



Congress plans Haryana cadre expansion

Chandigarh: The Haryana Congress has announced a roadmap for creating a new organisational cadre across the state, aiming to strengthen its grassroots presence ahead of upcoming elections.

The party has appointed 69 observers and eight additional observers, including 16 former MLAs and a former MP, to oversee the cadre formation process. These observers will visit districts, gather feedback, and ensure a strong leadership structure.

Congress has opened applications for the district president's post to party workers with over five years of experience. Observers will interview candidates, and if multiple contenders emerge, the top 3-4 candidates will be shortlisted before a final selection is made. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is expected to visit Haryana soon to support the restructuring efforts. His visit is anticipated to boost morale among party workers and reinforce Congress's commitment to reviving its presence in the state.

Usha Vance says her kids instantly saw PM Modi as a grandfather figure

Children delighted by India's vibrant puppet show

Washington DC: U.S. Second Lady Usha Vance shared heartwarming details about her family's recent visit to India, revealing that her children instantly placed Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the "grandfather category" upon meeting him.

Speaking at the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Vance described the trip as a "once-in-a-lifetime experience" for her children, who had never



visited India before. She noted that they had grown up hearing stories about India, enjoying its food, and learning about its traditions, but had never seen it firsthand. Vance, whose family hails from Andhra Pradesh,

PM Modi assures help to flood-hit northeast states

New Delhi: Amid the flood situation in the northeast region of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday spoke to Assam and Sikkim chief ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma and Prem Singh Tamang, respectively, and Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla to take stock of the situation. He assured that the Central Government will provide all necessary relief and rehabilitation support.

The flood situation in Assam remained grim, with more than 5.35 lakh people affected in over 20 districts,

as the meteorological department predicted more rain in several parts.

According to officials, PM Modi has assured all possible help and support from the Centre to the states reeling under the flood situation following heavy downpour. Assam CM also briefed the PM over a telephonic conversation on how the continuous rainfall in Assam and adjoining states has led to flooding and impacted many lives. Assam CM said PM Modi called to discuss Assam's flood situation.

Allahabad HC rejects Patanjali's GST Plea

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed Patanjali Ayurved Limited's petition challenging a ₹273.5 crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) penalty imposed by tax authorities.

A division bench comprising Justices Shekhar B Saraf and Vipin Chandra Dixit ruled that GST penalties are civil in nature and do not require a criminal trial. The court rejected Patanjali's argument that such penalties constitute criminal liability, stating that tax



authorities have the right to impose fines under Section 122 of the GST Act through civil proceedings.

The case stems from

an investigation by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Ghaziabad, which flagged suspicious transactions involv-

ing firms with high Input Tax Credit (ITC) utilization but no income tax credentials. Authorities alleged that Patanjali engaged in circular trading of tax invoices without actual supply of goods.

Following a show cause notice issued on April 19, 2024, the DGGI proposed a penalty of ₹273.51 crore under Section 122 (1), clauses (ii) and (vii) of the Central GST Act, 2017. Tax demands under Section 74 were dropped via adjudication on January 10, 2025.

Quick bites

Mann slams BJP over Sindoor

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has stirred controversy with his remarks on Operation Sindoor, accusing the BJP of using the military operation for electoral gains.

P V Anvar Declares ₹52 Crore Assets

Malappuram: TMC leader P V Anvar, contesting Nilambur bypoll, declares ₹52 crore assets, including ₹18 crore movable, ₹34 crore immovable.

Gaurav Gogoi leads Assam Congress

Guwahati: Gaurav Gogoi has officially taken charge as the new Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president, replacing Bhupen Kumar Borah.

Manipur floods displace thousands

Imphal: Floods affect 56,000+ people, damage 10,477 houses, and cause widespread destruction due to overflowing rivers and embankment breaches, with Imphal East being the worst-hit district.

Punjab man arrested for espionage

Chandigarh: Punjab Police arrest Tarn Taran man for spying, leaking Indian Army details to ISI during Operation Sindoor.

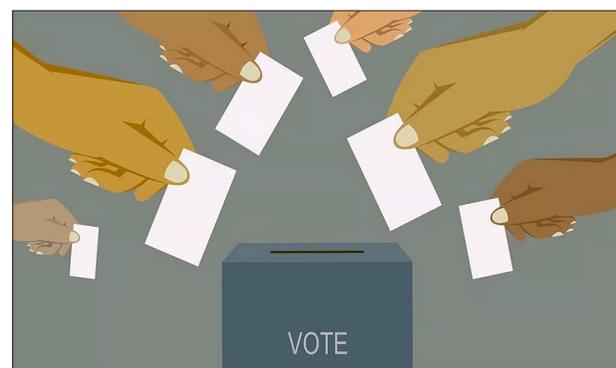
BJP names Rajendra Chavda for Kadi, Kiritbhai Patel for Visavadar

Gujarat bypolls: Kadi SC seat vacant after Solanki's demise

Ahmedabad: The BJP has announced its candidates for the upcoming Gujarat bypolls in the Kadi and Visavadar assembly constituencies. Rajendra Chavda will contest from Kadi, while Kiritbhai Patel will represent the party in Visavadar.

The Kadi seat, located in Mehsana district, became vacant following the death of BJP MLA Karsanbhai Solanki on February 4, 2025. Meanwhile, the Visavadar seat, in Junagadh district, was vacated after AAP MLA Bhupendra Bhayani resigned in December 2023 and later joined the BJP.

The bypolls are scheduled for June 19, with vote



counting set for June 23. In the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, the BJP currently holds 161 seats, while the Congress has 12, and the AAP has four. Additionally, one seat belongs to the Samajwadi Party, and two are held by independents. The Congress has

also announced its candidates for these bypolls, fielding Ramesh Chavda in Kadi and Nitin Ranpariya in Visavadar. The AAP has nominated Jagdish Chavda for Kadi and Gopal Italia for Visavadar, making it a three-way contest in both constituencies.

Trump praises India, promises strong ties

Washington: U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has emphasized that President Donald Trump deeply admires and respects India, predicting a strong bilateral relationship between the two nations. Speaking at the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Lutnick praised India's thriving economy, attributing its success to the drive and ambition of its people.

Lutnick stated that while Trump prioritizes "America First," he does not believe in "America Only". He assured that the U.S. would continue to support its allies, including India, and strengthen economic

and strategic ties. Lutnick highlighted the success of Indian entrepreneurs in the U.S., noting that many Indian-origin individuals lead major American companies. He introduced the "Trump Gold Card", a proposed \$5 million fast-track residency program for foreign entrepreneurs, which could benefit Indian business leaders seeking opportunities in the U.S..

Lutnick expressed optimism about India-U.S. trade partnerships, particularly in manufacturing, AI, and emerging technologies. He hinted at potential trade deals favoring India, reinforcing Trump's commitment to economic cooperation.



Meghalaya rain havoc kills three in East Khasi Hills; CM declares ex-gratia relief

Shillong: Incessant rainfall continued to lash Meghalaya, resulting in the deaths of three individuals, including an elderly woman and a minor, in the East Khasi Hills district over the past 24 hours.

The woman, 50, died in Lumkyntung village due to a landslide, while a 35-year-old man drowned in Pmlakrai Mawbyinna as incessant rain inundated

the area, they said. Another death was reported from Mawkynrew Block when a tree fell on a 15-year-old boy, the officials said. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh to their next of kin.

Meanwhile, the search and rescue operations launched for a couple from Madhya Pradesh's Indore, who went missing in Sohra

area last week, were halted for the day, owing to heavy rainfall and low visibility, the officials said.

The couple - Raja Raghuvanshi and his wife Sonam - had arrived at Mawlakhiat village on May 22. On May 24, their scooter was found abandoned at a cafe along the road from Shillong to Sohra.

"Due to extremely heavy rainfall, the search and

rescue teams of the State Disaster Response Force could not reach the location as their vehicle was stuck in a landslide," a police officer said. "The search operations will continue on Saturday," he said.

The IMD had issued a red alert for May 29 and May 30 all over Meghalaya, warning of flash floods and landslides in vulnerable areas.



More than 19,000 people affected by Manipur floods, 3,365 houses damaged

Itanagar Himalayan cleanup drive held



Itanagar: Today, Itanagar saw a powerful display of community-driven environmental action as the Youth Mission for Clean River (YMCR) hosted The Himalayan Cleanup (THC) event at IG Park, marking a significant effort to combat plastic pollution in the region.

Organized under the banner of Zero Waste Himalaya, the cleanup drew dozens of passionate volunteers committed to preserving the pristine environment of the Himalayan region. With the theme "Our Mountains Deserve Better", THC focused on raising awareness about the growing plastic waste crisis while promoting sustainable practices.

During the cleanup drive, volunteers managed to collect and audit a total of 4,860 waste items. The findings were alarming: single-use plastics (SUP), particularly plastic bags, topped the list of pollutants. In total, 737 plastic bags were collected, followed closely by 734 disposable glasses, 553 chewing gum wrappers, and 456 chocolate wrappers. Other prevalent waste items included liquor bottles, Maggi packets, and a variety of wrappers, highlighting the ongoing struggle with single-use products.

Manipur BJP legislators urge unity, push for govt formation amid President's rule

Legislators push for media, CSO talks after Gwalitabi incident

Imphal: In a significant political development, at least 23 BJP legislators convened on Friday evening at the residence of former minister Thongam Biswajit Singh in Imphal to build consensus on prioritising unity and forming a government in Manipur, over three months after the state was placed under President's Rule. The meeting, held against the backdrop of continuing ethnic tensions and a prolonged political deadlock, concluded with a joint resolution by the legislators to put aside individual ambitions for the greater good of the state and its people.

This closed-door huddle came just two days after BJP MLA Thokchom



Radheshyam claimed that 44 legislators — excluding the ten Kuki-Zo MLAs and five from the Congress — had agreed to form a popular government, expressing readiness to act in line with the will of the people.

In a collective statement, the BJP legislators reaffirmed their commitment to unity, peace, and the restoration of commu-

nal harmony in Manipur. "We resolved to put aside personal ambitions in the larger interest of the state, its people, and the vision of the BJP and its alliance partners," the statement read. Acknowledging two years of ethnic violence and over 250 lives lost, legislators emphasize the need for an urgent and inclusive political resolution.

Arunachal landslide kills seven, including 2 children

Itanagar: In a devastating incident triggered by relentless monsoon rains, seven people, including two families and two young children, lost their lives late last night when their vehicle was swept off the Bana-Seppa road by a powerful landslide and plunged into a deep gorge.

The tragic event occurred on the hazardous National Highway 13, which connects Bana and Seppa in East Kameng district. A Maruti Fronx carrying the victims was hit by falling debris and washed down a steep ravine. Rescue teams later confirmed that all seven occupants had died on the spot. Among the deceased were Sankar Aka

(popularly known as Sanju Badi), his wife Tasum Badi, and their children, Kachung (5) and Nicha (2). Also perishing in the landslide were a pregnant woman and two children, reportedly the wife and children of one Sichi Yame, according to family sources. In a close brush with disaster, a Tata Sumo traveling along the same stretch narrowly escaped a similar fate. The driver halted just in time near the collapsing edge of the road. Though no one in the Sumo was injured, the passengers were left severely traumatized by the near-miss. The Bana-Seppa route is widely regarded as one of the most landslide-prone corridors.

IndiGo to begin direct flights between New Delhi and Jorhat from Sept 2025

Guwahati: IndiGo airlines will begin operating a non-stop flight between Delhi and Jorhat from mid-September, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday. This aims to enhance air connectivity to other locations across the northeastern state.

The announcement came after drama's recent visit to New Delhi, where he met the senior management of the airline and urged them to expand air connectivity to other key locations across Assam, particularly Silchar, Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.

"New Delhi-Jorhat Direct Flight from September 2025- It was a pleasure to meet the leadership of @

IndiGo responded positively, shared upcoming deployments

The Assam CM expressed his satisfaction about the meeting with the airline's management adding that IndiGo has responded positively and shared the upcoming deployments of the flights.

IndiGo6E in New Delhi to discuss their roadmap for expanding air connectivity in Assam," the CM posted on 'X'.

"Delighted to share that @IndiGo6E will commence a non-stop flight between Delhi and Jorhat starting mid-September 2025", he added. He said the New-Delhi-Dibrugarh flight

Kijum Sora Karga Wins 2025 Florence Nightingale Award

Itanagar: Kijum Sora Karga, a distinguished nursing officer from Arunachal Pradesh, has been conferred with the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award 2025 for her outstanding contributions to the field of nursing. The award ceremony, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, was presided over by President Droupadi Murmu, who honored 15 exceptional nursing professionals from across the country.

Karga, who serves as the District Public Health Nursing Officer in Papum Pare district, has dedicated over 28 years to improving healthcare services in Arunachal Pradesh. Her efforts in eliminating unrecognized nursing institutes, exposing fraudulent practitioners, and implementing Aadhaar-based registration



and licentiate exams have significantly strengthened the nursing profession in the state. The National Florence Nightingale Award, instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recognizes nurses for their dedication.



Vi Business teams up with Hewlett Packard Enterprise to enhance enterprise networking

Mumbai: Vi Business, the enterprise division of Vodafone Idea, has announced a strategic partnership with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) to provide next-generation managed services in India. The collaboration will utilize HPE Aruba Networking products to deliver advanced managed wireless LAN, switching, and security solutions tailored for diverse enterprise environments such as campuses, manufacturing units, corporate headquarters, and regional offices. Under the agreement, Vi Business will manage and support all services via its Network Operations Center (NOC), offering enterprises seamless service backed by AI-driven analytics for intelligent orchestration and enhanced user experi-



ence. The partnership also aims to co-develop private data center solutions to address the rising demand for scalable, secure compute and storage infrastructure among both private and public sector clients. Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer at Vodafone Idea, said, "This collaboration will enhance Vi

Business's ICT portfolio by integrating telecom core with cutting-edge enterprise solutions to empower digital transformation." Phil Mottram, EVP of HPE Aruba Networking, added that this alliance will deliver agile, resilient solutions that help businesses scale confidently in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Boost immunity naturally with key superfoods amid rising infections

Guwahati: In response to the increasing cases of COVID-19 and seasonal flu across India, health experts recommend strengthening immunity through natural dietary solutions. Dr. Rohini Patil, MBBS and Nutritionist, urges consumers and corporate wellness programs to integrate immunity-boosting superfoods such as California almonds, turmeric, ginger, garlic, citrus fruits, and papaya into daily nutrition plans to combat seasonal health challenges. California almonds, often called the "king of dry fruits," are rich in 15 essential nutrients including vitamin E, zinc, magnesium, and antioxidants. Supported by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), almonds promote heart health, energy, skin health, and effective weight management, making them



a critical component in immunity support. Turmeric and ginger offer powerful anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties, while garlic's allicin compound enhances immune defenses. Vitamin C-rich citrus fruits and papaya further bolster immune function and overall wellness. In Guwahati, market trends reflect a strong consumer shift toward these superfoods, with retailers reporting increased demand. This heightened interest highlights the city's proactive approach in adopting nutrition-focused health strategies amidst the current health environment.

Tata Motors unveils Harrier. ev electric SUV



New Delhi: Tata Motors on Tuesday expanded its electric vehicle range in the country with the launch of Harrier.ev, a battery electric SUV, featuring a driving range of around 500 km. The company expects the new electric SUV to attract customers from the mainstream premium SUV segment, which currently witnesses sales of around 25,000 units per month. Price of Harrier.ev starts at Rs 21.49 lakh (ex-showroom). Booking will commence from July 2. Shailesh Chandra: Harrier.ev to attract new customers.

Infosys Foundation injects INR 2 crore into social innovation, launches Aarohan Awards 2025

Guwahati/Dispur: Infosys Foundation has announced the fourth edition of its Aarohan Social Innovation Awards, committing a total prize fund of INR 2 crore to back tech-driven social innovations across India. The initiative targets solu-

tions in education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, offering up to INR 50 lakh per winner. The submission window opens from April 24 to June 15, 2025, inviting Indian citizens aged 18 and above to present fully functional

prototypes or completed projects via video entries on the Aarohan Awards platform.

A distinguished panel will assess entries based on real-world impact, scalability, and founder commitment, emphasizing practical,

sustainable innovations addressing pressing social challenges. Sumit Virmani, Trustee of Infosys Foundation, underlined the Foundation's commitment to amplifying human potential through supporting impactful social entrepreneurship.

Toyota unveils Neo Drive 48V, advancing premium SUV efficiency

Bangalore: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has launched the Fortuner and Legender Neo Drive 48V variants, introducing hybrid-assist technology designed to boost fuel efficiency and reduce emissions without compromising power. Powered by a 2.8-litre turbo-diesel engine paired with a 48-Volt belt-integrated starter generator and lithium-ion battery, these models bring segment-first features such as Smart Idle Start-Stop, Multi-Terrain Select, and a 360-degree panoramic camera, reflecting Toyota's strategic focus on sustainable, high-performance vehicles in a growing premium SUV market. Economically, the launch is poised to impact India's



automotive sector by pushing competitors toward greener technologies, while appealing to a niche of affluent consumers valuing fuel savings and advanced features. The Neo Drive variants, priced at Rs 44.72 lakh for Fortuner and Rs 50.09 lakh for Legender, are positioned to capture a premium segment seeking both utility and eco-conscious innovation. Bookings began June 2, with deliveries starting mid-June, available online and at authorized dealerships.

TATA AIG rolls out monsoon-ready motor insurance, targets Guwahati's flood-prone vehicle owners

Guwahati: With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting extreme rainfall across Assam, TATA AIG General Insurance has launched a timely campaign urging vehicle owners to prepare for the monsoon with smarter insurance choices. The initiative highlights the insurer's comprehensive motor insurance plans that provide extensive protection against monsoon-related damages.

TATA AIG's offerings include Engine Secure, Electric Surge Secure, Depreciation Reimbursement Cover, and 24x7 roadside assistance. Vehicle owners can also benefit from free towing, on-road repairs, and a wide cashless network of over 10,000 garages. With a 99% claim settlement ratio and round-the-clock customer support, the company

aims to deliver seamless service during the turbulent season. In Guwahati, where last August's severe floods led to a surge in vehicle breakdowns, insurance demand spikes during monsoons. Local garages report increased servicing needs due to water ingress and electrical failures. TATA AIG's robust network and policy benefits address these recurring challenges, offering relief to thousands of vehicle owners in the region. "Guwahati residents face unique monsoon risks, and our insurance solutions are designed to help them stay mobile and stress-free," said Neel Chheda, Chief Underwriting and Data Science Officer at TATA AIG. The company has issued over one crore policies last year, cementing its leadership in the motor insurance sector.

realme launches GT 7 Series and Buds Air 7 Pro in India; strong interest seen in Itanagar

New Delhi: realme, one of India's fastest-growing smartphone brands, has officially launched its highly anticipated GT 7 Series and Buds Air 7 Pro. The lineup includes three new smartphones—GT 7, GT 7T, and the premium GT 7 Dream Edition, developed in collaboration with the Aston Martin

Formula One™ Team. The GT 7T, priced at ₹28,999, leads the series with a segment-first 7000mAh battery, MediaTek Dimensity 9400e chipset, 120W fast charging, and an advanced AI Night Vision Mode. The GT 7 Dream Edition, set at ₹49,999, is realme's most premium offering to date and will



be available starting June 13. realme also unveiled the Buds Air 7 Pro, offering Gemini AI integration, smart ANC, and spatial audio, priced from ₹4,999. The new lineup has already sparked excitement among young professionals and students. Retailers note a surge in inquiries and pre-bookings, with

the GT 7T emerging as a preferred choice due to its power-packed features and competitive pricing. EMI options and launch offers are further fueling demand. The GT 7 Series and Buds Air 7 Pro are now available on realme.com, Amazon, Flipkart, and leading retail outlets across India.



CaratLane unveils 'Runway' Collection, paying tribute to women in aviation

Guwahati: CaratLane, a TATA product, has launched 'Runway' — India's first fine jewellery collection dedicated to celebrating women in aviation. The collection features over 20 designs crafted in 9KT and 14KT gold and diamonds, inspired by the courage and elegance of female pilots, cabin crew, and fighter pilots. Unique to the collection are mobile aircraft motifs that symbolize the spirit of flight. The launch event held at CaratLane's Bandra store in Mumbai was attended

by real-life cabin crew and actress-turned-pilot Gul Panag, who praised the collection for capturing the passion and style of aviation professionals.

Gul Panag said, "This collection speaks straight to my heart. Aviation gave me wings, and now there's jewellery that celebrates that feeling in such a stylish and everlasting way. It is definitely a must-have for aviation enthusiasts. There's only one thing better than flying, and it's flying in style!"

Saumen Bhoumik,

MD - CaratLane, said, "Aviation in India is one of the fastest-growing industries globally, and we proudly have the highest share of lady pilots. Right from the days of a single national carrier, Air India, air crew members have been icons of style and symbols of a rising, modern India. This thoughtfully designed collection is our tribute to the brave women who make platforms in multiple languages including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada and Gujarati, targeting India's metro and urban audiences."

Shopsy's end-of-season sale fuels fashion boom in tier 2+ markets like Guwahati

Guwahati: Shopsy by Flipkart, India's fastest-growing hyper-value e-commerce platform, has kicked off its End of Season Sale (EOSS), running from May 30 to June 8. The sale features over 1 crore latest styles starting at ₹99, aiming to capture value-conscious shoppers across Bharat. Key offerings include the Under ₹199 Bazaar for essentials, ₹299 Super Savers for fashion and footwear, and ₹499 Premium Picks with sarees and men's formalwear. Daily clearance sales provide up to 50%

discounts on select products, supported by trend-focused segments such as 'Monsoon Cool Styles' and 'Work From Home Comfort'. Men's fashion deals start as low as ₹79 for casual wear, with footwear and accessories discounted up to 50%. Women's apparel includes peplum tops and summer dresses under ₹150, alongside discounted makeup essentials. Kids' apparel and footwear are also aggressively priced, while home furnishing and kitchen products like choppers and containers are available at

budget-friendly rates. In Guwahati, Shopsy's EOSS is expected to accelerate digital adoption among the city's expanding online shopper base. With rising internet penetration and growing demand for affordable, trendy apparel, Guwahati consumers stand to benefit from Shopsy's reliable delivery and wide product range, fueling local e-commerce growth. As Tier 2+ cities lead India's e-commerce boom, Shopsy's sale strategy capitalizes on this trend, Affordable fashion fuels demand in emerging markets.

Nissan unveils Magnite CNG kit for eco-friendly mobility

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has introduced a government-approved CNG retrofit kit for its popular compact SUV, the New Nissan Magnite, priced at ₹74,999. Developed and quality-assured by Motozen, the retrofit kit offers a cleaner, fuel-efficient alternative, catering to India's rising demand for sustainable mobility solutions. The rollout will begin across seven states including Delhi-NCR, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, before expanding nationwide. The CNG option is available for the Magnite's 1.0L naturally aspirated petrol engine with manual transmission. All installations will be conducted by government-approved centres, and the kit comes with a 3-year or 1 lakh km warranty. This move aligns with Nissan's commitment to offering customer-focused, eco-conscious alternatives, while enhancing the SUV's practicality and



appeal.

realme also unveiled the Buds Air 7 Pro, offering Gemini AI integration, smart ANC, and spatial audio, priced from ₹4,999. The new lineup has already sparked excitement among young professionals and students. Retailers note a surge in inquiries and pre-bookings, with the GT 7T emerging as a preferred choice due to its power-packed features and competitive pricing. EMI options and launch offers are further fueling demand. The GT 7 Series and Buds Air 7 Pro are now available on realme.com, Amazon, Flipkart, and leading retail outlets across India.

Happydent's new campaign "Chamking Gum: Chamka Muskaan, Jagmag Jahaan" combines cinematic flair with social message

Shillong: Perfetti Van Melle India has unveiled its latest marketing push for Happydent with the campaign "Chamking Gum: Chamka Muskaan, Jagmag Jahaan," blending creative storytelling with a social cause. Developed by McCann Worldgroup India and helmed by Chief Creative Officer Praseon Joshi, the campaign uses striking visuals and a playful narrative to spotlight the power of a smile to inspire change. Bollywood composer Shantanu Moitra scores the ad, while Joshi provides both lyrics and vocals, emphasizing authen-



ticity and purpose.

The commercial portrays a troupe of performers using bright smiles and red paint to draw attention to littering, encouraging viewers to embrace small acts of collective responsibility. Nikhil Sharma, Managing

Director of Perfetti Van Melle India, stated the campaign aligns with the brand's mission to stay culturally relevant and drive business impact. Marketing Director Gunjan Khetan highlighted the focus on engaging Gen Z with mean-

ingful narratives. In Shillong, local retailers report a positive response to Happydent's new campaign, appreciating its blend of entertainment and social messaging. Consumers in the region are increasingly drawn to brands that promote responsible behavior alongside product appeal, reflecting a broader trend toward socially conscious consumption. Directed by Vinil Mathew and supported by a dedicated creative team, this campaign marks a strategic effort by Happydent to combine brand legacy with contemporary storytelling to drive growth.

RBI's tightrope walk amid policy shifts

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is carefully navigating economic challenges amid shifting monetary policies. Recently, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%—its second consecutive cut—to support economic

growth while managing inflation. However, risks such as volatile oil prices, fiscal stimulus, and global trade tensions continue to pose challenges.

The Phillips curve theory suggests an inverse relationship between unemployment and inflation. India's 2024 labor force

survey showed a slight increase in unemployment from 3.1% to 3.2%, while the worker population ratio (WPR) declined from 58% to 57.7%, indicating a moderation in employment.

This decline in employment growth could reduce purchasing power and lower aggregate demand.

Rupee slips to 85.60 against dollar

Mumbai: The Indian rupee declined by 21 paise to settle at ₹85.60 against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a strong American currency and foreign fund outflows. Forex traders noted that the rupee remained under pressure due to negative domestic equity markets and geopolitical uncertainties, including trade tensions between the US and China and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Investors are also awaiting cues from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy announcement, scheduled for June 6. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will begin its deliberations on Wednesday.

Godrej Jersey survey highlights milk's growing popularity across urban India

Guwahati: On the occasion of World Milk Day, Godrej Jersey released its latest consumer insights report, "Bottoms Up... India Says Cheers to Milk!", highlighting significant shifts in dairy consumption trends. According to the survey conducted by YouGov, one in three Indians now consumes milk as a beverage, while 50% prefer flavoured milk or en-

hance taste at home. The report also finds growing adoption of flavoured milk among Indian parents, with 45% offering it during the day and 44% using it as a refreshment during playtime. Bhupendra Suri, CEO of Godrej Jersey, said, "We are committed to meeting consumer expectations by balancing taste, nourishment and refresh-



not just a treat but a healthy everyday choice."

The insights were gathered from major metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai, signaling a broader demand for innovative, high-quality dairy products. In Guwahati, the market mirrors national trends

with increasing demand for flavoured milk among youth and working professionals. Distributors note that consumers are embracing convenient, ready-to-drink dairy options as part of their fast-paced lifestyles. A subsidiary of Godrej Agrovet, Godrej Jersey continues to blend heritage and innovation, driving growth in India's evolving dairy sector.



Flipkart Minutes unveils ₹9 veggie campaign, nostalgic appeal for urban consumers

Guwahati: Flipkart has launched a high-impact campaign for its hyper-local delivery service, Flipkart Minutes, offering fresh vegetables starting at just ₹9, delivered in 10 minutes. Conceptualised by Leo Burnett, the campaign leverages cinematic nostalgia from the Bollywood classic 3 Idiots to highlight rising grocery costs and Flipkart's value proposition — affordability, speed, and quality.

The ad reimagines Raju Rastogi's family grappling with inflation until a Flipkart flyer arrives, prompting an instant online order. The campaign promises quality, farm-fresh produce backed



by Flipkart's tech-enabled supply chain and partnerships with Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Kabeer Biswas, Vice President, Flipkart Minutes, said, "Fresh vegetables at ₹9 delivered in minutes is our commitment to everyday convenience. We're solving for value, quality and speed, ensuring a

seamless farm-to-consumer experience."

In Guwahati, where grocery inflation and time constraints weigh heavily on consumers, Flipkart's ₹9 veggie push is expected to shake up the local market. With growing smartphone penetration and increasing adoption of digital platforms for daily needs, the campaign could attract a strong user base across Assam's capital. The campaign, launched on May 28, will run across TV and digital platforms in multiple languages including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada and Gujarati, targeting India's metro and urban audiences.

India's imports of Russian oil hit 10-month high in May

New Delhi: India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a 10-month high of 1.96 million barrels per day in May, driven by continued availability at significant discounts compared to global benchmark prices, according to ship-tracking data from Kpler. India, the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation, bought from abroad around 5.1 million barrels of crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries. Of this, Russia was the largest supplier, accounting for over 38 per cent of the supplies. Iraq maintained its position as the second-largest supplier, with 1.2 million

bpd of sales to India. Saudi Arabia exported 6,15,000 bpd, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) supplied 4,90,000 bpd. The United States routed out the top five, delivering 2,80,000 bpd, underscoring India's push to diversify import sources and balance geopolitical exposure. "Overall, India's crude import profile for May 2025 highlights its price-sensitive, diversified sourcing strategy. Russian volumes remain elevated despite external pressures, reinforcing the primacy of economic pragmatism in India's energy policy," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler.

Central bank gold buying slows again

New Delhi: Globally, central bank gold buying experienced a slowdown in April, according to the latest data from the World Gold Council (WGC). The WGC indicates that central banks added a net of 12 tonnes to their reserves during the month. This figure represents a 12% decrease compared to the previous month's purchases and falls below the 12-month average of 28 tonnes. This deceleration in net purchases marks the second consecutive month where the rate of accumulation has slowed. Analysts suggest that this trend could be partly attributed to the significant appreciation in the price of gold observed.

Markets extend losses for third session as Sensex slips below 81K amid broad selloff

Sensex plunges 636 points amid volatile trading session

Mumbai: The Indian stock market witnessed a sharp decline for the third consecutive session on Tuesday, as investors engaged in broad-based selling across sectors. The BSE Sensex tumbled 636.24 points (0.78%) to close at 80,737.51, while the NSE Nifty dropped 174.10 points (0.70%) to settle at 24,542.50. The downturn was primarily driven by foreign fund outflows, geopolitical uncertainties, and weak global cues. During the trading session, the Sensex plunged 798.66



points (0.98%) to an intraday low of 80,575.09, reflecting heightened volatility. The Nifty also struggled, with 2,266 stocks declining, while 1,731 ad-

vanced, and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Among sectoral indices, power (-1.50%), utilities (-1.42%), bankex (-0.89%), energy (-0.88%), capital

goods (-0.87%), financial services (-0.80%), and tech (-0.68%) witnessed significant losses. However, commodities and real estate stocks managed to stay in the green, supported by expectations of an interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Major Sensex constituents such as Adani Ports (-2.42%), Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Tata Consultancy Services, and UltraTech Cement were among the biggest losers.

Adani stocks fall amid US sanctions probe report

Mumbai: Shares of Adani Group companies fell sharply on Tuesday following a report by The Wall Street Journal alleging that US prosecutors were investigating whether Adani entities had imported Iranian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) into India through their Mundra port. The report suggested that certain LPG tankers traveling between the Persian Gulf and Mundra exhibited traits commonly associated with sanctions evasion.

The allegations triggered a broad selloff in Adani Group stocks, with Adani Enterprises opening 2.2%



lower, while Adani Ports dropped 2.5%. Other group stocks, including Adani Total Gas, Adani Power, Adani Green Energy, and Adani Energy Solutions, also registered losses of up to 2%. The benchmark Nifty 50 index declined 0.4%, with Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports among the top laggards. In response to the report, an Adani Group spokesperson dismissed the allegations,

Reliance emerges as India's sole entry in top global tech firms list

Mumbai: Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the only Indian company featured in the top 30 publicly traded global technology firms. The ranking, based on market capitalization, was published in a 340-page report titled 'Trends – Artificial Intelligence', which explores the rapid global adoption and transformative impact of AI technologies.

Reliance Industries secured the 23rd position on the list, boasting a market



capitalization of USD 216 billion. The top eight positions were dominated by US technology giants, including Microsoft, Nvidia, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta Platforms, Tesla, and Broadcom. Taiwan's TSMC ranked 9th, followed by China's Tencent. The report highlights that over the past

30 years (1995–2025), only five companies have consistently remained among the top 30 most highly valued publicly traded global technology firms—Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco, IBM, and AT&T. Reliance joins the ranks of Nvidia, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta, Tesla, Alibaba, Salesforce, and China Mobile as a new entrant. The report also underscores the changing geographical landscape of the global technology sector. Global tech sector sees shifting geography.

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai see decline in passenger vehicle dispatches in May

New Delhi: India's leading automakers, Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor India, reported a decline in passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in May 2025. The dip in sales was attributed to inventory adjustments, slowing demand, and Hyundai's routine maintenance shutdown at its Chennai facility.

Maruti Suzuki's total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches stood at 1,35,962 units, marking a 6% decline compared to 1,44,002 units in May



2024. The company cited calibrated supplies to align with industry retail sales projections amid geopolitical uncertainties and a slowdown in entry-level car sales.

--- Mini segment cars (Alto, S-Presso): Sales dropped

to 6,776 units, down from 9,902 units in May 2024.

- Compact cars (Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, Wagon R):

Sales fell to 61,502 units, compared to 68,206 units last year.

- Utility vehicles (Grand Vitara, Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, Jimny): Sales remained relatively stable at 54,899 units, compared to 54,204 units in May 2024.



Kyrgios withdraws from Wimbledon due to injury setback

Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios has announced his withdrawal from Wimbledon 2025, citing a minor setback in his injury recovery. The 30-year-old confirmed on social media that he will miss the entire grass-court season, disappointing fans who were eager to see his return.

Kyrgios has been battling multiple injuries, including foot, knee, and wrist issues, since his runner-up finish at Wimbledon in 2022. His struggles have significantly limited his participation in tournaments, with the Australian playing only four singles matches this year.

Despite his setbacks, Kyrgios recorded his first singles win since 2022 at the Miami Open in March. However, he later withdrew from the French Open, where he was scheduled to play men's doubles, due to a knee injury.

In a heartfelt message



on Instagram, Kyrgios expressed his disappointment, saying, "I've hit a small setback in my recovery and unfortunately won't make it back for grass season this year. I know how much you've all been looking forward to seeing me out there, and I'm genuinely sorry to disappoint. This is just a bump in the road though, and I'm already working hard to get back stronger than ever".

Kyrgios' absence means he will miss Wimbledon for the third consecutive year, having last competed in 2022, where he lost in the final to Novak Djokovic. His withdrawal raises concerns about his long-term fitness, as he has struggled to maintain consistency on the ATP Tour.

'West Indies' late arrival delays ODI toss



London: The third ODI between England and West Indies at The Kia Oval faced an unexpected delay on Tuesday as the West Indies team got stuck in heavy London traffic while traveling to the stadium. The toss, originally scheduled for 12:30 PM local time, was postponed due to the team's late arrival.

West Indies players were staying at the Chelsea Harbour Hotel and Spa, but their journey to the stadium was disrupted by traffic light outages in the Vauxhall Cross area. Transport for London (TfL) reported serious delays in Kennington, advising travelers to use alternative routes.

The team finally arrived at 12:40 PM local time, 10 minutes after the scheduled toss time. Match officials rescheduled the toss for 1:10 PM, with play set to begin at 1:30 PM.

While West Indies remained stuck in traffic, some England players took an unconventional approach—they got off their team bus and cycled to the stadium using Lime rental bikes. England captain Harry Brook explained, "We were on the bus for a while, then we all decided to get off and get on some Lime bikes. We got in a little earlier than the West Indies boys, but we are here now, ready to go".

LAST STAND

RCB, Punjab Kings clash for maiden IPL title



Ahmedabad: The stage is set for a thrilling IPL 2025 final as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) battle for their maiden title at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Both teams have endured 17 years of heartbreak, making this a historic moment for the franchises and their fans.

RCB secured their place in the final with a dominant eight-wicket victory over PBKS in Qualifier 1, thanks to a solid 56-run performance from Philip Salt. Meanwhile, PBKS bounced back in Qualifier 2, defeating Mumbai Indians by five wickets, driven by a crucial 87-run innings from Shreyas Iyer.

RCB and PBKS have faced off 36 times in IPL history, with both teams winning 18 matches each. This season, they met three times, with PBKS winning the first encounter, while RCB claimed victory in the next two, including Qualifier 1.

Key Players to Watch

- RCB: Virat Kohli (614 runs), Philip Salt, Rajat Patidar, Josh Hazlewood (21 wickets).

- PBKS: Shreyas Iyer (603 runs), Prabhsimran Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Arshdeep Singh (18 wickets).

Pitch and Weather Conditions

The Narendra Modi Stadium is expected to offer a batting-friendly surface, with true bounce and carry. The large boundaries will demand precise hitting from batters. While there was rain earlier in Ahmed-

abad, the latest forecast indicates clear skies during match time, with a low chance of precipitation. Reserve Day and Title Implications

Unlike previous playoff matches, the BCCI has scheduled a reserve day for the final. If rain disrupts play on June 3, the match will be rescheduled for June 4. If the final is washed out on the reserve day as well, the team that finished higher in the league stage—Punjab Kings—will be declared the champion.

With both teams chasing

their first-ever IPL title, fans can expect a high-octane thriller. Will RCB finally lift the elusive trophy, or will PBKS script an underdog fairy tale? The answer will unfold in Ahmedabad tonight. Unlike Qualifier 1, Qualifier 2, and Eliminator, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to include a reserve day for the IPL 2025 final. If rain disrupts the match on Tuesday, it will be rescheduled for Wednesday (June 04). In that scenario, the team that finished higher in the league.

Patidar: RCB must win for Kohli

Ahmedabad: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Rajat Patidar has expressed his team's determination to win their maiden IPL title for Virat Kohli, who has been with the franchise since its inception in 2008. As RCB prepares to face Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the IPL 2025 final, Patidar emphasized the significance of securing the trophy for Kohli, who has played in three previous IPL finals but has yet to lift the championship. Speaking at a pre-match press conference, Patidar acknowledged Kohli's contributions to RCB and Indian cricket, stating, "He has given a lot of years to RCB and the international side. We will try to do our best in the game." He further emphasized that the team is focused on playing their best cricket, rather than being overwhelmed by the occasion. Despite reaching the IPL final in 2009, 2011, and 2016, RCB has never won the tournament. Kohli, who stepped down as captain in 2021, remains the most influential figure in the dressing room. His 18-year loyalty.

Former Spurs players support Postecoglou amid uncertainty over his managerial future

Spurs' strong start fades, finishing fifth in league

As Tottenham Hotspur ponder the fate of manager Ange Postecoglou, former players of the Premier League side have thrown their support behind the Australian and urged the club's ownership to stay the course.

Postecoglou guided Tottenham to Europa League victory last month, ending the club's 17-year trophy drought, but they also endured their worst domestic season for nearly half a century and finished 17th in the Premier League.

The 59-year-old said last month he remained unsure of his future, with reports in British media on Monday saying Tottenham are set to make their decision this week. Former Swiss international Ramon Vega, who made 64 league appear-



ances for Tottenham, said letting the Australian go would be one of the biggest mistakes the club could make.

"I find it incredibly disrespectful to even think about sacking Ange Postecoglou," Vega said on social media on Monday. "He has accomplished the impossible - something others with

more significant credentials have failed to achieve." Ex-Spurs and Ireland striker Robbie Keane said that in the eyes of the fans the Europa League win had made up for the woeful domestic campaign, and that Postecoglou had backed up his statement that he always wins something in his second season.