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Sensex jumps 658 points to 80,254 in early trade; Nifty rallies 192 points to 24,359

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Wednesday driven by a sharp rally in global markets and foreign fund inflows. Buying in blue-chip IT stocks also added to investors' optimism. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 658.96 points to 80,254.55 in early trade. The NSE Nifty rallied 192.05 points to 24,359.30.

From the Sensex firms, HCL Tech surged over 6 per cent after the firm posted an 8.1 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,307 crore for March quarter 2024-25, mainly on account of large deals with a total contract value of about Rs 25,500 crore. Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Maruti were also among major gainers.

Eternal, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and State Bank of India were among the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index, Tokyo's Nikkei 225, Shanghai SSE Composite and Hong Kong's Hang Seng were trading in the positive territory.

US markets bounced back sharply on Tuesday. Nasdaq Composite surged 2.71 per



cent, Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 2.66 per cent and S&P 500 rallied 2.51 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,290.43 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"President Trump's message that he has no intention of firing the Fed chief has calmed the US markets. Trump's remarks on Chinese tariffs indicate that he might reduce the US-China tensions. The sustained buying by FIIs is a strong support to Indian markets," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.67 per cent to USD 67.89 a barrel. The BSE benchmark climbed 187.09 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 79,595.59 on Tuesday. The Nifty went up by 41.70 points or 0.17 per cent to 24,167.25. (PTI)

Haier India launches Gravity Series of air conditioners

Guwahati: Haier Appliances India, the No. 1 global major appliances brand for 16 consecutive years, has unveiled the highly anticipated Gravity Series of air conditioners. As India's only AI Climate Control Air Conditioners with fabric finish, these innovative ACs seamlessly integrate intelligent cooling technology with fabric finish, setting new standard for modern home climate solutions. The Gravity Series is available in seven stunning color variants—Morning Mist, Moon Stone Grey, Midnight Dream, Galaxy Slate, Aqua Blue, Cotton Candy, and White—offering unmatched cooling efficiency while adding a premium touch to contemporary interiors. Commenting on the launch, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India, said, "With India's only AI Climate Control, this series redefines personalized comfort while ensuring energy efficiency."

The Haier Gravity Series 5-Star AI Climate Control Air Conditioner range is available starting at INR 51,990 and can be purchased through the Haier website, leading e-commerce platforms, all major electronics stores, and retail outlets across India. Haier Gravity Series is available in 7 models: HCU19G-MZAIM5BN-INV in Morning Mist | HCU19G-MZAIS5BN-INV in Moon stone Grey | HCU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Galaxy Slate | HCU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Midnight Dream | HCU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Aqua Blue | HCU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in Cotton Candy | HCU19G-MZAI5BN-INV in White. Detailed Look at the Key Features: AI Climate Control Powered AC, Supersonic Cooling: Instant Cooling in Just 10 Seconds, Frost Self-Clean Technology, Hexa Inverter Technology, Intelli Convertible - 7 in 1, High Ambient Performance, Hyper PCB, 20-metre-long air flow.

Ambuja Cements completes acquisition of 37.8% promoters' stake in Orient Cement

Mumbai (PTI): The Adani group-owned Ambuja Cements has completed the acquisition of a 37.8 per cent promoters' stake in CK Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) and has become a promoter.

With this, the total shareholding of Ambuja Cements in OCL has gone up to 46.66 per cent as it has also acquired 1.82 crore shares representing an 8.87 per cent from public shareholders of OCL. "Ambuja has completed the acquisition of 7,76,49,413 equity shares (representing 37.79 per cent of equity share capital) of the company from the promoter group," said a regulatory filing from OCL.

Pursuant to the acquisitions from the promoter group and public shareholders, Ambuja has acquired sole control of OCL and has become the promoter of the company, it added.

Last October, Ambuja Cements announced the acquisition of OCL at a valuation

of ₹8,100 crore as part of its expansion drive. It had signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of the firm at an equity value of ₹8,100 crore.

Following a change in the ownership, OCL also announced the resignation of its directors — Chandrakant Birla, Amita Birla, and Desh Deepak Khetrapal. Besides, OCL's four independent directors have also resigned. CFO Prakash Chand Jain has been replaced by Kajal Sarda with effect from April 23, 2025.

The board led by the new promoter has appointed Vaibhav Dixit as executive director. It has also appointed Vinod Bahety as chairman and non-executive non-independent director with effect from the conclusion of the meeting on April 22, 2025. Besides, three independent directors — Sudhir Nanavati, Shruti Shah and Ravi Kapoor — were also appointed on the board.

OCL said, "Appointment of



the executive director, non-executive non-independent director and non-executive independent directors, as stated above, will be subject to the approval of the shareholders of the company." Adani Cement is expanding its capacity in the cement industry through an inorganic route by acquiring small rivals and through brownfield expansion by adding capacity to the existing units.

The Adani group aspires to have 140 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity by FY28 pan-India, which will help reduce overall lead distances and logistics costs for the cement business and improving market share in its core markets.

Rupee falls 15 paise to 85.34 against US dollar in early trade

Rupee depreciated 15 paise to 85.34 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, after the American currency recovered supported by Donald Trump's softened stance -- particularly towards the Federal Reserve and against China.

Forex traders said the market found support after Trump on Tuesday backed off from threats to fire FED Chair Jerome Powell after days of intensifying criticism against him for not cutting rates. Trump also signalled the possibility of lower tariffs against China.

The dollar index rose to 99.28, while the US 10-year bond yield was slightly lower at 4.34 per cent. All three US indices gained by more than 2.5 per cent in consequence of Trump's softened stance.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.24 then fell to 85.34 against the greenback in early deals, registering a loss of 15 paise over its previous closing level.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled lower by 4 paise at 85.19 against the US dollar. Mean-



while, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.37 per cent at 99.28.

The dollar index rose after Trump said that he had no intention of firing Powell but would like to see him more active in terms of his ideas for lower interests," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.83 per cent to USD 68 per barrel in futures trade, extending the prior day's gains as investors weighed a fresh round of sanctions against Iran and a drop in US

crude stocks while a softer tone from US president Donald Trump on the Federal Reserve helped markets recover.

"With the dollar rebound and domestic demand, the US-DINR pair is expected to trade in a range between 85.00-85.40 levels," CR Forex Advisors MD - Amit Pabari said. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 418.53 points, or 0.53 per cent, to 80,014.12, while the Nifty advanced 113.95 points, or 0.47 per cent, to 24,281.20.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,290.43 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Ather Energy reduces IPO size amid global market jitters, sets April 28 as bid date

Mumbai: Ather Energy has reduced the size of its initial public offering, its prospectus showed on Tuesday, as the electric scooter maker seeks to list at a time when US tariff concerns have roiled stock markets globally.

The Tiger Global-backed company plans to raise ₹26.26 billion (\$308.3 million) by issuing new shares, compared with its earlier plan of raising ₹31 billion. Existing shareholders will offload 11.1 million shares, around half the 22 million shares they planned to sell earlier.

Indian motorcycle maker Hero MotoCorp is the largest shareholder in Ather with around 40 per cent stake.

Hero maintained its stance that it will not sell its shares in the IPO. While the company did not provide a reason for cutting the IPO size, it comes after turmoil in India's stock markets, partly due to the volatility in global markets as well as weak consumption trends in the country.

Foreign investors have continued offloading their holdings, net selling Indian equities worth nearly \$33 billion between the second half of the last fiscal and mid-April.

Ather said it will open share bidding for three days starting April 28, while anchor investors are set to participate in a private placement of stock on April 25.

Gold prices hit Rs 1 lakh per 10 gm ahead of Akshaya Tritiya; will high rates dampen demand?

Gold prices surged to touch the psychological mark of Rs 1 lakh per 10 gm at the retail level on Monday and is likely to hurt consumer sentiment ahead of Akshaya Tritiya, a heavy purchase day for gold.

The price of gold without the Goods & Services Tax (GST) was trading at Rs 97,200 per 10 gm. The jewellery trade is hopeful that though the prices are surging northward, there will be good demand for gold as an investment product.

PNB Housing Finance and Aadhar Housing Finance expand footprint in Guwahati, boost affordable housing in North East

Guwahati: PNB Housing Finance Ltd. and Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. have marked a significant milestone by launching their first-ever branch in Guwahati, Assam. This expansion aligns with the government's 'Housing for All' mission and aims to improve financial inclusion through affordable housing solutions in the North East.

The newly inaugurated branch will provide customized housing finance products to meet the region's needs, with a focus on bridging the gap in home financing. Both companies are committed to driving the success of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in this underserved region.

"We are excited to expand

in Guwahati, marking the beginning of our efforts to make affordable housing accessible to the people of the North East," said Girish Kousgi, MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance. Rishi Anand, MD & CEO of Aadhar Housing Finance, highlighted their commitment to offering home-ownership solutions for the lower-income segments.

In Guwahati, the expansion is poised to address the growing demand for affordable housing, especially in a city with a rapidly developing economy. With this increased access to home loans, local real estate markets are expected to witness greater activity and growth, benefiting both the community and the broader region.

Redmi A5 launched in India: A game changer in entry-level smartphones

Guwahati: Xiaomi India has unveiled the much-anticipated Redmi A5, setting a new benchmark in the entry-level smartphone segment. Packed with cutting-edge features such as a 120Hz high-refresh-rate display, a 32MP AI dual camera, and a powerful 5200mAh battery, the Redmi A5 promises to offer smooth performance and immersive user experiences at an unbeatable price.

Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer of Xiaomi India, shared, "The Redmi A5 reflects our commitment to delivering exceptional value in the entry-level market. Its large 120Hz display, AI-powered 32MP camera, and long-lasting battery ensure that users can enjoy premium features without com-

promising on affordability."

Designed for everyday use, the Redmi A5 comes with a 6.88-inch HD+ display certified by TÜV Rheinland to reduce eye strain. With a 240Hz touch sampling rate and enhanced outdoor visibility with 600 nits brightness, the device ensures a fluid experience whether streaming, gaming, or browsing. It also features a 15W fast charger and a secure side-mounted fingerprint scanner for added convenience.

In Guwahati, the Redmi A5's affordability and performance will resonate strongly with local consumers, especially those seeking a reliable smartphone without breaking the bank. With its availability starting 16th April 2025 across platforms like



Mi.com, Amazon, and Flipkart, the device is expected to capture significant demand in the region.

Priced at INR 6499 for the 3GB + 64GB variant and INR 7499 for the 4GB + 128GB model, the Redmi A5 is set to redefine the budget smartphone category in India.

Tata Tea Jaago Re leverages AI to empower collective action for climate change

Guwahati: Tata Tea Jaago Re has launched its innovative AI-powered campaign, 'Har Green Action Se Farak Padega,' to inspire individuals to take small, actionable steps in their daily lives to combat climate change. The initiative, built on Google Cloud's AI suite, allows consumers to upload pictures of their "green actions" via a WhatsApp-based tool, offering immediate feedback on the positive impact of their efforts. Actions like using a lid while cooking or taking public transport are tracked and validated using advanced image recognition, creating an interactive and motivating experience.

The campaign's aim is to combat the apathy often felt toward climate change by showing how small, individual actions collectively contribute to larger environmental benefits. For every 10 green actions completed, Tata Tea will plant a tree, further strengthening the initiative's impact.

In Guwahati, the market shows increasing interest in sustainability, with a growing number of consumers keen to adopt green practices. The Jaago Re campaign resonates strongly with the city's eco-conscious population, reflecting an upward trend in demand for environmentally responsible products and initiatives. As consumers become more aware of their environmental footprint, campaigns like Jaago Re are poised to capture their attention and drive change.

Puneet Das, President of Tata Consumer Products, emphasized the importance of collective action, saying, "Small daily actions can make a significant difference, and this campaign is all about empowering individuals to contribute to a greener future."

Centre injects Rs 67.77 cr to upgrade maritime education; Dibrugarh eyes skilled workforce boost

Dibrugarh: In a significant push to modernize maritime education, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a girls' hostel at Indian Maritime University (IMU), Kochi, and virtually inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹67.77 crore across six IMU campuses.

The newly announced girls' hostel at IMU Kochi, estimated at ₹13.11 crore, aims to enhance residential facilities for female maritime students. Alongside, Sonowal remotely unveiled state-of-the-art infrastructure at IMU campuses in Chennai, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai Port, and Visakhapatnam, including simulators, solar power units, upgraded sports infrastructure, and hostel renovations.



"These 17 projects mark a significant step in our mission to strengthen India's maritime education landscape," said Sonowal.

The development holds strong relevance for Dibrugarh, where the inland waterways sector along the Brahmaputra is poised for expansion. Industry leaders in the region see the IMU

initiatives as a pipeline for skilled professionals who can support logistics, port operations, and inland shipping enterprises in Assam and the Northeast.

The event also featured senior officials and maritime stakeholders, ending with a forward-looking discussion on innovation in maritime education.

Nissan launches free summer AC check-up camp with exclusive offers across India

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has rolled out a nationwide free AC check-up camp for customers, reaffirming its focus on customer-centric service and after-sales excellence. The initiative, running from April 15 to June 15, 2025, will be available at all 123 authorised Nissan service workshops across India.

As part of the campaign, Nissan vehicle owners will receive a complimentary 12-point AC check-up and car top wash. Additionally, customers can avail up to 10% discount on labour charges (at dealer discretion) and up to 15% off on Value Added Services (VAS). The service will be conducted by trained technicians using Nissan Genuine Spare Parts to ensure top-quality maintenance. Appointments can be scheduled via the Nissan ONE App or the official website, www.nissan.in.

This summer service campaign is aimed at boosting customer satisfaction while ensuring vehicles are performance-ready for the heatwave season.

In Guwahati, where soaring temperatures have increased the demand for reliable car air-conditioning, the initiative has been well received. Local service workshops have seen a steady uptick in bookings, with customers keen to take advantage of the timely offering to ensure driving comfort and vehicle longevity during the summer.

Bingo! TedheMedhe makes Bihu spicy with 'Jomonir Adda'

Guwahati: ITC Bingo! TedheMedhe is all set to celebrate the joy and spirit of Bihu with its vibrant and flavourful experiential campaign—Jomonir Adda, which refers to a fun zone in the heart of Guwahati where Bihu revellers can showcase their inherent swagger and immerse themselves in unforgettable experiences. Jomonir Adda Zone: 1) BYOB (Build Your Own Bingo) Chaat Stall: A flavour-forward experience where consumers can create their own chaat using Bingo! TedheMedhe snacks, with a twist of Assamese flavors—from tangy bamboo flavour-infused toppings to local herbs and masalas. 2) Interactive Content Zone: Celebrating Assam's music and pop culture, this zone will have Bihu-themed songs, props, and local catchphrases to create share-worthy moments.

Through this activation, the brand continues to build on its commitment to connect with its consumers as a true "Son of the Soil" brand with relevance at a regional level. Commenting about the brand's participation in Bihu, Mr. Suresh Chand, VP, Head of Marketing—Snacks, Noodles, and Pasta, ITC Foods, said, "Bingo! TedheMedhe is all about embracing your cravings and expressing yourself without filter." The campaign will start from April 14th at Latastil Park, Guwahati, offering visitors a taste of cultural experience, tradition, and excitement.

ITC's Sunrise Spices Launches 'Xipa Bisari: A Back to Roots Series'

Guwahati: ITC's Sunrise Spices has launched "Xipa Bisari: A Back to Roots Series," a 10-episode culinary journey exploring Assam's traditional cuisine. The series, backed by the Cultural Ministry of Assam, premiered at the Chandmari Bihu Xonmilon pandal in Guwahati.

Hosted by renowned Assamese chef Atul Lahkar, the series documents his travels through villages and markets across Assam, focusing on preserving traditional recipes and cooking techniques. Each episode features Lahkar interacting with local culinary knowledge keepers, particularly elderly women who have maintained these traditions.

"Xipa Bisari" honors Assam's food heritage, empowers local communities, and inspires the next generation to cherish their culinary roots," said Piyush Mishra, Business Head, Spices, ITC Ltd.

The series showcases Chef Lahkar reinterpreting traditional recipes using Sunrise Spices' authentic blends, highlighting the distinctive spice combinations central to Assamese cuisine.

JK Tyre's Indian Racing Festival ignites Guwahati despite rain

Guwahati: Defying sudden showers and rising above the clouds, the JK Tyre-powered Indian Racing Festival roared into Guwahati with a thrilling mix of motorsport spectacle and youthful energy at the IIT Guwahati campus. Held in partnership with Adventure-X Fusion Tribe, the event delivered a high-octane showcase of speed, precision, and stunt prowess.

From screeching burnouts to gravity-defying Superbikes, the crowd witnessed jaw-dropping performances by stunt cars including Lexus and BMW, along with karting prodigies blazing across the track on Rotax Karts. The Indian Formula 4 car offered a glimpse into the world of professional racing, much to the delight of the motorsport-hungry audience.

Despite unexpected rain, students and fans turned up in large numbers, and the event wrapped up on a high note with a dazzling fireworks display. Prof. Perumal Alagarsamy, Dean of Student Affairs at IIT Guwahati, graced the event and lauded its impact on students, calling it "a perfect fusion of engineering and excitement."

JK Tyre Motorsport's Head of Operations, Hari Singh, hailed the Guwahati leg a success. "The connection with the audience was magical," he said. The festival now heads to Gangtok for its grand finale on April 22.

NHB organizes a meeting with MD & CEOs of Housing Finance Companies, SFBs and RRBs

Guwahati: National Housing Bank (NHB) has organized a meeting with MD & CEOs of Housing Finance Companies, Small Finance Banks and Regional Rural Banks on 17th April 2025 at Guwahati on the theme "Unlocking Potential: Housing Finance as a Catalyst for North-East Development". The programme was graced by Shri Manoj Ayyappan, Joint Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Shri Kuldip Narayan, IAS, Joint Secretary (HFA), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India who joined the meeting virtually, Smt. Sarika Pradhan, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim and Shri Sanjay Shukla, Managing Director, National Housing Bank.

The event was attended by MD & CEOs of Housing Finance Companies, senior officials of Small Finance Banks and Chairman and senior officials of Regional Rural Banks from five states of the North-East viz. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. A presentation was made on PMAY 2.0—Interest Subsidy Scheme, for which NHB is a Central Nodal Agency. The sectoral, regulatory, supervisory, and refinancing issues were also discussed in detail. During the meeting there was virtual inauguration of opening of a branch of PNB Housing Finance Limited and Aadhar Housing Finance Limited in Guwahati, Assam.

JK Tyre India Racing Festival wows Mizoram with thrills, drifts and downpours

Aizawl: The JK Tyre-powered India Racing Festival wrapped up with high-octane excitement in Mizoram on April 16, despite heavy rain and unpredictable weather. Motorsports fans braved the conditions to witness India's top racers and stunt performers deliver an electrifying show, highlighted by a world-first car drift around Mizoram's iconic Cheraw Dance.

The festival kicked off with jaw-dropping stunts by Mizo Superbikers and local talents Mrs. Awmawmi and Mr. Francis. Headlining the event were Indian F4 driver Sohil Shah, GoKart racers Yatharth Gaur and Aarav Sureka, IRL star Sandeep Kumar, and stunt legends like Prashant, Ashwin Singh Takiar, and Sanam Sekhon.

JK Tyre Motorsport's Hari Singh, a five-time national rally champion, praised Mizoram's driving discipline and passion. "JK Tyre is proud to support Mizoram's motorsport talent



and looks forward to nurturing more champions from this region," he said.

In Aizawl, the racing buzz translated into a notable spike in automobile accessory sales and youth engagement in local racing clubs. The event sparked discussions in the Aizawl market on the potential for a long-term motorsports tourism circuit in the region.

The festival will head next to Shillong on April 19, continuing its mission to take motorsports across the Northeast.

Anchor Oral Care expands in North East, appoints Aimee Baruah as brand ambassador

Guwahati: Anchor Oral Care has intensified its focus on the North East market by appointing celebrated regional actor Aimee Baruah as its brand ambassador and unveiling two new campaigns — "Laal. Kamaal. Bemisaal." and "Naye Zamane Ki Nayi Suraksha." This strategic move marks the brand's reinforced commitment to the region, where it has maintained a strong presence for decades.

The new campaigns highlight Anchor Red Toothpaste's Ayurvedic benefits and its CalFlo formulation, targeting both tradition and innovation in oral care. Aimee Baruah, featured in the second campaign, is expected to significantly enhance the brand's connection with local families



through digital promotions and on-ground activities.

Speaking on the development, Anchor Consumer Products Director Karan Shah said the move is aimed at deepening engagement and expanding the distribution network. The company is banking on consumers' growing demand for effective, vegetarian, and natural oral care solutions.

In Guwahati, which mirrors broader regional trends, there's a noticeable preference for herbal products made with ingredients like tulsi and pudina. Retailers have noted a surge in demand for ethical and holistic products, positioning Anchor Red Toothpaste as a popular family choice thanks to its trusted formula and refreshing taste.

Britannia NutriChoice enhances everyday wellness with the launch of NutriPlus

Guwahati: NutriChoice—one of India's leading biscuit brands—has extended its commitment to simplifying everyday wellness with the launch of NutriPlus, a mobile app that is on a mission to democratize wellness tracking in India by making it simpler, more accessible, and entirely smartphone-driven. Designed in partnership with Aktivio Labs, this evidence-based app is available by simply scanning a pack of Britannia NutriChoice, making what is typically complex technology available in an intuitive, easy-to-access form. In just one year, NutriPlus has seen good organic adoption, with over 1.5 lakh user sign-ins—demonstrating the growing demand for effortless everyday wellness solutions.

Archana Balaraman, General Manager, Marketing, Britannia, said, "As we continue evolving NutriPlus, Britannia NutriChoice remains committed to helping individuals embrace better wellness habits with ease." NutriPlus provides a single, evidence-based NutriScore, helping users monitor key lifestyle indicators such as steps, sleep quality, fiber intake, and water intake. Users have shown a steady improvement in their routines, with daily steps increasing by 10%, exercise time rising by 16%, and sleep duration improving from 6 hours 46 minutes to 7 hours 08 minutes. As engagement continues to grow, NutriPlus remains focused on making wellness insights more accessible and actionable for all.

This Akshaya Tritiya, Rivaah by Tanishq presents exquisite wedding jewellery

Guwahati: As the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya approaches, Tanishq's exclusive wedding sub-brand, Rivaah, is set to celebrate the grandeur of upcoming summer Indian weddings with its exquisite bridal jewellery collections offerings. With a profound understanding of India's diverse wedding traditions, Rivaah by Tanishq offers an extensive range of jewellery tailored to brides across various communities, ensuring a seamless fit for every wedding function — from the Haldi and Mehendi ceremonies to the Sangeet and the main wedding day. Each piece is designed to not only honor these cherished traditions but also to reflect the individuality and elegance of the bride.

The collections honor local traditions and preferences, with ornate naths from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Thushi necklaces and Tode Bangles from Maharashtra. Pelki Tshering, Chief Marketing Officer, Tanishq, said, "As we step into the summer wedding season, Rivaah by Tanishq continues to cater to the growing demand for bridal jewellery that blends heritage with modernity." To elevate the festive shopping experience, Tanishq is offering a powerful value proposition with up to 20% off on making charges of gold jewellery and diamond jewellery value, along with ₹101 off per gram on gold purchases. Tanishq invites brides-to-be and their families to explore the unparalleled craftsmanship of Rivaah.

NSDC and Rapido partner to enhance gig economy opportunities for workers

Guwahati: To empower India's gig economy, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Rapido, one of the country's leading bike taxi aggregators, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance skill development for gig workers. This strategic partnership seeks to bridge the gap between skilling and job opportunities by providing training and integrating individuals into the rapidly growing gig sector.

NSDC will bring its vast expertise in skilling, while Rapido will offer access to

its extensive fleet and infrastructure. Together, they will provide both part-time and full-time earning opportunities for candidates, with a focus on technical, behavioural, and safety skills. "This collaboration will ensure that every individual has the skills and support to participate in India's evolving mobility sector," said Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC.

In Guwahati, this initiative holds significant potential. As the city experiences growth in the gig economy, the partnership will empower local residents with the



necessary skills to join the workforce as Rapido captains. This initiative will not only enhance employability but also create sustainable earning opportunities in the region, contributing to local economic development.

Rapido's platform, known for offering flexible work hours, will also support the onboarding of women drivers through its "Pink Mobility" initiative, ensuring inclusivity within the mobility ecosystem.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes Youngest Cricketer to Play in IPL

Jaipur: In a historic moment for Indian cricket, 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi made his debut in the Indian Premier League (IPL), becoming the youngest cricketer to ever feature in the prestigious tournament. He took the field for Rajasthan Royals (RR) against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, captivating the crowd with his confidence and determination. At just 14 years and 23 days old, Suryavanshi became an instant sensation, drawing admiration and attention from cricket fans worldwide. As he walked out to open the innings alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, the excitement in the stadium was palpable. The moment the young left-handed batter faced the fourth delivery of the first over from LSG pacer Shardul Thakur, the crowd erupted as Suryavanshi sent the ball flying over the extra-cover boundary for a massive six. His fearless approach to the game left a lasting impression on the audience and the Rajasthan Royals' dugout. Despite being so young, Suryavanshi demonstrated maturity and composure, with his determination shining through. In a heartwarming moment, injured RR skipper Sanju Samson was seen smiling proudly from the dugout, clearly impressed by the teenager's confident start. Suryavanshi was born on March 27, 2011, the same year India won the Cricket World Cup under MS Dhoni. Despite his tender age, the young prodigy has already made his mark in domestic cricket.

IPL 2025: Punjab Kings present a tough home task for Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Mumbai: Unstoppable on the road, underachievers at home. That has been the weird Royal Challengers Bengaluru story so far in IPL 2025. They would like to change the script on Friday, when they take on Punjab Kings at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

With four victories from six games, RCB have surely been among the better teams this year. But all their wins thus far have come in away fixtures. In the two matches they have played at home, they have

BCCI Bans Former Mumbai T20 League Team Owner Gurmeet Singh Bhamrah for Corrupt Practices

New Delhi: The BCCI Ombudsman Justice (Retd) Arun Mishra has banned Gurmeet Singh Bhamrah, the former co-owner of a Mumbai T20 League franchise, following his involvement in making corrupt approaches to city players Dhawal Kulkarni and Bhavin Thakkar during the 2019 edition of the league. Bhamrah, who was also involved with the nowdefunct GT20 Canada and co-owned the SoBo Superson-ics in the Mumbai T20 League, made attempts to influence the two players to fix matches. Kulkarni, a medium pacer who has also represented India in 12

ODIs and a couple of T20 Internationals, was approached during the event, although the specifics of his involvement remain undisclosed. The allegations were brought to light after the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) conducted an investigation.

The BCCI's decision follows the submission of the ACU's investigation report, which recommended charges against Bhamrah under multiple provisions of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Code, including Articles 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and 2.4.1. Based on the report's findings, Bhamrah has been banned from any in-

volvement in cricket-related activities, with the duration of the ban potentially ranging from five years to a lifetime ban, depending on further adjudication. The investigation revealed that Bhamrah, referred to as "Paaji" by the players, was behind the corrupt approach made to Bhavin Thakkar. A person named Sonu Vasan, acting on Bhamrah's instructions, offered Thakkar money and other benefits to participate in match-fixing. The conversation between Vasan and Thakkar was documented, with Vasan stating that he would report Thakkar's deci-



sion back to Bhamrah.

Although Bhamrah is no longer part of the Mumbai T20 League, which is set to resume this year after a COVID-forced suspension, the ban serves as a stern reminder of the BCCI's com-

mitment to maintaining the integrity of Indian cricket. The BCCI's AntiCorruption Code outlines severe penalties for corruption-related offenses, with the potential for lifetime bans for violations of this magnitude.

Kerala Blasters Beat Defending Champions East Bengal 2-0 in Kalinga Super Cup

Bhubaneswar: Defending champions East Bengal FC were knocked out of the Kalinga Super Cup after a disappointing 2-0 loss to Kerala Blasters FC at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday. The defeat ended East Bengal's hopes of retaining their title as Kerala Blasters secured their place in the quarterfinals with a comfortable victory. The match, which was the opening round-of-16 clash of the tournament, saw Kerala Blasters take a 1-0 lead at halftime, with both goals coming from their attackers: a penalty from Spanish striker Jesus Jimenez Nunez in the 40th minute and an impressive 64th-minute strike from American Noah Wali Sa-daoui.

Kerala Blasters' next challenge in the quarterfinals will be against Mohun Bagan SG, who have been in excellent form this season, having won both the Shield and Cup titles in the recently concluded Indian Super League (ISL). The quarterfinal clash is scheduled for April 26. Both teams entered the Kalinga Super Cup after disappointing performances in ISL 2024-25, where they failed to make the top six, with Kerala Blasters finishing eighth and East Bengal a spot below in ninth. The match started cautiously, with both sides focusing more on controlling the midfield than launching aggressive attacks. Despite this, both teams had chances to score, but erratic shooting kept the game goalless for much of the first half.

Kerala Blasters' Jimenez was presented with an early opportunity in the second minute to open the scoring. However, he was slightly late in reaching the ball and couldn't convert a golden chance. Richard En-rique Celis of East Bengal also looked dangerous in the opening minutes, having two chances that narrowly missed the target, one in the eighth minute and another from a longrange shot off a corner.

Bowlers Shine in Punjab Kings' Five-Wicket Victory Over Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Punjab Kings delivered a stellar bowling performance, helping them seal a five-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a truncated IPL match on Friday. The match, which started late due to rain, was reduced to 14 overs per side. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) could only manage 95 for nine, with Tim David's knock of 50 not out off 26 balls contributing more than half of RCB's total. Punjab Kings, despite some early scares, reached 98 for five in 12.1 overs, ensuring they took two crucial points to move up to second on the points table.

Kings' Bowling Masterclass Punjab Kings' bowlers set the tone early, with Shreyas Iyer opting to bowl first. The decision proved effective as Arshdeep Singh (2/23) struck early, dismissing Phil Salt in the first over. Virat Kohli followed soon after, falling to a superb catch by Marco Jansen off Arshdeep's bowling. By the end of the powerplay, RCB was reeling at 26 for 3. Yuzvendra Chahal (2/11), playing at his former IPL home, made an impact, dismissing Jitesh Sharma, while Jansen (2/10) used short-pitched deliveries to remove crucial wickets, including Krunal Pandya and Manoj Bhandage.

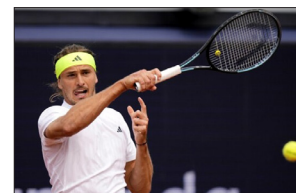


Despite some late fireworks by Tim David, RCB's innings fell apart with regular wickets falling, leaving them with a disappointing total.

Punjab Kings' Chase Chasing 96, Punjab Kings' openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh were tested by the pitch, which offered significant bounce. Arya, struggling to adjust, mistimed a shot off Josh Hazlewood (3/14) and was dismissed early. Prabhsimran followed soon after, falling to Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Things looked shaky when captain Shreyas Iyer was dismissed cheaply by Hazlewood, leaving Punjab at 53 for 4. However, Nehal Wadhwa (33 not out, 19b) played a steady hand, dispatching Suyash Sharma's leg spin for a couple of sixes and guiding his team to victory.

Alexander Zverev Downs Ben Shelton to Win Third Munich Title

Munich: Alexander Zverev claimed his third Munich title on Sunday, defeating second-seeded Ben Shelton 6-2, 6-4 in a dominant display. This victory marked Zverev's first title of the year and his 24th career ATP title, further cementing his status as one of the top players on the tour. Zverev had previously won the clay-court tournament in 2017 and 2018, making this victory especially sweet as it came on home soil in Germany. "It's extremely special, I always love winning tournaments in Germany," said the 28-year-old, who



was celebrating his birthday. "It's definitely a great birthday present, let's put it that way." Shelton, who was competing in his fourth career final and second on clay, had been in strong form, having won the Houston Open last year. However, Zverev proved too strong in sunny conditions at the BMW

Open. Zverev served for the match, setting up match point with a well-executed sliced backhand at the net that Shelton couldn't return. The German closed out the match with a sharp backhand volley after a brief rally. Zverev's serve was rock solid throughout the match, as he did not face a single break point.

With this victory, Zverev could potentially climb back into second place in the ATP rankings, depending on the outcome of the Barcelona Open final later in the day.