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Indian stock market ends flat, smallcap stocks extend rally



Mumbai: The Indian stock market saw a volatile trading session on Friday, with benchmark indices managing to stay in the positive territory. Gains in metal stocks provided support, while smallcap stocks continued their strong rally. This was followed by two consecutive day bull run, when the share market closed in green. The Sensex ended at 74,332.58, down by just 7.51 points or 0.01 per cent. During the intra-day session, the 30-share index moved between a high of 74,586.43 and a low of 74,038.03.

The Nifty, however, managed to end slightly higher, gaining 7.80 points or 0.03 per cent to close at 22,552.50.

The index touched a high of 22,633.80 during the day but also slipped to an intra-day low of 22,464.75. The indices opened weak but recovered as buying interest emerged in select blue-chip stocks, including Tata Motors. Oil and gas stocks also contributed to the recovery. Broader markets outperformed, with the smallcap index rising by 1.1 per cent, marking its fourth consecutive session of gains. "Today's market strength was driven by a broad-based recovery, with Nifty 50 stabilising near fair valuations, while mid and small-caps saw continued buying after recent corrections," said Krishna Appala from Capitalmind Research.

Tech Mahindra expands US Presence with new headquarters in Texas



Mumbai (PTI): Tech Mahindra has announced the opening of its Americas headquarters in Plano, Texas, a move it said underscores the company's firm commitment to the US market. The Plano office is Tech Mahindra's nineteenth office in the US.

The new facility will house a diverse range of operational functions, including consulting, delivery, and customer support services. As part of the company's ongoing expansion plans, Tech Mahindra will also establish an innovation lab within the same premises.

The lab will serve as a cen-

tre of excellence, focused on developing new technologies, accelerating innovation, and advancing research to address the evolving needs of clients across industries.

The office was inaugurated in the presence of John B Muns, Mayor of Plano, Melanie Royer, Representative of US Congressman, Pat Fallon, customers and Tech Mahindra leaders.

"The new Tech Mahindra office will nurture local talent and contribute significantly to our economy, reflecting our shared commitment to fostering a thriving tech ecosystem," Muns added.

IndiGo ranked world's 2nd fastest growing airline in seat capacity

New Delhi: IndiGo Airlines has emerged as the world's second fastestgrowing airline in terms of seat capacity, which increased by 10.1 per cent year-on-year to over 134.9 million seats in 2024. India's largest airline has been ranked next only to Qatar Airways, which clocked a 10.4 per cent growth in seat capacity over the previous year, according to the latest data from the Official Airline Guide (OAG).

IndiGo has also been ranked as the fastestgrowing airline in the world in terms of flight frequency growth at 9.7 per cent year-on-year in 2024. The airline recorded a flight frequency of 749,156 for the year, the figures show.



OAG has also recorded that IndiGo holds one of the world's largest aircraft orders, with over 900 aircraft on order and has the largest recipient of 58 new Airbus aircraft during 2024. However, it also states that the airline does have a large proportion (approximately 80

aircraft) inactive with MRO-related supply chain issues.

While 88 per cent of IndiGo's capacity is allocated to domestic markets, international growth is a key part of the airline's strategy with expansion during 2024 focused on regional Middle East markets

and Thailand. Longer-term ambition for IndiGo includes the development of long-haul low-cost services - the airline is considering bringing forward launch plans with wet lease aircraft identified for 2025.

IndiGo reported a net profit of Rs 2,449 crore in the Oct-Dec quarter of the current financial year ending on March 31, 2025. This represented an 18 per cent decline over the corresponding figure for the previous financial year. However, the airline's revenue from operations increased 14 per cent to Rs 22,111 crore during the quarter. IndiGo's total income for the quarter was Rs 22,992.8 crore, which was a 14.6 per cent increase from the same period in the previous year.

Hyundai Motor India slips to fourth place in retail sales, market share declines to 12.58%

Mumbai: Hyundai Motor India, the number two passenger vehicle maker in the country, has in February slipped to the fourth position in domestic retail sales behind Maruti Suzuki India, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors.

Hyundai Motor India clocked retail sales of 38,156 units last month, a dip of 20 per cent compared with 47,540 units in February last year. The February sales data shared by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has collated data from 1,378 out of 1,438 RTOs. Hyundai's market share declined to 12.58 per cent last month compared with 14.05 per cent in the year-ago period.

Maruti Suzuki India continued to lead the passenger vehicle segment with retail sales of 1,18,149 units in February. The company's market share increased marginally to 38.94 per

cent last month compared with 39.34 per cent in February 2024. Mahindra & Mahindra rose to the second spot with sales of 39,889 units with a market share of 13.15 per cent against 11.74 per cent in February last year. Tata Motors' retail sales stood at 38,696 units last month with a market share of 12.75 per cent.

The company sold 45,710 units in February last year, with a market share of 13.51 per cent. In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp retained the top slot last month with retail sales of 3,85,988 units, with a market share of 28.52 per cent. Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) stood at second spot with retail sales of 3,28,502 units and a market share of 24.27 per cent.

"February witnessed a broad-based downturn across all categories," FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar said in a statement.

Women's Day 2025: Adani Group hosts women ambassadors from 9 nations

Ahmedabad: In a special engagement ahead of International Women's Day, the Adani Group welcomed a delegation of women ambassadors from nine nations to the conglomerate's projects in Khavda and Mundra, both in Gujarat, where they witnessed India's strides in clean energy, infrastructure and industrial development. The delegation first visited Khavda, a remote site in western India's arid Kutch district, where Adani Green Energy, the largest renewables company in India, is developing the world's largest clean energy plant.

Spanning an area five times the size of Paris, the 30 GW solar and wind energy project will play a critical anchor role in meeting India's rising energy demands with clean, affordable and

reliable power. The ambassadors saw firsthand how the renewables project is integrating cutting-edge technology with sustainable development, including the Energy Network Operations Centre (ENOC) overseen by women engineers.

At Mundra Port, India's largest commercial port handling nearly 11 per cent of the country's maritime cargo and 33 per cent of its container traffic, the women ambassadors explored the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) in the Mundra Special Economic Zone (SEZ), where global players are investing in advanced manufacturing. They also visited Adani's state-of-the-art solar manufacturing plant, a key project in India's push for self-reliance in renewable energy.

Samsung launches Galaxy A56 5G, A36 5G

Gurugram: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the launch of Galaxy A56 5G and Galaxy A36 5G with Awesome Intelligence, featuring amazing search and visual experience to reimagine creativity. Sporting an all-new design language, the new Galaxy A series smartphones also feature enhanced durability and performance, along with robust security and privacy protection. The Galaxy A56 5G is available in Awesome Olive, Lightgray, and Graphite, while the Galaxy A36 5G comes in Awesome Lavender, Black, and White. Both models can be purchased via Samsung.com, retail stores, and online platforms starting today. Both models come with Awesome Intelligence, Samsung's AI suite designed to enhance creativity and user experience. Features like Google's Circle to Search allow users to search directly from the screen, including identifying songs playing around them. Additionally, AI-powered visual editing tools such as Auto Trim, Best Face, Instant Slo-mo, and Object Eraser offer a seamless content creation experience.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor launches Hilux Black Edition in India

Mumbai: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has launched the Hilux Black Edition in India, offering a bold and rugged all-black theme while maintaining its signature toughness and off-road capabilities. Priced at ₹37.90 lakh (ex-showroom), the new edition combines aggressive styling, advanced safety features, and segment-leading performance.

Powered by a 2.8L four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine with a 6-speed automatic transmission, the Hilux Black Edition delivers 500 Nm of torque and features a 4X4 drivetrain for superior off-road perfor-

mance. It boasts a best-in-class 700mm water-wading capacity and Toyota's innovative multi-purpose vehicle (IMV) platform for enhanced durability.

The Black Edition sports a black front radiator grille, 18-inch black alloy wheels, black ORVM covers, and LED headlamps, enhancing its premium yet aggressive stance. The cabin features leather upholstery, an eight-inch infotainment touchscreen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, and dual-zone automatic climate control.

Safety features include seven SRS airbags, Vehicle



Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TC), Electronic Differential Lock (EDL), and Hill Assist Control (HAC). Smart entry, a push-start button, and cruise control add to the convenience.

Bookings for the Toyota Hilux Black Edition are now open across all Toyota dealerships in India, with deliveries set to begin in March 2025. Customers can explore the model through Toyota's Virtual Showroom.

Skill India Digital Hub: Women in India's hinterlands drive the skilling revolution

Guwahati: A silent revolution is taking place in hinterlands as the narrative around women's workforce participation has now shifted to states from metro cities. A steady transformation is underway in many states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), and Rajasthan, taking advantage of skilling initiatives to break social barriers. Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) has emerged as a key platform that is helping drive this change across the country. Under the leadership of Ved Mani Tiwari, NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation), India's apex skilling institution, has been spearheading initiatives to make skilling more accessible to women nationwide. In Uttar Pradesh, over 1.17 million women have skilled themselves through SIDH. With 587,285 women in Assam and 524,520 women in West Bengal, both these states are not far behind, proving that women from rural areas and non-metro cities are breaking glass ceilings. Twenty-eight-year-old Mansha Mohmad from Budgam enrolled herself in SIDH courses and learned to repair mobile gadgets. "I never thought that I could repair a mobile phone on my own, but after learning through

SIDH, I have fixed my phone myself."

Shreshtha Gupta, Chief Technology Officer, NSDC, says: "Technology is breaking traditional barriers in skilling, making learning more accessible and inclusive for women across India." Online skilling courses by SIDH have opened new avenues for women in male-dominated industries in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat with over 10,000 women in Rajasthan and over 8,500 women in Gujarat opting for the courses. Anita Kumari, 35, from Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, says, "I always wanted to be financially independent. Even with two master's degrees, I wasn't sure how to start. The Beauty and Wellness course through SIDH changed everything for me." Apart from these, 21-year-old Mohima Mondal from Burdwan, West Bengal; 24-year-old Shivani from Sangrur, Punjab; and 28-year-old Hemlata from Nainital, Uttarakhand have also managed to stand on their own two feet in life. The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) is not merely providing courses—it is fostering a nationwide movement towards economic independence, entrepreneurship, and gender inclusion.

Metropolis Healthcare introduces a new diagnostic laboratory in Dibrugarh, Assam

Guwahati: Ameera Shah-led Metropolis Healthcare, India's second-largest and most respected pathology laboratory chain, has launched an advanced diagnostic testing facility in Dibrugarh, Assam. This marks the fifth processing laboratory in the state, further expanding healthcare access and leveraging cutting-edge technology. Spanning approximately 1,200 sq. ft., the lab is equipped to process up to 15,000 samples per month, offering a comprehensive range of tests from routine pathology to specialized diagnostics. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Aprajit Sandilya, MS, M. Ch, Urology, Director of Urovision Hospital, Dibrugarh, Assam, in the presence of senior management members of Metropolis Healthcare, including Mr. Rajesh Tripathy, Strategic Business Unit Head, and Mr. Anindya Majumdar, Business Unit Head, along

with key clinicians from the city.

Mr. Bhoopendra Singh Rajawat, Chief Business Officer (West, East & North India), Metropolis Healthcare Limited, said: "The launch of this diagnostic laboratory in Dibrugarh reaffirms our commitment to delivering advanced, high-quality diagnostics closer to communities in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns." Dr. Ronica Baruah, Director and Chief of Lab Services, Ekopath Metropolis Lab Services Private Limited, commented: "We are excited to bring our expertise in accurate diagnostics and super-specialty pathology services to doctors and patients in Dibrugarh city." The new Metropolis Healthcare Limited lab is located on the First Floor, Galaxy Wing 2, Near Rahul Honda Showroom, Naliapool, A.T. Road, Dibrugarh, Assam-786001.

Oriflame announces the expansion of its Wellosophy collection

Guwahati: Oriflame, the Swedish holistic wellbeing brand, has announced the expansion of its Wellosophy collection with an innovative skincare range that completes the brand's inside-out approach to beauty and wellbeing. This launch represents the natural evolution of the Wellosophy philosophy, which has already transformed the supplement space with its science-backed nutritional products. In a world where beauty is increasingly understood as the outward expression of inner health, Wellosophy stands at the forefront with its comprehensive approach to wellbeing from the inside out. The new skincare range works in harmony with Wellosophy's established nutritional supplements, creating a complete ecosystem for modern beauty and well-being needs.

"Modern beauty isn't just skin deep, it's a reflection of overall wellbeing," said Edyta Kurek, Senior Vice President & Head of India and Indonesia. "With Wellosophy, we've crafted a holistic journey that begins with nourishing the body from within through our nutritional supplements, weight management nutritional meal replacement shakes and now extends to protecting and enhancing the skin with our new adaptogenic skincare collection." The Wellosophy Skin Range is now available on Oriflame's website: <https://in.oriflame.com/?store=IN-goldenstar>.

This International Women's Day, Godrej Consumer Products honours Women and Allies

Guwahati: Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), a leading emerging markets company, has committed to fostering an equitable workforce—not just in principle, but through continuous action to drive meaningful change. For International Women's Day 2025, GCPL has introduced 'WomenAlly: Allies in Action', a month-long initiative spanning geographies like Asia (India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE), Africa (South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana) and Latin America (Argentina & Chile). This initiative recognizes and celebrates individuals within and outside the organisation—who are allies and actively champion inclusion, advocate for fairness, and contribute to a more supportive and dynamic workplace for women.

GCPL has four platforms where the company will reiterate their stand on affirmative efforts with respect to women. Commenting on the International Women's Day initiatives, Vaibhav Ram, Global Head—Human Resources, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd., said, "At GCPL, our approach to Allyship ties in quite well to the broader pillars outlined by the UN—For All Women & Girls—Rights, Equality, and Empowerment. These pillars guide our efforts in fostering a culture where every individual, regardless of gender, background, or role, can thrive. GCPL is soon releasing a docu-film on how sales have traditionally been a male-dominated field but is now changing.

Tata Tea Premium Care offers both refreshment and wellness in every sip

Guwahati: Experience the richness of Tata Tea Premium Care, has a thoughtfully crafted blend that combines the bold, flavorful taste of tea with the goodness of five time-tested natural ingredients. Designed to elevate your everyday tea ritual, this blend offers both refreshment and wellness in every sip. Tata Tea Premium Care has the natural goodness of Tulsi, Ginger, Elaichi, Brahmi, and Mulethi, each carefully selected for its unique wellness benefits.

Tulsi is known to improve the body's immunity, and ginger is known to be good for common cold and cough. Brahmi is known to help improve memory, and cardamom is known to help with digestion.



Mulethi is known to be good for sore throat. Together, these ingredients create a holistic tea experience, combining great taste with well-being in every cup. Tata Tea Premium Care is priced at Rs. 160 for 250 gms. Tata Tea Premium Care is available in all retail stores and e-com platforms in North India & Uttar Pradesh. Product Video Link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asdWQ5wrqV0>.

Haier introduces India's only colourful range of Kinouchi ACs

Guwahati: Haier Appliances India, the No. 1 global major appliances brand for 16 consecutive years, is setting a new benchmark in home cooling with the launch of its exclusive colourful range of Kinouchi Air Conditioners. Aimed at transforming modern homes, this premium series seamlessly blends avant-garde aesthetics with superior performance. The Kinouchi Limited Edition air conditioners blend cutting-edge technology with premium colourful finish, redefining home aesthetics beyond just cooling. As Indian consumers become more design-conscious, they seek appliances that align with their lifestyle and personal taste.

Keeping this in mind, Haier India introduces this exclusive range, offering a perfect combination of functionality and style, ensuring the air conditioners deliver outstanding efficiency while seamlessly enhancing the overall décor of the home. Available in three sophisticated shades—Black, Morning Mist & Moonstone Grey—the Kinouchi series seamlessly integrates with diverse interiors, making it an ideal choice for those who prioritize both performance and aesthetics. Commenting on the launch of the Kinouchi Air Conditioner series, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India, said, "At Haier India, prioritizing the evolving needs of consumers has always been fundamental to our ethos."

Seagram's Royal Stag marks its highly anticipated third edition of Royal Stag BoomBox

Shillong: Celebrating the spirit of 'Living it Large', Seagram's Royal Stag has marked the commencement of its highly anticipated third edition of Royal Stag BoomBox with a spectacular show at Saru Sajai Stadium Complex, Guwahati, Assam, on March 1st. Building on the phenomenal success of previous editions, this year's festival pushes boundaries even further by bringing together the best of music and gaming entertainment. The evening witnessed an overwhelming response as thousands of enthusiasts gathered to experience performances by some of India's most celebrated artists. The sprawling grounds of Saru Sajai Stadium Complex, Guwahati came alive with vibrant installations, immersive art displays, curat-



ed food experiences, and interactive zones, creating a multisensory celebration beyond just music.

Singer-songwriter Armaan Malik said, "I got to meet amazing people, experience different cultures, and see firsthand how music brings everyone together." Singer Nikhita

Gandhi added, "Performing at Royal Stag BoomBox in Guwahati was an unforgettable experience." Artist Ikka expressed, "What makes Royal Stag Boom Box special is how it lets every artist showcase their unique sound and vibe." DJ Yogii said, "Royal Stag Boom Box is all about making the crowd move and feel alive through music." Kartik Mohindra, Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Global Business Development at Pernod Ricard India, said, "Royal Stag continues to celebrate music as its key youth passion pillar." Yatish Mehrishi, CEO of ENIL, said, "At ENIL, we're excited to collaborate on something so special that celebrates diversity and creates unforgettable moments."

MSDE organizes a breakout session on "National Centres of Excellence for Skilling"

Guwahati: Post-budget webinar on "Investing in People" was conducted on March 5 for which Department of Higher Education was the Lead Department along with MSDE. MSDE organized a Breakout session, on "National Centres of Excellence for Skilling", announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, bringing together representatives from state governments, industry, international organizations and academia to discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of the budget announcement. During the webinar, Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi said that the vision of investment in people stands on three pillars—educa-

tion, skill, and healthcare. Since 2014, we have provided skill training to over 3 crore youth, announced plans to upgrade 1000 ITIs, and are establishing five Centres of Excellence with global partnership to ensure that our youth can compete at the global level.

In his closing remarks, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India highlighted "the government's commitment to equipping India's youth with future-ready digital competencies. He said that the Ministry of Skill Development

& Entrepreneurship is developing Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Program, aimed at integrating AI literacy with vocational training from as early as Class 6." The Breakout Session on the "National Centres of Excellence for Skilling" was moderated by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE and convened by Ms. Archana Mayaram, Economic Adviser, MSDE. The Panellists included Ms. Rashmita Panda, CEO, World Skills Centre, Odisha, Ms. Ragapriya, CITE and MD, KSDC, Government of Karnataka, Dr. Vinod Rao, Secretary, Labour, Skill Development & Employment, Government of Gujarat; etc.

JK Lakshmi Cement to invest Rs 11,000 crore in Assam, strengthens presence in Northeast

Guwahati: JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC), a leading cement manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Assam government to invest ₹11,000 crore over the next 7-8 years. The agreement was formalized at the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and JKLC President & Director Arun Shukla.

The investment will fund the establishment of a Greenfield cement project, focusing on cement production and value-added products. This move aligns with JKLC's vision of achieving 30 million tonnes (MT) capacity by 2030 while promoting sustainable industrial expansion. "This initiative not only strengthens Assam's infrastructure but also generates employment and drives regional economic growth," said Arun Shukla.



Guwahati is poised to benefit significantly from this development. Increased cement production will streamline supply chains, reduce material costs, and support large-scale infrastructure projects. With rising construction activity in the city, including residential and commercial developments, JKLC's investment is expected to enhance market competitiveness and cement availability.

Shri Narendra Modi - "The vision of investment in people stands on Education, Skill and Healthcare"



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New Nissan Magnite achieves the 50,000 unit export sales milestone

Guwahati: Nissan announced that as part of its commitment to sustainable mobility, the New Nissan Magnite BR10 naturally aspirated engine is now fully E20 compliant, joining the more powerful 1.0L HR10 turbocharged petrol engine, which has become E20-compatible in August 2024. With this development, all powertrain options of the New Nissan Magnite are E20 compatible. Nissan Motor India has reached another significant milestone as the Magnite achieves 50,000 units of export sales since its inception. The New Nissan Magnite, since launch, has increased wholesale volume in domestic and export markets as part of the recently announced India strategy, which includes growing domestic and export volume positioning India as a major export hub for the company.

The introduction of the LHD version has boosted this considerably since the first dispatch in January 2025. Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director of Nissan Motor India, commented: "The New Nissan Magnite continues to make its mark not only in India but also in global markets, having crossed the significant milestone of 50,000 export sales." The SUV's bold and stylish design, 20+ first & best-in-segment features, and 55+ safety features make it a standout choice in the compact SUV segment.

Shopsy brings back the customer-favourite Grand Shopsy Mela

Guwahati: Shopsy by Flipkart, India's one of the fastest-growing hyper-value e-commerce platforms, is set to launch the most anticipated event of the year, the Grand Shopsy Mela (GSM). Scheduled from March 1st to 9th, this year's Mela promises to bring the joy and vibrancy of Bharat's beloved traditional fairs to the digital world, creating an unforgettable shopping experience for families across the nation. With the theme 'Shopping Mela Sabse Bada, Prices Sabse Chote,' the Grand Shopsy Mela celebrates the essence of value shopping, bringing an engaging mela-themed shopping experience.

The eighth edition of the Grand Shopsy Mela will be the largest, offering an expan-

sive range of products across top categories like fashion, home essentials, electronics, lifestyle, and beauty. Shoppers can enjoy Grand Jhatpat Deals (starting at just ₹1/-), Grand Loot Hour, Sabse Chota Price Zone (featuring items under ₹99/-), and Grand Jackpot Deals, delivering unmatched savings on must-have products. Commenting on the event, Prathyusha Agarwal, Business Head, Shopsy, said, "For our shoppers in Bharat, a sale is



an event, but a mela is a vibe, an immersive experience filled with excitement, discovery, and shared moments with family." Stay tuned for unbeatable offers and a vibrant, joyful shopping experience on the Shopsy app and website.

Shubman Gill in the Spotlight: Nominated for ICC Player of the Month for February

Dubai: Riding on a scintillating run of form during the ODI series against England last month, India's rising top-order star Shubman Gill has been nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for February. Nominated alongside Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips, Gill's outstanding performance has caught the eye of international selectors and cricket aficionados alike. A Spectacular ODI Run Currently in Dubai with the Indian team for the ongoing Champions Trophy, Gill has been in scintillating form in the shorter format. Over the course of five ODIs in February, he amassed an impressive 406 runs at an astonishing average of 101.50, while maintaining a healthy strike rate of 94.19. His performances during a thrilling three-match series against England were particularly notable. In that series, played at iconic venues across India, Gill registered

scores of 87 in Nagpur, 60 in Cuttack, and a matchwinning 112 in Ahmedabad. His brilliant displays not only earned him the 'Player of the Series' title in a comprehensive 3-0 clean sweep but also cemented his reputation as one of India's most promising talents.

Carrying the Momentum Forward Gill's form continued into the Champions Trophy, where he further demonstrated his knack for delivering under pressure. In a crucial encounter against Bangladesh, he struck an unbeaten 101, showcasing his ability to anchor an innings and take on the opposition's bowling attack when it mattered most. This was followed by a valuable 46 against Pakistan, which played a significant role in helping India secure their place in the semifinals of the tournament.

Stellar Contenders Across the Board While Gill's performances have been drawing widespread praise, the ICC nomination process has also



spotlighted other international stars. Australia's Steve Smith, for instance, recently shone during the Test series against Sri Lanka by scoring 141 and 131 in two matches at a strike rate of 136.00—a performance that earned him the 'Player of the Series' accolade for that tour. Although his impact in the one-day series was less pronounced with scores of 12 and 29, his overall contributions across formats remain influential.

From New Zealand, Glenn Phillips has also been in fine

form, scoring a total of 236 runs in five ODIs at a strike rate of 124.21. Phillips' innings have been marked by a series of unbeaten knocks that proved pivotal in New Zealand's triumph in a triseries held in Pakistan, which also featured South Africa. His standout performances included a scintillating 106 against Pakistan in Lahore, followed by crucial contributions of 28 against South Africa, and a steady 20 in the Karachi final. Phillips continued his momentum into the Champions Trophy, making significant scores

of 61 against Pakistan in Karachi and an unbeaten 21 against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi.

A Bright Future Ahead For Shubman Gill, this ICC nomination is a testament to his burgeoning talent and the consistency he has shown over the past month. His ability to score big runs and deliver match-winning performances at crucial junctures of the game makes him a formidable force in modern ODI cricket. With the Champions Trophy now underway, all eyes will be on Gill to see if he can maintain his incredible form and help India forge further success on the international stage. As the ICC 'Player of the Month' nominees are eagerly awaited, Gill's nomination, alongside the stellar contributions from Smith and Phillips, highlights a month of extraordinary cricketing achievements across the globe. For fans and experts alike, February has been a month to remember—and Shubman Gill is certainly at the heart of it.

No Hidden Advantage: Kotak Stress-ees Playing Well is the Only Option

Dubai: Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak dismissed claims that India's extended stay in Dubai provided them with any special edge, insisting that criticism only emerged after the team started winning in the Champions Trophy. Speaking during India's net session ahead of the final against New Zealand on Sunday, Kotak emphasized that a team's success is built solely on good performance. "I don't understand what advantage we get from this (pitch). People feel that India got an advantage after we won the matches. I don't know what to say about that. We just played to the draw," Kotak said.

He firmly believes that regardless of the nature of the pitch or the conditions, the team must simply play good cricket every day. "I think in a game, you have to play good cricket every day when you turn up. If you don't play well, then you can't complain. And if you play well, there is no point in saying whether you got an advantage or not," he added. Kotak also echoed head coach Gautam Gambhir's view that the pitches at the training facility and at the DICS are entirely different. "We obviously practice on different wickets. We are playing matches on a bit of different pitches. We all know that. So, the only thing is that we played here. But that is how the draw is. So, nothing else can happen in that. It is not that after coming here, they changed something and got an advantage," he noted.

Addressing the notion of a psychological edge over New Zealand following their earlier group encounter, Kotak was quick to dismiss such talk. "I think we should not think like that. We should just try and turn up and play a good game of cricket. There is no point in thinking about the last match. We have to think on what to do on the 9th," the former Saurashtra stalwart concluded.

Matthews and Kerr Propel Mumbai Indians to Commanding Six-Wicket Victory as UPW's Playoff Hopes Dwindle

Lucknow: In a scintillating display of all-round brilliance in the Women's Premier League, the Mumbai Indians (MI) staged a remarkable comeback to secure a six-wicket win over UP Warriorz on Thursday. With a target of 151 to chase on a dew-laden Ekana Stadium, MI's explosive batting and disciplined bowling not only boosted their net run rate but also vaulted them to second in the table with eight points—just two points adrift of the table-topping Delhi Capitals, who have a game in hand. Meanwhile, UP Warriorz have now suffered their third consecutive defeat, effectively sealing their fate and dashing their playoff ambitions.

A Batting Display to Remember The match witnessed two standout performances from MI's top order. New Zealand import Hayley Matthews played an electrifying knock, scoring 68 off just 46 balls. Matthews' innings was the spark that ignited a match-winning 92-run partnership with Nat Sciver-Brunt, forged in a brisk 58-ball stand. Displaying her trade-



mark flair, Matthews operated mainly off the back foot, carving through the off-side with crisp boundaries. She reached her second half-century of the season with a particularly well-timed shot between point and coverpoint. At one stage, she dismantled UPW pacer Chinelle Henry with a towering six over deep midwicket, and then followed it up with consecutive boundaries off England's Sophie Ecclestone as MI raced to 50/1 during the powerplay.

Although UP Warriorz skipper Deepti Sharma managed to break the momentum by taking a stunning catch to dismiss Sciver-Brunt, who had contributed 37 runs from 23 balls, MI's momentum never faltered. The team needed just 35 runs off the subsequent 43 balls to keep their chase on track.

Inter Kashi Reclaims Top Spot with a 3-2 Thriller Over Namdhari FC

Kalyani: In an action-packed I-League encounter, Inter Kashi battled back from a determined Namdhari FC side to secure a vital 3-2 victory and reclaim the top spot in the league standings on Thursday. A Match of Shifting Momentum After a largely sedate first half, the contest burst into life immediately after the break. Within three minutes of the restart, Inter Kashi demonstrated their intent. Receiving the ball at the top of the Namdhari penalty area, Sumeet Passi cleverly laid it back to Nikola Stojanović. The Serbian, timing his run perfectly, rolled the ball onto his left foot, deftly turned away from the advancing defenders, and hammered a shot into the top left corner in the 48th minute to give his team the lead.

A Dramatic Turn of Events Namdhari FC, however, were not ready to concede without a fight. In the 67th minute, Brazilian forward Cledson Carvalho burst into action. After a well-timed run and a powerful shot from distance that ricocheted off the crossbar, Cledson capitalized on the ensuing cha-



os by drawing a penalty when he was brought down inside the box. Despite an impressive attempt by Inter Kashi's goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharya to tip the ball away, the spot kick was converted, leveling the scores. The match quickly evolved into an end-to-end spectacle. Inter Kashi nearly restored their lead soon after, with a chipped pass finding Joni Kauko in space, but substitute goalkeeper Nishan Singh made a crucial save to deny a close-range finish.

Sealing the Win in Quick Succession In the 70th minute, Inter Kashi found their rhythm again. A well-weighted squared pass from the left wing

sliced through a disorganized Namdhari defense, allowing Sumeet Passi to tap in at the far post and restore Kashi's advantage. The momentum did not stop there; just a minute later, Edmund Lalrindika slid through the top of the box and fired an inch-perfect shot that bounced off the upright to make it 3-1.

Namdhari FC tried to claw their way back into the game, and in the 82nd minute, skipper Dharmpreet Singh struck with a goal to reduce the deficit. Despite this late surge, Inter Kashi's comeback proved too strong, as they held on to claim a crucial three-goal margin of victory.