

Major Drug Bust in Dima Hasao: Police Seize Contraband Worth Over ₹1.4 Crore, Three Arrested

Hafong, Apr 24: In a significant crackdown on illegal narcotics, Dima Hasao Police carried out two separate operations leading to the recovery of a large quantity of contraband substances with an estimated total market value exceeding ₹1.4 crore.

According to police sources, a total of 1,350 bottles of Codeine-Based Cough Syrup (CBCS), valued at approximately ₹13.5 lakh, were seized during the operations. In addition, authorities recovered 53 plastic soap cases containing 638 grams of heroin, with a street value estimated at ₹1.3 crore.

The operations also led to the arrest of three individuals allegedly involved in the



illegal trade. Two vehicles used in the transportation of the contraband items were seized.

Dima Hasao Police shared details of the successful op-

erations through a social media post, reaffirming their commitment to curbing drug trafficking and ensuring the safety and well-being of the region.

Two Dead in Landslide; Shillong–Dawki Road Closed

Shillong, Apr 22: Officials from the Pynursla civil subdivision has closed the Shillong-Dawki Road near Mawlieh after a landslide killed two persons on Monday evening. “Two lives were lost in the incident. The road has also become unsafe for vehicular movement. Due to the present climatic conditions, excavating rocks and soil on the hillside poses an imminent hazard of rockslide and landslide, endangering human lives and property,” the Additional Deputy Commissioner of the subdivision said in an order.

The mishap occurred on Monday when a huge boulder and other debris fell on a Bolero pick-up truck killing the occupants. The victims have been identified as Teibor Khongthohrem and Wanbor Nianglang. Both victims resided at Pynursla. Following the landslide and subsequent mishap, the entire stretch of the road has been blocked. The Additional Deputy Commissioner said the Shillong-Dawki Road near Mawlieh was closed for all vehicular movement due to continuous rockslides that pose serious risks to commuters and workers alike. The road will remain closed till further notice. The road is being



constructed as part of the 71.52-km Shillong-Dawki highway project. It is undergoing a major upgrade valued at Rs 2,171 crore. It is being built into a two-lane, paved shoulder road with four-lane segments to improve connectivity to the Bangladesh border.

“Despite round-the-clock clearance works by the company concerned, fresh rockslides continue to occur. All commuters are further advised to avoid travel through the affected stretch and follow alternative routes wherever possible until further updates are issued,” the official order said.

Mizoram HSLC Pass Rate Rises to 80.31%

Aizawl, Apr 23: The pass percentage in the Mizoram board’s class 10 final examinations rose to 80.31 this year, officials said on Thursday, announcing the results. Last year, 76.68 per cent of students had cleared the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination, conducted by the Mizoram Board of School Education (MBSE), they said. This year, a total of 18,257 students appeared in the examinations held in February and March. Of the 8,448 boys who sat for the exam, 81.16 per cent passed. In comparison, 79.59 per cent of 9,809 girls passed the exam, they added.

From this year, the MBSE stopped publishing lists of rankings, distinctions, or divisions. Officials said the decision was aimed at discouraging competition among students and shifting the focus towards quality and competency-based education.

State-aided schools remained top performers with a 96.92 per cent success rate. Private schools recorded a success rate of 89.38 per cent, while state-run schools recorded a 72.02 pass percentage. A total of 146 schools achieved a perfect 100 per cent success rate, while no students passed in 13 schools, officials said. Ten of these underperforming schools are under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme, they said. Among the state’s 11 districts, south Mizoram’s Siaha ranked first with a pass percentage of 89.71, followed closely by Serchhip at 89.49 per cent and Hnahthial at 89.11 per cent.



Manipur protestors clash with security personnel; march to CM’s bungalow thwarted, over 20 injured

Guwahati, Apr 24: Protestors in restive Manipur clashed with security personnel on Saturday as they attempted to march to Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh’s bungalow in the Babupara area of the state capital, Imphal. The protestors had taken out processions from four directions. However, their march was cut short by security personnel, who were adequately deployed across city areas. Tensions escalated in the Khurai Lamlong area of Imphal East district, located about 2 km from the Chief Minister’s bungalow, when personnel dispersed the protestors by firing tear gas shells after they attempted to break through security barricades.

According to local media reports, at least 22 people were injured and admitted to a hospital. The protestors were out on the streets at the call of the Imphal Valley-based Meitei organisation, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), as the state government has allegedly not been able to stop militant attacks on civilians. Recently, COCOMI, a conglomerate of Meitei civil society



organisations, announced a boycott of the ruling BJP and set April 25 as the deadline for the government to arrest all those involved in a recent bomb attack in which two children, including an infant, were killed in Bishnupur district. Despite the resistance on Saturday, the protestors managed to hold a rally near Kangla, where leaders of COCOMI addressed the gathering. Later, authorities allowed some COCOMI leaders to meet the Chief

Minister, and they submitted a memorandum to him.

The organisation asked the state government if it would impress upon the Centre to stop the ongoing “proxy war” and ensure justice in recent violent incidents, including the killings of the two children. Further, it demanded a judicial probe into the incident of firing by personnel of a central force, which left three protestors dead in Bishnupur. The killings of the two children had sparked

the protest. Meanwhile, two persons were injured when a Casspir vehicle of a paramilitary force rammed through barricades put up by locals at Talui village in the Naga-majority Ukhrul district.

The Working Committee of Tangkhul Naga Long, in a statement, said the condition of one of the injured was critical. The village women had set up the barricades to frisk vehicles in light of the ongoing Kuki-Naga violence in parts of Ukhrul.

PM Modi: Boat Ride and Wishes for Bengal

Modi Commends “Hardworking Nature” of Local Boatmen



Kolkata, Apr 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a sudden boat ride on the Hooghly River and shared his feelings on his X handle amid busy schedules, addressing poll rallies in different parts of West Bengal. Expressing his feelings, the Prime Minister said, the divine waters of the Hooghly carry the timeless spirit of an entire civilisation.

PM Modi had asserted that he was committed towards the development of West Bengal during the first phase elections in 152 out of 294 assembly constituencies

in the State held in 16 districts on Thursday. He also wished prosperity for the ‘great Bengali people’. He also posted a few photographs of his river trip on X, in which he is seen seated on a wooden boat with a camera in hand, and the iconic Howrah Bridge and the Vidyasagar Setu, which connects Kolkata and eastern states, are visible in the background. “Tried my hand at photographing this great river. Also caught a close glimpse of the Vidyasagar Setu and Howrah Bridge,” the Prime Minister said on X. “For every

Bengali, the Ganga occupies a very special place”, he said. His posts went viral on social media. “This morning in Kolkata, I spent some time on the banks of the Hooghly River, an opportunity to express gratitude to Maa Ganga,” Modi said. The Prime Minister said he had the opportunity to meet boatmen, whose hardworking nature is admirable. A photo of Modi hugging the boatman Gouranga Biswas was also turned viral.

Bengal BJP sources said Modi spent the night at Lok Bhavan after he had a roadshow from Howrah to Kolkata on Thursday evening. He also met the monks at Belur Math in Howrah, the same day. The Prime Minister is actively campaigning for the BJP in West Bengal. According to a news agency, one Md Ifthikar Ahmed owns the boat in which Modi rode. Seven such boats were hired from him for the Prime Minister’s boat ride on the Hooghly River. “I didn’t have any prior information about the Prime Minister’s programme. I came to know about it five minutes before he rode one of my seven boats. One person suddenly met me this morning and asked me for boats for the Prime Minister. I am very happy that he rode my boat,” elated Ahmed told the agency.

Surat: Neighbor Arrested For Abuse

Ahmedabad, Apr 24: A three-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in her residence by a neighbour when the minor was left alone for some time in Gujarat’s Surat city. The accused was caught on the spot after the victim’s mother walked in on him committing the act. The accused neighbour was identified as Mojabbar Mohammad, a migrant labourer from Bihar. Police said the accused took advantage of the parents’ absence to target the child.

According to the complaint, during the afternoon the family members were occupied with work on the ground floor while the child was in a room upstairs. Her mother had briefly gone downstairs. Police said when the girl went to the bathroom, the accused allegedly climbed through the rooftop area and entered the bathroom behind the child. He then re-

moved her clothes and touched her inappropriately, attempting to rape her, the complaint said.

While in the act, the girl’s mother came upstairs and was shocked to see the scene. She immediately screamed raising an alarm. Hearing that the neighbours rushed to the



house, overpowered the accused and caught him. He was later handed over to the Saroli police. Police have registered a case against Mohammad for sexual harassment under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Malaria Outbreak Hits CoBRA Troops During Anti-Maoist Operations In Saranda



Ranchi, Apr 24: As anti-Maoist operations intensify in the Saranda forests of West Singhbhum, security forces are not only contending with the persistent dangers of IEDs and extreme heat but are now facing a fresh challenge, a malaria outbreak. On Tuesday, five personnel from the CoBRA Battalion, stationed at the Baliba camp, had to be airlifted to Ranchi after their condition worsened. Following medical examinations, all five were diagnosed with severe symptoms of malaria. Notably, after CRPF issued a stern ultimatum to top Maoist leader Misir Besra and his associates, asking them to surrender and return to the mainstream within a month or face decisive action, anti-Maoist operations have been intensified in the Saranda forests. Concerns are now mounting that the continuous illness of security forces could adversely affect both the pace and effectiveness of the ongoing campaign. Officials, however, clarified that alongside the anti-Maoist operations, full attention is being paid to the health and welfare of the troops to ensure they remain steadfast and perform at their full potential, even amidst challenging conditions. West Singhbhum SP said that Saranda Forest itself is a malaria-prone zone and adequate precautions are taken to deal with it. “Saranda being a malaria-prone zone, security personnel deployed there are asked to

take precaution and are also given malaria kit to protect them with the disease. In case, someone gets infected with malaria, he is immediately evacuated to Ranchi and given proper medical treatment,” said West Singhbhum SP Amit Renu. “This is a regular affair and it has happened earlier also,” he added.

Earlier, during a visit by CRPF Special Director General Deepak Kumar, another constable of CoBRA 205 Battalion, identified as Anil Biswal, who was suffering from malaria, had collapsed and was immediately airlifted to Ranchi for medical care. He is currently undergoing treatment in Ranchi. Before that, a security personnel, Anand Singh (42), a native of Assam, had succumbed to malaria a few months back while undergoing treatment, a tragedy that has further underscored the gravity of the situation.

Notably, around 45–50 Maoists are currently believed to be active in the Saranda region, where security operations are being intensified. According to police sources, security forces have cordoned off the Maoists within a 10-kilometre radius in the Saranda jungles. Top Maoist leader Misir Besra, a Politburo member carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore, is believed to be trapped inside it. Police sources also said that the search operations will be further intensified in the coming days, with forces pushing deeper into the forested areas.

The handful of Maoists who are still left in Saranda forests have now shifted to mobile camps to avoid being detected by security forces. To prevent police from reaching the bunkers, a strong network of spike holes and IEDs has allegedly been laid around it. Despite the fact that Maoists have allegedly planted IEDs across the area, forces are advancing slowly into the jungles with full determination and have established several temporary security camps in their core areas.

SC orders UP DGP to set up SIT in Ghaziabad minor rape-murder case

SC Orders SIT Over Family’s Probe Dissatisfaction Concerns

New Delhi, Apr 24: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in Ghaziabad last month. Taking note of the victim family’s dissatisfaction with the ongoing investigation, a bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant ordered that the SIT be formed “preferably on Friday or by 11 am on Saturday.” The bench also included Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi. The court specified that the SIT must be headed by an officer of the rank of commissioner or inspector general and should include women police officers. It further directed the team to examine all grievances raised by the victim’s parents, along with the alleged role of two private hospitals accused of denying treatment to the injured child.

The SIT has been asked to submit a supplementary report before the trial court within two weeks. Meanwhile, the apex court directed the tri-



al court to keep the ongoing proceedings in abeyance until then. The order came during the hearing of a petition filed by the victim’s father, who sought a court-monitored investigation either by an SIT or the Central Bureau of Investigation. Appearing for the police, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the bench that a chargesheet had already been filed and that the trial had commenced.

Earlier, on April 13, the court had flagged the “reluctance” of the Ghaziabad Police in regis-

tering an FIR and conducting the probe. On March 16, a neighbour allegedly lured the child on the pretext of buying chocolates. When she failed to return, her father began searching and found her unconscious and bleeding. The court had also, on April 10, sharply slammed the police for an “insensitive approach” in handling the case. It expressed concern over reports that two private hospitals in Ghaziabad refused to admit the injured child, who was later declared dead at a government hospital.

Triangle Contest in Dima Hasao Keeps Voters on Edge as Assam Awaits May 4 Verdict

Author: Surjo Thaosen, Sr. Journalist

Haflong, Apr 24: As Assam awaits the results of the 16th Assam Assembly Election scheduled to be declared on May 4, a sense of anticipation grips the hill districts of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong. Polling for the election was held on April 9, 2026, and early assessments suggest a closely fought contest, particularly in Dima Hasao.

Political observers and sections of the electorate indicate that the constituency may witness a triangular contest among three प्रमुख candidates—Rupali Langthasa of the BJP, Nandita Gorlosa of the Congress, and Daniel

Langthasa of the NPP. The outcome remains uncertain, with no clear frontrunner emerging so far.

Feedback from voters across various Autonomous Council constituencies points to a possible impact of anti-incumbency against the ruling BJP. Discontent among sections of voters reportedly led to a shift in support towards both the Congress and the NPP in several key areas, including Wajao, Hajadisa, Semkhor, Kalachand, Maibang (East and West), Langting, Hatikhali (Palaipahadi polling centre), Hamri, Diyungbra, Garampani, Dehangi, Gunjung, Had-

ingma, Daotuhaja, Mahur, and Haflong.

Notably, Dehangi—considered the home turf of Chief Executive Member Debolal Gorlosa—also witnessed signs of electoral shifts, adding to the uncertainty of the final outcome.

Meanwhile, a largely peaceful and subdued contest between the BJP and Congress was reported from constituencies such as Harangajao, Jatinga, Laisong, Hangrum, Dehamlai, Dolong, and Kharthong, indicating a disciplined polling process in these regions.

On the other hand, the BJP is

expected to secure a comfortable lead in areas like Borail, Jenam, and Lower Kharthong, although isolated reports of alleged unfair practices surfaced in certain polling stations.

Despite these trends, political analysts suggest that the final result may hinge on narrow margins, with each vote playing a decisive role in determining the winner.

As counting day approaches, the people of Dima Hasao, along with the rest of Assam, eagerly await the verdict that will ultimately reveal the accuracy of these ground-level assessments and opinion trends.

Guwahati Braces For 4 Days Of Heavy Rain And Storms

Guwahati, Apr 24: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in isolated parts of Guwahati over the next three to four days, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. According to the weather bulletin, some areas may receive between 7 mm and 20 mm of rainfall within a 24-hour period, with conditions expected to intensify storm activity across the city. Authorities have cautioned that the adverse weather could result in waterlogging in low-lying areas, slower vehicular movement, and a heightened risk of localized landslides in vulnerable zones. In response, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) has urged residents to remain alert and take necessary precautions.

The advisory recommends avoiding unnecessary travel during periods of intense



rainfall and exercising caution in areas prone to flooding and landslides. Commuters and long-distance travelers have been asked to plan their movements accordingly, while residents in hillside and low-lying regions have been advised to stay vigilant for signs of ground instability.

ASDMA confirmed that it is closely monitoring the evolving weather situation and coordinating emergency preparedness measures. Officials emphasized that the public should rely only on official weather updates and follow advisories issued by local authorities to ensure safety during the prolonged spell of rainfall and thunderstorms.

Tripura: Tipra Motha Minister Slams CM's "Selective" Relief For Poll Violence

Agartala, Apr 24: Tripura Minister of State for Industries and Commerce Brishaketu Debbarma on Thursday questioned Chief Minister Manik Saha's announcement of financial assistance to victims of post-poll violence, saying the relief should have been inclusive. Debbarma, who is also the general secretary of the Tipra Motha Party, said the decision to extend assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) appeared selective. "The CPI(M) and Congress have raised valid points... If the Chief Minister has to make an announcement, the relief should have been all-inclu-



sive," he said.

The minister said opposition parties had questioned why relief was being extended in the present instance while similar assistance was not announced in earlier cases of post-poll violence, includ-

ers to maintain calm. I have issued strict instructions," Debbarma said. Referring to a list of 35 persons reportedly prepared by the administration for financial assistance, he said he found no evidence of involvement by his party workers in those cases. "When I went through the list, I realised that no one from our party even shouted an abusive word at them," he said.

The Chief Minister had earlier announced financial assistance from the CMRF for families affected by post-Tripura ADC polls violence. A sum of Rs 64.50 lakh was sanctioned for 258 victim families of the post-poll violence.

Kuki Inpi Condemns Deadly Attack on Mulam Village

Guwahati, Apr 24: The Kuki Inpi Manipur has strongly condemned what it described as a "barbaric and premeditated" attack on Mulam Kuki village in Manipur's Songphel-Mulam area in the early hours of Friday.

According to the organisation, villagers first heard gunfire around 1:00 AM, followed by a coordinated assault at approximately 5:30 AM, allegedly carried out by armed Tangkhul militants. The attack left two villagers dead—identified as Letlal (43) and Paominlun Haolai (19)—who were said to have been defending their village during the assault.

KIM further alleged that at least 17 houses were set ablaze during the attack, leav-

ing several people injured and displacing numerous families, including women and children. Describing the incident as a grave threat to civilian safety, the organisation expressed concern over the continued vulnerability of Kuki-inhabited areas. It urged authorities to take immediate and decisive steps to prevent further violence.

Among its key demands, KIM called for the large-scale deployment of central security forces in Mulam and surrounding areas, the establishment of permanent security outposts, and strict monitoring mechanisms in vulnerable regions. It also sought a time-bound investigation to identify and prosecute those responsible for the attack.

NIT Silchar Bans Religious Gatherings in Hostels and Common Areas



Guwahati, Apr 24: The National Institute of Technology Silchar has issued a directive prohibiting hostel boarders, mess workers and others associated with hostel facilities from con-

ducting or participating in prayers or religious gatherings in open and common areas within the campus. The order, issued by the Office of the Dean of Students' Welfare, came into effect immediately after approval from the competent authority, according to an official notification dated April 24. The institute stated that no individual residing in or linked to hostel facilities shall organise or take part in prayer meetings, religious assemblies or similar activities in shared spaces inside hostels or elsewhere on campus. It warned that any violation of the directive would be dealt with strictly and could attract disciplinary action. Copies of the order have been circulated to the Director, Registrar, Associate Deans of Students' Welfare, wardens, assistant wardens, estate officials, housekeeping in-charges, mess caterers and students for compliance.

While the administration has not publicly elaborated on the reasons behind the move, the directive specifically applies to common-use and open spaces, without reference to private personal practices. Located in Silchar, the institute is among the country's centrally funded technical institutions and hosts a diverse student population from across India.



Editorial

East–West Corridor: A Dream Delayed, A Region Waiting

The East–West Corridor—often referred to as “Mahasadak” in Assam—was envisioned as one of India’s most transformative infrastructure projects. Stretching approximately 3,300 to 3,576 kilometres from Silchar in Assam to Porbandar in Gujarat, the corridor was conceived to bridge distances, boost economic integration, and bring the North East closer to the national mainstream. Announced on October 10, 1998, by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the project symbolised hope, connectivity, and progress for millions. Nearly three decades later, that dream remains only partially fulfilled. The significance of the East–West Corridor cannot be overstated. It promises not just faster transportation, but also economic revitalisation, improved access to markets, and enhanced strategic mobility in a sensitive and vital region of the country. For states like Assam, particularly the hill district of Dima Hasao, the corridor is more than a highway—it is a lifeline to development, healthcare, education, and opportunity. However, the reality on the ground tells a story of prolonged delays and persistent challenges. Construction work that began in April 2002 soon encountered obstacles, especially in the hill sections between Jatinga and Harangajao. The difficult terrain, marked by fragile geology, landslides, and dense forest cover, posed serious engineering challenges. Yet, natural conditions alone cannot be blamed.

Planning deficiencies in the early stages, inadequate assessment of ground realities, delays in forest clearances, and prolonged land acquisition and compensation disputes have all contributed to pushing timelines further and further. As early as July 2015, the National Highways Authority of India flagged major bottlenecks in stretches like Balacherra–Harangajao. Unfortunately, many of these issues persisted for years. Today, despite renewed momentum, the project continues to face delays. The revised completion target has now been pushed to 2027, a timeline that reflects both optimism and the burden of past inefficiencies. Meanwhile, the people of the region continue to wait—patiently, yet increasingly expectant. Recent developments, however, offer a glimmer of hope. On March 14, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the 166-kilometre Shillong–Silchar Corridor, along with an elevated corridor in Silchar. These initiatives indicate a renewed commitment to strengthening connectivity in the North East and complementing the broader East–West Corridor network. Equally important are the recent high-level review meetings involving state ministers, the Chief Executive Member of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), and officials from the NHAI. Detailed assessments of the Jatinga–Harangajao stretch, along with chainage-wise progress

reports, reflect a more structured and accountable approach. The emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of pending issues is a step in the right direction. Yet, the question remains: why did it take so long? For the people of Dima Hasao and the wider Barak Valley, the delay is not just an administrative lapse—it has real consequences. Poor road connectivity has hindered trade, increased transportation costs, delayed emergency services, and slowed down overall development. In a region blessed with natural beauty and potential, infrastructure gaps have long acted as a barrier to growth. The East–West Corridor was meant to change that narrative. It still can. What is now required is not just completion, but accountability and urgency. Authorities must ensure that past mistakes are not repeated. Scientific planning, transparent compensation processes, environmental sensitivity, and robust monitoring mechanisms must guide the final phase of construction. As 2027 approaches as the new deadline, the expectations of the people are clear. They are not asking for promises—they are demanding results. The East–West Corridor remains a dream project of the North East. Its completion will not merely mark the end of a long-delayed highway—it will signal the beginning of a new era of connectivity, prosperity, and integration for the region. The time to deliver is now.

Is this a mini Pahalgam?



At Pahalgam they asked the religion of the victims and massacred Hindus. The aim was to create a divide and serious riots between Hindus and Muslims to break India. A million such provocations in the past did not yield the desired results as envisioned by our foes. The terrorists have been then neutralised.

Here at Nashik they used brains and not the bullets. They allegedly selected, coerced, targeted and tortured in a crude manner under the eyes of a corporate that always boasted of ethics and integrity and attempted to convert the hapless many. It is a similar conspiracy. But the honchos here and in a million corporates had already laid the foundations by an illogical discriminatory dress code. Hindus had to hide their beliefs. Was this a motive or a consequence of a Psychological defense mechanism that Sigmund Freud once described as Reaction formation.

Reaction Formation
Reaction formation is a psychological defense mechanism where a person unconsciously replaces an unwanted or anxiety-provoking impulse with its exact opposite, often in an exaggerated or performative manner. It acts as a shield for the ego against unacceptable thoughts or desires, such as acting excessively friendly toward someone who is disliked. Few adoptee parents indulge and care excessively towards their adopted kids unconsciously for the fear of being called as biased. The transnational companies, many of them may also have been infiltrated by wile and

woke elements. One more explanation can be that being inclusive meant pampering and excessive pandering of the smaller or weaker sections as perceived by the world

Stimulus Generalization

Why is the Moderate Muslim quiet is a charge thrown on the faithfulls? But why are the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains & Buddhists also quiet. That is our weakness. As a civil society we do not react. Extreme elements show their colors sporadically but it's of no use and too detrimental.

Once some time ago all Sikhs for a few appeared to be Khalistani. Wrong! This is stimulus generalization and can happen now. Every Hindu, Muslim, Sikhs, Christians and others have lived here for thousands of years. They are not the descendants of our invaders or the extremist elements from abroad

Stockholm Syndrome

The Bharatiya seldom responds in unison. Is this a result of a Chronic Stockholm Syndrome where the abused identifies with the abuser and continuously gets abused We have been as a culture traumatised for hundreds of years & may be believe that being serially bashed is normal. It's time to separate the wheat from the chaff, the disruptors from the nation builders. We need to raise our voices in unison irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed or class. Selective outrage is dangerous. A uniform response is important

Let's views these events as case studies for our beings to unite & protect is from the wile and the wicked. If the nation state survives we will and so our faiths.

Gulf nations caught in trap of their own

The lines in the West Asian sand have hardened. Following the joint US-Israeli surprise strikes on Iran on February 28, 2026—which resulted in the assassination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei—the region has descended into a high-stakes conflict with global economic ramifications. While Israel seeks to destabilize Iran to facilitate regional dominance, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), now led by hardliners and Mojtaba Khamenei, is fighting to eliminate existential threats to the Republic. Iran's Terms for De-escalation To halt the cycle of “mowing the lawn”—Israel's strategy of periodic military interventions—Iran has set a high bar for peace. Their demands include: Withdrawal of US Forces: Total removal of American bases and personnel from West Asia. Financial Reparations: An estimated \$100–\$120 billion for damages and released frozen assets. Strait of Hormuz Sovereignty: A new legal framework for the shipping lane, potentially including a tolling structure. Security Guarantees: Agreements underwritten by “trusted powers” rather than the West. The GCC's “Hunger Games” Dilemma The Sunni-led

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations—Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain—are trapped. Historically reliant on US protection, they now face “telegraphed” Iranian strikes on their energy assets and infrastructure. This strategy, echoing The Hunger Games’ “If we burn, you burn with us,” targets their economic lifeblood



to force a break from the US-Israel axis. Recent events have intensified this pressure: The Arms Deal Trap: The Trump administration recently bypassed Congress to approve \$23 billion in emergency arms sales to the region. US Pressure: Senator Lindsey Graham has publicly threatened “consequences” for Saudi Arabia, questioning the validity of defense pacts if the

Kingdom refuses to join military operations against Tehran. Dissent from Within: Emirati billionaire Khalaf al-Habtoor recently went viral (before deleting his posts) for questioning Trump's authority to drag the Gulf into a “war of choice” that serves only Western and Israeli interests. Two Dangerous Paths The GCC now faces an invidious choice: Retaliation:

Join the US-Israel axis. This risks domestic uprisings from populations sympathetic to Palestine and Iran, potentially toppling unpopular autocracies. Accommodation: Embrace neutrality, dismantle US bases, and co-manage shipping lanes with Iran. This would antagonize Western allies and risk the seizure of overseas assets. As a temporary ceasefire brokered by Pakistan hangs by a thread, the global economy remains vulnerable. With oil prices fluctuating and the Strait of Hormuz effectively a war zone, the region is a “dark room” where the full extent of the danger is yet to be revealed. How do you think the global shift toward renewable energy might change the leverage these West Asian nations hold in future conflicts?

Hyundai, TVS join hands to roll out electric three-wheelers for India's last-mile mobility



Guwahati: Hyundai Motor Company and TVS Motor Company have signed a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) to develop and commercialise electric three-wheelers (E3Ws) tailored for India's last-mile mobility needs. The move follows the successful showcase of the concept at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025.

Under the pact, Hyundai will lead design and co-development, leveraging its R&D capabilities, advanced mobility technologies and human-centric design approach. TVS Motor will contribute its electric three-wheeler platform, engineering expertise and deep understanding of Indian customers, while also leading local sales and manufacturing for domestic demand and exports.

Senior Vice President Joongsun Ko said the collaboration aims to expand access to safe and sustainable mobility across India. TVS Motor's President Sharad Mishra noted that the partnership would deliver purpose-built solu-

tions and set new benchmarks in quality, technology and customer experience.

The E3W will feature adaptive ground clearance, enhanced safety systems, ergonomic design and thermal management suited for Indian conditions. The companies also plan to localise component manufacturing to strengthen the supply chain, reduce costs and ensure faster after-sales support.

In Guwahati, one of North-east India's key commercial hubs, the proposed electric three-wheelers are expected to see strong demand in both passenger transport and goods delivery segments. With rising fuel costs and frequent urban congestion, fleet operators and small businesses in the Guwahati market are increasingly shifting towards electric mobility solutions. Industry observers say the Hyundai-TVNS partnership could accelerate EV adoption in the city by offering cost-efficient, locally adapted vehicles suited to challenging road and weather conditions.

Godrej Industries unveils new brand identity, targets Rs 5 lakh crore valuation by 2031

Guwahati: Godrej Industries has announced a new corporate purpose and brand identity as the diversified conglomerate set an ambitious target of achieving a combined market capitalisation of ₹5,00,000 crore by 2031. The announcement was made at the Group's headquarters, Godrej One.

The Group introduced its new purpose statement, "Crafting tomorrow since 1897," aimed at aligning its businesses under a unified identity while reinforcing its focus on innovation, sustainability and long-term growth. The Group, which operates across consumer products, real estate, financial services, agriculture and chemicals, said it plans to expand from three to five publicly listed platforms over the next five years.

Pirojsha Godrej, Chairperson Designate of Godrej Industries Group, said the new purpose reflects the company's belief that "values and results must go hand in hand." The Group reported that both sales and net profits have grown at over 20 per cent CAGR during the past five years and outlined future targets of over 15 per cent annual sales growth and over 20 per cent EPS growth.



The company also reaffirmed its sustainability goals, including achieving net-zero operations by 2035 and building a planet-positive supply chain by 2047. It further plans to raise representation of women, LGBTQ+ individuals and persons with disabilities to 40 per cent across the Group within five years.

In Guwahati, the Group's aggressive

expansion and sustainability-led strategy could strengthen investor confidence in consumer and real estate sectors in North-east India. Market observers in Guwahati noted that the renewed brand positioning may also enhance the company's appeal among younger urban consumers and emerging retail markets across Assam and the Northeast.

Sunrise Spices unveils Rongali Bihu music tribute celebrating Assam's living traditions

Guwahati: ITC Ltd.'s Sunrise Spices has released a special Rongali Bihu musical tribute, reinforcing its deep cultural connect with Assam through a curated music video celebrating the state's traditions, food, and festive spirit. Known for its regional offerings such as Duck Curry with Ashgourd masala and Til Chicken masala, the brand said it continues to honour Assam's culinary

and cultural identity through meaningful storytelling.

Created in collaboration with Baahi, the fusion Bihu track blends traditional rhythms with contemporary elements, capturing the essence of Bohag Bihu through visuals of Goru Bihu, egg fight rituals, and Gamusa weaving. The composition by Assamese musician Kusum Kailash, with vocals by Neel Akash and Kailash,

features Kamal Lochan, Bedabrat Borah and Gayatri Baishya.

Speaking on the launch, Piyush Mishra, Business Head, Sunrise Spices, said the initiative aims to reflect how Bihu is experienced in everyday life through shared food, music, and celebrations.

The music video has been released on YouTube, while the track is also available on platforms including Spotify,

Apple Music, Amazon Music and JioSaavn. The brand has also introduced an interactive Bihu microsite, allowing users to create personalised festive avatars.

In Guwahati, Sunrise Spices continues to strengthen its presence amid rising demand for regional blends and culturally rooted products, with both retail and digital channels driving accessibility and consumer engagement.

Michael Evans Builds Global Women Focused Content Platform

Kohima: Michael Evans' digital venture has rapidly emerged as one of the fastest growing women focused content ecosystems worldwide. Expanding from just 1,000 YouTube subscribers in August 2025 to over 2.5 million today, the platform has crossed 45 million views and continues to add nearly 10,000 subscribers weekly.

With women comprising more than 97 per cent of its audience, the platform's growth is being driven largely by Asian markets, including Nagaland, South Korea, Singapore, and Indonesia. Unlike entertainment led models,



Evans' content focuses on emotional awareness, identity, and social pressures faced by women in traditional societies, creating a deeply engaged user base.

His flagship book, *The REAL Matrix*, and the "Elara" story-

telling project—designed for both adult women and young girls—form the intellectual property backbone of the platform, now expanding into audio and multilingual formats. Evans, also founder of USPA Nationwide Security, has invested over \$100 million through his nonprofit "Kingsman" in rescue operations for trafficked women, strengthening brand credibility.

Recognised by global platforms, the venture is increasingly positioned as a purpose-driven content business, blending storytelling, social impact, and scalable digital growth.

HPCL's digital LPG system ensures fast, reliable doorstep deliveries nationwide

Guwahati: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has highlighted how its digital-first LPG booking system is driving efficient and timely cylinder deliveries across India. The company said that 99.2 per cent of bookings are now made through digital platforms such as IVRS, SMS, WhatsApp, and HP PAY, enabling real-time processing from the moment a request is placed.

Between April 1 and 18,

HPCL delivered over 230 lakh LPG cylinders nationwide, supported by a strong logistics network and over 1.43 lakh tankers ensuring steady supply. Orders are automatically routed to nearby distributors, with systems aligning inventory and delivery schedules based on demand clusters.

HPCL said data-driven planning helps optimise routes and reduce delays, while last-mile delivery teams ensure timely ser-

vice even in remote and high-density areas. Deliveries are authenticated through OTP-based systems for transparency and security.

The company also conducted 5,482 inspections and 661 raids during the period to curb irregularities, registering 41 FIRs and seizing 3,674 cylinders. HPCL said its supply system remains stable and urged consumers to avoid unnecessary stocking.

AI push in classrooms: Miles Bronson School expands Smartail partnership for automated grading



Smartail Strengthens India Expansion with Miles Bronson Residential School (MBRS) AI Grading Partnership



Guwahati: Miles Bronson Residential School has renewed and expanded its partnership with Smartail to scale AI-led academic assessment across higher grades, marking a key step in Assam's evolving education landscape.

Building on last year's adoption of Smartail's DeepGrade platform, the Gu-

wahati-based residential school is now extending AI integration into senior classes. The platform enables automated evaluation of descriptive answers, faster feedback cycles, and data-driven insights for teachers and students, improving efficiency while maintaining consistency in line with CBSE frameworks.

Founder and Principal Dr. Nripen Kumar Dutta said the move reflects the institution's focus on combining academic values with innovation. "AI-driven assessment is helping us deliver more personalised attention while maintaining academic excellence," he said.

Smartail Co-Founder Aslam Sherieff noted that MBRS has been a pioneering partner in Assam, adding that the expansion validates DeepGrade's real-classroom impact.

The initiative also signals a broader regional shift towards adopting scalable AI solutions in education, with Smartail expanding deployments to cities like Jorhat.

In Guwahati, the partnership highlights rising demand for edtech solutions among leading institutions, as schools increasingly invest in AI-driven tools to enhance learning outcomes and operational efficiency, positioning the city as an emerging hub for technology-enabled education in the Northeast.

Indians eye Asia for summer travel as Gen Z drives surge: Airbnb data



Guwahati: Indian travellers are increasingly turning to Asian destinations this summer, with cities like Osaka, Tokyo, Busan, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok leading search trends, according to new data released by Airbnb on April 21, 2026. The shift reflects a growing preference for destinations closer to home that offer a mix of cultural familiarity, connectivity and shorter travel durations. The report highlights the strong influence of Gen Z travellers, who account for over 40% of summer searches and are growing at nearly 60% year-on-year. This group is increasingly planning trips around experiences such as festivals, concerts and food exploration, reshaping travel patterns across Asia. Osaka, Tokyo and Busan recorded search growth of over 85%, 90% and 95% respectively, while Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok continued to witness steady demand.

Domestic travel trends also show a shift towards culturally rich destinations. Locations such as Thiruvananthapuram, Puri, Jaipur and Meghalaya saw significant growth in interest, indicating travellers are exploring beyond traditional hotspots.

"What we are seeing this summer is travel driven by curiosity and culture," said Amanpreet Singh Bajaj, Country Head, Airbnb India and Southeast Asia, noting that Asian destinations offer both familiarity and discovery.

In Shillong, the rising interest in Meghalaya highlights growing tourism potential for the region. Travel operators in Shillong are witnessing increased inquiries, especially from younger travellers and group tourists, boosting local hospitality and allied sectors as the summer season gains momentum.

HPCL delivers over 201 lakh LPG cylinders in April surge, distributor network drives timely supply

Guwahati: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has delivered over 201 lakh LPG cylinders across India between April 1 and 16, underlining robust demand and the critical role of its distributor network in ensuring uninterrupted supply.

The company said distributors remain the backbone of its LPG ecosystem, managing inventory, coordinating logistics, and ensuring timely deliveries across urban, semi-urban, and rural markets. With rising booking volumes, distributors have focused on faster stock rotation and effi-

cient coordination with bottling plants and transport teams.

HPCL reported supplying over 4.30 lakh 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinders and more than 22,500 2-kg cylinders, catering to migrant workers and consumers seeking smaller, flexible energy options. Digital adoption has further streamlined operations, with 99.3% of bookings now made online, enabling real-time demand tracking and quicker dispatch planning.

Logistics support has remained strong, with over 1.23 lakh tankers deployed to ensure uninterrupted replenishment.

HPCL also conducted 5,302 inspections between March 14 and April 16, taking action against 124 distributors to maintain compliance and transparency.

In Guwahati, steady LPG demand has been reported across households and commercial users, with distributors maintaining consistent supply despite periodic demand spikes. Market sources indicate improved delivery timelines due to digital booking systems and tighter coordination with regional bottling plants, ensuring minimal disruption even during peak cycles.

Renault targets India as top market with 'FutuREady' growth plan

Guwahati: Renault Group has unveiled its 'FutuREady India' strategy, positioning India at the centre of its next phase of global expansion with a strong focus on engineering, manufacturing, and exports. Announced by CEO François Provost, the plan aims to make India one of Renault's top three global markets by 2030.

Under the strategy, Renault will launch its largest-ever product offensive in India, expanding its portfolio to seven multi-energy models by 2030. These will include internal combustion, hybrid, and electric vehicles built on next-generation digital

architecture. The recently unveiled Renault Duster and the new Bridger Concept compact SUV are part of this roadmap.

The company also plans to



transform India into a global technology and export hub, targeting €2 billion in annual exports by 2030 across vehicles, components, and R&D. Renault's Chennai facility, now fully owned by

the Group, will play a key role in localisation and global supply chains, supported by 6,000 engineers.

The FutuREady push is expected to strengthen Renault's presence in emerging markets like Guwahati, where demand for compact SUVs and fuel-efficient vehicles is rising. With electrified options and improved customer experience under the 'Renault Forever' initiative, the brand is likely to attract a growing middle-class customer base in the Northeast.

Renault said India will be a "cornerstone" of its global value chain, reinforcing its long-term competitiveness.

Bajaj Auto unveils 'WEGO' EV 3-wheeler range with up to 296 km mileage

Guwahati: Bajaj Auto Ltd. has launched its new electric three-wheeler portfolio under the brand Bajaj WEGO, marking what it calls India's widest range of EV 3-wheelers across passenger and cargo segments. The new lineup offers a class-leading range of up to 296 km and starts at Rs. 3,11,908 (ex-showroom Delhi).

The WEGO portfolio includes passenger variants—P50, P70 and P90 series—and cargo models under the C90 range. The vehicles are powered by an electric drivetrain with 2-speed auto transmission, regenerative braking and an advanced battery man-

agement system aimed at reducing range anxiety and improving long-term ownership value.

Features include Bluetooth connectivity, digital LCD display, hill hold, climb mode and enhanced gradability. The vehicles also offer improved passenger space, ergonomic design, a 5-year warranty and access to over 1,500 service touchpoints.

In the passenger segment, the P50 series delivers up to 272 km range, while the P70 series targets urban and semi-urban shared mobility. The top-end P90 offers a range of 296 km. Cargo variants C9009 and C9012 offer up to 207 km for

last-mile delivery needs.

Samardeep Subandh, President – Intra-City Business, said the range is "purpose-built to meet diverse customer needs" across segments.

The launch is expected to strengthen Bajaj Auto's footprint in the Northeast, particularly in Guwahati, where demand for electric three-wheelers is rising amid fuel cost concerns and policy push for cleaner mobility. With growing last-mile delivery demand and shared transport usage, the WEGO range could see strong adoption among fleet operators and small businesses in the region.

Medanta highlights advanced robotic surgeries for kidney cancer patients in Haryana

Guwahati: Specialists from Medanta – The Medicity have highlighted advances in robotic surgery for kidney cancer treatment, offering new hope for patients in Haryana by focusing on procedures that preserve kidney function while treating the disease effectively.

Speaking at a panel discussion in Hisar on “Surgical Nuance in Renal Cancer: When, Where, and How Much to Cut”, experts said kidney cancers, also known as renal cell carcinomas (RCC), are

among the top ten cancers in India and are primarily treated through surgery. The event was organised by Medanta in association with the Surgeon’s Club, Hisar.

Dr. Gagan Gautam, Chairman of Uro Oncology and Robotic Surgery at Medanta’s Kidney and Urology Institute, said radical nephrectomy, involving complete removal of the affected kidney, is generally recommended for large tumours exceeding 7 cm or those located near major blood vessels. Howev-

er, he said partial nephrectomy has emerged as a major advancement for smaller tumours as it removes only the tumour while preserving the healthy part of the kidney.

According to experts, India records around 16,000 to 18,000 new kidney cancer cases annually, with nearly 700 cases reported in Haryana each year. Doctors said many cases are now detected incidentally during ultrasound or CT scans conducted for unrelated health complaints, making early

diagnosis crucial for better outcomes.

Dr. Gagandeep Talwar said robotic-assisted surgery allows surgeons to perform complex tumour removal procedures with greater precision through enhanced 3D visualisation. Experts added that partial nephrectomy reduces the risk of chronic kidney failure, dialysis, and related complications such as hypertension, heart attacks, and strokes, while also ensuring faster recovery and shorter hospital stays.

Tata Tea Gold leverages Poila Boishakh to strengthen Bengal market connect

Guwahati: Tata Tea Gold has rolled out its festive communication around Poila Boishakh, aiming to deepen its emotional connect with consumers in West Bengal during one of the region’s most significant cultural occasions. The campaign highlights themes of new beginnings, warmth and togetherness, aligning the brand with the spirit of the Bengali New Year.

Positioning tea as an integral part of daily life and celebrations, Tata Tea Gold emphasised its strong presence in Bengali households, where chai continues to serve as a social binder. Known for its rich taste and aroma, the brand has built a loyal consumer base in a market recognised for its refined tea preferences. The company also reiterated its long-standing association with Bengal’s cultural fabric, having celebrated key occasions such as Durga Puja alongside everyday rituals. Through its Poila Boishakh outreach, the brand extended greetings to consumers, wishing them a year filled with optimism and “golden moments”.

In Guwahati, traders indicate that festive-led branding by established players like Tata Tea Gold is driving visibility and seasonal demand. Retailers report that premium tea variants witness higher traction during regional festivals, with consumers in the Northeast increasingly leaning towards branded offerings, reflecting evolving consumption patterns and cross-regional cultural influence.

Medanta highlights robotic kidney transplants as demand for advanced care rises

Guwahati: Gurugram-based Global Health Limited (Medanta) on Thursday said robotic-assisted surgery is transforming kidney transplantation by enabling complex procedures through minimally invasive techniques that reduce pain, blood loss and recovery time for patients.

At Medanta – The Medicity, recently named India’s best hospital by Newsweek in 2026, doctors have performed more than 325 robotic kidney transplants, with specialists from multiple disciplines collaborating on each case to improve patient outcomes.

According to the hospital, robotic systems provide surgeons with high-resolution 3D visualisation and enhanced precision through miniature wristed instruments controlled entirely by the operating surgeon. The technology has become particularly significant in urol-

ogy, where surgeries are often complicated due to the dense concentration of organs and blood vessels in the pelvic region.

Dr. Prasun Ghosh, Chairman of Urology, Robotic Surgery and Kidney Transplant at Medanta Gurugram, said robotic kidney transplantation has helped address many complications traditionally associated with the procedure while extending the benefits of minimally invasive surgery to transplant patients.

India records more than two lakh patients requiring kidney transplants annually, but only 10,000 to 12,000 procedures are conducted each year, highlighting a major treatment gap.

Medanta said it has launched a dedicated North East helpline with multilingual support and announced that Dr. Ghosh will be available for consultations in Guwahati on April 25.

Ai+ targets mid-range dominance as Nova 2 Ultra sale begins April 17



Guwahati: Ai+ Smartphone has announced the Day 1 sale of its Nova 2 Ultra, the flagship of its newly launched Nova Series, beginning April 17 at 12 noon via Flipkart and select retail outlets. The device will return for a second sale on April 24, as the company looks to capitalise on strong early demand in India’s competitive mid-range smartphone segment.

The launch follows the suc-

cess of Nova 2, which sold out within 15 minutes on Day 1, signalling robust consumer traction. The Nova 2 Ultra is priced at ₹14,999 for the 6GB+128GB variant and ₹16,999 for the 8GB+128GB model, with an additional ₹2,000 exchange offer.

CEO Madhav Sheth said the device combines a Sony camera system, flagship-grade display, and adaptive design to deliver “performance without

compromise.” The smartphone runs on Android 16 with NextQuantum OS and is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7400 chipset, featuring a 6.78-inch 1.5K AMOLED display, 120Hz refresh rate, and a 6000mAh battery with 40W fast charging. It also offers a 50MP Sony IMX752 camera, IP68 rating, customizable lighting, expandable storage up to 1TB, and bundled accessories including free earbuds.

In Guwahati, there is a rising demand for feature-rich yet affordable smartphones, positioning Nova 2 Ultra as a strong contender. The earlier Nova 2 sellout has boosted retailer confidence, and aggressive pricing, exchange offers, and bundled benefits are expected to drive traction among young consumers and upgraders across the Northeast.

Pulsar 180 returns with modern upgrades, marks 25 years of iconic Bajaj brand



Guwahati: Bajaj Auto Ltd has announced the return of its iconic motorcycle, the Pulsar 180, featuring new graphics, an LED headlamp, LED blinkers, and a Bluetooth-enabled digital console. The bike has been priced at Rs 1,22,490 (ex-showroom Delhi) and reintroduced in response to strong rider demand.

The relaunch coincides with 25 years of the Pulsar brand, which debuted with the Pulsar 150 and Pulsar 180, reshaping India’s performance biking segment. The company said the Pulsar 180 had originally set benchmarks by combining higher engine performance with everyday usability, helping usher in the era of sports motorcycling in the country.

The updated model retains its aggressive styling while adding modern features and improved refinement. Positioned as an upgrade for 150–160cc riders, it aims to deliver enhanced performance, design, and value.

Sarang Kanade, President, MCBU, Bajaj Auto Ltd., said the reintroduction reflects strong consumer demand and the brand’s enduring appeal. “Reimagined for a new generation, it continues to embody our ‘Definitely Daring’ philosophy,” he said.

The return of the Pulsar 180 is expected to resonate strongly in Guwahati, where demand for performance-oriented commuter motorcycles remains high. With a growing base of young riders upgrading from 150cc segments, dealers anticipate healthy traction for the model, particularly due to its pricing, brand recall, and added connectivity features.

Bajaj Auto, which has sold over 21 million motorcycles across 100 countries, continues to strengthen its portfolio with products focused on performance, design, and technology.

PW students shine in CBSE Class 10 results 2026, multiple perfect 100 scores recorded

Tezpur: Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) has reported strong outcomes in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, with several of its students emerging as top scorers, including multiple candidates achieving a perfect 100 per cent. Among them, Vaibhav Arora from Fazilka, Punjab, Amolik Pandita from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and Ayusman Mohapatra from Bhubaneswar, Odisha secured full marks, placing them among the country’s top rankers.

At the local level, PW Vidyapeeth-Pathshala, the company’s tech-enabled hybrid centres, organised a felicitation ceremony in Tezpur to honour high-performing students. Jayanta Madhab Bharauli stood out with 97.20 per cent, alongside other successful candidates from the city.

Students credited consistent preparation, regular revision, and structured study plans, supported by school and PW faculty, for their achievements. Reacting to the results, PhysicsWallah Founder and CEO Alakh Pandey said the outcomes reflect “dedication, discipline, and the right academic support system,” congratulating students who secured top scores.

With over 25 lakh students appearing for the CBSE Class 10 exams this year, the results underscore the growing role of structured online and hybrid learning models in academic performance.

In Tezpur, the strong results have boosted confidence in coaching institutes and hybrid learning centres, with increasing demand among students and parents for tech-enabled education platforms like PW.

Contemporary Guardians, Nervous Youth: The Effects of Overprotection on Children's Emotional Development

Contemporary parenting is markedly different from what it was just ten years ago. Due to escalating academic demands, heightened safety worries, and the relentless comparisons fostered by social media, numerous parents inadvertently adopt an overly protective approach. While this behavior stems from a place of love, such overprotection frequently hinders a child's emotional and social development in ways that may only become apparent in the future. Aanchal Choudhary Ahuja, a Clinical Psychologist at Lissun, asserts that two types of overinvolvement frequently obstruct emotional growth: helicopter parenting and enmeshed parenting. Although both behaviors arise from profound love, they inadvertently convey to children that they are incapable of managing on their own and that the world is a perilous place. Over time, this leads to increased anxiety, dependency, and challenges in making autonomous decisions.

Ahuja shares that in her practice, she frequently meets children who struggle not because they lack support, but because they have too much of it. Overprotective parenting often shows up as excessive monitoring, solving



every problem for the child, or shielding them from any form of discomfort. She offers examples seen commonly in therapy: an 11-year-old who avoids approaching classmates because his mother has always spoken on his behalf may grow up believing he

cannot handle social situations alone. Similarly, a teenager whose parents rush to speak to teachers after every minor academic setback may internalize the belief that failure is dangerous and must be avoided at all costs. To sup-

port healthier emotional development, Aanchal Choudhary Ahuja recommends the following evidence-backed parenting practices: Encourage age-appropriate independence – Allow children to attempt tasks on their own before stepping in to help.

Normalize mistakes – Swap warnings like “Be careful, you’ll fall” with “Try it, and if you fall, you’ll learn how to do it better next time.” Model calm behaviour – Children take emotional cues from parents; a calm parent fosters a calm child. Give age-appropriate responsibilities – Simple chores, packing their school bag, or managing pocket money builds competence and confidence. Allow natural consequences when safe – Let children experience the outcomes of their own choices; it teaches accountability more effectively than constant correction. Teach problem-solving, not dependency – Instead of offering instant answers, guide children to think through solutions independently. Through these mindful shifts, Ahuja emphasizes that parents can foster resilience, confidence, and emotional maturity, qualities essential for children to navigate today's complex world.

How Your Devices Quietly Alter Your Body

Last week, a friend shared with me that she instinctively grabbed her phone as soon as she woke up, only to discover that she had spent 40 minutes scrolling through it before even getting out of bed. She found it amusing, yet she also confessed to feeling exhausted, sore, and strangely anxious throughout the day. Her experience is far from uncommon; in reality, it has become the standard in today's society. Dr Aparna Santhanam, Dermatologist and Holistic Wellness Coach shares, “Screens have become so stitched into daily life that we rarely question their silent toll. On the body, they show up as eyestrain, dry eyes, headaches, stiff necks, and aching backs from endless hunching. Blue light from devices tricks the brain into staying awake, cutting into the deep rest we desperately need. Over time, these small discomforts pile up into fatigue and chronic issues.” The brain carries its own hidden burden. Constant notifications splinter focus and make true concentration scarce. “The dopamine “buzz” from scrolling mimics addictive cycles, leaving us restless without our phones, yet oddly unsatisfied with them. Many of us end up overstimulated, under-rested, and emotionally drained,” adds Dr Santhanam. The answer isn't to throw away our devices, it's to gently rebalance our relationship with them. Small, thoughtful steps can go a long way in protecting both mind and body. Five Simple Mitigators for Digital Declutter

1. Tech-Free Mornings: Let your mind wake up before your phone does. Ensure no screens for the first 30 minutes of your day.
2. 20-20-20 Rule: Every 20 minutes, look 20 feet away for 20 seconds to ease eye strain.
3. Screen Curfew: Switch off devices an hour before bed to restore natural sleep cycles.
4. Posture Pause: Stand, stretch, or walk for two minutes every hour to reset your body.
5. Notification Audit: Silence non-essential alerts to remind yourself that your focus is precious. Digital decluttering is not about deprivation but about freedom and creating space for clarity, energy and presence in the real world.

The Surprising Oral Health Consequences of Keto, Fasting, and Vegan Diets

As health trends progress, our meals have transformed into arenas of experimentation – ranging from keto and intermittent fasting to veganism and paleo. Although these diets claim to enhance skin radiance, sharpen concentration, and boost metabolism, many are unaware that their effects reach beyond the digestive system and into oral health. Dental professionals and nutritionists now caution that our dietary choices, along with their frequency, can subtly influence saliva production, enamel integrity, and gum wellness. When Food Fads Meet Oral Health “An increased risk of cavities is caused by frequent consumption of sugary or starchy foods and drinks, along with dry mouth from low saliva flow,” explains Swati Mohapatra, Chief Dietitian, Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. She adds that the ketogenic diet in particular can trigger xerostomia, or dry mouth, due to reduced carbohydrate intake, which in turn lowers saliva production. “This can increase the risk of cavities, periodontal disease, and bad breath,” she adds. According to Lt Gen Dr Vimal Arora (Retd), Chief Clinical Officer, Clove Dental, saliva plays a far more important role than most realise. “It constantly washes away food debris, neutralises acids, and helps repair early enamel damage by supplying calcium and phosphate,” he says. Any diet that disrupts hydration, nutrients, or metabolism can

weaken this natural defence. Keto, Vegan, And Fasting Diets: How They Affect Teeth Low-carb diets like keto may seem cavity-friendly due to reduced sugar intake, but without adequate hydration or minerals, saliva flow can drop dramatically. Over time, this creates the perfect environment for tooth decay and sensitivity. Meanwhile, vegan and plant-based diets, though rich in antioxidants, may fall short in key nutrients like vitamin B12, calcium, and vitamin D, essential for strong teeth and gums. “Regular intake of acidic foods and smoothies can soften enamel if saliva isn't replenishing minerals fast enough,” notes Dr Arora. For those following intermittent fasting, long gaps without eating can slow down saliva production, leaving the mouth dry for extended periods. Mohapatra points out that breaking a fast with acidic drinks such as lemon water or coffee can worsen enamel erosion. Gums, Enamel, And Nutrient Deficiencies Restrictive diets also alter gum health. Diets lacking antioxidants or omega-3 fatty acids may make gums more prone to inflammation and slower to heal. “Just as enamel reflects what we eat, gums mirror how well the body is nourished,” Dr Arora adds. Balanced, plant-rich diets that include vitamins C and D, along with healthy fats, can strengthen gum tissue and prevent bleeding. How To Protect



Your Teeth While Following Popular Diets? The experts agree that you don't need to abandon your preferred diet – just follow it smarter. Stay hydrated, chew fibrous foods to stimulate saliva, and supplement missing nutrients like vitamin D, calcium, and B12. Using sugar-free gum with xylitol, tamarind-based candies, or citric lozenges can also help maintain natural saliva flow. Brush

before fasting windows and visit your dentist regularly for early signs of enamel wear. Every diet influences the body's chemistry, and the mouth reflects those changes first. The key isn't to give up keto, veganism, or fasting, but to balance them with hydration, mindful nutrition, and oral hygiene. Your smile, after all, is the first place your diet shows its results.

Arunachal: 36 More Sign Siang MoU



Dibrugarh, Apr 24: Support for the pre-feasibility survey of the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) in Arunachal Pradesh is gathering momentum, with more residents of Likor village extending consent for the exercise. On Friday, 36 additional households formally backed the Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) activities, taking the total number of supporting households in the village to 71. Officials said 28 families had earlier signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on March 19, followed by seven more on March 24, indicating a steady rise in local endorsement of the preliminary survey.

Representatives of the consenting families, led by Ombeng Dangen and members of the Project Affected Families (PAFs), submitted the latest list to the Deputy Commissioner of Upper

Siang, Talo Jerang, at Yingkiong. The submission was made in the presence of Zilla Parishad Chairperson Api Kombo and State Nodal Officer (SUMP) Atek Miyu, among others. During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner addressed concerns raised by villagers and explained the scope and process of the PFR survey, seeking to clarify apprehensions among affected families.

The PFR for the proposed 11,000 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project is intended to assess technical feasibility, environmental implications and potential submergence areas. Officials described it as a preliminary, non-intrusive step that would guide further planning and decision-making for the mega hydropower project, which is expected to have significant economic implications for the region.

Missing Guwahati Woman Found Safe in Shillong

Guwahati, Apr 24: A 27-year-old woman from Guwahati who was reported missing on Friday, April 24, has been found safe in Shillong, her family confirmed through social media. The woman, named Bhabana Sarma, was found inside a room at a State Bank of India branch near Polo Ground in Shillong. She was seen in a disturbed condition when bank staff arrived in the morning, following which police were informed. Once her location was confirmed, her family, along with police officials, travelled to Shillong to take her back. According to reports, she went missing after sending a message to her family saying she was in danger. She had booked a cab from her residence in Tetelia, Guwahati, and was travelling towards Azara when she sent the message. Her family later approached Jalukbari Police Station after they could not reach her. Police began tracking her movement and started a search.

Officials said her phone was last active near the Gauhati University area before it switched off. There was no contact with her until she was found in Shillong. Police are continuing the investigation to determine how she went missing and the circumstances that led to her being found in Shillong.

Mizoram: W. Chhuanawma Takes Health Break

Aizawl, Apr 24: In yet another development within the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), the party's senior vice president and MLA W. Chhuanawma has submitted a request for leave from his position in the party, citing persistent health concerns. The development came at the same time as the party leadership assigned the charge of the presidency to Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who will occupy the party president's office during the absence of standing party president Lalliansawta, who has gone on indefinite leave due to health issues. In a letter addressed to the ZPM president on Wednesday (April 22), Chhuanawma, who is also the deputy chief whip in the present ZPM government, said that he had contemplated stepping back as early as last year but deferred the decision at the behest of the party leadership, who advised him to do so after the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) polls held on Monday (April 21). "I have been unable to fully fulfill my responsibilities as senior vice president due to my health condition. As the AMC elections are over, I am now submitting my request for leave from my post," the letter said. Chhuanawma, a legislator from the Tui-chang Assembly constituency, was elected as senior vice president of ZPM in the party's first internal election held in February 2024.

Apart from him, the ruling party now has two nominated standing vice presidents.

Lalduhoma took charge as ZPM president, replacing Lalliansawta, on Wednesday, who has gone on leave for an unspecified period due to health concerns. Meanwhile, ZPM's General Administration Department general secretary



Eddy Zosangliana Colney said that the party executive committee will meet on April 28 to deliberate on Chhuanawma's leave application and decide whether or not to fill his post. The ZPM was formed in 2017 as an electoral alliance of several minor parties, including the Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP), floated by Lalduhoma. The party contested 35 seats in the 2018 Assembly polls and won 8 seats, with Lalduhoma winning two, Serchhip and Aizawl West-I. In the subsequent by-elections, the party lost the Aizawl West-I and Tuirial seats to the Mizo National Front (MNF). The ZPM was later formed into a single political party and received registration from the Election Commission in July 2019. The party contested 40 seats in the last Assembly elections held in November 2023 and won 27 seats, unseating the incumbent MNF led by Zoramthanga, which secured 10 seats.

NIA Chargesheets Bihar Man in Naxal Arms Case

Guwahati Apr 24: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against a Bihar-based man for allegedly procuring illegal arms from Nagaland and supplying them to Naxal groups and other criminal networks.

The accused, Kundan Kumar alias Kundan Bhagat, a resident of Muzaffarpur, was named in the chargesheet filed before a special NIA court in Patna. He was earlier arrested in November 2025 after Bihar Police seized an AK-47 rifle, a magazine and live ammunition from his possession. According to the NIA, Kumar had been actively involved in sourcing and smuggling prohibited bore weapons from Nagaland since 2025. Investigations revealed that the arms were being supplied to Naxal outfits and other criminal elements in Bihar as part of a broader conspiracy to enhance their operational strength. Officials said the case is linked to an ongoing probe into an



inter-state arms trafficking network. Earlier, the agency had chargesheeted four other accused—Vikash Kumar, Devmani Rai, Satyam Kumar and Ahmad Ansari in May 2025. The NIA said further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the racket and to dismantle the larger network engaged in illegal arms smuggling.

Tripura IFS Officer Removed Amid Huge Cash Seizure

Agartala, Apr 24: In a prompt administrative move, the Forest Department of Tripura has removed Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Gaurav Ravindra Wagh from his post as District Forest Officer (DFO) of South Tripura following the detention of his relative with a substantial amount of cash near Agartala Railway Station. The action came within two days of the incident, signalling the seriousness with which authorities are treating the matter. Wagh has been directed to remain attached to the department's headquarters pending completion of the investigation. In the interim, the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer (SDFO) of Sabroom has been given additional charge of the DFO office. The case surfaced after police detained Rajendra Chintaman Kaklij, a Mumbai-based relative of the officer, who was allegedly found carrying Rs 59.94 lakh in cash. The vehicle



from which the cash was recovered is reported to be registered in the DFO's name. Kaklij has been remanded to police custody for five days until April 29 by a competent court.

Investigators are currently examining the origin and intended purpose of the seized cash. Preliminary inputs indicate that a forest guard and a driver, both associated with the Forest Department, may have accompanied Kaklij to the railway station in an official vehicle. Their roles are expected to come under scru-

tiny during the probe.

A case has been formally registered at the Government Railway Police Station in Agartala. Given the sensitivity and scale of the incident, senior police officials have indicated that the investigation will be transferred to a specialised unit of Tripura Police for further examination. Authorities have refrained from making additional comments, stating that all aspects of the case will be addressed based on the findings of the ongoing investigation.

Bracewell Banned Two Years for Cocaine

London, Apr 24: Former New Zealand and Essex all-rounder Doug Bracewell has been given a two-year suspension after testing positive for cocaine during an English County Championship match last year. Bracewell's positive test came on September 25, 2025 while he was playing for Essex against Somerset at Chelmsford. The 35-year-old admitted using cocaine after the first day of the fixture and in the early hours of the morning prior to the second day's play. After being notified of the positive test, Bracewell retired from cricket on December 28. Despite his retirement, Bracewell, who had signed for Essex for the final three Championship matches of last season, was still issued with the two-year ban by the Cricket Regulator.



69 matches for New Zealand across all formats, has accepted the ban and Essex will not face punishment. "Essex can confirm that Doug Bracewell failed a routine drugs test in September 2025," the club said in a statement on Friday. "The club supports the Cricket Regulator's decision to impose a period of ineligibility of two years. All employees are required to meet the highest standards of professional conduct. "While the club does not condone Bracewell's behaviour, we are committed to supporting him through rehabilitation in line with our policies and procedures."

He previously served a one-month ban in 2024 after testing positive for cocaine during New Zealand's 'Super Smash' Twenty20 event. The two-year suspension is backdated to November 24, 2025, the date of his provisional ban, and will run until November 23, 2027.

Bracewell, who played in

Napoli Unstoppable: Cremonese Brushed Aside

Clinical Napoli leave Cremonese with no answers

Italy, Apr 24: Napoli may have surrendered their grip on the Serie A trophy months ago, but Antonio Conte's men aren't ready to hand over the crown just yet. With a clinical 4-0 demolition of relegation-threatened Cremonese on Friday night, the Partenopei ensured that Inter Milan's title celebrations remain on hold for at least another week.

A First-Half Blitz The contest at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona was effectively decided before the fans had even settled into their seats. Napoli ignited the scoreboard within three minutes through a signature Scott McTominay strike. The Scotsman latched onto a precise delivery from Kevin De Bruyne, firing a powerful drive that set the tone for a dominant evening. The pressure proved relentless, and the lead doubled under fortuitous circumstances when Rasmus Hojlund's deflected effort was credited as an own goal by Filippo Terracciano. Before the whistle blew for the interval, De Bruyne turned from provider to finisher, punishing slack defending to make it 3-0 and



extinguishing any hope of a Cremonese comeback.

Tactical Mastery and Champions League Ambitions The second half saw Napoli showcase their counter-attacking lethality. Goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic initiated a lightning-fast break that allowed Brazilian winger Alisson to weave through the defense with a jinking run, slotting home the fourth and final goal of the night. While the Scudetto remains mathe-

matically distant, this victory serves a vital secondary purpose:

Champions League Security: Napoli now sits 11 points clear of fifth-placed Como and Roma. The Inter Equation: Inter Milan now requires four points from their final five matches to officially secure their 21st league title.

While Naples celebrated, the mood for the visitors was somber. The defeat—their 18th of a grueling cam-

paign—plunged Cremonese deeper into the relegation mire. For Napoli, however, the performance was a reminder of their enduring quality under Conte, proving that even if they aren't the champions-elect, they remain the ultimate gatekeepers of Italian football. "We play for the shirt and the fans until the final whistle of the season," the Napoli camp suggested post-match. "Inter will have to earn it."

Vijay Dahiya: Kohli's "Insatiable Hunger" is What Defines His Greatness

Bengaluru, Apr 24: Gujarat Titans assistant coach Vijay Dahiya praised Virat Kohli's relentless drive and hunger to improve, saying the star batter's high standards continue to set him apart. Kohli, who smashed a match-winning 44-ball 81 to earn Player of the Match in RCB's five-wicket victory over GT in the Indian Premier League on Friday, was still disappointed despite his brilliant knock, reflecting the batter's high standards. "After the game, he was saying he could have converted it into a hundred. That tells you about his mindset," Dahiya said at the post-match press conference.



but it wasn't," Dahiya noted, adding that the knock came against "world-class bowlers". "I think it's amazing. If you look at his energy...his awareness, his energy and his willingness.

"That willingness to do well...his mindset sets him

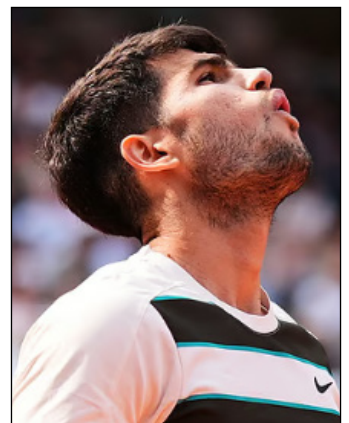
apart from a lot of other people." "He is still one of the best runners and keeps pushing youngsters for extra runs. That willingness to do well -- that 'zid (relentless drive)' -- is what stands out," Dahiya said. The GT assistant coach stressed that Kohli's motiva-

tion is internal rather than driven by external expectations. "He is not playing to prove a point to anyone. It's about the man in the mirror -- trying to be better than yesterday," he explained.

On the match, Dahiya admitted GT may have fallen short by some more runs with the bat, having been restricted to 205 after looking good for more than 220 at one stage. We probably could have had a few more runs on the board," he said, while maintaining that the team's aggressive template remains unchanged. The approach has been driven by fearless cricket, especially from youngsters," he added. Dahiya also dismissed suggestions that experienced batters need to take cues from the younger generation. It's not about young or experienced. Everyone has a role. Experienced players know how to adapt, and they are self-inspired," he said.

Injured Alcaraz Out of French Open

Madrid, Apr 24: Two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz has officially withdrawn from the 2026 French Open and the Italian Open due to a persistent right wrist injury. The World No. 2 announced the news Friday following medical tests, confirming he will not be fit in time for the clay-court major starting May 18. Alcaraz sustained the injury during the Barcelona Open earlier this month. Despite being named World Sportsman of the Year at the Laureus Awards on Monday—where he appeared with his wrist immobilized—the 22-year-old Spaniard stated that being "prudent" was the only option. "It's a complicated moment for me, but I'm sure we'll come out stronger," Alcaraz shared on social media. The withdrawal is a massive blow to the tour, as Alcaraz



had started 2026 in historic fashion by defeating Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open final to complete a career Grand Slam. His absence leaves rival Jannik Sinner, who recently took over the World No. 1 spot, as the clear favorite for Roland Garros. Sinner expressed his support, wishing Alcaraz a speedy recovery and urging him not to rush his return before Wimbledon in June.