

CEM Debolal Gorlosa Holds Planning Board Meeting with Representatives from Hadingma, Gunjung and Harangajao

Haflong, June 19: Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC), Debolal Gorlosa, held an important discussion on Planning Board matters on Friday with representatives from the constituencies of Hadingma, Gunjung and Harangajao.

The meeting was attended by Nojit Kemprai, MAC, DHAC, along with CDC Chairmen and Secretaries, Mandal Presidents, BLC Presidents, office-bearers of DARA DISA HAMDAONE, and village Gaon Buras (GBs).



During the deliberations, participants shared valuable insights and suggestions aimed at strengthening developmental initiatives and improving coordination among

stakeholders. The discussions focused on identifying local priorities and ensuring that development programmes effectively address the needs and welfare of the people.

NCORD Committee Reviews Anti-Drug Measures; DC Calls for United Effort to Make Dima Hasao Drug-Free

Haflong, June 19: A meeting of the NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee, chaired by District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, was held on Thursday at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Haflong.

The committee deliberated on intensifying awareness campaigns among students and parents on the harmful effects of drug abuse through school-based activities and community outreach programmes.

Addressing the meeting, the District Commissioner urged all departments and concerned agencies to actively contribute towards the collective mission of making Dima Hasao a drug-free district. She stressed the need for co-ordinated action, community participation and



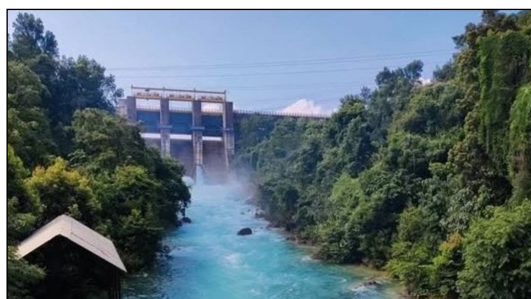
sustained awareness initiatives to effectively tackle the growing menace of drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Additional Superintendent of Police, Joint Secretary of NCHAC, Assistant Commissioner and other officials.

Authorities Issue Alert Over Possible Water Release from Khandong Dam; Residents Along Kopili River Urged to Exercise Caution

Haflong, June 18: The authorities of the Kopili Hydro Power Station (KHPS), Umrangso, have issued an advisory regarding the possible release of water from the Khandong Dam following a continuous rise in the water level of the Kopili Reservoir due to frequent rainfall in the Khandong catchment area. According to information provided by P. Saikia, General Manager (Technical), Head of Station Management, KHPS, Umrangso, the spillway gates of the Khandong Dam may be opened gradually from tonight, if required, to maintain the reservoir's water level within safe operational limits in accordance with prevailing site conditions. The authorities stated that details regarding the quantum of water released and the number of spillway gates opened

will be communicated from time to time through mobile and WhatsApp groups whenever the need arises. In view of the possible release of water, all concerned departments and lo-



cal authorities have been requested to immediately disseminate the information among residents living along the banks of the Kopili River and in downstream areas of the Kopili Reservoir.

The public has been advised to remain vigilant while using river water and to keep livestock away from the riverbanks to prevent any untoward incidents. The advisory further noted that the first-time reservoir build-up of the Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project (LKHEP), located at Longku under Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL), is currently underway. Consequently, the actual volume of water flowing downstream from Longku will depend on the opening of dam gates by the LKHEP authorities. The information was issued by the General Manager (Technical), KHPS, Umrangso, as communicated on June 17, 2026, urging the public to strictly adhere to safety precautions until further updates are issued.

Dima Hasao to Launch District-Wide Awareness Campaign Marking 12 Years of Modi Government

Haflong, June 19: The Dima Hasao district administration is set to launch a three-day district-level awareness campaign to commemorate 12 years of transformative governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a focus on expanding public access to various welfare schemes and development initiatives. In this regard, District Commissioner Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, convened a preparatory meeting at the DC Office Conference Hall, Haflong, on June 15. The meeting, attended by DHAC Joint Secretary Rebecca Changsan, ACS, Heads of Departments and other senior district officials, chalked out strategies to align grassroots awareness activities with ongoing developmental programmes across the district. During the meeting, the District Com-

missioner directed all major line departments to compile comprehensive data highlighting the district's developmental achievements and actively coordinate the campaign. The initiative will place special emphasis on enhancing awareness and boosting enrolment under key government schemes, including NSAP, PM-KISAN, PM Vishwakarma, Nijut Moina, and other flagship welfare programmes. Hyalinge stressed the need for officials to proactively mobilise eligible beneficiaries and ensure that target groups attend the awareness camps to understand their entitlements and avail themselves of government benefits. The designated venues will feature information and help desks, welfare camps and community engagement activities, transforming the observance into an interactive,



citizen-centric outreach programme. The awareness campaign will be held from June 17 to 19 across the district's five development blocks. The venues finalised are: Maibang Block Office (Diyung Valley Development Block), Mahur Block Office (Jatinga Valley Development Block), Dihangi Bazar Community Hall (New Sangbar Block), Harangajao Block Office (Harangajao ITD Block), and CDC Office, Hamri (Diyungbra ITD Block).

BJP Dima Hasao Holds Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan 2026 at Umrangso

Haflong, June 17: The BJP Dima Hasao successfully organised the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan 2026 at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan, Umrangso, under Garampani Mandal, as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's nationwide initiative to strengthen organisational values and reinforce ideological commitment among its cadre. The programme was attended by several party leaders, including Dhriti Thaosen, President of BJP Dima Hasao; Mohit Hojai, Chairman of DHAC; Executive Members Donpainon Thaosen, Monjoy Langthasa, Probita Jochori and Samsing Engti; MAC Herojit Jidung; Nominated MAC Krishna Joishi; BJP Dima Hasao Vice President Liton Chokrobarty; General Secretaries Kehungsamyng Riame and Konjit Kemprai; and Joydeep Langthasa, President of Garampani Mandal. The training sessions brought together



party karyakartas for interactive discussions focused on organisational strengthening, ideological awareness based on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's philosophy of Integral Humanism and Antyodaya, and grassroots empowerment. Reaffirming Deendayal Upadhyay's vision of ensuring the welfare of the last person in society, participants pledged to continue serving the people of Dima Hasao with dedication, integrity and commitment. Party leaders observed that initiatives such as the Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan serve as the cornerstone for building a disciplined, ideologically conscious and people-centric organisation, strengthening the BJP from the grassroots level, one Mandal at a time.



Dima Hasao Police seized 36 soap cases of heroin weighing 446 grams during an anti-narcotics operation under Harangajao Police Station on June 10, 2026. Two accused were arrested in connection with the case.

IndiGo Agartala-Bound Flight Struck by Lightning in Kolkata, No Injuries

IndiGo aircraft grounded; inspections underway

New Delhi, June 19: It was a fortunate escape for 141 people on board an IndiGo flight preparing to depart from Kolkata to Agartala after lightning struck the plane on Friday morning. Three ground staff suffered temporary hearing loss due to the impact, while all those on board were safe. The passengers were deboarded and sent by another plane four hours later. The flight involved in the incident, 6E 6068, an A320 aircraft, has been grounded, and extensive inspections are underway. According to a Kolkata airport source, "Flight 6E 6068, scheduled to depart for Agartala, was readying for push-back (the process before the flight begins taxiing for take-off) around 9.30 am today when a streak of lightning accompanying the heavy rains hit the aircraft." "The sound



accompanying it shocked three ground staff, and they suffered a temporary hearing loss. All 141 on board, including the crew, were safe," they added. Those impacted were two loaders from IndiGo and an employee of the ground handling service, AISEL. "The hearing of the impacted staff was automatically rectified within a short time. They were taken to hospital immediately, and extensive checks were carried out as a precautionary measure. They are all fine now."

The aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, was apprised about the incident. A DGCA official said that a detailed inspection of the grounded IndiGo aircraft was on presently. The passengers have been accommodated in an alternative IndiGo aircraft, which departed to Agartala around 1.30 pm, said another source. Heavy rains lashed Kolkata on Friday and are expected to continue till the end of this week, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

Sitharaman Inaugurates Northeast's Largest Spice Plant in Meghalaya

Guwahati, June 19: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday inaugurated the Northeast's largest organic spice processing plant in Meghalaya's Ri Bhoi district, marking a major boost for the region's agricultural value chain. The facility, set up by the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company, has an annual processing capacity of 10,000 metric tonnes and is expected to directly benefit around 5,500 organic farmers in the region. It will process turmeric, black pepper and other locally grown spices.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang. Several Memorandums of Understanding were also signed with companies to strengthen market linkages and ensure better commercial opportunities for farmer producer groups.



pepper are already recognised for their quality, and the new facility would further strengthen the organic farming ecosystem by improving processing, market access and farmer earnings.

Sitharaman praised the initiative, saying Ri Bhoi had the potential to emerge as a model district for the country, moving beyond its Aspirational District status. She highlighted the quality of local produce and the importance of value addition in boosting rural incomes.

Chief Minister Sangma said Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric, ginger and black

pepper are already recognised for their quality, and the new facility would further strengthen the organic farming ecosystem by improving processing, market access and farmer earnings. Officials said the plant would help bridge the gap between farm production and commercial markets, enhance rural livelihoods, and support sustainable economic growth across Meghalaya and the wider Northeast region.

Namo Bharat extension to link Meerut and Rishikesh

Dehradun, June 19: Following an agreement between Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), the Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail Transit System will be extended from Modipuram in Meerut to Lakshman Jhula near Rishikesh, bringing high-speed regional rail connectivity to Uttarakhand. The 150-km extension will begin at Modipuram station, pass through Muzaffarnagar, enter Uttarakhand near Roorkee, and run via Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar before terminating at Lakshman Jhula in Rishikesh. Of the total length, 72 km will be in Uttar Pradesh and 78 km in Uttarakhand.

The project follows the inauguration of the 82-km Delhi-Meerut Nammo Bharat corridor in February this year. Uttarakhand has appointed Additional Secretary Reena Joshi as the nodal officer for the project, while NCRTC has also named its nodal officer. The Uttar Pradesh government has extended its approval for the extension. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami pursued the proposal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Their support cleared the final hurdle for the project. "This extension of Nammo Bharat service from Meerut to Rishikesh will give a new direction to Uttarakhand's connectivity," Dhami said. "Pilgrims, tourists and local residents will get fast, safe and modern transport. The state government is in continuous coordination with the Centre, UP government and NCRTC to push this ambitious project forward. Our effort is to create new opportunities for development and employment through better rail and transport infrastructure in Uttarakhand."

The extension is expected to provide faster and more reliable travel for pilgrims, tourists and residents travelling between Delhi, Haridwar and Rishikesh. With the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) set to begin, the project has moved into the planning stage.



Railways plans paperless app system, empowers station masters

New Delhi, June 19: The Indian Railways is considering introducing mobile app-based paperless working systems for station masters and is developing an integrated Station Management System (SMS) to improve coordination among departments and enable faster resolution of passenger-related issues at stations. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently reviewed the progress of these initiatives with senior railway officials and discussed emerging challenges faced by station masters. Recognising the crucial role played by station masters in ensuring safe train operations, coordinating with multiple departments, managing passenger amenities and maintaining the smooth functioning of stations, the Railways also discussed proposals to enhance their administrative and operational powers.

The proposals include improving career progression opportunities and providing greater access to higher levels of management. These measures are aimed at enabling station masters to take quicker decisions, improve passenger service delivery and effectively oversee station infrastructure, staff offices, railway colonies and other associated facilities.

A senior railway official said discussions were held on introducing mobile app-based paperless working systems to improve efficiency. "The meeting also reviewed the development of an inte-

grated Station Management System that would enable better coordination among various railway departments and facilitate faster resolution of passenger-related issues at stations," the official said. The Railways also reviewed growing operational requirements and the need for additional station masters in multi-track and high-density sections, where traffic levels and operational complex-

operations and emergency situations. To enable quicker resolution of local issues and improve passenger convenience, proposals to enhance the financial powers of station masters were also reviewed.

The meeting further discussed measures to improve career progression opportunities for station masters, enabling greater access to higher management



ity have increased significantly. The requirement for expeditious filling of vacancies in the station master cadre was also discussed, with an emphasis on treating these vacancies as a priority.

The Railway Minister stressed the importance of modern skill development and capacity building. Officials discussed upgrading training methodologies through virtual reality, simulators and other advanced technologies to better prepare station masters for handling increasingly complex railway

and leadership positions within Indian Railways. Discussions focused on creating a more motivating and growth-oriented work environment for employees serving in this critical operational category.

The meeting also deliberated on providing improved safety equipment and user-friendly tools at stations, taking into account the increasing participation of women station masters and women employees in other operational roles across the Railways.

Dima Hasao Launches District-Level Stop Diarrhoea Campaign to Prevent Child Deaths

Haflong, June 19: The District-Level Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2026 was officially launched at the chamber of the Joint Director of Health Services (JDHS), Dima Hasao, with a renewed commitment to achieving zero child deaths due to diarrhoea. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Sarsing Rongpi, Joint Director of Health Services, in the presence of Dr. Marina L. Changsan, SD-M&HO and Nodal Officer of the Stop Diarrhoea Campaign; Dr. Lina Hakmaosa, SDM&HO and In-charge UHC; Dr. L. Veiphei, SD-M&HO; the SDO, IDSP; officials of the District Programme Management Unit (DPMU), Health Department staff and beneficiaries. The campaign was ceremonially launched through the distribution of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) packets to ben-



eficiaries by the dignitaries. The campaign, which will run from June 16 to July 31, 2026, aims to intensify efforts to reduce child mortality caused by diarrhoea by promoting the timely use of ORS and Zinc among children suffering from the disease. It also seeks to improve awareness among caregivers on diarrhoea prevention and management, strengthen

the availability of ORS and Zinc at community and health facility levels, and enhance advocacy through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, with special focus on vulnerable and high-priority areas. The target beneficiaries include all children below five years of age, mothers and caregivers, school teachers, school-going

children, health and ICDS functionaries, and private caregivers. The district has set a target of reaching 16,708 children under the campaign. The initiative will be implemented in convergence with the Social Welfare, Education and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Departments. During the campaign, ASHA workers will conduct door-to-door visits to households with children under five years of age, distribute ORS packets and Zinc tablets to diarrhoea patients, and educate families on the prevention and management of diarrhoeal diseases. Health officials expressed confidence that the campaign would significantly strengthen community awareness and contribute towards the ultimate goal of ensuring that no child loses their life to preventable diarrhoeal illness in Dima Hasao.

DC Interacts with Farmers in Gunjung, Pushes for Agricultural Growth Under PM-DDKY



Haflong, June 19: District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, visited the Gunjung area on June 16 along with officials from the Maibang Circle and the Agriculture Department to interact with Farmer Producer Company (FPC) members and local farmers. During the visit, the District Commissioner held discussions with farmers engaged in the cultivation of ginger, tur-

meric and horticultural crops to identify and address bottlenecks affecting agricultural productivity. She also explored ways to strengthen market linkages to ensure better returns for agricultural produce from the area and the district as a whole. The field visit was undertaken as part of efforts to accelerate agricultural development and enhance farmers' livelihoods under the PM-DDKY initiative.

Dima Hasao Reviews Preparations for International Yoga Day 2026



Haflong, June 19: A review meeting to assess preparations for the observance of International Yoga Day (IYD) 2026 was held on June 18 at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Haflong. The meeting was chaired by District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS, and attended by officials from the Joint Directorate of Health Services (JDHS), District Sports Office (DSO), and other concerned departments. During the meeting, the District Commissioner reviewed the arrangements being made for the successful celebration of International Yoga Day and directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the event. Emphasis was laid on active participation, effective planning, and creating greater awareness about the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being among the public.

Assam Legislative Assembly Press Reporters' Committee Reconstituted; Bhaben Dutta Re-elected President

Guwahati, June 16: The Assam Legislative Assembly Press Reporters' Committee was reconstituted during a general meeting held at the Assembly premises on Tuesday. At the outset of the meeting, the outgoing committee tendered its resignation, following which the proceedings were conducted under the chairmanship of senior journalist Shamim Sultana Ahmed of the Assamese daily Dainik Agradoot. The house unanimously re-elected senior journalist Bhaben Dutta of Asomiya Pratidin as the President of the newly constituted committee for another term. The other office-bearers elected to the committee include Vice-Presidents Bikash Singh, Mousamjyoti Baishya, Shamim Sultana Ahmed, Bhuvan Chetia, and Nayan Pratim Kumar.



Haren Burhagohain was elected as the Secretary of the committee, while Aniruddha Bhakat Chutia, Bireswar Das, Ranjita Rabha, Madhab Das, Mukut Roy, Ahidur Rahman Khan (Baba),

Ramen Kalita, and Gunamani Sharma were chosen as Assistant Secretaries. During the meeting, the journalists also held detailed discussions on various issues and difficulties faced by media

personnel while covering the proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly. The members resolved to submit a written representation to Speaker Ranjit Kumar Das at the earliest, seeking necessary measures to address these concerns and facilitate the smooth functioning of the press during Assembly sessions. The Assam Legislative Assembly Press Reporters' Committee plays a vital role in safeguarding the interests of accredited journalists covering legislative proceedings and in ensuring a conducive working environment for media professionals within the Assembly premises. The statement was issued by Haren Burhagohain, Secretary, Press Reporters' Committee, Assam Legislative Assembly.

FAMEX 2026 Strengthens Disaster Preparedness in Dima Hasao

Haflong, June 18: The ongoing Familiarization Exercise (FAMEX 2026), organised by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Dima Hasao, in collaboration with the 1st Battalion of the NDRF, is enhancing disaster preparedness across the district ahead of the monsoon season.

Since its launch on June 15, the exercise has conducted disaster awareness and safety programmes in schools at Gunjung, Langting and Maibang, training students and teachers on search and rescue, first aid, evacuation procedures and emergency response.

Simultaneously, joint DDMA-NDRF teams inspected vulnerable railway tunnels and the



Nriambanglo Highway Tunnel on NH-27 to assess safety measures and strengthen rescue preparedness. DDMA sources said the exercise will continue at other locations until next Monday to further improve inter-agency coordination and build a disaster-resilient community in Dima Hasao.

Habbey Teron BJP's Deputy Speaker Nominee

Guwahati, June 18: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Thursday that BJP MLA Dr Habbey Teron will be the party's nominee for the post of Deputy Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Teron represents the Amri (ST) Hills constituency in West Karbi Anglong district. Digital news platform

Sarma shared the announcement on X, stating, "I am pleased to announce that Dr Habbey Teron, Hon'ble MLA from Amri (ST) Hills, will be our candidate for the



post of Deputy Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly." Teron's candidature marks a significant step for the BJP in strengthening its representation within the Assembly, as the ruling party continues to consolidate its leadership in Assam.

Northeast's Organic Promise — From the Margins to India's Growth Frontier

The Northeast has long been regarded as a region of untapped potential. Blessed with rich biodiversity, fertile lands and traditional farming practices rooted in harmony with nature, it is uniquely positioned to lead India's journey towards sustainable growth.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent assertion that the Northeast can become India's next growth engine through organic agriculture reflects this emerging reality. The inauguration of the region's largest organic spice processing plant in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district signals a shift

from subsistence farming to value-added production aimed at premium global markets.

In an era when consumers increasingly value quality, traceability and environmentally responsible products, the Northeast's strength lies not in producing the most, but in producing the best. From Meghalaya's turmeric and Mizoram's bird's eye chilli to Assam's tea and Sikkim's organic success, the region possesses a natural advantage built on trust and authenticity.

However, this vision can only be realised through sustained investment in

infrastructure, market access, storage facilities and support for farmer collectives and women's groups. Development must empower local communities while preserving the ecological heritage that defines the region.

As India aspires to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Northeast should not remain on the margins of progress. It has the potential to emerge as a model of inclusive and sustainable development. If nurtured wisely, the region can indeed become India's next growth engine—proving that prosperity and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand.

No need to reinvent wheels of modern tech

The US government's recent directive restricting Anthropic from allowing its foreign customers to use Claude's most advanced models reset a pecking order. Where India stood in that order could be gleaned even earlier from the now-rescinded Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule that the US Bureau of Industry and Security had issued in January 2025. It placed India on the second tier of access, clubbing it with third-tier China for validation of end use. Hence, it has been clear for a while that India needs to seriously re-evaluate its strategies for accessing state-of-the-art technologies and for developing tech sovereignty in a restricted landscape.

Even when provided whole-heartedly, tech transfers have traditionally not gone past making a version of the product the transfer came with. For example, India received knowhow to make Mig-21 fighter jets, but still needed to buy Mig-25, Mig-27 and Mig-29. Tech transfers for Mig-29 and Sukhoi-30MKI played a minimal role in getting the indigenous Kaveri jet engine off the ground. This shows that in the name of transfer of technology, India has ended up getting only transfer of manufacturing. Tech transfers are never complete, as tacit knowledge is almost impossible to transfer. A healthy transfer would allow subsequent advanced versions be built from the learnt knowledge. Thus, the best way to procure a foreign technology is to buy the company or business unit that owns the technology.

Examples for this do exist. During the pandemic days, Rolls-Royce sold its stake in the Spanish ITP Aero, which makes jet engines for Rafale's competitor, the Eurofighter Typhoon. Along with other capabilities, ITP Aero also built the Eurojet EJ200 engine, an upgraded variant of which (EJ230) it bid for the Tejas Mark II project, though it lost the order to General Electric's F414. Eventually, ITP Aero was bought for €1.7 billion—a pittance in the context of its strategic importance and the industry—by an American private equity group. One might argue: why buy a sinking business when one just needs the technology? History shows that by moving labour-intensive manufacturing to India

from higher-cost territories, Indians have been able to turn around many businesses. Tata's acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover comes to mind.

Another tech access strategy frequently talked about in bureaucratic circles is hiring foreign high-tech workers like those available during the fall of the Soviet Union. The private sector has a recent success story in telecom, where a large player hired an army of expats to build their infrastructure. Another tech procurement strategy—seen more as a taboo in India—is reverse engineering. Due to its low acceptance, those who dabble in it are susceptible to the Dunning-Kruger effect, or the lack of foundational knowledge that's required to realise what one doesn't know. Reverse engineering continues to be misunderstood as a theft of intellectual property, though a landmark US Supreme Court judgement provided legitimacy for its use. In *Bonito Boats vs Thunder Craft* (1989), reverse engineering was adjudged “the very lifeblood of a competitive economy”. In *Kewanee Oil vs Bicon* (1974), the US Supreme Court defined reverse engineering as “starting with the known product and working backward to divine the process which aided in its development or manufacture”. Limits exist through patents and contractual laws, but they do not cover the whole ground. For example, Indian IP laws provide safeguards that are used by the pharmaceutical industry. It's time the Indian jet engine industry learnt from it. Almost all primary jet engine manufacturers have, at some stage, dabbled in reverse engineering to discern a technology legitimately. When done within a company, reverse engineering is also called re-engineering. Most jet engines today are built through such methods. General Electric very proudly displays its “Hush-hush Boys”, a top-secret engineering team assembled during World War II, on their website. What was the secrecy all about? Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) provides the most fertile ground for such an endeavour. Over decades, the company has worked with a large variety of jet engines from all over—from completely knock-down kits, and semi knock-down ones to those needing far more assembling.

Though HAL does have R&D centres, it has not ventured to wholeheartedly compete with DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment.

Reverse engineering needs to be incorporated in the Indian technical education system. A separate collaborative stream can be taught at all levels starting with BTech. The use of such skills can reduce development times for complex systems by up to 80 percent and for simpler ones by about 60 percent. Unfortunately, many believe in the toolbox fallacy in technology development—the self-deception that one cannot achieve a goal, start a project, or learn a skill until they acquire the ‘perfect’ tools for it. This leads to grandiose budget allocations for exotic tools and infra, which often settle into centres of excellence. More often than not, these investments lead to a false sense of progress. As we stay shy, China and Iran perfect the artful science to meet their needs. Iran's hold-out against the world's most powerful army with cheaply built Shahed-136 drones provide the counter that technology can indeed be built in the most challenging of environments. That the US itself reverse-engineered the Shahed-136 into its LUCAS (Low-cost Uncrewed Combat Attack System) drone confirms the premise! India holds many such opportunities for frugal technology. For example, Mohali's Semi-Conductor Laboratory has the technology for making global navigation satellite system receiver chips, including for India's NavIC. Circling back to AI, India is still way back in the queue for access. Large language models and the advanced chips needed for making them seem elusive in the near future. Given the limited hardware access, a better route might be through small language models, which can be trained to indigenous needs and ply on cheaper infrastructure. It is quite possible to achieve the dream of a developed nation in the next two decades. But India cannot afford to take the scenic route for that. It will need to buy companies, learn to reverse-engineer, shun the toolbox fallacy, be more welcoming of expat talent, invest in frugal innovations and take the SLM route to a variety of specialised models—all on its way to tech sovereignty.

Infantino's Fifa scores own goals

Welcome to the greatest show on Earth! Here the incredible acceleration of Brazil's Vinicius Junior destroys the backline of Morocco, there the US marquee man Christian Pulisic takes on Paraguay. The football World Cup is indeed one of the most beloved cultural phenomena of mankind. But behind the joyous scenes and roars “gooooooal”, a different tournament comes into view. In anno 2026, the chief World Cup host drags one into the darkness of Donald Trump's inhumane policies and Fifa's deceit—the selling of football's soul.

This, then, is the MAGA World Cup, lorded over by Fifa president Gianni Infantino. This is a tournament entirely of his making, because the 2018 and 2022 editions in Russia and Qatar had been awarded under his predecessor Sepp Blatter. Modest as he is, Infantino has lauded this tournament already as “the greatest event in the history of humanity”. His sales slogan—“Football unites the World”—excludes of course Somali referee Omar Artan, Iran's members of staff and the countless supporters who have been priced out.

A day before the World Cup kicked off, at a press conference in Mexico City—his first in three years—Infantino didn't stand up for Artan and doubled down on ticket prices. He pointedly advised the world press to “Just, you know, chill, relax.” It's as if he feels tasked with a divine mission to provide ‘happiness to humanity’ by delivering the greatest show on Earth. Hence, the fury of raised eyebrows and a seething inside because of the media coverage he has received. At least he did not repeat his rambling speech from Qatar when he felt “like a migrant worker”. In Qatar, Fifa showed terrible contempt for the lives of the countless migrant workers who transformed the Gulf nation to stage West Asia's first World Cup. They toiled under the notorious kafala system of forced labour that ties a worker to an employer. After the tournament, human rights groups demanded that Fifa and Qatar create a compensation fund of \$440 million, the equivalent of the prize money, to reimburse the workers and their families.

Fifa's own subcommittee for human rights and social responsibility accepted the recommendation of an independent report by advisory firm Human Level that migrant workers should be compensated. Infantino ignored the recommendation. Instead, he worked on the bidding process for the 2034 World Cup and awarded the host rights to Saudi Arabia, another regime that exploits migrant workers. Under Infantino, good governance at Fifa has nosedived. He got himself elected on a ticket of reform. He even took a flight on a low-cost airline to signal that his Fifa would be different—transparent and accountable. In reality, Infantino worked relentlessly to centralise and consolidate his power. He ousted the head of governance Miguel Maduro, engineered the removal of Confederation of African Football president Ahmad Ahmad in favour of South African billionaire Patrice Motsepe, and covertly backed the European Super League. Now, to top it off, Fifa has on-boarded a highly questionable prediction market partner, ADI PredictStreet. As for the supporters, they are simply priced out. The 2026 World Cup applies a dynamic ticket pricing system that results in, for instance, the nauseating amount of \$33,000 for the World Cup final on July 19 in New Jersey. Perhaps most egregiously, Infantino awarded Trump with Fifa's inaugural Peace Prize. Article 15 of the Fifa Code of Ethics stipulates a duty of political neutrality for football officials. It prevents football leadership from endorsing political candidates or using Fifa's platform to sway state politics.

Why, then, did Infantino don a MAGA hat at the Board of Peace event and praised Trump at the American Business Forum, stating: “He says what he thinks. He says, actually, what many people think as well, but maybe don't dare to say, and that's why he's so successful.” Football officials have defended Infantino's servile and oleaginous behaviour as calculated diplomacy to keep the unpredictable American President on board. However, there is no placating Trump—as the war against Iran and the visa refusals for World Cup attendees confirm again.

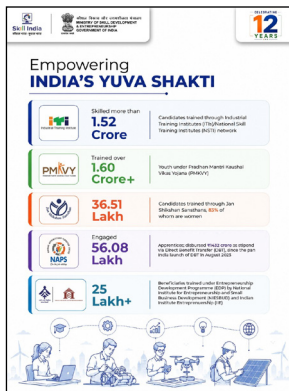
Skill India completes 12 years, expands skilling ecosystem across the country

Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Thursday marked twelve years of Skills, Scale and Transformation, highlighting the growth of one of the world's largest skilling ecosystems and its contribution to India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The ministry said it has built a comprehensive framework integrating vocational education, industry-led training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship development, digital skilling and international workforce mobility. Over the past decade, the number of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) has increased from 9,776 in 2014 to more than 13,888 across the country. More than 56.08 lakh apprentices have been engaged since 2016, while over 1.64 crore youth have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Jayant Chaudhary, said skills have emerged as a key driver of opportunity, productivity and economic transformation. He said the ministry is preparing India's youth for emerging jobs through stronger industry partnerships, digital innovation, entrepreneurship support and global mobility pathways.

The ministry has also strengthened entrepreneurship development, with over 25 lakh beneficiaries trained under Entrepreneurship Development Programmes. The Skill India Digital Hub has registered more than 1.5 crore



candidates and offers over 1,000 courses in 23 languages. Programmes focused on artificial intelligence have recorded over 4.5 lakh enrolments.

In Guwahati, industry stakeholders and training institutions in Assam have increasingly focused on skill development in sectors such as information technology, logistics, tourism and services. Experts believe the expansion of digital skilling platforms and apprenticeship opportunities could help improve employability among youth in the region and support local businesses seeking a skilled workforce.

India's global skills profile has also improved, with its ranking at WorldSkills competitions rising from 29th in 2015 to 13th in 2024. The ministry has further announced 30 Skill India International Centres and is expanding international workforce mobility initiatives. Going forward, the ministry said it will continue to focus on quality training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and future-ready skills in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

JICA-backed highway projects boost connectivity in Northeast



Shillong: Major National Highway projects supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) marked a significant milestone in Northeast India's infrastructure development as foundation stones were laid and completed stretches dedicated to the nation in Meghalaya on Monday.

The ceremony at Polo Ground, Shillong, was led by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari and presided over by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. The event was attended by senior state leaders, Members of Parliament, Japanese Embassy officials and JICA representatives.

Among the six highway projects inaugurated in Meghalaya, JICA is financing three major corridors with a total investment of ₹1,592 crore under the Northeast Road Network Con-

nectivity Improvement Project. These include the Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge to Selsella Simbulkolgre section (NH-127B), the Selsella Simbulkolgre to Goeragre stretch (NH-127B), and the Shillong-Dawki Road project.

The projects are expected to improve interstate connectivity, facilitate cross-border trade with Bangladesh, reduce travel time, enhance road safety, lower vehicle operating costs and support sustainable development through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The Shillong-Dawki corridor, which links India with Bangladesh near Tamabill, includes an upgraded four-lane stretch from Rilbong Junction to Pomlum, improving traffic flow in Upper Shillong.

In Shillong, improved highway infrastructure is expected to strengthen trade and logistics, ease the movement of goods and tourists, and enhance commercial activity. Better connectivity with Assam, West Bengal and Bangladesh could create new opportunities for businesses, hospitality operators and transport services in the state capital.

JICA India Chief Representative TAKEUCHI Takuro said the projects would create opportunities for jobs, businesses and improved livelihoods while promoting sustainable and inclusive growth across the region.

Nasdaq-backed investment signals new growth cycle for Lanka Premier League

Guwahati: The Lanka Premier League (LPL) is entering a new phase of commercial development following a multimillion-dollar funding infusion into its promoter, Innovative Production Group FZ, LLC (IPG), through a strategic merger with Flash Sports & Media, Inc., now part of the Nasdaq-listed platform UGRO (NASDAQ: UGRO).

The transaction represents more than a corporate restructuring. It reflects growing investor confidence in cricket as a scalable sports business asset across emerging markets. Backed by the new institutional framework, IPG has committed USD 20 million over the next two years to expand the LPL's commercial footprint, strengthen league infrastructure and enhance long-term franchise value. While Sri Lanka Cricket continues to own the league's intellectual property, IPG retains exclusive commercial and media rights. The public-market structure is expected to provide stronger governance standards, improved transparency and easier access to growth capital, factors that are increasingly important in attracting sponsors and investors.

IPG Founder and Chairman Anil Mohan said the LPL would be the biggest beneficiary of the development, while Flash Sports & Media CEO Bradley Nattrass highlighted opportunities for deeper sponsor integration, stronger broadcast partnerships and enhanced fan engagement. CFO Eric Sherb emphasized disciplined capital deployment and return-on-investment-focused expansion. The investment strategy extends beyond Sri Lanka. IPG also holds long-term exclusive agreements to develop T20 leagues in Malaysia and Zimbabwe. By centralizing sponsorship revenues, upgrading broadcasts to 4K standards and creating recurring revenue streams, the group aims to build an integrated multi-market cricket enterprise spanning South Asia and other high-growth cricket economies.

Centre launches SARTHI to drive reforms in ITI ecosystem



Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Thursday convened the first meeting of the Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation (SARTHI) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, marking a major step towards strengthening India's vocational training ecosystem and accelerating reforms across Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary. Ministers from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, along with senior government officials and stakeholders from the skilling ecosystem, participated in the deliberations.

SARTHI has been established as an apex advisory platform under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) to facilitate structured engagement among stakeholders and support evidence-based policy-making for ITIs. Addressing the meeting, Chaudhary said the initiative reflects a collective commitment to building a dynamic and future-ready vocational education ecosystem aligned with the aspirations of young people and the needs of industry. Members discussed improving institutional performance, quality assurance, learner engagement, assessment systems and the use of technology to enhance transparency and efficiency. The deliberations also focused on increasing women's participation, strengthening links between education, skilling and employment, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving governance mechanisms within ITIs.

In Guwahati, stakeholders have increasingly highlighted the need for a skilled workforce in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, services and emerging technologies. Experts believe reforms aimed at modernising ITIs and aligning training with industry demand could help create a stronger talent pipeline for businesses in Assam and the wider Northeast region.

Renault Duster Turbo Tce 100 records fuel efficiency of 19.41 km/l

Guwahati: Renault India on Friday announced that its new Duster Turbo Tce 100 has achieved an ARAI-certified fuel efficiency of 19.41 km per litre, highlighting the company's focus on combining performance with fuel economy in the competitive SUV segment.

The automaker said the Duster Turbo Tce 100 is powered by a turbocharged petrol engine that delivers 100 PS of power and 160 Nm of torque. Paired with a six-speed manual transmission, the powertrain has been designed to offer responsive performance, smooth drivability and improved fuel efficiency across varied driving conditions.

Dr. V. Vikraman, Chief of Renault Engineering, Renault Group India, said the certification reflects Renault's emphasis on practical engineering and



customer value. He noted that the Turbo Tce 100 engine uses turbocharging and efficient combustion technologies to deliver strong fuel economy while maintaining responsive performance.

Renault said the new Duster Tce

100 is built on the all-new RGMP platform, with the engine and powertrain specifically engineered and calibrated to suit the platform's dynamics. The company described the powertrain as exclusive to the Duster and designed

to provide a balanced driving experience.

In Guwahati, the fuel-efficiency figure could strengthen the Duster's appeal among SUV buyers in Assam and the wider Northeast, where rising fuel costs remain a key consideration for consumers. Industry observers believe the combination of turbocharged performance and improved mileage may help Renault attract both urban and long-distance drivers in the region.

Renault India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Renault Group, manufactures its vehicles at its Chennai facility with an annual production capacity of 480,000 units. The company has a nationwide network of nearly 638 sales and service touchpoints, including more than 200 Workshop on Wheels locations.

Xiaomi launches FX Mini LED TV series with Fire TV built-in in India



Guwahati: Xiaomi India has announced the availability of its new Xiaomi TV FX Mini LED Series with Fire TV built-in, expanding its smart television portfolio with a range designed to deliver an enhanced home entertainment experience. The series is available in 43-inch, 55-inch, 65-inch and 75-inch variants and combines QD Mini LED display technology, immersive audio features and smart connectivity options.

According to the company, the new lineup integrates Quantum Dot Mini LED technology, 4K Ultra HD resolution, HDR10+, Filmmaker Mode and Xiaomi's Vivid Picture Engine 2 to offer improved colour accuracy, contrast and picture clarity. The televisions also feature MEMC, Auto Low Latency Mode (ALLM) and DLG 120Hz support on select models to improve gaming and sports viewing experiences.

The series comes with Fire TV built-in, enabling access to streaming platforms such as Netflix, Prime Video and YouTube from a single interface. Alexa voice control, personalised profiles, parental controls, AirPlay 2, Miracast, Bluetooth audio output and HDMI CEC support are also included.

Commenting on the launch, Sandeep Singh Arora, Chief Business Officer, Xiaomi India, said the new series brings advanced display technology, immersive audio and smart features together while making premium technology more accessible. Sayantani Choudhuri, Head of Fire TV, Amazon India, said the integration of Fire TV and Alexa transforms televisions into entertainment and smart-home hubs.

In Guwahati, the launch is expected to strengthen competition in the premium smart TV segment, where demand for larger screens, streaming-focused devices and connected home entertainment solutions has been steadily rising. Retailers in the city are witnessing growing consumer interest in feature-rich televisions, particularly during festive and promotional sales periods.

The Xiaomi TV FX Mini LED Series is available through Mi.com, Amazon.in, Xiaomi retail stores and offline partners. Launch prices start at ₹29,999 for the 43-inch model, ₹39,999 for the 55-inch variant, ₹59,999 for the 65-inch model and ₹79,999 for the 75-inch version, including bank offers of up to ₹3,000.

Malabar Group's Hunger Free World demonstrates social returns through daily meal outreach

Mumbai: Malabar Group has underscored the economic and social value of sustained community investment with the release of a new rehabilitation impact report under its Hunger Free World initiative, highlighting how regular meal distribution is helping vulnerable individuals transition towards healthcare, shelter, rehabilitation and family support.

Released on World Hunger Day, the report, titled "Impact Stories: How a Daily Meal Opens the Door to a Transformed Life", showcases the outcomes of the Street Meal Distribution Programme, implemented by Thanal. Originally conceived as a hunger alleviation initiative, the programme has evolved into a broader social intervention model, where consistent engagement enables field teams



to identify health risks, emotional distress and rehabilitation needs among beneficiaries.

The initiative currently operates across 20 states in India and nine countries, including six GCC nations, the United States, the United Kingdom and Zambia. Through its Street Meal Distribution Programme and Micro Learning Centres, Hunger Free World reaches around 1.43 lakh beneficiaries.

"A meal may appear simple, but when it is delivered consistently and with human attention, it becomes much more than food," said M. P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group. He noted that trust built through regular outreach often becomes the foundation for rehabilitation, healthcare access, emotional support and dignity restoration.

The report details several impact stories, including rehabilitation support for an

elderly man in Nagercoil, care assistance for a bedridden individual in Kumbakonam, shelter access for a distressed woman in Chennai, a family reunification effort between Udupi and Chennai, and medical intervention for a physically challenged senior citizen in Tiruchirappalli.

The programme forms part of Malabar Group's broader CSR framework, under which the company allocates five per cent of its net trading profit to social responsibility initiatives spanning hunger eradication, education, healthcare, housing, women empowerment and environmental sustainability. The report highlights how targeted corporate social investments can generate measurable social outcomes while strengthening community welfare and inclusion.

Vedanta marks historic milestone with four new listings on BSE and NSE

Guwahati: Vedanta Group on Monday created corporate history by listing four newly demerged companies simultaneously on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE), marking one of the largest restructuring exercises in India's corporate sector.

The newly listed entities — Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power — began trading alongside Vedanta Limited, the Group's flagship listed company. The move is aimed at creating focused sector-specific businesses and unlocking shareholder value across strategic industries including aluminium, oil and gas, power, iron and steel, and critical minerals.

Speaking at the listing ceremony, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal described the occasion as a historic moment for the company and India's industrial

future. He said the newly independent businesses are positioned to support the country's ambitions in manufacturing, infrastructure, energy security and self-reliance. Agarwal highlighted that Vedanta had delivered over 300 per cent total

sources.

The company outlined ambitious expansion plans across its businesses. Vedanta Aluminium aims to double production capacity, Vedanta Oil & Gas plans investments of about US\$5 billion to increase output, Vedanta Iron & Steel targets significant capacity expansion, while Vedanta Power plans to scale generation capacity from 4.2 GW to 20 GW. In Guwahati, the restructuring could attract strong investor interest from the Northeast, particularly as Vedanta Oil & Gas expands operations in Assam and the region. Market participants believe the separate listings will provide investors with greater sector-specific investment opportunities while boosting confidence in resource and infrastructure-linked businesses that are expected to benefit from India's long-term growth story.



shareholder returns in the last five years and said the new entities would help bridge India's growing demand-supply gap in minerals, metals and energy re-

Malabar Gold & Diamonds blends design innovation with nature in Nuwa collection



New Delhi: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched NUWA, a new natural diamond jewellery collection that showcases how innovation in design, materials and craftsmanship is reshaping the premium jewellery industry.

Inspired by nature's finest creations, the collection draws from intricate patterns and textures found in stripes, honeycombs, fluid formations and organic structures shaped by the earth. Through advanced design techniques and contemporary aesthetics, the company has trans-

lated these natural elements into modern diamond jewellery aimed at today's consumers.

Crafted in 18kt and 14kt gold, NUWA features natural diamonds enhanced with coloured gemstones, ceramic colour enamelling and multi-tone rhodium finishes. The integration of multiple materials and finishing technologies reflects the growing role of innovation in creating differentiated jewellery products that balance elegance with versatility.

According to the company, each

design interprets nature's pattern play through intricate detailing and fluid forms, offering jewellery suited for a range of occasions. The collection has been developed for women who appreciate understated luxury and meaningful design.

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan continues as the face of NUWA, representing the collection's themes of confidence, individuality and timeless sophistication.

Commenting on the launch, M. P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, said the collection was

inspired by the textures and formations that quietly shape the natural world. He said NUWA was designed to transform that beauty into a contemporary diamond collection relevant to modern consumers.

With NUWA, Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues to strengthen its natural diamond portfolio through innovation, craftsmanship and contemporary luxury, highlighting the increasing convergence of design creativity and technology-driven product development in the jewellery sector.

ICICI Prudential launches ULIP with guaranteed maturity benefit and life cover

Imphal: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Signature Secure, claiming it to be the Indian life insurance industry's first Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) with an in-built guaranteed maturity benefit. The new product combines guaranteed returns, life cover and tax-efficient wealth creation within a single investment solution.

ICICI Pru Signature Secure is a non-participating linked individual savings life insurance plan aimed at customers seeking assured outcomes along with market-linked growth potential. Under the plan, customers make a one-time investment, receive life cover throughout the policy term and get a maturity benefit after five years. At maturity,



ty, policyholders receive the higher of the fund value or the guaranteed maturity benefit.

According to the company, the product offers a guaranteed maturity benefit of up to 140 per cent of the initial premium paid. It also comes with zero premium allocation charges and policy administration charges.

Explaining the offering, Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer of ICICI Prudential

Life Insurance, said customers increasingly seek better post-tax returns alongside financial protection. He said the product addresses this demand by combining ULIP benefits, guaranteed maturity value and life insurance cover in a single proposition.

For example, a 45-year-old customer investing ₹5 lakh can opt for a life cover of ₹6.25 lakh and receive a guaranteed maturity benefit of ₹7 lakh.

In Imphal, growing awareness of long-term savings and insurance-linked investment products in Manipur is driving demand for solutions that combine protection with wealth creation. Products offering guaranteed benefits and tax efficiency are expected to attract salaried professionals, business owners and first-time investors in the Imphal market seeking stable and predictable financial outcomes.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance reported a claim settlement ratio of 99.3 per cent with an average turnaround time of 1.1 days in FY2026. As of March 31, 2026, the company managed assets worth ₹3.14 lakh crore and had a total in-force sum assured of ₹46.11 lakh crore.

Britannia expands Marie portfolio with launch of Doodh Marie Gold

Mumbai: Britannia Industries has announced the launch of Doodh Marie Gold, the latest addition to its Marie biscuit portfolio, reinforcing its commitment to innovation and evolving consumer preferences in the biscuit category.

Made with atta and 0 per cent maida, Doodh Marie Gold has been introduced to offer consumers a milkier taste while retaining the light and crispy texture that has long been associated with Marie biscuits. The new product is designed for consumers seeking a richer and more indulgent taste experience within the category.

According to the company, Doodh Marie Gold combines a distinctive flavour profile with the familiar characteristics of Marie biscuits, creating a differentiated offering in the segment. The launch reflects Britannia's focus on delivering products that align with changing consumer tastes while maintaining the quality and texture consumers expect.

To support the launch, Bri-



tannia has unveiled a new television commercial that showcases the biscuit's light, crispy and milkier experience in a relatable tea-time setting. Rooted in a familiar daily consumption occasion, the campaign highlights how Doodh Marie Gold caters to consumers who prefer a milkier biscuit experience with their tea.

With Doodh Marie Gold, Britannia aims to enhance the everyday tea-time experience by offering a unique milkier flavour profile while preserving the lightness and crispness that Marie biscuit consumers continue to value.

The streets remember: TVS NTORQ taps football fandom through new campaign



Guwahati: TVS NTORQ, positioned as India's leading sporty scooter, has launched its new brand campaign, "The Streets Remember," leveraging its association with the Argentina Football Association (AFA) to deepen engagement with football enthusiasts and young consumers across the country.

The campaign celebrates the spirit of football champions and aligns the scooter brand with values such as performance, confidence, ambition and individuality. As the Official Regional Partner

of the Argentina Football Association, TVS NTORQ said the initiative pays tribute to players and teams that have shaped the sport while reflecting the brand's own focus on style, maneuverability and street credibility.

Conceptualised by Dentsu Creative, the campaign brings together global football icons and TVS NTORQ in a narrative that highlights the streets, communities and journeys that contribute to success long before international recognition arrives. The company said the campaign seeks to celebrate football culture and strengthen emotional connections with a generation inspired by excellence and achievement.

The integrated marketing initiative will be rolled out across multiple platforms, including films, print advertisements, out-of-home promotions, fan engagement activities and on-ground activations. In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to resonate strongly with the city's growing base of football followers and young urban commuters. Industry observers believe the association with global football and Argentina's strong fan following in the Northeast could help TVS NTORQ enhance brand visibility and consumer engagement in one of India's most football-passionate regions.

Fatty liver cases rise in Nagaland as doctors stress early diagnosis

Dimapur: Medical experts have raised concerns over a growing incidence of fatty liver disease in Nagaland, attributing the trend to changing lifestyles, unhealthy eating habits and declining physical activity levels among both young and middle-aged adults.

Specialists from Medanta-The Medicity, Gurugram, said fatty liver disease, caused by excess fat accumulation in the liver, is increasingly being detected beyond major metropolitan centres and is emerging as one of India's most common liver disorders, affecting an estimated four in ten adults. Doctors warned that the condition often remains symptomless in its early stages but can progress to liver inflammation, cirrhosis, liver failure and even liver cancer if left untreated.

Dr. Rajesh Puri, Vice Chairman, Inter-

ventional Gastroenterology at Medanta, said sedentary lifestyles, obesity, diabetes and unhealthy diets are driving the rise in cases, including among non-alcohol consumers. He urged people to maintain a healthy weight, follow balanced diets, limit sugary foods and beverages, and remain physically active to protect liver health. In Dimapur, healthcare professionals note that increasing urbanisation, changing food consumption patterns and greater dependence on processed foods are contributing to lifestyle-related diseases across the city. At the same time, growing awareness and improved access to specialist consultations are encouraging more residents to seek preventive health screenings and early medical intervention.

Dr. Hitesh Panchal, Associate Consul-

tant, Gastroenterology at Medanta, said Nagaland's traditional lifestyle offers several health benefits and should be preserved alongside modern living. He stressed the importance of routine health check-ups, particularly for people with diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Medanta recently signed an MoU with the Nagaland Government for accreditation under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) and partnered with IDAN to publish a health awareness booklet launched by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in September 2025. Dr. Panchal will be available for consultations in Dimapur on June 19, while Medanta has also launched a dedicated North East helpline to improve access to specialised healthcare services across the region.

TVS Raider joins hands with Style Icon Awards 2026 to strengthen youth connect

Guwahati: TVS Raider has partnered with the Style Icon Awards 2026 as the title partner, a move aimed at strengthening the motorcycle brand's engagement with India's young and style-conscious consumers. The collaboration brings together mobility, fashion, entertainment and popular culture, reinforcing TVS Raider's positioning as a motorcycle that reflects the aspirations and individuality of the country's youth.

The company said the partnership aligns with TVS Raider's image as a style-forward motorcycle known for its distinctive design, performance and appeal among young riders. As part of the association, the brand has launched **##RaiderTheCarpet**, a nationwide social media contest that invites TVS Raider owners to showcase their personal style alongside their motorcycles. Selected participants will receive an opportunity to attend the Style Icon Awards in Mumbai.

The collaboration will feature several brand-led activa-



tions, including celebrity invite deliveries by TVS Raider riders, a dedicated TVS Raider-inspired segment during the fashion showcase, interactive experiences through the TVS Raider Engagement Zone and a specially curated award category celebrating individuality and audience choice. The campaign will also be amplified through digital and social media platforms.

In Guwahati, the initiative is expected to enhance TVS Raider's appeal among young consumers in Assam and the Northeast, where demand for stylish and feature-rich commuter motorcycles has been growing. Industry observers believe associations with youth-centric entertainment and fashion platforms could help strengthen brand visibility and influence purchase decisions in emerging urban markets such as Guwahati.

Axis Max Life sets new benchmark with 99.8% claims paid ratio in FY26

Guwahati: Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd. has reported its highest-ever individual death claims paid ratio of 99.8% in the financial year 2025-26, underscoring the insurer's focus on customer trust and efficient claims settlement. The company said it settled 20,529 individual death claims amounting to ₹1,641 crore during FY26. The latest figure marks a steady improvement in the insurer's claims settlement performance over the past five years, rising from 99.34% in FY22 to 99.8% in FY26. Since its inception, Axis Max Life has paid a cumulative ₹11,772.21 crore towards death claims across 2,43,524 policies. Commenting on the achievement, Sumit Madan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Max Life, said the company has leveraged predictive analytics and digital forensic tools to accelerate claims processing while strengthening fraud detection mechanisms. He noted that the milestone reflects the confidence customers place in the insurer and its commitment to supporting families during difficult times.

The company also highlighted that its enhanced underwriting capabilities and technology-driven claims management framework contributed to its ranking as the top life insurer in Hansa Research's Life Insurance CuES 2026 study.

In Guwahati, the development is expected to reinforce consumer confidence in life insurance products across Assam and the Northeast. Industry observers believe higher claims settlement ratios are increasingly influencing purchasing decisions, particularly among first-time policyholders seeking financial security and reliable protection for their families.

Xiaomi launches REDMI Turbo 5 in India with largest-ever REDMI battery

Guwahati: Xiaomi India has launched the REDMI Turbo 5, introducing the REDMI Turbo series to the Indian market with a focus on performance, battery life, imaging and durability for power users.

Powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8500 Ultra chipset, the smartphone comes with up to LPDDR5X Ultra RAM and UFS 4.1 storage, offering faster app launches, smoother multitasking and enhanced gaming performance. The device features REDMI's 3D IceLoop cooling system and Game Turbo Wild Boost technology, supporting sustained 120fps gameplay across more than 20 popular titles.

A key highlight of the REDMI Turbo 5 is its 7,540mAh battery, claimed to be the largest ever on a REDMI smartphone in India. The device supports 100W HyperCharge, enabling up to 51 per cent charging in 30 minutes, and also offers 27W reverse charging functionality.

The smartphone is equipped with a 50MP Sony IMX882 primary camera with OIS and EIS support, capable of recording 4K videos at 60fps. Xiaomi has also included AI-powered image editing tools and Turbo Snap burst mode for capturing fast-moving subjects.

The REDMI Turbo 5 features a 6.59-inch 1.5K AMOLED display with up to 3,500 nits peak brightness, a 120Hz AdaptiveSync refresh rate, Dolby Vision support and TÜV Rheinland Triple Certification for eye comfort. It runs on Xiaomi HyperOS 3 and comes



with four years of Android OS upgrades and six years of security updates.

In Guwahati, the launch is expected to strengthen Xiaomi's position in the premium mid-range smartphone segment, where demand for high-performance devices with long battery life and gaming capabilities continues to grow among young consumers, professionals and content creators. Industry observers believe the combination of flagship-level specifications and competitive pricing could attract significant interest in the Northeast market.

The REDMI Turbo 5 will go on sale from June 19 through Mi.com, Amazon.in and Xiaomi retail outlets. The 8GB+256GB variant is priced at ₹37,999, while the 12GB+256GB variant costs ₹40,999. Both models are available with an introductory bank discount of ₹2,000, bringing the effective prices down to ₹35,999 and ₹38,999 respectively.

Shree Cement expands solar-powered education and clean energy initiatives in Meghalaya

Shillong: Shree Cement has expanded its community development initiatives in Meghalaya, strengthening efforts to improve education, energy access and sustainable living in remote areas through a series of solar-powered projects.

The company, in partnership with GHE Foundation and local stakeholders, has established solar-powered smart classrooms and digital learning infrastructure in schools across the state. During FY26, seven schools

were equipped with solar-powered computer laboratories, benefiting nearly 3,000 students and 117 teachers. The facilities provide access to digital learning tools and curriculum-based educational content in areas where electricity supply remains unreliable. In addition to education-focused interventions, Shree Cement supported solar village electrification projects that have provided reliable electricity to 250 households across 12 villages. Through solar microgrids,

residents now have access to lighting, mobile charging facilities and dependable power supply, improving safety and productivity.

The company has also introduced solar-powered clean cooking solutions in 151 households across 10 villages. The initiative combines rooftop solar systems with electric pressure cookers, helping reduce dependence on firewood while improving indoor air quality and promoting environmentally sustainable cooking practices.

Axis Max Life sets new benchmark with 99.8% claims paid ratio in FY26

Guwahati: Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd. has reported its highest-ever individual death claims paid ratio of 99.8% in the financial year 2025-26, underscoring the insurer's focus on customer trust and efficient claims settlement.

The company said it settled 20,529 individual death claims amounting to ₹1,641 crore during FY26. The latest figure marks a steady improvement in the insurer's claims settlement performance over the past five years, rising from 99.34% in FY22 to 99.8% in FY26. Since its inception, Axis Max Life has paid a cumulative ₹11,772.21 crore towards death claims across 2,43,524 policies.

Commenting on the achievement, Sumit Madan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Max Life, said the company has leveraged predictive analytics and digital forensic

tools to accelerate claims processing while strengthening fraud detection mechanisms. He noted that the milestone reflects the confidence customers place in the insurer and its commitment to supporting families during difficult times.

The company also highlighted that its enhanced underwriting capabilities and technology-driven claims management framework contributed to its ranking as the top life insurer in Hansa Research's Life Insurance CuES 2026 study.

In Guwahati, the development is expected to reinforce consumer confidence in life insurance products across Assam and the Northeast. Industry observers believe higher claims settlement ratios are increasingly influencing purchasing decisions, particularly among first-time policyholders seeking financial security and reliable protection for their families.

Medanta doctors urge injury awareness as World Cup fever grips Northeast

Guwahati: As the FIFA World Cup 2026 captures the imagination of football fans across the Northeast, specialists from Medanta-The Medicity have cautioned young footballers and their families about the growing risk of preventable sports injuries, particularly Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tears.

Dr. Attique Vasdev, Vice Chairman, Orthopaedics at Medanta Gurugram, said ACL injuries remain among the most serious knee injuries affecting football players, often requiring months of treatment and rehabilitation. He explained that the ligament can tear during sudden changes in direction, awkward landings, or forceful tackles, with symptoms including swelling, severe pain and difficulty bearing weight.

According to Dr. Vasdev, football accounts for nearly one-third of sports-related knee injuries in India. He noted that delayed diagnosis often worsens the condition, as players frequently ignore early symptoms, leading to additional complications such as meniscus tears. He added

that many ACL injuries are non-contact injuries caused by simple pivots or missteps during play.

The specialist stressed that structured warm-up routines, strength training, balance exercises and proper landing techniques can significantly reduce the risk of ACL injuries. He also highlighted advances in sports medicine, physiotherapy and minimally invasive surgery that have improved recovery outcomes for athletes.

In Guwahati, football continues to enjoy strong popularity through school tournaments, district leagues and traditional competitions such as the Bordoloi Trophy. Healthcare experts believe the region's growing sporting culture presents an opportunity to promote injury awareness, fitness training and timely medical intervention among young athletes.

Dr. Vasdev is scheduled to consult patients in Guwahati on June 20 at Sun Valley Hospital, while Medanta has also launched a dedicated Northeast helpline to improve access to specialist care across the region.

Most headaches are manageable, but warning signs should not be ignored: Medanta experts

Dibrugarh: While headaches are among the most common health complaints and are usually linked to factors such as stress, lack of sleep, dehydration and excessive screen time, experts from Medanta-The Medicity have urged people to remain alert to symptoms that may indicate a more serious underlying condition.

According to Dr. Jyoti Sehgal, Director of Neurology at Medanta Gurugram, most headaches are not associated with serious illness and can be effectively managed. However, persistent, unusually severe or recurring headaches should be evaluated by a medical professional to identify the cause and ensure timely treatment.

Migraine remains one of the most common causes of recurring headaches, often causing throbbing pain along with sensitivity to light, sound or smell. Dr. Sehgal said migraines can usually be controlled through medication, lifestyle changes and preventive therapies.

She noted that headaches may occasionally be linked to conditions such as infections of the nervous system, stroke, brain aneurysms or brain tumours. Neurologists advise immediate medical attention if headaches are accompanied by repeated vomiting, difficulty speaking, weakness in the limbs, double vision, seizures or sudden changes in consciousness.

In Dibrugarh, growing awareness about neurological health and increasing access to specialist consultations are contributing to higher demand for preventive healthcare services in Upper Assam. Healthcare providers are witnessing greater interest in early diagnosis and specialist-led treatment, reflecting a broader trend towards proactive health management in the region. Medanta has announced that Dr. Sehgal will be available for consultations at Dibrugarh Medicity on June 20. The hospital has also launched a dedicated North East helpline to assist patients with doctor selection and appointments in Assamese, Bengali, Nagamese, English and Hindi.

Meghalaya Fills 3,000+ Vacant Govt Posts: Tynsong



Shillong, June 18: Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Prestone Tynsong on Thursday said that more than 3,000 vacancies in various government departments have been filled during the recent recruitment cycle. Addressing the issue of government employment, Tynsong said an additional 1,000 vacancies have accumulated across departments. He informed that the Central Recruitment Board will issue advertisements for these posts in the coming months to initiate the recruitment process. The state government has been undertaking recruitment drives to fill vacant positions in different departments and address staffing requirements.

Mizoram CM Assumes Personnel Reforms Portfolio



Aizawl, June 19: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has formally taken charge of the personnel and administrative reforms portfolio, according to an official statement issued on Friday. The responsibility was previously held by Home Minister K. Sapdanga, who also oversees the home, urban development, and poverty alleviation departments. A notification released by the political and cabinet department on Thursday confirmed that the portfolio has been reassigned to the Chief Minister with immediate effect, citing the move as being in the interest of public service. With this change, Sapdanga has been relieved of the personnel and administrative reforms portfolio, while Lalduhoma will now directly oversee matters related to governance and administrative efficiency in the state.

Arunachal-Assam Ministers Hold Excise Talks

Arunachal Pradesh, June 17: Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein held a productive meeting today with Atul Bora, Assam Minister for Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, Excise, Border Protection and Development, along with senior officials of the Excise Departments from both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The discussions centered on enhancing inter-state coordination and sharing best practices in excise administration.

Key focus areas included strengthening enforcement mechanisms, preventing illicit trade, improving revenue administration, and drawing a roadmap for future collaboration through joint initiatives and periodic reviews.

DCM Mein said that as neighbouring states bound by shared interests and responsibilities, stronger institutional partnerships and continuous dialogue are essential to address emerging challenges and ensure effective govern-

nance. "I am confident that today's deliberations will further deepen the spirit of cooperation between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and contribute to more efficient and people centric administration," Mein stated. He extended sincere gratitude to Minister Atul Bora and the Assam delegation for their valuable participation and said he looks forward to continued collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The meeting marks another step in deepening Assam-Arunachal



ties on administrative and enforcement fronts, particularly in border and excise-related matters.

Nine Held in Manipur Crackdown on Insurgent Activities

Manipur, June 19: Manipur Police and security forces have arrested nine alleged insurgent cadres belonging to different proscribed outfits in a series of operations conducted across the state, officials said. The arrests are linked to cases involving grenade planting, extortion and the illegal supply of arms. In one operation carried out on June 18, security forces arrested four alleged members of the KCP-PWG for their suspected involvement in planting hand grenades at multiple locations in Imphal East district, including a residence at Brahmapur Nahabam Bamon Leikai. The arrested individuals were identified as Huidrom Palinba Singh alias Nanao (19) of Kongba Ucheckon, Pebam Roshan Singh (18) of Singjamei Pebiya Pandit Leikai, Nameirakpam Jitson Meitei

(19) of Bashikhong Mamang Leikai and Maimom Lemba Meitei (28) of Ningomthong Kitnapanung, all from Imphal East district.

In a separate operation on the same day, security forces apprehended four alleged cadres of the KCP (MFL) from different locations in Kakching district. According to officials, the group was involved in extortion activities and the illegal supply of arms. The arrested persons were identified as Moirangthem Tondomba Singh alias Teme (44) of Arong Khunou Mayai Leikai, Wahengbam Inao Singh alias Jack (46) of Kakching Irum Mapal, Nongmaithem David Meitei (42) of Loushi Ching Kakpham and Maibam Lokendro Singh (38) of Wabagai Thambal Chingya. Earlier, on June 16, security forces ar-

rested an alleged cadre of the Revolutionary People's Front/People's Liberation Army (RPF/PLA), identified as Arambam Sanayaima Meitei alias Ali (48), from Kangla Sangomshang Awang Leikai under Lamlai Police Station in Imphal East district.

Another alleged KCP-PWG cadre, Hemam Laingam Meitei alias Ngamba (33) of Moirang Khoiru Mayai Leirak in Bishnupur district, was arrested from his locality on June 17. Officials said the arrests were made as part of ongoing counter-insurgency operations across Manipur aimed at curbing militant activities, dismantling extortion networks and preventing the circulation of illegal arms. Further investigations are underway in connection with the cases.

West Tripura DM Reviews Jirania Projects



Agartala, June 19: Dr. Vishal Kumar, District Magistrate and Collector of West Tripura, conducted a field inspection across Jirania RD Block on Friday to review the progress of development projects and assess the delivery of government services at the grassroots level. The inspection began at Nalgariya Market, followed by visits to West Ranigaon SB School, Majlishpur Anganwadi Centre, the new Gram Panchayat building construction site, CC road projects, Harijoy Chowdhury Park, and the

Brajanagar Ayushman Arogya Mandir Health Sub-Centre.

During the visit, Dr. Kumar reviewed ongoing works, checked infrastructure quality, and interacted with residents, public representatives, and officials to understand local issues and requirements. He directed departments to speed up pending projects while maintaining quality standards. A review meeting was later held at North Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, where officials discussed project progress and future action plans. The district administration stated that regular field visits help monitor development works, address public grievances, and ensure welfare schemes reach beneficiaries effectively.

West Tripura DM Reviews Jirania Projects

Kohima, June 19: The All Tribal Women Bodies of Kohima today held a public rally at Phoolbari, Old MLA Hostel Junction, demanding speedy justice in the sexual harassment case involving IAS officer Reny Wilfred. Digital news platform

Following the rally, the organisations submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Nagaland, seeking his intervention to ensure

the early disposal of the case and prevent further delays in the trial. They also presented their charter of demands calling for a fair, impartial and time-bound trial. The memorandum also condemned recent cases of sexual violence against women and children in the state and urged authorities to ensure speedy investigation and disposal of such cases.



Indra Hang Subba Raises Sikkim Issues with Rajnath

Sikkim, June 18: Member of Parliament from Sikkim, Indra Hang Subba, met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss matters of strategic and developmental importance for the Himalayan state. During the meeting, Subba drew attention to the persistent connectivity challenges in North Sikkim, particularly along routes leading to India's border areas. He explained that adverse weather, difficult terrain, and frequent disruptions continue to hinder reliable road access, stressing the need for robust all-weather infrastructure to support both national security and local development. He emphasized that strengthening connectivity in these sensitive regions is vital for the movement of security forces, the welfare of local communities, and the overall growth of the state.

The MP also raised several long-pending issues affecting Sikkim. He urged the Centre to expedite the inclusion of 12 left-out communities in the Scheduled Tribe list, a demand rooted in ensuring social justice and equal opportunities. Additionally, he highlighted the unresolved



matter of seat reservation for the Limboo and Tamang Scheduled Tribes in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, despite their constitutional recognition as Scheduled Tribes.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh assured Subba that the concerns would be given due consideration. Expressing optimism, Subba said he was confident that the Government of India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, remains committed to addressing the developmental aspirations and constitutional concerns of Sikkim while reinforcing its strategic infrastructure and integration with the nation.

India eye ODI clean sweep at Chepauk

Having already secured an unassailable 2-0 lead, Men in Blue could experiment by trying a couple of youngsters

Chennai, June 19: Buoyed by the win over Afghanistan in the 2nd ODI at Lucknow, India will look to make a clean sweep of the ODI series when they take on the Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side in the third and final match of the series at the MA Chidambaram stadium here on Saturday afternoon. Having already secured an unassailable 2-0 lead, the Men in Blue could experiment by trying a couple of youngsters.

Harshit Rana has been added to India's squad and he is making a comeback from injury that has sidelined him since February this year. However, Hardik Pandya is not part of the updated version of the official squad which included Rana. It is learnt that Hardik had suffered a leg strain while training at the BCCI's Centre



of Excellence in Bengaluru in the lead up to the series. Ryan ten Doeschate, assistant coach of the senior team suggested that there could be some changes in the squad. 'We will be making a few changes from the first two games. I think someone like Arshdeep has bowled very well in the first two games. He can probably take a rest tomorrow,'

Doeschate told reporters in the pre-match press conference on Friday.

India will once again look to its skipper Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan who are in good form to put runs on the board. Gill, during his knock of 154 at Lucknow, was in sublime form and would look to continue in the same vein. Kishan has been in tremendous for

form the last year or so across formats and IPL. But Yashvi Jaiswal's form is a concern. In the only Test against Afghanistan, he made 24. After sitting out in the first ODI in Dharamshala, he returned with only four runs in the 2nd ODI.

But once Virat Kohli returns to the side after recovering from his hamstring injury, he is certain to occupy the No. 3 slot. That would mean Gill would take Jaiswal's spot. So Jaiswal needs to make the best use of the opportunities he gets. "I think we want to have a look at Yashvi as well. Obviously, if he can get around to the last game, he will probably get another goal. Maybe in combination, we need to look at Nitish (Reddy) again. Unfortunately, he couldn't play the last game," he said.

India Win, Patil Suffers Ankle Injury

Leeds, June 17: India continued their dominant run in the Women's T20 World Cup with a comprehensive victory over the Netherlands on Wednesday, moving to the top of Group A. However, the win was overshadowed by an injury scare to all-rounder Shreyanka Patil. Defending a formidable total of 209/5, Patil suffered an ankle injury while fielding off her own bowling in the sixth over. The 23-year-old twisted her ankle while attempting to stop the ball near mid-on and was left in visible pain. Unable to continue, she was stretchered off the field and later sent for scans. Vice-captain Shafali Verma confirmed that the medical team is closely monitoring Patil's condition. Having recently returned from a lengthy injury lay-off, Patil has been a key contributor with the ball.

India's innings was powered by Smriti Mandhana's 74 and Shafali's 55, while Sree Charani claimed 4/19 as the Netherlands were bowled out for 114.



Mexico into World Cup last 32, Canada celebrate historic win

Los Angeles, June 19: Mexico became the first team to reach the knockout round of the World Cup on Thursday after a 1-0 victory over South Korea while Canada edged closer to the last 32 after thrashing Qatar. A howler from South Korea goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu gifted a goal to Mexico's Luis Romo and proved decisive as 'El Tri' hung on to win a tense battle in Guadalajara.

The victory means Mexico are guaranteed to finish in top spot in Group A with a game to spare following South Africa's 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic earlier Thursday. Finishing top keeps Mexico



at home in the last 32 with a game against a third-placed team in Mexico City.

South Korea are second on three points, with the Czech Republic and South Africa also still alive on one.

In other games on Thursday,

Canada moved to the brink of the last 32 after overwhelming nine-man Qatar 6-0 to secure their first ever World Cup victory in Group B. Switzerland, also in Group B, reignited their campaign with a resounding defeat of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Los Angeles.

Neeraj Chopra, IOA Launch Anti-Doping Campaign



New Delhi, June 19: In a major boost to India's fight against performance-enhancing drugs, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have joined forces to launch an extensive anti-doping educational campaign. Announced on Friday at the IOA's second Athletes Forum, the "Clean Sports Campaign" will operate under a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IOA and the Neeraj Chopra Foundation. The initiative arrives at a critical juncture for Indian sports. India has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) global list of dope offenders for three consecutive years and was recently flagged as a "high-risk" nation by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). With India actively bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games in Ahmedabad, cleaning up its international sporting image has become a top priority.

In a video message from Doha, where he is preparing for the Diamond League, the 28-year-old javelin superstar emphasized that the campaign was born out of his own concern for young athletes looking for dangerous shortcuts. "You need patience to achieve something in sports," Chopra said. "I am seeing that patience

has come down in today's kids. They want to achieve things quickly... but from my story, I can tell you it took me 10 years to get to an Olympic medal. Success comes from years of discipline, sacrifice, and doing the right things consistently."

The campaign aims to shift athlete culture by strengthening the understanding of complex anti-doping regulations, preventing accidental violations, and offering a safe environment for athletes to voice anxieties regarding performance pressure and supplements. IOA CEO Raghuram Iyer noted that the initiative will utilize athlete-led storytelling, workshops, and digital tools to reach grassroots levels. IOA President PT Usha highly praised Chopra for taking the personal initiative over the last six months to get the partnership running. "Dope is temporary. We should believe the person who has already achieved," Usha stated. "It's great that the real champion has come forward."

Complementing this awareness drive, the Sports Ministry is looking to tackle the crisis legally by planning amendments to criminalize the supply and procurement of banned substances, aiming to safeguard the country's future as a global sports hub.

Serena, Venus Williams to play doubles together at Wimbledon with a combined age of 90

London, June 19: Even at a combined age of 90, opponents should still be wary of facing the Williams sisters at Wimbledon. Serena and Venus Williams won a combined 21 titles on the storied grass of the All England Club in their singles and doubles careers and now they're going for one more. A doubles wild card invitation for the sisters was announced on Tuesday by organizers of Wimbledon, which starts in less than two weeks. The move comes after 44-year-old Serena recently returned to competition after nearly four years away from professional tennis. Venus, who has still been competing sporadically, turns 46 on Wednesday. "I think it's going to be fun. My daughter, Olympia, told me I should play with Venus. She's always right," Serena said after losing a doubles match with another partner, Karolina Muchova, in Berlin on Tuesday. "So I said, 'OK Olympia, we'll see if we can do it.'" The sisters have won 14 Grand Slam titles together in doubles, including six at Wimbledon — the first of them in 2000 and the last in 2016. Their first two doubles titles at Wimbledon, in 2000 and 2002, came as wild cards. In all, their records at the All England Club look like this: Seven singles titles for Serena and five singles titles for Venus at Wimbledon; those six Wimbledon doubles titles together; a mixed doubles title for Serena with Max Mirnyi at Wimbledon in 1998; plus a singles gold medal for Serena at the 2012 London Olympics and a doubles gold for the sisters at the same Games. Count 'em up and it makes for 21 trophies and medals — because their powerful serves always did more damage on grass than any other surface.

With their six titles, the Williams sisters share the record for most trophies as a pair in women's doubles at Wimbledon with Suzanne Lenglen and Elizabeth Ryan, who won five consecutive titles from 1919 to 1923 and a sixth in 1925. The Williams sisters last played doubles together at the 2022 U.S. Open, where they lost their opening match. That was the first time they played doubles together in 4 ½ years. In her first competition since 2022, Serena won her doubles match with partner Victoria Mboko at Queen's Club in London last week and then the pair had to withdraw after Mboko injured her knee in a singles match. At the Berlin Open on Tuesday, Serena and Muchova were beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Giuliana Olmos and Erin Routliffe.