



DC Chairs Review Meeting on Compensation and Progress of NHAI, NHIDCL Highway Projects
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Formalin Leak Triggers Public Health Alert in Dima Hasao; Jatinga River Declared Unsafe



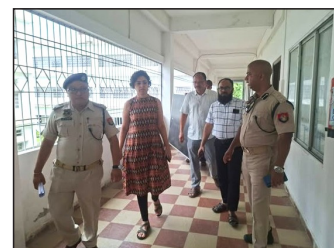
Haflong, July 2: Panic gripped parts of Dima Hasao district on Thursday after a tanker carrying formalin (formaldehyde solution) developed a mechanical fault and leaked hazardous chemicals into the Jatinga River along National Highway-27 between Jatinga and Jatinga Lampu. In response, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Dima Hasao, issued an urgent public safety advisory, warning residents against using river water until further notice. According to the advisory issued by the Office of the District Commissioner-cum-Chairman, DDMA, the leaked formalin has reportedly entered the Jatinga River, posing a potential threat to public health,

livestock, agriculture, and the aquatic ecosystem. Authorities have appealed to residents living along the river and downstream areas to exercise extreme caution. The administration has strictly prohibited the use of river water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing, irrigation, or any other domestic purpose. Livestock and pets should not be allowed to consume the contaminated water, while people have also been advised not to catch or consume fish and other aquatic organisms from the affected stretch of the river. Swimming, fishing, and entering the river have also been banned as a precautionary measure. Health authorities have warned that exposure to

contaminated water may cause eye and skin irritation, breathing difficulties, nausea, dizziness, and vomiting. Anyone experiencing such symptoms has been urged to seek immediate medical attention at the nearest health facility. To ensure public safety, the District Administration has activated emergency response mechanisms. The Joint Director of Health & Family Welfare has been directed to activate the Harangajao Medical Task Force and establish an emergency contact number, while the Public Health Engineering Department has been instructed to conduct regular water quality testing. Local administrative officials and field functionaries have also been mobilised to create widespread public awareness. The District Disaster Management Authority has appealed to citizens to remain calm, avoid spreading rumours, and rely only on official communications regarding the situation. The advisory has come into effect immediately and will remain in force until the authorities declare the river safe for public use.

DC, SSP Review Preparations for APSC Combined Competitive Preliminary Examination at Haflong Government College

Haflong, July 4: Ahead of the APSC Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination, 2025 scheduled to be held on July 5, 2026, District Commissioner Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Ripunjoy Kakoti, APS, the Additional District Commissioner, and the Additional Superintendent of Police, visited Haflong Government College on Friday to review the preparedness for the examination. During the inspection, the officials examined the examination centre and assessed the arrangements made for the smooth, fair, and secure conduct of the presti-



gious state-level competitive examination. They reviewed essential facilities, security measures, seating arrangements, and other logistical aspects to ensure that all necessary protocols are in place for the candidates.

The District Commissioner directed the concerned officials to maintain strict adherence to the examination guidelines and ensure seamless coordination among all departments for the successful and hassle-free conduct of the examination. The visit reflects the district administration's commitment to conducting the examination in a transparent, orderly, and secure manner.

Assam CM Holds Talks With ASEAN ONE Chief On Investments And Youth Employment

Guwahati, July 3: Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday held talks with Toshiaki Nishikawa, Chairman and CEO of ASEAN ONE Co. Ltd., at Lok Sewa Bhawan to discuss investment opportunities in the state and collaboration on skill development.

The meeting focused on strengthening partnerships under the CM-FLIGHT initiative, with particular emphasis on preparing Assamese youth for global employment opportunities. According to the Chief Minister, the discussions also explored ways to enhance language training through the North East Skill Centre, enabling young people from Assam to



acquire the skills needed to access international job markets. The meeting forms part of the state government's efforts to attract investment while expanding employment and skill development opportunities for the youth through international collaborations

DC, SSP Lead Joint Inspection to Ease Traffic Congestion on Jatinga-Silchar Route



Haflong, July 1: In a concerted effort to address per-

sistent traffic congestion along the Jatinga-Silchar corridor, a joint inspection was carried out on Tuesday by the District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, Senior Superintendent of Police Ripunjoy Kakoti, APS, the Project Director of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), along with other

concerned officials.

The inspection covered the Jatinga-Silchar road via Retzawl, where officials assessed the movement of heavy vehicles on both the Jatinga-Silchar and Silchar-Jatinga stretches. The team reviewed the prevailing traffic situation and examined the factors contributing to congestion along the busy high-

way.

The visit focused on identifying practical and effective measures to streamline the movement of heavy vehicles, improve overall traffic flow, and enhance road safety for commuters. Officials also discussed possible interventions to minimise bottlenecks and ensure smoother vehicular move-

ment along this vital transportation corridor connecting Dima Hasao with the Barak Valley.

The joint inspection underscores the district administration's commitment to improving road connectivity, reducing travel disruptions, and ensuring the safe and efficient movement of traffic on one of the region's key arterial routes.

DC Chairs Review Meeting on Compensation and Progress of NHAI, NHIDCL Highway Projects

Haflong, June 25: To expedite the implementation of ongoing national highway projects in Dima Hasao, a high-level review meeting on compensation and other project-related issues was held at the Circuit House, Haflong, on June 25 under the chairmanship of District Commissioner Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Ripunjoy Kakoti, APS,

Additional District Commissioners, the Additional Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Commissioner, and senior officials from the concerned departments. Officers from the Revenue Department of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, along with representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-

CL), also participated in the deliberations.

During the meeting, the participants reviewed the progress of ongoing highway projects, examined compensation-related matters, and discussed issues requiring inter-departmental coordination. Emphasis was laid on resolving pending concerns and ensuring timely disbursement of compensation to facilitate uninterrupted execution of the projects.



The District Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to remove bot-

tlenecks, accelerate project implementation, and ensure the early completion of critical road infrastructure that

will significantly improve connectivity and support the socio-economic development of Dima Hasao.

PIL in SC Challenges Unregulated Coaching Sector

Petition Seeks End to Unregulated, Fee-Driven Private Coaching Ecosystem

New Delhi, July 02: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Supreme Court by a lawyer challenging India's growing, unregulated, fee-driven coaching ecosystem. The petition has stated that this ecosystem reduced formal schooling as a means to just get a certificate. "It has only given access to professional education as a 'privilege' purchased by money," the petition said. The plea filed in the top court by lawyer Narendra Kumar Goswami, under Article 32 of the Constitution, sought urgent constitutional intervention against the alleged nexus between private coaching centres, dummy schools, entrance-examination bodies and regulatory inaction. The PIL invokes Articles 14, 21 and 21A of the Constitution, along with Arti-

cles 38, 39(f), 45 and 46, and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The petition sought directions to the Centre and other authorities to dismantle the 'parallel, unregulated, fee-driven private coaching ecosystem', align school curricula with national entrance examinations such as JEE, NEET, CLAT, CUET and SSC, eradicate the "dummy school" nexus, and establish a binding national framework for student mental health and equal educational opportunity.

The respondents include the Union of India (UOI), Ministry of Education, National Testing Agency, CBSE, NCERT, National Medical Commission, IIT Council, Bar Council of India, Staff Selection Commission, CCPA, NCPDR and all States/UTs. The peti-



tion framed the issue not as a private grievance, but as a national constitutional emergency affecting millions of children and youth, particularly those from poor, rural, SC/ST/OBC/EWS and first-generation learner families. The plea said the central charge of the petition is simple but grave. "The Indian State prescribes one school system, but professional destiny is increasingly

decided by another system — the private coaching market." In effect, the petition said, the classroom has been displaced by the coaching cubicle, the teacher by the test-series vendor, and the constitutional promise of education by the commercial tyranny of rank. "The present system creates a brutal two-tier structure. One section goes to expensive coaching centres, buys

curated material, mock tests, analytics, faculty access and examination strategy. The other section sits in ordinary schools, follows the prescribed syllabus, and is then told to compete in examinations for which the schooling system itself has not adequately prepared. This, the petition argues, is not equality. It is a State-manufactured inequality," it added. The petition reserves its strongest attack for the phenomenon of "dummy schools."

It alleges that children are formally enrolled in CBSE or State Board schools but, in reality, do not attend regular schooling and are instead kept in coaching centres for extremely long hours. The petitioner describes this as a fraud on schooling, a fraud on the child, and a fraud on

Article 21A. The petition's pre-litigation representation specifically alleges that the dummy-school nexus confines children to coaching centres for 14-16 hours a day and directly assaults their physical and mental health.

The PIL further stated that the problem is not merely academic, but constitutional, psychological and moral. It linked the coaching culture with the student mental-health crisis and said that adolescent children are being placed under crushing pressure in the name of competition. The petition argues that the right to life under Article 21 is not merely a right to breathe, but a right to live with dignity, mental integrity and freedom from preventable institutional harm.

Dhami Dismisses Early Poll Speculation

Political Activity Fuels Early Poll Buzz



Dehradun, July 02: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday dismissed speculation that the state could head for early Assembly elections, saying there has been no official communication or preparation to suggest polls will be advanced. Political circles in Uttarakhand and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh have been abuzz with reports that the Assembly elections, due before March 2027, could be held in November or December 2026. The speculation has gathered pace amid increased visits by senior BJP and Congress leaders to the state. Responding to reporters in Dehradun, Dhami said the government had not received any indication of an early election. He stressed that the Election Commission alone would decide the poll schedule and that, at present, there was no formal information supporting such claims.

The Chief Minister described the rumours as baseless, saying no preparations were underway for an early election. His remarks are seen as an attempt to put to rest growing political speculation over a possible change in the electoral calendar. The term of the fifth Uttarakhand Assembly ends on March 23, 2027, with elections expected before then under the normal schedule. However, ongoing electoral roll revision, the proposed Haridwar Kumbh in January 2027 and the Census exercise have fuelled conjecture about a possible rescheduling. Meanwhile, the opposition Congress accused the BJP of creating the speculation. Uttarakhand Congress chief spokesperson Garima Mahara Dasauni alleged that the ruling party was attempting to manage growing anti-incumbency and had itself triggered the rumours surrounding early elections.

First DAC under new military leadership clears Rs 52,000 crore buys

New Delhi, July 03: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday cleared capital acquisition proposals worth around Rs 52,000 crore, with counter-drone systems, layered air defence, anti-tank weapons and persistent surveillance platforms emerging as the biggest priorities in the armed forces' latest modernisation push. Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the DAC granted the "acceptance of necessity" for the projects, which is only the first step in the long-winded procurement process. The proposals will now wind their way through tendering, technical evaluation and cost negotiations, with the high-value ones also needing the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) nod, before contracts are eventually inked. The Friday meeting was also the first of the DAC since a sweeping churn at the top of the military hierarchy, with Gen Raja Subramani having taken over as Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Dhiraj Seth as Army chief and Adm Krishna Swaminathan as Navy chief.

The latest approvals also point to the way Operation Sindoor has influenced the military's acquisition priorities. The hostilities with Pakistan, in which swarms of drones and loitering munitions slugged it out with air defence networks on both sides, has forced the shift away from big-ticket conventional platforms towards counter-UAV systems, layered air defence, better tank survivability and round-the-clock intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR). The Army cornered the biggest chunk of approvals. Topping its list is the indigenous 'Akash-Tarang', an anti-UAV electronic warfare (EW) system built to detect, track and jam hostile drones before they get anywhere near forward

troops. With cheap drones and loitering munitions emerging as a defining threat in recent conflicts, counter-UAV soft kill capability has become one of the military's fastest-growing operational needs.

The DAC also cleared 2,300 indigenous man-portable anti-tank guided missiles (MPAT-GMs), along with 100 launchers and five simulators, for around Rs 2,600 crore, sources said. Developed by DRDO for production by state-run Bharat Dynamics, the third-generation, fire-and-forget missile packs an imaging infrared seeker, tandem warhead and top-attack capability to take out modern tanks and will progressively replace the vintage Milan and Konkurs ATGMs in infantry units. Also cleared were additional Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) systems and the shoulder-fired Verba VSHORADS, the fourth-generation Russian MANPADS which will be manufactured in India by Adani Defence under transfer of technology from Rosoboronexport. The Verba, which succeeds the Igla-S with a multi-spectral seeker far harder to fool with flares or laser dazzlers, will thicken the Army's layered air defence against jets, choppers, cruise missiles and drones. The package also includes Active Protection Systems (APS) to keep tanks alive on a contested battlefield and a jet-based kamikaze drone system for longer-range precision strikes. For the Navy, the DAC cleared the Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM), a Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial System (NSUAS) and a land-based testing fa-



cility for electric propulsion. The smart mines, which read a passing ship's magnetic, acoustic and pressure signatures, will strengthen the Navy's sea-denial punch, while the shipborne drones extend a warship's eyes over the horizon.

The shore-based facility, in turn, will let the Navy prove motors and propulsion for its next-generation warships before they put to sea, electric drives being far quieter and harder to detect underwater. For the IAF, the headline approval is the Fixed-Wing Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (FW-HAPS), a solar-powered platform built to loiter in the stratosphere for weeks on end. Sitting between conventional drones and satellites, it will deliver persistent ISR, along with communication and remote sensing, at a fraction of a satellite's cost, and can be shifted or have its payload swapped at will. The DAC cleared other IAF proposals too, without specifying. The government in its statement said that the acquisitions are meant to, "enhance the combat readiness of the defence forces."

DC Interacts with Mahur Farmers, Reviews Challenges Facing FPC and Agricultural Development

Mahur, July 4: District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, conducted a field visit to Mahur on July 3 along with the Agriculture Development Officer (Mahur Circle), the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of the local Farmer Producer Company (FPC), and members of the farming community.

During the visit, the District Commissioner held an extensive interaction with local farmers to gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges affecting agricultural production and the functioning of the Farmer Producer Company. Farmers highlighted issues related to crop production, marketing, infrastructure, access to quality agricultural inputs, and institutional support.

The discussions also focused on identifying practical measures to strengthen the FPC, improve market linkages,



enhance agricultural productivity, and create better livelihood opportunities for farmers in the region. Officials assured the farming community that their concerns would be examined and appropriate steps would be taken to address the issues through coordinat-

ed efforts. The field visit reflects the district administration's commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural development, empowering Farmer Producer Companies, and improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers in Dima Hasao.

DC Inspects Key PDNA Reconstruction Projects in Dima Hasao



Haflong, July 2: District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, accompanied by the District Project Officer (DDMA), the Field Officer, and the concerned Junior Engineer, conducted an inspection of ongoing and completed Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) reconstruction projects across the district on June 30.

During the inspection, the District Commissioner reviewed the progress and quality of critical infrastructure works being executed under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the Recovery & Reconstruction (R&R) window of the PDNA programme.

The projects inspected included two major road reconstruction works under the

PWD (Roads & Buildings), Haflong Division—Recovery and Reconstruction of the Natun Gunjung—Dibara Road under NDRF (PDNA-2022) and the Recovery and Reconstruction of the Topodisa Village Approach Road under NDRF (PDNA 2025–26).

The inspection team also visited the Reconstruction of G.C. Langthasa High School, being implemented under the Recovery & Reconstruction (R&R) Window of PDNA-2022.

The visit was aimed at assessing the pace and quality of the reconstruction works, ensuring timely implementation, and monitoring adherence to prescribed standards so that the restored infrastructure benefits the affected communities at the earliest.

Nagaland's Hokato Hotozhe Sema Becomes World No. 1 in Shot Put

Kohima, July 3: Nagaland's Paralympian Hokato Hotozhe Sema has added another feather to his cap by climbing to the World No. 1 in the men's Shot Put F57 category. According to the latest World Para Athletics Rankings, Subedar Hokato Hotozhe Sema of the 9 Assam Rifles secured the top position. Sema recently became the first Paralympian to be conferred the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal. He is also a recipient of the Arjuna Award and has won the bronze medal in the men's Shot Put F57 event at the Paris Paralympics 2024. Fellow Indian athletes Rana Soman and Juyal Shubham were ranked second and third, respectively, in the latest rankings, underscoring India's strong presence in the event.

Tripura CM Flags Off Northeast's First MEMU Train

Agartala, July 04: In a major boost to railway infrastructure in the Northeast, Tripura on Saturday became home to the region's first Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train service. Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha inaugurated the Agartala–Karimganj MEMU train at Agartala Railway Station, marking the beginning of electric train operations in the state. The inaugural event was attended by Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, Rajya Sabha MP Rajib Bhattacharjee, MLA Mina Rani Sarkar, senior officials of the Northeast Frontier Railway and other distinguished guests. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Saha said the launch represents another important chapter in Tripura's infrastructure development. He recalled that the state's railway journey began in 1964 when the first train reached Dharmanagar from Kalkalighat in Assam, while the rail network was later extended to Kumarghat in 1990. He noted that railway expansion gathered unprecedented momentum after 2014, with several new train services improving Tripura's connectivity with the rest of the country. Describing the MEMU as a landmark addition, the Chief Minister said it is both Tripura's first electric train and the first MEMU service to operate anywhere in the Northeast. The 12-coach train is equipped with CCTV surveillance and modern passenger facilities, providing commuters with a safer, more comfortable and environmentally sustainable travel experience. Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said the state now operates 18 train services, comprising 13 express trains and five DEMU services. The newly introduced MEMU, he said, will significantly strengthen the railway network by accommodating nearly 3,600 passengers in a single trip.

He also disclosed that the proposal for the MEMU service gained momentum after passengers staged a protest at Jirania Railway Station demanding more train services. Responding to the public demand, Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha took up the matter with the Central Government, resulting in the introduction of the new train. The minister said the state government continues to prioritise infrastructure development and improved public transport, with enhanced railway connectivity expected to facilitate economic growth, ease passenger movement and contribute to the overall development of Tripura.



Thousands Rally in Kangpokpi, Demand Crackdown on NSCN-IM, ZUF

Imphal, July 3: Thousands of members of the Kuki-Zo community on Saturday staged a massive peaceful protest rally at the Gamgiphai Buffer Zone in Manipur's Kangpokpi district under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), condemning what they alleged was a systematic attempt to "Balkanise" the hill areas through repeated attacks on Kuki-Zo habitations. The rally commenced from Taloulong Damdei and proceeded to the Gamgiphai Buffer Zone via the National Highway-2 before returning to the starting point. Protesters carried a giant banner accusing the Tangkhul-led NSCN-IM and Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) of orchestrating attacks on Kuki-Zo villages, while asserting that the community would remain united and resist attempts to divide it. Holding placards and raising slogans, the demonstrators demanded immediate government intervention against armed groups allegedly operating in the hill districts. Among the slogans echoed during the march were, "Stop Selective Action," "Clamp Down on Transnational Terrorists," "Tangkhul NSCN-IM Down Down," and "Where are the CAPF in Kamjong and Tamenglong?"

The protesters also displayed placards reading "Clamp Down on NSCN-IM & ZUF: Secessionist Terrorists," "Stop Balkanization of the Hill Country," "Equal Justice for Equal Rights,"

"Blockade on Humanitarian Supplies is a War Crime," "Few Hoodlums are Controlling the State Security," and "Where are the CAPF in Kamjong and Tamenglong?" Addressing the media on the sidelines of the rally, CoTU spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen alleged that the government's policies were favouring one community over another and warned that such an approach would undermine constitutional principles and national unity. "The government of the day needs to desist from pursuing prescriptive policies of appeasing one community over another if it wants India to remain united and uphold the Constitution," he said. Referring to the prevailing security situation in the hill districts, Kipgen alleged that the current communal tension was part of a larger design to weaken the present state government led by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

He further alleged that armed Tangkhul militant groups were operating with impunity and attempting to destabilise the entire Northeastern region while the authorities remained "mute spectators." Citing the recent attacks on Kuki-Zo villages at Phaimol in Kamjong district on July 1 and Leikot in Tamenglong district on July 2, the CoTU spokesperson alleged that the incidents were intended to provoke retaliatory violence and trigger a wider Kuki-Naga conflict. "We want to remind those attempting to

engineer a major Kuki-Naga conflict that we will not fall into your trap," he asserted. Kipgen also urged the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh to remember the lessons of the June 18, 2001 uprising, saying historical events should caution authorities against policies that could further deepen ethnic divisions. "The essence of the June Uprising should resonate in the Valley," asserted Kipgen, urging the Chief Minister to put a check on all armed militants led by the NSCN-IM. Calling for immediate intervention by both the State and Central governments, CoTU Spokesperson demanded that the operational freedom allegedly enjoyed by the Tangkhul-led NSCN-IM be reviewed, contending that the group's activities were incompatible with the spirit of its ceasefire agreement with the Government of India. "While respecting the political aspirations of every community, the Kuki-Zo community will not become a scoreboard or a benchmark for anyone's political agenda," Kipgen said. The rally concluded peacefully amid tight security, with participants reiterating their demand for equal protection, impartial enforcement of law, deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in vulnerable hill districts, and decisive action against armed groups accused of targeting Kuki-Zo villages.

Editorial

Preparing for an Uncertain Monsoon

The southwest monsoon is the backbone of India's agricultural economy. It sustains millions of farmers, replenishes reservoirs, and determines the country's food production and rural prosperity. Therefore, the recent below-normal rainfall caused by the El Niño phenomenon is a matter of serious concern. With June recording nearly a 40 per cent rainfall deficit and July also expected to receive below-average precipitation, the government has rightly stepped up its preparedness through a high-level review chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Centre's decision to closely monitor the evolving situation, coordinate with state governments, and advise farmers on suitable kharif crops reflects a proactive approach. Equally important are the directives to ensure adequate electricity for irrigation, continuously monitor reservoir levels, and encourage the cultivation of less water-intensive crops

such as millets, pulses, and fodder. These measures can significantly reduce the impact of a weak monsoon if implemented effectively and on time.

Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for a large section of India's population. Although irrigation infrastructure has expanded over the years, millions of farmers still depend heavily on rainfall. The decline in kharif sowing this season is an early warning that delayed or deficient rains can quickly affect farm incomes, food production, and market prices. Protecting farmers during such periods must remain a national priority.

The current situation also highlights the growing impact of climate change. Weather patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable, with prolonged dry spells in some regions and devastating floods in others. While parts of central and western India face the threat of drought, states such as Assam and Arunachal

Pradesh are battling floods and landslides. The Centre's decision to send Inter-Ministerial Central Teams to assess flood damage in the North-east demonstrates the need for region-specific disaster management and faster relief measures.

India must move beyond short-term crisis management and invest in long-term climate resilience. Water conservation, rainwater harvesting, watershed development, efficient irrigation systems, and scientific reservoir management should become national priorities. Farmers must also be encouraged to diversify towards climate-resilient crops through better access to quality seeds, technical guidance, and assured markets.

Technology has an equally important role to play. Accurate weather forecasting, satellite-based monitoring, and timely advisories from institutions such as the India Meteorological Department can help farmers make informed decisions about sowing and

crop management. At the same time, crop insurance and timely financial assistance should protect farming families from unforeseen losses.

The government's assurance that adequate stocks of rice, wheat, and other essential commodities are available is reassuring and should help maintain market stability. However, ensuring food security requires continued vigilance throughout the monsoon season.

India has faced difficult monsoons before and has emerged stronger through co-ordinated action. The present challenge should serve as an opportunity to strengthen agricultural resilience, improve water management, and build climate-ready infrastructure. With scientific planning, effective governance, and close cooperation between the Centre, states, and farming communities, the country can successfully minimise the impact of an uncertain monsoon and safeguard both its farmers and its food security.

Geography of Violence

As the ethnic conflict in Manipur moves into its third year, the crisis has entered a more complex and volatile phase with rising tensions involving the Naga community, adding a new dimension to a conflict that initially centred on the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. The violence, which erupted in May 2023 between Meiteis in the Imphal Valley and Kuki-Zo tribes in the surrounding hill districts, has increasingly widened to include Naga groups following a series of incidents in recent months. The latest escalation traces back to February, when a local dispute in Litan along the Imphal-Ukhrul road between a Tangkhul Naga resident and two Kuki youths spiralled into broader clashes, reviving long-standing tensions between the two communities.

The situation worsened on May 13 after three Thadou pastors were killed in an ambush in Kangpokpi district while returning from a peace conclave. Kuki organisations blamed Naga militants for the attack, while Naga representatives denied the allegations, claiming the incident resulted from internal Kuki factional disputes.

The attack triggered retaliatory kidnappings by both communities. Although 14 Kuki captives were released by Naga groups on June 9 following appeals from civil society organisations, hopes for reconciliation faded after security forces recovered the mutilated bodies of six Naga captives the next day. The killings have further deepened mistrust and heightened fears of renewed violence.

The prolonged conflict has reinforced ethnic divisions across the state, with Meiteis largely confined to the Imphal Valley, Nagas dominating the higher hill districts, and Kukis facing increasing isolation in the foothill regions. Movement restrictions and disruptions in essential supplies have also raised humanitarian concerns. Observers say the evolving conflict underscores the need for sustained dialogue and inclusive political engagement. They argue that Manipur's geography, historical grievances and competing territorial aspirations continue to shape the conflict, making reconciliation and confidence-building measures essential for restoring peace and stability in the state.

Carrying the Weight of Devotees' Faith

Like crores of Hindus, I grew up listening to stories during Harikatha performances from the Ramayana and revering Lord Ram as the embodiment of righteousness, duty and moral courage. In later years, I read the great poet Kuvempu's iteration of the epic. For many Indians, Ram transcends theology—he is part of our cultural inheritance, much as Christmas is observed across the world even by many who have never opened a Bible. It is precisely because of that enduring reverence that recent reports of alleged financial irregularities involving donations to the Ayodhya Ram temple have prompted an uncomfortable question. As the scandal is growing, what is both a paradox and a cause for concern is that charges are being levelled by saffron associates of the BJP and the heads of various Hindu orders. Is the Ayodhya temple merely another place of worship, or does it occupy a unique place in India's contemporary public life? This is not a question about faith. Faith belongs to the realm of personal conscience. Nor is it a question about the legal dispute over Ayodhya, which has been settled through constitutional processes. The question is one of accountability. Unlike most ancient temples that evolved gradually through centuries of patronage, pilgrimage and local devotion, the Ayodhya temple emerged from one of the most consequential political movements in independent India. Its journey from a disputed site to a grand national shrine was shaped not only by religious beliefs but also by political mobilisation, public campaigns, court proceedings, governmental action and intense national debate. Whether one applauds or criticises that journey, its political character is impossible to ignore. And it is precisely that character which imposes a special responsibility. When political leaders and public institutions become closely identified with a religious project, they assume obligations extending beyond ordinary administration. Every rupee donated by a devotee represents trust. Every administrative decision acquires public significance. Every allegation of wrongdoing raises questions not only

about the individuals involved, but also about the systems to safeguard public faith. This explains why reports of financial impropriety at Ayodhya attract attention far beyond the sums involved. For decades, lakhs of people contributed to the Ayodhya movement not merely with money but with emotion, sacrifice and conviction. Some donated modest sums collected in villages; others travelled long distances to participate in pilgrimages and public gatherings. The temple, therefore, car-



ries an accumulated moral investment that extends far beyond its account books. When questions arise about the handling of donations, what is placed at risk is not only financial credibility but also a reservoir of public trust built over generations. The issue is not the amount; it's accountability. Financial irregularities occur in governments, corporations, charities and religious institutions. Temples are no more immune to human frailty than any other organisation. History teaches us that wherever money, influence and prestige accumulate, temptation follows. The real test lies elsewhere. Are the mechanisms of oversight strong enough to detect wrongdoing promptly? Are investigations conducted transparently? Are those responsible held accountable? Can devotees be assured that their offerings

are protected? During my years in the Indian Army, I learned that institutions are judged not by the absence of misconduct but by the quality and speed of their response to it. Perfection is impossible; vigilance is not. The Ayodhya temple, therefore, deserves standards of governance at least as rigorous as those expected of any major public trust in the country. Independent audits, transparent accounting, clear lines of responsibility and swift investigation of allegations should not be viewed as acts of suspicion. They are expressions of respect for the faith of crores.

Some may regard such scrutiny as an attack on the temple itself. I see it differently. A distinction must always be maintained between the sacred and those entrusted with administering the sacred. Lord Ram requires no defence from mortals. Institutions created in his name require honest stewardship. Democracy functions best when citizens can ask questions without being branded disloyal and when institutions can answer those questions without feeling threatened. Accountability does not diminish faith. Properly understood, it protects it. Amid the magnificence of a grand temple, the vast resources that have gone into its construction and the immense public emotion that sustains it, one cannot help recalling Rabindranath Tagore's celebrated lines: "Open thine eyes and see thy god is not before thee. He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground."

The reminder is not a rejection of worship but a call to humility. The worth of any religious institution lies not merely in the splendour of its structures but in the values it embodies and the integrity with which it serves those who repose their faith in it. Ultimately, the measure of the Ayodhya temple's success will not lie in the grandeur of its architecture, the height of its spires or the size of the crowds and their offerings it attracts. It will lie in whether the principles invoked throughout its creation—truth, duty, rectitude, transparency and integrity—are reflected in its daily administration. That would be the most fitting tribute to Lord Ram.

Stayfree bets on innovation with Xpert XL to strengthen menstrual hygiene market

New Delhi: Stayfree has expanded its menstrual hygiene portfolio with the launch of Stayfree Xpert XL, as the brand looks to strengthen its presence in India's growing feminine hygiene market through product innovation and wider consumer reach. The new offering reflects increasing demand for convenient, high-performance hygiene products tailored to modern lifestyles.

Stayfree Xpert XL has been introduced with 3-in-1 protection, combining Gel Lock Pockets for deep and instant absorption, an Air Soft Cover for a breathable and gentle feel on the skin, and a compact, individually wrapped design that fits easily into a pocket, making it convenient to carry and dispose of. The company said the product has been de-



veloped to address women's evolving period management needs while enhancing comfort and confidence.

Commenting on the launch, Supriy Srinivasa, Marketing Director, Stayfree, said women experience periods differently and the brand continues to invest in innovations that offer consumers greater choice. She said the new product delivers superior protection, improved comfort and portability, reinforcing Stayfree's commitment to meeting diverse consumer expecta-

tions.

To drive awareness, Stayfree has rolled out a nationwide digital campaign featuring influencers and actors Aditi Bhatia, Ashnoor Kaur and others. The campaign focuses on common concerns such as leakage, skin irritation and the inconvenience of carrying sanitary pads during daily activities.

The product is now available across modern trade, general trade, pharmacies, e-commerce and quick commerce platforms in packs of 6, 18 and 40 units, with the six-unit pack priced at ₹48. The launch is expected to further intensify competition in India's expanding menstrual hygiene market, where brands are increasingly investing in product differentiation, digital engagement and consumer-centric innovation.

Operation Amistad strengthens India's global humanitarian leadership

Guwahati: India's launch of Operation Amistad to deliver emergency medical assistance and relief supplies to earthquake-hit Venezuela is expected to reinforce the country's global standing as a dependable humanitarian partner while showcasing the capabilities of its indigenous healthcare and defence logistics ecosystem.

Under the mission, two Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying a 41-member medical contingent from the Army's 60 Para Field Hospital, a field hospital unit, medicines, two indigenously developed BHISHM Cubes and over 35 tonnes of relief materials have departed for northern Venezuela following twin earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale. According to media reports, the disaster has claimed more than 235 lives and injured over 4,300 people.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said the mission demonstrates India's commitment to supporting Venezuela during the crisis. The deployment of the BHISHM Cubes under the Aarogya Maitri Project highlights India's growing expertise in portable emergency



healthcare infrastructure, with each modular unit capable of treating around 200 patients.

The operation, covering nearly 14,300 kilometres, also strengthens bilateral relations and reflects India's "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" philosophy. Building on successful humanitarian missions in Nepal, Türkiye, Syria and Myanmar, along with vaccine supplies to over 100 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, Operation Amistad is expected to further enhance India's soft power, international credibility and long-term strategic engagement across global markets.

Vi partners Spotify to offer free Premium access to postpaid users

Guwahati: Telecom operator Vihas announced a strategic partnership with audio streaming platform Spotify to offer complimentary Spotify Premium access to eligible postpaid subscribers, strengthening its digital entertainment portfolio.

Under the partnership, Vi postpaid customers on select individual and family plans will receive three months of

551, Rs. 751 and Rs. 1,201 (REDX), along with select family postpaid plans, where the benefit will be available to the primary member. After the three-month promotional period, subscribers can continue Spotify Premium through Vi's "Add to Bill" facility at Rs. 139 per month.

Vi Chief Marketing Officer Avneesh Khosla said the collaboration reflects the company's focus on enhancing customers' digital experiences through premium entertainment offerings. Spotify India Managing Director Amarjit Batra said the partnership aims to make Spotify Premium more accessible while supporting artists, creators and the wider music industry.

The partnership could strengthen Vi's appeal among postpaid users in Guwahati and the wider Northeast, where demand for bundled digital entertainment services continues to grow alongside smartphone adoption and improved mobile connectivity. Industry observers believe value-added offerings such as premium music streaming can help telecom operators improve customer retention and attract subscribers seeking integrated connectivity and entertainment benefits.



Spotify Premium at no additional cost upon activating or retaining their connection. The offer allows users to enjoy ad-free music streaming, offline downloads, unlimited skips, full playback control across devices and high-quality audio streaming of up to 320 kbps. Eligible customers who have not previously used Spotify can activate the benefit through the Vi App.

Vi said the complimentary subscription will be available on individual postpaid plans priced at Rs. 451, Rs.

Sony expands BRAVIA Theatre lineup to strengthen premium home entertainment portfolio

Guwahati: Sony India has expanded its premium home entertainment portfolio with the launch of seven new BRAVIA Theatre audio products, led by the flagship BRAVIA Theatre Trio, as the company looks to tap rising demand for immersive in-home entertainment experiences across India.

The new lineup includes the BRAVIA Theatre Trio, BRAVIA Theatre Bar 7, BRAVIA Theatre Bar 5, BRAVIA Theatre Sub 9, BRAVIA Theatre Sub 8, BRAVIA Theatre Rear 9 and Rear 8. Sony also introduced BRAVIA Direct Connect, a feature that enables compatible BRAVIA televisions to connect directly with BRAVIA subwoofers and rear speakers without requiring a soundbar, allowing users to build customised home theatre systems.

The flagship BRAVIA Theatre Trio supports Dolby Atmos, DTS and Sony's 360 Spatial Sound Mapping technology, while the Bar 7 and Bar 5 soundbars,

along with the Sub and Rear speaker series, are designed to deliver enhanced surround sound, deeper bass and improved dialogue clarity. The products integrate with compatible BRAVIA televisions through the BRAVIA Connect app.



Speaking at the launch, Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said the premium home entertainment segment continues to witness strong consumer demand for cinema-like experiences at home. Nezu Daisuke, Global Head of Home Product Business Division, Sony Corporation, said India remains a strategic market for the compa-

ny as it expands its BRAVIA ecosystem with advanced audio technologies.

The BRAVIA Theatre Trio and selected models will be available from July 1 through Sony retail stores, Sony Centre, Sony Exclusive stores and leading e-commerce platforms, while other products will be introduced between July and August. The flagship Trio has a best-buy price of ₹1,69,990, while the range starts at ₹29,990 for the BRAVIA Theatre Bar 5.

In Guwahati, the expanded BRAVIA Theatre portfolio to attract buyers in the premium electronics segment, particularly consumers investing in large-screen televisions and upgraded home entertainment systems. The availability of the products through Sony retail outlets and online channels is likely to support demand in Assam's growing market for premium consumer electronics, especially during the festive and holiday shopping season.

Tata AIA launches cancer plans with income protection and health fund benefits

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched two new cancer-focused insurance solutions—Sampoorna Care - Cancer and Sampoorna Care - Cancer Fund—aimed at addressing not only treatment costs but also the financial impact of income disruption following a cancer diagnosis. The insurer said the products offer flexible payout options, including regular monthly income, lump-sum benefits or a combination of both, with coverage of up to ₹50 lakh. The plans also introduce a savings-linked health fund that allows tax-free withdrawals for health-related expenses and includes an additional accidental total and permanent disability benefit. The launch comes amid growing concern over the financial burden of cancer, with more than 1.57 million new cancer cases reported annually in India, according to the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer. Tata AIA said its consumer research found that nearly half of respondents preferred income-style payouts over a one-time



settlement, while 76% wanted benefits spread over several years. Sujeet Kothare, Chief Business Officer – Proprietary Business, Propositions & Marketing, Tata AIA Life Insurance, said the new products are designed to provide comprehensive financial protection by combining immediate claims support, long-term income replacement, savings continuity and access to international treatment through an overseas treatment booster. The plans also feature a 30-year premium rate guarantee and a diagnostic benefit intended to encourage early cancer detection.

AI, cybersecurity fuel India's MSME digital leap, says Vi Business study

Guwahati: India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are rapidly embracing digital technologies, with artificial intelligence emerging as a key business enabler, according to the Vi Business MSME Growth Insights Study 2026. The study found that 57 per cent of MSMEs view AI as a vital driver for business growth, while 25 per cent have already integrated AI into their operations, signalling a shift from basic digitisation to technology-led enterprise transformation.

The study, based on data from over 2.5 lakh MSMEs across 16 sectors through Vi Business' ReadyForNext platform, showed India's Digital Maturity Index (DMI) rising to 60.8 in 2026 from 58.0 a year ago. Cybersecurity adoption also gained momentum, with 46.3 per cent of MSMEs deploying cyber defence solutions amid rising online threats. Women-led enterprises outperformed male-led businesses with a DMI of 61.6, while Digital Workplace emerged as the fastest-growing pillar of transformation.

To strengthen enterprise resilience, Vi Business introduced Financial Read-



iness as the fourth pillar of its ReadyForNext assessment, complementing Digital Customer, Digital Workplace and Digital Operations. Telangana and Karnataka topped the digital maturity rankings, while Andhra Pradesh entered the top 10 for the first time. Financial Services led sectoral rankings, followed by IT & ITeS, Transportation, Energy & Utilities and Tourism & Hospitality.

Commenting on the findings, M P Sunil Kumar, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited, said Indian MSMEs are increasingly investing in AI, workplace technologies and cybersecurity to build intelligent and future-ready businesses. He said the addition of the Financial Readiness pillar would help enterprises assess resilience, improve funding preparedness and scale sustainably in an increasingly competitive market.

The report indicates significant opportunities for Guwahati's growing MSME ecosystem despite eastern states remaining outside the country's top 10 digital maturity rankings. As businesses across Assam increasingly adopt AI, cloud services, digital payments and cybersecurity solutions, demand for enterprise technology, digital advisory services and financial readiness programmes is expected to rise. The findings could encourage local MSMEs to accelerate digital investments, improving competitiveness while supporting Guwahati's emergence as a regional business and technology hub for Northeast India.

TVS Motor refreshes NTORQ lineup with new colours ahead of festive season



Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has launched refreshed versions of its TVS NTORQ 125 Disc and Race Edition scooters with new colour schemes and updated graphics, as the company looks to strengthen its presence in the sporty scooter segment ahead of the festive season. The latest update follows the recent launch of the TVS NTORQ 150 and feature enhancements introduced in the TVS NTORQ Race XP last year.

The TVS NTORQ 125 Race Edition is now available in three new colour combinations—Drift Blue, Inferno Red and Rush Green—along with coloured alloy wheels designed to enhance its sporty appeal. The Disc variant has received two new colours, Midnight Black and Spiti White, while the existing Nardo Grey version now features revised graphics for a sharper look.

The company has retained the scooter's existing performance package, including TVS SmartXconnect Bluetooth connectivity and a fully digital RLCD instrument console, which is now offered across all TVS NTORQ variants. Inspired by TVS Racing, the refreshed range continues to target young riders seeking performance and connected features. TVS NTORQ has also partnered with the Argentina

Football Association for the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026.

The updated TVS NTORQ 125 Disc and Race Edition are priced at an introductory ₹82,500 and ₹87,950 (ex-showroom Delhi), respectively, and are now available across TVS Motor dealerships nationwide.

The refreshed TVS NTORQ lineup is expected to attract buyers in Guwahati, where demand for premium 125cc scooters continues to grow among students, young professionals and daily commuters. The introduction of new colour options, connected technology and sporty styling ahead of the festive season is likely to strengthen TVS Motor's position in the city's competitive scooter market, where customers increasingly prefer feature-rich and performance-oriented two-wheelers.

ColdStar enters Northeast with Guwahati cold-chain hub

Guwahati: ColdStar Logistics has marked its entry into Northeast India with the launch of a 20,000 sq. ft. multi-temperature warehousing facility in Kamrup, strengthening its presence in the country's fast-growing Tier II markets. The new distribution centre will serve businesses in the FMCG, dairy, confectionery, processed food, healthcare and retail sectors across Assam, while also functioning as a logistics hub for the Seven Sisters region, including Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.

The company said the facility has been designed with four temperature-controlled zones — Ambient, Tropical (+15°C to +25°C), Chiller (+2°C to +8°C) and Frozen (-20°C) — enabling seamless storage and movement of temperature-sensitive products under one roof. The warehouse is equipped with AI and machine learning-based logistics planning, predictive analytics, IoT-enabled monitoring and smart warehousing systems to ensure product integrity and support ColdStar's "Zero Stock-Out" commitment across its supply chain.

Executive Director Sameer Varma said the company's expan-

sion into Guwahati reflects its long-term vision for Northeast India, driven by the rapid growth of organised retail, quick commerce and food delivery platforms in Tier II cities. He said the facility will strengthen supply-chain access across the region while supporting the company's expanding national distribution network. In Guwahati, the investment is expected to strengthen the city's position as the logistics gateway to Northeast India. With consumer demand rising across Assam and neighbouring states, the availability of advanced cold-chain infrastructure is likely to improve the movement of perishable goods, support organised retail expansion, enhance healthcare and food distribution, and create new employment opportunities while boosting regional supply-chain efficiency.

Founded in 2011 with the backing of Tuscan Ventures, ColdStar Logistics operates 45 distribution centres across India, providing temperature-controlled supply-chain solutions to clients in the QSR, FMCG, food processing, retail, healthcare and e-commerce sectors.

Retirement readiness remains low as longer lifespans raise financial concerns: Study

Guwahati: India's growing life expectancy is exposing a widening gap in retirement preparedness, with a majority of urban Indians at risk of outliving their savings, according to the fifth edition of the India Retirement Index Study (IRIS 5.0) conducted by Axis Max Life Insurance in partnership with Kantar.

The study found that India's retirement readiness score stands at just 48 out of 100, highlighting inadequate long-term financial planning despite increasing awareness. While 86 per cent of "Empty Nesters" know the retirement corpus they require, only 33 per cent believe their savings will last beyond 10 years after retirement. Similarly, only 38 per cent of the "Sandwich Generation"—those supporting both parents and children—expect their retirement savings to sustain them for more than a decade.

The report also revealed that 77 per cent of urban Indians believe a retirement corpus of ₹1 crore or less is sufficient, despite rising inflation and healthcare costs that could significantly erode its value over time.

Traditional investment op-



tions such as fixed deposits continue to dominate retirement planning, although 44 per cent of urban Indians are now investing in mutual funds and SIPs. The study also noted growing interest in the National Pension System and annuity-based retirement products to provide sustainable post-retirement income.

According to the report, 24 per cent of urban Indians have made no progress toward retirement savings, underscoring the need for early financial planning. It stressed that beginning retirement investments early can significantly reduce monthly savings requirements through the power of compounding, enabling greater financial security and helping address the challenges posed by increasing longevity.

Tata AIA launches multifactor index fund to offer stable market-linked wealth creation

Mumbai: Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched the Tata AIA Multifactor Index Fund, a new unit-linked investment solution aimed at helping investors navigate market volatility while building long-term wealth through a disciplined and diversified equity strategy.

The fund combines life insurance protection with market-linked investment opportunities and follows a passive, rules-based approach. It selects 50 companies from the Nifty 500 universe using four investment factors—low volatility, quality, value and momentum. According to the company, the low-volatility component is intended to reduce exposure to sharp market swings while maintaining participation in India's long-term growth story. The fund will be available across several of Tata AIA's ULIP-based protection, savings and wealth creation products. The

New Fund Offer (NFO) will remain open from June 23 to June 30, 2026, with all eligible policies being issued at a Net Asset Value (NAV) of ₹10 as of June 30.

Tata AIA said the multifactor strategy seeks to reduce concentration risk often associated with single-theme investment approaches. By relying on a quantitative framework and periodic rebalancing, the fund aims to deliver consistency in portfolio construction and long-term investment outcomes.

As of March 31, 2026, Tata AIA Life Insurance reported assets under management of ₹145,617 crore, registering an 18 per cent year-on-year growth. The company has advised investors to assess their risk appetite carefully, noting that market-linked investments remain subject to market risks and past performance does not guarantee future returns.

Sony launches BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II True RGB TVs in India



Guwahati: Sony India has expanded its premium television portfolio with the launch of the BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II, introducing its latest True RGB display technology to the Indian market. Announced on June 29, the BRAVIA 9II becomes Sony's flagship television for 2026, while the BRAVIA 7II, launched earlier, also features the company's next-generation RGB display technology. Both models are powered by Sony's proprietary RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro, designed to independently control red, green and blue LEDs for improved colour accuracy, wider colour volume, enhanced brightness and deeper blacks.

The televisions are equipped with the Advanced AI Cognitive Processor XR, Acoustic Multi-Audio+ with beam tweeters, Dolby Vision, Dolby Atmos, DTS:X and IMAX Enhanced support, along with Google TV. Sony said Gemini for Google TV will be introduced through a future over-the-air software update to enable AI-powered interactions. The new lineup also includes features such as Ambient Optimization, Voice Zoom 3, Studio Calibrated modes for streaming platforms, and Sony Pictures Core with movie credits.

The BRAVIA 9II is available in 75-inch and 85-inch variants, while the BRAVIA 7II is offered in 55-inch, 65-inch, 75-inch and 85-inch screen sizes. Best Buy prices start at Rs 2,21,990 for the 55-inch BRAVIA 7II and go up to Rs 6,69,990 for the 85-inch BRAVIA 9II. The televisions will be sold through Sony retail stores, ShopatSC.com, leading electronics outlets and major e-commerce platforms across India.

In Guwahati, the launch is expected to strengthen Sony's presence in Assam's premium consumer electronics segment, where demand for large-screen smart televisions has been growing alongside increasing adoption of high-speed broadband and OTT streaming services. Retailers in Guwahati anticipate interest from affluent households, home entertainment enthusiasts and premium residential projects, particularly as consumers increasingly seek immersive viewing experiences and AI-enabled smart home devices.

TVS Motor welcomes Delhi's new EV policy, reaffirms commitment to sustainable mobility

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has welcomed the Delhi government's newly announced electric vehicle (EV) policy, describing it as a proactive and forward-looking initiative that will accelerate the adoption of clean mobility solutions in the national capital. Commenting on the development, Sudarshan Venu, Chairman of TVS Motor Company, said the company is fully committed to developing sustainable mobility products and solutions that will drive further EV adoption across the country. He

also expressed gratitude to customers for making TVS Motor the number one electric two-wheeler player in Delhi, adding that the company will continue investing in innovation and customer-centric solutions to strengthen its leadership in the fast-growing EV segment.

The company said the new policy is expected to provide a favourable ecosystem for electric mobility by encouraging wider adoption of EVs and supporting the transition towards cleaner transportation. TVS Motor believes the

policy will further boost consumer confidence and contribute to the long-term growth of India's electric mobility ecosystem.

The Delhi government's policy could have a positive ripple effect on markets such as Guwahati, where interest in electric two-wheelers has been steadily increasing. Improved policy support, expanding charging infrastructure and rising consumer awareness are expected to encourage greater EV adoption in the Northeast, creating new opportunities for manufac-



turers like TVS Motor while supporting the region's shift towards sustainable mobility.

Bandhan Large Cap Fund marks 20 years with focus on disciplined long-term investing

Guwahati: Bandhan Large Cap Fund has completed 20 years, marking a milestone in its long-term investment journey built around stability, disciplined portfolio management and wealth creation through investments in fundamentally strong large-cap companies. The fund said it has remained focused on quality businesses capable of delivering consistent growth while navigating multiple market cycles, including periods of volatility, correction and economic expansion.

The fund follows its Business, Management and Valuation (BMV) investment framework, selecting companies with established business models, sound corporate governance, strong management teams and reasonable valuations. It also employs a



five-parameter stock selection process that evaluates return on equity, long-term growth potential, capital allocation, management execution and earnings predictability. While maintaining a predominantly large-cap portfolio, the scheme retains the flexibility to invest up to 20 per cent in mid- and small-cap stocks when valuations present attractive opportunities.

According to the fund, the current market environment

has strengthened the case for large-cap investing. It noted that the Nifty 100 was trading at a price-to-earnings multiple of 21.1 as of May 2026, below its five-year average of 24.5, while mid- and small-cap segments continued to trade at relatively higher valuations. The fund said this valuation gap offers investors an opportunity to balance long-term growth with portfolio stability. In Guwahati, financial advisers and mutual fund dis-

tributors say investors in the city are increasingly favouring diversified and relatively stable investment options amid heightened market volatility. With growing participation in mutual funds across Assam, large-cap oriented schemes are gaining attention among first-time and long-term investors seeking consistent returns, disciplined risk management and exposure to India's long-term economic growth story.

Trinity Business Park aims to reshape Northeast's commercial landscape with mega Guwahati project

Dibrugarh: Trinity Business Park has announced the launch of a large integrated commercial development in North Guwahati, with plans to create one of Northeast India's biggest organised business ecosystems. Spread across 16 acres with over 3 million sq. ft. of planned built-up space, the project will integrate retail, office spaces, hospitality and exhibition infrastructure within a single campus, with the first phases expected to become operational from 2027 onwards.

Located at Amingaon, the development is designed to serve as a gateway for multinational corporations, technology firms and leading Indian enterprises looking to establish operations in the Northeast. The proj-



ect comes amid rising demand for organised commercial infrastructure as Guwahati strengthens its position as a regional economic and logistics

hub. Trinity said the development has already attracted significant interest, with members of the Assam Textile Merchants' Association

committing retail space while discussions continue with several other trade bodies.

Partner Hemant Agarwal said the project would provide organised commercial infrastructure at an unprecedented scale in the region, while Partner Ravi Agarwal noted that businesses are increasingly looking beyond traditional metropolitan centres for future-ready commercial destinations.

The project will feature 16-foot-high showrooms, 12-foot-high office spaces, 18 goods elevators, 25 passenger elevators, parking for more than 3,000 vehicles, a 22,000 sq. ft. food court, outdoor dining areas, landscaped spaces, an amphitheatre and dedicated business networking

zones. It is designed to accommodate corporate offices, distributors, manufacturers, showrooms, professional services, startups and industry events, including trade fairs and exhibitions.

In Dibrugarh, the project is expected to create new opportunities for businesses from Upper Assam seeking greater access to organised commercial infrastructure in Guwahati. Manufacturers, tea-related enterprises, distributors and service providers based in Dibrugarh could benefit from improved market connectivity, exhibition facilities and expanded business networking opportunities, strengthening trade linkages across the Northeast and supporting regional economic growth.

Team India wins five medals at Global Skills Challenge Australia, strengthens WorldSkills Shanghai campaign

Guwahati: Team India secured an impressive haul of five medals, including three gold, one silver and one bronze, at the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, bolstering the country's preparations for the 48th WorldSkills Competition scheduled to be held in Shanghai later this year.

Held from June 23 to 29, the competition brought together nearly 600 competitors, experts, translators and officials from 16 WorldSkills member nations, including Australia, India, China, the United States, Japan, France, South Korea and Austria. India fielded a 30-member contingent comprising 15 competitors and 15 experts across 15 skill categories.

Pavan Bhadravati Suresha of Karnataka won gold in Additive Manufacturing, Mausam Kumar Giri of Bihar topped the Cloud Computing category, while Vishnupriya Sunil of Delhi claimed gold in Health and Social Care. Harsh Ramesh Pawar from Maha-



raashtra secured silver in 3D Digital Game Art, and Muskan of Haryana earned bronze in Painting and Decorating.

Congratulating the contingent, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development

and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary said the medal haul reflected the dedication of India's Skill Champions, mentors and industry partners while providing valuable exposure to global standards ahead of the WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai.

The Global Skills Challenge replicated the WorldSkills assessment framework through the internationally recognised Competition Information System (CIS), enabling participants to compete under international standards and gain experience in handling real-world competition conditions. India participated in disciplines ranging from advanced manufacturing and digital technologies to construction trades, creative industries and service-sector skills, reinforcing the country's efforts under the Skill India Mission to build a globally competitive, future-ready workforce.

Nissan posts 129% jump in June domestic sales, total wholesales rise 16%



Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) reported a 129 per cent year-on-year rise in domestic wholesales to 3,006 units in June 2026, marking its fourth consecutive month of domestic sales growth. The company also recorded exports of 5,340 units during the month, taking total wholesales to 8,346 units, up 16 per cent from the corresponding period last year.

The company attributed the sustained growth to rising customer demand for its product portfolio, particularly the New Nissan Magnite and the recently launched all-new Nissan GRAVITE. Nissan said the continued domestic momentum reflects improving customer confidence and strengthening market presence across the country.

Commenting on the performance, Nissan Motor India Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa said the company's fourth straight month of domestic growth highlighted the effectiveness of its market strategy, dealer network and expanding customer reach. He added that Nissan is preparing for the global premiere of the Nissan TEKTON on July 9, which will mark the next phase of its India growth strategy and product expansion plans.

The company said it remains focused on strengthening its domestic business through network expansion, enhanced customer experience and a broader product portfolio while maintaining India's role as a key export hub. In Guwahati, Nissan's sustained sales momentum is expected to support stronger demand in the Northeast, where the compact SUV segment continues to witness steady growth. Dealers in Guwahati are likely to benefit from increased customer enquiries for the Magnite and GRAVITE, while the upcoming launch of the Nissan TEKTON could further enhance the brand's presence and competitiveness in the region's fast-growing passenger vehicle market.

TVS Motor posts record quarterly sales as June dispatches jump 47%

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company reported its highest-ever quarterly sales for the first quarter of FY2026-27, selling 16.31 lakh units, driven by robust demand across domestic and international markets, strong growth in electric vehicles and a sharp rise in three-wheeler volumes. The company also recorded its highest-ever monthly sales in June 2026, with dispatches rising 47 per cent year-on-year to 5,90,003 units from 4,02,001 units in the corresponding month last year.

Two-wheeler sales during the April-June quarter increased 27 per cent to 15.64 lakh units from 12.32 lakh units a year ago, while three-wheeler sales surged 48 per cent to 67,000



units. International business also touched a record high, growing 33 per cent to 4.68 lakh units during the quarter. The company further achieved its highest quarterly electric two-wheeler sales at 1.30 lakh units.

In June, domestic two-wheeler sales climbed 46 per cent to 4,11,014 units. Motorcycle sales rose 42 per cent to 2,67,096 units, while scooter sales grew 53 per cent to 2,47,950 units. Electric two-wheeler sales registered a sharp increase to 48,537 units from 14,400 units a year earlier. International sales advanced 47 per cent to 1,72,355 units, while

three-wheeler sales rose 51 per cent to 24,586 units.

In Guwahati, TVS Motor's strong nationwide growth is expected to reinforce demand across Assam and the Northeast, where the company has an expanding dealer network and a growing customer base for motorcycles, scooters and electric vehicles. Industry observers believe the record sales momentum could translate into improved vehicle availability, higher festive season demand and greater consumer interest in premium as well as electric mobility options in the Guwahati market.

Skoda Auto India posts record H1 sales, grows 7.5% to 38,894 units

Guwahati: Skoda Auto India has reported its highest-ever half-yearly sales, delivering 38,894 units in the first half of 2026, marking a 7.5 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year. The performance extends the company's growth momentum after achieving its best-ever annual sales in 2025 and represents the second consecutive year of record-breaking first-half sales in India.

Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, attributed the milestone to rising customer confidence and a focused product strategy. He said demand for the new Kushaq, updated Kodiaq and the all-new Kodi-

aq RS selling out within six minutes of launch. The Kylaq continued to drive volumes, while the Slavia strengthened the company's position in the premium sedan segment.



The company also expanded its retail and service footprint to more than 340 customer touchpoints across 189 cities. It recently launched Skoda Express Care to improve service conve-

nience and customer experience. On the performance front, the company's lineup created an India and Asia Book of Records by setting the fastest multi-car relay by a single manufacturer on a circuit at the CoASTT track in Coimbatore, reinforcing its motorsport heritage.

In Guwahati, Skoda's expanding nationwide network and customer-centric initiatives are expected to strengthen its presence in Northeast India. Growing demand for premium SUVs in Assam, supported by improving road infrastructure and rising disposable incomes, could provide fresh opportunities for the brand's Kushaq, Kylaq and Kodiaq models, while enhanced service accessibility is likely to boost buyer confidence in the region.

Monsoon raises respiratory health risks, awareness session held in Aizawl on Doctors' Day



Aizawl: Highlighting the rise in respiratory illnesses during the monsoon season, Manipal Hospital Broadway organised a pulmonology awareness session in Aizawl on the occasion of National Doctors' Day to educate residents about seasonal lung diseases, early diagnosis and timely medical intervention. The programme was led by Dr. Debraj Jash, Head of Pulmonology at Manipal Hospital EM Bypass & Salt Lake Cluster (Broadway + Salt Lake), who explained that increased humidity, damp conditions, airborne allergens, fungal growth and viral infections during the rainy season can aggravate respiratory diseases. He said patients suffering from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergies and weakened immunity face a higher risk of complications during the monsoon. Dr. Jash advised people to maintain proper ventilation, avoid damp environments, practise good hygiene, wear masks in crowded places and seek medical attention if symptoms such as persistent cough, breathlessness or fever develop. The session also highlighted that asthma flare-ups, allergic respiratory illnesses, pneumonia, bronchitis, viral infections and fungal infections become more common during the rainy season. Former patients who had received treatment under Dr. Jash at Manipal Hospital Broadway shared their recovery experiences, including successful treatment for pneumonia, fungal infections and lower respiratory tract infections.

In Aizawl, healthcare professionals say growing awareness of seasonal respiratory diseases is expected to increase demand for preventive consultations, diagnostic services and respiratory care during the monsoon. The programme also underscored the importance of public awareness campaigns in encouraging early diagnosis and reducing complications through timely medical intervention.

Manipur BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte to Be Buried Today



Manipur, July 03: The mortal remains of former Manipur BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte will be laid to rest on Saturday, July 4, more than four months after his death from injuries sustained during the ethnic violence that erupted in the state in 2023. According to a statement issued by the Zomi Council on Friday, the three-time MLA from Thanlon Assembly constituency will be buried at a cemetery in Dorcas Veng village in Churachandpur district

at around 1:30 pm. Valte, 61, a prominent leader from the Zomi community, passed away on February 20 at a private hospital in Gurugram after battling injuries suffered in a mob attack at Nagamapal in Imphal during the outbreak of ethnic violence in May 2023.

Following nearly two years of treatment in Delhi, he returned to Churachandpur with his wife in April last year. However, his health deteriorated on February 7, prompting his airlift to the national

capital the following day. He succumbed to his injuries on February 20. His mortal remains were brought back to Churachandpur later that month and have since been kept at the Churachandpur District Hospital.

The funeral was delayed after Zomi civil society organisations formed the Zomi Coordination Committee (ZCC) to pursue justice and accountability over the attack on the legislator. Community sources said the committee recently decided to hand over Valte's body to his family to allow the final rites to be performed. The ZCC has demanded a time-bound investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the attack on Valte. It has also reiterated its demand for Union Territory status with a legislature for the Kuki-Zo-majority areas of Manipur.

Before his death, Valte had also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, advocating for a separate administrative arrangement for the Kuki-Zo community.

Assam, Centre Failed To End Nagaland Border Row: Gaurav Gogoi

Guwahati, July 3: Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on both the state and Central governments, accusing them of failing to resolve the decades-old border dispute with Nagaland. Travel Guides & Travelogues Speaking to reporters after visiting the inter-state border at Mariani in Jorhat district, which falls under his Lok Sabha constituency, Gogoi questioned whether the Assam government had

conceded land to Nagaland even before the matter could be settled by the Supreme Court. He alleged that the boundary was being altered and that encroachment was taking place on Assam's territory.

Gogoi's remarks come amid renewed concerns over the fragile border situation, with the Congress leader insisting that the government's inaction has allowed the dispute to fester and Assam's land to be compromised.



Zubeen Garg Probe Gets 3-Month Extension



Guwahati, July 3: The Assam government has extended the tenure of the one-man judicial commission investigating the death of renowned musician Zubeen Garg. The commission, led by Justice Soumitra Saikia of the Gauhati High Court, will now continue its work for an additional three months. An official notification stated that the extension is effective from July 4, 2026, and will remain in force until the submission of the commission's report or the end of the three-month period, whichever comes earlier. This marks the second extension granted to the panel, which was constituted to probe the circumstances surrounding Garg's mysterious death. The extension emphasizes the government's intent to allow the commission sufficient time to complete its inquiry into the case, which has drawn widespread public attention and concern across Assam.

Meth Worth ₹5.4 Crore Seized in Mizoram

Mizoram, July 3: In a joint operation, Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police recovered 1.8 kg of methamphetamine tablets valued at approximately ₹5.4 crore from Village Hmawngbuchhuah near Zorinpui in Mizoram on 30 June 2026. The operation was conducted in coordination with SB Chawngte and Bungtlang Police. Two individuals were apprehended in connection with the seizure, including one Myanmar national. Two mobile phones were also recovered during the operation.

The seized narcotics and the arrested individuals were handed over to Bungtlang Police Station for further investigation under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.



Assam to Plant 1 Crore Saplings Ahead of Independence Day

Guwahati, July 3: The Assam Forest Department has unveiled an ambitious plan to mark Independence Day with a statewide plantation drive, aiming to plant one crore saplings by August 14. Forest Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah announced that the initiative will actively involve ten lakh students from Class 9 and above, who will register by providing the name of a Job Card holder under the VB-G RAM-G Scheme.

Speaking at a Van Mahotsav program in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mallabaruah emphasized the importance of youth participation in environmental conservation. He noted that beginning next year, the annual plantation drive will be shifted to April, with a special focus on indigenous fruit varieties. In a bid to explore innovative conservation methods, the Minister revealed that aerial seeding will be introduced on a trial basis in the riverine Char-Chapori areas. If successful, the project will be expanded to more regions.

Mallabaruah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, hinted at a "people-friendly" financial layout in the upcoming State Budget, which will be his first as Finance Minister. He further reiterated the government's commitment to continuing eviction drives to protect indigenous communities, stressing that illegal encroachments and demographic changes remain pressing concerns for the administration.



NSCN-IM Expels Two Leaders, Recalls Cadres



Imphal, July 3: The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) has expelled Lieut. Gen. (Retd) Han-shi Ramsan, VC, MCL, and Lieut. Gen. (Retd) Absalom Raman, MC, EMSC, and has ordered personnel serving under their command to report to Council Headquarters (CHQ) / General Headquarters (GHQ) without delay. The termination order, dated June 24, was issued by Yariuiwo Q. Tuccu, accusing the two of repeatedly defying CHQ's reconciliation initiatives, defrauding the government over a prolonged period, and forming a parallel breakaway organization for their own whims and personal interests. "They deliberately defied the council and com-

mitted the following anti-national activities: 1. Disloyalty 2. Insubordination 3. Mutiny 4. Rebellion 5. Inciting mutiny 6. Desertion 7. Extortion 8. Unauthorized alliances 9. Treason 10. Drug trafficking 11. Embezzlement 12. Formation of a breakaway parallel organization. Now therefore, the defiant members Lieut. Gen. (Retd) Hs. Ramsan, VC, MCL, and Lieut. Gen. (Retd) A. Raman, MC, EMSC, are hereby expelled from the organization of NSCN/GPRN," the termination order read. The order also stated that all ranks, titles, awards, and entitlements accorded to them by the government have been stripped off and withdrawn with immediate effect. Pursuant to this,

another order was issued by the Yariuiwo on July 1, stating that the collective future of the Naga nation cannot be held hostage to uncertainty, stagnation, and disarray resulting from acts of insubordination, breach of trust, and pursuit of personal enrichment by certain expelled members in violation of their oath of allegiance to the nation.

The order directed all ranks and files of the NSCN-IM serving under the command of Hnashi Ramsan and Absalom Raman to cease all forms of communication, contact and operational linkage with the aforementioned expelled members forthwith. It further instructed these personnel to report to the Council Headquarters (CHQ) / General Headquarters (GHQ) without delay for documentation and reassignment. "This order shall be complied with by all ranks and files without exception. Non-compliance with this order shall attract strict disciplinary action against the defaulter(s)," the order warned.

Ashwin: T20s Here to Stay, ETPL Needed; Unsure on ODIs



New Delhi, July 02: Indian spin legend Ravichandran Ashwin has backed the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), calling it a “necessary addition” to the growing list of franchise competitions and stressing that T20 cricket is the format best suited to expanding the game globally. Named captain of the Dublin Guardians, Ashwin said the league could play an important role in cricket’s return to the Olympics at the 2028 Games by helping develop the sport in emerging nations. Responding to a PTI query on Thursday, Ashwin said T20 cricket is the ideal format to drive global participation because of its shorter duration and wider appeal. While he believes T20 cricket is firmly established, he expressed uncertainty over the long-term future of One-Day Internationals.

Ashwin said the ETPL would provide players from Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands with valuable exposure by allowing them to compete in a high-quality environment alongside experienced international cricketers. He added that the league’s objective extends beyond winning matches, focusing instead on creating opportunities for local talent to develop and make a lasting impact on European cricket. The veteran off-spinner also highlighted the role of his franchise in contributing to the growth of Irish cricket. He said the Dublin Guardians aim to build a strong culture where players improve consistently while helping strengthen the domestic cricket ecosystem.

Ashwin revealed that he and franchise owner Rahul Dravid were clear from the outset that the team’s emphasis would be on nurturing local players rather than making the competition solely about established stars. Speaking on the evolution of the T20 format, Ashwin underlined the importance of adaptability in modern cricket. Referring to India’s recent 0-2 T20I series defeat to Ireland, he said varying conditions can neutralise conventional strengths and reinforce the need for players to adjust quickly. Ashwin, India’s second-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, said leagues such as the ETPL can create a larger talent pool while supporting cricket’s ambition of becoming a truly global sport.

Serena Williams ‘enjoyed the moment’ despite 3-set loss at Wimbledon in comeback at age 44

London, July 01: The roars began even before Serena Williams stepped on Centre Court. Then they grew louder when the 23-time Grand Slam champion arrived to play her first singles match in nearly four years. And when it was all over and the 44-year-old Williams had performed admirably in a three-set defeat to an opponent less than half her age in the opening round of Wimbledon with her two daughters cheering her on, Williams smiled as she walked off to a loud round of applause. “It was really great to be back at Wimbledon. I never expected to be here,” Williams, who did not meet with media after the match, said in a statement released by Wimbledon organizers. “The atmosphere was amazing. Walking out was amazing. I definitely relished it and missed it and enjoyed the

moment more than anything.” In a 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3 loss to 20-year-old Maya Joint of Australia on Tuesday, Williams showed she can still crank out serves faster than 120 mph and dictate points with her heavy groundstrokes.

Movement was an issue for Williams, though, and the 87th-ranked Joint was able to handle Williams’ pace and win more of the big points by hitting beyond the American’s reach. While Williams played two doubles matches just before Wimbledon to announce her comeback to the sport she once dominated, she hadn’t played a singles match since the 2022 U.S. Open. “She has such an aura, she’s just a legend and this court has so many huge names that have played on it,” Joint added. “I’ve been dreaming about this moment since I was a little kid, so this



is pretty crazy.” Williams has 98 career victories and seven titles in singles on the hallowed grass of the All England Club. By contrast, it was Joint’s first Wimbledon victory in just her second appearance at the All England Club after losing in the opening round last year. But Joint won a Wimbledon warmup in nearby Eastbourne last year and knows how to play on grass.

Lokesh Launches Upgraded ACA Stadium, Attends Final

Vijayawada, July 01: The Andhra Premier League (APL) final transformed the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) International Stadium into a carnival of cricket, with thousands of fans cheering in a charged atmosphere on Tuesday evening. The championship clash between Simhadri Vizag Lions and Bhimavaram Bulls drew massive crowds, marking one of the season’s most anticipated sporting events.

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh attended as chief guest, tossing the coin to launch the grand finale between Simhadri Vizag Lions and Bhimavaram Bulls. The Vizag Lions won the toss and chose to bat first. He extended



best wishes to both teams, urging players to uphold sportsmanship and deliver spirited performances.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated the memorial plaque of the modernised ACA International Cricket Stadium, describing it as a milestone in Andhra Pradesh’s sports infrastructure. ACA President

Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni), Secretary Sana Satish Babu, Vice-President Bandaru Narasimharao, Joint Secretary Boyalla Vijay Kumar, Treasurer Dandamudi Srinivas, Councillor Vishnu Dantu, along with public representatives, officials, dignitaries and sports personalities, were present at the ceremony.

Sreejesh Questions Need for Foreign Coach

Chennai, July 02: Former India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has questioned the impact of the national team’s foreign chief coach after India’s struggles in the last two FIH Pro League seasons. In a post on X, Sreejesh highlighted India’s second-from-bottom finishes in the previous two Pro League campaigns, arguing the results exposed shortcomings. He said India’s standing could have been even worse without Ireland and Pakistan finishing below them.

Sreejesh rejected the view that the Pro League is merely a platform to test new players and tactics. While acknowledging India’s Asian Champions Trophy and Asia Cup triumphs, he said continental success should no longer be the benchmark for a team aiming to compete with the world’s best. The former goalkeeper also questioned whether the reported investment in a foreign chief coach was justified, asking if the goal was to dominate Asia or become a genuine contender at the World Cup, Pro League and Olympics. India, however, have often used the Pro League to experiment with combinations. Under Craig Fulton, the team finished seventh in the 2023-24 Pro League before winning bronze at the Paris Olympics.



Former Spain and Arsenal playmaker Santi Cazorla retires at 41

Won Euro Titles, Missed World Cup Glory Through Injury

Oviedo, July 02: Former Arsenal and Spain playmaker Santi Cazorla retired from football at the age of 41 on Thursday after more than two decades in the game. The diminutive Asturian helped his local team Oviedo reach La Liga in 2025 and played his final season with them in the Spanish top flight. “Now that everything is ending, when the boots are being hung up, and the noise is turning into silence, everything fits together, because the ending wasn’t just anywhere -- I was at home,” said Cazorla in a video on X. After developing in Oviedo’s youth ranks, Cazorla headed to Villarreal, later joining Arsenal in 2012 after spells at Recreativo and Malaga. Ca-



zorla won two FA Cups with Arsenal in 2014 and 2015, during a six-year spell in London.

The creative midfielder lifted the European Championship with Spain in 2008 and 2012, but missed their 2010

World Cup triumph through injury, a constant problem for him during his career. Cazorla returned to Villarreal and then signed for Qatari side Al Sadd, before returning to Oviedo in the second division in 2023. “Cazorla decided to come back earning the minimum salary allowed by the league and donated all his image rights to the club,” said Oviedo in a statement Thursday. “In return, he only asked that 10 percent of the sales of his jersey be entirely dedicated to Real Oviedo’s youth academy, to contribute to the growth of future generations.” Oviedo said they would like him to stay in any role or capacity that he chooses and “that makes him happy”.