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Tripura Congress demands urges human right body to visit communal tension-affected areas

Agartala: Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee President Ashish Kumar Saha on Friday has written a letter to the Chairman of the Tripura Human Right Commission demanding to take appropriate measures to stop violation of human rights and requested to visit communal tension-affected areas in the state.

In the letter, PCC President Saha said that some violations of human rights as well as taking of effective and fruitful measures to stop violations of human rights in Tripura. "The incidents of Gandacherra,



Kadamtala and Kaitarbari are clear instances of violation of human rights. In Gandacherra people are kept in relief camps depriving them of personal liberty. Incidences of murder

have occurred frequently in all parts of the state. Women are not safe at all. The slogan by ruling party activists "Beti Parao Beti Bachao" is nothing but a mockery to wom-

en. The incidence of rapes in recent times is in high order. Human rights are violated even in police custody", he said. He claimed that effective action has not been taken on the part of the Human Rights Commission to protect people from violation of human rights. "In view of the above I would, therefore, request you to take appropriate measures to stop the violation of human rights & request you to visit the affected areas of Gandacherra, Kaitarbari and Kadamtala at the earliest", he added.

BJP scripts historic victory in Samaguri by-polls

Guwahati: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has clinched the Samaguri assembly seat, breaking the Congress party's decades-long hold on the constituency. BJP candidate Diplu Ranjan Sarma secured a decisive victory with a margin of 26,200 votes, defeating Tanzil Hussain of the Congress. The win is significant for the BJP as Samaguri has long been a Congress bastion.

Tanzil Hussain, the son of veteran Congress leader and Dhurbri MP Rakibul Hussain, was expected to hold onto the constituency, but the BJP's aggressive campaigning and strategic

outreach to voters turned the tide. After the announcement of the results, Diplu Ranjan Sarma expressed gratitude to the people of Samaguri for placing their trust in him.

"This victory belongs to the people. We will work tirelessly to bring development and prosperity to the region," Sarma said. The by-poll results are expected to have broader implications for Assam's political landscape, with the BJP continuing to consolidate its position across the state. The win in Samaguri adds to the party's momentum as it prepares for upcoming elections.

Two more arrested for arson at residences of MLAs

Imphal: Two more persons were arrested in Manipur for allegedly being involved in vandalism and arson at the residences of legislators in Imphal Valley on November 16, police said on Saturday. With these arrests, the number of people apprehended for arson at the residences of MLAs reached 34. Police also said that they are examining inputs and looking for additional suspects in various localities of Imphal Valley for arson incidents on November 16.

An investigation into the incidents of vandalism and arson at the residences of legislators is underway, the officer said. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has strongly condemned the recent attacks on the residences of ministers and MLAs during ongoing agitations in the state. While expressing solidarity with those protesting peacefully against the killings of innocent civilians, the CM denounced acts of violence and looting carried out under the guise of democratic movements.

"I already said and condemned. Those who are genuinely agitating against the killings of innocent people are genuine, and we support



their movement and agitation because everyone has the right to democratically agitate. But in the name of the democratic movement, some gangs have looted, burned ministers' houses, and looted their properties," said CM Singh. The Chief Minister highlighted that the government has initiated appropriate legal action against the perpetrators. "We have already identified those responsible through CCTV footage. I feel ashamed to express publicly that such actions are happening in Manipur, where looting is taking place in the name of agitation. This is a matter of shame. We will take legal action," he added.

Mizoram plans to relocate all refugees to centralised shelter areas

Aizawl: The Mizoram government is planning to relocate all refugees in the state to centralised shelters for better management and humanitarian assistance. This includes over 33,000 Myanmar nationals and 7,756 internally displaced people from Manipur, in addition to 2,000 Bangladeshi refugees. Lalmuanpuia Punte, political adviser to the chief minister, held a meeting on Thursday with officials from Lawngtlai district, addressing the ongoing refugee situation. He emphasised the need for proper guidelines to prevent refugees from settling in unapproved locations, making it easier for the government to provide support.

Plans are in place to relocate

2,014 Bangladeshi refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), currently spread across various villages in Lawngtlai, to four designated villages within the district. Lawngtlai, which borders Myanmar and Bangladesh, also hosts refugees from Myanmar and internally displaced people from Manipur. The Young Mizo Association (YMA) has called for a more organised system to handle the state's total refugee population, which includes over 33,000 Myanmar nationals and nearly 8,000 internally displaced people from Manipur. The government is working on plans to create proper shelters and provide better management of the refugee influx.

Apex Ao youth body formally launched to empower

Itanagar: The Ao Lanur Telongjem (ALT), which is an apex youth organisation of the Ao community in Nagaland, was officially launched under the aegis of the Ao Senden. The organisation will operate in an interim capacity with the presidents of the Mokokchung Town Lanur Telongjem (MTLT) and Dimapur Ao Lanur Telongjem (DAYO) as convener and co-convener, respectively, until its constitution is finalised. At the launch event, Ao Senden president Marsanen Imsong stressed the youth's role in shaping the community's future. He further highlighted their significance in the community's development and progress. Imsong announced the formation of a constitution-drafting committee, led by convener Imlikumzuk Longkumer. He also revealed that MTLT and DAYO will be responsible for mobilising other youth organisations during this interim phase. The interim leaders, Imnaonen (convener) and Tia Longchar (co-convener), pledged their commitment to truth and service for the Ao community and Nagaland.

UPPL candidate Nirmal Kumar Brahma wins Sidli seat

Guwahati: In a significant political victory for the NDA (National Democratic Alliance), UPPL (United Peoples' Party Liberal) candidate Nirmal Kr Brahma won the 31 no Sildi (ST) constituency bye-election, marking a crucial achievement for the alliance. The jubilant mood was evident as party leaders and workers from UPPL, BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), and AGP (Asom Gana Parishad) gathered outside the vote counting center in Kajagaon to celebrate the win. As the results were declared, excitement filled the air with party workers dancing and playing traditional drums, expressing their joy over the victory. UPPL supporters, along with

BJP and AGP members, came together in a festive atmosphere, waving party flags and chanting slogans of triumph. The victory of Nirmal Kr Brahma is seen as a major boost for the NDA alliance, strengthening its position in the region. Brahma's win is particularly significant as it comes in the aftermath of intense campaigning by all political parties involved, each striving to secure the constituency. UPPL leaders, along with BJP and AGP representatives, credited the support of the alliance for Brahma's success. Speaking to the media, local BJP leader [Name] expressed confidence that the victory would pave the way for more success in the upcoming

elections. "This is a clear indication of the growing support for the NDA in the region. We are committed to the development and welfare of the people," he said. The victory celebrations continued throughout the day, as party workers remained enthusiastic, relishing their success. This by-election result has also garnered attention for the unity displayed by the NDA partners in Sildi, and many view it as a testament to the strength of the alliance. With this win, Nirmal Kr Brahma has now become an influential figure in the political landscape of Sildi, with expectations high for his role in the future development of the constituency. Assam Cabinet Minister UG



Brahma, MLA Jalen Daimary, BTR Chief Pramod Boro's Political Adviser Madhab Ch Chetry BTR MCLA Sajal Singha many others participate. Nirmal Kumar Brahma won more than 36,888 margin vote by BPF candidate Suddha Kumar Brahma.

Durex TBBT Program drives life skills awareness at Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2024

Shillong: Durex's flagship initiative, The Birds and Bees Talk (TBBT), made a significant impact at the Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2024, drawing over 30,000 visitors daily to its engaging Health Pavilion. Hosted by Reckitt in collaboration with the Department of Health, the program emphasized life skills through its five pillars—Inclusion, Consent, Protection, Awareness, and Equity—while aligning with the National Health Mission Meghalaya's goals.

The event, inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, featured a graffiti competition curated by Guwahati-based artist Pulak Rabha. Participants from Assam, Meghalaya, and West Bengal showcased vibrant interpretations of TBBT's values. The competition's winner, Shembhalang Thawbroi, received ₹50,000 for highlighting the pillar of Protection. Other winners, including Nagaon's Noibid Borah and Kamrup's

Mrinmoy Boro, underlined the program's regional appeal. TBBT added economic value by fostering youth engagement and tourism. Vendors and local businesses benefited from the festival's high footfall, with TBBT drawing significant attention from Gen Z and millennials, boosting demand for creative and health-focused initiatives. "At Reckitt, we aim to inspire meaningful conversations on vital topics through platforms like TBBT," said Gaurav Jain, EVP, Reckitt – South Asia.

Provivi and Godrej Agrovet launch sustainable pest control solutions for Indian farmers

Guwahati: Provivi, a global leader in pheromone-based crop protection, has partnered with Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL) to introduce sustainable pest control solutions tailored to India's vital rice and corn sectors. This collaboration aims to equip Indian farmers with advanced, environmentally friendly pest management tools to combat major threats like the Yellow Stem Borer (YSB) in rice and the Fall Armyworm (FAW) in corn. As part of the agreement, GAVL will distribute Provivi's YSB Eco-Dispenser to control YSB in rice, while holding exclusive commercialization rights for the FAW Eco-Dispenser to address pest issues in corn. These pheromone-based solutions will provide a crucial, eco-conscious approach to pest control, supporting millions

of farmers who rely on rice and corn cultivation for their livelihoods. Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director of GAVL, emphasized the importance of sustainable pest management in the face of increasing pest challenges driven by climate change. "Our collaboration with Provivi is focused on empowering farmers with innovative, sustainable technologies to boost productivity," said Yadav. In Guwahati, the agricultural market is keen to adopt such solutions as local farmers are increasingly facing pest-related crop damage. The introduction of these advanced, sustainable tools is expected to help them manage pests effectively while supporting the broader agricultural community in Assam.

super.money announces the launch of superFD



Guwahati: super.money has announced the launch of superFD. It is a fully digital savings product that brings the ease of UPI to fixed deposits. The company aims to redefine FDs by making the process fully digital (less than 2 mins), flexible, and highly rewarding. Users on super.money can choose from five banks currently that are approved by the RBI. All the FDs on super.money will be insured up to ₹5,00,000 by the DICGC.

An industry first, superFD is a product that aims at promoting savings amongst young Indians. With superFD, users can book FDs as low as Rs. 1000 and also earn interest of up to 9.5%. The product has been designed with the new-age Indian investor in mind, who is a digital native and financially savvy. Prakash Sikaria, Founder & CEO of super.money, said, "We are excited to launch the first-ever FD on UPI. Our product will disrupt the way young Indians save and invest." superFD aims to address the challenges posed by the widening gap between credit and deposit growth in the banking sector by providing a low-risk savings tool.

Jindal (India) Limited captures 30% market share in Assam's coated steel segment

Guwahati: Jindal (India) Limited, a leading manufacturer of downstream steel products, has strengthened its foothold in Assam's coated steel market with a significant 30% market share. This move solidifies the company's leadership across India, where it also holds a 22% share in the colour-coated steel segment. With a legacy spanning 70 years, Jindal (India) Limited's rise in Assam is fueled by its flagship brand, Jindal Sabrang, and premium offerings like Jindal Neucolor+.



The innovative "Jindalume," a popular Aluminium-Zinc Bare Galvalume coil, has seen exceptional demand, particularly in Assam, where the product's durability is essential for roofing in the region's challenging hilly terrain. The company also continues to expand its portfolio, introducing products designed to meet diverse industrial needs, from solar applications to home appliances. A spokesperson for Jindal (India) Limited stated, "Assam represents 15% of our coated steel business, reflecting the effectiveness of our market penetration strategy. With a recent expansion of our production capaci-

ty, we are poised to cater to growing demand while promoting import substitution." Assam's Guwahati remains positive, as Jindal's innovative solutions are becoming increasingly integral to the city's construction and infrastructure development, driven by the demand for durable, high-performance building materials.

Bharatpur Kaushal Mahotsav secures jobs for over 2,400 youth

Guwahati: The Bharatpur Kaushal Mahotsav, organized by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship,



concluded with over 2,400 youth receiving job offers from top employers across diverse sectors. Presiding over the event, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, personally handed out job offer letters to successful candidates. Over 70 industry leaders, including Flipkart, Zepto, Burger King, and Barbeque Nation, participated, offering more than 20,000 job opportunities with salaries ranging from ₹19,000 to ₹35,000 per month. Shri Chaudhary emphasized the government's commitment to upskilling through platforms like the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) and JobX. "This initiative reflects our Prime Minister's vision of 'Lifelong Learning' by creating education and employment pathways for all," he stated. More than 3,500 youth underwent intensive job-readiness training, culminating in a recruitment drive with 3,000 walk-in interviews. Employers from sectors like tourism, IT, logistics, and BFSI actively participated, boosting Bharatpur's employment landscape.

Toyota Innova HyCross hits 1 lakh units sold milestone, gains traction across India

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has announced the achievement of 1,00,000 wholesale units sold of the Innova HyCross in India, marking a significant milestone for the model just two years after its launch. The robust sales growth highlights the increasing demand for the vehicle, driven by its cutting-edge hybrid technology, unmatched comfort, and efficiency, particularly in tier 2 and tier 3 markets. The Innova HyCross, built on Toyota's

Global Architecture (TNGA), is equipped with a 5th Generation Self-Charging Hybrid Electric System, delivering 186 PS of power and best-in-segment fuel efficiency. The hybrid system enables the vehicle to run 60% of the time in electric mode, offering a sustainable and powerful driving experience. Additionally, it features luxurious touches like powered Ottoman second-row seats, dual-zone air conditioning, and Toyota Safety Sense. The Innova Hy-

Cross has gained significant traction, especially among families looking for a combination of performance, comfort, and eco-friendliness. The vehicle's hybrid technology is well-suited to the region's growing environmental awareness, while its premium features cater to the city's rising demand for high-quality, versatile vehicles. With Toyota's comprehensive T CARE services, the Innova HyCross is poised to continue its success in different places.

Nissan Motor India starts exporting the New Nissan Magnito to South Africa

Guwahati: Building on its 'One Car, One World' philosophy, Nissan Motor India has commenced exporting its recently launched SUV, the New Nissan Magnito to South Africa. In line with the announcement made during the New Nissan Magnite launch in October this year, the company is now rolling out its latest offering from Nissan's Alliance JV plant in Chennai to international markets, with South Africa becoming the first country to receive the New Nissan Magnite. Over 2700 units of the New Magnite SUV have been shipped from the Chennai port within a month after its international launch in India. Frank Torres, Divisional Vice President-AMIEO Region Business Transformation & President-Nissan India



Operations, said on the occasion, "Ever since the Nissan Magnite's launch in 2020, we have seen a resounding acceptance and demand from customers in the South African market for the Made-in-India compact SUV." "We are delighted to receive the shipment of New Nissan Magnite SUVs from India and glad that they will be available for the local customers," said Jordi Vila, Nissan Africa President.

Sara Ali Khan curates exclusive wellness retreat on Airbnb, focusses on holistic well-being



Guwahati: Bollywood actress and wellness enthusiast Sara Ali Khan is set to launch her first-ever curated wellness retreat on Airbnb, offering a two-night, three-day experience in Goa. The retreat, available for booking starting November 27, will allow guests to join Sara in a bespoke yoga session amidst a nature-inspired sanctuary, along with other activities such as nature trails, massages, and healthy meals personally selected by the actress. This initiative aligns with Airbnb's collaboration with the Goa Tourism Department, promoting the state's serene hinterlands as part of their "Goa Beyond Beaches" campaign. Sara's wellness retreat highlights the growing trend of wellness tourism in India, blending fitness, relaxation, and culture in an idyllic setting. The retreat is available at ₹0, with guests chosen on a first-come, first-served basis and the option to bring three companions. In Guwahati, the wellness tourism sector is gaining momentum as local demand for health-oriented travel experiences increases. With wellness retreats gaining popularity, Guwahati's hospitality and tourism industry is expected to tap into this rising trend. The increasing interest in holistic well-being aligns with broader regional efforts to develop unique, peaceful tourism offerings, positioning Guwahati as a potential hub for wellness tourism in the Northeast.

Air India Express expands winter operations with over 100 weekly flights from Guwahati

Guwahati: Air India Express is enhancing its winter flight schedule with a substantial increase in operations from Guwahati, now offering over 105 weekly flights. This marks a significant rise from the 63 flights last winter, reflecting the airline's strong focus on the region. The airline's expanded network from Guwahati includes direct connections to key domestic cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Imphal, Jaipur, and Kolkata, along with one-stop options to 18 more destinations. Dr. Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer of Air India Express, emphasized, "This expansion is a testament to our commitment to connecting people and boosting the economy of Northeast India. With a 25% share

of the Guwahati market, we're helping drive trade and tourism in the region." Guwahati, poised as a key economic hub, benefits from the increased connectivity, not only facilitating tourism but also providing businesses with greater access to national and international markets. This surge in flight operations is expected to further solidify Guwahati's position as an essential gateway to Northeast India, making it a crucial point for trade and travel. The airline's winter schedule also sees a rise in total flight operations across its network, offering over 400 daily flights, with new routes and increased frequencies to international destinations like Abu Dhabi, Muscat, and Singapore.

Godrej Industries backs Jane Goodall Institute's India Youth Council launch

Guwahati: The Godrej Industries Group has partnered with the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) India to launch its Youth Council Programme, a platform empowering young changemakers. The initiative, part of JGI's global Roots & Shoots movement, aims to foster community-centered projects promoting environmental protection, animal welfare, and social causes.

The launch event featured Burjis Godrej, Executive Director of Godrej Agrovet

Limited, and Dr. Jane Goodall, the world-renowned primatologist and anthropologist. Burjis Godrej, serving as a mentor for the council, expressed excitement about the initiative: "This council stands for every act of goodness, whether protecting our environment, advancing animal welfare, or supporting causes that make a positive difference. We look forward to the compassion and impact these young leaders will bring."

Dr. Jane Goodall empha-

sized the crucial role of youth in addressing global challenges. "Young people give me hope," she said. "Even if they choose one goal to pursue with their friends, they can make a visible positive impact."

Roots & Shoots mentors Valerie Mascarenhas and Vandana Pandey were also honored for their exemplary work in youth-led initiatives. The council is set to inspire the next generation of empathetic leaders for lasting change.

Netflix to stream WWE Raw live starting from next year



Mumbai: Netflix is set to revolutionise sports entertainment by live-streaming WWE Raw starting January 2025. The iconic Monday night wrestling show, previously aired on traditional cable networks, will now reach a global audience through the streaming giant, marking a significant milestone for both WWE and Netflix. Fans can expect thrilling performances from WWE superstars like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, John Cena, Roman Reigns, and many more.

Air India Express increases its flights from Imphal as part of its winter schedule

Imphal: Air India Express has increased its flights from Imphal as part of its winter schedule. The airline increased its weekly flights to 34 this season—an addition of 20 weekly flights over last winter. Additionally, the airline also increased its operations from Kolkata, a major metro city in the East, to 160 weekly flights. This includes new direct routes connecting Kolkata with Sri-Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) and Indore. Commenting on the increase in flight operations from Imphal, Dr. Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India Express, said, "We are pleased to announce our expanded winter schedule from Imphal, reflecting a more than doubling of our



operations." Air India Express' winter schedule across its expanding network has grown by 30% from last year, supported by the airline's growing fleet, which now includes over 90 aircraft. The enhanced schedule consists of newly added routes such as Chennai-Goa, Chennai-Jaipur, Chennai-Pune, Delhi-Indore, Hyderabad-Gwalior, Kochi-Pune, and Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada. Additionally, the airline will commence operations to two new destinations, Jammu and Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair), starting December 1, 2024.

NIFTY, SENSEX end 7-week decline after stellar Friday rally

Mumbai: SENSEX and NIFTY ended their seven-week decline, helped by a sharp rebound in Indian equities on Friday, November 22. The key indices soared by more than 2% each on the last trading day of the week, notching up their best single-day gains since June 7, 2024. A stellar show towards the end helped recover losses of the week, which was marred by a host of factors. FII selling, weak Q2 results, rising Russia-Ukraine tensions and Adani Group stocks' meltdown on bribery and fraud charges in the US were the major drags. However, the key indices ended the week higher by nearly 2%. SENSEX and NIFTY had been on a decline

since the week ended on October 4 due to persistent FII selling and weak Q2 results. In line with a sombre trend, stock markets started the week on a weak note.

NIFTY declined for the seventh consecutive day falling below 23,500 and SENSEX for the fourth day, on Monday. IT and pharma shares were hit the most while metal and FMCG shares cushioned losses. Benchmark mark indices cut their losses on Tuesday helped by bottom-fishing by domestic investors ahead of Maharashtra Assembly polls. Global markets were mixed after increased tensions between Ukraine and Russia as the former fired Western long-

range weapons deep inside Russia. NIFTY and SENSEX rebounded more than 1% intra-day but increased selling by FIIs dragged them down at the close. NIFTY settled above 23,500 levels while SENSEX closed marginally higher than 77,500. After a brief recovery, key indices again closed in the red on Thursday led by losses in Adani Group shares as allegations of kickbacks and fraud hit billionaire chairman Gautam Adani. Escalating Russia-Ukraine conflict also heightened geopolitical tensions and nuclear concerns. FII selling and the fresh Adani case with the US department of justice and securities commission added to the woes.

Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani summoned by US SEC to explain their stand

New Delhi: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani have been reportedly summoned to explain their stand on the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegation of paying \$265 million (Rs 2,200 crore) in bribes to secure lucrative solar power contracts. Summons have been sent to Adani's Shantivan Farm residence in Ahmedabad and his nephew Sagar's Bodakdev residence in the same city for a reply to SEC within 21 days, PTI News reported on Saturday. "Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it)...you must serve on the plaintiff (SEC) an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," said a November 21 notice sent through the New York Eastern District Court. "If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court," it added. According to a recent indictment unsealed in a New York court, Gautam Adani, aged 62, along with seven other defendants, including his nephew Sagar who serves as a director at Adani Green Energy Ltd, allegedly conspired to pay roughly USD 265 million in bribes to Indian government officials from around 2020 to 2024.

The goal of these bribes was to secure lucrative solar energy supply contracts that were expected to generate approximately USD 2 billion in profits over a span of 20 years. The Adani Group has refuted the allegations as unfounded and has pledged to explore all available legal options. In addition to the indictment issued by the US Department of Justice, the US SEC has filed charges against the two individuals and Cyril Cabanes, an executive of Azure Power Global, for their involvement in a significant bribery scheme. The prosecution claims that the investigation, which commenced in 2022, uncovered instances of obstruction. Furthermore, it is alleged that the Adani Group secured loans and bonds totaling USD 2 billion, including from American companies.

Aaryavir Sehwaq smashes double ton as Delhi dominate Meghalaya in Cooch Behar Trophy



Shillong: Aaryavir Sehwaq, son of cricket legend Virender Sehwaq, delivered an unbeaten double century as Delhi seized control on Day 2 of their U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy Elite Group A match against Meghalaya at the MCA Ground in Polo. Delhi ended the day at a commanding 468/2, holding a 208-run lead after bundling out Meghalaya for 260 in their first innings. Opening the batting, Aaryavir showcased impeccable form, remaining unbeaten on 200, striking 34 boundaries and two sixes. Partnering him at the close of play was Dhanya Nakra, who stood on the verge of a century at 98 not out. Earlier, Arnav Bugga set the tone for Delhi's innings with a fluent 114 before being bowled by Rudra Singh Rathore. Meghalaya captain Dipankar Baruah rotated his bowlers in an effort to break Delhi's momentum, but the

visiting batters capitalized on the flat pitch. After surpassing Meghalaya's first innings total of 260, Delhi extended their dominance with a 188-run partnership for the third wicket between Aaryavir and Dhanya, adding to Meghalaya's woes. Earlier in the day, Meghalaya resumed their innings at 239/7 but managed to add only 21 more runs. Kshitij Singhania, unbeaten on 52 overnight, reached 62 before being dismissed by Udhav Mohan, who claimed 4/88. Angkit Tamang fell for 29 after adding just seven runs to his overnight score. While comparisons to his father are inevitable, Aaryavir made his own mark with a composed and aggressive knock. He reached his double century with a sharp single, demonstrating both patience and flair in his batting. Delhi's dominance sets them up for a potential outright victory as the match progresses.

World Super Kabaddi League gets green light for 2025 debut

Agency: The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) has officially approved the launch of the World Super Kabaddi League (WSKL) in 2025. Organised by SJ Uplift Kabaddi Private Limited, the league is set to feature players from IKF member nations and aims to elevate kabaddi to a global stage. The South East Asian Kabaddi Federation (SEAKF)

and the Kabaddi Association of Thailand are key collaborators in this initiative. Earlier in August, SEAKF granted SJ Uplift Kabaddi Pvt Ltd exclusive rights to manage the league for 15 years, ensuring its long-term growth. The WSKL will include a player auction, giving athletes from participating nations a chance to compete in the international arena. The IKF commended the organising body's dedication, calling the initiative a significant step in promoting the traditional sport. "Starting a kabaddi league requires exceptional organisational skills and a commitment to the sport. This effort will inspire young athletes and contribute to kabaddi's global recognition," the IKF stated.

ed. With endorsements from both SEAKF and the Kabaddi Association of Thailand, the WSKL promises to be a landmark event in the Kabaddi calendar.



Relentless Jaiswal and Rahul make Australia toil to push lead over 200

Bengaluru: After a frenetic start to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India gained control of the first Test after openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul ground down a labouring Australia attack in improved batting conditions at Optus Stadium. Jaiswal closed in on a brilliant century and finished 90 not out, while a resolute Rahul was unbeaten on 62 as India reached stumps on 172 for 0 with a lead of 218 runs. A remarkable 17 wickets fell on a madcap opening day, but there were long periods of attrition on the second day which yielded only three wickets. It was a return to somewhat normalcy as a crowd of 32,368 at times resorted to Mexican waves and chants for entertainment. India did not mind playing a sedate tempo. Jaiswal reached his half-century off 123 balls - his slowest 50 of his short Test career - and Rahul registered his in 124 deliveries. The unbroken partnership has exceeded the first innings totals of either team. After an unlikely first innings lead of 46 runs, the fifth highest by any team making 150 or fewer while batting first, India's



position in the series-opener has been considerably strengthened as Jaiswal and Rahul batted through two sessions. Having endured a tough initiation in his first Test innings in Australia, where he made a duck amid apparent jitters, Jaiswal looked much more assured from start. He played from deep in the crease to blunt the new ball bowling of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who had combined for six wickets in India's first innings of 150.

Sanjay Manjrekar Pinpoints Major Flaw In Virat Kohli's Batting

Agency: Star batter Virat Kohli flopped with the bat in the 1st innings of the ongoing 1st Test against Australia in Perth. Despite a stellar record in Australia, the former India captain lasted just 12 balls before fending off a climbing Hazlewood delivery that took an edge to Usman Khawaja at slip. As Kohli's barren patch continued, former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar pointed out major flaw in the star batter's technique. He feels Kohli has been struggling against the shorter delivery of late. "It's something I've said before as well, post [2023] Virat Kohli has been very concerned about that ball pitched up, Jimmy Anderson kind, outside the off stump. So he stands outside the batting crease, wants to get on to the front foot to nullify the swing. But now bowlers are bowling shorter to him because of that," Manjrekar told ESPNcricinfo. Manjrekar also recalled Kohli's struggles in the recent home series against New Zealand, where he managed just 93 runs across six innings. The cricketer-turned-commentator pinpointed that opposition bowlers are trying to target Kohli's body by bowling him short deliveries on the leg side. "We saw that in the Bangalore Test match, New Zealand bowlers doing that and Virat Kohli getting out on the leg side. Josh Hazlewood was generally fuller, 60% of balls in the full area, but the moment Virat Kohli started doing this, he went a little short," he added.

Government's decision to invite Argentina serves little purpose

Bengaluru: That's the reaction of Ashique Kuruniyan, who plays on the wing for India and Mohun Bagan, to the news that the Kerala government was trying to get Messi and his national team for a match next year. And just in case anyone missed the sarcasm, Ashique's post included newspaper clippings of athletes' problems and various governmental mess-ups in the sports world -- one of them was about Kerala's athletes going to the National Games hanging on in the aisles of a train, without even a reserved ticket, another was about three medal-winning Malayalee athletes (HS Prannoy, Eldhose Paul and Abdullah Aboobacker) leaving Kerala due to the state's disregard. This might seem like an especially mean-spirited response to what, on the face of it, is a lifetime's opportunity to watch one of the greatest-ever footballers in live action. Messi? In India? You can almost hear the plans being made across places like Malappuram: where can tickets be sourced, who'll arrange the buses,



which Messi jersey should be worn... the WhatsApp groups lighting up in anticipation. Or the scramble in newsrooms: who'll go to cover it, who'll try and get a sound bite.. But Ashique's words point to a deeper truth: Bringing Messi and Argentina to Kerala seems a grand endeavor, but what exactly does

this serve to achieve? Let's leave aside for the moment the fact that Kerala has state elections in 2026; let's also simply ignore the absurd notion that watching Messi play would make a kid want to pick up football or become a better football player. The fact remains that this will not be a competitive match that

they play, so there is not a chance that we'll get to see the great man operating at anywhere close to 100%. In all likelihood, even if Messi does play, it will be for a brief duration (perhaps half an hour), trying to evade full body tackles and lumps on the pitch the whole time. The deeper truth is this: it costs a great deal of money to get Argentina to play one of these 'friendlies'. Reportedly, since the World Cup triumph, the Argentina FA charge a minimum of USD 5 million per match (or around INR 42 crores). That, as per the New York Times, was just the starting point of negotiations back in 2023, so actual figures for a match in 2025 are bound to jump up (and we're not even accounting for the cost of security and affiliated arrangements). In a country where the football ecosystem is often starved of cash, that is a whole lot of money. Ashique's opposition has been consistent. When the Kerala government first mooted this idea last year, his response was unambiguous: