



India and France finalize ₹64,000 crore deal for 26 Rafale jets, boosting Indian Navy's air power

India-France pact boosts naval air power with 26 Rafale jets by 2030

New Delhi: India and France on Monday inked an inter-governmental agreement to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 64,000 crore for the Indian Navy. The pact was sealed at a virtual event.

The delivery of these aircraft would be completed by 2030, the Ministry of Defence said.

The Governments of India and France have signed an agreement for the procurement of 26 Rafale Aircraft (22 single-seater and four twin-seater) for the Indian Navy, the MoD said.

It includes training, simulator, associated equip-



ment, weapons and performance-based logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The agreement has been signed by Defence Minis-

ter Rajnath Singh and his French counterpart Sebastian Lecornu. The signed copies of the agreement, aircraft package supply protocol and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indi-

an and French officials in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

In line with the government's thrust on Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the agreement includes transfer of technology for integration of indigenous weapons in India. It also includes setting up of production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India. The deal is expected to generate thousands of jobs and revenue for a large number of MSMEs in setting up, production and running of these facilities, the MoD said.

M K Stalin unveils benefits for state govt employees

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has unveiled a series of welfare measures aimed at improving the lives of state government employees, teachers, and pensioners. The announcement was made during a session in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on April 28, 2025, and is expected to benefit approximately 16 lakh individuals across the state.

One of the key highlights of the announcement is a significant increase in the "marriage advance" provided to government employees. Previously set at ₹10,000 for female employees and ₹6,000 for male employees, the amount has now been raised to ₹5 lakh for both. This move is seen as a major step to-



ward supporting employees during significant life events.

Additionally, Stalin announced a 2% hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA), effective from April 1, 2025. This increase will benefit not only government employees and teachers but also pensioners and those receiving family pensions. The hike is expected to cost the state exchequer an additional ₹1,252 crore annually. One of the key highlights of the announcement is a significant increase in the "marriage advance" provided to employees.



NDRF's monsoon drill strengthens Assam's disaster readines

Two Indian nationals charged for robbing woman in Singapore hotel

Singapore: Two Indian nationals, Arokkiyasami Daison (22) and Rajendran Mayilarasan (28), were charged in Singapore's district court for allegedly robbing a woman in a hotel room. The incident occurred at the Amrise Hotel Kitchener in Jalan Besar on April 26,

2025. The suspects reportedly tied the 38-year-old woman's limbs using pieces of clothing, slapped her, and fled with her belongings, including her passport, bank cards, and SGD 2,000 in cash.

Singapore police acted swiftly, using CCTV footage to identify and arrest

the suspects within four hours of the report being filed. All stolen items were recovered, according to authorities.

If convicted, the accused face imprisonment ranging from five to 20 years and at least 12 strokes of the cane under Singapore's laws for robbery with hurt.

Quick bites

Counter-terror ops sweep J&K

Srinagar: Intense counter-terrorism operations are currently underway across various locations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajnath briefs Modi on J&K attack

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 28, 2025, to discuss the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir following the devastating Pahalgam terror attack.

ED raids liquor traders in MP

Indore: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted extensive search and seizure operations on April 28, 2025, targeting liquor contractors across Madhya Pradesh.

Pawar praises Shah, Rajnath's maturity

Pune: In the aftermath of the tragic Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives on April 22, 2025, an all-party meeting was convened on April 24 to address the incident and its implications.

SC seeks Centre's response on plea to ban explicit content on OTT platforms

The petitioner urged the court to enforce stricter content guidelines online

New Delhi: In a significant move, the Supreme Court of India has sought responses from the Central Government and other concerned parties regarding a plea aimed at prohibiting sexually explicit content on over-the-top (OTT) platforms and social media. The petition was brought forward by an advocate, expressing concerns over the widespread availability of objectionable content on digital platforms and its potential adverse impact on society, especially on young audiences. The



plea argues that the unregulated dissemination of explicit content on OTT platforms and social media is a growing issue that requires immediate legal intervention. It contends that such content not only vio-

lates societal morals but also goes against existing laws, including provisions in the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code. The petitioner urged the court to enforce stricter content guidelines online.

CPI(M) adds 'live-in' category to Party Congress delegate forms

New Delhi: In a progressive move, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has decided to include a 'live-in' relationship option in the credential forms for delegates attending its Party Congress. This decision reflects the party's acknowledgment of evolving societal norms and its commitment to inclusivity. The issue was brought to light during the recent Party Congress held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, where the Credentials Committee encountered a delegate in a live-in relationship. This situation highlighted the need to redefine traditional relationship categories in

the credential forms. Following deliberations, the committee recommended modifying the forms to allow delegates to identify themselves as being in live-in relationships. Muralidharan, the Credentials Committee Conve- nor, emphasized that the move is a conscious effort to accept societal changes and reject the targeting of individuals in non-traditional relationships. He stated, "We are accepting the changes taking place in society and the traditional understanding of relations." The decision coincides with states mulling mandatory live-in couple registration.



Arunachal minister launches 'clean model village' in Pangin

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Rural Development and Transport Minister Ojing Tasing inaugurated the 'Clean Model Village' project in Pangin, marking a significant step toward environmental sustainability in the region.

The initiative, launched under the Swachhata Sewa 2024 campaign, aims to transform Pangin into a model community for eco-friendly practices, waste management, and environmental protection.

"A clean village is not just about sanitation—it's a symbol of collective responsibility, pride, and progress,"



Minister Tasing said during the ceremony.

The event was attended by prominent officials, including Mebo MLA Oken Tayeng and Siang Deputy Commissioner P.N. Thungon, alongside local leaders and community members.

As part of the inauguration, Minister Tasing released a dedicated song celebrating the Clean Model Village concept and Pangin's cultural heritage.

Assam CM inaugurates two flyovers in Dibrugarh

Dibrugarh elevated new flyovers and capital status

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday inaugurated two newly constructed flyovers in Dibrugarh city — one at Convoy Road and another at the junction of the old National Highway 37, connecting Thana Chariali and Chowkidingee Chariali.

At the inauguration ceremony, the Chief Minister announced that the Convoy Road flyover has been named after Dr Lila Gogoi, a prominent writer and educator, while the flyover between Thana Chariali and Chowkidingee Chariali has been named in hon-



our of noted poet Nilmani Phookan. Sarma highlighted the government's focus on the development of Dibrugarh district and mentioned that foundation stones have been laid for four additional flyovers in the city. Flyovers planned at Mancotta ₹83.62Cr, Amolapatty ₹157.73Cr, Lahowal ₹71.52Cr, Lezai ₹62.15Cr.

Manipur hosts bird conservation programme at Sendra, promotes eco-tourism initiatives

Bird conservation and eco-tourism highlighted at Sendra programme

Imphal: A one-day awareness programme on bird conservation was successfully organized today at the Inland Water Transport Complex, Sendra, Bishnupur district. The event was graced by Ngangom Sanajaoba Meitei, Project Director of the Loktak Development Authority, Government of Manipur, and Khangembam Shamungou, President of the Manipur Bird Club, who served as presidium members.

As part of the programme, K. Jugeshor delivered an insightful talk on "Identification of Birds: Issues and Challenges," emphasizing the importance of avian biodiversity and the growing challenges in bird conservation. An interactive session was also held with members of the Loktak Lake Tourism Development Cooperative Society, Sendra — one of the leading boating service



providers in Manipur — focusing on their crucial role in protecting waterbirds while enhancing tourist experiences. Addressing the gathering, Ngangom Sanajaoba Meitei highlighted the urgent need for environmental conservation in the face of global warming. He stressed that safeguarding bird populations is critical to preserving wetland ecosystems and called upon all stakeholders to act as protectors of nature and biodiversity.

In his presidential remarks, Khangembam Shamungou urged boating operators and tourist guides to minimize disturbances

to waterbirds during tours. He also encouraged guides to deepen their knowledge about Loktak Lake's diverse avian species to promote eco-awareness among visitors.

Following the awareness session, the Annual General Body Meeting of the Manipur Bird Club (MBC) was convened. During the meeting, members unanimously resolved to prioritize the conservation of Manipur's avian heritage and outlined several action plans for the coming year.

The Manipur Bird Club pledged to boost bird conservation and eco-tourism statewide.

Assam CM's traitor crackdown

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the arrest of 24 individuals on Monday in a crackdown against those allegedly promoting anti-national sentiments and defending Pakistan following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

In an update posted on X, CM Sarma stated, "Update on Crackdown against traitors for defending Pakistan on Indian soil — 19:00 hrs | 28.04. 24 Anti-Nationals are behind bars now."

The arrests include Normal Hoque, Seikh Saroj, Firajul Islam, Kamal Uddin, and Samsul Haque. These arrests follow an earlier statement from CM Sarma, who confirmed that Assam would not tolerate any form of support for Pakistan in connection with the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

Five militants nabbed in Manipur for extortion activities

Imphal: In a major crackdown on extortion activities, security forces in Manipur have arrested five militants belonging to different proscribed outfits during extensive intelligence-based combing and cordon and search operations carried out across the state in the past 24 hours.

Two cadres of the



banned PLA/RPF outfit were apprehended from Langthabal Mantrikhong

Mayai Leikai under Singjamei Police Station in Imphal West district. The arrested individuals have been identified as Sorokhaibam Joysankar alias Haoba (33) and Moirangthem Nelson alias Mani (30). Both were allegedly involved in extorting money from the public. Security personnel recovered two mobile

phones with SIM cards and a two-wheeler vehicle from their possession.

In separate operations, two active members of the proscribed PREPAK (Pro) group were arrested in Imphal East district. Elangbam Langamba Meitei (25) was arrested from Telou Mamang Leikai, and Khongbantabam.

Assam CM warns of NSA action against pro-Pakistan supporters

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced that the National Security Act (NSA) will be invoked against individuals posting pro-Pakistan content on social media, whether directly or indirectly.

The statement follows national outrage over the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives. Addressing the media in Guwahati, Sarma revealed that a youth from Hajo in Kamrup district had been arrested earlier in the day for allegedly sharing anti-national posts. "We are



closely monitoring social media platforms. Anyone found supporting Pakistan will face strict action under NSA," Sarma stated.

The remarks came during the release of the Bharatiya

Janata Party's (BJP) manifesto for the upcoming Panchayat elections in Assam, scheduled for May 2 and May 7, with vote counting on May 11. Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia was also present at the event.

In response to the terror attack, the Government of India has taken stern measures against Pakistan, including temporarily suspending the Indus Waters Treaty. The decision was made during a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with key ministers in attendance.

Tripura police arrest eight for posts on Pahalgam attack; two in custody

Security tightened at Tripura-Bangladesh border

Agartala: Tripura police have registered eight FIRs and arrested or detained eight individuals for making derogatory comments on social media regarding the recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

The arrests occurred between April 24-26 across several districts in the state, according to a senior Tripura Police official. Among those involved were a government official and two retired government teachers.

"In Dharmanagar Police Station under North District, three FIRs were registered,



and among them, the retired teacher was arrested, who was then released on bail, and the rest two were also summoned to the police station for questioning. In Kadamtala Police Station

under North District, one FIR was registered against one Mansur Ali," the Police said. In Dhalai District, two individuals—Jaharlal Deb-nath and Kuldip Mandal—were arrested.



Goodnight survey: 87% of Indians connect mosquito disturbances to health risks, fueling repellent demand

Guwahati: A recent pan-India survey commissioned by Goodnight, India's leading household insecticide brand, has uncovered significant health concerns linked to mosquito disturbances. The survey, conducted by YouGov, found that 87% of Indians believe mosquito-related sleep disturbances are impacting family health, especially among children. Sleep deprivation,

with adults losing up to 2 hours and children nearly 4 hours of sleep nightly, is heightening the risk of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.

This growing concern is reflected across regions, with 87% of respondents from North, East, and West India, and 86% from South India sharing similar sentiments. In Guwahati, trends mirror this national anxiety, with an uptick

in consumer demand for mosquito repellents as families seek ways to combat the increasing mosquito menace. The Guwahati market, known for its busy consumer base, is witnessing heightened sales in mosquito control products, with residents prioritizing health safety amid rising concerns. Ashwin Moorthy, CMO at GCPL, emphasized the urgent need for effective

mosquito control solutions. In response, Goodnight has introduced the innovative Goodnight Flash Liquid Vaporiser, powered by Renofluthrin, an indigenously developed molecule proven to be 2X more effective than current alternatives.

This product aims to address the growing health and productivity challenges posed by mosquito-borne diseases.

Bahamas unveils bold footwear collection to captivate Gen-Z and millennials



Guwahati: Bahamas, the trendy footwear brand by Relaxo Footwears Limited, has launched a new collection designed to blend comfort with bold, expressive style. Targeting India's Gen-Z and millennial consumers, the collection features vibrant colors and eye-catching prints, making it the perfect accessory for those looking to add a playful twist to their daily look or vacation vibe.

The collection boasts a range of high-energy shades and fun, funky designs that are sure to appeal to younger consumers increasingly seeking fashion that reflects their individuality. The new launch follows the brand's successful 'Stress Ko Do Rest' digital campaign, which en-

courages young Indians to adopt a more relaxed and joyful lifestyle, in line with Bahamas' core philosophy: "Keep Chillin', Keep Flip-pin'."

From high-energy hues to quirky prints, the collection offers something for every casual occasion, balancing fun with comfort.

In Guwahati, the footwear market is seeing a shift towards vibrant, fashionable designs as younger consumers seek styles that reflect their dynamic lifestyle. The launch of Bahamas' new collection is expected to gain significant traction in the city, where demand for trendy, comfortable footwear is on the rise, making it a perfect fit for local fashion sensibilities.

HP introduces AI-powered PCs in India for business and consumer markets

Guwahati: HP has launched its most powerful lineup of AI-powered PCs in India, introducing the HP EliteBook, HP ProBook, and HP OmniBook series. These next-gen devices are equipped with Intel, AMD, and Qualcomm processors and dedicated Neural Processing Units (NPUs) capable of handling up to 55 trillion operations per second (TOPS). Designed for enterprise leaders, creators, and consumers, the new range delivers advanced AI features, including per-

sonalized performance, real-time noise cancellation, and auto-framing for video calls. The HP EliteBook and HP ProBook series cater to business users, offering seamless collaboration, enterprise-grade security, and long battery life, while the HP OmniBook series targets creators and freelancers with AI-enhanced productivity tools. Notably, the launch introduces HP AI Companion for personalized file analysis and Poly Camera Pro for professional-grade video calls. In Guwahati,

local tech retailers report increasing demand for laptops with integrated AI capabilities. "Businesses and young professionals in Guwahati are seeking advanced, secure, and productive laptops to meet the needs of hybrid work," said a prominent electronics distributor. HP's new AI PCs, with their diverse features and pricing starting from Rs. 77,200, are expected to appeal to both businesses and individual consumers. The devices are now available at HP World stores and online.

Rupee gains 27 paise early

Mumbai: Indian rupee appreciated by 27 paise to reach 84.96 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday. This rise was supported by robust foreign fund inflows, stronger domestic economic data, and easing global tensions. Forex traders noted that India's manufacturing and industrial production expanded by 3%, reflecting healthy domestic demand.

Additionally, a strong rally in domestic equities, driven by a surge in foreign investments, further boosted market sentiment.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor reaffirms commitment to sustainability on Earth Day



New Delhi: On this year's Earth Day, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reaffirmed its strong commitment to environmental sustainability, aligning with the global theme "Our Power, Our Planet." The company, led by Executive Vice President & Director – Manufacturing Mr. B. Padmanabha, outlined its ongoing efforts toward carbon neutrality, driven by Toyota's Environmental Challenge 2050. This includes a focus on electrified vehicle technologies (xEVs) and renewable energy adoption across

manufacturing operations. TKM has made significant strides in sustainability, operating on 100% renewable grid electricity, recycling over 96% of waste, and meeting 89.3% of water needs through rainwater harvesting and recycled water. Additionally, the company's Green Wave Project has seen over 328,000 trees planted, enriching biodiversity across its facilities. TKM's Ecozone, a 25-acre learning space, has educated over 40,000 students on environmental stewardship.

Toyota expands skill development footprint with 68th T-TEP at ITI Roing, eyes automotive talent in Northeast

Itanagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), in collaboration with Camdir Toyota and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, has launched its 68th Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP) and STAR Scholarship Program at Government ITI, Roing. The initiative aims to enhance employability through industry-aligned automotive training under the Skill India and Make in India missions. Inaugurated by Arunachal Minister



Nyato Dukam, the facility will provide state-of-the-art training in Mechanic Motor Vehicle and Diesel Me-

chanic trades. It includes a remodeled workshop, modern classrooms, and hybrid technology sim-

ulators. The first batch comprises 20 students, with three awarded the STAR Scholarship of up to ₹51,000 annually. TKM's Vikram Gulati emphasized the importance of inclusive growth and building future-ready talent. Camdir Toyota also reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth in the region. Commissioner Saugat Biswas revealed future expansion plans with top industry partners like Tata, L&T, and Honda.

Bajaj Allianz's ClimateSafe set to transform climate risk insurance in India

Guwahati: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company today announced the launch of ClimateSafe, a pioneering parametric insurance product designed to offer instant protection against climate risks. Fully digital and customer-centric, ClimateSafe enables on-the-spot policy issuance, allowing customers to purchase multiple policies throughout the year, with flexible risk periods starting from just one day. Targeted at retail customers,



office goers, gig workers, delivery agents, shop owners, and event attendees, ClimateSafe covers financial losses from extreme weather events such as excessive rainfall, heatwaves,

and cold waves. Automatic claim settlements within seven days, dynamic pricing based on real-time climate data, and minimal documentation requirements ensure a seamless and hassle-free experience. Speaking on the launch, Dr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said, "ClimateSafe is a first-of-its-kind solution in India, offering financial protection against the increasingly unpredictable impact of climate change."



President Murmu attends Pope Francis' funeral, drives demand for religious items

Mumbai: President Droupadi Murmu led the Indian delegation to Vatican City for the State Funeral of Pope Francis. Accompanied by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian, and Deputy Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, Shri Joshua De Souza, President Murmu arrived in Rome on April 25 and participated in the funeral on April 26. The passing of Pope



Francis on April 21, 2025, honoring the late Pope's deep connection with India. The visit has brought attention to the increasing demand for religious items, as communities worldwide mourn the loss.

Paytm gaming unit faces GST notice

New Delhi: First Games Technology, a subsidiary of the company that owns fintech major Paytm, has got a notice from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) claiming a proposed liability of Rs 5,712 crore along with interest and penalties. The show-cause notice, received by the gaming company on Monday, is for the period between January 2018 and March 2023. First Games, a unit of One97 Communications Ltd.

India, Egypt eye strategic skilling alliance to boost global workforce competitiveness



Guwahati: India and Egypt are strengthening their strategic partnership through a focused push in skill development and vocational training. A high-level Egyptian delegation led by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bahaa El Din, Deputy Minister of Technical Education, met with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in New Delhi to chart the way forward.

aligned TVET models were highlighted as blueprints for collaboration.

Egypt showcased its EU-supported TVET reforms and Sector Skill Councils, echoing India's scalable skilling ecosystem. Ongoing partnerships, including the NIELIT-ITI MoU, EI-Sewedy-Amity University collaboration, and the Indian-backed Vocational Training Centre in Cairo, were acknowledged as successful case studies.

The meeting spotlighted India's aspiration to become the "Skill Capital of the World" through the Skill India Mission. Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari shared that nearly 400,000 individuals have already been trained in futuristic domains like AI, robotics, and big data, while 1.3 million entrepreneurs have been nurtured. India's world-class Skill India International Centres and globally

In Guwahati, such international collaborations could unlock global skilling opportunities for youth in IT, tourism, and green technologies—sectors with high growth potential.

Future plans include joint certifications, faculty exchanges, and Centres of Excellence, aimed at building a future-ready, globally competitive workforce.

MSDE and Microsoft join hands to launch 'AI Careers for Women' in six states, targeting 20,000 learners

Guwahati: In a major push for inclusive digital skilling, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Microsoft have signed an MoU to launch the 'AI Careers for Women' initiative, establishing 30 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in women's colleges across six Indian states. Aimed at bridging the gender gap in emerging technologies, the program will train 20,000 women through a 240-hour industry-aligned AI curriculum, developed in consultation with NCVET. Each CoE will function as a hub, sup-



porting a network of 150 women's colleges, mainly in Tier-II and Tier-III towns. The initiative includes AI certifications, internships, apprenticeships, fellowships, and job placements, while also nurturing innovation-led entrepreneurship. Microsoft will deliver the

training under its AI skilling and innovation framework, and Edunet Foundation will lead implementation in collaboration with academic institutions and state departments. In Guwahati, stakeholders see this as a timely intervention, with the city's IT and startup ecosystem rapidly evolving. The program is expected to significantly enhance women's participation in the local digital economy, preparing a skilled workforce to meet the rising demand for AI professionals in Assam's growing innovation landscape.

NSDC and Rapido teams up to boost gig economy with skill development initiative

Guwahati: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Rapido, one of India's top bike taxi aggregators, to enhance gig economy opportunities through skill development for workers. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to bridge the gap between skilling and job creation by integrating trained individuals into the gig workforce, offering part-time and full-time employment opportunities. Leveraging NSDC's expertise in training and Rapido's extensive fleet, the initiative will provide candidates with access to vehicles, skill development programs, and income prospects. The partnership is expected to equip drivers with the technical, be-



havioural, and safety skills needed to thrive as Rapido captains. In Guwahati, this collaboration presents a promising opportunity to tap into the growing gig economy. With a rising demand for bike taxi services, local residents can benefit from skill-building initiatives, boosting employment and fostering economic growth in the region. This effort will not only enhance local employability but also provide flexible earning options, making a significant impact on Guwahati's workforce. Rapido's platform, which currently supports over two million captains across India, will also focus on inclusivity with its "Pink Mobility" initiative, supporting female drivers with special benefits.

Tanishq's Rivaah shines bright this Akshaya Tritiya with customized bridal collections

Guwahati: As Akshaya Tritiya approaches, Tanishq's exclusive wedding sub-brand, Rivaah, is set to capture the summer wedding market with its newly launched region-specific bridal jewellery collections. Designed to cater to diverse Indian communities, Rivaah offers handcrafted pieces for every wedding function—from Haldi and Mehendi to Sangeet and the main wedding day—seamlessly blending tradition with modern aesthetics.

The collection showcases ornate naths from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and Thushi necklaces and Tode bangles from Maharashtra, crafted to reflect both cultural heritage and the bride's personal style. Under its "Marriages Craft-



ed by You" theme, Rivaah encourages self-expression while offering heirloom-worthy designs that align with evolving preferences for natural diamonds and long-term value.

In Guwahati, where bridal shopping sees a seasonal surge during Akshaya Tritiya, Rivaah's value-driven offerings—such as up to 20% off on making charges and ₹101 off per gram on gold—are reso-

nating with young buyers. Gold Rate Protection and 100% exchange value on old gold are further boosting customer confidence.

Pelki Tshering, Chief Marketing Officer of Tanishq, noted that Rivaah has already served over 2.7 lakh wedding buyers this year, reinforcing the brand's commitment to redefining the bridal jewellery experience across India.

Kaushal Manthan 2025 unveils unified skilling strategy; focus on AI, entrepreneurship and local empowerment

Guwahati: “Kaushal Manthan 2025”, a flagship workshop organised by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), set the tone for India’s future skilling roadmap under the theme “Collective Vision for a Skilled Bharat”. The event commenced with a two-minute silence led by MoS Jayant Chaudhary to honour the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack—signaling a commitment to unity and resilience.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from ministries, academia, Sector Skill Councils, and industry bodies including



Microsoft, FICCI, CII, and NABARD. MSDE Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari highlighted the need to align training with market demands, integrate global standards, and promote lifelong learning. Sessions focused on

boosting vocational education, increasing female enrolment, and creating district-level entrepreneurial hubs with financial literacy and mentorship support. A key highlight was Microsoft’s presentation on

integrating AI in curriculum design, assessments, and certification—positioning India for a tech-driven skilling revolution.

In Guwahati, entrepreneurs welcomed the emphasis on local enterprise development and tech-integrated skilling. With vibrant trade activity, Guwahati’s market stands to benefit from district-level hubs and demand-based training, enabling youth to tap into retail, logistics, and digital services with future-ready skills. Insights from the workshop will guide progressive policy shifts in India’s skilling ecosystem.

CMF by Nothing reveals 4 new products: CMF Phone 2 Pro, Buds 2, Buds 2 Plus and Buds 2a

Guwahati: Guwahati: CMF, the sub-brand of London-based technology company Nothing, has announced four new products – CMF Phone 2 Pro, Buds 2, Buds 2 Plus and Buds 2a. Nothing has continued its strong start to the year, with the Counterpoint Research Q1 2025 India Smartphone Shipment report naming it the fastest-growing smartphone brand in India this quarter, recording an impressive 156% year-on-year growth. This marks the fifth consecutive quarter that Nothing has maintained its position as the fastest-growing brand. With a best-in-segment three-camera system, a wonderfully bright



display, and a premium design, CMF Phone 2 Pro is the ultimate daily smartphone.

At just 7.8 mm thin and weighing only 185 g, it’s the slimmest and lightest smartphone Nothing has ever designed – 5% thinner than CMF Phone 1. Available in four colors: White, Black, Orange and Light Green, each featuring unique finishes and tex-

tures. As a special introductory offer on 5th May, CMF Phone 2 Pro will be available for as low as INR 16,999 for

the 8+128 GB variant and INR 18,999 for the 8+256 GB Variant (including all offers). CMF Buds 2a will be available at INR 2,199, CMF Buds 2 at INR 2,699, and CMF Buds 2 Plus at INR 3,299. The CMF Phone 2 Pro will go on sale via Flipkart, Flipkart Minutes, Vijay Sales, Croma, and all leading retail stores starting from May 5, 2025.

Bajaj Group eyes Allianz stake

Pune: The Bajaj Group has approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for approval to acquire Allianz SE’s 26 per cent stake in their joint life and general insurance ventures, according to a report by The Economic Times. The deal, valued at ₹24,180 crore, will be the largest transaction in India’s insurance industry to date.

With this acquisition, Bajaj Group’s shareholding in both Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company will increase to full ownership from 74 per cent.

Benelli, Keeway, Moto Vault open Lakhimpur showroom, strengthen presence in Northeast India

Lakhimpur: Benelli | Keeway | Moto Vault India has inaugurated a new exclusive showroom in Lakhimpur, marking the 67th outlet in its expanding network across India. Located at Ward no 14, NH 15, North Lakhimpur, this modern 3S facility is designed to provide comprehensive sales, service, and spare parts support for premium motorcycle enthusiasts in the region.

The showroom, launched in collaboration with A.R Motors and managed by Mr. Arif Ali Hazarika and Mr. Rizwan Ali Hazarika, displays an impressive range of motorcycles from Benelli, Keeway, Moto Morini, Zontes, and QJ Motor, spanning from 125cc to 650cc models. Prices range from

Rs. 1.20 Lakhs to Rs. 6.49 Lakhs, catering to various customer preferences, from retro scooters to adventure tourers.

The launch is expected to significantly boost Lakhimpur’s rising demand for premium bikes aligning with the brand’s goal of enhancing accessibility in northeastern India. The showroom provides an exclusive platform for motorcycle enthusiasts to experience world-class models and services, thereby reinforcing Lakhimpur as a growing hub for premium motorcycle culture.

The facility also offers attractive booking options, extended warranties, and 24x7 roadside assistance, ensuring a seamless ownership experience for all customers.

ED probes Apple, Xiaomi in Amazon, Flipkart case



Mumbai: India’s financial crime agency has privately sought sales data and other documents from smartphone players including Apple and Xiaomi as part of an investigation into Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The agency’s queries come in the backdrop of India and the United States nearing a trade deal. The protectionist e-commerce regulations in India have been part of those discussions, according to one Indian official, as US authorities have long called for opening up the sector.

India’s Enforcement Directorate agency, which probes economic crimes, has been investigating Amazon and Flipkart for years for allegedly breaching laws by stocking and exert-

ing control over goods they list online. Indian laws prohibit foreign e-commerce companies from doing so as the platforms can only operate a marketplace to connect buyers and sellers.

India’s small traders say such clandestine practices, along with steep online discounts, have disrupted businesses at mobile phone stores, but Amazon and Flipkart have maintained they comply with all Indian laws.

The directorate wrote in recent weeks to smartphone companies, including Apple and Xiaomi, to get data related to their online sales, according to three industry sources and one senior Indian government official, who all declined to be named as the investigation process is confidential.

Dia Mirza joins Tata Tea Jaago Re to inspire eco-friendly, impactful consumer choices

Guwahati: Bollywood actress and environmental advocate Dia Mirza has teamed up with Tata Tea Jaago Re for a campaign that highlights the power of small, sustainable actions in the fight against climate change. The initiative encourages individuals to adopt simple habits—like covering pots while cooking to save energy—which can collectively make a significant impact on the environment.

Mirza, known for her eco-conscious lifestyle,



shares in the campaign, “It’s all about those small shifts.” With the support of Tata Tea, she’s making sustainability accessible and empowering fans to take action through an AI-powered climate calculator on JaagoRe.com. By uploading photos of their green actions, users can track their CO2 savings, and for every 10 actions logged, a tree is planted in their name.

In Guwahati, there’s growing awareness around sustainability, with consum-

ers increasingly leaning towards eco-friendly choices. The city’s market is seeing a rise in demand for sustainable products and services, signaling a shift towards greener living. This aligns with Tata Tea’s efforts to foster a movement of collective environmental responsibility, providing residents with an easy way to contribute to climate action. As Mirza says, “Every small action counts,” and through Jaago Re, individuals are empowered to make a lasting difference.



Kohli stresses teamwork as Bengaluru leads IPL



Bengaluru: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) climbed to the top of the IPL 2025 standings after a six-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on April 27, 2025. The match showcased the importance of partnerships, with Virat Kohli and Krunal Pandya leading the charge. Chasing a target of 163, RCB faced early setbacks, losing three wickets for just 26 runs. However, Kohli (51 off 47 balls) and Pandya (73 not out off 47 balls) steadied the innings with a crucial 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Their calculated approach on a tricky, two-paced surface ensured RCB's dominance, as they achieved the target with nine balls to spare.

Kohli, reflecting on the match, emphasized the value of building partnerships in T20 cricket. "People are forgetting the importance of stitching partnerships or going deep into the innings," he said. "You can't just come out and tee off from ball one. You need professionalism to read the situation and dominate the bowlers through partnerships."

This was Kohli's sixth half-century of the season, taking his run tally to 443. Pandya's unbeaten knock, his first fifty since 2016, was equally instrumental in the win. Kohli praised Pandya's performance, highlighting their communication and teamwork during the chase.

Rawal, Rana help India hammer SL in opener



New Delhi: Opener Pratika Rawal struck a fine half-century after spinners Sneha Rana and debutant Shree Charani starred with the ball as a clinical India outclassed Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the rain-hit opening ODI of the women's tri-nation series here Sunday.

Opting to bowl, India bundled out Sri Lanka for 147 in a curtailed 39-over-a-side contest, with Rana (3/31) and Charani (2/26) sharing five wickets between them, while senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma (2/22) also chipped in. India chased down the

modest target in 29.4 overs, with Smriti Mandhana (43) providing a fluent start before Rawal (50 not out) and Harleen Deol (48 not out) took the visitors home without much fuss. India will next face South Africa on April 29.

Playing only her seventh ODI, Rawal, who had slammed a record-breaking 154 against Ireland earlier this year, continued her rich vein of form. The 24-year-old, who holds the record for most runs by any batter in their first six ODI innings, anchored the chase with maturity.

RECORD BLITZ

RR openers dominate GT with 166-run stand

Jaipur: In just his third IPL innings, 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryawanshi smashed a stunning 35-ball century as Rajasthan Royals thrashed Gujarat Titans by eight wickets on Monday.

It was the second fastest century in IPL history behind only Chris Gayle's 30-ball ton for RCB in 2013. RR openers Suryawanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal despatched the GT bowlers to all parts of the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur in their chase of 210. The duo brought up their 100-run stand in just 7.4 overs.

Suryawanshi was the more belligerent of the two, reaching his fifty in just 17 balls -- the fastest half century of the 2025 IPL season. His second fifty was only a tad slower, taking 18 balls.

Suryawanshi was especially severe on Afghan medium pacer Karim Janat who was smacked for 30 runs in his first ever over in the IPL.

That took him from 64 to 94 in the space of six balls. He then duly completed his ton with a six over deep mid-wicket off Rashid Khan. The carnage finally ended when he was castled by Prasidh Krishna for 101 off 38 balls after an opening partnership of 166 in 11.5 overs. Nitish Rana fell cheaply for four but Jaiswal and Riyan Parag then closed out the game with 4.1 overs to spare.

Jaiswal remained unbeaten on 70 off 40 balls while Parag played a blistering cameo of 32 not out off 15 balls.

For GT, Rashid was the only bowler who came out with his reputation intact, going for just 24 in his four overs, while taking a wicket. The victory snapped a five-match losing streak for RR. They are now eighth in the table with six points. GT are third with 12 points.

Earlier, Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler were on song as GT soared to 209/4.

Gill, Sudharsan's 93-run stand powers GT; Sudharsan falls for 39 to Parag off Theekshana. Gill, Buttler's 74-run stand powers GT to 167/2.



Arsenal vs PSG

UCL Semis Clash at Emirates



Dubai: Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain have met just three times in the Champions League and never in the knockout stage. One of those occasions was this season, when Arsenal won 2-0 at Emirates Stadium.

And it's at home that the Gunners play on Tuesday in the first leg, hoping to reproduce the exploits that saw them beat defending champions Real Madrid in both legs in the quarter-finals.

Their opponents, however, are aiming to eliminate an English opponent for the third straight round, after seeing off Liverpool and — less impressively — Aston Villa.

With its "galacticos" — Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Messi — long gone, PSG are bidding to win a first Champions League title by going with talented up-and-coming players instead.

Slot celebrates Klopp's legacy as Liverpool clinches PL title

Liverpool: Liverpool Football Club has triumphed in the Premier League, securing their 20th English league title under the leadership of Dutch manager Arne Slot. The Reds delivered a commanding 5-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on April 27, 2025, marking a remarkable debut season for Slot as manager.

Slot, who succeeded Jurgen Klopp last season, paid a heartfelt tribute to his predecessor during the post-match celebrations. Leading the Anfield crowd in a chant set to the tune of Opus's "Live Is Life," Slot acknowledged Klopp's contributions to the club's culture and success. Klopp, who guided Liverpool to



their first Premier League title in 2020, had left behind a legacy of hard work and excellence that Slot credited as instrumental in the team's current achievement.

The victory was a testament to Slot's ability to build upon Klopp's foundation while introducing his own tactical nuances. Slot emphasized control and disci-

pline in Liverpool's gameplay, blending it seamlessly with the attacking intensity that Klopp had instilled. Key players like Ryan Gravenberch and Mohamed Salah played pivotal roles in the team's success, showcasing exceptional performances throughout the season. Liverpool's triumph was celebrated as a historic moment.

