



## Govt conducts security drills amid Indo-Pakistan tensions

**New Delhi:** Following directions from the Centre, states and Union Territories are preparing for a civil defence security drill tomorrow. While the Centre's instructions to the states' chief secretaries do not mention the tensions with Pakistan, the timing of the order, amid heightened tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack, leaves no room for interpretation. The last such drill was conducted in the run-up to the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, in which the latter was defeated and Bangladesh was created.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs notification to the states, this drill will be held across the country's 244 Civil Defence districts. "The conduct of the exercise is planned up to the village level. This exercise aims to assess and enhance the readiness of Civil Defence mechanisms across all States and Union Territories," it says. According to the notification, the drill should see "active participation of the District Controller, various district authorities civil defence wardens/volunteers, Home Guard, etc.

## Supreme Court urges Punjab and Haryana to collaborate with Centre on SYL canal dispute

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has directed the governments of Punjab and Haryana to cooperate with the Centre in resolving the long-standing Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal dispute. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih emphasized the need for both states to work towards an amicable solution.

The Centre informed the court that it has already taken effective steps to mediate the issue. The bench stated that if the matter re-



mains unresolved, it will be heard again on August 13. The SYL canal was originally conceptualized to allocate water from the Ravi and Beas rivers efficiently.

The project involved constructing a 214-km canal, with 122 km in Punjab and 92 km in Haryana. While Haryana has completed its portion, Punjab halted

construction after launching the project in 1982.

The dispute has persisted for decades, with the Supreme Court ruling in favor of Haryana in 2002, directing Punjab to complete its portion of the canal. The Centre has urged both states to engage in meaningful discussions to reach a resolution.

The top court had on January 15, 2002, ruled in favour of Haryana in a suit filed by it in 1996 and directed the Punjab government to construct its portion of the SYL canal.

## SC dismisses woman's claim over Red Fort ownership

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India has dismissed a petition filed by Sultana Begum, who claimed to be the widow of the great-grandson of Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II, seeking possession of the Red Fort. The court ruled that the plea was misconceived and meritless, refusing to enter-

tain the petition against a previous Delhi High Court order. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar questioned the legitimacy of the claim, sarcastically asking why only the Red Fort was being claimed and not other historical sites like Fatehpur Sikri or Agra Fort. The court emphasized that

the petition was filed too late, as the alleged wrongful possession occurred over 150 years ago, following the 1857 revolt against British rule.

Begum had argued that her family was wrongfully deprived of the Red Fort after the British forcibly took possession of it, exiling Bahadur Shah Zafar

II. She claimed that the Government of India was an illegal occupant of the property and demanded either the ownership restoration or adequate compensation for the alleged unlawful occupation since 1857.

The Delhi High Court had previously dismissed her plea in December 2021, citing inordinate delay in

approaching the court. Begum later appealed, but the division bench rejected her challenge in December 2024, stating that the delay of over two-and-a-half years could not be condoned. Despite her legal team arguing that the delay was due to health issues and the passing of her daughter.

### Quick bites

#### Pak hackers target Indian military sites

A group of hackers called the 'Pakistan cyber force' on Monday attempted to gain access to sensitive data from four Indian military-related websites.

#### BJP accuses Congress of betrayal

**New Delhi:** BJP has launched a sharp attack on the Congress and its allies, accusing them of acting as a "fifth column"

## India expands reservoirs after suspending Pakistan water treaty to increase capacity

### India expands reservoirs after Indus treaty suspension

**New Delhi:** India has initiated efforts to expand its reservoir holding capacity following its decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan. The move comes amid heightened tensions between the two countries, particularly after a terror attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in 26 casualties.

Authorities carried out reservoir flushing operations at the Salal and Baglihar dams in Jammu and Kashmir from May 1 to May 3, marking the first such activity since the construction of these dams in 1987 and 2008/09, respectively. The flushing process, conducted by NHPC Ltd, aimed to remove sediment buildup and enhance water storage capabilities.

The decision to suspend the treaty means India is no longer obligated to in-



form Pakistan about reservoir maintenance and water-related activities. While the immediate impact on Pakistan's water supply is limited, experts believe future projects under India's new approach could affect irrigation and hydropower generation in the neighboring country.

Pakistan has condemned India's move, calling it a violation of established agreements. Officials in Islamabad warned that any

attempt by India to divert water from the Indus River system would be considered an act of war and have threatened international legal action against the decision. Signed in 1960, the Indus Waters Treaty has governed water-sharing between the two nations for decades, allowing India control over the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers, while Pakistan relies on the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers.

## Priyanka Gandhi welcomes Centre's caste census plan

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has welcomed the Centre's recent announcement to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census exercise. Speaking during her two-day visit to Wayanad, Kerala, she emphasized that the decision was a result of strong public demand and continuous advocacy by those supporting the cause.

Gandhi credited her brother, Rahul Gandhi, for championing the issue, stating that he had persistently pushed for a caste census despite opposition from the BJP. She recalled how he was ridiculed in Parliament for standing firm on the matter but remained committed to ensuring social justice.

Expressing optimism, Priyanka Gandhi urged the government to conduct the caste survey transparently, ensuring accurate



data collection. She highlighted the importance of the exercise in addressing inequalities and providing a clearer picture of social representation across different communities. The announcement marks a significant shift in policy, as caste enumeration has been a contentious issue in Indian politics. While some states have conducted caste-based surveys, a nationwide caste census has been a long-standing demand from various political and social groups.

With the Centre now committing to the process, the focus will be on implementation, ensuring that the data collected contributes to policy-making and equitable resource distribution.

#### UNSC to hold closed talks on Indo-Pak tensions

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is set to hold closed-door consultations on Monday to discuss the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

#### Assam arrests 42 over Pakistan defense

**Guwahati:** Assam authorities have arrested 42 individuals across multiple districts for allegedly defending Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

#### ED arrests ex-Haryana MLA

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Dharam Singh Chhoker, a former Haryana Congress MLA, from a five-star hotel in Delhi following a brief scuffle.



## Assam professor booked for harassment



**Guwahati:** A group of students from the Department of Social Work at Assam University on Sunday filed a formal First Information Report (FIR) with the Assam University Police Outpost, leveling serious allegations against an Assistant Professor of the University, Ajit Kumar Jena.

Sources indicate the complaint details accusations of sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, defamation, and mental harassment, citing repeated misconduct and abuse of power.

According to the students' complaint, Jena allegedly exploited his authority during academic meetings to manipulate, threaten, and make sexually explicit and defamatory remarks targeting both students and faculty members. The complaint accuses the professor of coercing students into isolated meetings and using sexually abusive language.

## Tripura to solarize govt buildings, 13K families join PM solar scheme

**Agartala:** The Tripura government has announced plans to bring all government buildings under solar power as part of its push for renewable energy. Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath made the announcement on Sunday, highlighting the growing adoption of solar energy in the state.

Addressing the media, Nath said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which aims to promote household solar installations. "So far, 13,536 families have registered online for solar power under the scheme," he said, noting a surge in interest among residents.

"For the first time, 70 con-



sumers who installed solar systems in their homes received Rs 30,902 each under the scheme," Nath added. He also revealed that 266 households have already installed solar panels, while 184 have received government subsidies. However, many eligible families are yet to apply for the BNsubsidy. In total, 95 families have secured loans amounting to Rs 1.75 crore, and 70 consumers are now receiving zero electricity bills.

## Kaziranga jeep safari to close from May 19 due to monsoon and bad road conditions

**Kaziranga safari closed indefinitely for visitor and wildlife safety**

**Guwahati:** Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve in Assam will indefinitely suspend its jeep safari services from May 19 due to concerns over heavy monsoon rainfall and deteriorating road conditions. Officials from the Forest Department have confirmed the decision, citing visitor safety as the primary reason for the closure.



Kaziranga, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the world-famous one-horned rhinoceros and attracts thousands of tourists annually. However, the arrival of monsoon season often leads to flooding, making safari routes treacherous for vehicles. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) an-

nounced the closure via an official statement, emphasizing the importance of protecting both visitors and wildlife. The park authorities added that the closure would remain in effect until further notice, with updates provided as the situation develops. Local businesses dependent on Kaziranga's

tourism industry are bracing for the seasonal dip in visitors. Hotels, tour operators, and guides expect a slowdown, but they remain hopeful that safari services will resume later in the year. Historically, Kaziranga shuts down between mid-May and October due to extreme weather conditions.

## Mizoram health minister joins AYUSH conclave in Pune

**AYUSH Policy 2025, new guidelines set to improve healthcare delivery**

**Aizawl:** Mizoram Health Minister Lalrinpuii took part in the two-day National AYUSH Mission Conclave, 2025, held in Lonavala, Pune. The Ministry of AYUSH commended her participation and recognised Mizoram as one of the best-performing states under the mission.

In her address, Lalrinpuii outlined the state's key initiatives and achievements

under the National AYUSH Mission. She thanked the Ministry of AYUSH for its continuous support and assured that Mizoram would continue striving to enhance its healthcare services. She added that the collaboration enables the state to significantly contribute to the national goal of a "Viksit Bharat." Dr. S. Mara Thansiami, Deputy Director of AYUSH, gave a

presentation on 'Best Practices on Financial Management, Monitoring and Evaluation for Successful Outcome of the Scheme,' highlighting Mizoram's effective strategies.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, who served as the Chief Guest, lauded Mizoram's

efforts and stated that the state's progress shows how even remote regions can deliver quality healthcare. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, also acknowledged the impact of the mission in Mizoram, particularly in improving geriatric care and increasing access to medicines and health services in underserved areas.

## Football coach arrested for assault



**Guwahati:** Manipur Police on Sunday afternoon arrested a 45-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting trainees at the Mangal Football Academy at Khabam Lamkhai in Imphal East district.

The arrested individual, identified as Nongthombam Mangalsana Meetei (45), a resident of Kontha Khabam Maning Leikai under the Heingang police station in the same district, operates the Mangal Football Academy at his residence.

One of the inmates reportedly told his parents about the alleged sexual assault by the academy's founder, leading him to refuse to continue at the football academy. "When I visited my son, he said he didn't want to stay at the academy anymore. Later, he told me everything," the guardian said. "As guardians, we demand that the authorities shut down the academy."

According to a complaint lodged by the parents with the police, the football academy has 11 male students at the Achanbigei ground.

## President Droupadi Murmu virtually opens Sevic Senior Citizens Home in Nagaland

**Sevic Senior Citizens Home virtual launch boosts senior care nationwide**

**Kohima:** President Droupadi Murmu virtually inaugurated the Sevic Senior Citizens Home in Wokha, Nagaland, on May 2, 2025, during a multi-state ceremony held from New Delhi. The inauguration was part of a nationwide initiative launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, covering five states including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

The event also marked the launch of the Senior Citizen Welfare Portal, aimed at providing senior citizens with easier access to various welfare schemes and services. Alongside the portal, five Old Age Homes were virtually inaugurated across the par-



ticipating states, reflecting the government's focus on strengthening elderly care infrastructure nationwide. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the Ministry and Brahma Kumaris to promote collaborative programmes focusing on moral support, well-being, and social engagement for senior citizens. President

Murmu also distributed Assisted Living Devices under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana to support mobility and daily activities of elderly individuals, thereby improving their quality of life.

The programme began with a welcome address by Amit Yadav, Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

## Tripura strives to be an education hub, says CM

**Agartala:** Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha reaffirmed his government's commitment to transforming the state into an education hub, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering youth through education and skill development. Speaking at a public event, Dr. Saha highlighted recent progress, stating, "Yesterday, we gave placement to 228 individuals through TET. Our efforts are focused on building infrastructure and promoting a modern education system in Tripura."

The Chief Minister added that continuous investments in education infrastructure and human resource development are paving the way for a brighter academic future for the



state. "This trend will continue in the coming days," he assured.

Earlier, Manik Saha said that the unemployment rate in the state has significantly decreased. He said that the current government of the state is working to ensure employment opportunities along with jobs, and through the transparent recruitment policy, the government has provided jobs to 17,554 people till March 2025. In 2025 alone, 3,554 people have been given government job appointment letters till today. Dr. Saha, who is also the Education Minister of the state.



## Toyota Kirloskar's road safety initiatives positively impact over 10 lakh Indians

**Bangalore:** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is making significant strides in promoting road safety across India, reaching over 10 lakh individuals with its innovative programs. The company's flagship initiative, the Toyota Safety Education Program (TSEP), has been educating school children in classes 5 to 9 on road

safety since 2007. Through engaging formats such as skits and poster-making, TSEP has impacted over 9.3 lakh students, creating a ripple effect as young ambassadors promote safe practices in their communities. Adding to its efforts, the Toyota Hackathon invites students from 7th to 12th grade to innovate and

solve real-world traffic safety issues. The program has seen the creation of over 350 impactful solutions across cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore. With a vision of zero road fatalities, TKM has also introduced Traffic Parks and surveillance systems in regions like Mizoram, benefiting over 4 lakh users.

## Nissan's 99,000+ sales mark in FY25: New Magnite leads the charge in India and beyond

**Gurugram:** Nissan Motor India has achieved a remarkable 99,000+ unit sales in FY2024-25, the highest in seven years. This milestone was driven by the stellar performance of the New Nissan Magnite, which has captured the imagination of consumers both domestically and internationally. The company recorded 28,000+ units sold in India and 71,000+ exports across 65+ markets under its "One Car, One World" strategy. The new Magnite, launched in October 2024, continues to

win hearts with its bold design, advanced features, and fuel efficiency, positioning it as a top choice in the B-SUV segment. Nissan has also announced exciting plans to introduce a 7-seater B-MPV in FY25 and a 5-seater C-SUV in FY26, as part of its long-term vision for the Indian market. Despite a planned 3% price increase in April 2025, Nissan's strategy to offer cutting-edge features at competitive prices has positioned the Magnite as a strong contender in the competitive Indian auto market.

## NSDC International partners with Takamol Holding to drive workforce transformation in Saudi Arabia

**Guwahati:** In a landmark development for global workforce transformation, NSDC International (NSDCI) has signed a strategic partnership with Takamol Holding to launch the Skill Accelerator Program, a flagship initiative aimed at enhancing workforce readiness in Saudi Arabia. This collaboration aligns with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which seeks to build

a future-ready workforce to meet the demands of rapidly evolving industries. Under the partnership, NSDCI will leverage its expertise in workforce analytics, sectoral skilling strategies, and curriculum development to address skill gaps across various sectors in Saudi Arabia. The Skill Accelerator Program will focus on creating dynamic skilling solutions and delivering them

through innovative models. Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC, and Mr. Alok Kumar, CEO of NSDCI, expressed confidence in the partnership's potential to contribute significantly to Saudi Arabia's human capital development. Takamol's Project Director, Ms. Hessah Alobaid, noted that the collaboration would provide a robust technical framework to achieve the Kingdom's

workforce transformation goals. In Guwahati, such international collaborations offer immense opportunities for local industries to adopt advanced skilling frameworks. As global standards in workforce development evolve, Guwahati's growing sectoral needs can benefit from similar strategic partnerships, ensuring competitive growth in both local and international markets.

## CMF Phone 2 Pro to hit Indian market on May 5, starting at Rs 16,999

**Guwahati:** CMF, the sub-brand of Nothing, has officially announced that the highly anticipated CMF Phone 2 Pro will be available for sale in India starting May 5, 2025, at 12 noon. The device will be available across Flipkart, Flipkart Minutes, Vijay Sales, Croma, and leading retail stores. In an exciting launch offer, customers can get the CMF Phone 2 Pro for as low as ₹16,999 (including all applicable offers) on Day 1.

Launched globally on April 28, 2025, the CMF Phone 2 Pro boasts an advanced three-camera system, including a 50 MP main camera with the largest sensor in its segment, offering 64% more light than its predecessor. It also features a 50 MP telephoto lens with 2x optical zoom, a 16 MP front

camera for selfies, and a 8 MP ultra-wide camera. Powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Pro 5G processor, the phone promises faster speeds and improved graphics compared to its predecessor. The device will be available in four colours—White, Black, Orange, and Light Green—with two variants: 8+128 GB for ₹17,999 and 8+256 GB for ₹19,999. In Guwahati, the CMF Phone 2 Pro is expected to see strong demand, particularly given its competitive pricing and advanced features. Local retailers are excited about the launch, anticipating high sales volumes, especially with the added bank and exchange offers. The market's growing interest in premium yet affordable smartphones positions the CMF Phone 2 Pro as a top contender in the region.

## HDFC Flexi Cap Fund delivers Rs 1.84 cr from Rs 1 lakh, demonstrates resilience across market cycles

**Guwahati:** HDFC Flexi Cap Fund, an open-ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks, has emerged as a standout performer in the mutual fund space. Since its inception on January 1, 1995, the fund has delivered a stellar CAGR of 18.82% as of March 31, 2025. A lump sum investment of ₹1 lakh at inception would have grown to approximately ₹1.84 crore, significantly outperforming its benchmark NIFTY 500 TRI by ₹1.51 crore. Additionally, a monthly SIP of ₹10,000 since inception, amounting to ₹36.20 lakh, would now be worth approximately ₹20.24 crore. The fund follows a robust bottom-up stock selection

strategy focused on quality companies with strong fundamentals and long-term growth potential, guided by a structured risk management framework built on compliance, research, portfolio construction, and diversification. In Guwahati, the fund is gaining traction among retail investors, particularly first-time equity participants. Local financial advisors report increased interest in SIPs driven by the fund's long-term performance and wealth creation potential.

Mr. Navneet Munot, MD & CEO, HDFC AMC, commented: "HDFC Flexi Cap Fund's journey over the past three decades is a testament to our disciplined investment philosophy and unwavering commitment to

investor wealth creation. The Fund has navigated various market cycles and emerged stronger each time, reflecting the resilience of our investment processes. The fund performance reinforces our focus on delivering long-term value to our investors." Ms. Roshi Jain, Senior Fund Manager, HDFC AMC, added: "We take great pride in helping investors create wealth through this Fund. Our consistent focus on identifying high-quality businesses with sustainable growth drivers has enabled us to create wealth for our investors. With HDFC Flexi Cap Fund, we remain committed to our goal of delivering better risk-adjusted returns through a balanced and diversified approach."

## Gold futures surge to ₹96,262 per 10g



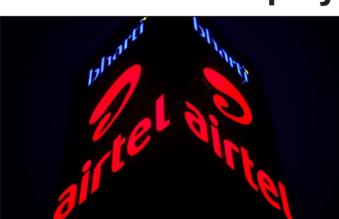
**New Delhi:** Gold prices in India's futures market saw a sharp rise on Tuesday, May 6, with gold futures jumping ₹1,613 to ₹96,262 per 10 grams. The surge was driven by strong spot demand and fresh buying by investors, according to analysts.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June delivery traded higher by ₹1,613 or 1.7%, with a business turnover of 15,004 lots. Market experts attributed the price increase to new positions built by traders, reflecting positive sentiment in the bullion market.

Globally, gold futures also saw an uptick, rising 0.89% to \$3,363.86 per ounce in New York trading. The international price movement further supported the bullish trend in India's gold futures market.

## Airtel unveils 'Business Name Display' for enterprises

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel's B2B arm, Airtel Business, has launched an industry-first solution called Business Name Display (BND), designed to enhance customer engagement for enterprises. This service allows businesses to display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls, helping customers



distinguish legitimate business calls from spam. - The solution was tested with over 250 businesses across various sectors, in-

cluding banking, retail, food delivery, mobility, quick commerce, courier, and logistics. These businesses used 1.5 million+ phone numbers to make 12.8 million calls in the last 30 days, leading to a significant increase in customer engagement. Airtel had previously launched an AI-driven spam detection solution.

## AirAsia rolls out auto visa check for smoother travel experience

**Guwahati:** AirAsia has unveiled its new Auto Visa Check (AVC) feature on the AirAsia MOVE app and airasia.com, enhancing the international travel experience with a seamless, tech-enabled check-in process. This strategic move is set to streamline visa verification for passengers flying to destinations requiring visas or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). AVC enables travellers to verify their visas in real time during online check-in—available from 14 days up to one hour before departure. Guests can scan the visa sticker on their passport or upload their e-visa, receiving their e-boarding pass instantly upon verification. This eliminates the need for manual checks at airport counters, cutting wait times and easing congestion. The feature is currently applicable to multiple-entry visas, while passengers with single or double-entry visas will still need to check in manually. Hand-carry travellers can head directly to the gate, while those with checked baggage can print bag tags at kiosks and drop them at dedicated counters. In Guwahati, a key gateway for Northeast India's international travellers, the AVC feature is expected to boost demand for AirAsia's global routes. Local travel operators foresee higher interest among business and leisure flyers seeking faster, hassle-free international travel from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.



# Sacred Buddha relics arrive in Vietnam; Asian devotees anticipate the historic exhibition

**Guwahati:** The sacred relics of Lord Buddha have arrived in Vietnam to mark the UN Vesak Day celebrations, offering millions of devotees a rare opportunity to pay their respects. The relics, originally housed in a vihara in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, were flown in on a special Indian Air Force aircraft and will be displayed across multiple venues from May 2 to May 21, 2025. The delegation leading the sacred journey was headed



by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, and included Shri Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Tourism, Culture & Cinematography of Andhra Pradesh. Minister Rijiju

shared his reflections on social media, emphasizing the spiritual significance of the occasion, stating, "Humbled to lead the delegation carrying the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha to Vietnam." The relics will be displayed at prominent locations including Han Tam Pagoda in Ho Chi Minh City, Ba Den Mountain, Quan Su Pagoda, and Tam Chuc Pagoda in Ha Nam Province, drawing millions of visitors and devotees.

# Nissan's 99,000+ sales mark in FY25: New Magnite leads the charge in India and beyond

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with its bold design, advanced features, and fuel efficiency, positioning it as a top choice in the B-SUV segment. Nissan has also announced exciting plans to introduce a 7-seater B-MPV in FY25 and a 5-seater C-SUV in FY26, as part of its long-term vision for the Indian market. Despite a planned 3% price increase in April 2025, Nissan's strategy to offer cutting-edge features at competitive prices has positioned the Magnite as a strong contender in the competitive Indian auto market.

# TCS grants full QVA to majority



**Mumbai:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has stated that it has paid 100 per cent quarterly variable allowance to more than 70 per cent of employees of the company in response to reports that it had allegedly slashed pay of its senior employees.

Earlier, reports said that TCS slashed variable pay for its senior employees for the third quarter in a row. However, responding to the news, TCS called the claims "incorrect" and said that while 70 per cent employees did get quarterly allowance, the pay of the rest depends on the business performance of their respective units as per company standards.

"We have paid out 100 per cent QVA (quarterly variable allowance) to over 70 per cent of the company. For all other grades, the QVA depends on their unit's business performance. This is in line with our standard practice across quarters," TCS said in a statement.

In its latest quarter, TCS said it was deferring salary hikes for employees starting April, citing growing macroeconomic uncertainty. "We will decide during the year when to make the wage hike," said Milind Lakkad, Chief HR Officer.

# DSP Mutual Fund unveils Silver ETF Fund of Fund, offers easy access to silver investment

**Guwahati:** DSP Mutual Fund has launched the DSP Silver ETF Fund of Fund, an open-ended scheme that provides investors with a convenient way to gain exposure to silver. This Fund of Fund primarily invests in DSP Silver ETF units, offering returns closely tied to the performance of physical silver in the domestic market. As silver's demand surges across industries such as electronics, automotive, and jewelry, the metal's value is set to rise, particularly

in light of the global shift toward renewable energy and emerging technologies like solar panels, electric vehicles (EVs), and 5G networks. The supply of silver has been constrained in recent years, with the global supply deficit expected to exceed 20% of annual demand in 2025. In addition, currency depreciation offers Indian investors an advantage, as silver is priced in USD but traded in INR, often leading to higher returns. "The DSP Silver ETF Fund of Fund simplifies

silver investment without requiring a demat account, providing investors the flexibility of SIPs and no lock-in period," said Diipesh Shah, Fund Manager. In Guwahati, where there is strong demand for precious metals, the introduction of this ETF is seen as a strategic move to diversify investment options. With growing interest in silver as a commodity, the DSP Silver ETF Fund of Fund offers a streamlined way for local investors to tap into the potential of silver.

# GCPL champions inclusive workforce with 'Hands That Speak' film, inspires industry shift

**Guwahati:** Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) has launched a powerful digital film titled 'Hands That Speak' to commemorate International Labour Day, spotlighting its commitment to workforce diversity and inclusivity. Set in its newly launched greenfield manufacturing facility in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, the film features employees with hearing and speech disabilities narrating their stories through Indian Sign Language (ISL), with subtitles for wider accessibility. Sandhya Ramesh, General Manager - Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), said, "GCPL's Chengalpattu factory's commitment to respect and fairness, inspires meaningful change – both in the workplace and beyond. 'Hands That Speak' is a celebration of the incredible contributions of people with disabilities in our workforce.



On Labour Day, we honour not just the work, but the spirit and individuality behind it. We hope this film sparks conversations and action across industries to make employment more accessible and equitable." 'Hands That Speak' is part of GCPL's ongoing efforts to champion equity in employment, highlight the power of silent strength, and inspire organizations to build a more inclusive labour force. GCPL's newly launched Chengalpattu plant in Tamil Nadu stands as a testament to Godrej Consumer Products' unwavering commitment to shaping the future of manufacturing, where innovation,

sustainability, and inclusivity seamlessly converge. Along with 50% women employees, the plant has 5% representation from people with disabilities (PWD) and LGBTQIA+ communities. By breaking structural and social barriers, GCPL aims to enable more individuals, especially those with locomotor, speech, or hearing impairments, to contribute fully and proudly to the workforce. In Guwahati, GCPL's move is being hailed as a potential catalyst for change. With Northeast India witnessing growing FMCG operations, stakeholders in Guwahati see this as a benchmark for inclusive employment models, especially for local units looking to align with national DEI standards.

# India questions foreign grip on tobacco policy ahead of COP11

**Mumbai:** As India gears up for the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) COP11, questions around foreign influence in health policymaking are taking center stage. Industry observers and public health advocates warn that the FCTC process is being increasingly shaped by global NGOs with private philanthropic backing, sidelining evidence-based policymaking and local realities. India bears one of the world's heaviest tobacco burdens, with over 300 million users and more than 1.35 million deaths annually. While global frameworks push for prohibitionist measures — even on emerging harm-reduction alternatives — they often overlook high-risk products like bidis and smokeless tobacco, widely consumed across India. Critics argue that this creates a regulatory mismatch, undermining effective harm mitigation. Jeffrey Smith, Resident Senior Fellow at Integrated Harm Reduction, said, "The only known fact is that the existing tobacco policies fall far short of meeting the goal of cessation. Without novel policies that provide options for those who use tobacco products to switch, it is unlikely that India will reduce the health consequences of tobacco use at the population level."

# Toyota Kirloskar Motor unveils exclusive edition of Innova HyCross with enhanced features

**Bangalore:** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has announced the launch of the Exclusive Edition of the Innova HyCross, now available in the ZX(O) grade at an ex-showroom price of Rs. 32,58,000/-. This new edition, available for a limited time from May to July 2025, brings a refreshed design with dual-tone accents in Super White and Pearl White. The vehicle's exterior features sleek black elements on the roof, front grille, alloy wheels, and rear garnish, while the interior boasts a dual-tone instrument pan-

el and advanced comfort features like an air purifier, wireless charger, and improved seat materials. Since its debut, the Innova HyCross has become a standout choice in the premium MPV segment, offering the strength of an SUV combined with the space and comfort of an MPV. Powered by Toyota's 5th generation hybrid technology, the vehicle delivers excellent fuel efficiency and performance, making it a great choice for those looking for sustainability without compromising on luxury.



## Avani Institute of Design extends reach to Northeast India with Avani Reach Program

**Mumbai:** Avani Institute of Design, Kerala, is pleased to announce the expansion of its outreach to Northeast India through the launch of its Avani Reach Program. The program, aimed at high school and higher secondary students with an interest in design, architecture, and visual arts, will be introduced in multiple Northeastern cities, including Kohima, in 2025. This initiative follows Mumbai: Avani Institute of Design, Kerala, is pleased to announce the expansion of its outreach to Northeast India through the launch of its Avani Reach



Program. The program, aimed at high school and higher secondary students with an interest in design, architecture, and visual arts, will be introduced in multiple Northeastern cities, including Kohima, in 2025. This initiative follows successful programs in

cities such as Bangalore, Trivandrum, Coimbatore, and Dubai, reflecting the Institute's growing commitment to nurturing young talent across India. In line with this, Avani Institute has also opened admissions for its prestigious five-year Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) program for the 2025–26 academic year. The B.Arch curriculum combines theoretical learning, practical studio work, environmental studies, and interdisciplinary approaches, preparing students to tackle contemporary challenges in architecture and design.

## Medanta taps Guwahati market with vascular care push to curb diabetic amputations

**Guwahati:** Medanta, one of India's leading multi-specialty hospitals, has ramped up its health-care outreach in Northeast India with a strong focus on vascular health to combat diabetic foot complications and varicose vein issues. At a press conference in Guwahati, Dr. Rajiv Parakh, Chairman of Peripheral Vascular and Endovascular Sciences at Medanta Gurugram, highlighted the urgent need for early diagnosis and advanced interventions to prevent amputations and manage chronic leg conditions. With over 5.5% of Assam's population affected by Type 2 diabetes (ICMR), Medanta aims to address a critical gap in specialized vascular care. The region's sedentary lifestyle and limited

access to treatment have worsened vascular disease outcomes. Dr. Parakh showcased cutting-edge treatments like endovenous laser ablation (EVLA), radiofrequency ablation (RFA), Glue therapy, and motorized techniques for blocked arteries. In Guwahati, rising demand for high-quality specialty care has prompted Medanta to expand services through its new OPD at Sunvalley Hospital, GS Road. As the city's diabetic population grows, the move positions Medanta to cater to a significant and underserved market. Dr. Parakh emphasized that comprehensive vascular assessments and lifestyle modifications can drastically reduce the risk of amputation. For appointments, call 7638826770.

## India takes center stage at TiEcon 2025, showcases AI and skilling innovation

**Guwahati:** At TiEcon 2025, India presented its growing prowess in AI and skill development, with the government spotlighting initiatives aimed at nurturing over 1 million entrepreneurs. Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, delivered a recorded message emphasizing the success of programs like Startup India, Skill India, and Atal Innovation Mission. These programs aim to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. The conference, held at the Santa Clara Convention Center in California, focused on AI's disruptive potential. A high-level Indian delegation, including leaders in deep-tech, healthcare, and AI, highlighted India's growing role as a global innovation partner. Minister Chaudhary noted, "India is at a powerful inflection



point where innovation, enterprise, and skills are converging to shape a new global narrative." In Guwahati, local entrepreneurs are tapping into these national initiatives to build AI-driven solutions. The market is increasingly adopting digital platforms like Skill India Digital Hub, which allows entrepreneurs in Guwahati to access cutting-edge train-

ing programs and equip themselves with the skills required to thrive in emerging technologies. These advancements are not only boosting local businesses but also positioning Guwahati as a rising tech hub. Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC, also discussed the critical role of skilling in preparing India's youth for AI and future-ready industries.

## Bharti Airtel stock surges 13% in a month

**New Delhi:** Shares of Bharti Airtel hit a new high of Rs 1,912, gaining 2.5 per cent on the BSE in Tuesday's intra-day trade in an otherwise subdued market on expectations of healthy earnings.

The stock price of telecom services provider surpassed its previous high of Rs 1,904.20 touched on April 21, 2025. In comparison, the BSE Sensex was down 0.2 per cent at 80,636 at 02:13 pm.

In the past one month, Bharti Airtel has outperformed the market by surging 13 per cent, as compared to 10 per cent rally in the BSE Sensex. Thus far in the current calendar year 2025, the stock has rallied 19 per cent, as against 2.7 per cent rise in the benchmark index.

The board of directors of Bharti Airtel are scheduled to meet on May 13, 2025.

## Aviva Life Insurance crowned India's most trusted private insurer for 7th year



**Guwahati:** Aviva Life Insurance has once again secured the top position as India's Most Trusted Private Life Insurance Brand for the seventh consecutive year, as per the TRA Brand Trust Report 2025. The recognition highlights Aviva's strong consumer confidence and industry leadership, reinforced by a 100% claim settlement within 30 days in FY 2023-24. Aviva continues to expand its product portfolio with offerings like guaranteed savings plans, term plans, investment options, and retirement solutions. The recent launch of the Aviva Signature 3D Term Plan – Platinum—a non-linked, non-participating pure risk life insurance plan—also includes a Preventive Wellness Package,

aimed at promoting proactive health and financial security. Vinit Kapahi, Chief Marketing Officer, Aviva Life Insurance, said, "We aim to redefine life insurance by focusing on prevention, wellness, and holistic well-being. This recognition validates our approach." In Guwahati, insurance advisors report a growing demand for reliable insurers offering health-focused coverage. Aviva's consistent performance and new wellness offerings have made it a preferred choice in Assam's expanding insurance market. TRA Research CEO N. Chandramouli noted, "Aviva's continued recognition is a testament to the trust it has built with customers across India through consistent, reliable service."

## Nissan's Magnite powers record FY25 sales, strengthens commitment to India

**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India has achieved a landmark performance in FY2024-25, registering over 99,000 units in consolidated sales, marking its highest in seven years. This includes a 35% year-on-year growth, with 28,000+ units sold domestically and a record 71,000+ units exported globally. The success of

the New Nissan Magnite, launched in October 2024, has been a key driver, with the company expanding its export operations from 20 to 65 international markets under its 'One Car, One World' strategy. In Guwahati, the Magnite has gained significant traction, with local dealerships reporting a surge in bookings. The vehicle's affordability,

modern design, and segment-first features have made it particularly appealing to younger consumers seeking value-driven options in the B-SUV segment. Guwahati's growing middle class is increasingly drawn to the Magnite's fuel efficiency and competitive pricing, which align with the city's evolving automotive trends. Nissan's restructur-

ing efforts include offloading its stake in the Chennai JV plant as part of a global turnaround strategy. The company's product pipeline remains robust, with plans to introduce a 7-seater B-MPV in FY25 and a 5-seater C-SUV in FY26. A price hike of up to 3% for the Magnite will take effect in April 2025, addressing rising input costs.



## King of Bollywood Shah Rukh Khan says 'Jeene Ke Liye Dost, Zaroori Hai Fantasy'

**Guwahati:** Sunfeast Dark Fantasy has launched its latest brand initiative, 'Fantasy Zaroori Hai', at the heart of which lies a stirring Hindi poem, rendered in the form of a film, that beautifully explores the many dimensions of fantasy — what it is, where it can exist, how it manifests and why it is essential in our lives. Penned by National Award-winning Lyricist and Playback Singer Swanand Kirkire and recited by Bollywood Baadshah Shah Rukh Khan, the poem takes listeners on a whimsical and reflective journey from the routine of everyday life to the limitless possibilities of fantasy. True to its brand proposition "Har Dil Ki Fantasy", Sunfeast Dark Fantasy continues to celebrate the infinite ways in which people imagine, escape, and express — in moments both big and small. Ali Haris Shere, Chief Operating Officer, Biscuits and Cakes Cluster, Foods Division,



ITC Ltd., said, "With 'Fantasy Zaroori Hai', we at Dark Fantasy, are inviting people to break free from their daily routines and rediscover the transformative touch of fantasy in their lives." Shah Rukh Khan, lending both his voice and presence to the film, shared, "Fantasy Zaroori Hai' speaks to that power — the imagination that drives us forward." Suchitra Gahlot, National Creative Director, FCB Ulka, commented, "Fantasy Zaroori Hai' isn't just

about creating a brand campaign — it's about igniting a conversation around the magic of fantasies." With Fantasy Zaroori Hai, Sunfeast Dark Fantasy deepens its close association with Shah Rukh Khan, and delivers a powerful message to people across India. TVC Link: <https://youtu.be/p61Pf9F0u3M?feature=shared>. Instagram Post: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJRTByVh-QBX/?igsh=ZjV6ZTFuOX-drXoz>.

## Bank of Baroda Q4 profit rises 3% to ₹5,048 crore

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) reported a 3% year-on-year increase in its net profit for the fourth quarter of FY25, reaching ₹5,048 crore, compared to ₹4,886 crore in the same period last year.

During the quarter, the bank's total income rose to ₹35,852 crore, up from ₹33,775 crore a year ago. However, net interest income (NII) declined 6.6% to ₹11,020 crore, compared to ₹11,793 crore in Q4FY24.

On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) moderated to 2.26%, down from 2.92% in March 2024. Similarly, net NPAs fell to 0.58%, compared to 0.68% a year ago. For the entire financial year 2024-25, BoB reported a 10% increase in profit, reaching ₹19,581 crore, compared to ₹17,789 crore in the previous year. The bank's total income for



the year rose to ₹1,38,089 crore, up from ₹1,27,101 crore in FY24. The bank's board has recommended a dividend of ₹8.35 per equity share for FY25, subject to shareholder approval.

Net interest income (NII), a key revenue source, for the reporting quarter fell 6.6 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹11,020 crore. The lender's net interest margin (NIM) — the difference between interest received and interest paid — from domestic operations in Q4FY25 fell to 2.86 per cent, down from 3.27 per cent in the same period the previous year.

Other income, comprising fees, commission, and treasury earnings, expanded by 24.3 per cent to ₹5,210 crore in Q4FY25 from ₹4,191 crore in Q4FY24.

## Sebi considers colocation for commodity exchanges



**Mumbai:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reportedly evaluating the introduction of colocation services for commodity exchanges, a move that could significantly improve trade execution speed and market efficiency.

Currently, colocation — where traders place their servers near exchange servers for low-latency trading — is permitted in equity derivatives markets but remains restricted in commodity derivatives. Experts argue that extending colocation to commodities could enhance price discovery, liquidity, and trading efficiency.

Commodity derivatives play a crucial role in risk management for sectors such as agriculture, energy, and metals. Market participants believe that allowing colocation would encourage greater participation, improve hedging mechanisms, and strengthen India's commodity trading ecosystem.

SEBI's Master Circular for the Commodity Derivatives Segment, issued in August 2023, explicitly prohibits colocation or any arrangement that provides preferential access. However, given the success of colocation in equity derivatives, industry experts are urging SEBI to reassess its stance.

## Rising demand for anti-ageing superfoods boosts nutritional market

**Guwahati:** As concerns around skin ageing grow due to increasing environmental stressors like pollution, UV exposure, and humidity, consumer interest in anti-ageing superfoods is surging. Health experts now highlight nutrition as the first line of defence against wrinkles, sagging, and dull skin. Skin expert Dr Geetika Mittal recommends five powerhouse foods that support youthful skin from within: almonds, salmon, sweet potatoes, citrus fruits, and yoghurt. Almonds, rich in vitamin E, protect against sun damage and improve skin tone. Omega-3-rich salmon boosts hydration and collagen production, while sweet potatoes offer vitamins A, C, and E to combat free radicals. Citrus fruits aid collagen synthesis with vitamin C, and yoghurt supports skin renewal through lactic acid and B vitamins. In Guwahati, this health trend is reflect-



ing strongly in local consumer behaviour. Retailers report a noticeable rise in demand for skin-friendly foods, particularly organic almonds, seasonal citrus fruits, and probiotic-rich yoghurts. While fresh salmon remains niche, substitutes like locally sourced fatty fish are gaining traction. Nutritionists and grocers alike say the Guwahati market is aligning with the national wellness shift, blending beauty with diet.

## India opens admissions for CITS 2025-26 to boost skilled instructor workforce

**Guwahati:** The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has announced the commencement of admissions for the Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) for the academic year 2025-26. The move aims to strengthen the pipeline of certified instructors for Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across India. Eligible candidates with National Trade Certificate (NTC), National Apprenticeship Certificate (NAC), Diploma, or De-

gree — including those appearing for final-year exams — can apply online at [www.nimionlineadmission.in](http://www.nimionlineadmission.in) from May 8 to May 28, 2025. Admission will be granted based on the All-India Common Entrance Test (AICET), a Computer-Based Test (CBT) scheduled for June 15, 2025, at various centres across the country. Training will be imparted in 41 trades, including 28 engineering and 13 non-engineering disciplines, through National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Institutes for

Training of Trainers (IToTs). The CITS program, recognized by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), has trained 45,025 instructors between 2019 and 2024. In Guwahati, technical institutes anticipate heightened interest, with local industry players viewing the scheme as an opportunity to address the region's growing demand for certified vocational trainers. The initiative is expected to significantly impact Assam's skill ecosystem and employment readiness.

## Ather Energy shares climb over 2% in debut trade

**New Delhi:** SShares of electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy Ltd on Tuesday listed with a premium of over 2 per cent against the issue price of Rs 321. The stock started the trade at Rs 326.05, up 1.57 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. Later, it climbed 3.70 per cent to Rs 332.90.

At the NSE, it listed at Rs 328, a premium of 2.18 per cent. The company's market valuation stood



at Rs 12,110.53 crore. Prashanth Tapse, senior vice-president (research) of Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "As expected, we see a flat listing, which was justified, as the issue was aggressively priced, especially when benchmarked

against peer OLA Electric. We continue to believe the electric two-wheeler (EV 2W) segment remains highly competitive and capital-intensive, with most players, including market leaders, struggling to achieve sustainable profitability and raising concern with new investors." "Given these facts and risks, we recommend a 'HOLD' only to risk taking investors, who are comfortable with short- to medium-term vol-

atility while conservative investors may still prefer a wait-and-watch, allowing the stock to settle with some reasonable valuation post-listing," he added.

Tapse said industry being in the high growth-high competition-high cash burning segment, there will be high volatility both in business as well as in the price action, hence investors should be aware of volatility and risk in short to medium term investing.

## Virat Kohli credits ex-SA wicketkeeper for refining short-ball skills at RCB

Virat Kohli shares insights on RCB Podcast's latest episode

**Bengaluru:** Bengaluru (Karnataka) [India], May 6 (ANI): Star Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli revealed how ex-South African wicketkeeper-batter Mark Boucher had the "biggest impact" on him during his early days with the franchise and helped him overcome difficulties in playing short balls. Virat was speaking on the RCB Podcast's latest episode, released on the franchise's YouTube channel.

Speaking about Boucher, Virat said that he came with a mindset that he is going to help Indian players and saw a bit of potential in him. He also said that Boucher told him that he would be doing himself a "disservice" if he did not go on to play for India in all formats.

"So he figured out what



my weaknesses could be. If I wanted to go to the next level, this is what I need to do without me asking him anything. And he said, okay, I have seen you play this, that, and the other. We need to work on this, that and a couple more things. I was like, okay. So he took me to the nets," he said.

"He said, you need to work on the short ball. No one is going to give you a chance in international cricket if you cannot pull the ball. And I remember it was in a game we were playing

in Chennai or Kolkata, one of the venues, where he told me that when I come to commentate in India four years from now, if I do not see you playing for India, you would do a disservice to yourself," he added. Virat said that his conversations with Boucher left him stunned and pushed him to keep getting better. "He had a massive impact on me in those early years. I was very realistic about my abilities. Because I had seen a lot of other people play. And I did not feel like my game was anywhere close to theirs. The only thing that I had was the determination and the willingness that if I wanted to make my team win, I was willing to do anything," he said.

## Dhoni's farewell at Eden looms over KKR-CSK showdown

**Chennai:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni's possible final hurrah at the Eden Gardens will be a captivating subplot when Kolkata Knight Riders square off against Chennai Super Kings in a must-win clash in front of a crowd expected to be draped in yellow, here on Wednesday. While five-time champions CSK are already out of the playoff race, Dhoni remains at the helm, and his presence alone is expected to turn Eden yellow, despite the match being on KKR's home turf. For a city where Dhoni has deep personal ties -- his in-laws live here, and it is where he played much of his junior cricket -- Wednesday could end up being emotionally charged for both the 43-year-old and his fans. The Eden Gardens has witnessed many of Dhoni's milestones, from his maiden



first-class century to two of his six Test hundreds. He has also played club cricket here, including a memorable P Sen Trophy final for Shambazar Club. So, when the iconic No.7 walks out on May 7, many will wonder if it's the last time Dhoni plays at this historic venue. Dhoni, who took responsibility for CSK's narrow two-run loss to RCB in their previous match, is no longer the dominant force he once was. Despite being in a strong position at 172/2 while chasing 214, CSK fell short in the final over.

## Gambhir backs Kohli, Rohit longevity

**New Delhi:** Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir has weighed in on the future of senior players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, stating that their place in the team should be determined solely by performance and not age or external opinions. Speaking at the ABP News' 'India At 2047' Summit, Gambhir clarified that he has no role in team selection, as that responsibility lies with the selectors, while his job is to choose the playing XI.

Gambhir emphasized that no coach, selector, or even the BCCI can dictate when a player should retire. He asserted that as long as Rohit and Kohli continue to perform, they should remain in the squad.

## FC Goa wins second Super Cup title with dominant 3-0 victory



**Bhubneswar:** FC Goa secured their second Super Cup title with a commanding 3-0 win over Jamshedpur FC in the final at the Kalinga Stadium. The victory not only marked their dominance in Indian football but also earned them a spot in the AFC Champions League Two preliminary round.

Spanish midfielder Borja Herrera was the star of the night, scoring a brace in the 23rd and 51st minutes. His first goal came off a rebound, while his second was a stunning long-range strike that left Jamshedpur's goalkeeper Albino Gomes helpless. Dejan Drazic sealed the win with a 72nd-minute goal, ensuring FC Goa's triumph. Jamshedpur FC, known for their strong defensive record, struggled to contain Goa's attacking

proWess. Despite early attempts from Javier Hernandez and Rei Tachikawa, Jamshedpur failed to convert their chances.

This victory makes FC Goa the first team to win the Super Cup twice, having previously lifted the trophy in 2019. The win also marks their return to continental football after a four-year absence, with their last appearance in the 2021 AFC Champions League group stage. The match was a fitting farewell for Manolo Marquez, FC Goa's head coach, who led the team to victory in his final game. His tactical approach ensured Goa's dominance throughout the tournament. Despite a sudden cyclonic storm affecting the trophy presentation, FC Goa's players celebrated their win with fans and officials indoors.

## Trent Alexander-Arnold confirms Liverpool exit at season's end

**Liverpool:** Liverpool's star right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold has officially announced his departure from the club at the end of the season, marking the end of a two-decade-long association with the Reds. The 26-year-old defender, who has been a pivotal figure in Liverpool's success, revealed his decision through an emotional statement on social media, calling it the "hardest decision" of his life. Alexander-Arnold joined Liverpool's Academy



at the age of six and progressed through the ranks before making his senior debut in 2016. Since then, he has made 352 appearances, scored 23 goals, and lifted eight major trophies, including two Premier League titles, a Champions League, an FA Cup,

and two Carabao Cups. Reflecting on his journey, he expressed deep gratitude to the club and its supporters: "This club has been my whole life -- my whole world -- for 20 years. From the Academy right through until now, the support and love I have felt from everyone inside and outside of the club will stay with me forever. I will forever be in debt to you all." While Alexander-Arnold has not officially announced his next destination,

## Arunachal's Khinsan Wangsu earns spot in India's World University Games 2025 team

**Itanagar:** Khinsan Wangsu, a taekwondo athlete from Arunachal Pradesh, has been chosen to represent India as part of the 13-member women's team at the prestigious World University Games-2025 in Germany.

Wangsu's selection is a testament to her outstanding performance at the trial selection held at Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab, this past February. This remarkable achievement resonates deeply, marking a proud moment for her communi-



ty in Longding district, the state of Arunachal Pradesh, and the entire nation.

Likha Robin, general secretary of the Arunachal Taekwondo Association, lauded her achievement, saying, "Khinsan's journey serves as a powerful source of inspiration for

young athletes, particularly those from the Northeast region. We in Arunachal Pradesh are incredibly proud of her." Her impressive track record includes four gold, one silver, and two bronze medals at various national championships, with notable victories including two gold medals at the National Games held in Goa and Uttarakhand.

Currently pursuing her BSc in sports science at Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak, Haryana, Wangsu hails from Mington village in Longding district.

## MSK Prasad endorses Sai, Kuldeep for England tour

**Mumbai:** Former India chief selector MSK Prasad feels the presence of Arshdeep Singh, Sai Sudharsan and Kuldeep Yadav is a must in the squad for the five-match Test series in England beginning June 20.

In a recent interview, former India head coach Ravi Shastri, too, had thrown his weight behind Sudharsan, who is in the middle of a stellar IPL and has experience of playing county cricket. Speaking to PTI, Prasad, who was in charge of the selection committee from 2016 to 2020, also gave his reasons on why Arshdeep and Kuldeep have to be there in the squad. He would have the in-form Prasad Krishna over Akash Deep among the five pacers to be picked in case the selectors pick a 15-man squad to be announced in the middle of May. Following the retirement of R Ashwin, Washington Sundar will be his spin bowling all-rounder alongside Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep, who the former chief selector sees as a genuine wicket-taker.