

NCHAC Marks 75th Council Foundation Day with Grandeur and Cultural Pride in Haflong

Haflong, May 09: The 75th Council Foundation Day of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council was celebrated with grandeur and vibrant cultural fervour at the NCHAC Secretariat Field, Haflong, in the presence of dignitaries, public representatives, and people from various communities across the district. Addressing the gathering, Chief Executive Member Debolal Gorlosa extended heartfelt greetings to all citizens and stressed the importance of maintaining peace, unity, and communal harmony in the district. He expressed gratitude to every community and individual for preserving this spirit and lauded the relentless efforts of tribal committees in codifying customary laws, which are now preserved and showcased at the Council Customary Court Library. Recalling the immense con-



tributions of historical icons such as King Govind Chandra, Senapati Tularam, Rani Gaidinliu, and D. Hojai, the CEM acknowledged their role in protecting the region's traditions and cultural identity. He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to strengthening and preserving the rich heritage of Dima Hasao. "It has been my duty and prestige to uphold these traditions for the past

nine years, though much work still remains ahead," Shri Gorlosa remarked. Highlighting developmental priorities, the CEM emphasized the need for improved regional connectivity and celebrated the district's academic achievements, especially the recent success of students from Dima Hasao securing the top position in the Assam Matriculation Examination results. He also assured that

the long-standing salary issues within the Council have been largely resolved and urged employees and teachers to continue serving with dedication and sincerity. The celebration featured several significant announcements and initiatives, including the release of Class-II textbooks for Dimasa Medium L.P. Schools, an award ceremony for the Best Village under the DARA DISA Scheme 2025 presented to Dima-1 and Amlangbra villages, and enhancement of remuneration for Gaon Buras to ₹5,000 per month among various other welfare measures. The programme was graced by MLA Rupali Langthasa, Padma Shri awardees Joynacharan Bathari and Ramkuiwangbe Jeme Newme, along with Executive Members, MACs, Secretaries, Ex-MACs, Gaon Buras, and several distinguished guests.

Week-Long World Red Cross Day Orientation Programme Concludes in Dima Hasao, Strengthening Disaster Preparedness

Haflong, May 15: A week-long orientation programme organized in observance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026 concluded successfully across various parts of Dima Hasao district, including Mahur, Maibang, and Haflong, with a strong focus on disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and community resilience. The programme, conducted in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), began on May 8 and concluded on May 15. The awareness and training programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from teachers, Gaon Buras (GBs), community leaders, Red Cross volunteers, and local residents. The sessions centered on disaster management, emergency response, relief camp preparedness, first aid awareness, and humanitarian services aimed at building safer and disaster-resilient communities. During the programme, Ricky Bora Phukan, District Officer of DDMA Dima Hasao, delivered detailed sessions on disaster preparedness and emergency response mechanisms. He elaborately explained relief camp management, relief distribution at the block level, and the importance of coordinated disaster management during emergencies such as floods, landslides, fire incidents, and other natural calamities commonly faced in hilly regions. He emphasized that preparedness at the grassroots level is crucial for minimizing the loss of lives and property

during disasters and urged participants to remain alert, trained, and prepared to respond effectively during emergencies. Addressing the gathering, Nirmal Singh, District Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), highlighted the significance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day observed annually on May 8. He informed that the theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026 is "United in Humanity," honouring the dedication and humanitarian service of volunteers and staff worldwide who stand beside communi-



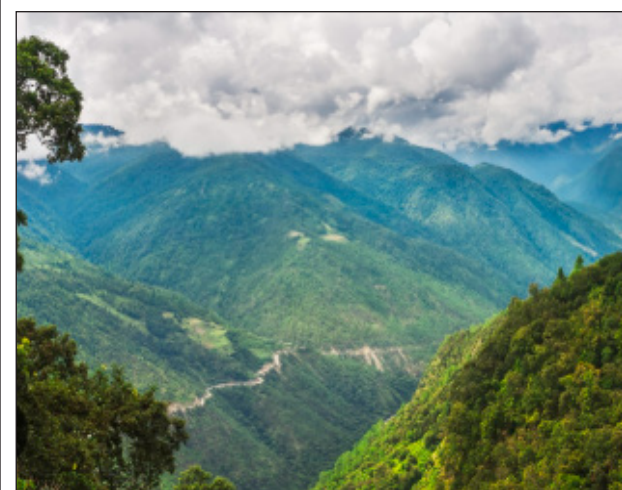
ties during times of crisis and disaster. Speaking on humanitarian values and community services, Singh elaborated on the importance of first aid training and primary healthcare awareness in schools and villages. He sensitized participants about essential do's and don'ts during emergencies involving wounds, burns, cuts, snakebites, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), stressing that timely first aid can save lives before professional medical assistance arrives.

He further urged teachers attending the programme to remain prepared for safeguarding students during disasters and unexpected incidents and emphasized the importance of schools becoming safe spaces equipped with basic emergency preparedness measures. Speaking on the occasion, Onyx Inbuon called upon all stakeholders to shoulder disaster response responsibilities with sincerity and preparedness. He urged schools and community institutions to make arrangements for emergency shelter facilities, especially for pregnant women, children, and elderly persons during disasters. He also stressed the importance of creating child-friendly spaces, maintaining separate toilet facilities for women in relief camps, and ensuring regular coordination with DDMA and concerned authorities for immediate assistance and essential supplies during emergencies. The programme was also attended by Pauramduing Jeme, IRCS District Chairman, Debojit Borah, DDMA Coordinator, along with Red Cross volunteers, GBs, teachers, and hundreds of community members from nearby areas who actively participated in the awareness sessions and discussions. The week-long orientation programme concluded with a strong message of unity, preparedness, compassion, and collective responsibility towards building a safer and disaster-resilient Dima Hasao district under the spirit of "United in Humanity."

AIOCD Calls Nationwide Strike on May 20 to Protect Chemists' Survival and Public Health

Guwahati, May 15: The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), representing more than 12.40 lakh chemists and drug distributors across the country, has announced a one-day nationwide shutdown on May 20, 2026, protesting against the unregulated functioning of online pharmacies and predatory pricing practices by large corporate entities. According to the organisation, illegal e-pharmacies and deep discounting policies have put the livelihood of nearly 50 million people dependent on the pharmaceutical trade at risk. In a memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the AIOCD alleged that despite repeated appeals, the Government has failed to take concrete steps to address the growing concerns of chemists and druggists across the country. Highlighting its major concerns, the organisation stated that online pharmacy platforms are allegedly misusing regulatory relaxations under G.S.R. 817(E). The sale of medicines without proper physical verification, repeated use of prescriptions, and AI-generated fake prescriptions are leading to the uncontrolled availability of antibiotics and habit-forming drugs. The organisation warned that such practices could contribute to serious public health threats, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The AIOCD further alleged that large corporate companies are disturbing the market balance through deep discounting practices. While profit mar-

gins on essential medicines are regulated under NPPA/DPCO guidelines, these companies are creating unfair competition, threatening the survival of small and independent chemists, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. The organisation stated that this could eventually weaken the country's accessible medicine distribution network. Another major issue raised by the organisation is the continuation of the emergency COVID-19 notification G.S.R. 220(E), issued on March 26, 2020. According to AIOCD, the temporary provision is no longer rational and is weakening the strict safeguards under Drug Rule 65, allowing digital platforms to exploit regulatory loopholes. The organisation has demanded the immediate withdrawal of both G.S.R. 220(E) and G.S.R. 817(E), along with the introduction of a "Level Playing Field" policy to prevent unfair discounting by large corporates. AIOCD President J. S. Shinde and General Secretary Rajiv Singhal jointly stated that the issue is not merely related to trade but also concerns patient safety and public health. They warned that if the Government fails to take concrete decisions on their demands by May 20, the organisation would be compelled to launch an indefinite agitation. The information was shared in a press release issued by the Chemist and Druggists Association of Assam, signed by President Dr. N. L. Agarwala and Secretary Haladhar Deka.



Things to do in Haflong – A complete travel guide

Supreme Court Goes Virtual Mondays, Fridays for Fuel Push

SC shifts online, cuts travel to save fuel

New Delhi, May 15: The Supreme Court on Friday said it will hear cases listed on miscellaneous days, Mondays and Fridays, as well as during partial working days, through video conferencing only. According to a circular issued by the court, the decision has been taken as part of measures aimed at improving efficiency and reducing avoidable expenditure. It follows a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the context of the ongoing West Asia crisis to cut down on non-essential spending. "The matters listed on miscellaneous days (i.e. on Mondays, Fridays, or such other days as declared to be miscellaneous), and matters listed during the Court's partial working days, shall be heard by video-conferencing only," the circular stated. It added that the Registry will ensure timely sharing of video-conferencing links and maintain stable digital infrastructure to avoid inconvenience. "The Registry shall ensure that links for the video-conferencing are sent in a timely manner,



stable video-conferencing facilities are maintained and timely technical assistance facilities are extended so as to avoid any inconvenience to the Hon'ble Court," it said.

The circular also stated that up to 50 per cent of staff in each branch or section of the Registry may work from home for up to two days a week, subject to availability of remaining staff in office to ensure smooth functioning. It said a weekly roster will be prepared by the concerned Registrar, and staff working from home must remain ac-

cessible and be prepared to report to office if required. "The Registrar concerned shall ensure that a weekly roster is prepared before the commencement of the week. Staff who are permitted to work from home are directed to remain available on the telephone and be ready to attend office, in case of requirement, at any time," the circular said. It further added that if a work-from-home arrangement is found ineffective for any branch or section, the Registrar may modify or restrict it based on operational needs.

West Bengal govt suspends three IPS officers linked to RG Kar case

Kolkata, May 15: The West Bengal government on Friday suspended three IPS officers, including former Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal, in connection with the rape and murder of a woman doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in August 2024. The suspended officers are Vineet Goyal, former Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Division) Indra Mukherjee and former Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Division) Abhishek Gupta.

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced the decision at the state secretariat Nabanna, six days after taking oath as Chief Minister in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata on May 9. "We are reopening the file of the R G Kar case. Departmental proceedings against three IPS officers will be started and by this time, they have been suspended," Suwendu said. "Besides the suspensions of the three IPS officers, the role of the previous CM Mamata Banerjee in connection with the incident will also be brought under the investigations," he added. "Bengal govt to start departmental probe against ex-Kolkata CP Vineet Goyal, two other officers in RG Kar case", said CM Adhikari.

Suwendu alleged that the officers were involved in offering bribes to the victim's family and conducting press conferences without written orders. He said departmental proceedings would be initiated against all three officers. "As a home minister after taking charge of the CM, I seek written opinions from the chief secretary and home secretary on the R G Kar issue and the post-incident development. I wanted to know from them on how did the then police handle the R G Kar incident. Today, I took an administrative decision after verifying the details submitted



by the chief secretary and home secretary," he said. The 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor was found dead in the seminar room of the chest medicine department on the fourth floor of the hospital's casualty building on August 9, 2024. A 33-year-old civic volunteer, Sanjay Roy, was arrested on suspicion of rape and murder.

The incident triggered nationwide protests, including demonstrations by doctors and medical organisations demanding justice for the victim. Junior doctors under the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum also demanded the resignation of Vineet Goyal as Kolkata Police Commissioner. Former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee later removed Goyal and Gupta from their posts. Goyal is currently posted as Director General of the State Intelligence Branch, Gupta is serving as commandant of the Eastern Frontier Rifles, and Mukherjee is posted as Special Superintendent in the state CID.

The victim's mother, Ratna Debnath, later contested the recent West Bengal Assembly election from Panihati on a BJP ticket and won.

CBI Raids Haryana Bank Scam

New Delhi, May 15: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at multiple locations in Chandigarh and Panchkula in connection with misappropriation of state government funds involving private banks and seized financial records and digital evidence linked to the alleged fraud, officials said on Friday.

Certain officials of IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, in connivance with public servants of various departments of the Haryana government, allegedly misappropriated government funds through fraudulent means, an official statement said. According to the agency, 16 accused persons have been arrested in the case, the agency said. The investigation has been expedited by the CBI, and several leads are being pursued, it added.



CJI Kant Criticizes Unemployed Youth Activism

New Delhi, May 15: In a scathing attack on a lawyer seeking a direction for Senior Advocate designation, CJI Surya Kant, during a hearing on Friday, likened some unemployed activists to "cockroaches" and "parasites" who attack the system after failing to find employment. The remarks came during a hearing by a bench comprising CJI Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, which was pulling up the petitioner-lawyer for

"pursuing" Senior Advocate designation. The CJI, who was visibly upset, referred to the petitioner's social media conduct and questioned the language he had allegedly used on Facebook. "There are already parasites in the society who attack the system and you (Lawyer) want to join hands with them? There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and they start attacking everyone," the CJI observed while reprimanding the lawyer for pursuing Senior Advocate designation. Echoing the CJI's observations, Justice Bagchi remarked, "The entire world may be eligible to become senior (advocate), but at least you are not entitled." A visibly anguished CJI observed that if the Delhi High



Court were to confer Senior Advocate designation upon the petitioner, the apex court would set it aside in view of his professional conduct. The bench also questioned the petitioner over his litigation history and asked, "Is this the conduct of a person who seeks to be designated as a senior advocate?" The bench observed that Senior Advocate designation is a recognition conferred upon a lawyer and not something that should be pursued aggressively. "You are pursuing it. Does it look proper?", the CJI questioned, and asked whether Senior Advocate designation had become a status symbol to be kept ornamentally.

The bench further questioned the lawyer's social media posts and raised doubts over the degrees of some lawyers. The CJI stated that the court was considering asking the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to verify the degrees of many people wearing black robes because of serious doubts regarding their genuineness.

The court further observed that the Bar Council of India would not act on the issue because "they need their votes". Eventually, the petitioner apologised to the bench and sought permission to withdraw the petition. The Supreme Court allowed the withdrawal plea.

Bihar Fast-Track Courts Convict 70,000 Criminals

Patna, May 15: In a major crackdown on crime, fast-track courts across Bihar convicted 70,624 individuals between January and April this year, ADG (Headquarters) Sunil Kumar announced. The convictions covered grave offenses including 213 murders, 218 rapes, and 51 kidnappings.

The speedy trials resulted in capital punishment for two individuals and life imprisonment for 453 others. Over 68,000 convicts were fined or bound down, while the remaining received varying jail terms. To further strengthen regional law and order, a new Rural SP post has been created in five districts, including Samastipur and Siwan.

Simultaneously, Bihar's newly formed Cyber Crime and Security Unit (CCSU) intensified its operations, arresting 602 cyber criminals in the same four-month period. Out of ₹199.09 crore lost to financial frauds, the unit successfully withheld ₹51.84 crore and refunded ₹7.06 crore to victims.

Following the implementation of an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) in February, the cyber helpline (1930) now averages 8,100 calls daily. The CCSU has also blocked 4,147 mobile numbers and identified 5,035 mule accounts, with investigations currently underway into the potential collusion of local bank officials.



Veteran Congress Leader Thianga Nampui Passes Away at 93, Dima Hasao Pays Emotional Tribute



Haflong, May 12: Veteran Congress leader Thianga Nampui, a prominent political figure of Dima Hasao and former Executive Member and Chairman of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), passed away on Monday at his residence at the age of 93.

A respected statesman and senior leader, Thianga Nampui dedicated several decades of his life to public service and the welfare of the people of Dima Hasao. He was elected as a Member of the then North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council from the Kharotong Constituency and played a crucial role in shaping the political and developmental landscape of the hill district.

During his long and distinguished political career, he served as the Chairman and Executive Member of the erstwhile North Cachar Hills District Council. He later assumed the responsibility of Chairman of the Haflong Town Committee, where he

contributed significantly towards local governance and developmental initiatives in the district headquarters.

Apart from his administrative and political responsibilities, Thianga Nampui also served several terms as President of the District Congress Committee (DCC), emerging as one of the senior-most and most influential pillars of the Congress party in Dima Hasao.

Known for his simplicity, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment towards the upliftment of the people, he earned immense respect cutting across political affiliations and communities. His contributions towards strengthening democratic values and promoting development in the district left a lasting impact on generations of political workers and citizens alike.

Following the news of his demise, a wave of grief swept across Dima Hasao. Political leaders, party workers, supporters, well-wishers, and people from different walks of life visited his residence to pay their last respects and extend condolences to the bereaved family.

His demise marks the end of a significant chapter in the political history of Dima Hasao. The legacy and contributions of Thianga Nampui towards the district and its people will continue to be remembered with deep respect and gratitude for years to come.

NEET Paper May Leak, But Not In Armed Forces: Mizoram Governor

Mizoram, May 15: Mizoram Governor Gen V K Singh (retd) on Saturday remarked that while medical entrance exam papers such as NEET may face the risk of being leaked, such irregularities do not occur within the armed forces, where systems are designed to be "absolutely fair." Speaking at the Manekshaw Centre during a youth-focused event titled Sena Samwad, hosted by 'Uniform Unveiled,' Singh emphasized that competitive examinations conducted in the military are subject to rigorous checks and transparent processes. "A paper of NEET exam may get leaked, but in Army, paper leak doesn't happen,



and it doesn't happen in the Air Force. We have devised systems which are absolutely fair," he said, underscoring the discipline and integrity embedded in military structures. The remarks came in

the backdrop of the cancellation of the NEET (Undergraduate) examination held on May 3, following allegations of irregularities that triggered widespread protests. The government has since announced

a re-test scheduled for June 21. Singh, who previously served as Chief of the Army, emphasized that fairness, discipline, and motivation are hallmarks of the armed forces, making them distinct from other institutions. He also spoke about the trust between officers and soldiers, noting that "a soldier knows that an officer won't issue an order that he himself cannot do, and an officer knows that no matter what situation comes, a jawan will never desert him." Bihar Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) was also present on the dais during the session, which drew students from schools across Delhi and neighboring cities.

Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath Invited to Prestigious Global Bengali Conference in New York

Agartala, May 15: The Organizing Committee of the 46th North American Bengali Conference (NABC 2026), along with the Cultural Association of Bengal (CAB), has invited Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath to participate in the internationally acclaimed Bengali convention to be held in White Plains, New York, USA, from July 2 to July 5, 2026. The conference, scheduled at the Westchester County Center, is considered one of the most prominent gatherings of the Bengali diaspora worldwide. Thousands of Bengalis and admirers of Bengali culture from North America and var-

ious other countries are expected to attend the four-day event. In their official invitation, the organizers described NABC 2026 as a major platform promoting cultural exchange, intellectual discussions, business collaboration, and community engagement. The conference is expected to witness participation from noted entrepreneurs, scholars, professionals, artists, investors, technologists, and cultural personalities from across the globe.

The organizers further stated that the North American Bengali Conference has been working for nearly 50 years to preserve and promote Bengali

heritage and traditions among overseas Bengalis. Besides celebrating culture, the event also plays an important role in strengthening ties among the Bengali community worldwide and encouraging partnerships in trade, education, and social development. A key highlight of this year's conference will be an extensive trade exhibition featuring over 70 stalls displaying Bengal's traditional textiles, handicrafts, jewellery, fashion items, boutique products, and creative industries. Participants and exhibitors from West Bengal and other parts of India are expected to showcase their products before a



global audience. The organizers expressed optimism that the participation of Minister Ratan Lal Nath would add significance to the conference and further enhance cultural and community relations between India and Bengalis living abroad.

IRCS Assam State Branch Holds 10th Managing Committee Meeting in Guwahati, Focuses on Healthcare Upgradation and Disaster Preparedness

Guwahati, May 14: The 10th Meeting of the Managing Committee of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Assam State Branch (ASB), was held on May 14, 2026, at the IRCS ASB Meeting Hall located at Kedar Road, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati. The meeting commenced at 11:00 AM in the presence of distinguished Managing Committee members from various district branches across Assam. The session was chaired by the Chairman of the IRCS Assam State Branch, alongside Vice Chairman H. Gohain and Treasurer Prakash Atarey. The meeting began with an introductory address by the IRCS ASB General Sec-

retary Deba Prasad Sarma highlighting several developmental initiatives undertaken by the Assam State Branch. Major emphasis was laid on the modernization of the Red Cross Hospital and the proposed upgradation of the Nursing College. It was informed that while the institution is presently imparting Auxiliary Nursing and Midwifery (ANM) courses, plans are underway to introduce a three-year General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course along with additional paramedical programmes to strengthen healthcare education and services in the state. Several important agenda items were discussed during



the meeting, including the confirmation of the minutes of the previous Managing Committee (MC) and Executive Committee (EC) meetings, approval of the Annual Au-

ditioned Accounts for the financial year 2025-2026 for both ASB and GDB, and approval of the Annual Budget for the financial year 2026-2027. The Managing Committee

also deliberated on the report and recommendations of the Special Committee, including the formation of the Kamrup Metropolitan District Branch and the recruitment of human resources for strengthening organisational activities. During the interactive session, members from different district branches shared updates on humanitarian services and ongoing activities in their respective districts. They also apprised the house about the preparedness measures being undertaken to tackle natural disasters such as floods and other emergency situations. The members collectively emphasized the need for regular training, awareness

programmes, and advocacy initiatives for volunteers, particularly in areas such as first aid training and disaster response management. They further stressed the importance of allocating financial grants within the budget for effective mobilisation of volunteer teams and humanitarian support during natural disasters and crisis situations affecting communities across the state. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment towards strengthening humanitarian services, healthcare initiatives, volunteer training, and disaster preparedness under the banner of the Indian Red Cross Society Assam State Branch.

Editorial

INDIA Bloc at a Crossroads: Unity or Political Irrelevance

The opposition alliance INDIA bloc appears to be entering one of the most challenging phases since its formation, with internal contradictions, regional rivalries, and leadership ambitions threatening to weaken the coalition at a critical political juncture. The recent developments following the Legislative Assembly election results declared on May 4, 2026, have exposed the fragile nature of opposition unity in India and raised serious questions about the future of the alliance. The Bharatiya Janata Party's sweeping victory in West Bengal against the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee, coupled with the dramatic rise of Vijay and his party TVK in Tamil Nadu, has significantly altered the opposition landscape. In Tamil Nadu, the defeat of M. K. Stalin and the DMK government has added another layer of political uncertainty within the INDIA bloc. Amid this backdrop, remarks made by Rahul Gandhi that "only Congress can defeat the BJP" appear to have triggered unease among several alliance partners. For many regional parties, such statements reinforce the long-standing fear that the Congress views itself not merely as an equal partner in the alliance but as its natural leader. In coalition politics, perception matters as much as reality, and this perception has evidently strained relationships within the bloc. The Congress party's post-election political positioning in Tamil Nadu further deepened the mistrust. Its apparent

distancing from the DMK and growing proximity to Vijay's TVK reportedly angered the DMK leadership, leading to public expressions of resentment. Such developments underline the persistent dilemma within the INDIA bloc: regional allies often remain rivals in their respective states even while they attempt to cooperate nationally against the BJP. The indirect criticism from Akhilesh Yadav through social media also carries political significance. With Uttar Pradesh heading towards Assembly elections in 2027, tensions between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party could complicate opposition unity in the country's most politically crucial state. If both parties choose separate electoral paths, it may significantly benefit the BJP. The contradictions within the INDIA bloc are neither new nor unexpected. In states such as Kerala and West Bengal, alliance partners are direct political competitors. In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF and the Left Front remain bitter rivals. In West Bengal, the TMC, Congress, and Left Front have historically fought against one another. Such ground realities make national-level opposition unity extremely difficult to sustain. Reports suggesting that sections of the Left cadre in West Bengal informally worked against the TMC during the elections further reveal the deep-rooted political bitterness that still exists. The Left Front's inability to reconcile with Mamata Banerjee after losing power in 2011

remains a political reality that continues to shape opposition dynamics in the state. At the same time, it must also be acknowledged that the Congress remains the only opposition party with a truly national footprint. Regional parties may dominate individual states, but the Congress still possesses the wider organisational structure and pan-India political presence necessary for a national challenge to the BJP. This places a greater responsibility upon the Congress leadership to exercise political restraint, accommodate regional aspirations, and nurture a genuine culture of federalism within the alliance. Coalition politics in India has always required compromise, patience, and mutual respect. The success of any anti-BJP front depends not only on electoral arithmetic but also on political trust. If alliance partners continue to prioritize regional rivalries over collective strategy, the INDIA bloc risks sliding into irrelevance before the next general election. The message emerging from recent political developments is clear: the opposition cannot afford fragmentation at a time when the BJP remains electorally dominant and organizationally strong. The INDIA bloc parties must urgently engage in dialogue, resolve differences, and redefine the framework of cooperation. Otherwise, the proverb "United we stand, divided we fall" may become the defining political reality for India's opposition in the years ahead.

India Inc's role in vision 2047



Amidst a rapidly shifting global economic order marked by heightened geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, and climate transitions, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has unveiled its comprehensive "Vision for India@100" roadmap. Framed around the theme "The Future | Global Economy, Industry, Society" at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026, the blueprint outlines a multi-stakeholder strategy to transform India into a developed nation by its centenary of independence in 2047.

India currently holds a unique vantage point, continuing its trajectory as the world's fastest-growing major economy with growth projected at more than twice the global average. As traditional trade models shift from pure cost efficiencies to a strong emphasis on resilience, trust, and strategic alignment, global leaders increasingly view India as a stabilizing, trusted partner. India's success in scaling inclusive digital public infrastructure has demonstrated how large-scale innovation can stimulate economic momentum while lifting society. The roadmap highlights five foundational pillars essential to building multi-dimensional national competitiveness: Manufacturing Scale and Strategic Depth: Re-imagining industrial policy by investing in advanced manufacturing, deepening domestic supply chain resilience, and aggressively leveraging free trade pacts to establish India as a competitive global export hub.

Technology Leadership: Boosting research and development (R&D) investments, fostering tighter industry-academia ecosystems, and building globally competitive digital platforms to

secure long-term productivity and strategic influence. Energy Security and Green Transition: Capitalizing on sustainability as a core competitive advantage. Indian industry is urged to scale renewable capacities—such as solar and green hydrogen—accelerating low-carbon integration into mainstream corporate strategies. Institutions, Capital, and Execution: Strengthening India's proven infrastructure delivery mechanisms, optimizing capital allocation, and driving policy efficiency through sustained private-public collaboration. Human Capital and Inclusive Growth: Evolving education and skilling models to match next-generation industrial demands, thereby transforming demographic advantages into a highly skilled, innovation-driven workforce capable of generating broad-based employment.

Business leaders at the summit noted that companies must transition from short-term financialization to long-term asset and capability ownership. The underlying consensus remains clear: corporate survival and national progress are inextricably linked. For India to successfully redesign its position in the emerging world order, the private sector must step up as a proactive co-architect, aligning enterprise strategy directly with these five national priorities to transition bold ambitions into concrete macroeconomic action. You can learn more about regional contributions to this national strategy by watching CM Devendra Fadnavis showcases Maharashtra's Vision for India@100 at CII Annual Business Summit 2026, which details how India's industrial states are aligning their infrastructure goals with the 2047 vision.

Scroll down for woes galore

A late-night reflection on India's current socio-economic landscape reveals a sobering reality: despite strides toward digitization, chronic structural failures continue to mirror the headlines of past decades. The recurring crises spanning education, infrastructure, and currency stability signal deep-rooted systematic vulnerabilities.

The crisis in Indian education is perhaps the most glaring. The recent cancellation of the high-stakes NEET-UG medical entrance exam—affecting over 22 lakh candidates—due to question paper leaks on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram, highlights a deeply entrenched issue. This is not an isolated event; nearly 89 suspected paper leaks and 48 retests have been recorded over the last decade, tracing back to the "education mafias"



of the 1990s. Compounding this, a recent NITI Aayog report revealed staggering infrastructure deficits, noting that nearly 1.2 lakh schools lack electricity and roughly 99,000 lack girls' toilets. This starkly contrasts with corporate initiatives aiming to train teachers in Artificial Intelligence. On the economic front,

instability persists:

Currency Under Pressure: Driven by global oil trade disruptions, market analysts warn that the Indian rupee could slip toward 98 against the US dollar later this year. Capital Flight: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled significant capital out of Indian equities, with total

cumulative outflows in 2026 crossing a substantial ₹2 lakh crore mark—surpassing the total exits seen in 2025.

Industrial Stagnation: Critics argue that India's manufacturing sector remains largely restricted to assembly rather than asset creation, with capital increasingly diverted toward quick-delivery startups and secondary financial markets. Rural distress is further highlighted by the recurring volatility of the onion market. Farmers in hubs like Nashik continue to suffer from rigged market dynamics, occasionally failing even to recover operational costs. Rather than grand, sweeping policy shifts, experts argue that targeted, localized interventions—similar to successful public school revamps—are essential to address these persistent challenges.

Rasna Chairman Piruz Khambatta launches 'Ashoi', announces startup fund for next-generation entrepreneurs

Guwahati: Piruz Areez Khambatta, Chairman of Rasna Group, has launched his new book Ashoi: The Zoroastrian Art of Success and Immortality while also unveiling an entrepreneurial fund aimed at supporting emerging business leaders and startups.

The book launch was held at The TajMahal Palace in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora, Justice (Retd.) Shahrukh J. Kathawalla, Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, and several business leaders and members of the Parsi community.

Khambatta said the book brings over 3,000 years of Zoroastrian wisdom into a practical modern framework focused on integrity, discipline,



leadership and ethical living. The publication outlines 51 principles linked to personal growth, family values, business leadership and long-term success. According to Khambatta, the teachings are not limited to religion but are

intended to serve as a guide for meaningful living and nation-building.

Alongside the launch, an entrepreneurial fund was announced in knowledge partnership with the World Zarathushti Chamber of Com-

merce. Backed by Parsi business leaders, the initiative will provide mentorship, strategic guidance and financial support to early-stage ventures, while encouraging talented youth to build enterprises in India under the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In Guwahati, the initiative highlights the rising focus on ethics-driven entrepreneurship and startup mentorship in India. Entrepreneurs and trade circles in Guwahati believe such initiatives could encourage youth in the Northeast to pursue innovation-led businesses and attract greater investment interest in emerging regional enterprises.

Oriflame leader's 23-year journey highlights power of women entrepreneurship across generations



Mumbai: A Kolkata-based Oriflame leader's journey from self-doubt to be-

coming a Senior Gold Director is being highlighted this Mother's Day as an example of how women-led entrepreneurship continues to transform families and inspire future generations.

The journey began in 2005 when she attended a seminar at Mahajati Sadan, where discussions around financial independence and self-confidence encouraged her to take her first step into direct selling. Initially uncertain about entering business and worried about societal perceptions, she gradually built confidence through continuous learning, training sessions and disciplined work.

Her daughter, Haichai, who spent much of her childhood watching her mother work beside an old computer after school, says those moments became life lessons in resilience and determination.

From helping arrange documents to typing names into the computer and reviewing handwritten training notes, she witnessed firsthand the dedication behind the journey.

The entrepreneur's growth was not without challenges. At one stage, her performance reportedly dropped to 9 percent, testing her confidence and commitment. However, she continued rebuilding steadily through consistency and persistence.

Today, after 23 years with Oriflame, she has achieved the position of Senior Gold Director. The family says her biggest achievement remains inspiring her daughter to carry forward the same confidence, discipline and entrepreneurial spirit she spent years building within herself.

#NowForClimate campaign drives green push: Bhamla Foundation, Godrej Industries lead World Environment Day plantation initiative

Guwahati: The Bhamla Foundation has announced a large-scale Tree Plantation Drive for World Environment Day 2026 under its #NowForClimate campaign, in collaboration with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme and Godrej Industries Group. Godrej L'Affaire has been onboarded as the digital amplification partner. The initiative aims to significantly enhance Mumbai's green cover while mobilising citizens, youth and communities toward climate-positive action through plantation drives across key urban locations.

The campaign will be flagged off in the presence of public figures including Malaiika Arora, Sachin J Joshi, Sadia Khateeb, Shaan, Shehnaaz Gill, Rupali Ganguly and Seema Singh. Organisers said the initiative goes beyond symbolism, focusing on long-term ecological restoration, improved air quality and sustainable urban ecosystems.

Sujit Patil, Chief Communications Officer at Godrej Industries Group, said the campaign reflects how collective intent across institutions, communities and individuals can drive measurable environmental impact and



wider citizen participation.

Aligned with the global World Environment Day theme, the initiative reinforces India's broader climate resilience and sustainability agenda, with more activities planned under the #NowForClimate campaign.

In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to accelerate demand for nursery plants, landscaping services and eco-friendly products, as rising environmental awareness among consumers and businesses fuels growth in the region's green economy.

Medanta flags rising gut health concerns in Assam, expands Northeast healthcare outreach

Dibrugarh: Medanta has highlighted the growing burden of digestive health disorders in Assam, urging people to prioritise preventive healthcare, early screening, and lifestyle changes amid rising cases linked to poor dietary habits and sanitation challenges. The Gurugram-based multi-specialty hospital chain, ranked India's best hospital by Newsweek in 2026, said increasing urbanisation and changing food consumption patterns are contributing to gut-related ailments across the region. According to Medanta, excessive intake of ultra-processed foods, refined sugars, unhealthy fats, and irregular meal timings are disrupting gut bacteria balance and increasing digestive discomfort.

Dr. Pawan Rawal, Senior Director, Gastroenterology at Medanta Gurugram, said recurring symptoms such as acidity, bloating, and irregular bowel movements should

not be ignored. He stressed that timely medical evaluation and early intervention can help prevent chronic gastrointestinal diseases. He also pointed to the continued prevalence of diarrhoeal illnesses, cholera, and typhoid in flood-prone areas due to sanitation and contaminated water concerns.

In Dibrugarh, healthcare demand for specialised gastroenterology consultation and preventive screening services has been witnessing steady growth as residents become more aware of lifestyle-related diseases. Medanta is strengthening its presence in the Northeast through multilingual healthcare support and specialist outreach programmes. Dr. Rawal will consult patients at Dibrugarh Medicity on May 13, while the hospital has also launched a dedicated Northeast helpline to improve access to specialised healthcare services across the region.

IIT Madras BS Programmes gain momentum as demand rises for flexible, skill-based higher education

Kohima: Indian Institute of Technology Madras has opened admissions for its BS Degree Programmes for the 2026 academic cycle, with applications open till May 31, amid rising demand for flexible and industry-aligned higher education models in India's evolving job market. The institute is offering four programmes — BS in Data Science and Applications, BS in Electronic Systems, BS in Management and Data Science, and BS in Aeronautics and Space Technology — aimed at learners seeking future-ready skills in technology, analytics, management, and emerging sectors.

The programmes are open to anyone who has completed Class 12, with no age restrictions, and do not require candidates to clear the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Admissions are conducted through a qualifier process, widening access to IIT education for students across diverse academic and economic backgrounds.

IIT Madras said the programmes can be pursued alongside regular undergraduate courses such as BCom,

BSc, BBA, and Engineering, reflecting growing market demand for multidisciplinary and data-driven skill sets. Courses are delivered primarily online, with physical examinations held across India.

Prof. Prathap Haridoss, Dean (Academic Courses), IIT Ma-

dras, said the programmes are designed to combine flexibility with IIT-level academic quality and improve career opportunities for students. The institute also offers fee support of up to 75 per cent for eligible economically disadvantaged learners. Interested candidates can apply through the official IIT Madras BS admissions portal.



TVS Motor bets on urban EV growth with new TVS Orbiter campaign



Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has launched a new marketing campaign for its electric scooter TVS Orbiter, targeting India's rapidly growing segment of young urban commuters and lifestyle-driven consumers.

Built around the brand message "Always On The Move With You", the campaign positions TVS Orbiter as a smart and practical electric mobility solution for consumers balancing work, fitness, education, social life and side hustles in fast-paced urban environments. The campaign film, conceptualised by Kinnect, highlights the evolving aspirations of India's new-age riders while integrating the iconic Bollywood track 'Idhar Chala Main Udhar Chala' to reflect the spontaneity and energy of modern city lifestyles.

Saurabh Kapoor, Vice President – Marketing, EV Business at TVS Motor Company, said urban youth are increasingly seeking mobility solutions that combine technology, comfort, design and practicality. He said the campaign aims to build a strong emotional connection with consumers while showcasing TVS Orbiter as a dependable partner for everyday commuting. The company also highlighted the scooter's key features including a 34-litre twin-helmet boot space, IDC range of 158 km, large front alloy wheels, Cruise Control, Hill Hold, Reverse Parking Assist and connected safety technologies such as Crash Alerts, Anti-Theft and Geo-Fencing.

TVSM inducts Ravindran Shanmugam as independent director

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company (TVSM), part of TVS Venu Group and a reputed two and three-wheeler manufacturer globally — has announced the induction of Mr. Ravindran Shanmugam as independent director of the company for a period of five consecutive years effective May 13, 2026 subject to approval of the shareholders. Mr. Ravindran Shanmugam is a seasoned technology entrepreneur and business leader with extensive experience in scaling consumer-focused businesses, digital transformation, and AI-led platforms across global markets. He is currently the Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Mable, an AI-enabled interior design and renovation platform based in Singapore. He also worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, advising businesses on growth and strategy. An alumnus of the University of Oxford, Mr. Shanmugam brings deep expertise in technology, innovation, platform businesses and strategic governance. The appointment of Mr. Shanmugam will add valuable experience to the board and raise the company's already rigorous corporate governance standard.

Sudarshan Venu, Chairman, TVS Motor Company, said, "Mr. Ravindran Shanmugam brings deep expertise in digital & consumer-focused businesses, and AI-led transformation, along with strong experience in strat-



egy, entrepreneurship and scaling businesses across global markets. His perspectives will add valuable depth to the TVS Motor board as we continue to strengthen our future-ready growth ambitions." Ravindran Shanmugam said, "I am honoured to join the board of TVS Motor Company, an institution with a strong legacy of engineering excellence, customer trust and global ambition. Mobility is being reshaped by technology, digital ecosystems, AI and evolving consumer expectations, and TVS Motor is well positioned to play a meaningful role in this transformation. I look forward to contributing to the board's deliberations and supporting the company's long-term growth journey with perspectives from technology-led transformation, platform businesses and consumer-focused innovation."

Vi strengthens Assam & Northeast operations with 65% growth in data usage

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea (Vi) has announced a significant 65 per cent growth in data consumption across Assam and North East circles during the January-December 2025 period, supported by network expansion and increasing adoption of its unlimited data offerings.

As part of its infrastructure enhancement strategy, Vi added more than 890 new sites across key spectrum bands in Assam and the North East, extending network coverage to 19 additional towns. The company stated that the expansion is aimed at improving connectivity, enhancing customer experience and supporting rising digital consumption across the region.

Vi also highlighted strong customer traction for its Unlimited Data portfolio.

The telecom operator said it remains the only player offering unlimited 4G data plans in Assam and North East circles. Its "Non-Stop Hero" prepaid plans, starting at Rs 349, offer unlimited 4G data access throughout the month, while "Hero Plans", starting at Rs 249, provide unlimited nighttime data, weekend data rollover and up to 2GB additional data benefits through Data Delight.

Nationally, Vi said it has added over 1.3 lakh new sites in the last year, resulting in a 40 per cent increase in network capacity. The company plans to roll out more than 30,000 additional sites this financial year while continuing 5G expansion across 17 priority circles and targeting 90 per cent 4G population coverage.

TVS Motor expands EV portfolio with new iQube S 4.7 kWh variant



Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has strengthened its electric vehicle portfolio with the launch of the new TVS iQube S 4.7 kWh variant, as the company looks to further consolidate its position in India's fast-growing electric two-wheeler market.

Priced at ₹1,37,142 (effective ex-showroom Delhi, inclusive of central and state subsidies), the latest variant offers an IDC-certified range of 175 km on a single charge. The company said the upgraded 4.7 kWh battery has been introduced to provide greater practicality for both daily commuting and longer rides, while retaining the trusted riding experience of the iQube range.

The scooter will be available in three colour options — Magnificence Purple Beige, Harlequin Blue Beige, and Titanium Grey Matte. TVS

Motor said the iQube platform is built around offering customers greater choice in range, connected technology, colours, safety, and ease of operation.

The company noted that over 900,000 Indian families currently use TVS iQube electric scooters, which are now available across more than 1,000 cities and 3,300 dealerships nationwide, reflecting rising consumer acceptance of electric mobility in the country. In Guwahati, automobile dealers said demand for electric scooters has witnessed steady growth amid rising fuel costs and increasing awareness about eco-friendly transportation. Industry observers believe longer-range models like the new iQube S 4.7 kWh could attract office-goers, students, and urban commuters in Assam, where EV adoption has been gradually expanding.

Dream Sports bets on AI-driven investing with launch of DreamStreet platform

Guwahati: Dream Sports has launched DreamStreet, a new-age broking platform aimed at simplifying investing and boosting demat account penetration across India. The platform combines AI-powered insights, data-driven tools, and access to SEBI-registered Research Analysts (RAs) and Investment Advisors (IAs) to help users make informed decisions, particularly targeting first-time investors.

At launch, DreamStreet will enable investments in stocks and ETFs, with Futures & Options (F&O) and IPO offerings expected to go live in the coming weeks. The platform features expert-backed stock insights, AI-enabled access to information, and an integrated AI companion "Veda" to assist users with analysis and investment decisions. It also offers a seamless, 100% digital account opening process, along with transparent fee structures and clear disclosure of risks. Rahul Mirchandani, Co-Founder and CEO of DreamStreet, said India's rising disposable income, improving financial literacy, and rapid smartphone adoption are creating a "generational opportunity" for retail participation. He noted that the platform aims to bridge the gap between investor intent and confidence through a blend of human expertise and AI-led intelligence.

DreamStreet, operated by Finverse Platform Private Limited, a SEBI-registered stock broker, emphasised that it provides tools and insights but does not guarantee returns, with all investments subject to market risks.

In Guwahati, platforms like DreamStreet could accelerate retail investing trends, especially among young, tech-savvy users. With growing awareness of equity markets and increasing smartphone penetration in the Northeast, simplified and AI-enabled platforms are expected to improve access and confidence among first-time investors, potentially expanding the region's investor base.

Bhutan's \$1.7 billion hydropower bet signals strong regional energy market outlook

Guwahati/Dispur: The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank on May 7 signed financing agreements worth \$515 million for the 1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project, a move expected to significantly reshape the regional energy market and strengthen India-Bhutan power cooperation. The project, located on the Kurichhu River in eastern Bhutan, is projected to generate over 4,500 GWh of clean electricity annually and contribute nearly one-third of Bhutan's total power generation capacity.

The financing package includes \$300 million from the International Development Association (IDA), including a \$150 million grant, and \$215 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The estimated \$1.7 billion project is being developed through a public-private partnership involving Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation and Tata Power. The project is also expected to attract nearly \$900



million in additional private sector investment.

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said the hydropower venture would support economic growth, job creation, clean energy exports and Bhutan's carbon-negative goals. Officials estimate the project could raise Bhutan's GDP by 2.4 per cent while reducing around 3.3 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

Life insurance gains popularity among consumers as FY26 premiums rise to ₹4.6 lakh crore

Guwahati: More consumers across India are opting for life insurance as a key financial planning tool, pushing the industry's new business premium (NBP) up by 15.7% to ₹4,59,713 crore in FY26, compared to ₹3,97,337 crore in the previous year.

The trend highlights a growing shift among individuals and families towards long-term savings and financial protection. In March 2026, insurers collected ₹75,872 crore, a sharp rise from ₹61,439 crore in March 2025, indicating strong demand

across segments.

Group insurance schemes, often offered through employers, continued to drive growth. Group Single Premium rose 17.5% to ₹2,49,766 crore, while Group Yearly Renewable Premium surged 39%. Group Non-Single Premium also recorded notable gains. At the same time, individual consumers remained active, with Individual Non-Single Premium increasing 10.1% to ₹1,26,900 crore and Individual Single Premium growing 12.3% to ₹57,664 crore. The industry issued over 2.83

crore policies in FY26, up 4.7%. However, faster premium growth suggests that consumers are increasingly choosing higher-value policies for better coverage and security.

“The growth reflects rising awareness and a gradual shift towards planned financial protection among Indian households,” said Kamlesh Rao of the Insurance Awareness Committee (IAC-Life), adding that improving awareness and early adoption remain key to closing the protection gap.

TVS Motor Company clocks record FY26 revenue of Rs 47,270 crore, EV sales jump 33%

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has reported its highest-ever annual revenue and sales performance for FY 2025-26, driven by strong growth in motorcycles, scooters, electric vehicles and three-wheelers.

The company posted a 30 per cent increase in revenue at Rs 47,270 crore for the financial year ended March 2026, compared to Rs 36,251 crore in FY25. Operating profit before tax (PBT) rose 40 per cent to Rs 4,975 crore from Rs 3,563 crore in the previous fiscal, while operating EBITDA margin improved by 60 basis points to 12.9 per cent.

TVS Motor recorded its highest-ever annual sales of 58.89 lakh units in FY26, up 24 per cent from 47.44 lakh units in FY25. Motorcycle sales rose 24 per cent to 27.13 lakh units, while scooter sales increased 27 per cent to 24.13 lakh units. The company's electric vehicle segment continued its strong growth momentum, with EV sales rising 33 per cent to 3.71 lakh units during the fiscal year. TVS Motor said it has now crossed nine lakh EV customers globally. Three-wheeler sales surged 63 per cent to 2.19 lakh units. In the fourth quarter ended March 2026, the company posted its highest-ever quarterly revenue of Rs 12,808 crore. Quarterly sales grew 28 per cent to 15.60 lakh units, while EV sales jumped 51 per cent to 1.15 lakh units. The EBITDA margin for the quarter stood at 13.1 per cent.

CFA Institute expands northeast outreach with First Finance Roundtable in Guwahati



Guwahati: CFA Institute hosted its first Finance Industry Network (FIN) Roundtable in Guwahati, bringing together academicians and finance educators from leading institutions across the Northeast to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and enhance finance education standards.

The event marked the 13th Professors' Roundtable organised by CFA Institute in India and focused on aligning academic curriculum with the rapidly evolving requirements of the global investment industry. Discussions highlighted the globally recognised CFA Program and its practitioner-driven curriculum, particularly its focus on ethics, investment analysis, practical learning, and real-world financial applications.

Participants were also introduced to the Investment Foundations Certificate, an entry-level programme aimed at helping undergraduate students and early learners develop strong fundamentals in investment concepts. The roundtable further explored skill development, employ-

ability, ethical decision-making, and globally relevant job-ready competencies.

Saim Fakhri, Manager, University Relations – India, CFA Institute, said the initiative reflects the organisation's commitment to building stronger institutional connections in Assam and supporting students with globally relevant finance education. Faculty members from institutions including IIT Guwahati, Cotton University, Assam Downtown University, Guwahati College, Mangaldai Commerce College, and Royal Global University attended the session.

In Guwahati, such initiatives could boost awareness of international finance certifications among students and professionals in Assam. With the city emerging as an educational and business hub in the Northeast, stronger collaboration between academic institutions and global professional bodies is expected to improve employability and support the growing banking, investment, and financial services ecosystem in the region.

Nissan rolls out nationwide AC check-up drive with summer service offers till June 15

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has launched a nationwide AC Check-up Camp across its authorised service network as part of its summer customer service initiative. The campaign, which will continue till June 15, 2026, is being conducted across 125 authorised Nissan service touchpoints in the country.

Under the initiative, Nissan customers can avail a 12-point AC inspection conducted by trained service professionals to ensure vehicle air-conditioning systems remain summer-ready and function efficiently during peak heat conditions. The company is also offering complimentary top wash along with pick-up and drop-off services during the camp period.

In addition, customers can avail up to 10 per cent discount on Value Added Services and select paid labour charges.



Nissan said the campaign is aimed at encouraging preventive vehicle maintenance while strengthening customer engagement through its authorised workshops.

Customers can book service appointments through the My Nissan App and the official Nissan Motor India website. The company said the initiative reflects its focus on customer satisfaction, proactive service support, and seamless ownership experience.

In Guwahati, automobile service centres in the city generally witness increased demand for AC servicing during the summer months due to rising temperatures and humidity in the Northeast region. Industry players believe Nissan's service campaign could help improve workshop footfall in Guwahati as customers increasingly opt for authorised service networks for seasonal vehicle maintenance and after-sales support.

Tata Consumer crosses Rs 20,000 crore revenue milestone in FY26 as profit, volume growth stay strong

Guwahati: Tata Consumer Products reported a strong performance for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2026, driven by broad-based volume-led growth across its foods, beverages and international businesses. The company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 18 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,434 crore in the March quarter, while FY26 revenue grew 15 per cent to Rs 20,290 crore, crossing the Rs 20,000 crore milestone for the first time. Consolidated EBITDA increased 27 per cent to Rs 796 crore in Q4 and 12 per cent to Rs 2,815 crore for the full year. Group net profit climbed 22 per cent to Rs 424

crore in the quarter and 20 per cent to Rs 1,547 crore in FY26.

The India branded business posted robust underlying volume growth of 16 per cent in Q4 and 13 per cent for the year. India Foods business grew 21 per cent in the quarter, led by strong performance in Tata Salt and Tata Sampann, while India Beverages grew 4 per cent with coffee revenue rising 20 per cent. The Ready-to-Drink segment recorded 23 per cent growth for the third straight quarter.

The company said its 'Growth businesses' crossed Rs 4,000 crore in FY26 and now contribute 31 per cent of the India business. Inter-

national business revenue rose 21 per cent in Q4, aided by strong coffee sales in the United States, where Eight O'Clock Coffee continued gaining market share.

During FY26, the company launched 80 new products across health, wellness and convenience categories. Tata Starbucks expanded to 502 stores across 80 cities and recorded its third consecutive quarter of positive same-store sales growth.

Managing Director and CEO Sunil D'Souza said the company remains focused on scaling growth, strengthening its portfolio and delivering value through innovation and execution across markets.

Medanta steps up Northeast cancer outreach as doctors stress early detection of Esophageal cancer

Dimapur: Medanta - The Medicity has intensified its healthcare outreach in Northeast India amid growing concerns over rising cases of esophageal cancer in the region, particularly in Nagaland, where tobacco use, chewing betel nut (supari), and dietary habits remain major risk factors. Doctors from the Gurugram-based hospital, recently ranked India's Best Hospital by Newsweek in 2026, warned that many patients continue to seek treatment only at advanced stages because early symptoms are often mistaken for acidity or throat irritation. Specialists said symptoms such as difficulty swallowing, unexplained weight loss, persistent cough, vomiting, chest discomfort, regurgitation, and hoarseness should not be ignored.

Dr. Rajesh Puri, Vice Chairman, Interventional Gastroenterology at Medanta, said early diagnosis can dramatically improve survival rates, while Dr. Hitesh Panchal highlighted Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy as an effective and minimally invasive screening tool that enables faster treatment and recovery. The awareness drive is also expected to influence Dimapur, where demand for advanced diagnostics, speciality consultations, and preventive screening services has been steadily increasing. Industry observers say growing awareness campaigns and improved access to tertiary healthcare could strengthen the city's position as a regional medical hub for Nagaland and neighboring states.

Medanta has signed an MoU with the Government of Nagaland for accreditation under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) and partnered with IDAN to promote healthcare awareness. Dr. Panchal will consult patients in Dimapur on May 15 and 16, while Medanta has also launched a dedicated Northeast helpline with multilingual support.

Godrej Enterprises Group invests Rs 100 crore to boost India's aero engine manufacturing capability

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group is strengthening India's aerospace and aero engine manufacturing ecosystem with fresh investments, advanced precision engineering capabilities and expanding partnerships with global aerospace majors. The company on Tuesday said it plans to invest nearly ₹100 crore over the next three years to accelerate growth in design, research and development, new product development and advanced digital manufacturing technologies.

The aerospace business of the group, established in the 1980s, has emerged as a key player in the global aerospace supply chain and currently partners with leading aerospace OEMs including Boeing, Safran Aircraft Engines, GE Aerospace, Rolls-Royce

and RTX. The company said it is the only private player in India with demonstrated capability to manufacture all modules of an aero engine, supporting the Centre's At-



manirbhar Bharat vision.

The company has recorded nearly 25 per cent year-on-year growth, while exports have risen by over 30 per

cent. It has also set up a dedicated R&D centre and a specialised design office focused on mechanical and electro-mechanical actuation systems for aircraft. Its new 100-

grammes. Maneck Behramkamdin, Business Head of the Aerospace Business, said the company remains focused on innovation, quality execution and indigenisation of critical aerospace systems, including actuators developed within India. From a Guwahati market perspective, industry experts believe the growth of India's aerospace manufacturing sector could create opportunities for engineering graduates, precision component suppliers and skilled technical workers from the Northeast. Guwahati's growing industrial and logistics network is also expected to support future participation in the country's expanding aerospace supply chain ecosystem.

acre manufacturing facility at Khalapur in Maharashtra is expected to strengthen capacity for advanced aerospace and propulsion-related pro-

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The trend highlights a growing shift among individuals and families towards long-term savings and financial protection. In March 2026, insurers collected ₹75,872 crore, a sharp rise from ₹61,439 crore in March 2025, indicating strong

demand across segments.

Group insurance schemes, often offered through employers, continued to drive growth. Group Single Premium rose 17.5% to ₹2,49,766 crore, while Group Yearly Renewable Premium surged 39%. Group Non-Single Premium also recorded notable gains. At the same time, individual consumers remained active, with Individual Non-Single Premium increasing 10.1% to ₹1,26,900 crore and Individual Single Premium growing 12.3% to ₹57,664 crore. The industry is-

sued over 2.83 crore policies in FY26, up 4.7%. However, faster premium growth suggests that consumers are increasingly choosing higher-value policies for better coverage and security.

"The growth reflects rising awareness and a gradual shift towards planned financial protection among Indian households," said Kamlesh Rao of the Insurance Awareness Committee (IAC-Life), adding that improving awareness and early adoption remain key to closing the protection gap.

HP bets big on AI future with 20+ new products, enters new device categories in India



Guwahati: HP India on Monday unveiled more than 20 new AI-powered products and solutions across PCs, printing and workforce technologies, marking a major expansion of its India strategy focused on the future of work and connected digital experiences. The launch includes HP's entry into new categories with the India-first HP OmniPad 12 tablet and the HP EliteBoard G1a Next Gen AI PC, described by the company as the world's first AI keyboard PC designed for collaborative workplaces. HP also introduced new EliteBook, ProBook and OmniBook AI PC series powered by Intel, AMD and Qualcomm processors.

The company said the devices are aimed at students, creators, professionals and enterprises seeking intelligent, portable and secure computing solutions. HP also announced HP IQ, an on-device AI platform offering contextual assistance, meeting note capture and seamless device connectivity through HP NearSense technology. Alongside personal computing devices, HP launched new Z Workstations, Poly conferencing solutions and AI-powered print technologies aimed at improving enterprise productivity and hybrid work environments.

Ipsita Dasgupta, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director, HP India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, said HP aims to create a connected ecosystem that supports learning, work and innovation across India's evolving technology landscape.

In Guwahati, the new AI-powered laptops, tablets and hybrid work solutions could see strong demand among students, startups, educational institutions and corporate users in Northeast India. Market observers said the growing shift toward hybrid work and AI-enabled productivity tools in Guwahati is expected to boost interest in premium devices such as the OmniBook and EliteBook series.

India pushes trade, tech ties with Costa Rica as Margherita leads diplomatic outreach

Guwahati: Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita held key diplomatic and business-focused meetings in Costa Rica during his official visit to Central American and Caribbean nations from May 8 to 15, aimed at strengthening India's trade and economic engagement in the region.

Margherita represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of Costa Rica's 50th President, Laura Fernández Delgado, in San José. During talks with newly appointed Costa Rican Foreign Minister Manuel Tovar, both sides discussed democracy, multilateral cooperation and expanding bilateral partnerships. The minister also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the University for Peace and inaugurated the "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" wall.

Technology cooperation emerged as a major focus during the visit. Margherita inaugurated a new office of Fujitsu in San José and met Costa Rica's Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications, Paula Bogantes Zamora. Discussions focused on supporting Indian businesses, capacity building and Quick Impact Projects to deepen economic ties.

In Guwahati, India's expanding outreach to Latin America could create new export opportunities for Assam tea, agri-products and IT services. Industry circles in Guwahati also see potential for increased technology collaborations and business exchanges as India strengthens its presence in emerging overseas markets.

After concluding his Costa Rica visit, Margherita departed for Honduras, Belize and Dominica as part of India's broader diplomatic and economic outreach in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Godrej unveils India's first multi Ion battery for forklifts to power green supply chains

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group has launched India's first Multi Ion battery technology for electric forklifts through its Material Handling Equipment (MHE) business, marking a major push towards cleaner and more efficient industrial supply chains. The company said the new technology aims to support India's rapidly expanding manufacturing, warehousing and logistics sectors with sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions.

The Multi Ion battery has been designed to offer 25 per cent lower total cost of ownership, higher equipment uptime and zero maintenance, while lasting through the full operational life of the forklift. Developed in collaboration with one of India's leading deep-tech battery innovators,



the battery delivers up to 5,000 life cycles, nearly 60 per cent more than standard lithium-ion batteries. It also supports fast and opportunity charging, eliminates rare earth dependency and performs efficiently in temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius.

India's industrial and warehousing sector continues to witness strong growth, with

more than 11 million sqft of leasing recorded across the top eight cities in Q1 2026, driven by demand from e-commerce firms, third-party logistics players and manufacturing-led supply chain modernisation.

Anil Lingayat, Business Head, Material Handling Equipment at Godrej Enterprises Group, said the innovation reflects the company's fo-

cus on advanced engineering, R&D and technology-driven solutions that improve operational efficiency and sustainability across the logistics ecosystem, including MSMEs. The company added that the technology has undergone over 5,000 hours of real-world validation and comes with a seven-year warranty.

In Guwahati, the rising growth of logistics parks, warehouses and e-commerce distribution centres in Assam is expected to increase demand for advanced electric material handling equipment. Industry experts believe Guwahati-based businesses are gradually shifting towards energy-efficient forklifts and sustainable warehouse operations as the Northeast emerges as an important trade and logistics hub.

Tripura CM Cuts Convoy to Save Fuel



Agartala, May 15: Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha has reduced his official convoy from seven vehicles to four, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for fuel conservation amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, officials said on Thursday. According to officials, the decision was taken after a discussion between the Chief Minister and Director General of Police Anurag upon Saha's return from Guwahati on Wednesday. The revised convoy now includes only four vehicles, one of which is the Chief Minister's car.

Earlier, speaking to reporters at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport, Saha said he personally supports reducing convoy size, provided that security arrangements are not compromised. The step comes after the Prime Minister urged citizens to cut fuel consumption and adopt energy-saving measures such as using public transport, electric vehicles, and carpooling, in light of global tensions in West Asia. There has been no official statement from the Chief Minister's Office on whether similar reductions will apply to other VIP movements in the state.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Begins 3-Day Sikkim Visit Today



Mizoram, May 14: Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DO-NER) and Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia, has embarked on a three-day visit to Sikkim to review ongoing projects in tourism, connectivity, and border infrastructure. Scindia arrived at Bagdogra Airport on Thursday evening before traveling to Namchi in South Sikkim for an overnight halt. His engagements begin on May 15 with a tour of Temi Tea Garden, the state's only tea estate and a prominent tourist destination. He will also inspect the Bhaleydungka Skywalk Project in Yangang, a major tourism initiative currently under development. Later in the day, the Minister is scheduled to attend

the Sikkim Premier League at Bhaichung Stadium and visit Orchidium in Gangtok, a cultural attraction recently commended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On May 16, Scindia will proceed to Nathula Pass on the Indo-China border to assess facilities being prepared for the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. His review will cover acclimatisation centres at Hangu Lake and 17th Mile, which were virtually inaugurated by the Prime Minister during his recent visit. He will also inspect the large-scale parking infrastructure under construction at Nathula, designed to accommodate nearly 1,000 vehicles to ease congestion in the border region. In the evening, Scindia will serve as Guest of Honour at the 51st State Day celebrations in Gangtok.

The visit is regarded as significant for Sikkim, with centrally-supported projects aimed at strengthening tourism, improving connectivity, and enhancing pilgrimage facilities across the Himalayan state.

Assam Rifles, DRI Seize ₹8 Crore Worth Yaba Tablets in Tripura

Agartala, May 15: In a major crackdown on narcotics trafficking, the Assam Rifles, in a joint operation with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, seized a massive consignment of Yaba tablets from Mungiakami in Tripura on Friday. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the security personnel intercepted a Mahindra pick-up vehicle bearing registration number TR05G1855 during the operation. Upon thorough search, the team recovered nearly one lakh Yaba tablets with an estimated market value of around ₹8 crore in the international market. One person, identified as Kauchar Hussain (28), a resident of Jatan Bari under Gomati district, was apprehended in connection with the seizure.

Officials said the recovered narcotics along with the detained individual were handed over to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for further investigation and initiation of legal proceedings. Security agencies stated that the successful operation reflects the continued efforts of the Assam Rifles and the DRI in curbing drug trafficking and preventing the spread of narcotics in the region.



Zubeen Case: Mahanta's Bail Hearing Deferred

Guwahati, May 15: The bail hearing of accused Shyamkanu Mahanta in connection with the case related to the death of singer Zubeen Garg was deferred to May 22 after proceedings held at the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate on Friday. The hearing was conducted before Chief Judicial Magistrate Mitali Thakur. According to advocate Jiaul Kamar, who briefed the media after the proceedings, the court directed the investigating agency to submit the case diary before the next date of

Himanta Biswa Sarma Sworn In As Assam Chief Minister Governor Administers Oath in Guwahati Ceremony



Guwahati, May 15: Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term on Tuesday, marking the formation of the NDA government in the state for the third straight time. Four from NDA – Rameswar Teli, Ajanta Neog (both from BJP), AGP president Atul Bora and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) leader Charan Boro – took oath as ministers. Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Sarma and the four legislators at a grand ceremony held at the Veterinary Ground in Khanapara, Guwahati.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Ministers of 22 NDA-ruled states and Union Territories, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, ambassadors of some

countries, industrialists, and religious leaders attended the swearing-in ceremony. Sarma's mother and other family members were also present. Ahead of his swearing-in, Sarma posted on X, "May the blessings of Maa Kamakhya and Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev illuminate the lives of everyone in Assam and open new pathways to peace, progress and prosperity. Assam will scale new heights of development in the coming days with their blessings." Atul Bora said the NDA's third term would be a golden period for Assam. Several Chief Ministers, who attended the swearing-in ceremony, thanked the people of Assam for voting for development, calling the mandate historic. They praised Modi for his increased focus on the Northeast and for ensuring the region's continuous development.

The NDA secured a record 102 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly, with the BJP winning 82 constituencies. Its allies, the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodoland Peoples' Front, bagged 10 seats each. The NDA had opened the gateway to the Northeast by winning Assam in 2016 under the leadership of former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of the BJP. The BJP fought this year's elections on the planks of identity and development. Consistent with that agenda, Sarma had on Monday posted on X, "Assam's land, identity and future are non-negotiable. After freeing 1.5 lakh bighas of land from encroachment, #NDA3.0 moves ahead with a firm resolve to reclaim 5 lakh more bighas for the people of Assam. Because for us, Jati (community), Mati (land), Bheti (foundation) come first."



hearing.

He further said Mahanta's legal team is expected to file a special affidavit on May 18 in

connection with the bail plea. During Thursday's hearing, both the prosecution and the defence presented their ar-

guments. The prosecution also sought the submission of additional case-related documents.

The case is linked to the September 19, 2025 incident associated with death of iconic Assamese singer Zubeen Garg. The court will take up the bail plea again on May 22 after examining the case diary and other submissions. In a related development last month, a fast-track court had rejected Mahanta's bail plea on April 30, marking a significant development in the ongoing proceedings.

Watkins Braces as Villa Beat Liverpool for Champions League

Birmingham, May 15: Ollie Watkins scored two goals and had another disallowed as Aston Villa set itself up nicely for next week's Europa League final with a 4-2 win at home against Liverpool on Friday. The win also guaranteed Villa a place in next

League club again, and it allows us to be excited and enjoy the game on Wednesday.

Liverpool was three points behind in fifth and still sweating whether it will make it into next year's Champions League. Liverpool had the better of the opening exchange-



year's Champions League. The win just five days before Villa faces Freiburg in the Europa League decider means Unai Emery's side ensured a top-five finish in the Premier League. "It's a great performance and a great way to end the season at Villa Park," captain John McGinn told broadcaster Sky Sports "We've just made this club a Champions

League club again, and it allows us to be excited and enjoy the game on Wednesday. Liverpool was three points behind in fifth and still sweating whether it will make it into next year's Champions League. Liverpool had the better of the opening exchange-

a well-worked corner kick. Virgil van Dijk's header eight minutes into the second half brought Liverpool level but Villa started to dominate as the game opened up. Watkins had a goal chalked off for offside but made up for it just a few minutes later when he took advantage of a slip by Szoboszlai that set Villa free on the counterattack.

He added a third in the 73rd when he side-footed home from point-blank range after Mamardashvili made two excellent stops. It was Watkins' sixth goal in his last seven league games and he was a constant threat to a Liverpool rearguard that looked shaky every time Villa stormed forward. "We've conceded far too many games, but we also haven't scored enough goals," said Liverpool coach Arne Slot, who admitted his team lacked backbone after going behind in the second half. "(After) the 2-1 we crumbled, we struggled. In the end made it 4-2, so they did not give up, but we struggled to control their pace, intensity and quality."

BFI Agrees to Changes, Cleared for Trials

Chennai, May 15: A day after a meeting between the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and head coaches including foreign, the selection process that was stalled on Sunday would go ahead with changed criteria. As reported by the New Indian Express, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had agreed to make the changes in the selection process for Commonwealth and Asian Games. SAI had stalled the selection process that was originally supposed to start on Monday due to ambiguity and lack of transparency.

The New Indian Express had reported on Monday that the BFI had agreed to make changes as suggested by the SAI and Target Olympic Podium Scheme top official. TOPS CEO NS Johal, too, was present in the meeting. The BFI formally sent their proposal to the SAI on Tuesday and the trials would commence on Wednesday. Peeved with lackadaisical approach of the BFI, SAI had stalled the trials on Sunday. The evaluation system will be based on sparring performance instead of assessment methodology.

Some of the suggestions included adopting a five-judge scoring system (1 head coach and four judges) to ensure fairness and transparency, announcement of scores immediately after the completion of each sparring bouts (like in main competitions), having a total of 12 Referees & Judges (R&J) during the evaluation process. The evaluation camp will now be held at NS NIS Patiala from Wednesday to Friday. Both parties came to that verdict keeping in mind the boxers' interest. This is a welcome boost for the pugilists who were waiting for the camp to begin as weight management is one of the big challenges. The opening session is

expected to start around 11 am while the afternoon session will begin from 3 pm. As things stand, Preeti Pawar (women's 54kg), Priya Ghanghas (women's 60kg) and Sachin Siwach (men's 60kg) are among those who have qualified for both CWG and Asiad by reaching the finals of the Asian Championships held last month in Mongolia. Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), meanwhile, are set for CWG. Though the likes of Peeti and Priya won't be participating this time, there will be others who'll be competing in their weight categories with other international events like World Cup in mind. Big-hitters like Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) will be looking to impress the judges during the evaluation camp. This development is a relief for BFI but the federation will still have other things to address in the days to come. The sports ministry had handed the federation a show-cause notice on Monday seeking a detailed explanation on multiple fronts. They had questioned the selection of coaches that was apparently done without keeping SAI in the loop. The SAI and ministry also questioned the Chief of Army Staff Cup, which was held in Pune recently.



IPL 2026: Curious case of overseas treatments

Some players from a few countries are seemingly going back and forth for assessments than doing it in India

Chennai, May 15: Earlier this Indian Premier League (IPL) season, Mark Wood, in a podcast, had narrated an unusual incident featuring an owner of one of the sides he was part of. "I wasn't very well after about five games," he had recounted during the BBC's Strategic Timeout podcast. "The next game was in about three days' time. Every half an hour, the doctor would stay back, come to my room, check on my vitals. "... I remember one day the owner ringing me, 'how are you feeling? Ready to go?'" Wood, who has featured for two IPL teams, was so weak he was condemned to his bed so he said 'I have eaten and drunk nothing. I still can't get out of my bed. The owner, clearly not amused, pushed his luck, according to the pacer. "He said 'We will get you another doctor... I will send you a private plane, you get in the plane, play the game. Then I will get plane straight back out and get you back to your bedside.'" Wood didn't take up the offer but he thought "that's the coolest thing that's ever probably happened to me in my life".

These days, it increasingly looks like foreign boards do not want to take any chances with an overzealous franchise or two. It's perhaps why at least two cricket boards have taken the decision to fly their players out



back to their own countries for scans or and/or giving them the green signal for them to

bowl competitively. Earlier this month, Phil Salt was flown back to England by his parent

board after he had sustained an injury on his finger. Is it because of some unwritten protocol that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have with their players? Even if it's some new guideline not in the public domain, this appears to be a recent pattern because Ben Stokes was allowed to do his rehab at the Chennai Super Kings a few seasons ago.

Meanwhile, Jamie Overton, who is understood to have first picked up an injury during the game against Delhi Capitals on May 5 and underwent scans in India, played against Lucknow Super Giants on May 10. Having been ruled out now, he is now enroute to UK to have another scan to understand the extent of his injury before deciding on further course of action. So did his injury potentially aggravate in the second game? An ECB spokesperson has been approached for comment on whether there's a protocol in place. At this point in time, this trend has predominantly featured cricketers from England and Australia. Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins went back to Australia at least once after the start of the tournament for scans and to receive the final fit to play clearance from the board (the Mitchell Starc case is different as he didn't land in India till he was given the go ahead).