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Umrangso, May 29: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Dima Hasao convened its first District Office Bearers' Meeting following the 2026 Assam Legislative Assembly election at the BJP Office in Umrangso. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Member of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Debolal

Gorlosa, newly elected Haflong (ST) MLA Rupali Langthasa, and Dima Hasao Shah Prabhari Anup Kumar Deb. Addressing the gathering, CEM Debolal Gorlosa emphasized that the party's strength lies in its grassroots workers and their ability to connect with ordinary citizens. He stressed the importance of translating the aspirations of

the people into meaningful development and positive change across the district. The presence of MLA Rupali Langthasa was seen as a reflection of the people's mandate and a reminder of the collective responsibility of party workers to uphold the trust reposed in them by the electorate. The meeting was led by District President Dhriti Thaosen, Vice President Liton Chakraborty, General Secretary Kihungsamyang Riame, along with other senior party functionaries. During the meeting, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to working for the development and welfare of all sections of society in Dima Hasao. They emphasized that the party's mission begins at the grassroots level and pledged to strengthen public outreach and organizational activities across the district.



CEM Debolal Gorlosa Inaugurates CC Block Pavement Projects in Umrangso

Haflong, May 29: Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Debolal Gorlosa, on Thursday inaugurated CC Block Pavement works at three locations in Umrangso—Longrung, Dongjen Raji, and Dima Hading—aimed at improving local infrastructure and public convenience.

The inauguration programme was attended by DHAC Member Samsing Engti, Executive Member Monjit Naiding, Umrangso Municipal Board Chairman Amol Daulagajao, along with senior citizens and local residents. Speaking on the occasion, CEM Gorlosa stated that the infrastructure development projects would significantly

improve connectivity, facilitate easier movement for residents, and contribute to the overall development of the area. He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to strengthening basic infrastructure and providing better amenities to the people.

"We remain committed to enhancing public infrastructure and ensuring improved facilities for our citizens. Together, we will continue working towards a more developed and prosperous Umrangso," Gorlosa said.

Local residents welcomed the initiatives and expressed hope that the new pavement works would improve accessibility and quality of life in the concerned localities.

EM Probita Jahari Reviews Health Services, Visits CHCs to Strengthen Healthcare in Dima Hasao

Haflong, May 27: Soon after assuming charge as Executive Member (EM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC) for Health & Family Welfare and Handloom & Textiles, Probita Jahari held a comprehensive review meeting with officials of the Dima Hasao District Health & Family Welfare Department to assess ongoing healthcare initiatives, address key challenges, and discuss measures to strengthen medical services across the district. During the meeting, Jahari emphasized that quality healthcare remains one of the Council's top priorities. She reiterated her commitment to improving health infrastructure, enhancing medical services, and ensuring better healthcare facilities for the welfare of the people of Dima Hasao. As part of her efforts to assess healthcare delivery at the grassroots level, Jahari visited the Umrangso Community Health Centre (CHC) to review the healthcare facilities and overall functioning of the institution. She stressed the importance of providing quality medical care and strengthening healthcare infrastructure to meet the needs of the public. Earlier, EM Jahari also visited the Maibang Com-



munity Health Centre along with DHAC Chief Executive Member, Debolal Gorlosa and DHAC Chairman Mohet Hojai. The delegation inspected the cleanliness, healthcare facilities, and overall functioning of the hospital, with a focus on improving healthcare services and maintaining a clean and healthy environment. During the visit, the leaders interacted with doctors, nurses, and other medical staff, highlighting the importance of hygiene, discipline, and dedicated service to the people. As a symbol of their commitment to a greener and healthier future, saplings were planted within the hospital premises. Jahari expressed optimism about achieving greater progress in the healthcare sector and reaffirmed her dedication to ensuring accessible and quality healthcare services for all residents of Dima Hasao.

District Commissioner holds meeting with local Masjid authorities for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival in Dima Hasao

Haflong, May 27: In view of the upcoming Eid-ul-Zuha festival, the District Administration of Dima Hasao convened an awareness meeting with Presidents and Secretaries of local Masjid authorities along with representatives of the Muslim community at the Circuit House in Haflong on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, who highlighted the guidelines and legal provisions to be followed during the festival, particularly with regard to the enforcement of the Assam Cattle Prevention Act. The District Commissioner



informed the gathering that the slaughter of cows is strictly prohibited across the district and urged all community members to adhere to the law in order to maintain communal harmony and public order. Senior Superintendent of Police Ripunjoy Kakati and Additional District Commissioner Shaurya Sharrma also attended the meeting and out-

lined several mandatory directives aimed at ensuring peaceful celebrations throughout the district. Officials further instructed that sharing graphic photographs or video clips of animal sacrifices on social media or any online platform would be strictly prohibited. The meeting concluded with Muslim community leaders assuring full cooperation with the district administration and law enforcement agencies to ensure a peaceful, harmonious, and legally compliant observance of Eid-ul-Zuha across Haflong and the entire district

Governor Reconstitutes Executive Committee of 13th NCHAC; Six New Executive Members Appointed

Haflong, May 19: In a significant development in the administration of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, the Governor of Assam has issued an official notification appointing six members as Executive Members of the 13th North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council with immediate effect. According to the notification issued from Dispur on May 18, 2026, under the provisions of Rule 28(1) of the Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951, as amended and applicable to the Council, the following members have been appointed as Executive Members namely Lalremsiamia Dammel, Projith Hojai, Noah Daime, Ngulminlal Lienthang, Manjoy Langthasa and Ratan Jarambusa. The order was issued by the Governor exercising powers conferred under the relevant provisions of the Assam Autonomous Districts Rules read with Rule 19(1). Further, under Rule 21(3) of the same Rules, the Governor has also ordered that the following Executive Members shall cease to hold office as Executive Members of the 13th North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council with immediate effect namely, Devojit Bathari, EM and Biswajit Daolagupu, EM. The notification marks a fresh reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the Council and is expected to bring administrative changes within the autonomous body.

Former MLA Samarjit Haflongbar Expresses Concern Over Officer Shortage in Dima Hasao

Haflong, May 27: Former MLA and former Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), Samarjit Haflongbar has expressed serious concern over the shortage of full-fledged officers in several key departments of Dima Hasao district. In a memorandum submitted to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Haflongbar urged the government to immediately appoint regular officers in departments under the NCHAC, particularly in the Education Department. He stated that important posts such as Additional Director of Education (Hills), Inspector of Schools, and Deputy Inspector of Schools have remained vacant, while most Higher Secondary Schools in the district are functioning without regular principals for many years.



Haflongbar also highlighted vacancies in departments like PWD, PHE, Irrigation, Water Resources, and Block Development Offices, alleging that developmental works and public services have been severely affected. He further appealed to Haflong MLA Rupali Langthasa to raise the issue during the ongoing Assam Legislative Assembly session and seek immediate government intervention for the welfare of the people of Dima Hasao.

Twisha Sharma case: CBI gets husband's custody till May 29



Bhopal, May 27: Two days after registering a case into the May 12 suspected dowry death of actor-model Twisha Sharma, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took in its custody Twisha's husband, Samarth Singh on Wednesday. A CBI team produced Samarth before the competent court in Bhopal and got his custody till May 29. Importantly, Samarth who was on the run in the case for around 7-8 days, after his arrest on May 22 from Jabalpur, was produced by the local police in a Bhopal JMFC Court on May 23, which had sent him into police remand till May 29.

But with the CBI taking over the probe in the case on the recommendation of the state government, the central investigation agency got his custody from the court on Wednesday till May 29. Immediately after getting his custody, the CBI took Samarth to the May 12 night crime scene – his house in Katara Hills area, on whose terrace, Twisha was

allegedly found hanging to death.

A dedicated CBI team from Delhi, possessing the latest equipment and systems for advanced crime scene investigation, did a detailed study, photography and videography of the crime scene, before asking Samarth relevant questions about the night of the alleged crime. The team which remained for more than three hours at the house of Samarth's mother and co-accused, former judge Giribala Singh, subsequently returned with Samarth in its custody to the CBI's office in Bhopal's Char Imli area, where it is likely to further question Samarth.

According to informed sources, for carrying a dedicated probe into the matter and keeping safe all the evidence, the accused and witnesses, the CBI has sought from the Bhopal Police Commissionerate an isolated space for establishing its team's camp of- fice-cum-control room.

Vijay Unlikely To Meet Gandhis In Delhi

New Delhi, May 28: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay is unlikely to meet senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during his Delhi visit on Thursday, with party sources indicating that no appointment has been scheduled. The Chief Minister is expected to conclude his maiden official visit to the national capital after assuming office earlier this month and return to Chennai by a special flight. Airport sources said Vijay is likely to arrive in Chennai at approximately 12.40 pm.

Vijay's Delhi trip gained significance after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, during which he raised a range of Tamil Nadu-specific concerns, including the contentious Mokedatu dam project, the arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, and the row surrounding Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu, the state invocation song. According to an official release, the Chief Minister urged the Centre to prevent Karnataka from



proceeding with the proposed Mokedatu reservoir project across the Cauvery river, arguing that it runs counter to the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Supreme Court rulings.

He also sought immediate intervention to secure the release of detained fishermen and their boats. Vijay reportedly requested the Prime Minister to issue clear directions permitting Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu to be sung at the beginning of government functions, amid an ongoing political debate over the issue.

Air India Express to cut domestic flights by 10%



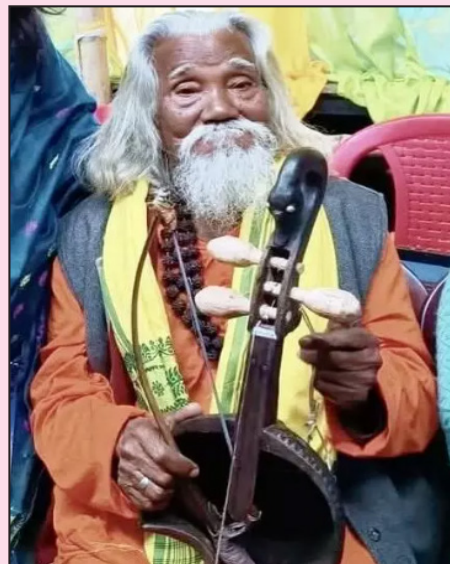
New Delhi, May 15: Following similar announcements by IndiGo and Air India, Air India Express has stated it will trim its domestic operations by nearly 10% starting June 1. The airline, which averages 460 daily domestic flights, will scale down to just over 420. An airline source revealed that the reduction stems primarily from poor passenger demand on specific routes. As a result, weak sectors like Bengaluru-Kathmandu and Bengaluru-North Goa will be axed from the network.

However, despite surging Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, the carrier is simultaneously scaling up its international presence. Weekly flights between India and West Asia have jumped from 280 to roughly 500, with services progressively restored across 11 regional airports.

An Air India Express spokesperson termed the move a "calibrated adjustment" to optimize capacity and align efficiently with shifting demand patterns. Total weekly flights across its global network now exceed 3,000. Meanwhile, competitor SpiceJet clarified that it has no plans to reduce its own domestic schedule.

Padma Shri Folk Musician Mangala Kanti Roy Passes Away at 104

Kolkata, May 29: Legendary folk musician and Padma Shri awardee Mangala Kanti Roy passed away early Friday morning at his ancestral home in West Bengal. The centurion artist, 104, succumbed to prolonged age-related ailments and throat complications. Revered as the maestro of the Sarinda—a rare, 500-year-old string instrument—Roy single-handedly revived the near-extinct folk art form, elevating it to national prominence. His extraordinary contributions earned him the 'Banga Ratna'



prestigious Padma Shri in 2023.

According to his son, Umakanta Roy, the veteran musician had recently returned home after receiving treatment at the Jalpaiguri Medical College and Hospital but grew increasingly frail due to reduced food intake. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and grandchildren. His demise has triggered widespread grief, with the cultural fraternity mourning the definitive end of a golden era for Bengal's rich folk music heritage.

from the West Bengal government in 2017, followed by the

her

PM Modi to chair NDA meet on June 10 amid Cabinet buzz

Focuses on alliance unity for "Viksit Bharat" by 2047

New Delhi, May 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled and NDA-governed states on June 10, sources said on Wednesday. The decision comes just days after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance completed 12 years in power at the Centre. The meeting is being viewed as a major organisational and political exercise and is expected to focus on governance, welfare delivery and coordination between the Centre and NDA-ruled states. Sources also indicated that a significant reshuffle of

the Union Cabinet could follow soon after the gathering. The NDA government completed 12 years in office on May 26, with the BJP and its allies planning a series of outreach campaigns and public programmes to mark the occasion. The celebrations are also expected to underline Modi's position as the longest-serving Prime Minister in the NDA era.

According to sources, the June 10 meeting aims to showcase alliance unity and reaffirm the NDA's commitment to achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. Senior BJP leaders and NDA allies are ex-



pected to attend, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis,

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Leaders from alliance partners, including Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, are also likely to participate. Discussions are expected to centre on the Modi government's achievements over the past 12 years and strategies to strengthen public outreach around the Centre's welfare and development agenda. Leaders may also deliberate on improving awareness and implementation of flagship schemes at the

grassroots level. Key governance priorities for the coming months, including infrastructure development, employment generation and welfare delivery, are likely to figure prominently in the deliberations. The meeting is also expected to review Centre-state coordination to ensure smoother execution of development projects and sharing of governance models across NDA-ruled states.

Apart from governance matters, the leadership is also likely to discuss the political roadmap ahead of Assembly elections scheduled in several states later this year.

New Chairmen Appointed for Haflong, Maibang and Mahur Municipal Boards; Advisory Board Heads Named for Education and Irrigation Departments

Haflong, May 25: The North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), Haflong, has appointed new Chairmen for the Haflong, Maibang and Mahur Municipal Boards along with Honorary Chairpersons for the Education and Irrigation Departments through separate official notifications issued by the General Administration Department on May 25, 2026. According to the order issued by the NCHAC Secretariat, Pranath Rajiyung, MAC, NCHAC, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Haflong Municipal Board. Herojit Jidung, MAC, NCHAC,

has been appointed as the Chairman of the Maibang Municipal Board, while Babul Kemprai has been named Chairman of the Mahur Municipal Board. The appointments have come into effect immediately upon assumption of office. The notification stated that the new appointments were made in the interest of public service under the provisions of the North Cachar Hills District (Constitution of Town Committees) Rules, 1963. The order also supersedes earlier orders issued in this regard. In another notification issued on the same day, the NCHAC appointed Ripa Hojai

as Honorary Chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Education Department. Monjoy Thaosen has been appointed as Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Irrigation Department. The notification further mentioned that the honorarium, powers and functions of the honorary chairpersons would be finalized upon acceptance of their joining reports. Their tenure will remain at the pleasure of the Executive Committee of the Council. Both notifications were issued by the Principal Secretary i/c, N.C. Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong.

BJP appoints Abhishek Debroy as Tripura state president



Agartala, May 28: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday appointed first-time MLA Abhishek Debroy as the new president of its Tripura Pradesh committee, ending leadership. The 44-year-old legislator from the Matabari Assembly constituency in Gomati district succeeds Rajib Bhattacharjee. Bhattacharjee's term ended in August last year, and he was later elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Before this appointment, Debroy served as the BJP's Gomati district president and was later included in the party's state committee. He has been active in organisational work and youth-related activities within the party. Debroy started his political career with the Congress and joined the BJP in 2017. He later worked in the party's youth wing and took part in local body elections. In 2023, the BJP fielded him from the Matabari constituency in the Assembly elections, where he won the seat. Party sources said Debroy was active in relief and rehabilitation work during the 2024 floods in several affected areas. He has

been associated with organisational activities at the grassroots level.

The selection of a new state president had been pending for several months due to internal discussions within the party. Debroy's name was finalised after consultations with party leadership. After the announcement, party workers in parts of Gomati district celebrated the decision. Workers across the state also welcomed the appointment. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha congratulated Debroy and expressed confidence in his leadership. Speaking to a television channel, Debroy thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP national leadership, and the Chief Minister for the appointment.

He said his focus would be on strengthening the organisation at the booth and grassroots levels. When asked about the next Assembly elections, he said it was too early to comment. Debroy is a graduate in pharmaceutical science and will now lead the BJP organisation in Tripura ahead of upcoming political developments.

Tripura Launches Real-Time Forest Monitoring Platform

Agartala, May 28: Agartala: In a move aimed at modernizing forest administration, the Tripura government has rolled out a new geospatial monitoring platform designed to provide real-time oversight of forestry activities and assets across the state. The application, called Forestry Integrated Geospatial Solution (FIGS), was launched to strengthen monitoring mechanisms within the Forest Department and improve the management of natural resources. The platform will digitally map and track plantations, nurseries, check dams and other forest-related infrastructure. Announcing the initiative on Saturday, Forest Minister Animesh Debbarma said the technology-driven system would enable officials at every level of the department to access and monitor field operations through a common digital interface. He noted that the department had previously relied on field reports, photographs and manually submitted updates to assess activities on the ground. With the introduction of FIGS, authorities will now be able to monitor projects and assets in real time, allowing for faster assessment and better-informed decisions.



also support scientific planning by helping officials identify suitable sites for plantation drives and determine the most appropriate species for different locations based on available geospatial data. The minister expressed optimism that the platform would significantly enhance forest governance and resource management over the coming months if implemented effectively throughout the state. Officials associated with the project said the system is expected to streamline coordination between field-level staff and headquarters by offering a unified platform for reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

The launch of FIGS is part of Tripura's broader effort to leverage technology in improving environmental management and strengthening the protection and development of forest resources.

According to Debbarma, the application will

Mizoram MP Seeks World Bank Support

Aizawl, May 28: Mizoram's lone Rajya Sabha MP, K. Vanlalvena, met with senior World Bank officials, including Executive Director Parameswaran Iyer, in Washington DC to seek financial and technical support for key developmental projects. The proposed initiatives tailor to Mizoram's unique topography, focusing on infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods. Key proposals include multipurpose rainwater harvesting, bamboo, agro, and forest-based industries, alongside Aizawl-specific urban solutions like flyovers and solar-powered portable outdoor stairways. World Bank representatives responded positively, noting that the projects appear highly feasible and expressing strong interest in exploring further collaboration for the hilly state's development.

NCHAC Allocates Portfolios to Executive Members

Haflong, May 25: The North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), Haflong, has officially allocated portfolios to the Members of the Executive Committee with immediate effect through a notification issued by the General Administration Department on May 25, 2026. The notification, issued under Rule 31(1) of the Assam Autonomous District (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951 as amended, stated that the Chief Executive Member has distributed various departments and subjects among the Executive Members of the Council for smooth administrative functioning. According to the notification, Debolal Gorlosa, C.E.M. has been allotted the departments of General Administration Department (GAD), Personnel, Sports & Youth Affairs, Tourism, Weight & Measures, along with all other subjects not specifically allotted to other Executive Members. The following portfolios were also allocated to the Executive Members:



Donpainon Thaosen, E.M. – Town & Country

Planning and Finance

Probita Johari, E.M. – Health & Family Welfare; Handloom & Textiles

Amendu Hojai, E.M. – Art & Culture (Cultural Affairs, Archaeology, Museum & Library)

Roton Jarambusa, E.M. – PHE Maibang Division

Monjit Naiding, E.M. – Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department

Niranjan Hojai, E.M. – Social Welfare

Paudaming Nriame, E.M. – PWD (Mahur Division) & PHE Umrangso Division

Zosumthang Hmar, E.M. – Council PWD; Water Resources; Industries; DIPRO

Samsing Engti, E.M. – Co-operative; Food & Civil Supplies; Fisheries

Ngulminlal Lienthang, E.M. – Sericulture; Adult Education

Monjoy Langthasa, E.M. – PWD (Roads) Haflong Division; PWD (Roads) Maibang Division; PWD Building Division

Lalremsiam Darnai, E.M. – C.D. & Panchayat and D.R.D.A. Noah Daime, E.M. – Soil Conservation

Projith Hojai, E.M. – Land & Revenue; Taxation; Irrigation

The notification was issued by the Principal Secretary i/c, N.C. Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong. Copies of the order have been forwarded to the Chief Executive Member, Chairman, Executive Members, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, departmental heads, and other concerned officials for necessary action.

Editorial

India's Economy at a Crucial Turning Point

India today stands at a significant economic crossroads. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, the country has demonstrated resilience despite global uncertainties, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical tensions. Strong domestic demand, rapid digital growth, and large-scale infrastructure development continue to project India as a rising global economic power. Yet, behind these positive indicators lie several concerns that require immediate and balanced policy attention. One of the most important issues currently affecting the Indian economy is the weakening of the Indian Rupee against the US Dollar. Over the past year, the Rupee has witnessed steady depreciation due to global economic uncertainty, rising oil prices, foreign capital outflows, and a stronger US Dollar. Analysts note that the currency has remained under pressure because of persistent trade imbalances and global financial volatility. The depreciation of the Rupee directly affects the daily lives of ordinary citizens. India imports a large portion of its crude oil, electronic goods, machinery, and industrial materials. A weaker Rupee increases the cost of imports, leading to higher fuel prices, rising transportation costs, and inflation in essential commodities. Consequently, middle-class and lower-income families face increasing financial pressure in managing household expenses. While a weaker Rupee can benefit export-oriented sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, and textiles, the broader economic impact remains mixed. Import-dependent industries suffer from higher production costs, while students studying abroad, foreign travelers, and businesses repaying overseas loans face growing financial burdens. Experts also warn that prolonged currency weakness may reduce investor confidence and increase inflationary risks. Despite these challenges, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has continued to intervene actively in the foreign exchange market to control excessive volatility and maintain financial stability. Recent reports indicate

that the RBI has used foreign exchange reserves and liquidity measures to prevent disorderly fluctuations in the Rupee. The banking sector, however, remains relatively strong with improved balance sheets and healthy capital reserves, offering some confidence in India's economic fundamentals. At the same time, unemployment among youth continues to remain a major concern. Economic growth figures may appear encouraging, but employment generation has not kept pace with the country's growing population. Rural distress, underemployment, and lack of quality job opportunities continue to affect millions of young Indians. Agriculture, the backbone of the Indian economy, also requires urgent support. Farmers continue to struggle with unpredictable weather patterns, rising input costs, fluctuating market prices, and inadequate infrastructure. Sustainable agricultural reforms, irrigation projects, and better rural connectivity are essential for balanced economic growth. India's greatest strength remains its young population. If provided with quality education, skill development, and employment opportunities, this demographic advantage can drive the nation toward long-term prosperity. However, without inclusive growth and effective economic planning, inequality and social frustration may deepen. Nevertheless, India's future remains promising. The country possesses strong entrepreneurial energy, expanding global influence, and growing technological capabilities. With transparent governance, fiscal discipline, support for small businesses, and policies focused on inclusive development, India can emerge as both an economic powerhouse and a socially balanced nation. Economic success should not be measured only by GDP growth or stock market performance. True progress lies in ensuring economic security, employment, affordable healthcare, quality education, and improved living standards for every citizen. India's journey forward will depend not only on growth, but on how fairly and effectively that growth benefits the common people.

Cracking the Club: Inside Gymkhana's Closed Doors

The Crackdown: A major regulatory crackdown on exclusive, colonial-era clubs has shattered their untouchable status, leaving privileged members perplexed and deeply shaken. No committee or emotional appeal can restore their former, untouchable charm. **The Three Stakeholder Groups:** The debate revolves around three distinct circles: **The Insiders:** Club trustees, committee members, regular members, and those on long waiting lists. **The Extended Network:** Outstation users, frequent guests, and a unique, often hereditary class of club employees.

The Aspirational Mass: Regular city dwellers whose highest social ambitions are tied to local resident welfare associations rather than elite, high-ritual spaces. **The Real World & Lost Continuity:** Outside these circles lies the vast majority of society, entirely indifferent to these clubs and engaged in their own cultural traditions. Ultimately, the crack-

down has destroyed a false sense of "colonial continuity," where clubs used perpetual leases to enforce rigid, heavily subsidized, and astronomically expensive exclusivity. **The Façade of Exclusivity and Colonial Legacy Rigged Gates of Entry:** Club membership was never truly merit-based. It relied on waiting for a member to die, hereditary privilege, hidden quotas from controlling authorities, or using the token production of national-level athletes as a "fig leaf" for

exclusivity. **The Colonial Blueprint:** This illusion has outlasted 70 years of independence. Rooted in British, Portuguese, and French colonial history, clubs were designed to keep the native population "in their place" while admitting only powerful collaborators who mimicked their colonizers.

Modern-Day Nepotism: Today, this system continues under the guise of "nostalgia" and "vital networking." Automatic memberships were often reserved for top administrators and military offi-

khana had the stiffest drinks in town at the lowest rates, or that the cheeseballs were what childhood memories were made of. Elsewhere, caramel custards, mutton cutlets and cream rolls acquired sacred emotional value simply because they tasted the same every summer vacation. There are few rituals of either the food or the beverage variety that have made any impact on the world outside of the clubs. Thankfully. This is now only notionally about land. What, then, could explain this visible tension and invisible



cers looking for a retirement anchor. **The Loss of Social Cachet:** With regulatory shutdowns spreading, these elite figures will be forced to retreat to their own government or service institutes—spaces that lack the historic, high-society prestige of the original clubs. The less said about the food culture of these clubs, the better. One may make an exception for the fact that Eggs Kejriwal was invented at Mumbai's Willingdon Club, or that the Thursday night ritual at the Delhi Gym-

deadline? Is this a message, like a harpoon shot across the prow of a ship that's due to be sunk? Is this the beginning of a new class war? Are the elites being reduced to rubble by the bulldozer-wallas?

The clubs may well survive. Some of them, anyway. Because India is not giving up on hierarchy yet. There will always be a market for exclusivity, old-money manners and places where the waiting list is part of the attraction. But the aura has surely been enfeebled.

Who Really Benefits from Development?

The newly released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) presents a mixed health transition for India's youth. While the country continues to report high economic growth rates, persistent challenges in child nutrition remain a critical focus for policymakers. According to the provisional 2023-24 data, India's child malnutrition rate stands at a substantial 32 percent—almost unchanged from the previous NFHS-5 cycle. In terms of chronic malnutrition, the survey brings positive news: the percentage of stunted children (low height for age) fell notably from 35 percent to 29 percent.

However, acute undernutrition remains a stubborn hurdle. Child wasting (too thin for height) stagnated at 19 percent, pointing to an ongoing deficit in essential daily calorie and protein intake. Health experts note that while long-term interventions are beginning to curb

stunting, urgent, targeted feeding programs are required to address severe wasting, which remains significantly higher than the 7 percent average recorded across several sub-Saharan African nations. The latest data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) indicates an unexpected uptick in adult malnutrition across India alongside slow progress in key female socio-economic indicators.

According to the 2023-24 findings, the percentage of adults falling below the healthy Body Mass Index (BMI) threshold of 18.5 has increased. The proportion of underweight women rose from 18.7 percent in NFHS-5 to 19.7 percent, while the figure for men saw a sharper increase, climbing from 16.2 percent to 19.7 percent. Analysts suggest these figures point to underlying economic distress among lower-income demographics. The survey also

highlighted critical social metrics that directly influence maternal and child health. The percentage of women aged 20–24 who married before the legal age of 18 declined slightly from 23.3 percent to 20.1 percent. Educational attainment also saw a moderate increase, with 46 percent of women achieving 10 or more years of schooling, up from 41 percent previously. Public policy experts note that while these structural trends are moving in a positive direction, the pace of change remains a primary hurdle in improving India's female labor force participation rate, which historically trails global averages.



Tetley Green Tea finds place in consumers' daily wellness routines

Guwahati: As consumers increasingly look for small moments of pause amid busy lifestyles, green tea is steadily becoming part of everyday routines across different times of the day. Industry observations suggest that from mornings to late evenings, many consumers are incorporating green tea into their schedules as part of a balanced and mindful lifestyle.

According to insights shared by Tetley, mornings are emerging as a preferred time for green tea consumption, with consumers choosing it alongside breakfast or before beginning their workday. The company said a warm cup of Tetley Green Tea is becoming part of calmer morning rituals for many households.

Afternoons, often marked by long work hours, meetings and screen time, are also witnessing growing preference for green tea as part of short reset breaks during the day. Tetley noted that consumers are increasingly using these moments to pause and refresh amid hectic schedules.

The company further stated that green tea is gaining popularity during evening hours as well, with people adopting simple wind-down routines after demanding days. Tetley said the



preparation of green tea is becoming associated with mindful living and daily balance.

Reflecting changing consumer preferences toward sustainable wellness habits, Tetley highlighted its Slim Care variant, which combines premium green tea with added L-Carnitine aimed at supporting body fat reduction when paired with balanced diets and regular physical activity.

In Guwahati, retailers and beverage sellers are also witnessing rising consumer interest in green tea products, particularly among young professionals and health-conscious buyers seeking convenient wellness-focused beverage options as part of their daily routines.

Medanta doctors urge awareness and healthy lifestyle to prevent liver diseases

Aizawl: Doctors at Gurugram-based Medanta have stressed the importance of liver health awareness and healthy lifestyle practices amid a growing rise in liver-related diseases across the country. The specialists said early diagnosis and preventive care are crucial as many liver conditions progress silently and show symptoms only after significant damage has occurred.

Dr. Swapnil Dhampalwar, Senior Consultant, Hepatology at Medanta Gurugram, said people often ignore symptoms such as persistent fatigue, abdominal discomfort, unexplained weight changes and loss of appetite. "Timely diagnosis through regular health check-ups and blood tests can help detect liver disease early and prevent long-term complications," he said.

The doctors highlighted that conditions such as fatty liver disease, viral hepatitis, alcohol-associated liver disease, cirrhosis and liver cancer are rising steadily due to sedentary lifestyles, obesity, diabetes, unhealthy eating habits and excessive alcohol consumption. They advised people to adopt balanced diets, regular exercise, adequate hydration and proper sleep instead of depending on detox supplements or



self-medication.

In Aizawl, healthcare awareness campaigns and access to specialised liver consultation services are gaining importance as urban lifestyle changes and processed food consumption continue to increase in Mizoram's capital. Medical experts said the growing demand for preventive healthcare in Aizawl reflects rising concern among residents over lifestyle-related diseases.

Medanta has also signed an MoU with the Government of Mizoram under the Mizoram Universal Health Care Scheme (MUHCS), enabling cashless treatment for registered beneficiaries. Residents of Aizawl and nearby areas can consult Dr. Dhampalwar on May 26 at Gastro and Liver Centre, Mission Vengthlang, TlangVeng Road, Aizawl.

Manipal Hospitals expands Northeast healthcare outreach with CPR awareness drive in Nagaland

Dimapur: Manipal Hospital EM Bypass has organised 'Anveshana – Medical Education for Media' along with a CPR Training and Awareness Session in Nagaland as part of its broader strategy to strengthen healthcare awareness and specialised medical outreach across Northeast India. The initiative brought together senior specialists including Dr. Harsh Jain, Senior Consultant – Neurosurgery, Dr. Arya Chaudhuri, Consultant – Cardiology, Dr. Subhankar Chakraborty, Consultant – Emergency, and Dr. Arunava Roy, HOD – Gynaecologic Oncology. The experts highlighted the growing burden of neurological disorders, cardiovascular diseases and cancer cases in the Northeast, while stressing the importance of early diagnosis, preventive healthcare and timely emergency response.

The CPR training session focused on equipping participants with basic life support skills and emergency response techniques during cardiac emergencies before professional medical assistance arrives. Doctors also highlighted the increasing demand for advanced healthcare services as patients



from Nagaland and other Northeastern states continue to travel outside the region for specialised treatment.

Dr. Harsh Jain spoke on the rise in stroke and neurological disorders in Northeast India, while Dr.

Arunava Roy highlighted advancements in robotic-assisted cancer surgeries and multi-disciplinary oncology care at Manipal Hospitals Kolkata. Dr. Arya Chaudhuri stressed that CPR awareness can significantly improve survival chances during cardiac arrest, while Dr. Subhankar Chakraborty underlined the importance of creating trained first responders within communities. The programme also marked the launch of a Media Privilege Card offering journalists enhanced healthcare access and benefits across Manipal Hospitals facilities.

In Dimapur, healthcare awareness campaigns and specialised medical outreach programmes are gaining importance amid rising demand for advanced treatment among patients from Nagaland. Healthcare providers are increasingly focusing on preventive care, emergency preparedness and technology-driven treatment options as the Dimapur healthcare market continues to witness growing patient awareness and demand for super-specialty services.

Airbnb expands travel offerings with car rentals, FIFA experiences and boutique hotels

Mumbai: Global travel platform Airbnb on Wednesday announced a major expansion of its services and experiences, introducing car rentals, grocery delivery, airport pickups, luggage storage, boutique hotels and exclusive FIFA World Cup 2026 experiences as part of its summer 2026 update. The company said the new features are aimed at making travel more convenient and personalised for users worldwide. Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky said travel should be "meaningful" and help people explore and learn through unique experiences.

Among the new additions, Airbnb users can now book grocery delivery in partnership with Instacart across select US cities, airport pickups through Welcome Pickups in more than 160 cities, and luggage storage via Bounce in 175 cities worldwide. The platform is also rolling out car rentals directly through its app later this summer. Airbnb is further expanding its Experiences category with landmark tours, food culture programmes and exclusive FIFA World Cup 2026 activities featuring football icons including Abby Wambach and Javier Mascherano. The company also announced the addition of thousands of boutique and independent hotels across major cities including New York City, Paris, London and Singapore, along with AI-powered trip planning and customer support tools.

Classic Legends expands after-sales push with nationwide care camp across dealership network



Bongaigaon: Classic Legends across its authorised Jawa, Yezdi and BSA dealerships nationwide has announced a nationwide "Legends' Care Camp" from May 23 to May 31,

2026, underlining the growing industry focus on customer retention and after-sales service in India's premium motorcycle segment.

The nine-day service initiative will be organised across multiple cities and will offer customers comprehensive motorcycle health check-ups along with benefits on servicing, labour charges, spare parts and genuine accessories. Industry observers note that automobile companies are increasingly using service-led engagement programmes to

strengthen brand loyalty and improve long-term ownership experience.

As part of the campaign, trained technicians will conduct a detailed 72-point inspection covering engine performance, brakes, clutch systems, tyres, suspension, battery health and electrical components to ensure better safety and vehicle performance. Customers will also receive expert consultation on motorcycle maintenance and riding preparedness ahead of the monsoon season.

The initiative additionally includes finance and exchange benefits for customers visiting participating dealerships during the campaign period.

Commenting on the programme, Jayapradeep Vasudevan said customer experience and rider satisfaction remain central to the company's approach. He said the care camp is aimed at providing proactive service support and ensuring riders continue to receive the performance and reliability associated with the Jawa, Yezdi and BSA brands.

Shopsy launches AI-powered app to target Gen Z and Bharat shoppers



Guwahati: Flipkart-owned Shopsy has launched a new AI-powered version of its shopping app, transforming the hypervalue platform into a gamified and engagement-led commerce destination aimed at Gen Z consumers and Bharat's next 100 million online shoppers. The company said the new platform has been designed for young and value-conscious consumers across metros and tier-2 and smaller cities, where much of India's new online shopper growth is taking place. According to a Bain & Company report cited by the company, nearly 65 per cent of new shopper growth is now coming from tier-2+ cities, while Gen Z accounts for around 40-45 per cent of India's e-retail market.

The revamped app combines AI-powered personalization, video-led product discovery and gamification features. Users can earn SuperCoins through app logins, streaks and in-app games, which can later be redeemed during purchases. The platform also uses AI-based search and regional discovery tools to provide a more localized shopping experience. Balaji Thiagarajan, Chief Technology and Product Officer at Flipkart, said Gen Z shoppers prefer immersive and interactive shopping experiences driven by videos and engagement. The company said the platform will also benefit MSMEs and small sellers by offering video-enabled catalogues, AI-powered listing tools and a zero-commission marketplace model to improve product visibility and sales. The development could also strengthen the e-commerce ecosystem in Guwahati, where digital shopping adoption has been rising steadily among young consumers. Retailers and small businesses in Guwahati are increasingly turning to online platforms to reach wider customer bases, and AI-led discovery tools and low-cost seller models may create fresh opportunities for regional entrepreneurs and local manufacturers.

India sends five-member team to Taipei WorldSkills tournament ahead of Shanghai 2026

Guwahati: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary on Sunday flagged off the Indian contingent for the 2026 Taipei Capital Cup WorldSkills Invitational Tournament to be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from May 26 to 28.

The five-member Indian team will compete against participants from around 15 countries in the international vocational and technical skills competition, which is being organised as a preparatory event ahead of WorldSkills Shanghai 2026. The competition focuses on promoting global skills development, technical excellence and workforce innovation.

The send-off ceremony was attended by Skill Development Secretary Debashree Mukherjee and National Skill Development Corporation CEO Arunkumar Pillai along with senior ministry officials.

Addressing the participants, Chaudhary said

such competitions help young professionals sharpen technical capabilities while preparing them for global opportunities. He encouraged the participants to learn from international standards and build global partnerships during the event. India will participate in five skill categories including Mobile Applications Development, Software Applications Development, Painting and Decorating, Automobile Technology and Digital Construction. The contingent includes gold medal winners from the IndusSkills National Competition 2025-26 along with wildcard entrants.

In Guwahati, Centre's growing emphasis on vocational training and global skill competitions could create more awareness among students and technical institutes in the Northeast region. Experts believe such international exposure may encourage more youth from Assam and neighbouring states to pursue skill-based careers linked to digital technology, manufacturing and construction sectors.



MG launches MAJESTOR D+ SUV in India starting at Rs 40.99 lakh

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India has launched the much-anticipated MG MAJESTOR, calling it India's first D+ SUV, with prices starting at Rs 40.99 lakh (ex-showroom) for the 4x2 automatic top trim. The 4x4 automatic top trim has been priced at Rs 44.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

The MG MAJESTOR will be available in both six- and seven-seater configurations for the 4x2 variant, while the 4x4 version will be offered only as a seven-seater. The SUV is powered by a

twin-turbo diesel engine delivering 215.5 PS power and 478.5 Nm torque, paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

MG said the SUV comes with advanced off-road capabilities, including a 4WD system with 10 off-road modes, Crawl Control Mode, and first-in-segment triple differential locks. The vehicle also offers 219 mm ground clearance and an 810 mm water-wading capability.

The company highlighted the MAJESTOR's dimensions, claiming it is the lon-

gest, widest and tallest in its segment with a 2950 mm wheelbase. Key features include Level 2 ADAS, panoramic sunroof, ventilated and massaging front seats, dual 12.3-inch displays, 12 JBL speakers, three-zone climate control, dual wireless chargers and more than 75 connected car features.

Commenting on the launch, Managing Director Anurag Mehrotra said the MAJESTOR combines premium comfort, advanced technology and superior off-road capability. MG is also offering

North-East India sees sharp rise in pollution levels over two decades: Study

Guwahati: A new 25-year satellite study has revealed that pollution levels in North-East India have increased sharply over the past two decades, pushing most parts of the region from "polluted" to "highly polluted" categories due to rising carbonaceous aerosols linked to biomass burning and slash-and-burn farming practices.

The research, published in the journal Atmospheric Environment, was led by Prof Abhijit Chatterjee and research fellow Soumen Raul of Bose Institute. The study analysed particulate matter pollution trends across the Indo-Gangetic Plain, North-East India and the Himalayas between 2000 and 2024.

According to the findings, organic carbon and sulphate components of particulate matter rose nearly 50 per cent in North-East India during 2010-2019 compared to the previous decade. Pollution hotspots earlier limited to Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura have now expanded further across the region and into Bangladesh.

The study blamed intensified

slash-and-burn agriculture and extensive use of biomass such as firewood, crop residue and cow dung for cooking and heating in rural households as the major drivers of pollution. Researchers said India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), currently focused mainly on cities, has failed to address the growing rural pollution crisis.

The report also highlighted worsening industrial pollution in Assam, especially around Bongaigaon, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Digboi, Numaligarh and Bokajan, where sulphate emissions from thermal power plants, oil refineries and cement industries increased by over 30 per cent after NCAP implementation.

In Guwahati, environmental experts and traders expressed concern over the findings, saying rising pollution could impact public health, tourism and long-term economic activities in the city if stronger mitigation measures are not introduced. Researchers have urged the government to expand the NCAP 2.0 to include rural and ecologically sensitive regions of North-East India.



an assured buyback program with up to 70 per cent value along with warranty and road-

side assistance benefits under its MG Shield ownership package.

Guwahati emerges as strong academic hub in SOF Olympiads 2025-26

Guwahati: Guwahati's education sector recorded a significant milestone in the 2025-26 Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) examinations, with students from the city securing top international ranks amid participation from millions of candidates across 72 countries.

More than 42,000 students from Guwahati appeared in the Olympiads this year, underlining the growing demand for competitive academic platforms and skill-based learning in the city's education market.

Leading the performance chart, Nishanth Chettri of Class 1 from St. Rose School secured International Rank 1 in the International General Knowledge Olympiad (IGKO). Arnab Bhagowati of Modern English School achieved International Rank 1 in the National Science Olympiad (NSO), while Rohit Mahto of Happy Montessori High School secured International Rank 1 in the International Hindi Olympiad (IHO). The three students will receive gold medals.

Ahana Bhuyan of Maharishi Vidya Mandir-IV

secured International Rank 3 in NSO and will be awarded a bronze medal. All winners will also receive Certificates of Outstanding Performance and Certificates of Distinction.

SOF Founder and Director Mahabir Singh said the Olympiads continue to encourage critical thinking and analytical skills among students. The results have also highlighted Guwahati's expanding academic ecosystem, with schools increasingly investing in global-standard competitive learning and talent development initiatives.

Oriflame bets big on Northeast market with 5,000-km influencer campaign

Mumbai: Swedish beauty and wellbeing company Oriflame has intensified its focus on Northeast India through a large-scale influencer-led outreach campaign covering over 5,000 kilometres across 13 cities, highlighting the region's growing importance in India's beauty, wellness and creator economy markets.

The month-long Northeast Yatra, conducted in partnership with Whosthat360, engaged more than 300 influencers and creators across Northeast India and West Bengal between April and May. Beginning in Shillong on April 7 and ending in Kolkata on May 10, the campaign passed through Agartala, Aizawl, Dimapur, Kohima, Guwahati, Nagaon, Dibrugarh, Itanagar, Siliguri and Durgapur.

Industry observers see the campaign as part of a broader push by consumer brands to tap the Northeast's digitally connected youth population and rapidly expanding regional creator ecosystem. Through beauty masterclasses, skincare workshops and creator auditions hosted from the Oriflame Beauty and Wellness Partner Truck, the company generated extensive community-led engagement and regional-language social media visibility.

The campaign also promoted Oriflame's



social selling business model by showcasing stories of women entrepreneurs from smaller towns across the Northeast. The initiative concluded with the Oriflame Presents WhosNext2026 Influencer Awards in Kolkata, attended by personalities including Trina Saha and Srabanti Chatterjee.

Indian Silk House Agencies expands Northeast focus after successful first year in Guwahati

Guwahati: Indian Silk House Agencies, one of East India's leading saree retailers, has completed one year of operations in Guwahati, strengthening its presence in the Northeast and expanding its reach in the organised saree retail market.

The company said the Guwahati outlet has emerged as a preferred destination for saree buyers in the region over the past year, helping the brand deepen customer engagement in Northeast India. The store's success, along with the recent launch of a new outlet in Silchar, has expanded the company's Northeast footprint to two states within 12 months.

Located in Guwahati, one of the fastest-growing urban centres in the Northeast, the store offers a wide range of traditional Indian weaves including Kantha, Baluchari, Matka and Tussar from Bengal, along with Kanjivaram, Banarasi, Paithani and Bandhej sarees sourced from different parts of the country.

Indian Silk House Agencies currently works with more than 15,000 artisans across over 60 weaving clusters nationwide. The company is also pursuing aggressive expansion plans and aims to reach 500 stores across India by 2030,



while continuing to open new outlets every seven to ten days nationally.

In Guwahati, the strong response to the store reflects the city's growing demand for organised ethnic wear retail and premium traditional textiles. Retail observers say Guwahati is increasingly emerging as a major fashion and lifestyle hub for the Northeast, attracting brands looking to tap into rising consumer spending and demand for authentic handcrafted products.

Commenting on the milestone, CEO Darshan Dudhuria said the company had entered Guwahati believing the Northeast was underserved by organised saree retail and added that the positive response has encouraged the brand to expand further across the region.

TVS Motor tops global durable consumer goods ranking for shareholder value creation



Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has been ranked number one globally in the 'Durable Consumer Goods' category in the annual 'Best Stocks in the World' ranking published by Boston Consulting Group and Germany-based business weekly WirtschaftsWoche.

The ranking evaluated more than 2,000 listed companies across 35 industries worldwide. According to the study,

TVS Motor delivered an average annual Total Shareholder Return of around 51 per cent between 2021 and 2025, emerging ahead of competitors from Japan, China, the United States and India.

The analysis stated that the company's performance was driven by strong revenue growth, premium market valuation, improving profitability and a stronger balance sheet. The study also highlighted

TVS Motor's resilience and financial discipline amid volatile global market conditions.

Professor Sir Ralf Speth credited the achievement to the strategic vision of Chairman Sudarshan Venu and praised the company's focus on technology, sustainability, manufacturing excellence and electric mobility.

In 2025-26, TVS Motor recorded its highest-ever annual sales of 5.89 million units,

marking a 24 per cent rise year-on-year. Revenue increased 30 per cent to Rs 47,270 crore, while operating profit before tax rose 40 per cent to Rs

4,975 crore.

In Guwahati, the strong global recognition of TVS Motor could further strengthen consumer confidence in the Northeast market. Dealers in Guwahati noted rising demand for premium two-wheelers and electric mobility solutions, with TVS products witnessing growing acceptance among urban and young buyers in Assam.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor signs MoU with Karnataka to set up Bizintel Hub in Bengaluru

Dimapur: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to establish the "TKM Bizintel Hub" at KWIN City in Bengaluru, aimed at strengthening engineering capabilities, digital innovation and intelligent manufacturing initiatives in India. The MoU was signed in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Industries Minister Dr M.B. Patil, senior ministers and officials from Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

Spread across 300 acres, the proposed hub will focus on testing and evaluation of mobility solutions, digital transformation across business operations and implementation of intelligent manufacturing systems. The company said the initiative is expected to strengthen India's position in Toyota's global operations by leveraging the country's skilled engineering workforce and strong information technology ecosystem.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Toyota Kirloskar Motor has remained a trusted partner in Karnataka's growth journey and added that the new investment would help create quality employment and support sustainable industrial development in the state.

TKM Chairman, MD and CEO Masakazu Yoshimura said India remains a strategically important market for Toyota's innovation and sustainable mobility plans. He added that the Bizintel Hub aligns with the company's focus on localization, carbon neutrality and national initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The development could also positively influence Dimapur, particularly in automobile supply chains, logistics and skilled employment opportunities, as Northeast India continues to emerge as a growing market for mobility and industrial expansion.



NSDC ties up with Fourth Valley to boost skilled workforce mobility to Japan

Guwahati: National Skill Development Corporation has partnered with Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation to strengthen workforce mobility opportunities for Indian professionals seeking employment in Japan, the organisations said on Monday.

Under the partnership, NSDC and the Tokyo-based global recruitment firm will work to build a structured verification system aimed at improving transparency, credibility and employer confidence in Indian talent entering the Japanese workforce. The

initiative will use the "Credibility Check" framework developed by NSDC Trust, a group organisation of NSDC.

The proposed verification process may include identity checks, educational and qualification verification, employment history validation, criminal background checks where legally permitted, and consistency checks of submitted documents.

NSDC CEO Arunkumar Pillai said a globally aligned verification system was essential for strengthening India's international work-

force mobility ecosystem and boosting overseas employer confidence in Indian professionals. FVCC Founder and CEO Yohei Shibasaki said the partnership would help create responsible and sustainable long-term employment opportunities for Indian talent in Japan.

The initiative comes amid rising labour shortages in Japan and growing demand for foreign skilled workers. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Japan visit in 2025, both countries had outlined plans to facilitate the

movement of at least 50,000 skilled Indian professionals to Japan over the next five years.

In Guwahati, the development is expected to generate fresh overseas employment opportunities for skilled youth from Assam and the Northeast region, especially in sectors such as healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing and information technology. Improved verification systems could help candidates from Guwahati and nearby regions access more reliable and transparent international recruitment channels.

World Milk Day: Why Productivity will be key to the sector's next growth wave

-Capt. (Dr.) A.Y. Rajendra, CEO – Animal Nutrition Business, Godrej Agrovet

As the world marks World Milk Day on June 1, India has much to celebrate — and much to confront. The country has gone from a milk-deficient nation post-independence to the world's largest producer and consumer of milk. But despite the success of the 'White Revolution' that scripted this transformation, the country now faces the prospect of production falling short of its needs as rapidly growing demand threatens to outpace supply.

The numbers tell the story. India's annual milk production stood at just 21 million tonnes at independence, with per capita availability a mere 124 grams a day in 1950-51. Today, the country produces over 200 million tonnes a year, with per capita consumption soaring to 471 grams — well above the global daily average of 322 grams. Yet a gap is opening up, driven not by supply-side failings but by an outsized and still-growing Indian appetite for milk. A booming economy is fuelling demand not just for raw dairy but for value-added products like flavoured milks, yoghurts, milkshakes, and cheese. Fifty-eight percent of respondents in the India Lactograph Study 2025-26 said they preferred flavoured milk varieties — evidence of how rapidly consumption patterns are evolving.

The answer to closing this gap lies not in growing our cattle population, but in improving the productivity of the animals we already have. India is home to the world's largest cattle population, yet yields per animal are among the lowest



globally — 4.87 kg of milk a day against a global average of 7.18 kg. Three levers can unlock this productivity.

Feed and nutrition is the most immediate bottleneck. India produces roughly 7.5 million tonnes of cattle feed against a requirement of nearly 70 million tonnes, with serious shortages of both green and dry fodder. Scientific feeding practices — adapting formulations to lactation stages, breed characteristics, and local conditions — not only raise yields but also lower morbidity, improve reproductive performance, and even reduce methane

emissions.

Genetics is the second lever. Indigenous cows yield 3–4.2 kg of milk a day while exotic and crossbred varieties yield nearly double at 8.35–8.55 kg. Yet indigenous breeds still account for 73.5% of India's cattle population. Rebalancing this mix is already underway — the exotic and crossbred population grew by over a quarter between 2012 and 2019. Government programmes like the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, covering 92 million cattle across 56 million farmers, and the National Artificial Insemination Programme, which has carried out 12.2 crore inseminations to date, are accelerating this shift.

Animal care is the third and often underestimated lever. Poor hygiene, inadequate housing, limited veterinary access, and heat stress all suppress yields significantly. Health protocols, clean milking practices, better-ventilated housing, and digital extension services can meaningfully close the gap between genetic potential and actual output.

Surpassing the 300 mark

This World Milk Day is not just an occasion to celebrate how far India has come — it is a call to action for what must come next. India's dairy transformation is rightly hailed as a post-independence success story, proof of what national will backed by policy can achieve. We've done it once. There's no reason we can't do it again — and this time, take milk production past the 300 million tonne frontier.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor signs Gujarat MoU to boost education and healthcare initiatives

Dimapur: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat to strengthen education, skilling and healthcare initiatives across the state, benefiting more than 9.67 lakh people.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, senior government officials and top executives of Toyota Kirloskar Motor. The initiative will cover Gandhinagar, Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar through projects focused on community learning, digital education, technical training and healthcare infrastructure.

As part of the initiative, TKM has set up community libraries equipped with air conditioners, CCTV surveillance and solar power facilities to encourage reading habits and provide accessible learning spaces for over three lakh learners. The company has also launched a Mobile Computer Education Electric Bus in Surat to provide digital education and computer skills to around 8,000 students across five blocks in the district.

In Jamnagar, TKM has implemented the Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) at Government ITI to provide advanced automotive service and



maintenance training across 29 trades, benefiting nearly 3,700 students. In Rajkot, the company will provide critical medical equipment to community health centres aimed at improving affordable healthcare access for around 6.5 lakh residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Governance at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said the initiatives reflected the company's long-term commitment towards sustain-

able community development and social responsibility.

The development is also expected to generate positive interest in Dimapur, where growing demand for corporate-led education, healthcare and skilling initiatives has encouraged businesses and institutions to explore similar community-focused partnerships. Industry observers believe such CSR-driven projects could inspire wider investments in digital learning and healthcare support across Northeast India.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance targets young consumers with Activ Yuva launch

Guwahati: Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL), the health insurance arm of Aditya Birla Capital, has expanded its wellness-led insurance portfolio with the launch of 'Activ Yuva', a health-focused insurance plan aimed at India's younger and digitally engaged consumers. The move comes as insurers increasingly shift towards preventive healthcare and lifestyle-based engagement models to drive customer retention and market growth.

The new product builds on ABHICL's HealthReturns™ proposition, under which policyholders can earn rewards for maintaining healthy routines such as walking or burning 10,000 steps daily or burning 300 calories in a single workout session. Customers maintaining consistent activity levels and a strong Healthy Heart Score™ can receive up to 100 per cent of their annual premium back.

Activ Yuva introduces three wellness pillars — Eat, Move and Heal — linking rewards to everyday habits. Users logging two meals daily for 21 days can unlock a 10 per cent boost in HealthReturns™, while those maintaining over 7,500 steps or burning 250 calories monthly can earn Bo-



nus Active Dayz™. Maintaining 7-8 hours of sleep for 21 days can increase rewards by up to 15 per cent.

Commenting on the launch, ABHICL CEO Mayank Bathwal said younger consumers are increasingly integrating wellness into their daily lifestyles, prompting insurers to move beyond claims-based models and remain relevant throughout the customer's health journey.

The launch reflects a broader industry trend towards wellness-linked and app-based insurance products. In the Guwahati market, insurance advisors and healthcare industry stakeholders noted rising demand among urban professionals and younger consumers for flexible health plans offering OPD coverage, wellness tracking and reward-based benefits. Analysts believe preventive healthcare awareness and increasing digital adoption in Guwahati could support growth for wellness-focused insurance products in the region.

IndiGo to raise fares over costs

New Delhi: InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, the parent company of India's largest airline, IndiGo, may soon increase airfares to counter skyrocketing operational costs. Chief Executive Officer Rahul Bhatia revealed that a steep surge in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, triggered by escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia since late February, continues to severely impact global airline operations. Speaking at the airline's Q4FY26 earnings call, Bhatia emphasized that raising ticket prices is essential to protect the company against mounting financial pressures. Interestingly, passenger demand has remained highly resilient despite recent pricing shifts. "For the moment, what we are seeing is as we take the fares up, the market is inelastic to these hikes," Bhatia noted, adding that the airline will monitor passenger elasticity on a daily basis.



The structural headwinds have already made a heavy dent in the carrier's balance sheet. Hit by a weakening rupee and expensive jet fuel, InterGlobe Aviation reported a stark net loss of Rs 2,536 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. This stands in sharp contrast to the net profit of Rs 3,067 crore recorded during the same period in the previous fiscal year. Industry experts warn that these aviation headwinds are likely to persist. To protect shrinking margins, airlines are actively trimming unprofitable routes and frequently adjusting fare structures. For daily flyers, this signals that the era of cheaper domestic air travel may be grounded for the foreseeable future.

Sikkim Police Receives Nation's Highest Police Honour, 'President's Police Colour'

Gangtok, May 28: President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious President's Police Colour to the Sikkim Police today. The Alankaran Parade was held at the Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Sikkim has become the 15th state of the country and 3rd from North East to receive this award. Addressing the event, President Droupadi Murmu urged the police force to be more citizen centric. She also emphasised that police should be more sensitive



while dealing with the people, and children. She said that particularly women, the poor police must be ready to deal

with cybercrime, online fraud, deep fake, etc. She hoped that the Sikkim Police would deal with these challenges by using all modern means. She appreciated the role of the Sikkim Police in maintaining law and order situation as well as mitigating disasters.

The President's Police Colour is the highest ceremonial honour awarded to a police force in the country in recognition of exceptional service, unwavering discipline, and dedication to the nation.



Court Frames Charges Against Seven In Zubeen Case

Guwahati, May 28: A special fast-track court in Assam on Tuesday framed charges against all the seven accused in the singer-musician Zubeen Garg's death case. Briefing media persons, special public prosecutor Ziaul Kamar said the court framed the charges based on the sections mentioned in the charge sheet filed by the Assam Special Investigation Team (SIT). The SIT had slapped the charge of murder against four accused—North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma, bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and singer Amritprabha Mahanta.

The three other accused were Garg's DSP cousin Sandipan Garg, personal security officers Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya. "After hearing the submissions made by both sides, the court presided over by Justice Sharmila Bhuyan framed the charges against all the seven accused persons. From today, there will be no miscellaneous hearing. Trial in the main case will be held on a daily basis from June 8,"

Kamar said. He further stated that only Sandipan was not facing the charge of conspiracy. The singer's wife Garima Saikia Garg was optimistic about getting justice in the case. "Truth will prevail in the fight for justice. We have complete faith and trust in the legal system," she said.

Meanwhile, speaking in the Assembly on Tuesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma trained his gun on the Congress for allegedly politicising Garg's demise during Assembly elections. "Zubeen Garg was our heartthrob and an asset of Assam who had influenced generations of Assamese youth through his music and public life," Sarma stated. Garg (52) died while swimming near the Lazarus Island in Singapore on September 19 last year. He travelled to the country to attend the North East India Festival.

In December last year, Sarma had told the Assembly that Garg was murdered as part of a conspiracy. However, a coroner's inquiry in Singapore ruled that he drowned accidentally.

ED Raids Assam IPL Betting Racket, Seizes Cash, Cars

Guwahati, May 27: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted overnight search operations across Guwahati, Tinsukia, and New Delhi targeting a massive, structured IPL cricket betting and money laundering racket.

The raids, led by ED's Guwahati Zonal Office, stem from a Guwahati Crime Branch FIR against Deepesh Bajoria, Ronak Bajoria, Rajesh Jain, and others. The probe expanded after the ED incorporated two additional Tinsukia Police FIRs involving Bikash Beria, Nitin Beria, and Suprit Biswas, exposing a wider syndicate.

Investigations revealed the accused operated an advanced network, using offshore betting portals and encrypted apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Instagram to manage bets. Illicit proceeds collected via cash, UPI, and bank transfers were systematically layered through family networks in Assam and Delhi to camouflage them as legitimate assets. Searches targeted multiple residential premises and a Guwahati commercial establishment named "Roy-see" (formerly "Playboy"). The operation yielded highly incriminating digital devices detailing coded betting transactions and financial trails. The agency seized ₹13 lakh in unaccounted cash, frozen several linked bank accounts, and impounded three luxury vehicles—a Mercedes-Benz, an MG Hector, and a Toyota Fortuner—suspected to be acquired through the proceeds of crime.

DoNER Minister Launches Rs 236 Crore Pineapple Mission

Agartala, May 27: Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday launched the ₹236 crore 'Mission Queen Pineapple' project in New Delhi, aimed at transforming Tripura's signature fruit into a global brand. Attended virtually by Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath, the project establishes a comprehensive value chain covering scientific cultivation, integrated cold storage, and export logistics. Scindia highlighted that north-eastern pineapples are already earning immense international goodwill, finding premium markets in Dubai and Germany. He attributed the rising export numbers to the Krishi Udaan scheme, which



provides subsidized air cargo rates for farmers.

The three-year initiative is a collaborative effort uniting eight central agencies. Funding includes ₹45 crore from the DoNER Ministry, ₹30 crore from the Agriculture Ministry, ₹25 crore from the Food Processing Ministry, and ₹20 crore from the Tripura government. The structural blueprint features one central hub near Agartala's Maharaja

Bir Bikram Airport connected to eight regional spoke centres. The project will deploy advanced tech, including IoT farm monitoring, QR-based traceability, and AI quality control. It also incorporates a "waste-to-wealth" component to extract bromelain and manufacture leaf-fibre textiles. Chief Minister Saha stated the mission would significantly boost the state's agricultural economy.

Four Suspects Arrested In Kangpokpi Hostage Case, Says CM Khemchand

Manipur, May 28: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Thursday said that four suspected persons believed to be involved in the kidnapping of six Naga civilians have already been arrested, while search and combing operations are underway to trace the hostages. Speaking to reporters during his visit to Makhon Naga Village in Kangpokpi district, the Chief Minister said the government is treating the matter with utmost seriousness and investigations are continuing to nab all those involved in the incident. Stating that the government shares the concerns and sentiments of the people, Khemchand assured that the hostages would be rescued soon.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected the relief camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) set up at

Makhon Baptist Church, where around 35 inmates are currently taking shelter. The inmates include Naga women and children from Konsakhul Village who were recently taken hostage and later released by armed miscreants.

The Chief Minister distributed relief materials including rice, dal, potatoes, onions, edible oil, sugar, tea leaves and biscuits to the displaced families. He also inspected the village community hall and held discussions with the village chief and district officials regarding the possibility of accommodating more displaced persons. Shri Khemchand instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Kangpokpi to ensure the supply of essential items such as mattresses and mosquito nets for the inmates. During the interaction, the village chief informed the Chief Min-

ister that many Naga families in Kangpokpi district had fled their villages due to fear arising from the prevailing situation.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, MLAs Leishiyo Keishing, Awangbou Newmai, Shri Heikham Dingo Singh, Janghemlung Panmei, Khashim Vashum, Ram Muivah and J. Kumo Sha, along with Commissioner (Home) N. Ashok Kumar and Deputy Commissioner of Kangpokpi Shri Mahesh Chaudhari, among others.

Khemchand Singh was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Makhon Baptist Church Guest House, where he was briefed by the chairmen of Makhon and Konsakhul villages on the hardships faced by the displaced families staying at the relief camp.



Norway Chess: Praggnanandhaa falls to Firouzja in round 2

Firouzja beats Carlsen; Gukesh wins in Armageddon

Oslo, May 27: Alireza Firouzja defeated India's R Praggnanandhaa 3-0 in round 2 of Norway Chess 2026, while the match between Wesley So and D Gukesh was drawn, with So taking the Armageddon win, as per a press release from Norway Chess. In an all-Indian women's clash, Divya Deshmukh registered an Armageddon win over Koneru Humpy. In a complex battle, Alireza Firouzja steadily built pressure in the middlegame against R Praggnanandhaa and eventually converted his advantage with precise play to secure his second consecutive classical win of the tournament. The game between Wesley So and World Champion D Gukesh ended in a hard-fought draw in classical time control after a long strategic struggle. However, So went on to win the Armageddon tie-break, securing the additional points.

The clash between Magnus Carlsen and Vincent Keymer also ended in a draw, with Carlsen holding a slight advantage in the endgame but Keymer defending well to save the game. Carlsen then won the Armageddon tie-break to



take the extra points. In an all-Indian encounter, Divya Deshmukh defeated Koneru Humpy in Armageddon after their classical game ended in a draw. In the other match, Anna Muzychuk overcame reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun in Armageddon to take the extra points. Following the second round, Firouzja extended his lead in the standings after scoring back-to-back classical wins. He's now atop the table with six points to his name, with Gukesh at the second spot with 2.5 points to his name, following two draws and an Armageddon win. In the women's rankings, Assaubayeva keeps the lead with 4.5 points against her name after one win and an Armageddon win as well.

Earlier in round 1, Firouzja defeated Carlsen, and Gukesh secured an Armageddon win over Vincent Keymer. Praggnanandhaa, on the other hand, also clinched an Armageddon win over Wesley So. In the Women's event, Assaubayeva had emerged as the winner after defeating Koneru Humpy, while Divya Deshmukh defeated Ju Wenjun in Armageddon.

Scaloni Encouraged By Messi Injury Progress

Inter Miami Confirms Messi Hamstring Muscle Fatigue

Buenos Aires, May 27: Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said the initial news regarding superstar Lionel Messi's fitness "is not that bad" and hopes further examinations will confirm that diagnosis with the World Cup just a fortnight away. Messi has been diagnosed with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring by his Major League Soccer club Inter Miami after he made an abrupt exit from Miami's 6-4 victory over Philadelphia in the 73rd minute on Sunday. Even at 38 and eying a sixth World Cup finals appearance, Messi remains the side's talisman for the defence of the title they won in Qatar four years ago. "Obviously we would have preferred that nothing had happened," Scaloni told Argentinian TV station DSports on Tuesday. "Now one has to wait and see how it evolves and above all the new tests they are going to conduct in order to see if it confirms their original diagnosis." Scaloni, who is due to name his squad next week, added he had watched the match on TV at the federation's headquarters and been relieved that Messi had asked to come off. Inter manager Guillermo Hoyos explained after the match Messi was tired, the pitch was heavy and no-one wanted to take a risk with his fitness. Inter Miami issued a statement on Monday saying: "The timeline for his return to physical activity will depend on his clinical and functional progress."

That gave little indication about the status of the eight-time Ballon D'Or winner. Argentina



are set to begin their World Cup campaign on June 16 against Algeria in Kansas City. They then play Austria on June 22 and round off their Group J campaign against Jordan on June 28.

Messi has managed his workload since joining Inter Miami in 2023, with team staff regularly excusing him from matches in congested fixture periods. MLS has started a break in its season for the World Cup, which is co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. Messi has not formally confirmed his plans to play in the World Cup, but is widely expected to return for what would be a record-matching sixth appearance at the finals. His great Portuguese rival Cristiano Ronaldo and potentially Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa would also be making a sixth appearance. Argentina are set to play two pre-World Cup friendlies against Honduras on June 6 and Iceland on June 9, both in the United States.

Mexico to host Iran World Cup squad after US refusal

Mexico City, May 27: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum stated her country has "no issue" hosting Iran's national football team for the FIFA World Cup 2026. The squad relocated its training base from Tucson, Arizona, to Tijuana, Mexico, due to intensifying geopolitical tensions and visa complications in the United States. Sheinbaum revealed that FIFA approached Mexico after U.S. authorities expressed that they did not want the Iranian team staying overnight in the country. Mexico readily agreed to the request, working alongside FIFA to finalize logistical operations. Despite setting up camp at Centro Xoloitzcuintle in Tijuana, Team Melli will still play all three of its Group G matches in the United States. They face New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21 in Inglewood, California, followed by Egypt in Seattle on June 26. The cross-border arrangement aims to streamline travel and resolve entry hurdles for the tournament.



Unstoppable Sooryavanshi misses century, but takes RR into Qualifier 2

Chennai, May 27: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was in disbelief. He stood there, in the middle of the pitch, not wanting to leave the field at the New PCA Stadium on Wednesday night. The 15-year-old was a few metres away from breaking the long-standing record of Chris Gayle (in 30 balls), smashing the quickest century ever in the history of Indian Premier League. However, it was not to be. Sooryavanshi had just holed out in the deep against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eliminator after a breathtaking 97 from 29 balls. A six or four off the attempted slap over thirdman off Praful Hinge would have etched his name in the history books — its already there, just another chapter would have been added. Even as he stood there, distraught, SRH players, almost every single one of them, came to the teenager, patted him on the back. Sooryavanshi, eventually, walked off the field to a standing ovation from his dug out, his opponents and the packed stands.

The teenager, who has racked up 680 runs, may have missed out on a historic century, but history was made. During his 29-ball stay where Sooryavanshi took

in his second season, Sooryavanshi has shown that he is not a one season wonder, but a world-beating talent who is here to stay.



passed the very same Gayle, who held the record for most sixes in a season (60), becoming the fastest man to hit as many maximums in a year with 65 sixes so far. In the process, he also became the fastest to score 600+ runs in any IPL season — 242.85 strike rate across 15 games while leading batting charts is not just incredible, but also inevitable at this point. For

If there was ever a doubt about that, the 15-year-old cleared it all up after the previous contest against SRH where he smashed a 36-ball hundred. He spoke about how the mood in the dressing room was low, how he saw Hinge talk about his dismissal and why he wanted to do something special for the team. RR may have lost the game, but Sooryavanshi showed what it meant for him to succeed. It was also visible on Wednesday after getting out in the 90s for the second time this season — 38-ball 93 against Lucknow Super Giants on May 19.

May be, that is what makes this 29-ball 93 even more special — like that of Suresh Raina's 25-ball 87 for Chennai Super Kings in Qualifier 2 against Kings XI Punjab in 2014. As sweet as a century would have been, it is often the 90s that have remained legendary. And Sooryavanshi would take it with both hands, especially knowing that this time, his team would be on the winning side, having a chance at going to the final.