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Gold, silver prices cool after record highs; jewellery sales jump 35–40 pc during Dhanteras

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices fell on Tuesday as investors booked profits after both metals hit record highs in the previous session, even as festive jewellery sales during Dhanteras jumped 35–40 per cent across India. Silver Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), which had delivered stellar one-year returns of around 65–70 per cent, also saw a sharp correction as global prices cooled following improved physical supply and easing safe-haven demand.

Silver had turned hot earlier this month when global spot prices surged past \$40



an ounce amid concerns of a physical shortage. The rally extended further, crossing \$50 in mid-October. However, by the end of last week, prices began to retreat as easing

trade tensions reduced safe-haven demand. On October 17, silver prices in the US fell by over 6 per cent, and the correction soon spilled over into Indian markets. Accord-

ing to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), silver prices in India fell 7 per cent on October 20, slipping from Rs 1,71,275 per kg to Rs 1,60,100 per kg. The decline directly impacted silver ETFs, which mirror domestic silver prices.

Data from Ace MF shows that silver ETFs logged steep single-day losses, with most funds dropping up to 7 per cent on October 20. Analysts noted that the ETFs are now trading at or below fair value -- a sign that investor demand has started to cool after months of heavy inflows.

Tata Motors sells over 1 lakh vehicles in 30-day festive season

New Delhi: Amid robust festive demand post reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on automobiles, Tata Motors on Tuesday said that it has delivered over 1 lakh cars within the last 30 days from Navratri to Deepawali, since the tax reforms came into effect on September 22. The Tata Group's automobile manufacturer saw a massive 33 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) surge in sales during this period, with SUVs continuing to dominate the market.

"Over the 30 days from Navratri to Diwali, we have achieved a landmark milestone with over 1 lakh vehicle deliveries, reflecting a robust 33 per cent growth compared to the same period last year. Our SUVs continue to lead this momentum — with the Nexon registering over 38,000 retail sales, an impressive 73 per cent growth, while the Punch clocked 32,000 units, growing 29 per cent Year-on-Year," said Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. The company's EV portfolio, too, showed strong traction, with over 10,000 EVs retailed during this period, an uptick of 37 per cent. "Meanwhile, Tata Motors' full portfolio of cars and SUVs has supported this surge further, reinforcing our strategic commitment to product leadership, market relevance and delivery excellence in this pivotal festive window.

India sees sharp surge in SME IPOs, supported by strong retail participation, market sentiment

New Delhi: The SME IPO market in India saw a sharp surge in activity during the financial year 2023-24 (FY 2023-24) and FY 2024-25, supported by strong retail participation and favourable market sentiment, the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) October Bulletin has said. Small and medium enterprises had raised Rs 5,917.19 crore in FY24, to which Rs 5,660.93 crore (94.80 per cent) was raised issuing fresh shares and Rs 310.26 crore (5.19 per cent) through offer for sale (OFS). The numbers soared significantly in FY25, with SMEs raising Rs 9,110.97 crore. Fresh issues (Rs 8,344.37 crore) contributed 91.5 per cent, while the OFS part was Rs 775.6 crore or 8.5 per cent. Most of the SME IPOs, during this period, recorded high oversubscription levels and listing gains.

According to the Bulletin, Macroeconomic and policy factors like overall market buoyancy and advancement in payment and settlement mechanisms in the IPO market drove this boom. The SME firms used most of the raised funds for capital enhancement or working capital. However, despite robust listing gains, post-listing performances of these SME stocks reveal both opportunities and risks for the investors. "While the buzz around SME IPOs may seem exciting, investing solely on market sentiment can be risky. During bullish phases in the market, enthusiasm and investors' appetite may cause investors to overlook



due diligence. In this phase, demand for IPOs surges, and expectations of substantial listing gains can lead to inflated valuations," the Bulletin said. However, market reversals can quickly dampen this optimism. SME IPOs may offer impressive gains in favourable conditions but carry higher volatility and risk during downturns, making due diligence indispensable.

Investors should carefully evaluate the company's fundamentals, growth prospects, and risk factors before committing capital, the bulletin suggested. Meanwhile, given the strong growth of start-ups in India, most of which have innovative business models, the provision of risk capital for these firms becomes crucial. Keeping in view the spurt of SME IPOs in recent months and the associated challenges from the perspective of investor protection, SEBI, in consultation with NSE, BSE and merchant bankers, had initiated the review of the IPO framework for the SME segment.

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Sensex, Nifty end higher in Muhurat trading session as Samvat 2082 begins



Mumbai: The Indian stock markets edged higher on Tuesday in the special Muhurat trading session held to mark Diwali 2025 and the beginning of the new Hindu calendar year, Vikram Samvat 2082. Considered an auspicious event, Muhurat trading is a long-standing tradition symbolising prosperity and good fortune for investors. The Sensex ended 62.97 points, or 0.07 per cent higher, at 84,426.34, while the Nifty rose 25.45 points, or 0.10 per cent, to close at 25,868.60. "Despite lighter volumes and bouts of mild profit booking, the index maintained its footing well above key short-term supports, underscoring firm underlying momentum and continued investor confidence," analysts said.

"Technically, the structure

remains bullish as long as Nifty sustains above 25,800, with 25,750 acting as immediate support. On the downside, 25,600–25,500 serves as a key support band, while a decisive breakout above 26,000–26,300 could lead to fresh lifetime highs," they added. The Bank Nifty, however, ended slightly lower by 26 points, or 0.04 per cent, at 58,007.20. The gains extended the market's positive momentum for the fifth consecutive session, with sentiment supported by upbeat global cues.

Top gainers on the Sensex included Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Power Grid, and Bajaj Finance. On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki, and Asian Paints were among the major losers.

IndiGo resumes flights from Delhi Airport's terminal 2 from Oct 26

New Delhi: IndiGo will resume operations from Terminal 2 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport starting October 26 after a temporary shift earlier this year due to maintenance work, the India's low-cost carrier said on Tuesday. The move is part of the airline's revised terminal plan aimed at improving passenger convenience and streamlining operations across the airport. The airline will now operate flights from all three terminals -- T1, T2, and T3 -- with a revised distribution of flight numbers to help improve airport efficiency and passenger convenience. Under the new plan, all IndiGo flights numbered 6E 2000 to 6E 9999 will operate to and from Terminal 2, which is reopening for IndiGo services. Flights numbered 6E 5000 to 6E 5999, as well as all international flights, will depart from and arrive at Terminal 3.

All other domestic IndiGo flights will continue to operate from Terminal 1, the airline said. "With the objective of enhancing customer convenience and airport efficiency, IndiGo will operate flights numbered 6E 2000 – 6E 9999 to/from Terminal 2, and flights numbered 6E 5000 – 6E 5999, along with all international departures, to/from Terminal 3. All other domestic flights will continue to operate to/from Terminal 1," it mentioned.

This change follows a temporary relocation earlier this year in April 2025, when all IndiGo flights were moved from Terminal 2 to Terminal 1 due to maintenance work. With the reopening of T2, the airline has now resumed normal operations across all terminals.

All-new Škoda Octavia RS makes a record-breaking comeback in India

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has officially reintroduced the all-new Octavia RS, reigniting the passion of automotive enthusiasts across the country. Celebrating 25 years in India, the iconic model was sold out within just 20 minutes of pre-bookings, marking a phenomenal response. Priced at ₹49.99 lakh (ex-showroom), the Octavia RS promises a blend of legacy, luxury, and performance.

Under the hood, the Octavia RS is powered by a 2.0 TSI petrol engine delivering 195 kW (265 PS) and 370 Nm of torque. Coupled with a 7-speed



DSG automatic transmission, the car accelerates from 0–100 km/h in 6.4 seconds, with an electronically limited top speed of 250 km/h. Its advanced ADAS suite, 10 airbags, 360°

Area View cameras, Head-up display, and premium interior features set a new benchmark for safety and comfort.

In Guwahati, the excitement around the Octavia RS is pal-

pable, with local dealerships reporting high interest from city enthusiasts and premium car buyers. The vibrant automotive community here has shown strong engagement, reflecting the growing appetite for performance-oriented, luxury vehicles in the northeast.

Škoda Auto India aims to further strengthen its presence with the Octavia RS, building on its legacy of delivering driver-focused, aspirational vehicles. Customer deliveries are set to commence on November 6, cementing the model's status as a true performance icon.

Sony India launches WH-1000XM6 headphones, raise bar in premium audio segment

Guwahati: Sony India introduced the WH-1000XM6 wireless noise-cancelling headphones, the latest iteration of its acclaimed 1000X series, aiming to redefine premium audio experiences for consumers, professionals, and travelers. Equipped with the next-generation HD Noise Cancelling Processor QN3 and 12 microphones—1.5 times more than the WH-1000XM5—the WH-1000XM6 delivers real-time noise reduction, adaptive ambient sound control, and ultra-clear call quality. Sony's Adaptive NC Optimiser and Auto Ambient Sound mode fine-tune audio based on surroundings and air pressure, offering an uninterrupted listening experience.

The headphones, co-developed with top mastering engineers, feature High-Resolution Audio, DSEE Extreme upscaling, and 360 Reality Audio Upmix for cinema-level spatial sound. Scene-based Listening, Quick Access, multi-device connectivity, and ultra-low latency LE Audio ensure seamless integration for both entertainment and professional use.

In Guwahati, the launch has triggered strong



interest among tech-savvy consumers and audiophiles. Leading electronics outlets and e-commerce platforms report high inquiries for the WH-1000XM6, with shoppers particularly drawn to its studio-level sound, adaptive noise cancelling, and ergonomic design. Analysts say the premium audio segment in Assam is expanding steadily, with increasing demand for next-gen headphones among young professionals and music enthusiasts.

Priced at Rs. 39,990, the WH-1000XM6 is available in Black, Platinum Silver, and Midnight Blue from Sony Center, select Croma and Reliance outlets, and online from 26 September 2025.

TVS Apache RTX launches, usher a new era in adventure riding at Rs 1.99 lakh

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has officially entered the adventure rally tourer segment with the launch of the all-new TVS Apache RTX, priced at an introductory ₹1,99,000. Built on the next-gen TVS RT-XD4 engine platform, the 299.1 cc single-cylinder, liquid-cooled engine produces 36 PS at 9,000 rpm and 28.5 Nm torque at 7,000 rpm, delivering a blend of racing performance and touring comfort. The motorcycle features four ride modes—Urban, Rain, Tour, and Rally—alongside advanced technology including a 5-inch TFT display with Bluetooth connectivity, bi-directional quickshifter, cruise control, and tyre pressure monitoring system.

Designed for adventure enthusiasts, the RTX boasts a steel trellis frame, long-travel suspension, rally-inspired ergonomics, and modular mounts for luggage and guards, making it suitable for both off-road trails and long-distance touring. Signature DRL lighting, modern aesthetics, and intuitive rider interfaces further enhance its appeal.



In Guwahati, the launch has sparked strong interest among urban adventure riders, with local dealers reporting significant pre-bookings. The city's growing community of motorcycle enthusiasts views the Apache RTX as a perfect mix of performance, style, and touring versatility for regional and interstate explorations.

Gaurav Gupta, President – 2W India Business, said, "The Apache RTX is built to inspire new riders while carrying forward the legacy of over six million Apache riders globally."

Quick commerce lights up Diwali: From last-minute gifts to hassle-free hosting

Guwahati: As Diwali approaches, quick commerce is emerging as a major enabler for festive celebrations, helping people manage last-minute gifting, hosting, and family visits with ease. From busy professionals scrambling to buy gifts to families ensuring traditional treats and décor reach their loved ones, platforms like Zepto, Happilo, and Godrej are offering curated options that arrive in minutes.

For the 9-to-5 crowd, items like the Happilo Dhamaka Gift Box and Fabule Mini Karaoke Mic are helping turn last-minute efforts into instant festive cheer. Families travelling home can rely on Godrej Jersey Mysore Pak and Phool Diwali Decor Boxes for nostalgic, traditional delights. Those hosting friends are finding Zepto's Diwali party essentials, Paperkraft Eco Crackers, and Godrej Yummiez range

invaluable for stress-free gatherings. Office potlucks are also seeing a quick commerce boost, with Farmley Mix Dry Fruit Diwali Gift Packs and Open Secret Festive Snack Boxes standing out for their thoughtful and easy-to-share options.

In Guwahati, retailers report a noticeable surge in quick commerce orders as urban consumers seek convenience alongside festive tradition. Shops across the city have reported higher footfalls in confectionery and home décor segments, while online platforms are capitalizing on the last-minute rush, delivering curated Diwali hampers directly to doorsteps in under an hour.

This Diwali, quick commerce is turning "last-minute panic" into "just in time" celebrations, ensuring the festival of lights is joyful, vibrant, and stress-free for everyone.

Quick commerce powers stress-free Diwali celebrations across India

Guwahati: As Diwali nears, quick commerce platforms are playing a pivotal role in helping consumers manage last-minute gifting, hosting, and festive errands with ease. From busy professionals scrambling for gifts to families ensuring traditional treats and décor reach loved ones, platforms like Zepto, Happilo, Godrej, and Paperkraft are offering curated options available in minutes.

For office-goers who forgot gifts, Happilo Dhamaka Gift Boxes and Fabule Mini Karaoke Mics are providing instant festive energy. Families travelling home can rely on Godrej Jersey Mysore Pak and Phool Diwali Decor Boxes to relive childhood Diwali memories. Hosts organizing impromptu gatherings are turning to Zepto's Diwali party essentials, Paperkraft Eco Crackers, and Godrej Yummiez range for quick, hassle-free setups. Office potluck participants can impress colleagues with Farmley Mix Dry Fruit Gift Packs and Open Secret Festive Snack Boxes, combining indulgence with mindful snacking.

In Guwahati, local demand for quick commerce has surged as urban consumers prioritize convenience alongside tradition. Retailers in the city report higher sales in sweets, home décor, and gifting segments, while online platforms are witnessing a sharp increase in same-hour delivery orders, helping consumers complete their festive shopping in record time.

With these solutions, quick commerce is turning last-minute stress into timely Diwali celebrations, ensuring the festival is joyful, vibrant, and hassle-free.

Godrej's Diwali film 'Kanta Didi' sparks conversation on acceptance and inclusion



Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group, through its brand-agnostic media property Godrej L'Affaire, launched its Diwali campaign film 'Kanta Didi', continuing the #Celebrating Acceptance initiative. The film portrays a domestic worker, Kanta Didi, interacting with a queer couple for the first time, highlighting how understanding and empathy can emerge naturally in everyday life. A moment of hesitation transforms into an honest exchange, with Kanta Didi's warmth helping Kapil, a newcomer, open up about his identity. Her simple words, "Acha, boyfriend hai? To hmereko ko kya?", underscore a philosophy of live and let live, reflecting the campaign's message that love should be nurtured in every form.

Parmesh Shahani, Head of Godrej DEI Lab, said the films celebrate the quiet, ev-

eryday shifts in Indian society, noting growing recognition of queer dignity through policy and social acceptance. RazRehman Ali, Director at Onlyn India, added that the film's authenticity lies in its simplicity, observing life rather than teaching it.

In Guwahati, the film has already generated buzz on local social media, with audiences praising its relatable storytelling and inclusive message. Retail outlets and community screenings in Guwahati have also witnessed increased engagement during the festive season, as families discuss themes of acceptance and empathy.

The film urges society to embrace #honest conversations, showing that relationships—not rituals—define celebrations, making this Diwali a festival of understanding and unity.

Nissan expands CNG retrofit to EZ-Shift Magnite, launches integrated fuel lid design

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has announced the expansion of its CNG retrofit program to include the New Nissan Magnite BR10 EZ-Shift (AMT), following strong customer demand for the manual transmission variant. The government-approved retrofit allows owners to combine Nissan's trusted performance with the cost-efficiency of CNG, now available with a 3-year or 1 lakh km warranty.

A key update includes an integrated fuel-filling system within the standard fuel lid, replacing the earlier engine-compartment placement. This design offers quicker refuelling and improved convenience for everyday users. The CNG retrofit kit is priced at ₹71,999, reflecting GST benefits and is available across 13 states through authorised Nissan retrofit centres.

Speaking on the announcement, Nissan Motor India MD



SaurabhVatsa said, "The expansion to EZ-Shift reflects our continued focus on customer needs, combining engineering excellence with affordability and convenience. The new fuel-lid integration and reduced kit price make the ownership experience seamless."

In Guwahati, the CNG retrofit program has received an encouraging response, as local buyers increasingly seek cost-efficient and environmentally friendly options in the

compact SUV segment. Dealers report a growing preference for the EZ-Shift variant among urban commuters, aligning with wider trends in Assam's auto market for sustainable mobility solutions.

With advanced safety features, over 55 segment-first innovations, and the recent KURO Special Edition launch, the New Nissan Magnite continues to strengthen its position as a versatile and value-rich compact SUV in India.

Noise launches Master Buds Max with Sound by Bose technology



Mumbai: Noise, India's leading connected lifestyle brand, has announced the launch of Master Buds Max, India's first over-ear headphones under the flagship Master Series with Sound by Bose technology. Building on the success of Master Buds, Master Buds Max redefines expectations from premium over-ear headphones, combining world-class sound, best in segment noise cancellation, first in segment offering of dynamic EQ, and all-day comfort at a price that makes innovation accessible to all. The Master Buds Max integrate Sound by Bose technology to deliver an incredible, lifelike audio experience. With every note maximised for clarity and depth, Master Buds Max delivers comfort and versatility for work, travel, or leisure. Unveiled earlier at IFA Berlin 2025, the world's largest stage for consumer technology, Master Buds Max represents a defining leap in audio innovation. It embodies Noise's long-term commitment to crafting premium technology that delivers uncompromised ex-

perience while staying accessible to consumers. Speaking on the launch, Amit Khatri, Co-Founder of Noise, said, "Master Buds Max is a milestone in India's global audio journey. With Sound by Bose technology, category-leading ANC, and dynamic EQ, we are delivering a product that sets new standards in its category."

With category leading adaptive ANC, independently tested across 61 frequency points, it outperforms global competitors by up to 85%, especially in low- and mid-frequency ranges where it matters most, from the roar of airplane engines to the chaos of city traffic or the hum of office chatter. Noise introduces Dynamic EQ at the price point for the first time, an adaptive tuning system developed that analyses both your listening environment and volume level to ensure consistent audio quality. Designed to keep pace with modern lifestyles, Master Buds Max offers an unparalleled 60 hours of continuous playtime, the longest in its category. Master Buds Max is crafted with ergonomic precision and premium materials to ensure comfort that lasts as long as its battery. The Noise Master Buds will be available in three premium colors with sales starting October 14th, 2025 across Gonoise.com, Amazon, Reliance Digital, Croma and Vijay Sales at an inaugural effective launch price of INR 9999. Pre-booking is now LIVE—exclusively on gonoise.com.

Manipal Hospital hosts Breast Cancer Champions' meet in Aizawl, celebrate strength and hope

Aizawl: Manipal Hospital, EM Bypass, hosted a Breast Cancer Champions' Meet in Aizawl, celebrating the resilience of breast cancer survivors and highlighting advancements in treatment. With one in 20 Indian women at risk of breast cancer and Mizoram showing a high incidence rate, the event emphasized early detection, timely treatment, and holistic care. The program was presided over by Dr. PoojaAgarwal, Consultant – Surgical Oncology, and Dr. Aadil Adnan, Head of Nuclear Medicine, who discussed the latest innovations in diagnostics and tailored treatment plans.

Dr. Agarwal stated, "Early detection and treatment have dramatically improved survival rates. Programs like this build strong support networks, reminding women they are not alone." Dr. Adnan added, "Combining technology with compassionate care allows each patient to receive optimum treatment and confidence in overcoming cancer." Survivors, including Juliet Lalruatmawii, shared their journeys of diagnosis, treatment, and hope, demonstrating the transformative impact of specialized medical intervention.

In Aizawl, the meet reflects

rising demand for advanced oncological care among Mizoram residents. Patients increasingly travel outside the state to access specialized diagnostics and treatment, strengthening ties with leading hospitals like Manipal Hospital, EM Bypass, and signaling growth opportunities in medical outreach, awareness programs, and health-focused community initiatives.

Aligned with WHO's theme, "Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters," the event reinforced the importance of screenings, awareness, and personalized care in improving outcomes for breast cancer patients.

IIM Trichywins Godrej DEI Lab's India included on campus case study challenge



Guwahati: Godrej DEI Lab, the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative of the Godrej Industries Group, concluded its national India Included on Campus Case Study Challenge with IIM Trichy emerging as the winner for their innovative case study on Godrej Agrovet. The competition aimed to engage top B-school students across India in developing actionable solutions to corporate DEI challenges, particularly focusing on women's retention and attrition in the workforce.

The finale, held at Godrej One in Mumbai, featured four finalist teams from IIM Trichy, SIBM Pune, IIM Mumbai, and IIM Lucknow presenting strategies to strengthen inclusion. IIM Trichy's Team Do and DEI conducted surveys, competitor benchmarking, and employee interviews to develop video-based initiatives linking gender inclusivity with

tangible business outcomes in the agri-sector. The team—Mutayyib M Khan, Visvanathan A, Mahima Suresh, and IshwaryaSree—received a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 and mentorship opportunities from Godrej leaders.

Parmesh Shahani, Head of Godrej DEI Lab, emphasized that "inclusion is not just a moral commitment, but a strategic enabler of innovation and sustainable growth."

In Guwahati, initiatives like these can inspire regional corporates and startups to adopt gender-inclusive practices, particularly in the agricultural and retail sectors, fostering wider participation of women in leadership and operational roles.

With this challenge, Godrej DEI Lab reinforces its commitment to cultivating inclusive leadership and building equitable workplace ecosystems across India.

Bingo! Tedhe Medhe's 'Rockanjali' electrifies Guwahati with rock music on wheels

Guwahati: This Durga Puja, ITC's Bingo! TedheMedhe amped up Assam's festive spirit with Rockanjali—a one-of-a-kind, high-voltage "music-on-wheels" celebration that transformed Guwahati's bustling streets into open-air concert arenas. The event brought together Assam's youth, music, and Pujofervour in a thrilling showcase of local talent and energy.

Headlined by two of Assam's most iconic rock bands, Barnali Collective and Blue Wings, Rockanjali delivered electrifying performances at Latasil Park on Sasthi and near Nehru Park on Saptami. Their soulful rock anthems and powerful riffs resonated with thousands, celebrating the state's vibrant musical culture and youthful enthusiasm.

In Guwahati, the initiative injected festive excitement into the city's streets, drawing huge crowds and boosting local vendors' sales of food, beverages, and festive merchandise. The city's lively markets mirrored the celebration, blending commerce and culture in true Assamese style.

Speaking on the initiative, Suresh Chand, VP & Head of Marketing, Snacks, Noodles and Pasta, ITC Foods, said, "With Rockanjali, Bingo! TedheMedhe wanted to celebrate Assam's passion for rock and its dynamic youth culture."

More than a Puja celebration, Rockanjali became a symbol of Assam's creative heartbeat — proving once again that the state truly rocks.

Indian Bank reports 11.5% rise in quarterly profit, strengthens retail, agri& MSME lending

Mumbai: Indian Bank on Thursday announced robust financial results for the quarter and half-year ended September 30, 2025, reporting an 11.49% year-on-year increase in net profit to ₹3,018 crore, up from ₹2,707 crore in September 2024. Operating profit grew 2.31% to ₹4,837 crore, while net interest income rose

5.76% to ₹6,551 crore.

The bank's return on assets (RoA) stood at 1.32%, and return on equity (RoE) at 19.58%. Gross advances rose 12.65% YoY to ₹6,20,324crore, with retail, agriculture, and MSME (RAM) advances contributing 65.5% of total lending. Home loans expanded 12.68% YoY, while priority sector

advances exceeded regulatory norms at 42.51% of adjusted net bank credit.

Deposits grew 12.09% to ₹7,76,946crore, supported by 38.87% CASA ratio. Asset quality improved, with gross NPA falling to 2.60% and net NPA to 0.16%. Capital adequacy ratio stood strong at 17.31%.

Digital banking momentum continued, generating ₹1,23,585crore through digital channels and adding 17% more mobile users YoY. Indian Bank also won the RajbhashaKirti Award 2025 and the Cloud Leader India 2025 award, reflecting its focus on innovation, customer-centric growth, and financial inclusion.

India hosts CCSCH8, sets global standards for vanilla, coriander and large cardamom



Guwahati: India's leadership in the global spice trade was reinforced as it successfully hosted the 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) in Guwahati, finalizing international standards for large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander. The standards are now recommended for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, providing uniform benchmarks for farmers, processors, and exporters worldwide.

Established in 2013, CCSCH operates under the FAO and WHO, with India's Spices Board serving as the Secretariat. Over 30 countries and observers participated, reflecting global recognition of the importance of harmonized, science-based spice standards. The vanilla standard, which had seen multiple discussions due to technical complexities in flavor chemistry and processing, was successfully finalized, highlighting the collaborative approach of member nations.

Smt. P. Hemalatha, Secretary of the Spices Board, emphasized that the new standards will strengthen India's export competitiveness and facilitate smoother market access for domestic producers, while enhancing consumer confidence globally.

Guwahati is expected to witness increased business activity. Traders and processors in the city anticipate better pricing, enhanced quality compliance, and higher demand for Codex-certified spices, positioning Guwahati as a key hub in both domestic and international spice supply chains.

India's successful hosting of CCSCH8 consolidates its position as a trusted partner in global spice trade, driving quality, transparency, and growth across the sector.

Ujjivan SFB reports robust Q2 growth; profit rises 18% QoQ, secured loan share hits 47%

Agartala: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. [BSE: 542904; NSE: UJJIVANSFB] on Friday reported a strong financial performance for Q2 FY26, with net profit rising 18.2% quarter-on-quarter to ₹122 crore. The bank's secured loan book grew 52.9% year-on-year to ₹16,173 crore, comprising 46.8% of total loans, while gross disbursements hit a record ₹7,932 crore, up 47.6% YoY.

Deposits climbed 15.1% YoY to ₹39,211 crore, with CASA deposits rising 22.1% to ₹10,783 crore. Net interest income increased 7.7% QoQ to ₹922 crore, reversing a three-quarter declining trend. Asset quality remained healthy, with GNPA at 2.45% and bucket-X collection efficiency steady at 99.5%. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 21.4%, with Tier I at 19.9%.

Mr. Sanjeev Nautiyal, MD & CEO, highlighted strong loan origination and microfinance stabilization, while noting future CASA growth through MF, forex products, and ASBA rollout.

In Agartala, Ujjivan's branch network has contributed to local credit access, with businesses and retail customers witnessing easier loan disbursements and deposit services. Analysts say the enhanced deposit mobilization and secured lending could support regional economic activity, particularly in small-scale enterprises and retail markets.

With strategic branch expansion and product diversification, Ujjivan SFB expects advances to grow around 20% in FY26 while keeping credit costs controlled.

Godrej aer launches festive edition automatic home freshener to elevate Diwali ambience

Guwahati: Godrej aer, India's leading home fragrance brand under Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), has expanded its automatic home freshener portfolio with the launch of Godrej aerMatic Royal Festive Essence. Designed specifically for the festive season, the new variant features a rose-gold finish and a Warm Vanilla fragrance, combining rich vanilla with soft floral undertones to create a welcoming and celebratory home ambience.

The device offers flexible placement with a built-in shelf stand and wall-mounting options, while each refill provides up to 2,200 sprays lasting up to 60 days on low settings. A smart timer allows users to customize fragrance intervals at 10, 20, or 40 minutes. Priced at ₹549, the starter kit is available across modern trade, general trade, and leading e-commerce platforms.

Air fresheners remain one of the fastest-growing segments in East India, valued at over ₹300 crore, with automatic variants contributing more than ₹150 crore. In Guwahati, festive season demand has seen a significant uptick, with shoppers increasingly preferring premium and aesthetically designed automatic fresheners



to enhance home decor during Diwali and other celebrations. Retailers in the city report strong footfalls and early festive bookings for Godrej aerMatic Royal.

Ashwin Moorthy, CMO of

GCPL, noted, "Festivals are when families invest most in their homes. This special edition Matic is crafted entirely in India to elevate festive experiences and serve as an aspirational gifting option."

Cochin Shipyard launches three advanced vessels, boost India's maritime prowess

Guwahati: Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) marked a landmark achievement in Indian shipbuilding with the simultaneous launch of three state-of-the-art vessels – the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), the Hybrid Electric Methanol-Ready Commissioning Service Operation Vessel (CSOV), and India's largest Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger, DCI Dredge Godavari. The launches underscore India's growing self-reliance in maritime technology under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Maritime India Vision 2030 initiatives.

The ASW SWC, the sixth in a series of eight for the Indian Navy, will be commissioned as INS Magdala. Measuring 78 meters and weighing 896 tonnes, it features advanced sensors, torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mine-laying capability. The CSOV, a 93-meter hybrid-electric vessel, will support offshore wind farm operations with cutting-edge propulsion and accommodation for technicians. The DCI Dredge Godavari, India's largest dredger, boasts a 12,000-cubic-meter hopper, 127-meter length, and a 36-meter dredging depth, enhancing port



shaping and waterway management.

In Guwahati, these launches are expected to strengthen regional maritime and logistics sectors, with potential ripple effects in trade, port operations, and related industrial services. Local suppliers and ancillary businesses may benefit from increased demand for marine engineering, equipment, and technology solutions, supporting economic growth in northeastern India.

With these milestones, CSL reinforces India's position as a global hub for advanced and sustainable shipbuilding.

Samsung unveils Galaxy M17 5G in India with OIS camera and enhanced durability

Kolkata: Samsung has launched its latest mid-range smartphone, the Galaxy M17 5G, in India, available today on Amazon, Samsung.com, and select retail outlets. The 4/128 GB variant is priced at INR 12,499, while the 6/128 GB and 8/128 GB models are available at INR 13,999 and INR 15,499, respectively. Consumers can also avail up to three months of No Cost EMI across leading banks and NBFC partners.

The Galaxy M17 5G builds on the success of its predecessor, the Galaxy M16 5G, featuring a segment-first 50MP OIS triple-camera system for blur-free photos

and shake-free videos, alongside a 13MP front camera. At 7.5mm slim, the device combines premium design with Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus® protection and an IP54 rating for dust and splash resistance. Powered by the 6nm Exynos 1330 processor and running Android 15 with One UI 7, the phone delivers fast, AI-enhanced performance with features like Gemini Live, Circle to Search with Google, On-device Voice Mail, and Samsung Knox Vault.

In Kolkata, early feedback indicates strong interest among mid-range smartphone buyers. Retailers re-

SAMSUNG

port that the combination of enhanced durability, OIS camera, and AI-driven features is resonating with tech-savvy consumers, positioning the Galaxy M17 5G as a competitive offering in the city's crowded smartphone market.

The Galaxy M17 5G also includes a 6.7" FHD+ Super AMOLED display, Voice Focus, and Samsung Wallet with Tap & Pay, catering to both productivity and entertainment needs.

Tanishq unveils 'Mriganka' – A mystical festive jewellery collection inspired by myth and imagination

Guwahati: As the festive season approaches, Tanishq, India's leading jewellery brand from the House of Tata, has launched its new collection 'Mriganka', a dazzling fusion of myth, imagination, and craftsmanship. The collection celebrates India's storytelling traditions, drawing inspiration from mythical worlds where celestial gardens, palaces, and ethereal beings come alive in gold.

Fronted by actor and former Miss World ManushiChhillar, Mriganka showcases bold and imaginative designs that elevate festive jewellery into wearable art. Crafted using advanced techniques such as stone-on-stone jadau, Badroom, Chandak, and RasRava, the pieces feature colouredkundan, enamel detailing, and intricate 3D motifs.

Revathi Kant, Chief Design Officer, Titan Company Limited, said, "Mriganka is an opulent celebration of the imaginative world of our dreams, brought to life through Tanishq's deep design expertise and craftsmanship." From cascading harams to myth-inspired rings and versatile pendants, the collection redefines modern festive elegance.

In Guwahati, Tanishq's new line has stirred excitement among jewellery enthusiasts seeking unique yet traditional designs. With consumers increasingly leaning towards statement pieces that blend heritage with artistry, Mriganka is expected to see strong demand this Diwali season.

Shreya Ghoshal worships her pets, Sherlock and Luna on “Kukur Tihar”



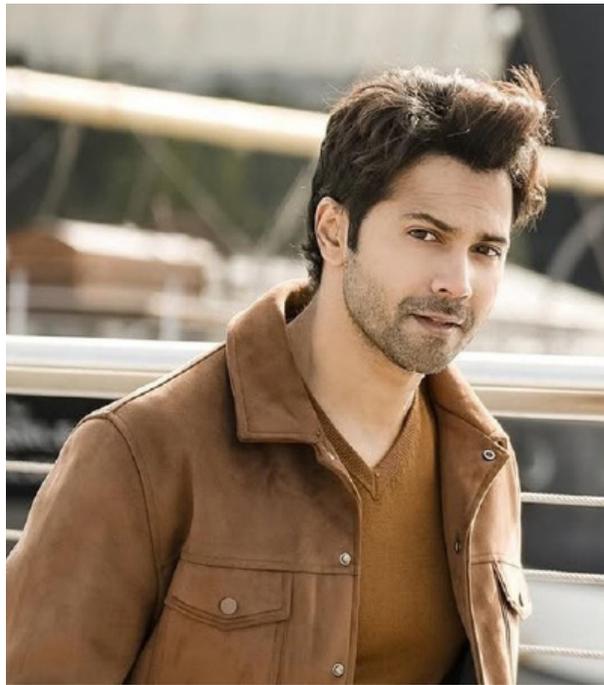
Mumbai: Bollywood superstar singer Shreya Ghoshal recently took to her social media account to share a few pictures of her pet canines, revealing that she worshipped them on account of the “Kukur Tihar” occasion. In the pictures, both her pet dogs were wearing flower garlands, and also a tilak was being applied. In one photo her pet Sherlock was seen with the bright marigold garland around her neck and red tika on the forehead.

Shreya wrote. “Like every year, @sherlockthefetcher enjoyed the Kukur Tihar Pooja.” In another picture her other pet, Luna, was seen sitting; Kamli was also adorned with a flower garland and a tika. Sharing the adorable photo, Shreya captioned it as, “Diwali wishes from our fur baby Luna. Requesting the world to not make such loud noises; our ears are very sensitive, and we are trembling in fear.”

Varun Dhawan grooves to ‘Perfect’ playing on radio, wishes Happy Diwali

Mumbai: Actor Varun Dhawan’s “Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari” fever is still on as he grooved to the track ‘Perfect’ playing on radio and went on to wish everyone Happy Diwali. Taking to his Instagram stories, Varun shared a video of him sitting in the car and singing “Perfect”, which was playing on the radio. After singing a few lines, he said: “Back in the bay. Perfect is playing on the radio. Perfect time. Sunny Sanskari Happy Diwali (sic).”

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is a romantic comedy film written and directed by Shashank Khaitan and produced by Dharma Productions. It stars Varun, Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, Maniesh Paul and Akshay Oberoi. The film’s plot follows Ananya and Vikram, who are heartbroken after their partners abandon them. Sunny and Tulsi team up to crash the wedding of their exes. The song has been performed by Guru Randhawa, as he brings his signature flair into the colourful world of ‘Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari’. The music and lyrics for the are by Guru Randhawa, Gill Machhraji, and Rony Ajnali,



and produced by Dilmaan.

On the acting front, Varun is all geared up for the release of his upcoming epic war drama “Border 2” starring Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, Ahan Shetty. The film is locked for a January 22, 2026 release. Directed by Anurag Singh, Border 2 also stars Medha Rana, Mona Singh and Sonam Bajwa with production by Bhushan Kumar and JP Dutta.

While ‘Border’ was based

on the events of Battle of Longewala, ‘Border 2’ is presumably based on the Kargil War which occurred in 1999. The conflict between the two countries was mostly limited. During early 1999, Pakistani troops infiltrated across the Line of Control (LoC) and occupied Indian territory mostly in the Kargil district. India responded by launching a major military and diplomatic offensive to drive out the Pakistani infiltrators.

Twinkle Khanna wishes niece Naomika Saran on her birthday

Mumbai: Author and former actress Twinkle Khanna took to social media to wish her niece Naomika Saran a happy birthday. Sharing a close-up picture of Naomika, Twinkle wrote, ‘Happy, happy birthday. Love you heaps and heaps and heaps,’ along with red heart emojis, and tagged Naomika on her social media account.



In the picture, Naomika is seen wearing a white outfit with minimal makeup, her soft curls framing her face. For the uninitiated,

Naomika Saran is the daughter of actress Rinkie Khanna and businessman Sameer Saran. Rinkie, the younger sister of Twinkle Khanna, debuted with *Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi* in 1999. Rinkie then went on to appear in several films, including *Jis Des Mein Ganga Rehta Hai*, opposite Govinda, *Mujhe Kuch Kehna Hai*, alongside Tushar Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor, and *Jhankaar Beats* in 2003, which earned her praise for her natural presence.

Vaani Kapoor on Delhi’s AQI: Maybe next year, we celebrate without dimming the air we breathe



Mumbai: A day after Diwali celebrations, actress Vaani Kapoor, who is currently in the national capital, has voiced concern over New Delhi’s worsening air quality, and hopes next year, there’s a way to celebrate “without dimming the air we breathe.” Vaani took to Instagram, where she shared that she woke up to the alarming AQI touching 447 in New Delhi. She wrote: “Woke up to Delhi’s AQI touching 447, one of the highest in the world today. Maybe next year, we find a way to celebrate without dimming the air we breathe.”

Earlier this year, Vaani made her debut in OTT with *Mandala Murders*, based on the novel *The Butcher of Benares*. Set in the fictional town of Charandaspur, Uttar Pradesh, it blends mystery, supernatural horror, and psychological thriller elements. The series follows detectives Rea Thomas and Vikram Singh as they investigate ritualistic murders linked to a secret cult, the Aayastis, and a mythical entity called Yast. It explores themes of faith vs science and love vs sacrifice, combining modern police procedural with occult practices. The series also stars Vaibhav Raj Gupta, Surveen Chawla, Raghuraj Yadav, and Shriya Pilgaonkar in key roles. She will next be seen in *Badtameez Gill* directed by Navjot Gulati. The film also stars Aparshakti Khurana, Paresh Rawal, Sheeba Chaddha, Richard Bhakti Klein, and Monica Chaudhary.

The 37-year-old actress made her debut in Bollywood with the 2013 film *Shuddh Desi Romance* alongside Sushant Singh Rajput and Parineeti Chopra. She later starred in the Tamil remake *Aaha Kalyanam* opposite Nani, for which she learned Tamil, but it turned out to be a box-office failure.

In 2016, Vaani was seen in *Befikre* opposite Ranveer Singh, set in Paris, but despite its vibrant setting, the film failed. After a brief hiatus, she returned with *War* in 2019, co-starring Hrithik Roshan. She was then seen alongside Akshay Kumar in the 2021 film *Bell Bottom*, which was inspired from real life hijacking events in India by Khalistani terrorists during the 1980s, such as the Indian Airlines Flight 423, 405 and 421 hijackings.

Shilpa Shetty shares a Diwali special picture with Raj Kundra, says “You are the haldi to my kumkum”

Mumbai: Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty Kundra recently shared glimpses of her Diwali celebrations with her family, offering fans a look at the festive warmth and traditional rituals at her home. The actress posted photos and videos on her social media account featuring her husband, Raj Kundra, and their children, Viaan and Sameesha, as they performed Diwali puja together. In one of her social media stories, Shilpa shared a playful picture with her husband Raj and captioned it, ‘You are the haldi to my kumkum.’

Dressed in festive hues, Shilpa wore a striking red saree while Raj complemented her in a bright yellow kurta, literally making it for a haldi kumkum picture-perfect look. In her main carousel post, Shilpa extended heartfelt Diwali wishes to her fans with a family photo taken in front of their home temple. The picture showed Shilpa, Raj and



their children seated before beautifully decorated idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha.

She captioned the post as ‘Happy Diwali from our family to you all.’ The family were dress-coordinated in red and white festival attire. Shilpa also posted a reel featuring her and her younger sister Shamita

Shetty creating rangoli designs together. The video, captioned *Rangoli Time*, showed the sisters working on a lotus-shaped rangoli made of bright pink and green hues. The actress was seen in a beautiful white kurta with leaf motifs on it. Shilpa Shetty, who is currently judging the dance reality show *India’s Best Dancer*, is busy

as a bee with her personal and professional commitments.

The actress, along with her family, celebrates every festival with much pomp and glitz. But this year, due to a family emergency, Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra could not celebrate the festival of Ganpati, which they otherwise celebrate with a lot of love, warmth and pomp.

Shaheen Shah Afridi replaces Mohammad Rizwan as Pakistan ODI captain

Lahore: In a significant shake-up ahead of Pakistan's three-match ODI series against South Africa from November 4-8 at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has been appointed as the new one-day international (ODI) captain replacing wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Monday. The PCB confirmed that Shaheen's appointment was finalised following a meeting held in Islamabad involving white-ball head coach Mike Hesson, Director High Performance Aqib Javed and members of the selection committee. "Shaheen's appointment for the upcoming series was finalised today following a meeting held in Islamabad, which was attended by white-ball head coach Mike Hesson, Director High Performance Aqib Javed and members



of the selection committee," a short release by the PCB said. The left-arm fast bowler, aged 25, brings a strong record to the leadership role -- 66 ODIs and 92 T20Is with a combined 249 wickets,

along with 120 wickets in 32 Tests (excluding the ongoing second Test against South Africa in Rawalpindi). Rizwan, in his 20 ODIs as captain, led the side to nine wins and 11 defeats for a 45%

winning percentage. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's administration has been criticised for frequent captaincy changes, having removed Shaheen earlier in 2024 only to bring back Babar, and then appointing Rizwan months ago. Earlier this year, he had a brief stint as captain, guiding Pakistan in a five-match T20I home series against New Zealand that finished evenly poised at 2-2. The new move signals a strategic change as Pakistan gears up for the 2027 World Cup, presumably giving Shaheen a free hand as leader in the lead-up to the major tournament. With the series against South Africa just weeks away, all eyes will now be on how Shaheen transitions into his new role — leading the side in the 50-over format while continuing to shoulder his frontline bowling responsibilities.

Lyon Falts Against Nice, Misses Chance to Go Top of Ligue 1



Nice: Seven-time French champion Lyon squandered a golden opportunity to move to the top of the Ligue 1 standings after suffering a 3-2 defeat to Nice on Saturday, despite dominating large stretches of the contest. Following Paris Saint-Germain's 3-3 draw with Strasbourg earlier in the day, Lyon had the chance to overtake the defending champions but instead endured their second consecutive loss, a setback that kept them two points

adrift of the league leaders.

The match began on a disappointing note for the visitors as Melvin Bard fired Nice into the lead in just the fifth minute, converting a precise cross from Sofiane Diop. Lyon, however, responded strongly, controlling possession and creating several openings before Pavel Sulc equalized with a well-placed header near the half-hour mark. But Lyon's joy was short-lived. Five minutes later, Diop turned from provider to scorer, restoring Nice's advantage with a composed finish from a tight angle that left the Lyon defense flat-footed.

After the interval, Lyon was handed a lifeline when Ainsley Maitland-Niles won a penalty, but his effort was brilliantly saved by Nice goalkeeper Yehvann Diouf, who guessed correctly to preserve his team's lead.

Women's WC: How can India grab last remaining semifinal spot?

New Delhi: Team India, after winning their opening two games of the ongoing Women's World Cup, have lost three consecutive matches at the tournament and are currently in a mix as they seek to secure a semifinal place. With three teams — Australia, South Africa, and England — already securing a place in the top four, India and New Zealand remain the leading contenders for the final spot as they prepare to face each other in a do-or-die match. A victory against the White Ferns on Thursday will secure India's place in the semifinal, but a loss would leave them in misery as the Women in Blue will need to rely on other results. If India suffer a defeat against the Sophie Devine-led side, they'll have to beat Bangladesh in their final group-stage encounter on Sunday and hope for the New Zealand to lose their last group stage contest to England.

In that case, India and New Zealand will finish with six points each and their qualification will depend on their Net Run Rate (NRR). Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. are currently tied with New Zealand on four points but are placed above them courtesy of a higher NRR. The India vs New Zealand contest, if washed out, will also benefit the hosts even if they lose to Bangladesh. However, terms and conditions apply. Even in this scenario, they'll gain the



advantage only if England beat New Zealand and also if Sri Lanka and Pakistan don't get to six points on the table.

India are to face New Zealand and Bangladesh at the same venue in Navi Mumbai, and if both their matches get washed out, they'll be through the semifinal. But then again, England will have to beat the Kiwis, or that encounter too will have to be washed out.

In the case of the above scenario, India will finish with six points, getting a point each from the washed-out games. In addition to this, if Sri Lanka or Pakistan finish at six points, the Women in Blue will progress to the semi-final, given a higher NRR. India and New Zealand will face off on Thursday at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai.

Pramod Bhagat, Sukant Kadam eye glory at Australian Para Badminton International

New Delhi: India's para badminton stars Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam are set to showcase their talent at the Australian Para Badminton International 2025. The tournament will feature top players from across the region, with both athletes competing in Men's Singles and Men's Doubles events. Sukant Kadam, currently World No.1 in Men's Singles SL4, comes into the tournament in excellent form following a year of consistent podium finishes at international events. Sukant has won multiple medals at the BWF Para-Badminton

World Championships and continental tournaments, cementing his position as one of India's leading para-badminton players. Pramod Bhagat, a 5-time World Champion and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medalist, arrives in Melbourne with strong momentum after winning triple gold at the 1st Abia Para Badminton International 2025. With numerous medals at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships, Asian Para Games, and other major tournaments, Bhagat remains one of India's most decorated para-athletes.

Spinner Nasum added to Bangla squad for WI ODIs

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced on Sunday that left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed has been added to the ODI squad for the ongoing threematch series against the West Indies. The inclusion of the 30-year-old reflects the team management's effort to strengthen their spin department following a spin-dominated first ODI. Nasum, who last featured in an ODI in December 2024, has played 18 matches in the format, claiming 16 wickets at an economy rate of 4.48.

His recall is likely a tactical decision, prompted by the spin-friendly conditions witnessed in the series opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) in Mirpur.



Araújo's Late Strike Lifts Barcelona Over Girona; Flick to Miss El Clásico After Red Card

Barcelona: A stoppage-time winner from Ronald Araújo rescued Barcelona from a third consecutive defeat as the Catalans edged Girona 2-1 in a tense La Liga clash on Saturday — but the night ended on a sour note for coach Hansi Flick, who was sent off and will now miss next week's El Clásico against Real Madrid. The dramatic finish came in the dying seconds when Araújo — showing the instincts of a seasoned striker — darted to the near post to meet Frenkie de Jong's low cross and redirected it past Girona goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga, sparking wild celebrations at the Olympic Stadium. Moments before the winning goal, however, Flick was shown two quick yellow cards for protesting against the referee's decision to allow only four minutes of stoppage time. His dismissal means the German manager will be forced to watch his first El Clásico from the stands.

The victory snapped Barcelona's two-match losing streak, which included a 2-1 loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League and a 4-1 defeat at Sevilla in La Liga before the international break. Pedri González opened the scoring for Barcelona in the 13th minute with a moment of brilliance — cushioning an angled pass and firing a no-look finish inside the near post to give the hosts the lead. Girona hit back seven minutes later through Axel Witsel, who equalized with a stunning bicycle kick, latching onto a loose high ball and firing past Wojciech Szczęsny to silence the home crowd.

The visitors looked dangerous on the break for much of the first half, exploiting Barcelona's sloppy midfield turnovers. Only Szczęsny's sharp reflexes and Girona's wastefulness kept the score level heading into halftime. With Robert Lewandowski, Ferran Torres, and Dani Olmo all sidelined through injury, Flick handed a La Liga debut to 17-year-old Toni Fernández, who was replaced at halftime by Fermín López as Barcelona searched for more attacking spark.