

Proposed 5-Star Hotel Project Set to Boost Tourism and Employment in Dima Hasao



Haflong, June 5: As Dima Hasao continues to emerge as one of the leading tourist destinations in the region, the growing influx of visitors has highlighted the urgent need for world-class hospitality infrastructure in the district. In this regard, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Debolal Gorlosa, held a significant meeting on Thursday with Brig. M. Kumar and other key representatives of the DS Group to discuss investment opportunities in the district. The meeting was attended by Rupali Langthasa, MLA of Haflong (ST) Constituency, Mohet Hojai, Chairman, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Executive Members Ratan Jarambusa and Manjoy Langthasa, along with Ramgalungbe, Member of the Autonomous Council (MAC). The primary focus of the discussion was the proposed establishment of a five-star hotel in Dima Hasao. The ambitious project is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the district's tourism sector while generating new employment opportunities and contributing to the overall economic development of the region. The proposed luxury hotel aims to cater to the increasing number of tourists visiting Dima Hasao from across the country and beyond, offering high-quality accommodation and modern amenities to ensure a comfortable and memorable stay. The initiative reflects the Council's commitment to enhancing tourism infrastructure and positioning Dima Hasao as a premier destination for both domestic and international visitors.

Inspection Parade and Arakhi Sanmilan Held at Haflong Police Reserve; Retiring Officer Honoured

Haflong, June 3: An Inspection Parade was conducted at the Police Reserve, Haflong, on Wednesday, followed by an Arakhi Sanmilan attended by police personnel from the headquarters. While several personnel participated physically, others joined the programme virtually. The event was attended by Dima Hasao Senior Superintendent of Police, Ripunjoy Kakati, along with other police officers and staff members. During the programme, a farewell ceremony was also organized in honour of LNK (AB) Rajat Hojai, who retired from service on May 31, 2026, after rendering dedicated ser-



vice to the police department. The officers and personnel present acknowledged his contributions and wished him a healthy, happy, and fulfilling post-retirement life. The programme concluded with interactions between officers and personnel on matters concerning welfare, discipline, and the effective functioning of the force.

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ADRHRDP Launch Marks Major Boost for Road Connectivity and Resilient Infrastructure in Dima Hasao

Guwahati, June 3: Guwahati, In a significant step towards strengthening road infrastructure and promoting sustainable development in the hill district, the Project Launching Workshop of the Assam Disaster Resilient Hill Roads Development Project (ADRHRDP) was held at the Assam Administrative Staff College on Tuesday. The workshop was attended by Dima Hasao Autonomous Council Executive Member Monjoy Langthasa in the presence of Anbamuthan M.P., IAS, Project Director of ADRHRDP, the Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD, officials of the World Bank, senior government officers, distinguished delegates, and other stakeholders. The initiative, undertaken under the leadership of Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and the guidance



of Chief Executive Member of DHAC Debolal Gorlosa, is aimed at building disaster-resilient road infrastructure and accelerating development in remote hill areas. Speaking on the occasion, Monjoy Langthasa highlighted that nearly 360 kilometres of roads across five key corridors in Dima Hasao have been identified for development under the project. The proposed road network is

expected to significantly improve connectivity and provide better access to health-care, education, markets, and other essential public services, thereby enhancing the quality of life of the people. He described the project as a landmark initiative that will strengthen the district's infrastructure, improve disaster resilience, and open new avenues for economic growth and social development.

The Dima Hasao Autonomous Council reaffirmed its commitment to extending full support and cooperation for the successful implementation of the project. Gratitude was also expressed to the Government of Assam, the World Bank, the Public Works Roads Department (PWRD), and all associated agencies for bringing this transformative development initiative to Dima Hasao.

CEM Stresses Timely Completion and Quality Execution of Development Projects

Haflong, June 2: Emphasizing the importance of timely completion and maintaining high-quality standards in developmental works, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Debolal Gorlosa, chaired a review meeting on Monday to assess the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects across the district. The meeting was attended by Rupali Langthasa, MLA of Haflong (ST) Constituency, and Monjoy Langthasa, Executive Member, DHAC, along with officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) and contractors engaged in various development projects. During the meeting, the CEM reviewed the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned officials and contractors to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality. He stressed that timely execution and adher-



ence to prescribed standards are essential for delivering lasting benefits to the people and accelerating the overall development of Dima Hasao. The meeting also discussed challenges faced during implementation and explored measures to expedite project completion. The review reflects the Council's commitment to ensuring accountability, efficiency, and quality in the execution of public infrastructure projects throughout the district.

Maibang Police OC Receives DGP's Commendation for Outstanding Service

Haflong, June 4: Himangshu Jyoti Gohain, Officer-in-Charge of Maibang Police Station, has been awarded a commendation letter by the Assam DGP for his exemplary service and professional excellence.

The honour was conferred for his role in the successful apprehension of an accused person and the recovery of an AK-56 rifle, a magazine containing eight live rounds of ammunition, and other incriminating materials during a police operation.

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Gohain said the award would inspire him to continue serving with greater dedication and commitment. The achievement has been widely appreciated by residents and the police fraternity, who lauded his professionalism and contribution to maintaining law and order in the state.

Three Insurgents Arrested in Manipur; PREPAK Denies One Link

Imphal, June 5: Security forces apprehended three active cadres of proscribed Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) in separate operations near the India-Myanmar border. Acting on precise intelligence near Border Pillar 81 in Tengnoupal district, security forces intercepted and arrested Ningthoujam Thourangba (29) of PREPAK-Progressive and Ahongshangbam Momocha Singh (20) of PREPAK.

In a separate sweep at Sawombung Khunjao, tactical teams captured Thangjam Nganba Meetei (23) and seized a four-wheeler with incriminating materials. Following the operations, PREPAK issued an official statement denying any organizational link to Meetei, asserting he has never been associated with their group or its armed wing, the Red Army.



PM Modi Shares Environment Message



New Delhi, June 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended his greetings to citizens on the occasion of World Environment Day and praised those who are dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment. Taking to the social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "Best wishes to everyone on World Environment Day. I would like to applaud all those passionate about environmental conservation. This is a day to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our environment and furthering growth that is sustainable. Numerous efforts by our Government over the last decade highlight our work in this direction. Some of India's key successes include expanding green cover and a rise in the population of several animals. The people of India have shown how collective efforts, policies, belief in science and innovation can improve our environment."

Observed annually on June 5, World Environment Day aims to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage action to safeguard the planet. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it has become one of the largest global platforms for environ-

mental advocacy and public engagement. The origin of World Environment Day can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972. The conference marked a significant milestone in international environmental governance by bringing ecological concerns to the forefront of global policymaking. Following the conference, the United Nations officially designated June 5 as World Environment Day, with the first observance taking place in 1973. The occasion serves as an important reminder of the environmental challenges confronting the world today, including climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and the depletion of natural resources. It encourages individuals, communities, businesses, and governments to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to environmental protection. Over the years, World Environment Day has evolved into a global movement involving more than 150 countries. Activities such as tree-planting campaigns, beach clean-ups, educational programmes, and policy initiatives are organised worldwide. Each year, a host country is selected, and a specific theme highlights a pressing environmental issue. While governments and organisations play a crucial role in environmental conservation, individual efforts are equally important. Simple actions such as reducing waste, conserving water, using public transport, planting trees, and adopting sustainable lifestyles can collectively make a meaningful difference.

India to Launch Smart Border Pilot Project for Enhanced Security



Guwahati, June 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that India would soon introduce a smart border pilot project, using drones, sensors, and smart fencing to enhance border security and surveillance. Addressing Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Lankamura Border Outpost in Tripura, Shah said the Narendra Modi government was creating a foolproof security grid along India's borders. "Different borders pose different challenges, such as drug smuggling, arms smuggling, and trafficking. Another challenge is thwarting attempts to drop weapons and counterfeit currency using drones," the Home Minister said. "We decided that wherever BSF and SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) are deployed, we will build a smart border. As part of a security plan, we will make our borders impregnable with the help of technology, local administration and your hard work," he told the personnel.

He said the smart border concept was in the

stage of finalisation and the Centre would introduce its pilot project at seven to eight border locations in the coming year. According to him, it is only when all stakeholders, including village authorities and local administration, work together that the borders can be fully protected. "The Modi government is continuously equipping the BSF with cutting-edge technologies, security infrastructure, and training, sharpening its border vigilance prowess," Shah claimed. Stating that the Centre will not tolerate demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar, he said steps were being taken to bridge the gaps in guarding the country's borders.

Before addressing the personnel, Shah inspected the latest weaponry of the BSF at a border outpost in Tripura and planted an Agarwood sapling there on the occasion of World Environment Day. In his speech, he also stated that the Central Armed Police Forces planted 6.40 crore trees across the country since 2019 as part of efforts to protect forests and the environment. "Around 40 lakh to 60 lakh trees will be planted this year. Replantation will be undertaken in areas where plantations did not survive earlier," Shah said. He observed that rapid urbanisation and resultant large-scale felling of trees for development activities have led to climate change, disturbing the ozone layer.

BJP hits back at Rahul Gandhi over 'economic tsunami' remark

New Delhi, June 5: The BJP on Friday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "economic tsunami" prediction, accusing him of trying to malign India's economic progress.

BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya shared data showing India recorded a robust 7.7% GDP growth in FY 2025-26, cementing its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Highlighting strong GST collections, record auto sales, and healthy forex reserves, Malviya contrasted India's resilience with sluggish



growth in the G7 and Euro areas.

He noted that India has transformed from a "Fragile Five" economy in 2013 under Con-

gress rule into a global growth engine. Malviya asserted that the only "tsunami" visible is the one drowning Congress's malignant thinking.

'India Is No Longer Weak': Rajnath



Lucknow, June 5: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that India has emerged as a "strong nation" and its global stature has risen significantly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a World Environment Day event in his Lucknow constituency, Singh emphasized that the country's economy has scaled new heights and is earning praise worldwide. "The world recognises that India is no longer weak but has become powerful," Singh said, noting its growing international credibility. He praised the Prime Minister for effectively managing inflation, keeping it at just over 3% despite global economic uncertainties stemming from the West Asia crisis, unlike other nations facing soaring inflation rates.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Singh participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by planting a sapling at Kasturba Park in Lucknow Cantonment. Expressing confidence in achieving the national target of planting 70 crore saplings, he described trees as the foundation of human existence and urged citizens to plant and nurture at least one sapling. Later, Singh visited the residence of UP State Women's Commission Vice-Chairperson Aparna Yadav to offer condolences following the demise of her husband, Prateek Yadav.

Congress Slams Centre's Strategic Justification For Great Nicobar Project

Jairam Ramesh Backs Rahul Gandhi's Campaign, Choosing Green Over Greed

New Delhi, June 5: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday claimed that the Modi government was giving a "damage control spin" by justifying the "ecologically disastrous" Great Nicobar project on the grounds of strategic importance, and alleged that it is a commercial venture that is being "bulldozed through". The former environment minister urged people to sign a petition initiated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi against the project and choose "Green Over Greed". "The ecologically disastrous Great Nicobar project is now being justified

on the grounds of strategic importance. But this is a damage control spin that is being given to the issue by the Modi Government," Ramesh said on X. On 8th August 2024, the Public Investment Board -- a Finance Ministry body -- had concluded that the project "lacks strategic objectives", Ramesh pointed out. "Yet, on 18th August 2025, the Ministry of Defence notified the project as a strategic project. The rationale accorded appears to have been largely the location of the project, rather than any deeper strategic considerations," he claimed.

Separately, on 3rd January 2025, it was decided that a minimum of 55% shareholding in the project be held by an Indian-owned and controlled entity, Ramesh said. "Further, on 2nd April 2025, the project was proposed on a JV model with Viability Gap Funding (VGF). This paves the way for the Prime Minister's closest industrial friend to take over this project and build five-star hotels and casinos, expanding the sprawling Modani Empire at the cost of some of India's most pristine and ecologically diverse rainforests," the Congress leader alleged. "This is

purely a commercial project, one that is being bulldozed through by the Government to favour his closest industrialist friend," Ramesh claimed. "On this World Environment Day, let us choose #GreenOverGreed. Sign the petition," he said on X.

In an earlier post, Ramesh said the Great Nicobar Island Project is an ecological disaster. "Fanciful strategic reasons are now being invented for it whereas other alternatives exist. The environment and forest approvals for the project have been given on bogus grounds," he said.



Arma Inducts 12 Ministers in Cabinet Expansion



Guwahati, June 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expanded his cabinet on Friday as BJP MLAs Ranaj Pegu, Ashok Singhal, Biswajit Daimary and AGP's Keshab Mahanta were among the 12 legislators took oath as ministers, taking the strength of the council of ministers to 17.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to the MLAs at a function at the Jyoti-Bishnu Antarjatik Kala Mandir here. Among the new faces in the cabinet are BJP's Ashwini Ray Sarkar, Nandini Devi and Sushanta Borgohain. AGP's Mahanta, who was in Sarma's previous cabinet, has been included in the council of ministers. BJP

MLAs Bimal Borah, Jayant Mallabaruah, Kaushik Rai, Krishnendu Paul and Pijush Hazarika, who took the oath, had also served as ministers in the previous Himanta Sarma government.

The strength of the Assam cabinet will now be 17, including the chief minister, with four other ministers sworn in on May 12. The ministers sworn in earlier are AGP's Atul Bora, BPF's Charan Boro and BJP's Ajanta Neog and Rameshwar Teli.

The NDA won a record 102 seats in the 126-member assembly, including 82 from the BJP. The BJP allies, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF), bagged 10 seats each.

World Environment Day Observed Across Dima Hasao with Tree Plantation and Awareness Drives

Haflong, June 5: World Environment Day was observed with great enthusiasm and active public participation across Dima Hasao district on Thursday. Various programmes, including tree plantation drives, environmental awareness campaigns, cleanliness activities, and educational events, were organized in different parts of the district to promote the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living.

Schools, colleges, government offices, educational institutions, civil society organizations, political groups, and administrative departments joined hands in observing the occasion. Teachers, students, children, government officials, community leaders, and members of the general public participated in large numbers, reflecting a collective commitment towards protecting nature and preserving the environment for future generations.

Tree saplings were planted in school campuses, public spaces, government institutions, and community areas across the district. Environmental awareness programmes highlighted the urgent need to combat climate change, prevent deforestation, reduce pollution, and protect biodiversity. Speakers at various events stressed the importance of maintaining ecological balance and encouraged people to adopt environmentally responsible



practices in their daily lives.

The programmes also emphasized that preserving the planet's natural resources is a shared responsibility and that every individual can contribute towards a greener and healthier future. Participants were urged to reduce plastic usage, conserve water, protect forests, and actively participate in afforestation initiatives.

Officials and environmental advocates noted that Dima Hasao, blessed with rich forests, hills, rivers, and diverse wildlife, has a crucial role to play in safeguarding the ecological heritage of the region. They emphasized that environmental protection is not merely a one-day activity but a continuous mission that requires

sustained efforts from all sections of society.

Observing the significance of the day, organizers reiterated the message that it is never too late to take action for the environment. Through collective awareness, responsible behavior, and community participation, a greener and more sustainable future can be achieved.

The widespread observance of World Environment Day across Dima Hasao showcased the district's growing environmental consciousness and reaffirmed the commitment of its people towards preserving global ecology and promoting a clean, green, and sustainable environment.

Manipur CM Orders Arrests Over Killings

Imphal, June 5: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has issued strict directives to law enforcement agencies to track down and arrest the militants responsible for killing three Kuki villagers and torching seven houses in Kangpokpi district early Friday morning.

Condemning the midnight raid at Loibol Khullen village, the Chief Minister termed the violence "heinous, cowardly, and completely unacceptable." Crackdown Matrix: State police and central security networks have been ordered to aggressively intensify operations in vulnerable border zones to preempt further escalation.

Rehabilitation Support: Administrative teams have been dispatched to provide immediate emergency relief and shelter to the families displaced by the arson.



Mizoram CM says Myanmar refugee influx becoming a burden



Aizawl, June 5: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Thursday said the continued influx of displaced people from Myanmar has become a burden on the state and warned that more refugees may arrive in the coming months. Speaking in Shillong, Lalduhoma said the ongoing situation in Myanmar had led to a steady flow of people seeking refuge in Mizoram. "Due to the geopolitical condition there, we are getting many displaced people nowadays. It's likely that we will get more people seeking safety. This has become a burden for us," the Chief Minister said. Mizoram, which shares a porous border with Myanmar and has strong ethnic and cultural ties with communities across the frontier, has been hosting thousands of people who fled the

neighbouring country following the military coup in 2021 and the subsequent civil war involving the Myanmar military and various Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs).

The Chief Minister's remarks come amid concerns over the humanitarian, administrative and financial challenges associated with the prolonged refugee influx.

State authorities have previously highlighted the strain on local resources, infrastructure and welfare services resulting from the continued arrival of displaced people. Despite these challenges, Mizoram has continued to provide shelter and humanitarian assistance to those fleeing Myanmar, citing longstanding ethnic and historical links between communities on both sides of the border.

Kaziranga records 30 raptor, six stork species in biodiversity survey

Guwahati, June 5: The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam, known for its one-horned rhinoceros population, has recorded 30 species of raptors and six species of storks, according to a recent survey. The comprehensive stork and raptor rapid survey was conducted between February and March this year by the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve authority in collaboration with researchers from Gauhati University. The report was released on World Environment Day on Friday. The survey recorded 30 raptor species with 217 individuals and 6 stork species with 266 individuals.

Kaziranga supports a wide variety of diurnal and nocturnal raptors, including eagles, falcons, vultures, buzzards and owls. The park's extensive network of wetlands is home to several resident and migratory stork species. Of the 112 species of raptors recorded in India, nearly 50 have been documented in Kaziranga and its adjoining landscape. Assam's diverse wetlands and Himalayan foothills provide critical habitats for these birds of prey. "The global total of stork species stands at 20, primarily found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. Eight of them, found in India, have also been recorded in Assam and Kaziranga landscape. The region's vast network of wetlands and tall trees provides them safe hunting and nesting grounds," the park said in a statement. The survey, conducted across the park's three administrative zones, including East Assam Wildlife Division, Biswanath Wildlife Division and Nagaon Wildlife Division, revealed a striking diversity. The Eastern Assam Wildlife Division recorded 21 species of raptors and five species of storks, followed by Biswanath Wildlife Division with 20 spe-



cies of raptors and six species of storks, and Nagaon Wildlife Division with 14 species of raptors and five species of storks. Among the stork species, Asian openbill was the most abundant with 92 individuals recorded, while the Greater adjutant stork was the rarest species with only three individual sightings. Among the raptors, Himalayan griffon vulture was the most common with 69 individuals recorded, while booted eagle and white tailed eagle were the rarest species with only one sighting each.

The Kaziranga landscape also serves as a last stronghold for the enigmatic Pallas's fish eagle. "These findings underline Kaziranga's importance for conservation and highlight priorities including nest and floodplain habitat protection, mitigation of powerline electrocution, continued telemetry and international collaboration to secure the species' remaining populations," the statement said. It added that the findings would contribute to ongoing efforts to protect these threatened raptor and stork species and enhance the biodiversity of the park's diverse habitats.

Editorial

Dima Hasao: Emerging as Northeast India's Premier Hill Tourism Destination

The picturesque hill district of Dima Hasao in Assam is steadily carving a place for itself on the tourism map of Northeast India. Blessed with rolling hills, dense forests, majestic waterfalls, crystal-clear rivers, scenic valleys, and a pleasant climate, the district has witnessed remarkable growth in tourist arrivals over the past few years. What was once a relatively unexplored destination is now becoming one of the most sought-after hill retreats in the region.

The transformation of Dima Hasao is evident across the district. Improved road connectivity, growing public interest in eco-tourism, and widespread promotion through social media have brought the district's natural treasures into the spotlight. Destinations such as Haflong, Jatinga, Panimur, Umrangso, the Diyung Valley, and several unexplored hill viewpoints are attracting visitors from across Assam and beyond.

Tourism has already begun generating a significant economic impact. Local entrepreneurs are opening homestays, guest houses, restaurants, transport services, and adventure tourism ventures. Handicrafts, local agricultural products, and traditional cuisines are finding new markets among visitors. For many rural communities, tourism is becoming an important supplementary source of income, creating employment opportunities and encouraging self-reliance.

However, the rapid rise in tourist footfall also highlights the urgent need for planned infrastructure development. While nature has gifted Dima Hasao

with immense beauty, the district still requires adequate accommodation facilities to cater to visitors of different budgets. More quality hotels, eco-resorts, homestays, and tourist lodges are needed, especially in emerging destinations.

Equally important is the development of food and hospitality services. Tourists often struggle to locate hygienic eateries and information about local cuisine. Establishing well-maintained food courts, restaurants, and refreshment centres at strategic tourist locations would significantly enhance the visitor experience.

Navigation and tourist information remain another crucial area for improvement. Given Dima Hasao's vast and mountainous terrain, visitors frequently face difficulties in locating destinations and understanding travel routes. Installation of proper signboards, digital navigation systems, tourist information centres, route maps, and destination guides is essential. Tourists should be able to access reliable information about travel distances, road conditions, weather, and safety advisories.

Safety and security must remain a top priority as tourism expands. Emergency response mechanisms, tourist police units, medical assistance centres, and disaster preparedness systems should be strengthened. Visitors must feel secure while exploring remote locations. Simultaneously, awareness campaigns should encourage responsible tourism and environmental conservation to preserve the district's fragile ecological

balance.

Considering the geographical nature of Dima Hasao, authorities must also identify and scientifically develop the most suitable tourism zones. Many breathtaking locations remain unknown or inaccessible despite their immense potential. A comprehensive tourism master plan can help prioritize destinations, improve accessibility, and ensure sustainable growth without damaging the natural environment.

Dima Hasao today stands at a crucial juncture. Tourism has already begun transforming the district's economy and creating new opportunities for its people. With strategic investments in accommodation, hospitality, navigation, infrastructure, safety, and sustainable development, the district can emerge as one of the leading hill tourism destinations not only in Northeast India but in the entire country.

The hills of Dima Hasao are no longer merely a hidden gem; they are a symbol of opportunity, growth, and transformation. The challenge now lies in ensuring that this growth remains sustainable, inclusive, and beneficial to future generations. If properly nurtured, tourism will continue to serve as a powerful engine of economic development while showcasing the unmatched beauty of Dima Hasao to the world.

This version is written in a formal newspaper editorial style, emphasizing both the achievements and future requirements of tourism development in Dima Hasao.

Why the shift to Producer Price Index matters



India is set to fundamentally reshape its macroeconomic toolkit. Beginning June 15, the government will launch the Producer Price Index (PPI), initiating a five-year transition away from the long-standing Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Far from a mere statistical update, this pivot alters how the nation tracks inflation at the factory gate, capturing price pressures right where economic activity begins. The Structural Shift: PPI vs. WPI While both indices look at producer-level pricing, the new framework repairs critical gaps that have long distorted India's inflation data. Granular Weights: WPI relies on broad sector gross value estimates. The new Output PPI (OPPI) uses detailed national accounts supply tables for an accurate economic snapshot. No More Double Counting: WPI frequently counted intermediate items multiple times across production stages. By tracking separate input and output trajectories, PPI removes this

statistical noise.

The Services Expansion: Services make up over 55% of India's GDP but were entirely ignored by the goods-only WPI. The initial rollout features a quarterly Services PPI tracking seven pivotal sectors, including banking, telecom, insurance, and railways. Expanded Baskets and a Parallel Timeline Reflecting modern economic realities, the revised commodity basket is expanding from 697 to 957 items. To capture India's green transition, solar, wind, and nuclear electricity are officially making their debut in the data. Because thousands of commercial, infrastructure, and government contracts feature price-escalation clauses linked directly to wholesale data, the government will continue to publish a revised WPI (updated to a 2022-23 base year) alongside the PPI for five years. This buffer allows corporate entities ample time to renegotiate supply agreements before the old index is permanently phased out.

From Rebel to Mutiny: Founder Outmaneuvered as Trinamool Ship Splinters

What Bengal did this week, India has done before. Yet the dramatic turn of events in the country's fourth-most populous state was stunning, given that none of this was thinkable even a month ago. A month after the BJP's spectacular triumph of winning a two-thirds majority in West Bengal, the declaration of autonomy by two-thirds of Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislators is a resounding vote of no-confidence against Mamata Banerjee and, more specifically, against Abhishek Banerjee, denying the nephew any locus standi as national general secretary. The disintegration of Trinamool is a body blow to Mamata Banerjee, for she embodies the party. The break from the past is even more remarkable considering that relative newcomer Ritabrata Banerjee has been selected leader of the breakaway group of 58 legislators. They have already been recognized by the new Assembly Speaker, Rathindra Bose, as the principal opposition. The Explosion Post-May Election



It's a flame-out Mamata does not appear to have anticipated. It leaves her alienated from the party she founded in 1998 after quitting the Congress. Before the election, the TMC was a dominant political presence. Now, the breakup seems entirely expected as legislators spew venom against Abhishek's monopolization of power and Ma-

mata's active indulgence of him as the dynastic successor. The crisis in the TMC is familiar to regional parties taken captive by a single family. A game of thrones is triggered when the right of a bloodline successor is challenged by popular leaders from the outside. Curiously, leaders like Akhilesh Yadav, Gaurav Gogoi, and Mayawati all

eventually moved toward Parli-

ament as alternative sites for continuing their political careers when winning majorities in their state legislatures became unachievable. Limited Choices for the Faction The option is open for Mamata Banerjee too, who started her career in the Lok Sabha in 1984 by defeating CPI(M) stalwart Somnath Chatter-

jee. It may be the only place left to leverage her remaining political capital. By dissolving all party committees and centralizing power in her own hands, Mamata is repeating past mistakes. The distrust is mutual between old-timers and Mamata's inner loyalists. From out of nowhere, Ritabrata Banerjee emerged as a strategist who could engineer a break to invent a legislature version of the party, which clearly has the implicit approval of the ruling BJP. "We would request Mamata Banerjee to be our advisor and guide us. We will play the role of a constructive opposition," Ritabrata Banerjee stated, isolating Abhishek completely. For the BJP, the Trinamool's infighting is a second windfall. In the Assembly, the ruling party now has an approved, recognized opposition that has vowed to work responsibly. The era of cooperative politics is being reshaped, and Maharashtra's political template has officially arrived in West Bengal.

Flipkart launches GRWM GRWM fashion sale targeting Gen Z shoppers



Shillong: Flipkart has launched its latest fashion-focused shopping event, 'GRWM GRWM', a trend-led campaign aimed at transforming online fashion shopping into a cultural experience for India's digital-first consumers. The sale, which runs from May 29 to June 7, offers access to more than 10 lakh trendy fashion styles and is expected to attract over 550 million visits, with Gen Z consumers projected to account for nearly 50 per cent of the demand.

Inspired by the globally popular "Get Ready With Me" trend and reimagined with an Indian twist as "Garam Garam", the campaign marks a shift from traditional clearance-driven sales to a shopping experience centred on

trends, fashion discovery and cultural relevance. Flipkart said the initiative aligns with its goal of bringing the next 200 million Indians online for fashion through its expanding network of marketplace sellers and direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands.

The sale features over 50 international and homegrown brands, along with shopping rewards such as Scratch Cards and SuperCoin offers. Consumers can avail discounts of up to 90 per cent on brands including Levi's, Titan, Red Tape, Nike, Puma, Asics, Safari, Rare Rabbit and The Bear House, among others.

Kapil Thirani, Vice President, Flipkart Fashion, said fashion discovery is increasingly being shaped by cre-

ators, communities and digital culture, particularly among Gen Z consumers. He said the campaign aims to deliver a fresh, trend-first and culturally relevant shopping experience while making fashion more accessible and inclusive across the country.

In Shillong, growing internet penetration and rising interest in online fashion trends among young consumers are expected to drive participation in the sale. Industry observers note that shoppers in Shillong are increasingly embracing national and international fashion brands through e-commerce platforms, making such large-scale digital fashion campaigns attractive to the region's style-conscious youth.

Flipkart is also strengthening creator-led engagement during the campaign, with more than 1,000 creators producing fashion content across Meta and YouTube over a two-week period. The company has additionally launched two television commercials built around the campaign's catchy 'GRWM GRWM' theme, highlighting the excitement of discovering fashion deals and trends online.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India secures first PM-SETU investment plan approval

Guwahati: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has secured the first-ever approval of a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme, with the National Steering Committee clearing its proposal for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster in Andhra Pradesh.

The approval was granted during the third meeting of the National Steering Committee convened by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi. With the clearance, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to operationalise an industry partnership under the PM-SETU scheme and onboard an Anchor Industry Partner.

The meeting was chaired by MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee and attended by Director General of Training Dilip Kumar, representatives from central ministries, state governments, industry leaders including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, ITC Limited and AM/NS India, along with development partners such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Officials said the approval marks a significant step towards transforming government Industrial Training Institutes into industry-managed, outcome-oriented institutions capable of meeting evolving workforce requirements. The Visakhapatnam cluster is expected to serve as a



model for other states seeking greater industry participation in vocational education and training.

In Guwahati, the rapid rollout of PM-SETU could strengthen Assam's skill development ecosystem by encouraging greater collaboration between industries and training institutes. The initiative is expected to support workforce readiness for sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure and emerging technologies, creating opportunities for skilled youth in the region.

PM-SETU, a ₹60,000 crore flagship programme of the Government of India, aims to transform 1,000 government ITIs through an industry-led Hub-and-Spoke model. With 32 states and Union Territories already having constituted State Steering Committees and several states moving ahead with industry partner selection, the scheme is entering a full-scale implementation phase aimed at building a future-ready workforce for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Gen Z travellers ditch annual holidays for spontaneous getaways, says Airbnb report

Guwahati: India's Gen Z travellers are re-defining the country's travel landscape, moving away from traditional annual vacations in favour of shorter, more frequent and highly personalised trips, according to a new report released by [Airbnb] (https://www.airbnb.com?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

The report, titled 'Never the Same: The New Rules of Gen Z Travel in India*', found that seven in 10 Gen Z travellers prefer taking three short trips instead of one long annual holiday, while 87 per cent favour trips lasting less than a week. The study, conducted by YouGov among 2,012 respondents aged 18-29 across 11 Indian cities, highlights a growing preference for spontaneous travel, with 66 per cent booking trips within days or weeks of departure.

The report revealed that 95 per cent of Gen Z travellers want their journeys to feel personal and unique, while 87 per cent believe the way they travel reflects their identity. Around 90 per

cent said they actively seek destinations that have not gone viral online, preferring authentic experiences, local markets and neighbourhood exploration over popular tourist attractions.

Accommodation is also playing a bigger role in travel decisions. Nearly 63 per cent said they had chosen a destination because of a stay they discovered, while more than half preferred a shared home over separate hotel rooms during group trips. Airbnb noted that domestic group bookings by Indian Gen Z travellers grew nearly 55 per cent year-on-year.

In Guwahati, the findings indicate growing opportunities for homestays, boutique accommodations and experience-led tourism across Assam and the Northeast. With young travellers increasingly seeking nature-based escapes, local culture and flexible travel plans, destinations around Guwahati could benefit from rising demand for short-duration getaways and community-based travel experiences.

Renault extends growth streak with ninth consecutive month of wholesale gains

Guwahati: Renault India, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Renault Group, continued its strong growth trajectory by recording its ninth consecutive month of wholesale growth in May 2026, extending a positive run that began in September 2025.

The automaker reported cumulative wholesale sales of 38,225 units between September 2025 and May 2026, marking a significant 46 per cent increase compared to the corresponding period last year. The performance highlights the company's steady expansion in the Indian passenger vehicle market amid intense competition.

According to VAAHAN data, Renault was among only two passenger vehicle manufacturers in the country to register positive retail sales growth in May 2026. The company also posted a robust 64 per cent year-on-year rise in wholesales during the month, reflecting strong customer demand and improving market acceptance of its product portfolio.

Renault India said the sustained momentum was driven by its continued focus on offering



products tailored to Indian consumers while strengthening its presence across the country. The company's performance comes at a time when several automakers are facing challenges in maintaining sales growth amid changing market dynamics.

In Guwahati, Renault's positive sales trend mirrors growing consumer interest in personal mobility across Northeast India. Automobile dealers in Guwahati have reported steady enquiries for compact and value-driven vehicles, with improving infrastructure and rising aspirations supporting demand in the region's passenger vehicle segment.

Nissan posts 118% domestic sales growth in May, marks third straight month of gains

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) reported a strong performance in May 2026, registering a 118 per cent year-on-year increase in domestic wholesales as the company continued its growth momentum in the Indian market.

The company said domestic wholesales stood at 2,948 units during the month, while exports reached 5,023 units. Total wholesales for May were recorded at 7,971 units. The latest figures mark Nissan India's third consecutive month of year-on-year domestic sales growth.

Commenting on the performance, Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director of Nissan Motor India, said the sustained growth reflects increasing customer trust in the brand. He attributed the performance to the positive response received by the All-New Nissan GRAVITE and the continued popularity of the Nissan Magnite, including its CNG variants.

"Our third consecutive month of year-on-year domestic sales growth is an encouraging reflection of the trust customers continue to place in

Nissan," Vatsa said. He added that the company remains focused on expanding its network footprint, improving accessibility and enhancing customer experience across the country.

Nissan is also preparing for the world premiere of the Nissan TEKTON, which the company described as an important milestone in its India growth strategy and product expansion plans.

In Guwahati, the growing demand for compact SUVs and fuel-efficient vehicles has been supporting customer interest in brands such as Nissan. Industry observers believe models like the Magnite and the newly launched GRAVITE could attract buyers in the Northeast region, where demand for affordable and feature-rich SUVs continues to remain strong.

Nissan Motor India currently serves domestic and export markets across 65 international destinations and achieved 1.2 million cumulative vehicle exports in 2025, strengthening its position among India's leading automobile exporters.

Organic India highlights herbal digestive wellness solutions on World Digestive Health Day

Guwahati: Organic India has marked World Digestive Health Day by highlighting its range of certified organic herbal products designed to support digestive wellness and overall gut health.

The company said its products are sourced directly from more than 2,000 organic farmers and undergo over 600 quality checks. According to Organic India, all herbs are grown in chemical- and pesticide-free soil and formulated using whole herbs to preserve the complete spectrum of natural plant actives and nutrients.

Among the products promoted for digestive health is Triphala, available in powder and capsule forms. Made from Amalaki, Bibhitaki and Haritaki, the traditional formulation is known for supporting digestion, detoxification and



bowel regularity, while also helping relieve constipation.

The company also highlighted its Psyllium Whole Husk Isabgol, a natural source of dietary fibre that helps maintain bowel regularity, supports digestive

function and may assist in cholesterol management and weight control. Organic India's Sat Isabgol Pre & Probiotic Fibre Powder combines psyllium husk with prebiotic fibre and 1.5 billion CFU of Bacillus coagulans probiotics to support gut microbiome health. The sugar-free product is available in Orange and Cinnamon flavours.

Another product featured is Revitalise Gut Tea, a caffeine-free blend of organic herbs including spearmint, ajwain, cumin, ginger and black pepper. The tea also contains 1 billion CFU of Bacillus coagulans per three servings and is designed to support everyday digestive comfort.

The company said the initiative aims to encourage consumers to prioritise gut health through natural and organic wellness solutions.

Shopsy launches AI-powered gamified shopping app for Gen Z and Bharat consumers



Shillong: Shopsy by Flipkart on Thursday announced the launch of its new AI-powered shopping app aimed at Gen Z users and value-conscious consumers across metros and tier-2 and smaller cities, marking a shift from a traditional offers-led platform to a gamified and engagement-driven commerce ecosystem.

The company said the revamped platform has been designed around changing shopping habits in India, where Gen Z shoppers now account for nearly 40-45 per cent of the e-retail market. According to Shopsy, the app combines AI-based personalization, video-led product discovery and gaming features to create a more interactive shopping experience.

The platform said users can earn SuperCoins through daily logins, gameplay, streaks and other interactions, which can later be redeemed during purchases. The app also uses AI-powered search and personalization tools to recommend products based on regional preferences and vernacular discovery patterns.

Balaji Thiagarajan, Chief Technology and Product Officer at Flipkart, said the new platform was engineered to adapt to the diverse browsing and shopping behaviour of Indian consumers. Sakait

Chaudhary, Senior Vice President at Flipkart, said the initiative aims to build a culturally relevant and rewarding commerce ecosystem for Bharat's next 100 million shoppers.

The company added that the platform would also support MSMEs, artisans and regional manufacturers through AI-powered seller tools, video-enabled catalogues and a zero-commission structure for sellers.

The move could strengthen Shopsy's reach in northeastern markets, including Shillong, where rising smartphone penetration and growing digital adoption among young consumers are driving demand for affordable online shopping platforms. Retail analysts say gamified shopping and reward-led engagement could appeal strongly to students and young buyers in Shillong's expanding digital market.

Oakley launches Players Collection with Kylian Mbappé and Jaylen Brown

Guwahati: Eyewear brand Oakley has unveiled the latest chapter of its Players Collection campaign, featuring global sports stars Kylian Mbappé and Jaylen Brown. The collection introduces signature eyewear series co-created with the two athletes, highlighting their personal style, identity and sporting influence.

The new release includes the Highland Jaylen Brown Signature Series, featuring an exclusive cocoa brown colour palette, Brown's personal logo and Prizm™ Ruby lenses designed to provide enhanced coverage and sun protection. Inspired by Brown's off-field fashion choices, the eyewear is built on a lightweight O-Matter™ frame for durability and comfort.

Meanwhile, the Kylian Mbappé Signature Series Permian features a bold lens design with Prizm™ Road lenses. The frame carries Mbappé's



logo and includes the coordinates of Bondy, his hometown in France, en-

graved along the temple as a tribute to his roots and journey.

"For me, everything is connected: performance, creativity, identity," Brown said. Mbappé added, "Style is a signature. These glasses are more than an accessory—they carry my roots and reflect my journey."

In Guwahati, the launch is expected to strengthen Oakley's presence among young consumers, sports enthusiasts and premium eyewear buyers. With increasing demand for branded performance eyewear in the city, the new collection could attract customers seeking a blend of sport-inspired design and lifestyle fashion.

The Players Collection is now available at leading optical stores, Sunglass Hut, LensCrafters and major e-commerce platforms, with prices starting at Rs 11,690.

Team India wins two silver medals at Taipei Capital Cup 2026

Guwahati: Team India delivered an impressive performance at the Taipei Capital Cup 2026, securing two silver medals and three merit awards at the international skill competition held in Taipei, Taiwan, from May 26 to 28.

Competing against skilled professionals from 15 countries across Europe, Asia, the Americas and Oceania, the Indian contingent showcased excellence across emerging and industry-driven skill categories, further strengthening India's position as a global skills hub.

Among the medal winners, Ms. Muskan won a silver medal in Painting and Decorating, while Mr. Arjun Sumathi Vijayabaskar secured a silver medal in Mobile Applications Development. Merit awards were earned by Mr. Mohamed Mafaz Poonaiannan Rabi Ahamed in Software Applications Development, Mr. Suresh Kumar Ganesan Meena in Digital Construction, and Mr. Md Seraj in Automobile Technology. The silver medalists received cash prizes of 8,000 Taiwan Dollars each, while merit award winners received 5,000 Taiwan Dollars each.

Congratulating the winners, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary said the achievement reflected the confidence, capability and determination of India's youth. He noted that international competitions provide valuable exposure ahead of major events such as WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

MSDE Secretary Smt. Debashree Mukherjee said the success highlighted the growing strength of India's skilling ecosystem and the global potential of Indian youth. The contingent was supported by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the National Skill Development Corporation, with training assistance from industry partners including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motors, Kia Motors, BIMLABS Global and YPSVEF by JK Cement.

TVS Motor clocks highest-ever monthly sales at 5.67 lakh units in May

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company reported its highest-ever monthly sales performance in May 2026, registering total sales of 5,66,585 units, marking a 31 per cent growth compared to 4,31,275 units sold during the same month last year.

The company said total two-wheeler sales rose 31 per cent to 5,43,111 units in May 2026 from 4,16,166 units a year ago. Domestic two-wheeler sales also recorded strong growth of 24 per cent, increasing to 3,84,565 units from 3,09,287 units in May 2025. Motorcycle sales grew 30 per cent to 2,73,802 units, while scooter sales rose 32 per cent to 2,20,740 units during the month.

TVS Motor's electric vehicle segment continued its strong momentum, with EV sales surging 56 per cent to 43,632 units compared to 27,976 units in May last year,

making it the company's highest-ever EV sales performance.

International business emerged as another major growth driver, with total overseas sales rising 49 per cent to a record 1,75,991 units from 1,18,437 units in May 2025. International two-wheeler sales increased 48 per cent to 1,58,546 units.

In Guwahati, rising consumer demand for scooters, motorcycles and electric vehicles has been contributing to stronger sales trends across Assam and the Northeast. Growing interest in personal mobility and expanding EV adoption are expected to support further demand for TVS products in the region.

The company's three-wheeler segment also posted robust growth of 55 per cent, with sales increasing to 23,474 units from 15,109 units a year earlier.



Mother's Recipe launches new pickle campaign with refreshed identity

Guwahati: Mother's Recipe has launched a new national campaign for its iconic pickle range while unveiling a refreshed identity for the portfolio, marking the first major visual transformation since the range was introduced.

The campaign centres on the idea that while pickle-making traditions vary across regions and households, the love and care of mothers remain a common thread. The film showcases the journey of pickle-making across different Indian homes, highlighting regional methods and traditions before bringing the product to the family dining table. Through authentic visuals of selecting raw mangoes, slicing, drying, spicing and preserving, the campaign celebrates India's rich pickle heritage and the emotion-

al bond associated with homemade flavours. The campaign's soundtrack draws inspiration from traditional Indian melodies and folk influences, blending nostalgia with a contemporary feel. It also marks a shift in the brand's communication strategy by moving beyond product-focused messaging to tell a broader story around memories, regional traditions and the enduring connection between mothers and pickles.

Alongside the campaign, Mother's Recipe has introduced a redesigned packaging identity across all 64 pickle variants. The new look incorporates regional cultural elements, including traditional bangles, saree-inspired colour palettes and kitchen motifs, while product names now appear in regional languages to

strengthen local connections.

Speaking on the launch, Sanjana Desai, Executive Director of Desai Foods Pvt. Ltd., said the campaign celebrates the diversity of regional pickle-making traditions while reinforcing the brand's long-standing "Swaad Mamta Ka" proposition.

In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to resonate strongly with consumers across the Northeast, where traditional homemade pickles remain an integral part of local food culture. With the North East identified as a key focus market, the regional-language packaging and emphasis on cultural authenticity could help deepen consumer engagement and strengthen Mother's Recipe's presence in the region.

The integrated 360-degree cam-



paign is being promoted across television, digital, outdoor, in-store and on-ground platforms, with the re-

freshed packaging being introduced nationwide in line with product availability.

India Skills Accelerator roundtable charts roadmap to bridge skills gaps

Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), on Monday convened the High-Level Roundtable of the India Skills Accelerator (ISA) in New Delhi to discuss measures for closing emerging skills gaps and strengthening India's position as a global talent hub.

Held under the theme "From Insight to Action: Closing Skills Gaps for Growth", the roundtable brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, international organisations and development partners. The discussions focused on workforce readiness, skills financing, emerging technologies and aligning skilling systems with evolving labour market demands.

The India Skills Accelerator, announced in January 2026 after Union Cabinet approval, is hosted by MSDE and is part of the WEF's Global Accelerators Network. The initiative aims to promote public-private collaboration and support workforce development in sectors such as artificial

intelligence, advanced manufacturing, supply chains and the green economy.

The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Development



of North Eastern Region Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Apollo HealthCo Executive Chairperson Shobana Kamineni and Bajaj Finserv Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Bajaj.

Jayant Chaudhary said India's demographic strength could become a major global growth engine if skills remain aligned with changing industry and

technology requirements. Dr. Majumdar stressed the need for stronger integration between education and employability to prepare youth for emerging opportunities.

In Guwahati, the initiative is expected to benefit Assam and the Northeast by creating greater access to industry-relevant training and employment opportunities. Experts believe enhanced focus on future-ready skills, digital technologies and workforce development could help the region attract investments, improve employability and strengthen its contribution to India's growing talent economy.

The roundtable concluded with a commitment from stakeholders to advance priority actions through structured public-private collaboration. Representatives from leading organisations including Apollo Hospitals, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Group, Mahindra Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, IBM, Reliance Industries, CII, FICCI, AICTE, UGC and several government ministries participated in the deliberations.

Birla Fertility expands reach in Arunachal with Pasighat hospital partnership

Guwahati: Birla Fertility & IVF, one of India's largest IVF networks, has partnered with Health Care Hospital in Pasighat to expand access to advanced fertility care in Arunachal Pradesh, reducing the need for patients to travel to metro cities and distant treatment centres.

Under the collaboration, couples from Pasighat and neighbouring districts will be able to access key fertility services, including consultations, scans, ovulation monitoring and intrauterine insemination (IUI) procedures locally at Health Care Hospital. The services will be provided under the clinical guidance and treatment protocols of Birla Fertility & IVF's Guwahati centre, ensuring continuity of care while easing financial and logistical burdens on patients.

To support the initiative, Birla Fertility & IVF also organised "Fertility Unscripted", a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme in Pasighat. The event brought together gynaecologists, fertility specialists and healthcare professionals from across Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast to discuss emerging fertility treatments, best practices and multidisciplinary approaches to reproductive healthcare.

Dr. Kalpana Jain, Senior Consultant and Centre Head of Birla Fertility & IVF, Guwahati, said the partnership aims to ensure that access to advanced fertility care is not limited by geography. Health Care Hospital CMD Dr. K Megu said the collaboration would allow patients to receive essential fertility services closer to home.

In Guwahati, the partnership highlights the growing role of the city as a regional healthcare hub for the Northeast. With specialised medical institutions increasingly extending services to neighbouring states through collaborative models, Guwahati-based healthcare providers are expanding their reach while improving access to advanced treatment options across underserved regions.

The CME featured expert sessions, including Dr. Jain's presentation on "10 Pearls for Successful IUI", panel discussions on recurrent pregnancy loss, and talks on decentralising fertility care and medical ethics. The programme concluded with an interactive discussion on clinical challenges and best practices in fertility treatment.

Sony launches BRAVIA 7II with True RGB technology in India



Guwahati: Sony India has launched its new BRAVIA 7II television series in the country, introducing its first True RGB LED technology aimed at delivering enhanced colour accuracy, deeper contrast and a more immersive home entertainment experience. The company announced that pre-bookings for select BRAVIA 7II models have commenced from May 28.

The new BRAVIA 7II series is powered by Sony's RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro technology, which independently controls red, green and blue LEDs to improve colour precision, brightness and black levels. Combined with the Cognitive Processor XR, the television is designed to reproduce visuals and sound in a way that mirrors human perception. The lineup includes 55-inch, 65-inch, 75-inch, 85-inch and 98-inch models, with larger variants scheduled for release later this year.

The television features RGB Triluminos Max, Smooth Colour Gradation, XR Contrast Booster, XR Motion Clarity and XR Clear Image technologies. It also supports Dolby Vision, Dolby Atmos, HDR10, HLG and IMAX Enhanced content. For gaming enthusiasts, the BRAVIA 7II offers 4K 120Hz support, HDMI 2.1, Variable Refresh Rate (VRR), Auto Low Latency Mode (ALLM) and dedicated PlayStation 5 optimisations.

In Guwahati, the launch is expected to strengthen Sony's position in the premium television segment as demand for large-screen smart TVs continues to rise among urban consumers. Electronics retailers in the city have witnessed growing interest in premium home entertainment products, driven by increasing adoption of streaming platforms, gaming consoles and high-end home theatre setups. Industry observers believe Sony's focus on advanced display technology and AI-powered features could attract affluent buyers seeking a cinema-like viewing experience at home.

The BRAVIA 7II series will be available through Sony retail stores, the ShopatSC platform, major electronics outlets and leading e-commerce platforms across India. The 55-inch model is priced at Rs 2,21,990 as a best-buy offer, while the 65-inch variant is priced at Rs 2,74,990. Larger screen models are expected to be launched by the end of June and July 2026.

HSBC Mutual Fund launches RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund for mid-ticket investors

Guwahati: HSBC Mutual Fund has launched the RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund, a Specialised Investment Fund (SIF) strategy aimed at investors seeking regular returns along with long-term capital appreciation. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opened on June 2 and will remain available for subscription until June 16, 2026.

The fund combines investments across multiple asset classes, including fixed income, equity arbitrage, REITs and INVITs, with the objective of generating risk-adjusted returns across different market cycles. The strategy is benchmarked against the NIFTY 50 Hybrid Composite Debt 50:50 Index.

HSBC Mutual Fund said the product is designed for “mid-ticket” investors and requires a minimum investment of ₹10 lakh, while accredited investors can participate with a minimum investment of ₹1 lakh. The launch comes as SIFs gain traction as an investment category positioned between traditional mutual funds and higher-ticket investment products such as Portfolio Management Services



(PMS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Kailash Kulkarni, CEO of HSBC Mutual Fund, said the fund offers a balanced solution for investors looking for professional management, lower volatility and tax-efficient risk-adjusted returns. Shriram Ramanathan, CIO – Fixed Income, said the strategy focuses on strong credit selection, risk controls and selective exposure to growing asset classes such as REITs and INVITs.

In Guwahati, wealth advisors and high-net-worth investors in the city are increasingly exploring diversified in-

vestment products beyond conventional mutual funds and fixed deposits. Industry observers believe products such as SIFs could attract interest from affluent investors in Guwahati seeking stable income opportunities, portfolio diversification and professionally managed investment solutions amid evolving market conditions. Structured as an interval investment fund, the RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund allows subscriptions on any business day and provides weekly redemption opportunities, backed by active portfolio management and stringent risk controls.

Hyundai to make Tamil Nadu its EV manufacturing hub, launch two new models this year

Chennai: Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) has announced a major expansion of its electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub in Tamil Nadu, alongside a new skill development partnership with the state government. Following a meeting between Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and HMIL MD & CEO Tarun Garg, the automaker revealed plans to launch two new models from its Chennai plant this year, including its first mass-market EV. To build a future-ready work-



force, Hyundai will train students in electric mobility, hydrogen transport, robotics, and AI-enabled manufacturing, with operations starting in December 2027. Furthermore, Hyundai aims to increase localization levels

from 82% to 90% over the next five to six years, boosting procurement from local suppliers by ₹4,000 crore and creating 2,000 jobs. The company has already established the state's first battery sub-assembly plant and installed 39 DC fast-charging stations.

Reaffirming its long-term commitment, Hyundai reiterated its plan to invest over ₹26,000 crore in Tamil Nadu between 2023 and 2032, cementing the state's position as a global automotive hub.

Tata Trusts Rejects Allegations Over 1989 Share Transfer

Mumbai: The Tata Trusts (TT) issued a statement on Friday in which it called the allegations regarding a share transfer made by the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT) to the late Naval H Tata in 1989 as ‘baseless’ and ‘unsubstantiated’. TT said that they would like to state that any suggestion of impropriety on the part of either the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), NRTT, or any of the parties to the transaction, is categorically denied. “It is affirmed that the transaction was lawful, undertaken for consideration, and fully compliant with the rules in force at that point of time. It was cleared at the appropriate levels, including by the late Mr. Nani A. Palkhivala, one of the country's most distinguished lawyers, and approved by the then Board of Tata Sons. The transfer of shares was effected on a valid transfer form duly stamped by the Registrar of Companies,” said TT in its statement. Tata Trusts is the string of non-profits that own two-thirds of the salt-to-software conglomerate.

The statement came after reports of one Suresh Patilkhede approaching the Charity Commissioner's office with a request to initiate an inquiry pertaining to the transfer of 833 shares between the two parties. As per reports, Patilkhede's move comes days ahead of a crucial board meeting of Tata Trusts on June 8. TT said that the petitioner Patilkhede is a serial litigator who has, in the past (2020)



filed several cases against the Tata Trusts without any locus and with an apparent objective of disrupting the philanthropic activities and functioning of the Tata Trusts. “We are constrained to highlight that the intention of such unfounded and malicious allegations appears to be to tarnish the reputation of the Tata Trusts as a whole, and SRTT, in particular. These allegations also seek to taint the Tata family, including the late Naval H. Tata and his sons, the late Ratan N. Tata, Jimmy Tata and Noel N. Tata,” said TT. It added that the will purse appropriate legal remedies to safeguard their goodwill and reputation. The strong refutation by TT comes as it is currently dealing with serious internal governance clashes, legal hurdles, and a fresh controversy over a decades-old share transfer. Led by Chairman Noel Tata, the philanthropic network, which controls a pivotal 66% stake in Tata Sons, is navigating structural and regulatory friction. It also comes ahead of the crucial June 8 meeting of Tata Trusts, where presentations on some of Tata Group's loss-making businesses are likely to be made to the Tata trustees. The June 8 meeting of Tata Trusts comes ahead of June 12 Tata Sons board meeting.

Navachar Mantra launched to boost grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship

Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Wednesday launched ‘Navachar Mantra’, a national initiative aimed at identifying, nurturing and scaling grassroots innovations and early-stage enterprises across India, with a special focus on Tier-2, Tier-3 towns and rural regions.

The programme was launched by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, at IIT Delhi. The initiative will be implemented by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIES-BUD) in partnership with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi as the technical knowledge partner.

Speaking at the launch, Chaudhary said India should not only manufacture products but also lead the world in technologies imagined and developed in the country. He urged young innovators to pursue ideas driven by purpose and passion, adding that Navachar Mantra



seeks to create an ecosystem where such innovators can thrive.

The initiative targets innovators working in

sectors such as Agritech, HealthTech, EdTech and Skilling, Climate and Sustainability, Rural Commerce and MSME Enablement. Ap-

plications are open until July 5, 2026, through a dedicated digital platform. Selected participants will undergo a year-long mentorship programme featuring investor interactions, innovation showcases, webinars and business development support.

In Guwahati, the programme is expected to create fresh opportunities for startups and innovators from Assam and the Northeast. Entrepreneurs working on agriculture, rural commerce, sustainable technologies and skill development solutions could benefit from national-level mentorship, funding exposure and market linkages, helping regional innovations scale beyond local markets.

The launch event also featured a fireside chat with leading entrepreneurs, including founders of Droom, MobiKwik, Fruvetech and Easiofy Solutions, who shared insights on innovation, resilience and scaling businesses. Senior officials from MSDE, IIT Delhi, NIESBUD and FITT, along with representatives from industry, academia and the startup ecosystem, attended the event.

Assam's New Cabinet Minister Ashok Singhal Pledges Rapid Development

Guwahati, June 05: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expanded his cabinet on Friday, inducting 12 Members of the Legislative Assembly as ministers in the BJP-led government's third consecutive term. Among them, Ashok Singhal and Sushanta Borgohain pledged to dedicate themselves to the state's development and security. Digital Media Consulting

Expressing gratitude for his reappointment, Ashok Singhal said the government would remain steadfast in fulfilling commitments made to the people. "We will make a developed Assam, we will make a safe and secure Assam, and we will make an Atmanirbhar Assam, fulfilling whatever promises we have made through our Sankalp Patra," he stated, emphasizing the administration's focus on building a self-reliant and secure state.

Sushanta Borgohain, newly sworn in as a Cabinet Minister, described his induction as both a privilege and a



responsibility. He emphasized the significance of his appointment for Sivasagar district, which had not been represented in the Cabinet for nearly two decades. "That drought has ended, and the Chief Minister has shown his love and affection towards Sivasagar district by granting me the responsibility of a Cabinet Minister," Borgohain said. He added that he would work tirelessly to align with the Chief Minister's vision of making Assam one of India's

leading developed states. The oath ceremony was administered by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, with Chief Minister Sarma present. The announcement of the 12 ministers, including Ashwini Ray Sarkar, Bimal Borah, Biswajit Daimary, Jayant Mallabaruah, Kaushik Rai, Keshab Mahanta, Krishnendu Paul, Nilima Devi, Pijush Hazarika, Ranoj Pegu, and Susanta Borgohain, was made by Sarma a day earlier through an official post.

SC Stays Deportation Of 2 Women Held In Assam After Being Declared Foreigners

New Delhi, June 05: The Supreme Court has intervened to halt the possible deportation of two women detained in Assam after being declared foreigners by a Foreigners Tribunal. On Friday, a vacation bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and V. Mohana ordered that Saleha Khatun and Sarbhanu Begum, who have been lodged in the Goalpara Detention Centre since March 2026, shall not be deported until the next hearing scheduled for July 16. Digital Media Consulting The Court also issued notices to the Union Government, seeking its response to petitions filed by four women challenging the Tribunal's orders.

The case involves separate pleas filed by Saleha Khatun, Sarbhanu Begum, Basiran Nessa, and Musst Nuzera Begum, all of whom fear deportation after being declared foreigners. Saleha and Sarbhanu, currently in detention, argue that despite producing documentary and oral evidence linking them to pre-1971 Indian ancestors reflected in electoral rolls and NRC legacy data, their claims were rejected

due to minor discrepancies in names and records. Both women contend that the Gauhati High Court mechanically upheld the Tribunal's findings without proper scrutiny of the evidence.

Saleha was declared a

fear imminent deportation, prompting the Court to grant a temporary stay despite initial reluctance. The bench clarified that while the matter is under judicial consideration, deportation will remain suspended until further



foreigner by the Foreigners Tribunal in Darrang, Mangaldai, on August 30, 2018, a decision upheld by the Gauhati High Court in December 2025. Similarly, Sarbhanu was declared a foreigner in December 2018, with the High Court affirming the order in December 2025.

Their counsel, Advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, submitted that the detainees

examination. The petitions highlight concerns over the rejection of material evidence and the dismissal of linkage certificates despite corroborative testimony. The Supreme Court's order provides temporary relief to the detainees, ensuring they remain in India until the next hearing, when the Court will further deliberate on the validity of the Tribunal's declarations.

Eight Women Arrested In Mizoram

Aizawl, June 5: Eight women were taken into custody in Mizoram's Champhai district after police seized 352 grams of heroin in separate operations this week. Authorities confirmed that most of the recoveries occurred during routine vehicle checks at the Khankawn check gate on Wednesday, a location often used as a transit route toward Aizawl. Digital Media Consulting

The largest haul was reported from Bethlehem Vengchhak in Aizawl, where a 19-year-old woman was apprehended with 180 grams of heroin. Police stated that the arrests highlight the ongoing challenge of drug trafficking in the region, with Champhai continuing to serve as a critical entry point for contraband.

Sikkim Electoral Drive Progresses Well

Gyalshing, June 5: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 of Electoral Rolls, initiated by the Election Commission of India to maintain an accurate and updated voter list, is steadily progressing in Gyalshing District. Booth Level Officers have been conducting house-to-house visits across polling station areas to distribute and collect Enumeration Forms as part of the campaign. Digital Media Consulting On the seventh day of the exercise, a total of 3605 forms had been distributed across the district by 5 pm. The Assembly Constituency-wise figures include 740 forms in Yuksam Tashiding, 849 in Yangthang, 1338 in Maneybong Dentam, and 678 in Gyalshing Bernyak. The verification and distribution drive will continue until June 28, 2026, ensuring that every household is reached.

Electors are encouraged to carefully check details such as their name, age, address, photograph, EPIC number, and family particulars before submitting the completed forms. The Election Commission has urged citizens to cooperate fully with Booth Level Officers during the verification process and to submit their forms within the stipulated timeline. For assistance, electors may contact their respective BLOs, visit the offices of the Electoral Registration Officer or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, use the Voter Helpline App, or call the voter helpline number 1950.

Arunachal Panel Tackles Infiltration, Rights



Itanagar, June 5: The Arunachal Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, has constituted four high-powered committees to address illegal immigration, streamline the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime, re-verify Scheduled Tribe (APST) certificates, and protect indigenous rights. Formed following consultative meetings held in late May, the panels comprise government officials, legal experts, and representatives from civil organizations like the AITF, AAPSU, and the Arunachal ST Bachao Andolan Committee. Infiltration & Border Control: Headed by Environment Minister Wangki Lowang, this panel will study immigration trends and recommend stricter border controls, digital verification, and action against forged

identity documents. ILP Restructuring: Chaired by Agriculture Minister Gabriel D. Wangsu, this committee will review the 2026 ILP guidelines and propose technology-driven mechanisms for monitoring tourists and workers.

APST Verification: Led by Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona, this group will review the 2022 APST guidelines to introduce advanced biometric, digital, and village-level scrutiny to curb fraudulent tribal claims. Indigenous Protections: Headed by Law Minister Kento Jini, this panel will close loopholes regarding non-APST lineage claims to safeguard land, inheritance, and reservation benefits. All four panels are mandated to submit their recommendations within six months.

Nagaland Fires Degrade Environment

Dimapur, June 05: Environment, Forests & Climate Change Minister CL John identified forest fires, particularly jungle burning for jhum cultivation, as a major cause of environmental degradation in Nagaland. Addressing a programme to mark World Environment Day at the Kohima Peace Memorial & Eco Park on Friday, John expressed concern over the continued practice of hunting, noting that forests require birds and wildlife to maintain ecological balance.

He called for a conservation movement, saying that just as headhunting has been abandoned in the state, society should also work towards ending the hunting of animals and birds. He said students and youth must play a leading role in creating awareness and driving positive change. The minister also said that rising temperatures in Kohima, Dimapur, and other parts of the state are visible effects of global warming.

He reminded citizens that the government has already banned single-use plastics as part of efforts to reduce environmental pollution. Expressing concern over waste disposal practices, he said that while Nagas are known for their sense of style, civic sense often remains lacking, citing the widespread littering of plastic bottles, tobacco sachets, and other waste in public places. He urged citizens to adopt responsible habits and work collectively towards a cleaner and greener Nagaland. The Nagaland Municipal Affairs Department conducted a "Waste-to-Resource" drive at the Secretariat Plaza in Kohima on the day to promote sustainable waste management practices and strengthen public awareness on environmental conservation through resource recovery and recycling. Various government departments and members of the public participated in the exercise for responsible waste disposal and supported the transition towards a circular economy. The day was also observed in other parts of the state.

Shreyas Iyer to replace Suryakumar Yadav as India's T20I captain: BCCI sources

New Delhi, June 04:

Shreyas Iyer is set to replace Suryakumar Yadav as the captain of India's senior men's team in T20Is, with Tilak Verma to be his deputy, according to Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) sources. BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar, head coach Gautam Gambhir, and the selection committee have reached a consensus on appointing Iyer as T20I captain, while Tilak Verma would serve as vice-captain, the sources said.

Although India's T20I captaincy was not discussed during the BCCI Apex Council meeting on Thursday, the board's top officials have, according to the sources, agreed on appointing Iyer as captain and Verma as his deputy. Iyer is also likely to attend the selection committee meeting on June 6 to announce India's squad for their tour to Ireland and England. Suryakumar led the Indian team to the ICC



T20 World Cup 2026 championship. India retained their title successfully and became the first team to defend the T20 World Cup trophy. However, Suryakumar had an average campaign with the bat as he scored 242 runs in nine matches. In the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, as well, he managed just 270 runs for the Mumbai Indians (MI), which had a major part in MI's ninth-place finish in the points table.

Shreyas Iyer, who last played an international T20I

match against Australia at Bengaluru in December 2023, will make his comeback to the national team on the back of a strong run for Punjab Kings in the recently concluded IPL 2026, where he made 498 runs. Team India's next T20I assignment will come on their tour to Ireland, where they will feature in two T20Is before heading to England for five T20Is and three ODIs. The first T20I against Ireland will be played on June 26, and the second is scheduled for June 28.

Hamstring Injury Rules Kohli Out Of Afghanistan Series

New Delhi, June 04: India's star batter Virat Kohli has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury, according to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sources. The injury occurred during the closing stages of the Indian Premier League (IPL) final in Ahmedabad, where Kohli was seen struggling while running. Despite the clear physical discomfort, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) stalwart anchored a challenging 156-run chase with a match-winning, unbeaten 75 off just 42 balls. The ODI series is scheduled to kick off on June 13, immediately following a one-off Test match between India and Afghanistan in New Chandigarh. Adding to India's selection headaches, former cap-

tain Rohit Sharma remains a major doubt for the series. While Sharma has been included in the ODI squad, his final availability depends heavily on a fitness assessment closer to the opening

to an ODI-only player after stepping away from T20Is in 2024 and Test cricket in mid-2025, Kohli has been nearly unstoppable in the 50-over format. He averages an incredible 88.00 since India's



match. Kohli's absence is a severe blow to the team given his sensational form. The 37-year-old veteran finished the IPL as RCB's top scorer with 675 runs, averaging 56.25. Since transitioning

tour of Australia and recently top-scored with 240 runs against New Zealand. With 14,797 ODI runs and a record 54 centuries to his name, the legendary batsman's recovery will be closely watched by fans and selectors alike.

Qualifier Chwalinska Reaches French Open Final

Paris, June 05: World number 114 Maja Chwalinska made French Open history on Thursday, becoming the first qualifier in the professional era to reach the Roland Garros final after defeating Diana Shnaider 7-6 (7/4), 6-4. The 24-year-old Pole will face Russian 19-year-old Mirra Andreeva, who beat Marta Kostyuk in straight sets, in Saturday's championship match.

A victory for Chwalinska would make her only the second female qualifier to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era, following Emma Raducanu's historic 2021 US Open triumph. "I don't know what's going on... I'm just very happy," said Chwalinska, who has won nine matches over three weeks, starting in the qualifiers.

Her fairy-tale run on the Paris clay is particularly remarkable given her previous record; she had won just one Grand Slam match in her career prior to this tournament.

En route to the final, Chwalinska staged a stunning series of upsets, defeating Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen, Elise Mertens, former world number three Maria Sakkari, French favorite Diane Parry, and Anna Kalinskaya. Though she admitted her physical state was "not great" after the



grueling two-hour-10-minute semi-final against Shnaider, Chwalinska broke through after the Russian took a medical timeout at 4-3 in the second set, winning three consecutive games to seal the historic win. Regardless of Saturday's result against Andreeva, Chwalinska's sensational performance is projected to catapult her to a career-high world ranking of at least No. 21.

Being Pragg: Of lonely life of a champ, burn out

Oslo, June 04: It's great when sportspersons talk about processes. Methods. It's a rare peek into their rarified air where only excellence is allowed. Sometimes, it's better when sportspersons allow themselves to be vulnerable in the company of travelling scribes. It's a glimpse into the life of an elite athlete, someone who left school to chase greatness as a child. Before the ninth round at Norway Chess, R Praggnanandhaa, once the world's youngest IM, is pouring his heart out. In a very candid interview, something very rare by the standards of Indian sportspersons, the 20-year-old admits to burn out because of a very punishing 2025. Before that, he also concedes that he would have liked some school or college friends to hang out with whenever he's in Chennai. But he has none. "I would have loved to have some school or college friends



(in Chennai)," the World No. 14 says. "But you have to give (up) certain things (to achieve certain things)." While he doesn't regret it — he admits that if had a normal childhood, he wouldn't be where he is — the yearning is hard to miss. It's basically a look into the somewhat lonely life of an elite chess player.

In a wild two month period in the middle of 2025, he played tournaments in France, Poland, Romania, Armenia, Uzbekistan and Croatia. Spanning multiple

formats and in different continents, the then teen willed himself to complete this crazy schedule, in part, to qualify for the Candidates again. Post this mad two month sequence, he went to both North America as well as South America over the next few months, sandwiched by a tournament in Asia.

Mentally, he was exhausted. "Even if you have the physical energy, you don't have the mental energy to keep doing the same thing at every tournament," he says. The same routine, the same patterns... It gets tiring. It becomes automatic, you just don't enjoy it anymore."

That punishing journey eventually was rewarded as he qualified for the Candidates but it ultimately ended in disappointment. "I just want to play chess and chill (now). I don't want to think about the next two-year cycle."

Bosnia Begins World Cup Pursuit In American Midwest

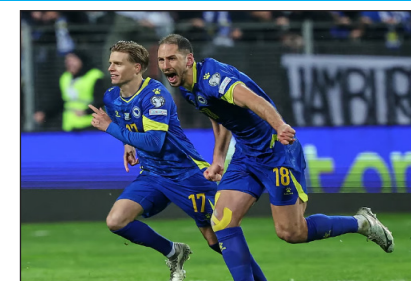
Historic Penalty Shootout Win Over Italy Seals Qualification

St. Louis, June 04: Far from its European homeland, Bosnia and Herzegovina has zealous fans in the American Midwest as it prepares for its second World Cup. An estimated 60,000-70,000 Bosnians live in St. Louis, with many arriving in the early 1990s during the Bosnian War and the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Bosnia faces Panama on Saturday in an international friendly at St. Louis' Energizer Park and plays World Cup group matches in Toronto (vs. Canada), Los Angeles (vs. Switzerland) and Seattle (vs. Qatar). "We should be able to create an atmosphere like a home match," said El-

vir Kafedžić, a Bosnia-born St. Louisan and an assistant coach for the city's MLS team, St. Louis City SC.

He was only 9 1-2 when he fled Bosnia in 1992 with his mother and brothers to escape the war. "Unfortunately, I remember a lot of it," said Kafedžić, whose story mirrors many who rebuilt in St. Louis after meandering across Europe. "We kind of tumbled through some different countries like Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Sweden and wound up in Germany," Kafedžić explained. That ended when Germany stopped granting temporary protection to Bosnians in the



late 1990s. "We didn't have anywhere to go back to in Bosnia. And we already had some relatives living in St. Louis. So in 1999 we made the move with my mom and two older brothers."