of energy efficiency and support the region's transition towards clean electric cooking. India has traditionally relied on biomass-based cooking methods, which have taken a toll on both public health and the environment. Furthermore, considering that 60% of India's future energy demand is anticipated to come from the cooling sector, the quest for sustainable and energy-efficient cooking solutions has become increasingly



critical. Shri Ratan Lal Nath, Minister of Power, Government of Tripura, said, "Through its various innovative initiatives, EESL has brought energy-efficient lighting while offering safe commute for the natives of Tripura." Shri Vishal Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, EESL, said, "At EESL, our dedication to empowering communities through sustainable solutions remains steadfast."

According to Dr. Nirmal Kumar Jain, 7 essential vaccinations for children after the age of 1

Guwahati: While immunisation coverage in the first year of life is high in India, the rate tends to drop after the first birthday. Hence, a significant number of children in the country remain partially vaccinated. It is essential for children to receive key vaccinations even after their first birthday to strengthen their immunity against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, ensuring a happy and healthy future. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommends 7 vaccinations for children aged 1 to 2 years: two doses of chickenpox and hepatitis A, a second dose

of meningitis and MMR, booster doses of PCV and DTP Hib IPV, and an annual dose of flu. These 7 essential vaccinations protect against 14 diseases, such as chickenpox, hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, meningitis, measles, mumps, rubella, pneumonia, influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and Hib infection. Speaking on the need for these essential vaccinations, Dr Nirmal Kumar Jain, Senior Child Specialist, Institute of Human Reproduction, Guwahati, said, "Vaccination is a key step to shield children from preventable diseases and their complications."

India captain Suryakumar reveals “it was perfect time” to promote Tilak to Virat Kohli’s spot in T20Is

Johannesburg: India captain Suryakumar Yadav opened up about the notable change in the batting line-up, which saw him stepping down in the order and promoting youngster Tilak Varma to the number three position during the T20I series against South Africa. India’s new era under Suryakumar has begun on a sparkling note, with young blood and familiar faces being brought into the setup. After stalwart Virat Kohli had his last dance in the T20 World Cup final, Suryakumar took it up on himself to bear the responsibility that came with the number three spot. But in the final two T20Is of the series, Suryakumar demoted himself and allowed Tilak to express himself in the number three position. The gamble paid off as Tilak hammered back-to-back hundreds on a challenging South African turf, proving that the decision was fruitful. “It was actually running in my mind that there has been a time when one man has battered consistently at number three and done wonders for India. So this was a perfect situation, a perfect opportunity for a young guy



and definitely someone like him,” Suryakumar said in the post-match press conference. Tilak’s knack for scoring runs briskly was prominently visible in his outings at Centurion and Johannesburg. During his first outing in the number three role at the Centurion, Tilak produced a rollicking 107* in just 56 deliveries, laced with eight fours and seven maximums. In Johannesburg, he upped the ante with a gobsmacking 120* in just 47 deliveries, propelling India to a gigantic total of 283/1, the highest by any team in South Africa. The young southpaw’s record-toppling performance proved that it was the perfect time for him to take up the role and hold it even for the future. “A lot of

showing a lot of promise, and we both actually spoke to each other and said I think it’s the perfect time for someone like you to bat at number three. Take that responsibility not only now but going forward as well, and he just walked the talk,” Suryakumar said. “I mean the way he batted at the Super Sport Park and also here today, it was incredible, and I hope he continues to do the same things same way not only in T20 cricket but for all formats for India,” he noted. Tilak ended the series as the highest run-getter with 280 runs to his name in the four T20Is, striking at 198.58. With a thumping 135-run victory in the 4th T20I, India secured a 3-1 series win over the Proteas.

Cristiano Ronaldo rolls back the clock with stunning overhead goal as Portugal demolish Poland 5-1

Cristiano Ronaldo turned back the clock for Portugal in the Nations League, showing the world that he still has a special moment in him as he scored an acrobatic overhead kick as part of Portugal’s 5-1 demolition of Poland in the UEFA Nations League on Friday. Now 39 years of age and in the twilight of his career, Ronaldo nevertheless showed that a combination of his athleticism and talent for the sport continue to make him a special player. With Portugal leading 4-0 late in the game, Vitorinha of PSG chipped in a cross for the legendary striker making his 217th appearance for Portugal, before contorting his body to sweep the ball home with a bicycle kick. Having already coolly slotted in a penalty earlier in the game, Ronaldo scored his record-extending 135th international goal with this fine finish. Although it was from close range and not quite as impressive as his iconic overhead kick for Real Madrid against Juventus in 2018, the confidence and ability of the Al Nassr striker continued to be on show for everyone to watch and admire. Portugal scored a flurry of late goals to down Poland and seal their qualification to the quarterfinals of the UEFA Nations League. After Milan star Rafael Leao gave them the lead following a thunderous counter-attack, Ronaldo made it 2-0 with his penalty. Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes crashed home a wonderful strike from range, in off the crossbar, to make it 3-0 and wrap up the tie. Portugal would continue to attack, though, as Ronaldo provided the assist for Chelsea’s Pedro Neto to make it 4-0 soon after, before making it



five with his overhead kick. Poland grabbed a consolation goal, the fourth in the match in the space of just eight minutes, as debutant Dominik Marczuk found the bottom corner with a fine strike to take away Diogo Costa’s clean sheet in the Portugal net. While there have been many who questioned Ronaldo’s place in the Portugal team following a disappointing performance at the Euros, where he finally seemed to be showing his age, the former Manchester United and Real Madrid icon continues to figure as captain and talisman for the Portugal team. Having watched his great rival and nemesis Lionel Messi lift the World Cup, it remains to be seen whether he has his eyes set on competing in the premier event in 2026. At the age of 41, it would be a record-breaking sixth tournament appearance, with Messi also capable of matching that record if he continues playing for Argentina.

Developing Dhamne still a work in progress

Mumbai: Last month after Indian teen Manas Dhamne had a hit with world No.1 Jannik Sinner — his fellow former Piatti Tennis Centre trainee — in Monte Carlo, Sinner’s coach Darren Cahill had something to say. “Manas never misses! Improving everything (sic: everytime) we see him!” the Australian coach wrote on X. That the 16-year-old from Pune is the brightest young Indian tennis prospect has been known for a while, and, unlike most Indian players his age, Manas has already moved on from playing in the junior circuit. He thus is tracing that improvement path, of his game, body and mind, in the most unrelenting of stages: the professional tour. One of Manas’s earliest experiences of the pro tour came in Pune last year, when he was handed a wild card at the ATP 250 Maharashtra Open and provided glimpses of his potential facing the then 113th-ranked Michael Mmoh. Spending most time away from the country with his training base in Italy’s Bordighera, Manas returned to play in India after a while this month. Much like his season in which he has competed significantly more than last year, it’s been a mixed bag — he beat India’s 25-year-old Manish Sureshkumar and lost to higher-ranked opponents from Czech Republic and Russia across ITF events in Bhubaneswar and Mumbai.



Evident through that, however, have been the little improvements in his game and the plenty of room still there in it. As Cahill alluded to and was on show in Pune last year, Manas already has a fine ability to put most balls back from the baseline. In Pune, though, former India pro and Davis Cup captain Anand Amritraj noted that with so many good ground-strokers around, “he’s got to move forward and be able to close out points a bit more”. Manas did that more often in Mumbai. Largely ineffective from the baseline in the first two games against Maxim Zhukov, the Indian got into a much more attacking court position to finish a point after a lengthy baseline rally in the third game. He charged forward and executed

a couple of crisp volleys at the net for winners in the first set. Physically, he’s become bulkier than last year, adding more muscle to his arms and strength in his legs. Making the kid from Pune stronger remains a constant work in progress, and an area that his coaching team at the Piatti Centre are most focused on at this stage of his career. Twice this year, Manas also got injured. Working on the teen’s physical strength will also help better the most apparent area of development in his game — the serve. Through the entire first set against Zhukov, Manas did not once hold serve. And yet, in a reflection of his promising overall game, he managed to win three games. “Yes, the serve has major room for improvement.

Mike Tyson’s accidental butt reveal on camera sparks memefest

Agency: In a moment that left fans stunned, Mike Tyson, one of boxing’s all-time greats, unintentionally stole the spotlight during a Netflix interview. Conducted by his son as Tyson prepared for his highly anticipated comeback fight against Jake Paul, the interview took an unexpected turn when the 58-year-old boxer, clad in a backless jockstrap, walked away and inadvertently exposed his behind. The incident unfolded at the Dallas Cowboys’ AT&T Stadium, where Tyson was gearing up for his first professional bout in nearly two decades. As the interview wrapped, Tyson affectionately kissed his son and confidently predicted a “vicious win” before turning to leave. The camera caught more than intended, zooming in on the legendary fighter’s exposed backside, leaving viewers and fans worldwide both amused and shocked. The

incident sparked memes on social media, with people clearly shocked by the sudden exposure: Tyson faced a unanimous defeat at the hands of Paul, marking an unwanted result in his comeback to the professional boxing ring after nearly 20 years. The fight itself had already garnered significant attention, with fans divided over who should be favored. Tyson, known as one of the most feared heavyweight boxers during his prime, brought a record of 50-6 (44 KOs) but faced concerns about his age and fitness as he returned to the ring at 58. Meanwhile, 27-year-old Jake Paul, who boasted a respectable 10-1 record, impressed with his speed, athleticism, and ability to draw massive crowds. Oddsmakers gave Paul the edge, given his youth and active boxing schedule, but Tyson’s reputation as a ferocious competitor made him a wildcard.