



Massive Mandate in Haflong: BJP's Rupali Langthasa Registers Record-Breaking Victory
Mamata Defies Results: Governor May Dismiss Government

Massive Mandate in Haflong: BJP's Rupali Langthasa Registers Record-Breaking Victory

Haflong, May 04: In a powerful display of public support, Rupali Langthasa of the Bharatiya Janata Party has secured a sweeping victory in the 113-Haflong (ST) Assembly Constituency of Dima Hasao, winning by an extraordinary margin of over 50,000 votes—marking one of the largest electoral victories in the district's history. As per official figures released by the Election Commission of India, Langthasa garnered 77,372 votes, leaving her closest contender, Daniel Langthasa of the National People's Party, far behind at 27,641 votes. Nandita Gorlosa of the Indian National Congress secured 23,806 votes, finishing third in the contest. Right from the initial rounds of counting, the momentum clearly favored the BJP candidate. What began as a comfortable lead soon turned into a decisive landslide, with Langthasa steadily expanding her margin in every round, ultimately sealing a commanding and uncontested victory.



Insight & Trend Analysis: A Clear-Cut Electoral Wave The Haflong election quickly transformed into a one-sided contest, showcasing a strong consolidation of voter support behind the BJP. Both Congress and NPP struggled to gain ground, as the widening margin reflected a clear voter preference and lack of a unified opposition challenge. Several key factors contributed to this landslide outcome:

- Strong grassroots connect and a dynamic, people-focused campaign
- Growing voter inclination towards stability and development-driven governance

- Widespread support across communities and regions
- Division of opposition votes, weakening any direct competition

A Landmark Verdict & Rise of New Leadership This emphatic victory not only strengthens the BJP's hold over the constituency but also marks the rise of a new-generation leader in Rupali Langthasa. As one of the youngest MLAs, her win signals a generational shift in the political dynamics of Assam's hill districts, reflecting the aspirations of a changing electorate. The scale of the mandate sets a new benchmark in Dima Hasao,



highlighting a decisive and unified public endorsement in favor of the BJP. **What Lies Ahead** Following this historic win, expectations are high for accelerated development, better infrastructure, and more responsive governance in the region. The result is also expected to further strengthen the BJP's presence in Assam's hill areas, reinforcing its growing political footprint. With a mandate of this magnitude, the focus now shifts from victory to delivery—translating public trust into tangible progress for the people of Haflong and beyond.

Mamata Defies Results: Governor May Dismiss Government

Kolkata, May 05: The Trinamool Congress suffered a crushing defeat in the recently concluded West Bengal assembly elections. Their 15-year rule has come to an end. The BJP is ready to form the next government in the state after winning a majority of the 200 seats. But will they be able to form the government at all? Mamata Banerjee is reluctant to resign from the post of Chief Minister even after the results are announced. He claimed in a press conference on Tuesday, 'We did not lose'. He claimed that this result was not due to the verdict of the people, but due to the conspiracy of the BJP and the Election Commission. In this situation, the question on the minds of the common people is, what will happen if the Chief Minister does not resign voluntarily? Will there be a constitutional crisis? Will there be any obstacle in the way of BJP forming the government?

MLA. Therefore, whether she resigns or not, does not matter administratively. The BJP will form the government based on the majority in the newly formed assembly.

Experienced lawyers say that as per the rules of the Election Commission, the commission will send the detailed results of the state to the Governor. That report will clearly mention the number of winning BJP MLAs and the majority. Based on that report, the Governor will invite the BJP as the majority party to form the government. And according to the rules, the current Chief Minister can continue in office until the new government is sworn in. So, even if Mamata Banerjee does not resign, there will be no constitutional crisis.

Immediately after the results were announced on Monday, Prime Minister Modi announced from the BJP headquarters in New Delhi that the new BJP government in West Bengal will be sworn in on May 9, the day of Rabintra Jayanti. Even if Mamata Banerjee does not resign from the post of Chief Minister before that, there will be no obstacle for the BJP to take oath on a specific day.

According to constitutional and legal experts, the term of the current state assembly will end on Thursday, May 7. As a result, from that day onwards, no member of the current assembly, including Mamata Banerjee, will be an

West Bengal Assembly Election 2026



BJP	Left Alliance	Unnayan Party
206 Seats won	2 Seats won	2 Seats won
Trinamool	Congress	Others
81 Seats won	2 Seats won	0 Seats won

Results of the 2026 parliamentary elections in four states

Assam	Tamil Nadu
Total 126 Party/Alliance Seats Preference + 102 You 21 Others 3	Total 234 Party/Alliance Seats TVK 108 AIADMK+ 52 DMK+ 73 Others 1
Kerala	Puducherry
Total 140 Party/Alliance Seats UDF 89 LDF 35 Preference + 3 Others 13	Total 30 Party/Alliance Seats NDA 18 Education 6 Others 6

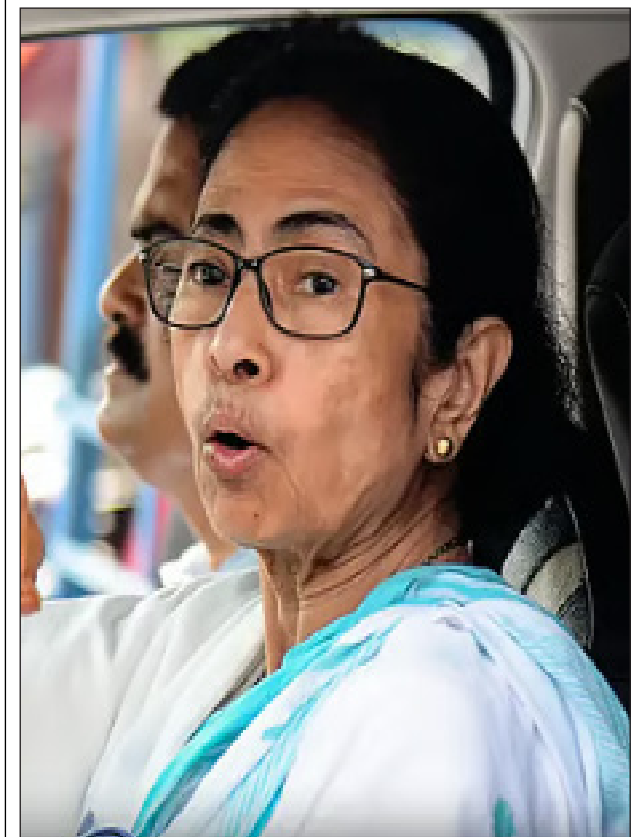
PM Modi Expected at Assam Swearing-In, Says Sarma

Guwahati, May 05: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the upcoming oath-taking ceremony in Assam, marking a symbolic return after the COVID-19 pandemic prevented his attendance in 2021. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated on Tuesday that the ceremony's date remains flexible to accommodate the Prime Minister's schedule.



The announcement follows a historic performance by the BJP-led NDA, which swept the state polls by winning 102 of 126 seats. The BJP achieved a majority on its own for the first time with 82 seats,

while its allies, the AGP and BPF, secured 10 seats each. In contrast, the opposition managed only 24 seats, with 22 of those winners belonging to the Muslim community. To formalize the leadership, the BJP has appointed Union Minister J.P. Nadda as the central observer and Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini as co-observer. They will oversee the election of the Legislature Party leader in Guwahati this week. Sarma, who led the campaign, is widely expected to continue as Chief Minister for a second term as the NDA prepares for its third consecutive government in the state.



UP Cabinet Approves New Transfer Policy, 'One District One Dish'

Lucknow, May 05: In a major policy decision impacting 1.6 million employees and officers, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has decided that transfers and postings of 2026-27 will take place only between May 5 and May 31. According to UP Parliamentary Affairs and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna, officers and employees who have completed three years in a district and seven years in a division will be subject to transfer. Couples in government service will be posted at the same location, while relief will be given to disabled employees and those suffering from serious illnesses. A total of 29 proposals were approved by the Cabinet on Monday. Khanna said that under the policy, officers of Group A and B who have completed three years in a district or seven years in a division will be mandatorily shifted. Transfers will be capped at 20 per cent of cadre strength for Group A and B, and 10 per cent for Group C and D employees, with emphasis on on-line, merit-based processes. MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan said that the Cabinet approved the One District-One Dish scheme to give national and international recognition to a unique dish from each district. "A unique dish from the district will be selected for the scheme. Efforts will be made to improve the packaging and quality. Along with developing a logo for the dish, it will also be branded. By training relevant traders and artisans, the dishes will be made available in various festivals and events. Along with increasing their production, a market will also be provided," said the minister.

He said that UP has a distinct identity in traditional cuisine, citing examples such as Agra's Petha, Mathura's Pedra, Gorakhpur's Litti Chokha, Meerut's Gajak, Jaunpur's Imarti, and Farrukhabad's Dalmoth. "Efforts will be made to increase revenue by giving those



dishes a distinct identity at national and international levels," he added.

A vendor conference will be organised in Lucknow to support the scheme, where food vendors, confectioners, universities, and technical institutions will participate. Investors will be given up to 25 per cent subsidy.

The Cabinet also approved the implementation of an e-summons system to speed up disposal of pending court cases. Delays often occurred due to summons not being served or accepted. The Uttar Pradesh E-Evidence Management Rules, Uttar Pradesh Electronic Summons Issuance and Service Rules 2026, and Community Service Guidelines 2026 were approved. Summons can now be issued via email and WhatsApp and will be considered authorised. Energy Minister Arvind Kumar Sharma said that high-tension lines of 765, 490, 220, and 132 KV pass through farmers' fields in the state. While compensation provisions were introduced in 2018, farmers had raised concerns over low amounts. The government has now increased compensation. Farmers will receive double the circle rate for land within a one-metre radius of electricity towers, and up to 30 per cent of land value for power lines passing through fields.

Moitra Concedes Bengal Defeat: 'Will Of People Supreme'

New Delhi, May 05: A day after the BJP routed the Trinamool Congress in the West Bengal Assembly polls, TMC MP Mohua Moitra on Tuesday said the party accepts the verdict, stressing that the people's will is paramount. She also said that the party will continue the fight for a "secular country".

In a post on X, Moitra said, "The will of the people is supreme. If Bengal wanted BJP, then Bengal has got BJP. We respect that." The BJP on Monday scripted history by winning 206 seats to secure more than a two-thirds majority in the West Bengal assembly polls, ending the TMC's 15-year rule. "We fought the good fight against unimaginable odds on an uneven pitch and for that I am proud of my leader & my party," Moitra said. She said the TMC will continue to stand and fight for a secular country where the constitution, and "not brute majoritarianism, is the last word".



Cabinet approves expansion of SC judges to 37 from 34



New Delhi, May 05: In a major push for judicial efficiency and rural growth, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved increasing the Supreme Court's strength from 33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India). This is the second such expansion under the current government, following the 2019 increase from 30 to 33, and aims to ensure speedier justice delivery. Agricultural and Infrastructure Reforms Alongside judicial changes, the Cabinet cleared a ₹5,659.22 crore "Mission for Cotton Productivity" (2026-31). This mission adopts the 5F vision—Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign—to enhance yields

through high-yielding, disease-resistant seeds.

For sugarcane farmers, the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) was hiked to ₹365 per quintal for the 2026-27 season. Notably, the government ensured no price deductions for farmers if sugar recovery falls below 9.5%, guaranteeing a minimum of ₹338.3 per quintal.

Railway Connectivity A massive ₹23,437 crore was sanctioned for three multi-tracking projects under PM Gati Shakti, adding 901 km of lines across six states (MP, Rajasthan, UP, Karnataka, AP, and Telangana). These projects will decongest key routes and improve access to major pilgrimage and tourist sites like Mahakaleshwar and Vrindavan.

Mann Seeks 'Recall' of Defected MPs in Meeting with Murmu

Mann: AAP MLAs United Against 'Opportunist' Rajya Sabha Defectors

Chandigarh, May 05: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, along with 90 Aam Aadmi Party MLAs, departed for Delhi on Tuesday morning to meet President Droupadi Murmu and demand a 'recall' of the party's seven Rajya Sabha MPs who recently defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party. The united front is seen as a step to counter rumours of internal rift. The cavalcade comprised of Z-plus security cover of Chief Minister Mann. The buses of the MLAs are part of the official cavalcade of the CM preserving both symbolism and security, said a party leader. The MLAs and ministers carried placards with slogans like 'Punjab's traitors' and 'Punjab Mann De Naal', as well as photographs of the seven MPs who defected. CM Mann met the President while the MLAs waited outside the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Later, they will

go to Kapurthala House, where the AAP leadership has planned a lunch for them. This gathering will be politically significant to underline unity as all the MLAs will be together and it will foster bonhomie, said sources. On April 24, the AAP suffered a jolt when seven of its 10 Rajya Sabha MPs -- Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Sahney and Swati Maliwal -- merged with the BJP, alleging that the party had strayed from its principles, values and core morals. Six of the seven MPs who left AAP were from Punjab.

Recently, Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan officially accepted the merger of the MPs with the BJP, reducing the strength of Arvind Kejriwal's party in the Upper House to three. Terming the seven Rajya Sabha MPs 'op-



portunist leaders' who change their parties for the sake of their vested interests, Mann claimed that all AAP MLAs stand united with the party. "Only I have been given time for the meeting. The President is the guardian of the Constitution. She is the constitutional head of the country," he said. "Let the BJP leaders say whatever they want. They are not confident but overconfident. I want to tell them that they cannot equate everyone. Our MLAs are standing like

a rock with us. I am meeting the President on their behalf. I will tell you the outcome of the meeting subsequently," he added. Punjab Food Supplies Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak said that the party MLAs would accompany Mann and informed that they would raise the demand to recall the defected MPs. It is learnt that four of the seven MPs who switched from AAP to BJP including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak Ashok Mittal are also sched-

uled to meet the President before CM Mann meets her.

Mann had earlier said that he would ensure the voice of Punjab is strongly represented during his meeting with the President, stating, "It is our duty to safeguard the mandate of the people of Punjab and uphold democratic values." This will be the third time since April 24 that the AAP in Punjab is trying to present a united face. The party had earlier called a meeting of MLAs and observers in Jalandhar and later summoned a special session where the confidence motion was tabled. The AAP has 94 MLAs in the 117-member Punjab Assembly. Taking a swipe at CM Mann, senior Congress leader and leader of opposition Partap Singh Bajwa wrote on X, "I had already cautioned that @BhagwantMann might quietly park MLAs in Delhi to serve BJP's

interests. Now with Raghav Chadha meeting the president barely 90 minutes before him on the same day, the sequence raises more questions that answers. At this pace, Arvind Kejriwal may find that the next 'surprise' comes little too soon—even for him. And let's not forget-Sunil Jakhar had dropped a hint yesterday that Aam Aadami Party and BJP are two sides of the same coin."

Punjab BJP Punjab president Sunil Jakhar also wrote on X, "As he walks into Rashtrapati Bhavan today, one hopes that CM Sh. Bhagwant Mann will respect the dignity of the Hon'ble President's office, even if he has failed to uphold that of his own office or the Punjab Vidhan Sabha." Meanwhile, Jakhar had yesterday said, "the CM should take care. The entire bus may not turn into the BJP headquarters in Delhi."

Meghalaya Names State Fish, Hikes Water Project Budget

Shillong, May 05: The Meghalaya Cabinet on Tuesday approved a series of significant decisions ranging from conservation measures to infrastructure development and administrative reforms. In a landmark move, the Cabinet declared the Chocolate Mahseer (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*), locally known as Khasaw in Khasi and Na-rang in Garo, as the official State Fish of Meghalaya. Officials said the decision was aimed at promoting conservation and protecting this indigenous species, which is native to the state.

The Cabinet also cleared the revised estimate for the New Shillong Water Supply Scheme (Phase I), raising the project cost from ₹553 crore to ₹770 crore. The revision was necessitated by the relocation of the dam site due to the development of a scientific landfill at Nonghali, along with provisions for electrical lines and land acquisition. Urban development received a boost with amendments to the Meghalaya Building Bye Laws, 2021, reducing the minimum plot size for special projects from 50,000 sq. ft. to 37,500 sq. ft. and the built-up area requirement from 20,000 sq. ft. to 15,000 sq. ft. Officials said the move will encourage multi-storey developments, attract investment, and

generate employment. To support future infrastructure projects, the Cabinet approved the creation of land banks in East and North Garo Hills. In East Garo Hills, 93.59 acres will be acquired at a cost of ₹7 crore, while 26 acres will be procured in North Garo Hills for ₹3.9 crore. Sports infrastructure also saw a major revision, with the cost of the



Indoor Stadium at Jongksha rising from ₹22.75 crore to ₹35.40 crore. The project's scope expanded due to relocation and preparations for the upcoming National Games, increasing the built-up area from 12,031 sq. m. to 15,417 sq. m.

Other approvals included the regularization of 98 ad hoc employees appointed

before December 31, 2007, amendments to excise rules increasing the import pass fee on Extra Neutral Alcohol from ₹25 to ₹30 per bulk litre, and changes to forest transit rules. The Cabinet also adopted service rules for officials of the Meghalaya Drugs Testing Laboratory.

Additionally, the government extended the service

tenures of senior officials, including Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, IAS (Retd), Executive Chairman of the Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Board; Shri Hector Marwein, IAS (Retd), Chairman of the Meghalaya Sustainable Development Council; and Shri Kynphambor Wahlang, Superintendent Engineer, Directorate of Urban Affairs.

Elderly Man Jailed for Raping Specially-Abled Woman

Kohima, May 05: The Principal District and Sessions Court in Kohima has sentenced a 64-year-old man, Kevi Meru, to ten years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with a 2019 rape case involving an intellectually impaired woman at Sechü Zubza. In its judgment delivered on Monday, the court found Meru guilty of multiple offences, including rape, trafficking and forcing the victim to view obscene materials. The court emphasized that the crimes were grave in nature and warranted stern and proportionate punishment.

Meru was awarded ten years of rigorous imprisonment and fined ₹10,000 for rape. He was further sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of ₹5,000 for trafficking and one year of simple imprisonment with a fine of ₹1,000 for related offences. The court ordered that all sentences will run concurrently.



Sarma to Resign Wednesday Ahead of Third Term



Guwahati, May 05: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is expected to meet Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Wednesday to submit his resignation, paving the way for the formation of a new government following the assembly elections. An official source confirmed that the state's chief electoral officer will hand over the final results to the governor in the forenoon, after which Sarma will formally step down. The National Democratic Alliance secured a decisive victory, winning a third consecutive term in the state with 102 seats in the 126-member assembly. The BJP emerged dominant with 82 seats, while its allies Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front claimed 10 constituencies each. Sarma, who was projected as the chief ministerial candidate of the ruling alliance, said the

resignation would clear the path for the next government.

He added that a meeting of newly elected BJP legislators would be convened under the guidance of party president J P Nadda and Nayab Singh Saini, appointed as central observer and co-observer respectively, to select the leader of the legislative party. "I will talk to Nadda ji and call the MLAs as per the date set by him. With it, the government formation process will start," Sarma stated.

The chief minister also noted that the new assembly may not have a leader of the opposition, as the Congress secured only 19 seats, falling short of the 22 required under constitutional norms. "Hence, according to constitutional norms, there will be no leader of the opposition. But all the parties will have their own legislative party leaders," he explained.

Tripura: Biplab Deb calls TMC 'Gone Case', reaffirms BJP strength



Agartala, May 05: Former Tripura Chief Minister and current Lok Sabha MP from West Tripura, Biplab Kumar Deb, on Tuesday said that the All India Trinamool Congress has no future, shortly after arriving in the state amid celebrations by Bharatiya Janata Party supporters over the party's performance in West Bengal. Deb, who served as election co-in-charge for West Bengal, received a grand welcome from party workers at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport in Agartala.

Speaking to reporters, he questioned the TMC's prospects in the northeastern region and asserted that the BJP continues to maintain a strong organisational base. Calling the

party's efforts to expand in Tripura ineffective, Deb remarked that the TMC is "a gone case." He further said that the BJP's performance in West Bengal has boosted the morale of party workers across different states and will strengthen the organisation. He added that the BJP will continue to expand its base in Tripura through grassroots outreach and development driven initiatives. Supporters gathered at the airport and various parts of the city, waving flags and raising slogans, while police personnel were deployed to manage the crowds and regulate traffic.

Although Deb did not outline specific organisational strategies, he maintained that the BJP remains firmly positioned in Tripura. He also pointed to past election results, stating that voters in the state have consistently supported the party. In recent years, the TMC has attempted to build its presence in Tripura by participating in civic elections and conducting outreach programmes, but it has yet to achieve notable electoral success. Later in the day, Deb visited the Tripura Sundari Temple in Udaipur to offer prayers. He was accompanied by state minister Sushanta Chowdhury.

Arunachal Pradesh: East Siang Police Arrest Drug Peddler In Pasighat

Itanagar, May 05: Under the ongoing Operation Dawn 2.0, East Siang Police successfully apprehended a drug peddler in Pasighat on Tuesday, recovering suspected heroin and ganja during a targeted operation. Digital News Platform Acting on credible intelligence received at around 9:05 a.m., a police team led by ADS IC Shri Ayup Boko, APPS, along with L/Insp Amum Panyang, SI K. Tangha, SI Kodak Dagium, and other personnel, placed a NAKA checkpoint and intercepted Maklung Tayeng, son of Bising Tayeng of Mebo, East Siang. The accused was traveling in a Nightsuper Bus when he was stopped in the presence of Executive Magistrate Sanjay Taram (SDO). A body search revealed suspected heroin weighing 1.49 grams (including packet) and ganja weighing 3.12 grams (including packet).

The seized contraband was weighed, packed, sealed, and documented in accordance with legal provisions, with the entire operation videographed to ensure transparency. The accused has been taken into custody, and the seized items have been handed over to Pasighat Police Station for further legal proceedings. A case has been registered under PSGT/PS/C/



No. 45/26, invoking Section 21(a)/20(b)(ii)(A) of the NDPS Act.

Superintendent of Police, East Siang, Pan-kaj Lamba, IPS, commended the efforts of the team and reiterated the district police's zero-tolerance stance against drug-related offences. He urged the public to remain vigilant and report illicit activities, emphasizing that community cooperation is vital to achieving a drug-free East Siang.

Editorial

A Mandate Beyond Numbers: Haflong's Verdict and Assam's Political Consolidation

The resounding victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 113-Haflong (ST) Assembly Constituency of Dima Hasao is not merely an electoral outcome—it is a defining political statement shaped by trust, continuity, and the rise of new-generation leadership. The emphatic mandate secured by Rupali Langthasa, with a record margin exceeding 50,000 votes, reflects a decisive shift in public confidence and underscores a deep-rooted connection between leadership and the people. Haflong, the hill headquarters of Dima Hasao, has historically grappled with issues of connectivity, infrastructure deficits, and economic isolation. In recent years, however, the region has witnessed a gradual yet visible transformation—improved road connectivity, enhanced welfare delivery, and greater administrative outreach. This electoral verdict suggests that development is no longer an abstract promise but a lived experience for many. The people have responded not just to policy, but to presence—leaders who are accessible, responsive, and grounded. A striking feature of this mandate is the emergence of new-generation leadership that resonates with the aspirations of a younger, more aware electorate. Rupali Langthasa's rise symbolizes a shift from traditional political hierarchies to a more

dynamic, people-centric approach. This new leadership model blends grassroots engagement with administrative efficiency, reflecting a generational change in both style and substance. It signals that voters are increasingly investing their trust in leaders who combine local identity with forward-looking vision. The scale of the victory also points to a consolidation of voter sentiment across communities, cutting through the usual patterns of fragmented mandates in multi-cornered contests. Development, stability, and credibility appear to have outweighed rhetoric, while the opposition struggled to present a cohesive alternative. Haflong's verdict thus becomes a clear endorsement of governance that delivers and leadership that connects. At the state level, this landslide mirrors a broader political consolidation, as the BJP secures a decisive and historic mandate across Assam. The party's ability to return to power with strength reflects not only organizational depth but also a governance model that has effectively addressed both developmental needs and regional aspirations. Under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam has seen a blend of infrastructure push, welfare expansion, and identity-sensitive governance—factors that have collectively strengthened public trust. Importantly, this victory also reflects

the BJP's success in nurturing a new cadre of leaders across regions—leaders who are locally rooted yet aligned with a broader developmental vision. The Haflong mandate is a microcosm of this larger transformation, where emerging leadership is not only complementing but also reinforcing the party's established political structure. Yet, such overwhelming mandates come with heightened expectations. For districts like Dima Hasao, the road ahead must translate political confidence into sustained development—economic opportunities for youth, improved connectivity, and preservation of indigenous identity. The new-generation leadership that has been endorsed so strongly must now deliver with accountability, innovation, and inclusivity. In essence, the Haflong verdict is more than a political triumph; it is a reflection of changing democratic preferences. It highlights a transition towards development-driven politics, strengthened by a new wave of leadership that understands both the pulse of the people and the demands of the future. As Assam moves forward with a renewed and consolidated mandate, the real measure of success will lie in sustaining this trust and ensuring that progress reaches every hill, valley, and community of the state.

Not just numbers: Why Assam poll results 2026 feel personal this time



There's something different about this year's Assam Assembly election results. It doesn't feel distant or routine anymore. It feels personal. I woke up today with a strange, familiar knot in my stomach. The same feeling I had on the day my Class 10 board results were announced. That mix of anxiety, curiosity, and quiet fear of the unknown. The funny part is, I didn't study for this; I didn't sit for any exam. And yet, the nervousness is real. It lingers. Maybe it's because this time, it's not just about numbers or seats. It's about what tomorrow might look like. Across homes, phones, and conversations, you can feel it, people are invested. Young people, especially, who are often dismissed as being "disinterested" or "detached," are anything but that right now. They're making reels about the results, some funny, some sarcastic, some deeply serious. They're refreshing news apps, checking the ECI website, switching between TV channels, just to catch the first glimpse of what's unfolding. It's almost endearing; this collective anticipation; this shared tension. For a long time, elections carried a kind of indifference among many — a quiet "who cares who comes to power." But this year feels different. The tone has shifted. Now it feels more like, "we need to make sure things don't get worse... maybe they can get better." And in that shift, something powerful has happened. This election has quietly brought people together. Differences of age, religion, caste, or gender seem

to blur, at least for a moment. There's a shared understanding, a common ground, the need for better governance, for accountability, for change. You can see it at home too. Grandparents, parents, siblings all sitting together, glued to the same screen. Breakfast conversations are no longer about daily routines or weekend plans. Instead, they revolve around counting updates, smooth conduct of the process, and what the results might mean. It's almost like the entire household is holding its breath together. The journey to this moment hasn't been small either. On April 9, 23, and 29, people stepped out in large numbers to vote. They stood in long lines, under the harsh sun, through unexpected rain, after travelling long distances. And they waited; patient, determined. The numbers reflect that spirit record turnouts across states. But beyond the percentages, there's a deeper story. There is a hope that their vote might matter. That their voice might count. And maybe that's what makes this moment feel so heavy and so emotional. Because it carries expectations; it carries belief. The results, when they come, will declare winners and losers. That's inevitable. But what shouldn't be lost in that outcome is this rare feeling of togetherness; this sense that people cared deeply. No matter what happens next, that deserves to be acknowledged and maybe even held onto. Assam election results 2026 Assam voters sentiment Youth engagement Assam counting day Assam political mood 2026

Musk's New School of Thought

When any mention is made of Elon Musk's name, many things come to mind. These range from his forays into the American political arena to his very impressive and high-end path breaking creations in the realm of technology. What most readers may not be aware of are his radical and productive ideas on education. Musk's concerns over the last several years have stemmed from his very true observation that education seems to be in a state of suspended animation. I have found his ideas for educational reform very much akin to the spirit that drove our seers of Upanishadic times. They too questioned the existing practices and beliefs of that age, many of which were directly related to education. Of course, lest I be misunderstood, I am not trying to liken him in other ways to the sages who engendered the Upanishads. As much as I can tell, Musk has challenged, interrogated, even dismantled, and then re-constructed the education platform. At the heart of his vision stands a simple, yet profound question: why must education remain the ghost of the industrial age, with its straitjacketed silos? What seems to result from his questions and challenges is the emphasis on the need for minds to be spurred by curiosity and to engage boldly with uncertainty. During my school going years, one of

the most enjoyable and truly engaging experiences that I recall centred around regularly exchanging comic books with my school principal. He even made time for me to discuss the contents of those comic books. My first exposure to interesting history and to many of the great creations of literature happened through those comic books. They most certainly whetted my curiosity about several things. I thus find Musk's metaphor of materialising education in a manner akin to playing video games as quite similar to my joy of learning through comic books. The school that was set up for Musk's own children and for some employees of SpaceX did away with the old drudgery of sitting in rows, harking to the bells, and wearily transitioning from mathematics to language and back. Instead, he invites us to see them as singularities, each with a unique path so that the nine-year-old devours calculus and the 12-year-old finds poetry in the algorithm. I cannot help but recall the episode from the Chandogya Upanishad where the great guru Gautam Haridrumat through his precept and example teaches Satyakama in a manner so creatively unique. Satyakama is not asked to memorise and recite the Vedas, instead, he is given a project in wealth management when he is asked to take a few hundred head of cattle into the for-

est and not return until they have multiplied three fold or so.

Ad Astra—that's the name of the small private school Musk set up on SpaceX's campus in Hawthorne, California. It was mainly for his own kids and a handful of SpaceX employees' children, super experimental with no grades or traditional classes. It ran from around 2014 to 2020. There's a newer online version called Astra Nova that's open to more children now. Astra Nova is thriving as an online non-profit school—it has about 315 middle school students from 45 countries, and it's launching its high school programme this coming school year, 2026-2027. Classes happen in English on a live Zoom platform. Class sizes vary from six to 16 students. It focuses on project-based learning, first principles, and real-world skills—no grades, no traditional tests, just meaningful challenges. Tuition is quite steep but any demonstrated financial need is met in full. The high school shall be launched this August for ages 14 to 18. One of the most remarkable features centres around the assessment processes. They don't use grades or standardised tests, so there's no traditional performance data like test scores. Instead, they measure success through curiosity, teamwork, and ethical decision-making.

Godrej unveils India's first facial recognition home locker, plans Rs 100 crore push for smart security solutions

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group has launched India's first facial recognition-enabled home locker and introduced a range of smart connected security solutions at the Smart Home Expo 2026 in Mumbai, strengthening its focus on technology-driven safety products for modern homes.

The company unveiled the NX Pro Ncrypt home locker, which combines facial recognition, biometric fingerprint access and digital PIN authentication in a single platform. Built with advanced AES encryption technology, the locker converts facial information into secure digital templates instead of storing images, enhancing privacy and data security. Users can choose between single-mode and dual-mode authentication for added protection.

Alongside the launch, the company announced an investment commitment of ₹100 crore over the next three years to expand digital and connected security solutions focused on personalisation, privacy and convenience.

The company also showcased its connected home ecosystem powered by Advan-



tis IoT9. The system allows homes to automatically adjust lighting and air-conditioning settings once a user unlocks the door through biometric access. In addition, the firm introduced a web-based access solution for hospitality locks aimed at enabling faster and contactless hotel check-ins.

According to Pushkar Gokhale, Business Head of Security Solutions Business at Godrej Enterprises Group, the company aims to create intuitive and future-ready security

systems tailored for evolving Indian households.

In Guwahati, the growing adoption of smart homes and digital lifestyles in Northeast India is expected to boost demand for connected security products. Industry observers believe rising urban housing projects and increasing consumer focus on home safety in Guwahati could create strong opportunities for advanced smart lockers and IoT-enabled security solutions in the region.

CDSL IPF launches investor awareness drive across 84 Northeast towns

Guwahati: ICICI Bank has introduced biometric authentication for UPI transactions on its mobile banking application, iMobile, allowing customers to approve payments of up to ₹5,000 using fingerprint or facial recognition instead of entering a UPI PIN.

The bank said the feature is aimed at improving both convenience and security for users by enabling faster transactions while reducing risks such as shoulder-surfing in public spaces. Customers can use biometric authentication for peer-to-peer fund transfers, QR code-based in-store payments, and online transactions conducted through the iMobile app. Transactions above ₹5,000 will continue to require the traditional UPI PIN for authorisation.

An ICICI Bank spokesperson said the move aligns with

regulatory guidelines and reflects the bank's focus on offering secure and seamless digital banking solutions. The spokesperson added that customers will continue to have the option to choose between PIN-based and biometric authentication based on their preference.

The feature is available on Android version 30 and iOS version 28.2 of the iMobile app. Android users can authenticate transactions through fingerprint verification, while iPhone users can use facial recognition.

In Guwahati, the move is expected to boost confidence in digital payments among retail consumers and small businesses, especially as UPI adoption continues to grow rapidly across Assam's urban markets and organised retail sectors.

MSDE unveils roadmap to boost MSME apprenticeships, strengthen India's skilled workforce



Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Wednesday launched a major push to expand apprenticeship adoption among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), aiming to build a future-ready workforce aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision.

At a high-level workshop on "Scaling Apprenticeship Uptake in MSMEs," policymakers, industry leaders and MSME stakeholders discussed ways to increase apprenticeship participation among smaller businesses. The deliberations focused on barriers such as low awareness, compliance complexities and limited industry engagement despite strong growth under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). Officials noted that 94 per cent of MSME apprentices are currently hosted by private sector establishments.

Debashree Mukherjee said apprenticeships can bridge the gap between education and employment while helping MSMEs access skilled manpower. The workshop examined scalable models including Group Training Organizations (GTOs), Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) and Work-Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP).

The consultation also proposed pilot projects, policy reforms, targeted incentives and social security measures to improve apprenticeship accessibility, especially for women, PwDs, SC/ST/OBC groups and youth from remote areas.

In Guwahati, the initiative is expected to support Assam's expanding MSME ecosystem, particularly in sectors such as handloom, food processing, retail and small-scale manufacturing. Industry stakeholders in Guwahati believe simplified apprenticeship models and work-integrated training could help local businesses address skilled workforce gaps while generating employment opportunities for youth across the Northeast.

Renault bets on premium affordable mobility with launch of upgraded Triber 2026



Guwahati: Renault has launched the upgraded Renault Triber 2026 in India, aiming to strengthen its position in the affordable family vehicle segment with a range of premium and segment-first features. Priced between ₹5.80 lakh and ₹8 lakh (ex-showroom), the multi-purpose vehicle is available in four variants — Authentic, Evolution, Techno and Emotion.

The company said the upgraded Triber introduces segment-first features such as automatic climate control and second-row one-touch fold-and-tumble seats. Renault has also enhanced the vehicle's practicality with fully foldable second-row seats that expand boot space to 1,065 litres, claimed to be best-in-segment. The cabin now features a modern dual-tone dashboard with a floating 20.32 cm touchscreen supporting wireless Android

Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Francisco Hidalgo Marques, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Renault India, said the upgrades reinforce the company's focus on delivering value-driven premium mobility solutions for Indian families. The Triber 2026 also comes with 21 standard safety features, including six airbags, ABS with EBD, electronic stability control and tyre pressure monitoring systems.

In Guwahati, automobile dealers expect the upgraded Triber to witness strong demand due to rising preference for spacious yet affordable family vehicles in Assam and the Northeast. Industry players believe the vehicle's modular seating, premium features and competitive pricing could attract middle-class buyers and boost Renault's presence in the regional passenger vehicle market.

Vi posts second consecutive subscriber gain as 5G push boosts rural and circle-level growth

Guwahati: Vodafone Idea reported net subscriber additions for the second consecutive month, signalling improving stability in its customer base amid ongoing network investments and expansion of its 5G services. According to the latest telecom subscription data released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for March 2026, Vi added 1,02,899 subscribers, following net additions of 21,927 subscribers in February 2026. The company also recorded the addition of 1,92,211 rural subscribers during March, indicating stronger traction in rural markets.

The telecom operator registered subscriber gains across 15 circles, including Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Kolkata, Maharashtra, Mumbai, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and UP-East. Gujarat and Karnataka emerged as major growth drivers with additions of 1,01,748 and 1,00,701 subscribers respectively, while Bihar added 57,452 users and UP-East recorded 47,869 additions.

Industry observers said the gains reflect Vi's renewed focus on customer retention and network improvement. The company's consumer offerings such as "Nonstop Hero" with unlimited 4G data and "Super Hero" with half-day unlimited 4G access, along with its ongoing 5G rollout, are helping attract users. Vi recently announced the expansion of its 5G services to 90 more cities, taking its total 5G footprint to 133 cities by May 2026.



Oriflame expands fragrance portfolio with launch of 'Love Potion Cherry on Top' range in India

Guwahati: Direct selling beauty brand Oriflame has introduced its new "Love Potion Cherry on Top" fragrance range in India, expanding its premium personal care portfolio with a cherry-and-chocolate-inspired scent collection aimed at fragrance enthusiasts.

The newly launched range includes the "Love Potion Cherry on Top Eau de Parfum" priced at ₹4,899 and the "Love Potion Cherry On Top Hand Cream" priced at ₹469. The Eau de Parfum features an ambery fruity composition that blends mandarin, juicy cherry and lipstick accord in the opening notes, followed by black cherry, rose and Peru balsam at the heart. The fragrance settles into a warm base of chocolate truffle accord, cedar-



wood and roasted tonka bean, designed for long-lasting wear from daytime to evening occasions.

Meanwhile, the hand cream is enriched

with almond oil and formulated to moisturise dry hands while leaving behind subtle gourmand notes of cherry and chocolate truffle. The company said the product is designed for daily use and can be layered with the perfume for a longer-lasting fragrance experience.

In Guwahati, rising demand for premium fragrances and personal grooming products among young consumers and working professionals is creating opportunities for lifestyle and beauty brands in the city. Retailers and beauty consultants in Guwahati say consumers are increasingly showing interest in long-lasting gourmand fragrances and compact skincare products suited for travel and daily use.

CDSL IPF launches investor awareness drive across 84 Northeast towns

Guwahati: Central Depository Services (India) Limited Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust has launched a large-scale investor awareness campaign across 84 towns in Northeast India to improve financial literacy and increase participation in the securities market across the region.

The campaign, launched from Guwahati on April 28, will cover Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. The initiative aims to educate people on safe investing practices, investor rights and the use of demat accounts through simplified and locally relevant communication methods.

As part of the outreach, mobile awareness vans fitted with LED screens and multilingual audio-visual content will travel across the region. The campaign will also feature interactive sessions, street plays and mobile theatre programmes to engage local communities and youth audiences.

Speaking on the initiative, Smt. Nayana Ovalekar and Shri. Sudhish Pillai of CDSL IPF said the Northeast remains a priority region where stronger investor awareness is needed to support informed and safe participation in market-linked investments.

According to the SEBI Kantar Report, household participation in the securities market remains below the national average of 9.5% in several northeastern states, with Nagaland at 3.4% and Meghalaya at 4.2%.

In Guwahati, the campaign could help strengthen investor confidence in the region's growing financial market ecosystem. Financial awareness initiatives are expected to encourage more retail investors from the Guwahati market to explore regulated investment opportunities and participate more actively in India's capital markets.

ICICI Bank expands Arunachal footprint with first branch in Tirap district

Tirap: ICICI Bank has strengthened its presence in Arunachal Pradesh by opening its first branch in Khonsa, the headquarters of Tirap district. The move marks the bank's entry into the southeastern district and is aimed at expanding access to formal banking and financial services in the region.

The branch was inaugurated by Wanglin Lowangdong, MLA of Borduria Bogapani constituency, along with Tirap Deputy Commissioner Techu Aran. Equipped with a Cash Recycling Machine (CRM), the branch offers savings and current accounts, fixed and recurring deposits, and a range of retail and business-focused loan products including home loans, education loans, auto loans, business loans, Kisan Credit Card and farm equipment loans.

The facility will also provide Tab Banking services that enable customers to access nearly 100 banking services at their doorstep through tablet-based banking support.

The expansion is expected to create fresh momentum in the Tirap market, where banking penetration and access to organised financial services have remained limited. Traders, small business owners and entrepreneurs in Khonsa and nearby areas are expected to benefit from improved access to credit facilities, digital banking and deposit services, which could support local commerce and encourage economic activity in the district. With the new addition, ICICI Bank now operates 21 branches and 22 ATMs and CRMs across Arunachal Pradesh.

Gokula education foundation unveils RISM, partners with UAlbany to launch future-focused STEM and management university



Bengaluru: The Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) on Tuesday announced the launch of the Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), a new deemed-to-be university focused on artificial intelligence, aerospace engineering and industry-driven management education in collaboration with the University at Albany. The university, set to begin its first academic session in August 2026, aims to deliver globally benchmarked and industry-aligned education through

undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes across engineering, business and science disciplines. Initial academic offerings will include B.Tech programmes in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Aerospace Engineering and Electrical Sciences, along with BBA and MBA courses. The institution said its academic structure has been designed jointly with industry and academic partners to combine interdisciplinary learning with internships, live projects, translational research and industry-sponsored Centres of Excellence.

Executive Director and Chief Strategy Officer of Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), Gurucharan Gollerkeri, said the initiative seeks to prepare students for rapidly evolving global industries by integrating technology, business and applied learning models.

University at Albany President Havidán Rodríguez said the partnership would strengthen collaboration in education and research across fields including engineering, computer science, business and nanotechnology.

Medanta doctors warn of rising pediatric liver disease cases in Northeast

Guwahati: Doctors at Medanta – The Medicity have raised concerns over a growing number of pediatric liver disease cases in the Northeast, particularly in Guwahati, linking the trend to unhealthy lifestyles, junk food consumption, and lack of physical activity among children.

Dr. Neelam Mohan, Senior Director of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Medanta Gurugram and National President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), said cases of metabolic associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), commonly known as fatty liver disease, have increased sharply over the past decade. She said obesity among children has become a major risk factor, adding that 35-45 percent of obese children are at risk of developing MASLD.

According to Dr. Mohan, pediatric liver conditions such as fatty liver, biliary atresia, and pancreatitis are often misdiagnosed as common digestive problems, delaying treatment. She warned that many of these diseases progress silently and may eventually lead to cirrhosis or end-stage liver disease if not detected early. Highlighting prevention, Dr. Mohan said parents play a crucial role in shaping children's habits. Comparing children's health to a WiFi device depending on a router for connectivity, she stressed the importance of healthy home environments, balanced diets, reduced sugar intake, regular sleep, and at least 45-60 minutes of daily physical activity.

In Guwahati, rising urbanisation and changing food habits in the city have led to increased dependence on processed and fast foods among children. Growing awareness around lifestyle diseases is also driving demand for preventive healthcare consultations, pediatric screenings, and nutrition-focused services in Guwahati's healthcare sector.

Godrej Tooling business eyes 15% growth, showcases advanced capabilities at TAGMA 2026

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group's Tooling business is showcasing its advanced engineering capabilities at TAGMA 2026 while targeting a 10-15% year-on-year growth over the next two to three years, driven by strong demand from automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sectors.

The company reported steady progress over the past three years, with orders rising nearly 25% in the current year. EV-related projects now contribute close to 20% of the total order book, reflecting increasing demand for high-precision tooling solutions to support new-age vehicle platforms and lightweight materials. At the event, the company is displaying its capabilities at Hall 2, H02, including IoT-enabled tools for real-time monitoring, additive manufacturing solutions such as 3D printing, and connected systems enabling remote diagnostics and operational efficiency. "India's manufacturing landscape is undergoing a transformation driven by localisation and the rapid shift to electric mobility," said Pankaj Abhyankar, highlighting the company's focus on precision engineering and digital manufacturing.

With over 10,000 tools manufactured and continued investments in technology and MSME collaborations, the business aims to strengthen India's position as a globally competitive manufacturing hub.



NPCI advises consumers to stay alert as digital payment usage rises across India

Kohima: With digital payments becoming a routine part of daily life for millions of Indians, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has urged consumers to follow safe payment practices to avoid online fraud and financial scams. In a fresh consumer advisory, NPCI shared five important tips to help users make secure digital transactions. The organisation advised customers to always verify the recipient's name before making payments to avoid sending money to the wrong account. It also recommended using only trusted and official payment apps or websites and

warned against downloading unknown applications or clicking suspicious links. NPCI stressed that users should never share sensitive information such as UPI PINs, OTPs, or bank details with anyone, including people claiming to represent banks, police, or government agencies. Consumers were also advised not to rush into making payments under pressure and to carefully review payment requests before proceeding. To improve security awareness, NPCI encouraged users to keep SMS and app notifications active and regularly monitor transaction alerts

for suspicious activity. Victims of suspected fraud have been advised to report incidents through the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or the Department of Telecommunications portal while preserving screenshots and messages for investigation purposes. In Kohima, retailers and small businesses are seeing increased use of UPI and mobile-based payments among customers. Traders say stronger consumer awareness about digital payment safety is becoming essential as cashless transactions continue to grow across Nagaland's retail sector.

HPCL ramps up LPG supply network amid surge in demand across India

Mumbai: State-run Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has intensified its nationwide LPG distribution operations to manage a sharp rise in demand, delivering 349 lakh LPG cylinders between April 1 and April 28, 2026. The company said it supplied 13.8 lakh cylinders on April 28 alone, highlighting its expanded operational capacity during the peak demand period.

To maintain uninterrupted supply, HPCL deployed 2,06,985 LPG tankers during the month to replenish bottling plants and distributor points across the country. The company said dispatch operations are being adjusted daily based on consumption trends to avoid regional supply shortages.

HPCL also tightened operational cycles across bottling plants through faster turnaround times, route optimization, and extended working hours. Its digital booking platform played

a major role in handling the surge, with 99.3 per cent of LPG bookings processed online, allowing quicker coordination between bookings and backend logistics systems.

The company further stepped up enforcement measures to prevent irregularities in LPG distribution. Between March 14 and April 28, HPCL conducted 6,150 inspections and initiated action against 170 distributors, including 34 suspensions. It also carried out 664 raids leading to 44 FIRs and the seizure of 4,155 cylinders. In Guwahati, LPG distributors reported stable supplies despite rising household demand during the ongoing pre-monsoon season. Industry observers said HPCL's strengthened logistics and digital booking systems helped ensure timely deliveries across Assam and other Northeast markets, where consistent fuel supply remains critical for both urban and semi-urban consumers.

Aviva India launches 'Secure Nest' annuity plan for lifelong retirement income

Guwahati: Aviva India has launched the "Aviva Secure Nest Annuity Plan," a retirement-focused insurance solution aimed at providing customers with a guaranteed lifelong income through a one-time premium payment. Announcing the launch on Monday, the company said the plan is designed to cater to a wide range of retirement needs and allows entry for individuals up to 80 years of age.

The plan offers multiple annuity options, including single life and joint life coverage, flexible payout frequencies, and a return of purchase price feature that enables nominees to receive the invested amount. The company said the product is aligned with Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulations, making it suitable for National Pension System (NPS) subscribers seeking long-term financial security after retirement.

Speaking on the launch, Asit Rath said retirement should be marked by "security and dignity" and added that the plan aims to ensure a steady stream of income while protecting the financial well-being of families. Ajai Kumar Tripathi said the product has been structured to balance guaranteed returns with flexibility and family protection features.

In Guwahati, demand for retirement and pension-linked products is steadily rising in the city as more salaried professionals and self-employed individuals seek stable post-retirement income options amid growing awareness about long-term financial planning.

EY-HICA pushes for GST cut on household insecticides to boost access and preventive healthcare

Guwahati: EY India and the Home Insect Control Association (HICA) have jointly urged the government to reduce GST on household insecticide products from 18% to 5%, saying the move would improve affordability, strengthen preventive healthcare and curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases across India.

The recommendation was made in a report titled "GST Rationalization for Household Insecticides: A Public

Health Imperative", which noted that products such as liquid vapourisers, coils and aerosols are a key line of defence against diseases like malaria, dengue and chikungunya. The report highlighted that while urban penetration of household insecticides stands at 92-99%, rural adoption remains between 64-73% due to affordability constraints. Jayant Deshpande, Secretary and Director of HICA, said the high GST burden makes essential

insecticide products costly for consumers while allowing illegal and unregulated players to thrive through tax evasion and misclassification. The report also warned that unsafe, substandard alternatives in the market create consumer safety risks and revenue leakage. Bipin Sapra, Tax Partner at EY India, said lowering GST to 5% could improve access to safe and regulated products, especially in rural and high-risk regions, and

support India's broader preventive healthcare goals.

In Guwahati, demand for mosquito repellents and household insecticides rises sharply during the monsoon season across Assam and the Northeast. Retailers believe a GST reduction would make branded products more affordable for households and help organised companies compete better against low-cost unregulated products commonly sold in local markets.

HPCL strengthens vigilance network as LPG distribution crosses 362 lakh cylinders

Guwahati: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has intensified its vigilance and enforcement measures across its LPG distribution network as the state-run energy major scaled up nationwide supply operations amid rising consumer demand.

The company said it delivered 362 lakh LPG cylinders across the country between April 1 and April 29,

2026, including 12.7 lakh cylinders on April 29 alone. To maintain uninterrupted supply, HPCL dispatched 2,16,507 tankers during the period, including 9,522 tankers in a single day, reflecting the scale of its logistics operations.

Alongside LPG distribution, HPCL recorded sales of 12,02,694 KL of Motor Spirit and 20,78,756 KL of High-Speed Diesel during the same

period, underlining stable demand across fuel segments.

As part of its vigilance drive, the company conducted 6,217 inspections between March 14 and April 29 to monitor compliance with operational and safety norms. HPCL initiated 173 actions against distributors, including 34 suspensions, while 664 raids led to 44 FIRs and the seizure of 4,155 LPG cylinders linked to

alleged diversion and unauthorized sales.

The company said 99.3 per cent of LPG bookings are now processed online, improving transparency and supply-chain tracking. HPCL also expanded access to affordable energy by selling 7,68,892 units of 5 kg cylinders and 26,916 units of 2 kg cylinders targeted at migrant workers and low-income households.

Xiaomi expands budget portfolio with REDMI A7 series launch, targets value segment growth

Guwahati: Xiaomi India on Tuesday launched the REDMI A7 Series, introducing the REDMI A7 and REDMI A7 Pro with a focus on affordability, performance, and long battery life, as the company strengthens its foothold in the entry-level smartphone segment.

The REDMI A7 features a 6.88-inch display, while the A7 Pro offers a larger 6.9-inch HD+ display with up to 120Hz refresh rate for smoother visuals. Both devices come with TÜV Rheinland-certified eye protection and wet touch technology. They

support 15W charging with an in-box charger and 7.5W wired reverse charging for added convenience.

The series is equipped with 64GB storage, LPDDR4X RAM, and virtual RAM expansion to enhance multitasking. Camera features include a 13MP rear and 8MP front lens. Additional highlights include a side-mounted fingerprint sensor, IP52 durability, 3.5mm headphone jack, dual nano SIM support, and expandable storage up to 2TB. The A7 Pro also integrates Google Gemini and Circle to Search for smarter user

interaction.

In Guwahati, retailers anticipate steady demand driven by price-sensitive consumers seeking reliable smartphones with larger displays and battery efficiency. Traders note that aggressive pricing—₹10,499 for REDMI A7 and ₹11,499 for REDMI A7 Pro—positions the devices competitively against rivals in the budget segment.

The REDMI A7 Series will be available from April 24 via Mi.com, Amazon India, Flipkart, and Xiaomi retail outlets.



The Significance of Posture and Spinal Health in Contemporary Living

The spine serves as the main support framework of the human body. It consists of a series of vertebrae, nerves, and muscles that enable us to carry out fundamental bodily activities like standing straight, bending, and twisting. Additionally, it safeguards the spinal cord, which plays a crucial role in relaying signals between the brain and the remainder of the body. Dr. Ilavarasan S, M.B.B.S, D.ORTH, Dip.N.B (Ortho), Apollo Spectra Hospital, Chennai, shares all you need to know: Life, in general, has become increasingly stagnant for everyone. Technological advancements have made tasks easier, leading to a noticeable decline in physical activity. Food and grocery delivery apps, convenient commute options, and online shopping have all contributed to a sedentary way of living. What once required a 100–200 meter walk to the grocery



store has now been replaced by a 10-minute delivery, no effort, no movement. Good posture and spinal health go hand in hand. Maintaining proper posture reduces strain on the spine, muscles, and ligaments. Neck sprain, back pain, and structural changes in the spine are common problems caused by poor posture.

Simple habits such as keeping your shoulders aligned while walking and avoiding high heels for long durations can help maintain good posture. Our dietary choices also have a direct impact on spinal health. Consuming foods high in sugar and unhealthy fats promotes weight gain, which places additional pressure

on the spine. This can lead to back pain and other spinal issues at any age. To prevent such problems, it is important to follow a balanced diet rich in vitamins and nutrients that enhance bone health and strengthen muscles. Posture and spinal wellness should never be taken for granted. A healthy spine ensures proper coordination between the spinal cord and the brain, supporting vital functions such as movement, sensation, breathing, and digestion. However, prolonged inactivity can exert pressure on the spine, increasing inflammation and leading to chronic pain and a sedentary lifestyle. Adapting to a modern lifestyle is not inherently harmful, but it is essential to make conscious efforts to stay active. Incorporating movement into daily routines and maintaining proper posture are key to keeping the spine healthy and ensuring overall well-being.

How To Endure The Smog And Winter Allergies

As the holiday lights diminish and winter approaches, a recognizable haze reappears in the atmosphere – laden with pollutants, allergens, and respiratory irritants. Following Diwali, Delhi and numerous northern cities are experiencing a significant decline in air quality, prompting doctors to caution about a seasonal increase in allergies, asthma, and respiratory problems. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions are particularly at risk as the Air Quality Index (AQI) deteriorates in various areas. Reasons Winter Induces Allergies and Respiratory Problems Dr. Hinal Shah, a Consultant Biochemist at Agilus Diagnostics, states that the very nature of winter plays a role in respiratory distress.

“With the increase in air density during the colder months, pollutant particles tend to become stagnant and move at a slower pace. This can irritate the respiratory tract, particularly in individuals who are susceptible to allergic rhinitis, asthma, or eczema,” she elaborates. Common symptoms include sneezing, coughing,

congestion, and wheezing. Dr. Shah recommends minimising exposure by staying indoors during peak pollution hours – usually early mornings and late evenings – and using N95 masks and air purifiers with HEPA filters when stepping outside. “Regularly cleaning AC vents and keeping windows closed on high AQI days can



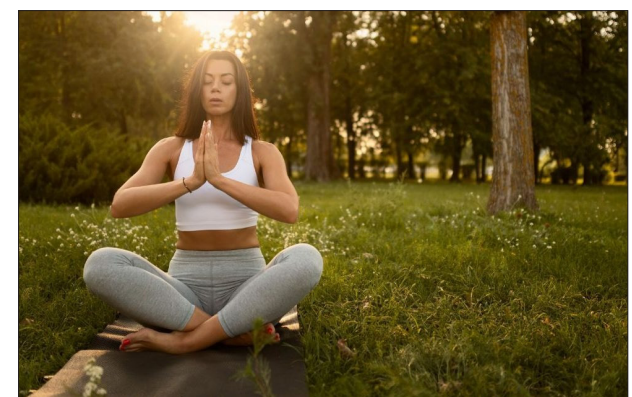
reduce irritation and hyperstimulation,” she adds. How To Keep Indoor Air Safe Dr. Ravi Shekhar Jha, Director & HOD – Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine, Fortis Escorts Faridabad, emphasises the importance of managing indoor environments. “Since people spend most of their time indoors, indoor air quality mat-

ters a lot. Using HEPA air purifiers and keeping humidity around 30–50% can significantly reduce allergens,” he says. He also recommends keeping windows shut when AQI levels spike and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity near traffic zones. “When pollution is high, it’s better to exercise indoors, stay hydrated, and use nasal saline rinses to flush out particles,” he advises. Maintaining cleanliness can also make a big difference. Regular vacuuming with HEPA filters, mopping floors, and dusting surfaces helps minimise allergens like pet dander and mould. For those with chronic allergies or asthma, Dr. Jha suggests working with a doctor to establish a preventive medication plan and to always keep inhalers handy. Children Are Especially At Risk

The youngest lungs suffer the most. Dr. Medha, paediatrician at Madhukar Rainbow Children’s Hospital, warns, “The current air pollution levels in Delhi have become a serious health risk for children. Their immune systems make them more vulnerable to the harmful effects of polluted air.”

Tips To Curb Impulsivity And Stress

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is frequently linked to hyperactivity, impulsivity, and challenges with concentration; however, there exists an emotional aspect that is equally important. Emotional dysregulation, increased stress responses, and impulsive behaviors can significantly influence the functioning of individuals with ADHD in educational, professional, and domestic settings. Developing emotional intelligence (EI) – the ability to recognise, understand, and manage emotions – can help bridge this gap, bringing greater calm, control, and confidence to everyday life. Understanding ADHD Beyond Attention According to Dr. Zankhana M Buch, Chief Medical Officer, Apollo AyurVAID, “ADHD affects both children and adults, though the manifestations and triggers differ across age groups. In children, the condition is often intrinsic – arising from higher energy levels compounded by inappropriate diet and lifestyle choices.” She explains that excessive sensory stimulation can intensify hyperactivity, while in adults, ADHD often stems from “work-life imbalance, chronic multitasking, ineffective stress management, and insufficient emotional vents,” all of which lead to emotional dysregulation and executive dysfunction. Ayurveda, she adds, associates ADHD with a Rajasic personality – driven by constant desire and stimulation. “Management focuses on harmonizing Ahara (diet), Achara (lifestyle), and Vichara (thoughts),” she says. A balanced, light, and Sattvic diet, regular routines, gentle evening practices, and adequate sleep help stabilise Vata energy and ease the mind. Building Emotional Awareness And Mindful Habits Children with ADHD often struggle to pause before reacting, says Dr. Sonam Kothari, Paediatric Neurologist and CEO & Co-founder of Butterfly Learnings. “When children cultivate emotional awareness, they gain the capacity to pause before reacting impulsively and respond to situations more thoughtfully,” she notes. Simple interventions like mindfulness exercises, art-based expression, and structured routines can help children identify triggers and channel their emotions constructively. Dr. Kothari emphasises the importance of empathy and modelling emotional intelligence. “When caregivers, teachers, and peers provide consistent support, children learn to manage stress and build stronger relationships.” These small but consistent efforts lay the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being. Practical Techniques For Everyday Calm For older children and adults, emotional regulation often requires structured tools. Dr. Ajit Singh Baghela, Consultant, Paediatric Neurology, Artemis Hospitals, recommends mindfulness techniques like deep breathing, meditation, or reflective pauses before responding. “The STOP method – Stop, Take a breath, Observe your feelings, and Proceed thoughtfully – creates a small but powerful space between impulse and action,” he explains. Dr. Baghela also suggests combining mental and physical strategies: stretching, walking, or any body-based activity that helps release excess energy and lower stress. “Structured routines help you know what to expect, which reduces overwhelm,” he adds. Evidence-based therapies like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) can further improve emotional control and interpersonal skills. While ADHD may manifest differently across individuals, emotional intelligence remains a universal tool for balance. Whether through mindful breathing, Ayurvedic routines, or guided self-reflection, these expert-backed strategies highlight one truth: managing ADHD isn’t about suppressing energy, it’s about directing it mindfully.



Sangma Unveils Major Welfare Schemes For Construction Workers

Guwahati, May 01: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma announced a series of welfare initiatives on International Workers' Day, Friday, May 1, aimed at improving the lives of construction workers and recognising their contribution to the state's development.

The initiatives were launched to mark the occasion and focus on social security, skill development, education, and digital access for workers and their families. Under the CM LIGHT scheme, eligible workers will receive Rs 5,000 as direct financial assistance. The government also introduced the Startup Toolkit Support Scheme to help skilled workers become self-employed by providing necessary tools. To improve educational opportunities, the



ENABLE initiative will offer reserved seats and full fee waivers for workers' children in educational institutions. The BUILD programme will focus on strengthening community infrastructure in areas with high worker populations. The government also launched a Digital Labour Chowk App, which will serve as a single platform for accessing welfare schemes and

job opportunities.

In addition, the state announced the extension of central social security schemes, including PM-SYM, PMJJBY, and PMSBY, with insurance premiums to be borne by the Board. Officials said these measures are aimed at ensuring dignity of labour, stronger social security, and inclusive growth for construction workers and their families.

Bail Denied To Zubeen Death Accused



Guwahati, May 01: A special fast-track court on Thursday denied bail to Shyamkanu Mahanta, the prime accused in the death of legendary music icon Zubeen Garg. Judge Sharmila Bhuyan cited Mahanta's "poor conduct" and the high risk of him absconding as primary reasons for the rejection.

Mahanta, the chief organizer of the festival Garg attended in Singapore, allegedly fled to Malaysia following the singer's drowning on September 19, 2025. He was only apprehended after a look-out notice was issued. While Singapore authorities ruled the death an "accidental drowning," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has maintained it was "plain and simple murder."

Probed Tripura IFS Officer Vanishes; Manhunt Launched

Agartala, May 01: An Indian Forest Service officer facing investigation in connection with a high-profile cash seizure case has gone missing from a forest guest house in Agartala, prompting Tripura Police to launch a search operation. The officer, Gaurav Ravindra Wagh, was under the scanner of the Crime Branch following the recovery of a substantial amount of cash from a vehicle reportedly linked to him near Agartala Railway Station earlier this month.

The seizure triggered a formal inquiry into possible financial irregularities and misuse of his official position. Although he had not been formally arrested, Wagh was placed under close surveillance as part of the ongoing investigation. Subsequently, he was relieved of his post as Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of South Tripura and attached to the Forest Department headquarters in Agartala pending further proceedings.

According to sources, he had been instructed to stay at a designated forest guest house while cooperating with investigators. However, on Wednesday morning, officials

discovered that he was no longer present at the facility. Notably, his mobile phone was found abandoned in the room, raising suspicions of a deliberate attempt to evade tracking. Police officials confirmed that a manhunt has been launched to trace the officer, with multiple teams engaged in tracking his movements. Surveillance inputs and local intelligence are being utilised to locate him.

The case came to light after police detained Rajendra Chintaman Kaklij, a Mumbai-based relative of the IFS officer, at Agartala Railway Station with Rs 59.94 lakh in cash. Following his detention, Kaklij was produced before a court, and police have sought his custodial remand to investigate the source and intended use of the seized money.

According to sources, the large sum of cash was allegedly packed under suspicious circumstances at the DFO's official residence in South Tripura. After the seizure, the case was handed over to the Crime Branch unit of Tripura Police. The seizure was carried out by the Government Railway Police unit posted at Agartala Railway Station.

Manipur: Shutdown in Tengenoupal over arrest of Kuki-Zo leader

Guwahati, May 01: Normal life was paralyzed in Manipur's Tengenoupal district on Friday as Kuki-Zo civil society organizations enforced a 12-hour dawn-to-dusk shutdown. The protest followed the "arbitrary arrest" of social leader Otkhothang Baite on April 30. A coalition of groups, including the Kuki Students' Organisation and Hill Tribal Council, alleged that Baite—a former chairman of Canan Veng—was detained based on "questionable inputs." Protesters characterized the move as "selective targeting" of Kuki-Zo leaders and warned that such actions risk destabilizing the region's fragile peace.

The shutdown disrupted all commercial activities and transport. Demanding Baite's immediate release, the organizations appealed to the Central government for unbiased intervention, asserting that authorities are failing to pursue others involved in regional violence with equal vigor.

Manipur Police and Assam Rifles arrest man with illegal firearm in Senapati



Imphal, May 01: A joint team of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles apprehended a 33-year-old man and seized an illegal firearm along with a magazine loaded with live bullets in Senapati district near the Nagaland border on Thursday. Acting on reliable intelligence regarding the possession of narcotic substances, a joint team of the 16 Assam Rifles, led by Major Saransh Roy, and Senapati District Police, under the overall supervision of the SP, Senapati, initiated an operation against S. Chakho (33), son of Sani from Makhnan Centre Village.

Following a search conducted at his residence in Broadway, Senapati, in accordance with the law, no contraband was found. However, a foreign-made pistol was recovered from inside the house. Upon interrogation, the accused failed to produce a valid license for the firearm, prompting charges under the Arms Act, 1959. Furthermore, examination of the accused's mobile phone and analysis of WhatsApp chats and call records revealed his alleged involvement in aiding and abetting a criminal conspiracy related to the illegal drug trade.

The digital evidence indicated communication with multiple individuals regarding the purchase and sale of narcotics. The accused also admitted to peddling drugs to local addicts, attracting provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. He was formally arrested at 3:30 PM after completing all mandatory legal formalities. Seized items included one 7.65 mm pistol marked "Made in Japan" along with one magazine, and two 7.65 mm live rounds.

The security forces also recovered one Redmi Note 14 5G mobile phone with SIM cards bearing the numbers 6009253135 and 8730003879, along with the Aadhaar card of the accused. A case has been registered at Senapati Police Station, and an investigation is currently underway.

Sikkim becomes India's first fully paperless judiciary

Guwahati, May 01: Sikkim has achieved a major breakthrough in judicial reforms by becoming the first state in India to operate a completely paperless judiciary, marking an important step towards digital courts in the country. The announcement was made by Chief Justice Justice Surya Kant during the inauguration of the Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education held in Gangtok on Friday.

The two-day event, organised at Chintan Bhawan and Samman Bhawan, is being hosted by the High Court of Sikkim in collaboration with the Supreme Court e-Committee. It has brought together judges, legal professionals, and international participants to discuss how technology is shaping courts and legal education. Calling the development a major transformation, Justice Surya Kant said digital systems are helping remove long-standing challenges such as distance and accessibility, especially in hilly regions like Sikkim. He added that virtual platforms are making it easier for people to seek justice without needing to travel. He also pointed out that India's judicial system is gradually shifting from traditional paper-based processes to digital systems through initiatives like the e-Courts project, real-time data tools, and AI-based platforms such as SUPACE and SUVAS. These are improving efficiency, transparency, and case handling.

However, he stressed that digital progress must be inclusive. Expanding e-Seva Kendras



and ensuring access for people with limited digital knowledge will be important. He also highlighted the need to protect judicial independence and maintain ethical standards while using AI. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, who attended as the chief guest, described the achievement as a historic moment and reaffirmed the state's focus on digital governance and legal reforms. Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim, A. Muhamed Mustaque, said the shift represents not just digitisation but a deeper transformation aimed at improving access to justice at the grassroots level. The conclave which is held during Sikkim's golden jubilee year of statehood, is expected to play a key role in shaping a more transparent, efficient, and people-focused judicial system.



ISL: Jamshedpur beat Goa to go top of table



Chennai, May 02: Late goals from Rei Tachikawa (83') and Madih Talal (90'+6) gave Jamshedpur a big 2-0 win against FC Goa in the Indian Super League on Friday. This put Jamshedpur on top of the table at 21 points, after eleven games played. However, their lead is only by a point and defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant have two games in hand.

After a cagey first half, the game came to life in the last ten minutes of the match. Tachikawa fed on a pass from Talal to break the deadlock in the 83rd minute. Then, as the visitors tried to find an equaliser, the hosts saw another chance to double the lead and put the game out of sight. Talal did just that for Jamshedpur in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

Gukesh Preps for Sindarov Match

Gukesh Assembles New Team for Critical Sindarov Clash

Chennai, May 04: World champion D Gukesh has started his specific training prep for the upcoming title clash against Javokhir Sindarov. While his principal coach, Grzegorz Gajewski, didn't reveal much about the training schedule, the Pole confirmed that 'it has begun' to this daily. The teen, who has had a mixed time of it since winning the Classical world title in Singapore in December 2024, has only made sporadic appearances on the circuit in 2026. It's assumed that Gukesh has been working on new ideas and novelties since the Uzbek phenom wiped the field to win the Candidates tournament last month in Cyprus. In fact, the world will get the first glimpse of champion v. challenger as early as this week when the two face each other in the Rapid & Blitz section in Warsaw. With the first few rounds set for Tuesday, it may offer a peek into



the mindset of both Gukesh and Sindarov. While it's unlikely that they will test out lines against each other or against others, it's hard to say what the psychological effects of a defeat may be six months out from the match.

This tournament is another opportunity for the Indian to get back into form. Gukesh, who has lost over 50 rating points in the last year, had initially signed on to feature

in the Grand Chess Tour. However, in March, he pulled out of a slew of GCT events for 'more dedicated training time' at home. After taking part in a string of events, Gukesh has been quietly working away from media glare and prying eyes. Over the last month or so, apart from taking part in a WACA function to honour R Vaishali, he has generally stayed away from the limelight. His

last rated Classical match was at the Prague Chess Festival in March and he has featured in only tournament — Menorca Masters, a Rapid event — in two months.

Apart from beginning training prep for the clash against Sindarov, the World No. 19 will also have to put in place a new team to tackle the challenge. His seconds for the Ding Liren match was Radosław Wojtaszek, Pentala Harikrishna, Vincent Keymer, Jan Klimkowski and Jan-Krzysztof Duda. How many of these players will sign on for this match? Keymer's profile has risen to such a level that the German is now World No. 7 and is now higher rated than the Indian. The same is true for Duda, the World No. 14. However, that may not necessarily stop them from 'helping' Gukesh as it gives both of those players, who harbour serious ambitions themselves, a glimpse into preparations.

BCCI Uncertain on IPL Final Venue

Chennai, May 02: In March first week, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) had believed that the BCCI had given Bengaluru the right to host the final playoff match as well as the final of this year's edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). But Devajit Saikia, board secretary, refuted those suggestions. "We are working on which can be the appropriate venue for the IPL playoff and the final," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Indian squad announcement for the women's T20 World Cup. "You keep on guessing, but I am not going to give a reply. We are taking a call in two days." Usually, the defending champions host the final playoff as well as the final. That practice, however, was not followed in 2025 when the final was moved from Kolkata to Ahmedabad (the BCCI had cited the threat of rain). It remains to be seen if the board allots one of the year's marquee clashes to Ahmedabad this year as well.

DC vs CSK: Gavaskar warns Chennai against complacency

New Delhi, May 05: With the IPL 2026 playoff race heating up, all eyes turn to a high-stakes "Revenge Week" clash between Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar believes the contest could be pivotal for both sides, who remain firmly in the hunt for a playoff berth. Speaking on Star Sports, Gavaskar underlined the importance of momentum heading into the fixture. "Both teams are very much in the playoff race, which makes this a crucial game," he said. "Chennai come in with strong confidence after back-to-back wins, including one against Mumbai, while Delhi also carry momentum after their victory over Rajasthan. But beating Delhi in their own conditions will be a tough challenge."

Gavaskar pointed to several key players who could influence the outcome. He noted that Rituraj Gaikwad has rediscovered form, while Chennai's middle order has begun to contribute more consistent-

ly. However, he also called for improved performances from Dewald Brevis and Shivam Dube, particularly highlighting concerns around Dube's fielding. Despite Chennai's recent resurgence, Gavaskar cautioned against complacency, especially given Delhi's current form. "Delhi's openers are batting well, and



their bowling unit is finding rhythm. Chennai cannot afford to take them lightly," he said.

He also suggested a tactical move that could prove decisive, advocating for Akeal Hosein to take the new ball. "Hosein's variations and flight can make scoring difficult early on. If he opens the bowling,

Delhi's top order could be put under pressure." Another factor Gavaskar highlighted was the importance of the toss, which could significantly influence the match's direction, particularly given conditions in Delhi. Chennai enter the contest on the back of three consecutive wins, most recently defeating Mumbai In-

dians by eight wickets. Delhi, meanwhile, are buoyed by a convincing seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur. With both teams locked on eight points—Chennai in sixth place and Delhi just behind in seventh—the encounter promises to be a tightly contested battle with major playoff implications.

Top seeds Jannik Sinner, Alexander Zverev reach Madrid Open final

Dominant Sinner Set To Chase Record Madrid Open Crown

Madrid, May 05: World number one Jannik Sinner downed Arthur Fils 6-2, 6-4 on Friday to reach the Madrid Open final, where he will face Alexander Zverev. The second seed dispatched promising Belgian Alexander Blockx 6-2, 7-5 later on. Sinner won his 22nd straight match to book a place in Sunday's final, where he will aim to win a record fifth consecutive Masters 1000 title. With his chief rival Carlos Alcaraz out injured, Sinner is firm favourite to triumph at the Caja Magica and add to recent titles at Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo. "I played at a very high level, but I focus on always raising my level a little," Sinner told Movistar. "Especially when the tournament gets serious... You have to raise your level if you want to keep going."

The Italian admitted he was feeling a little tired after playing so many matches of late. "Obviously there's a bit of fatigue," said Sinner. "Mentally I feel good but there is some physical tiredness. My body



isn't completely fresh but that's normal and I think it's a very positive thing for me because it means I'm playing a lot of matches. "Of course, on Sunday we'll try to do even better but whatever happens, I've reached another final in a very important tournament."

Beating Sinner right now seems a near-impossible feat and the four-time Grand Slam winner started superbly against Barcelona Open winner Fils, who has impressed since returning from injury in February. The Italian broke in the third game when Fils went long to lead 2-1. Sinner broke again in the fifth game with Fils, ranked 25th in the world, unable to cope with his

sheer power. The Frenchman has not yet reached a Masters 1000 final and with Sinner in sumptuous form it quickly became clear he would have to wait a little longer.

Sinner wrapped up the first set on his serve after Fils found some fighting spirit to prevent a third break. The second set was far closer, with Fils rising in confidence and belief. The 21-year-old saved two break points for a 3-2 lead, and put pressure on Sinner's next serve, although the Italian produced two aces to hold. Sinner broke with a down-the-line backhand winner to end an excellent rally for a 5-4 lead and served it out to triumph.