

Tougher validation process in GST filing in Phase III of mandatory harmonized system of nomenclature code

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) will initiate Phase III of mandatory harmonized system of nomenclature (HSN) code reporting next month.

This move aims to enhance the accuracy and consistency of GST compliance, and analysts believe it will enable the creation of more detailed value-added reports, thereby aiding in the detection of tax evasion.

Starting from February 2025, taxpayers will need to report HSN codes in GSTR-1 and GSTR-1A forms by selecting the appropriate codes from a drop-down menu, as opposed to manually entering them. Table 12 will be divided into B2B and B2C tabs for separate reporting of supplies.

According to a GST portal advisory, "After the successful implementation of



Phase-I and Phase-II, Phase-III regarding Table 12 of GSTR-1 and 1A is being implemented from the return period February 2025."

The advisory also noted that new validations related to supply values and associated tax amounts will be introduced, though initially, these validations will only issue warnings and not block the filing of forms.

JSW Steel reports 70.7 per cent decline in net profit at Rs 719 crore for third quarter

Mumbai: JSW Steel reported a 70.7 per cent decline in net profit at ₹719 crore on a consolidated basis compared with ₹2,450 crore in Q3FY24 due to lower sales realisation on the back of a steep fall in steel prices.

Revenue from operations also fell marginally by 1.34 per cent to ₹41,378 crore compared with ₹41,940 crore even as total sales volume of the JSW group flagship stood at 6.71 million tonnes, up 12 per cent year on year (y-o-y).

The squeeze in the top and the bottomline could be attributed to a 10 per cent fall in the net sales realisation. Moreover, the company also took a hit of ₹103 crore on account of forfeiture of performance guarantee due to surrender of two coal blocks.

Operating EBIDTA of the Indian operations, which include subsidiaries such as Bhushan Power & Steel, JSW Steel Coated Products, stood at ₹5,564 crore, down 20 per cent y-o-y. The operating EBIDTA on a consolidated basis stood at ₹5,579 crore.

Consolidated crude steel production for the quarter stood at 7.03 mt, higher by 2 per cent y-o-y. Capacity utilisation at the Indian operations stood at 91 per cent in the quarter. Domestic sales were highest ever at 5.99 mt, growing 14 per cent y-o-y.

While two major domestic subsidiaries, BPSL and JSW Steel Coated, recorded a PAT of ₹11 crore and ₹170 crore, respectively, JSW Steel USA Ohio and the US Plate & Pipe Mill reported an EBIDTA loss of \$15.58 million and \$2.29 million, respectively, due to lower sales realisation.(PTI)

Ambuja Neotia Group begins IPO drill to finance a clutch of new hospitality projects

Mumbai: Ambuja Neotia Group, which has emerged as one of the largest owners of hotels in the east, has started preparatory work to hit the capital market to finance a clutch of new hospitality projects under pipeline.

The group is holding preliminary talks with merchant bankers with the aim of filing a draft prospectus with the market regulator by the end of 2025. As part of the process, it is consolidating hotels scattered among various legal entities within the group under the umbrella of Ambuja Neotia Hotel Ventures Ltd. The group has 600 rooms under operation, 80 per cent of which is managed by India Hotels Company Ltd, the Tata Group hospitality arm, which owns brands such as Taj, Vivanta, Ginger, SeleQtions among others.

Ambuja is also in the process of constructing another 250 rooms which will hit the market in phases in 2025 and the next year. They include, most notably, the revamped Raichak on Ganges where 160 rooms are coming up with Taj as the new operator. Moreover, Ambuja is also adding 30 additional rooms in Taj Chia Kutir in Kurseong, which has changed the face of luxury tourism in Darjeeling hills.

Additionally, the group has a land bank where a mix of resorts and city properties are going to come up.

"We have plans to add about 1,200 rooms over the next 5 years, entailing an investment of close to ₹3,000 crore. They are in different phases of planning, from design to approvals from various regulatory authorities," Harshvardhan Neotia, chairman of the Ambuja Neotia Group told The Telegraph.

The group, which is a major real estate developer in the east, especially in Bengal, has so far built properties using internal accruals and debt. To scale with pace, the group needs to raise capital, as internal accruals and debt would not be enough to take multiple projects simultaneously, Neotia explained.

Out of the resort properties under pipeline, the first to reach construction phase is Ghoom, where an 80-room resort under the name 'Himal Kutir' is going to come up. The property will have an unobstructed view of the Kanchenjunga mountain range, Neotia informed.

Apart from Ghoom, the group has land banks in Kalimpong, Lataguri, Digha, Sunderban, Calcutta, Siliguri and Haldia



in Bengal and Rabong in Sikkim, where new properties would come up in phases.

While bulk of the expansion is within the group, Ambuja's hospitality portfolio also includes a joint venture with IHCL for 'Tree of Life' branded boutique resorts. There are 18 properties with 200 rooms in operation, majority of which are in management contract. IHCL and Ambuja plan to scale it to 50 hotels in the medium term. Neotia declined to hazard a guess at the quantum of fund raise by the proposed IPO. "We will delve into that not before the third quarter of this calendar," he argued, reminding that ₹3,000 crore will come up in phases and there would be components of internal accruals and debt.

IndiGo clocks 18.6 pc drop in Q3 profit at Rs 2,448.8 crore

Mumbai: InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, on Friday reported a 18.6 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter (Q3) of the financial year 2024-25 (FY25). The company posted a profit of Rs 2,448.8 crore in Q3, down from Rs 2,998.1 crore during the same period last year.

The decline in profits was largely due to a 20 per cent rise

in its expenses, which reached Rs 20,466 crore, compared to Rs 17,064 crore in the same period last year. As a result, the airline's profit after tax (PAT) margin fell by 430 basis points to 11.1 per cent, down from 15.4 per cent in Q3FY24.

The budget airline's revenue from operations grew by 13.7 per cent, reaching Rs 22,110.7 crore, compared to Rs 19,452.1 crore in Q3 FY24.



NPAs of Indian banks likely to decline by another 0.4 per cent by March: Fitch

New Delhi: The gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) ratio of Indian banks may decline by another 0.4 per cent to 2.4 per cent by March 2025 followed by a further 0.2 per cent dip in the next financial year, according to rating agency Fitch. Although the stress in retail loans is rising, particularly in unsecured credit, robust growth, recoveries and write-offs are expected to offset the increase in non-performing loans, the Fitch report said.

It pointed out that currently, lending stress appears to be concentrated in smaller unsecured personal loans of less than \$600 (over Rs 51,000). Besides, the exposure of large Indian banks to such riskier loans may be proportionally lower than that of the overall financial system. Such risky loans are extended more by NonBanking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and fintechs to low-income borrowers.

The RBI expects the impaired-loan ratio to trough in the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) before rising to around 3 per cent in FY26, from the 2.6 per cent reported in the first half of FY25 (1HFY25). "We believe the difference from our forecast partly reflects variance of opinions on the timing and extent of risk crystallisation, banks' exposure at risk, loan growth and India's economic performance," the Fitch report explained.

Unsecured personal loans and credit card borrowing grew at a compound annual growth rate of 22 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in the three years to FY24. The pace slowed to 11 per cent and 18 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y), respectively, in the first half ended September 2024 (1HFY25), following an increase in risk weights attached to unsecured lending.

Škoda Kylaq secures a 5-star rating in Bharat NCAP crash test

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India's Kylaq, its first sub-4m SUV, has achieved the prestigious 5-star safety rating in the Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme). This makes the Kylaq the first Škoda vehicle to participate in Bharat NCAP testing, continuing the brand's legacy of safety excellence established by the Kushaq and Slavia. Both Škoda Auto India's 2.0 cars have achieved 5-star safety ratings in their respective Global NCAP crash tests for both adult and child occupant protection.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda



Auto India, said, "Safety is intrinsic to the Škoda DNA, and since 2008, every Škoda car has been crash-tested global-

ly and in India, with a 5-star safety rating." The Škoda Kylaq exemplifies the brand's commitment to passenger safety, featuring over 25 active and passive safety technologies as standard across all variants. Built on the robust MQB-A0-IN platform, the Kylaq combines advanced engineering and innovative features tailored to Indian roads and driving conditions. The Kylaq now carries this tradition forward, showcasing Škoda's dedication to delivering world-class safety standards tailored specifically for the Indian market.

Flipkart empowers artisans in Assam with digital workshop

Guwahati/Dibrugarh: Flipkart, in collaboration with the Assam Project on Forests & Biodiversity Conservation (APF-BC), hosted an orientation workshop focused on empowering self-help groups (SHGs) and cluster level federations (CLFs). The event, held at Aranya Bhawan, introduced participants to Flipkart's 'Samarth' program, which aims to provide entrepreneurs with digital tools and PAN-India market access.

Attendees, including artisans and weavers, gained insights on product listing and online business strategies. The workshop emphasized training and logistics support for sellers. Mr. Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer of Flipkart, highlighted the initiative's goal to foster economic opportunities and digital inclusivity for underserved communities.

Launched in 2019, the Samarth program seeks to uplift indigenous communities through e-commerce, enhancing their livelihoods and integration into the digital economy.

Piramal Pharma features actress Yami Gautam as the brand's new ambassador for Brand Little's

Guwahati: Piramal Pharma Limited's India Consumer Healthcare (ICH) has announced the launch of its new campaign, #SwitchToSofter, for its flagship baby care brand, Little's®. The campaign features actress Yami Gautam as the brand's new ambassador and introduces Little's Fluffy Soft Diaper Pants—crafted with superior imported materials to ensure 12-hour absorption, an anti-rash formula, and a wetness indicator for all-round protection and enhanced softness for babies. Young mothers often turn to

family, friends, and their social circles instead of actually conducting proper research themselves when selecting baby products. Brand Little's aims to break this trend by convincing mothers to make an informed choice by trying the brand, which promises to give smoother and softer diapers, which can be felt tangibly. The brand strongly conveys this message through a #SwitchToSofter campaign with their new brand ambassador, Yami Gautam. Sai Ramana Ponugoti, CEO, Piramal Consumer Healthcare, said, "Little's



Fluffy Soft Diaper Pants have been thoughtfully designed to meet these needs with comfort, protection, and innovation." Speaking on this association with Little's, Yami Gautam said, "As a new mother, I am incredibly happy to partner with Little's, a brand that truly understands the needs of both babies and mothers." Here's the YT link: <https://youtu.be/SMi0IXA9FTk>.

Care Health Insurance launches innovative health insurance 'Ultimate Care'

Guwahati: Care Health Insurance, one of the leading health insurers of India, has announced the launch of Ultimate Care, a ground-breaking health insurance designed to set new benchmarks in health coverage. Ultimate Care combines extensive benefits tailored to address unforeseen medical emergencies and rewards you for staying healthy. Ultimate Care offers extensive health coverage, including the MoneyBack feature, where policyholders will get refunded for staying healthy. The company will refund first year's base premium after every 5 claim-free years. Additionally, the plan provides Wellness Discount which enables policyholders to enjoy up to 30%

discount on renewal premium with the healthy days program.

Commenting on the launch, Ajay Shah, Head—Distribution, Care Health Insurance, said, "In the healthcare landscape of today, it is essential to provide customers with a comprehensive and robust financial security that addresses unforeseen medical exigencies while also encouraging a proactive approach to health and wellness." Welcome Discount that gives up to 30% discount on premium for new policyholders. MediVouchers for ease of out-of-pocket expenses with two pharmacy vouchers worth Rs 250 each, provided upon the first policy renewal.

WEF Annual Meeting 2025 brings together global leaders

Guwahati: Driving the global agenda of skills, innovation, and sustainable growth, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 has brought together global leaders, January 20 to January 24 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. Representing India at this prestigious platform as part of a high-level delegation comprising of key ministers and representatives, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, will share India's vision of fostering a skilled workforce, driving innovation, and advancing sustainable development.

Skills play a critical role across all these agenda

items, as developing a skilled workforce is key to fostering collaboration, driving sustainable growth, addressing climate challenges, and transforming industries for the future. In his tweet, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, said, "Looking forward to representing India at World Economic Forum 2025, Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters." The WEF Annual Meeting attracts over 3,000 leaders from various sectors, including government officials, business leaders, and civil society representatives from across the World. The focus of these discussion will be five core pillars: Reimagining Growth, Industries in the Intelligent Age, Investing in People, Safeguarding the Planet, and Rebuilding Trust.

Tata AIA Life launches 'ShubhMuhurat' to make dream weddings a reality

Guwahati: Weddings in India are more than just ceremonies—they are grand celebrations of culture, love, and sharing happiness, marking one of the most significant milestones in a family's life. At the same time, weddings have become a matter of social status, leading to the emergence of themes and destinations spreading over days and even weeks. As a result, ensuring adequate funds for the occasion requires meticulous financial planning, not just over a few months but over many years.

Recognising the significance of weddings and their monetary impact on consumers, Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata

AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has introduced 'ShubhMuhurat,' an innovative life insurance solution. It features capital guarantee with equity exposure, certainty of benefits to the desired beneficiary, life cover, immediate death benefit, and more to help parents save for their child's dream wedding and ensure the occasion becomes memorable for a lifetime. Commenting on the launch, VenkyIyer, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tata AIA, said: "At Tata AIA Life, we endeavour to understand and address the unique needs of our consumers based on their life stages."

NSDC and Nanak Chand Anglo Sanskrit College ink a MoU



Guwahati: In a step towards enhancing employability and skilling for thousands, particularly from rural areas, the National Skill Development Corporation and Nanak Chand Anglo Sanskrit College (NAS) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a skill development centre at the college. The aim of the partnership is to train students in industry-relevant skills, capacity building to thrive in a competitive job market, and make them future-ready in new emerging trades.

"The partnership with Nanak Chand Anglo Sanskrit College is a big step in closing the divide between learning and finding a job in both rural and urban areas of Meerut," NSDC representative said during the inking of the agreement. "The students will get an opportunity to equip themselves with industry-related skills in sync with the new job market in the high-end skill lab at the center," NSDC representative said, adding that both the NSDC and Nanak Chand Anglo Sanskrit College have high hopes from the center, with it being a catalyst of social change in the Meerut region. Awareness campaigns would be launched in the region for spearheading about skilling programmes.

Air India launches AI-driven eZ booking for streamlined reservations

Guwahati: Air India has launched eZBooking, an innovative AI-driven feature designed to revolutionize online reservations. Initially available to Maharaja Club members, the tool simplifies the booking process by allowing users to communicate their travel needs through text or voice commands, eliminating the need for navigating multiple screens.

Powered by Agentic AI, eZ Booking mimics human travel agents by understanding natural language and creating tailored itineraries. Users can finalize or modify their plans seamlessly, offering a fast and user-friendly experience. "This is an industry-leading initiative to elevate digital customer experiences," said Dr. SatyaRamaswamy, Chief Digital and Technology Officer, Air India.

In Guwahati, a growing hub for business and tourism in Northeast India, eZ Booking is expected to attract frequent travelers seeking speed and convenience. The feature aligns with the region's increasing demand for hassle-free air travel solutions, catering to the city's tech-savvy audience.

The award-winning feature is part of Air India's transformation under its Vihaan. AI program, which includes fleet expansion and digital upgrades. eZ Booking, recognized with a Red Dot Design Award, will soon expand to mobile platforms, underscoring Air India's commitment to innovation and global excellence.

On 76th Republic Day, Shri Jayant Chaudhary honors 100 entrepreneurs



Guwahati: On the occasion of the 76th Republic Day, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, has celebrated the achievements of 100 distinguished entrepreneurs from across India from the skill ecosystem at a special event hosted at Kaushal Bhawan. These entrepreneurs, invited by the Government of India, were also honored as special guests at the Republic Day parade, recognizing their pivotal role in driving the nation's growth and innovation under the Skill India Mission. Returning from the annual meeting of World Economic

Forum - WEF2025 in Davos, Shri Chaudhary shared insights from his interactions with global business leaders. "India's skilled workforce is gaining immense global recognition, with our talent pool being widely appreciated," he said. A particularly notable moment of the event was the recognition of 16 trailblazing entrepreneurs from the Northeast, including nine women entrepreneurs. Among them were Mrs. Namita M. Marak from Dhubri district, Assam, and Mrs. Mandira Baglary from Udalguri district. The event was attended by staff and top officials of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), including Joint Secretary Ms. Hena Usman.

Tata Soufullbrings wholesome snacks to MahakumbhMela

Guwahati: At Tata Soufull, we are committed to bringing wholesome and delicious options to consumers across India. Tata Soufull is a brand of packaged foods that focuses on health and wellness. Our participation in the Mahakumbh Mela is a reflection of this commitment, as we aim to cater to the diverse needs of the millions of devotees and families attending this grand spiritual gathering. Tata Soufull's products are made from millets, such as ragi (finger millet), and are designed for both children and adults. Visitors can experience our nourishing Hot Masala Oats+, a delightful snack that makes you feel energized throughout the day.

For tea enthusiasts, we are proud to offer the perfect pairing of Chai with our No Maida Rusk, a wholesome and tasty combination. Additionally, our Ragi Bites portfolio, designed for kids, features fun and affordable snacks like Choco Sticks, Cream Wafers, and Choco Fills at pocket-friendly prices. The Mahakumbh Mela is a unique opportunity for us to engage with a broad audience and share our vision of making wholesome, tasty and good-quality food accessible to everyone.

Minister of State for External Affairs Margarita completes eight-day visit to 3 nations

Guwahati: Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margarita, has concluded his eight-day official visit to three nations on Tuesday. The journey began on January 14th in the Southeast Asian country of the Philippines and ended in the Western Pacific region with the Pacific Island countries of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). During this time, the minister met with the top leadership of all three nations and held constructive discussions to strengthen bilateral relations with India.

This visit is considered historic, as it marked the first ministerial visit from India to Micronesia. Before this, Margarita attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Republic of Palau's President Surangel Whipps Jr. for his second term on Thursday. Margarita's extensive overseas tour began with a meeting with Philippine President Bongbong Marcos, where



they had fruitful discussions to further enhance India-Philippines partnership. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "The visit of Minister of State to the region is expected to further strengthen and deepen India's traditionally close partnership with the Philippines, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of India's Act East Policy and our vision of the Indo-Pacific."

Shri Jayant Chaudhary meets with Nick Clegg to discuss the existing partnership between MSDE and Meta

Guwahati: Strengthening the existing partnership between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Meta, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India, has met with Nick Clegg, President of Global Affairs at Meta, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. The meeting focused on leveraging frontier technologies to position India as the global leader in skill development and digital transformation.

The discussion centered on key objectives,

including the development of the Skill India Assistant (SIA), an advanced AI solution powered by Meta's open-source large language model, Llama, to be integrated with the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Shri Jayant Chaudhary, envisioning a transformative future, stated: "India stands at the forefront of a global skilling revolution, ready to embrace innovation and redefine the way skills are nurtured and deployed." Shivnath Thukral, Vice President, India, Meta, added: Meta is honored to partner with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in shaping a future where technology and human potential converge."

Assam ITI Ecosystem Summit focuses on future-ready and green skills for youth

Guwahati: The Future Right Skills Network (FRSN), in partnership with the Directorate of Employment and Training, Assam, successfully hosted the ITI Ecosystem Summit in Guwahati, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and learners to discuss the future of skill development. The event, held at NEDFi House, emphasized the need to equip Assam's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with future-ready and green skills to prepare the youth for the rapidly evolving job market.

The summit aimed to address the growing demand for skilled labor in sectors such as renewable energy, digital technology, and green construction. With sustainability and AI driving industrial change, the event highlighted the importance of upskilling trainers and aligning ITI curricula with these emerging trends. FRSN, formed by Quest Alliance, Accenture, Cisco, J.P. Morgan, and SAP Labs India, aims to ensure that youth are prepared for tomorrow's job market.

Guwahati aligns with this vision, as the

city is witnessing increased demand for sustainable and tech-driven industries. The integration of green skills into training programs will ensure that Assam's workforce remains competitive in the global economy.

AnantLalGyani, Director of DECT, Government of Assam stated the need for continuous adaptation to secure economic growth and a future-ready workforce. The summit also honored key contributors to Assam's ITI ecosystem for their efforts in sustainable skilling practices.

MTBD inaugurates a state-of-the-art dealership in Lakhimpur



Guwahati/ Dibrugarh: After achieving a robust 46% CAGR volume growth over the past 3 years, Mahindra's Truck and Bus Division (MTBD) has inaugurated a state-of-the-art dealership in Lakhimpur, Assam. With 4 service bays, the facility can service more than 10 vehicles per day while also providing driver lodging, 24-hour breakdown assistance, and AdBlue (include AdBlue short description) availability.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Venkat Srinivas, Business Head—Mahindra Truck and Bus & Construction Equipment, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., emphasized MTBD's strong presence in the Indian

CV market, securing the No. 3 position in various sectors. He highlighted the addition of new dealerships and the BLAZO X, FURIO, & CRUZIO range of commercial vehicles, equipped with Best-in-Class Mileage Guarantee and Double Service Guarantee, as key factors to elevate partners, customers, and the entire ecosystem, further strengthening their market position. Mr. Sateesh Machiraju, Head-Sales & Customer care—Mahindra Truck and Busdivision, said, "The new mileage guarantee, embodied by the motto "Zyada Mileage Nahin toh Truck wapas" will provide unmatched value to our customers."

LIC Mutual Fund launches multi asset allocation fund to attract diversified investors

Guwahati: LIC Mutual Fund has launched the LIC MF Multi Asset Allocation Fund, a new open-ended scheme aimed at offering diversified exposure across equity, debt, and gold. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open from January 24 to February 7, 2025, with the goal of generating long-term capital appreciation. The scheme will invest in a diversified portfolio of equity and equity-related instruments, debt, money market instru-

ments, and units of gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). The benchmark for the scheme combines 65% Nifty 500 TRI, 25% Nifty Composite Debt Index, and 10% domestic gold prices.

Commenting on the NFO, Mr. R.K. Jha, Managing Director & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund, emphasized the growing interest in multi-asset allocation funds, which offer reduced concentration risks and better diversification. The hybrid mutual fund

segment saw a 27% rise in assets under management in 2024, with significant growth in multi-asset funds.

In Guwahati, investors are increasingly seeking products that offer balanced exposure to various asset classes. With the volatility in equity markets, the launch of LIC's Multi Asset Allocation Fund is expected to resonate well with local investors looking for a diversified investment approach that balances risk and return.

Hyderabad FC Seek to End Winless Streak as Jamshedpur Eye Second Spot in ISL

Hyderabad: Struggling Hyderabad FC will aim to halt their nine-match winless run when they face an in-form Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash on Thursday. Currently sitting at the bottom of the table with 10 points from 16 matches, Hyderabad's last victory came over Kerala Blasters (2-1) on November 7, 2024. The team has since been unable to secure three points, enduring four consecutive losses and an extended slump.

Jamshedpur FC, on the other hand, are in fourth place with 28 points from 15 matches and have their sights set on climb-



ing to second in the standings. A win in this fixture would see them overtake FC Goa (30 points) and strengthen their position as serious title contenders. Jamshedpur's Form and Ambitions Jamshedpur FC

have been consistent in recent outings, with three wins and a draw in their last five games. They demonstrated defensive prowess in a 3-0 win over Mumbai City FC and followed it up with a 1-1 draw against

Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

The Red Miners have scored 23 goals this season while conceding 24. Jordan Murray leads the team's scoring chart with five goals, while Javi Hernandez and Javier Siverio have chipped in with four goals each. The reliance on their foreign forwards has paid dividends, making them a potent attacking force. Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil stressed the importance of maintaining their momentum in away matches. "Our preparation for this game is the same as always. We need to do well in away.

Jasprit Bumrah among three Indians named in ICC Test Team of Year 2024

Dubai: India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and allrounder Ravindra Jadeja have been named in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2024. Other than the Indian trio, the team features four players from England, two from New Zealand and one each from Australia and Sri Lanka.

Australia's Pat Cummins captains the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year for the second successive year, earning his place thanks to another memorable stint in which he guided his side to the ICC World Test Championship Final, overseeing victories against Pakistan, New Zealand and India, and picking up 37 wickets in his nine Tests at an average of 24.02.

ICC Men's Test Team of the Year: Yashasvi Jaiswal (Ind), Ben Duckett (Eng), Kane Williamson (NZ), Joe Root (Eng), Harry Brook (Eng), Kamindu Mendis (SL), Jamie Smith (Eng) (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (Ind), Pat Cummins (Aus) (c), Matt Henry (NZ), Jasprit Bumrah (Ind).

Women's HIL: Soorma Club seal spot in final with 4-2 win over Bengal Tigers



Ranchi: The last Pool stage match of the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 witnessed Soorma Hockey Club defeat Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers 4-2 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Hockey Stadium here on Friday. With this victory, Soorma Hockey Club set up the Final clash against Odisha Warriors on 26 January. Charlotte Englebert (1', 17', 47') dominated the game, scoring a superb hat-trick while Hina Bano (9') pitched in with a goal for Soorma. Captain Vandana Katariya (48') and Shilpi Dabas (58') found the back of the net in the last quarter but were unable to change the outcome of the game. Charlotte Englebert took the Tigers by surprise as soon as the game began by picking up a loose pass from the top of the circle and thundering a shot past the goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon. Soorma, after gaining the early advantage in the game, maintained the pressure high up the pitch in the minutes that followed.

Halfway through the quarter, Sharmila Devi found Hina Bano from the right wing, who dashed across her marker in front of the goal and squeezed the ball past Grace to double Soorma's lead. The high press by Soorma rewarded them with multiple goal-scoring opportunities and a penalty corner as the quarter came to a close but they were unable to find the back of the net again. The Tigers struggled to play out of their defence as the second quarter began as well. Within minutes, Englebert received the ball on top of the circle and picked out the bottom right corner with a reverse shot and made it 3-0 for Soorma.

The Tigers began foraying into Soorma territory as the quarter unfolded with Rosin Upton rushing into the circle and forcing Savita to make a save on one such occasion. But Soorma had the majority of the possession and goalscoring chances with Maria Verschoor bossing the midfield with her interceptions and quick transitions.

The third quarter began with the Tigers showing a lot more confidence on the ball, earning a penalty corner within a few minutes but they failed to muster a shot on goal. The Tigers aimed to attack down the left wing in search of a way back into the game and soon after, Kathryn Mullan had the chance to score but her shot sailed wide. The Tigers showed more initiative as the quarter came to a close with Binima Dhan and Vandana Katariya unleashing a snapshot each on the Soorma goal but Natalia Salvador made two spectacular saves to maintain the clean sheet.

Harry Brook urges England to strike back

Chennai: After a seven-wicket loss in the first T20I in Kolkata, England's toporder batter Harry Brook has emphasised the importance of maintaining relentless pressure on India's bowling attack in the second game of the five-match series. The match will take place at the iconic MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday, with the visitors aiming to level the series at 1-1.

Brook candidly praised India's performance in the opening game, admitting the hosts executed their plans exceptionally well. "India is a very good side, so we knew what they were gonna hit us with, and yeah, they played an exceptional game,"

Brook said during a prematch press conference. Despite the setback, Brook remains optimistic and stressed that England's philosophy under head coach Brendon McCullum, who is serving his first series as the new white remains unchanged. "We just need to keep pushing, the same messaging Baz has been saying throughout. We need to look to put pressure on their bowlers and try to take wickets throughout their innings. You've always got to go a little bit above and beyond to exceed."

Brook was full of praise for captain Jos Buttler, who led England's resistance with a valiant 68 in the first T20I. "He is obviously very experienced in India.

India to Adhere to ICC Dress Code at Champions Trophy: Saikia



New Delhi: The Indian cricket team will fully comply with the International Cricket Council's (ICC) dress code regulations for the upcoming Champions Trophy, according to BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia. His statement comes amid speculation about India's stance on displaying host nation Pakistan's name on the team's official jersey. The Champions Trophy, scheduled to begin on February 19, will be played under a "Hybrid Model" due to India's decision to play its matches in Dubai, citing security concerns about traveling to Pakistan.

Dress Code Compliance Confirmed Saikia dismissed reports suggesting that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) opposed the inclusion

of the host nation's name on the Indian jersey. He assured that India would adhere to ICC's uniform rules, which mandate the host country's name on the jerseys of all participating teams. "BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during the Champions Trophy," Saikia told PTI.

"Whatever the other teams will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit." Uncertainty Over Rohit Sharma's Media Engagements The decision regarding Indian captain Rohit Sharma's participation in ICC's pre-tournament media activities, including a press conference and a photo shoot in Lahore, remains undecided. Saikia acknowledged ongoing discussions, saying,

Aus Open: Zverev advances to final after Djokovic retires with injury



Melbourne: Novak Djokovic's bid for the record 11th Australian Open took a major blow as the Serbian great retired with injury following a first set of the semifinal against Alexander Zverev on Friday. After losing the first set in 81 minutes, Djokovic retired when Zverev was leading the match 7-6(5). Djokovic sent the ball into the net to give up the mini-break and lost the first set in a tiebreak. Immediately after he lost a 7-6(5) opening set, Djokovic shook the hand of the No. 2, sending the German through to the final.

Through his third major final, Zverev awaits defending champion Jannik Sinner or home favourite Alex de Minaur. The German will play his first Australian Open final on Sunday. The Serbian pushed Zverev throughout the opening set, but could not battle on any longer after he missed a volley on set point.

After overcoming his upper-leg injury in an inspired quarter-final performance against Carlos Alcaraz, Djokovic was clearly limited against Zverev despite keeping the scoreline close, ATP reports. Djokovic pushed through the pain on Tuesday to overcome Alcaraz in his bid to win a record-extending 25th major.