



THE MILEAGE

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 | GUWAHATI | AIZAWL | IMPHAL | ITANAGAR | KOHIMA | SHILLONG PAGES | Rs 3.00



VOL 7, ISSUE 19

CM Manik Saha seeks border repairs

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha has called upon the Central Government to expedite repairs of the damaged barbed wire fencing along the India-Bangladesh international border in the state. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Saha emphasized the urgent need to restore and reinforce the fencing to bolster border security and prevent illegal infiltration.

Tripura shares an 856-kilometre border with Bangladesh, of which approximately 80% has been fenced. However, several stretches of the fencing have suffered damage due to natural causes such as landslides and heavy rainfall, as well as deliberate vandalism by miscreants. The remaining unfenced portions have seen delays due to logistical and administrative challenges.

Saha highlighted that he had raised the issue during the North Eastern Council (NEC) plenary session held in December 2024 and has since reiterated the matter with central authorities mul-

Sharad Pawar laments unexpected NCP rift at party foundation day event

Pune: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar voiced his disappointment over the party's split while addressing supporters at the 26th Foundation Day event in Pune. The veteran leader, who co-founded the party in 1999, acknowledged the challenges faced by his faction but praised the dedication of workers who continued to uphold the party's ideology.

During his speech, Pawar reflected on the unexpected division within the party, stating, "We never



thought that a split would take place in the party, but it happened." He emphasized that while some members chose to align with different ideologies,

those who remained loyal did so because of their commitment to the party's founding principles. The NCP experienced a major split in July 2023.

Bangladesh protester found in West Bengal voter list

Kolkata: A fresh controversy has erupted in West Bengal after a person allegedly involved in Bangladesh's 2024 student protests was found listed as a voter in Kankdwi. The individual, identified as Niutan Das, was reportedly seen participating in the quota reform protests in Bangladesh, which played a significant role in the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The BJP has accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of encouraging illegal infiltration to manipulate electoral outcomes. West Ben-

gal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar described the incident as another example of the "Egiye Bangla Model", alleging that the same person seen wielding a stick during the Bangladesh protests is now a registered voter in Kankdwi.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari further claimed that lakhs of Bangladeshi nationals have been registered as voters in West Bengal, citing past cases of suspected Ansa-rullah Bangla Team members appearing in voter lists.

Govt ignores present, sells 2047 dreams: Rahul Gandhi

Gandhi criticizes government after Thane train tragedy, demands accountability

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has accused the Modi government of neglecting present-day concerns and instead focusing on long-term promises for 2047. His remarks come as the government marks 11 years in power, a milestone Gandhi claims is defined by propaganda rather than accountability. Gandhi's Criticism.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi referenced



the recent Mumbai train tragedy, where four passengers lost their lives after falling from an overcrowded local train in Thane district. He argued that Indian Railways, once a backbone of daily life, has now become

a symbol of insecurity, congestion, and chaos.

"11 years of Modi government = no accountability, no change, only propaganda. The government has stopped talking about 2025 and is now selling dreams of 2047. Gandhi's remarks have sparked political debate, with BJP leaders defending the government's long-term vision while Congress leaders echoing concerns about immediate governance fail-

ures. The opposition has demanded greater focus on present-day challenges, including economic distress, unemployment, and infrastructure issues.

47," Gandhi wrote. Gandhi's remarks have sparked political debate, with BJP leaders defending the government's long-term vision while Congress leaders echoing concerns about immediate governance fail-

Quick bites

Pawar urges automatic doors installation

Mumbai: NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar has called for the installation of automatic doors in Mumbai's suburban trains following a tragic accident.

Odisha IAS officer bribery scandal

Bhubaneswar: An IAS officer in Odisha, identified as Dhiman Chakma, was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting a ₹10 lakh bribe from a local businessman in Kalahandi district.

Hyderabad groups clash over cattle

Hyderabad: A violent clash erupted in Hyderabad's Atapur area over the transportation of cattle, leading to minor injuries to two policemen who attempted to disperse the crowd.

Modi transforms politics: Nadda

New Delhi: BJP President JP Nadda praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for transforming India's political culture over the past 11 years.

Mumbai train tragedy: 5 dead

Mumbai: Five passengers die in Mumbai train accident near Mumbra station

Delhi court allows Tahawwur Rana to talk to kin over phone

New Delhi: A Delhi court has granted Tahawwur Hussain Rana, an accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, permission to make a one-time phone call to his family under strict supervision.

Special Judge Chander Jit Singh ruled that Rana could speak to his family only once, following Tihar Jail regulations. The court also directed jail authorities to submit a detailed health report on Rana within 10 days and clarify whether he should be allowed regular phone calls in the future.

Rana, a 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, was extradited to India after the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed his review plea against extradition on April 4. He

is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley, the main conspirator behind the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, along with operatives from Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI).

On November 26, 2008, 10 Pakistani terrorists carried out a coordinated attack on Mumbai, targeting a railway station, two luxury hotels, and a Jewish center. The 60-hour siege resulted in 166 deaths and widespread destruction. Rana remains in judicial custody, and his legal team, led by Advocate Piyush Sachdeva, is representing him in court. The Delhi court's ruling marks a significant development in his case, as authorities continue to assess his health condition.

Goa health minister apologizes amid GMCH doctors' protest, Congress seeks removal

GMCH doctors protest, Congress demands minister's resignation

Panaji: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has issued a public apology following widespread protests by doctors at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). The controversy erupted after Rane ordered the suspension of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rudresh Kuttikar during a surprise visit, accusing him of misbehaving with patients.

The incident sparked outrage among medical professionals, with organizations such as the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Goa and the Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD) condemning Rane's actions. Doctors staged protests outside GMCH, demanding an end



to VIP interference in hospital administration and calling for a formal public apology.

Facing mounting pressure, Rane took to social media, stating, "My heartfelt apology to Dr. Kuttikar for the harsh words I spoke during my visit to GMCH. In the heat of the moment, my emotions overtook my

expression, and I deeply regret the manner in which I addressed the situation." Despite the apology, the Congress party has demanded Rane's ouster, accusing him of disrespecting medical professionals and disrupting hospital services. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant intervened overruling the suspension order.



Tripura IAS officer caught bribing

Agartala: The Vigilance Department has arrested Dhiman Chakma, an IAS officer from the 2021 batch, currently serving as the Sub-Collector of Dharamgarh in Kalahandi. On Sunday, Chakma was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 10 lakh from a local businessman at his official residence in Dharamgarh. The bribe was reportedly part of a larger demand totalling Rs 20 lakh, made by Chakma in exchange for not taking punitive action against the businessman's enterprise. The arrest took place after the businessman approached the authorities with a complaint. Chakma allegedly invited the businessman to his residence, where he accepted the first instalment of the bribe, consisting of 26 bundles of 100-note denominations. The transaction was confirmed when a chemical test conducted on Chakma's hands and the drawer where the money was kept yielded positive results for the presence of the bribe money. Following the arrest, a thorough search of Chakma's government residence was conducted, leading to the discovery of an additional Rs 47 lakh in cash.

Assam sees sharp drop in Covid-19 cases, with mild infections remaining

Assam's Covid cases drop to six, with two new recoveries

Guwahati: The total number of active Covid-19 cases in India touched 6,491, as of 8 am on Monday, as 358 fresh cases of the virus were reported in the last 24 hours in the country, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. No new Covid-19-related deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, the Ministry stated.

Kerala continues to be the most affected state with active cases tally reaching 1,957 early Monday. It is followed by Gujarat, West Bengal, and Delhi according to the MoHFW data, with the Capital reporting about 42 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the tally to 728. As



many as 624 patients were cured/discharged/migrated from across the country till this morning, as per the official website.

The current surge of Covid cases in India is driven by new Omicron sub-variants such as JN.1, NB.1.8.1, LF.7, and XFC. These are known to have shown increased trans-

missibility but mostly mild symptoms. The WHO currently classifies these as "Variants Under Monitoring" — not of concern yet, but requiring caution. Meanwhile, SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, has not disappeared, but it no longer behaves like an unpredictable emergency.

Manipur police disclose arrests, protests escalate

Imphal: Manipur witnessed a fresh wave of protests following a series of high-profile arrests made by central agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in connection with criminal and insurgency-related activities.

According to a statement shared by the Manipur Police on social media, former Head Constable Ashem Kanan Singh (46) was arrested by the CBI in Imphal. Singh, who was dismissed from service on March 3, 2025, faced multiple allegations, including cross-border arms smuggling and involvement in serious criminal offences. His arrest on June 7 sparked protests in various

valley areas, prompting the police and security forces to swiftly intervene and restore order.

Simultaneously, the NIA has made significant progress in a case linked to a deadly ambush on January 17, 2024, in Moreh, Tengnoupal district, that claimed the lives of two police commandos and left several others injured.

Three individuals allegedly involved in the attack were arrested. Thangminlen Mate, affiliated with Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal (KIT), was nabbed on May 19 from Silchar, Assam. Two others—Kamgingthang Gangte of the Kuki National Army (KNA) and Hentingthang Kipgen alias Thangne Kipgen, associated with the Village Volunteers.

Manipur villages gain tap water access relief

Jal Jeevan Mission ensures rural Manipur gets safe tap water

Imphal: The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is driving a significant transformation in rural Manipur by ensuring the provision of safe and adequate drinking water to households through individual tap connections.

The Centrally-sponsored scheme which was launched in August 2019, is implemented in partnership with states, where

state authorities plan, design, and execute drinking water projects with technical and financial support from the Government of India.

A ground report by ANI captured visuals from various villages like K. Thenjang, Maichammun, and Leinom, showcasing households now equipped with tap water connec-

tions. Women and children use tap water in their residential compounds, wash clothes, and perform daily chores with ease, a sign of changing times in these once water-deprived villages.

Before JJM's intervention, accessing drinking water was a daily struggle. With the introduction of household tap connec-

tions, anxiety around water availability has significantly diminished. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, 430 water supply schemes were sanctioned in Manipur. Of these, 26 are fully completed, while 108 are yet to provide functional household tap connections. Despite earlier delays due to conflict, work is progressing steadily.

World Bank assesses Tripura's agarwood

Agartala: A three-member World Bank delegation visited North Tripura's Kadamtala area on June 6, to review agarwood factories and engage with growers. The team evaluate the state of the agarwood sector and explored its growth potential.

The team, headed by World Bank consultant Dan Altrel, held a meeting with senior officials of the forest department to learn about the activities in the agarwood industries, he said. The three-member group, also comprising consultants Erick Z Soruco and Sushanta Paul, visited the agar market at Kadamtala and interacted with growers to know their views on how the World Bank could extend help to them.

"The World Bank team is in the state in connection with a project in which non-timber forest products are a component. Since agar-based factories are concentrated at Kadamtala, the team visited the place to know the ground reality. During the visit, the World Bank team interacted with the agar growers as well as the people.

Assam floods: Crisis persists despite rivers receding, thousands still affected

Nine rivers, including Brahmaputra, exceed danger level

Guwahati: With over 4.43 lakh people from 16 districts of Assam still affected, the flood situation remained critical on June 6, although major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were showing a receding trend.

There was no report of fatality due to the floods during the day, though a person was reported missing in Kamrup (Metro). The current first wave of floods, along with landslides, triggered by heavy rainfall, has so far claimed 21 lives in the state.

The floods have affected 1,296 villages under the 54 revenue circles in 16 districts, and 16,558.59 hectares of cropland are still



under water, while 2,96,765 animals are facing the impact of the current wave. More than 40,313 displaced people are staying at 328 relief camps, while 1,19,001 were provided relief at distribution centres set up in the affected districts. The Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati, has forecast thunderstorms

and lightning with gusty winds at a speed of 30 to 40 kmph in isolated places in 18 districts of the state.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Barak Valley for the second time this week to review the flood situation with all three districts - Cachar, Hailakandi and Sribhumi - in the region severely affected.

Arunachal police expel 200 ILP violators from Itanagar

Itanagar: The Arunachal Pradesh police externed more than 200 people without valid Inner Line Permits (ILPs) from the Itanagar Capital Region.

The violators were detected during an enforcement drive conducted by Naharlagun police across Papu Hills, Naharlagun, Nirjuli, and Banderdewa, as part of the ongoing initiative to uphold the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation.

Naharlagun Superintendent of Police (SP) Mihin Gambo said that all 219 individuals were found without valid ILPs during the operation. "Each case was verified and processed under non-FIR provisions, and the violators were handed over to the execu-

tive magistrate. They were subsequently externed from the Capital Region," Gambo stated. Highlighting the growing number of ILP violations in the Itanagar Capital Region, particularly at markets, construction sites, and commercial establishments, the SP urged residents and employers not to engage outsiders lacking valid ILPs. He also appealed to the public to report any such violations to the nearest police station. "Regular ILP enforcement drives will continue in the coming days. All non-Arunachali individuals must carry valid ILP documents at all times and cooperate with the authorities," the SP added. ILP grants limited access to protected areas.



Godrej Industries strengthens sustainability efforts with impactful #BeatPlasticPollution campaign launch

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group (GIG), in partnership with BMC and the Bhama Foundation, has launched the #BeatPlasticPollution campaign, backed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to address India's growing plastic waste crisis. With 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste generated in 2023—43% of it single-use—the campaign urges consumers to embrace sustainable choices and reduce their plastic footprint. Nadir Godrej, Chairman and MD of GIG, stated, "Over the past de-



cade, we've made significant strides—64% of our energy now comes from renewable sources, and we recycle 100% of our plastic packaging. This campaign

is a natural extension of our mission to create a sustainable legacy." A key feature of the initiative is the Godrej Magic Ready-to-Mix Handwash Station

in Mumbai, showcasing how refill usage can cut plastic waste. Neeraj Senguttuvan, GCPL's Marketing Head, emphasized that this innovation uses 50% less plastic, 75% less fuel, and 75% less paper compared to regular handwash. In Guwahati, where urban waste is becoming a serious challenge, industry watchers believe such business-led sustainability models can offer scalable solutions for northeastern cities aiming to curb single-use plastic reliance. The campaign concludes with a Cyclothon to amplify eco-conscious living.

HDFC Bank cuts deposit rates



Mumbai: HDFC Bank has announced a reduction in its fixed deposit (FD) and savings account interest rates, effective June 10, 2025. This move follows the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to cut the repo rate by 50 basis points, bringing it down from 6% to 5.5%. The rate revision is expected to impact both depositors and borrowers, marking a significant shift in the bank's interest rate strategy.

HDFC Bank has standardized its savings account interest rates to 2.75% per annum, regardless of the balance amount. Previously, balances below ₹50 lakh accrued interest at 2.75%, while those above ₹50 lakh benefited from a higher rate of 3.25%. The new structure eliminates this distinction, reducing the rate for higher balance holders by 50 basis points. The bank stated that this uniformity aims to simplify interest calculations for account holders.

HDFC Bank has also revised FD interest rates, reducing them by up to 25 basis points for select tenures on deposits below ₹3 crore.

Toyota Kirloskar advances sustainability with Environment Month 2025 green drive

Bengaluru: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) kicked off its Environment Month 2025 campaign themed "Sustainable Resource Management Drive," echoing the global Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050. Focused on 'Zero-Base Thinking' and the 4Rs—Refuse, Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce—the initiative aims to integrate sustainability across operations, suppliers, and dealerships.

The campaign showcases Toyota's long-term environmental achievements, including 100% renewable grid electricity use, 96% waste recyclability, and 89.3% of water requirements met through recycling and rain-



water harvesting. TKM's 25-acre 'Ecozone' has engaged over 42,000 students and stakeholders, promoting hands-on ecological learning. Environment Month 2025 activities include the "TKM Sustainable Hub 2025," hosting

Green Expos, tech shows, and student-led upcycling initiatives. Additional goals include zero plastic packaging by 2030, greater afforestation, and circular economy promotion with upcycled lifestyle products.

Oriflame announces launch of Giordani Gold Essenza Man Elixir Parfum at INR 5599

Guwahati: Oriflame has launched its new premium fragrance, Giordani Gold Essenza Man Elixir Parfum, priced at an MRP of INR 5599. The 50ml perfume is crafted for the modern man seeking sophistication, combining fresh top notes of Blackcurrant, Lemon, and Black Pepper with a rich heart of Elemi, Olibanum, and Moss. The base of Vetiver, Patchouli, and Ambery Woods ensures a warm, long-lasting

scent lasting up to eight hours, emphasizing luxury and depth. Encased in a stylish bottle with 24-carat gold accents, the fragrance represents a blend of elegance and masculinity. Positioned in the Woody Vetiver fragrance family, it aims to capture the attention of discerning consumers looking for premium offerings.

In Guwahati, the perfume is gaining traction amid growing demand for luxu-

ry personal care products. Retailers report that buyers in this region are increasingly willing to invest in premium scents, especially when priced reasonably. The MRP of INR 5599 is viewed as competitive for this segment, and local outlets are leveraging the MRP to highlight the product's exclusivity. The MRP remains a critical consideration for Guwahati customers balancing quality and value.

DSP Mutual Fund unveils IT, healthcare sector index funds

Guwahati: DSP Mutual Fund has announced the launch of two new sectoral offerings—DSP Nifty IT Index Fund and DSP Nifty Healthcare Index Fund—providing investors access to India's most resilient defensive sectors. The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open from June 2 to June 16, 2025.

Both sectors have historically demonstrated stability during turbulent periods. During the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 shock in early 2020, Nifty IT and Nifty Healthcare indices posted lower drawdowns and quicker recoveries compared to the broader Nifty 500. This resilience is attributed to their strong global revenue pro-

files—~96% for Nifty IT and ~52% for Nifty Healthcare, compared to just ~25% for Nifty 50.

The DSP Nifty IT Index Fund will invest in the top 10 IT firms by free-float market cap, while the DSP Nifty Healthcare Index Fund will cover the top 20 healthcare companies.

In Guwahati, financial planners note rising investor interest in sector-specific passive funds. With volatility in broader indices, local advisors are recommending these low-beta sectors for their growth consistency and global diversification. DSP aims to offer a balanced, disciplined approach to long-term structural growth through these passive investment vehicles.

Nissan Magnite hits 2 lakh sales, unveils CNG kit, plans models

Gurugram: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) announced that its popular compact SUV, the Nissan Magnite, has surpassed 2,00,000 cumulative sales across domestic and export markets since its 2020 launch. The milestone reflects the success of the company's 'One Car, One World' philosophy and the growing appeal of the Magnite in over 65 countries. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, stated, "This achievement is a proud moment for the entire Nissan India family. We thank our customers

for their trust in the Magnite and the Nissan brand."

As part of its strategy to meet evolving customer needs, Nissan introduced a government-approved CNG retrofit kit, priced at ₹74,999, compatible with the 1.0L petrol manual variant of the Magnite. The kit will be installed at authorised centres.

Nissan further announced plans to launch three new vehicles—including a 7-seater B-MPV and two C-segment SUVs—between FY2025 and FY2026 to strengthen its India portfolio.

India's rising household debts are not worrisome: SBI report

New Delhi: While household debt in India has been increasing over the past three years, a State Bank of India (SBI) report suggested that it's not necessarily a cause for alarm, especially when considering the context of the economy and the type of debt.

It said India's household debt is manageable and not worrisome at all, as two-thirds of the portfolio is of prime and above credit quality and the rise is attributed to a growing number of borrowers rather than an increase in average indebtedness. Additionally, asset creation, such as



home and vehicle loans, makes up 25 per cent, while productive purposes like agriculture, business, and education loans constitute 30 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) views the rise in household debt as manageable, particularly since two-thirds of the portfolio consists of prime and above-credit-quality borrowers.

Tata AIA announces record Rs1,842 cr bonus for FY25, reinforces trust in participating plans

Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. has declared its highest-ever bonus of ₹1,842 crore for FY25, benefiting over 8.15 lakh policyholders across its participating (Par) plans. The bonus marks a 26% increase over last year's ₹1,465 crore payout and reinforces the company's strong fund performance and customer-centric approach. Key plans such as the Diamond Savings Plan, Smart Value Income Plan, Value Income Plan, and Shubh Flexi Income Plan are among those eligible for this record payout. Participating plans



offer a balanced approach combining life cover with annual bonuses linked to fund performance, making them a preferred choice in current market conditions. Kshitij Sharma, EVP and Appointed Actuary, said, "This record-breaking bonus reflects our unwaver-

ing commitment to policyholders and our focus on delivering superior long-term returns."

In Aizawl, insurance advisors have welcomed the announcement, reporting increased customer interest in Tata AIA's Par plans. With rising financial awareness, many families in the Aizawl are opting for products that offer both protection and steady income, viewing Tata AIA's offerings as reliable instruments for future planning. Tata AIA continues to rank among India's top three private insurers, with FY24 premium income at ₹25,692 crore.

Aviva India posts robust FY25 results, drives growth with wellness-focused insurance

Guwahati: Aviva India has reported strong financial results for FY25, demonstrating steady growth grounded in sustainable business practices. The company maintained a Gross Written Premium of Rs 1,307 crore and boosted its Assets Under Management (AUM) by 6% to Rs 14,735 crore. Profit rose to Rs 107.52 crore, up from Rs 89.66 crore last year, while the solvency ratio improved to a healthy 193%, highlighting a solid financial base.

Shifting from a distribution-driven model to a

product-centric approach, Aviva enhanced customer experience with 100% claims settled within 30 days and reduced complaints per 10,000 policies from 20 to 16. The company's wellness-integrated offerings, including its Preventive Wellness Package bundled with the Signature 3D Term Plan – Platinum, feature smart health devices and AI-powered nutrition advice, promoting holistic health management. In Guwahati, the demand for such innovative insurance products is growing rapidly. Local market players report

that consumers increasingly seek policies that combine financial protection with wellness benefits. Aviva's focus on preventive health resonates strongly with Guwahati's expanding urban middle class, positioning the company well for future growth in the region. MD & CEO Asit Rath emphasized, "Our focus on customer-centric innovation and operational excellence positions us for a sustainable future." Aviva plans to launch more affordable, targeted products to deepen its market presence nationwide.

Tata Salt revives iconic jingle, highlighting iodine's role in children's mental development campaign

Guwahati: Tata Salt, India's No.1 iodized salt brand under Tata Consumer Products Ltd., has rolled out the 2.0 version of its beloved 'Namak ho Tata Ka... Tata Namak' campaign. The new edition, launched on June 2, 2025, revives the nostalgic jingle while communicating the essential role of iodine in children's mental development. The campaign builds on the emotional resonance of last year's version and aims to deepen consumer trust across households nationwide. Developed by Ogilvy, the campaign features eight short films showcasing



slice-of-life moments—from lullabies and weddings to classrooms and kitty parties. Each film reflects the cultural rich-

ness of Hindi, Bengali, and Marathi households, reinforcing Tata Salt's identity as "Desh Ka Namak." The brand also released four

initial films during the IPL to maximize reach.

In Guwahati, retailers and consumers have responded positively to the campaign's educational angle and nostalgic appeal. Local grocery outlets report increased inquiries and engagement, especially from young parents focused on child nutrition. The jingle's familiarity combined with its health-focused messaging has enhanced brand visibility in Assam's urban hubs. Tata Salt's new campaign smartly blends heritage with health, reaffirming its commitment to quality, trust, and consumer well-being.

Nissan powers ahead with green initiatives and CNG retrofit push on World Environment Day



Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has launched a range of sustainability initiatives to mark World Environment Day 2025. The company has installed grid-based solar power systems at seven dealerships—Acuity Nissan (Baroda), Aarav Nissan (Mehsana), EVM Nissan (three in Kerala), Dada Nissan (Jalandhar), and Roshan Nissan (Jaipur)—ensuring 100% green energy for operations, with surplus electricity routed back to the grid.

Additionally, Nissan initiated a nationwide tree-sapling plantation activity at all its dealerships and workshops, inviting customers to plant saplings tagged with their names and vehicle numbers. Participants were also awarded a "Green Service Certifi-

cate" and seed packets to promote community-level greening efforts.

The automaker also announced a 15% reduction in plastic packaging and the rollout of a government-approved CNG retrofit kit for the New Nissan Magnite at ₹74,999. Initially launched across seven states, the CNG kit targets sustainability-focused consumers seeking fuel efficiency with minimal environmental impact.

In Guwahati, dealers noted growing consumer traction for green initiatives, with increased interest in CNG variants and solar-powered dealership services. The demand for eco-conscious mobility is expected to rise, aligning with Nissan's vision of sustainable growth and responsible innovation.

Rupee rises 8 paise to 85.58 against US dollar in early trade

Mumbai: The Indian rupee appreciated by 8 paise to ₹85.58 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, supported by a strong opening in domestic equity markets and robust foreign capital inflows. However, gains were capped due to rising global crude oil prices and a firm US dollar against other currencies.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at ₹85.62 before strengthening to ₹85.58, marking an improvement from its previous close of ₹85.66 on Monday. Analysts predict that the rupee will trade within a narrow range of ₹85.45–₹85.95, in-



fluenced by daily fund flows and global economic developments.

Market experts attribute the rupee's rise to foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchasing equities worth ₹1,992.87 crore on Monday, reflecting investor confidence in the Indian economy. Additionally, positive sentiment in domestic equities, with indices such as the Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex showing gains, contributed to the rupee's strength.

Wipro relocates its Middle East Headquarters to Riyadh

Riyadh: Wipro Limited, a leading global technology services and consulting company, has officially relocated its Middle East regional headquarters from Al Khobar to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The move aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, reinforcing Wipro's commitment to digital innovation, local talent development, and regional expansion.

The newly inaugurated Riyadh headquarters was unveiled in a ceremony attended by Wipro executives, employees, and key customers. The company's presence in Saudi Arabia now includes offices in Riyadh, Al Khobar, Jeddah, and Jubail.

To further strengthen its engagement in the region, Wipro has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) to establish a Center of Excellence (CoE) in Riyadh. The CoE aims to train local talent in advanced technologies, providing hands-on experience and exposure to Wipro's global best practices.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE teams up with Atlee and Allu Arjun for AA22xA6

Deepika's reported exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit sparked controversy, though her involvement was never officially confirmed



Actress Deepika Padukone on Saturday joined the cast of Telugu cinema star Allu Arjun and director Atlee's upcoming movie. Backed by production banner Sun Pictures, the movie is billed as a "magnum opus". The currently untitled movie was officially announced on Arjun's 43rd birthday in April.

"The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome on-board @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6 #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Picture @alluarjunonline @atlee47," Sun Pictures posted on Instagram. The project will mark Deepika Padukone's reunion with director Atlee, following their successful collaboration on the 2023 blockbuster "Jawan", which was headlined by Shah Rukh Khan. It will also be her first on-screen pairing with Arjun, the lead actor of the "Pushpa" franchise. Atlee is also known for Tamil

films "Mersal", "Theri", and "Bigil". Padukone coming on board Atlee's film follows the controversy surrounding her reported exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Spirit" due to creative differences though there was never any official confirmation of Padukone's involvement in the film.

The video shows Deepika in conversation with Atlee, before the setting changes to a studio. Concept sketches of her character, which appears to be a warrior, show her leaping in the air and fighting with a battle axe. We see glimpses of Deepika recreating the moves in a controlled environment as Atlee guides her. The actor also shoots a promo atop a CGI horse with a weapon in her hand, and motion capture sensors on her body. The video was received with great excitement by fans. "Deepika Padukone Action Goosebumps," wrote one fan.

Tom cruise sets a new Guinness World Record

The fan-favourite Mission: Impossible film series has been going strong since 1996, when Tom Cruise first played secret agent Ethan Hunt. Over the years, fans have watched him save the world again and again, often performing dangerous stunts himself. After breaking several box office records, Cruise's performance in Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning earned him a Guinness World Record.

He set the record for most burning parachute jumps by an individual after jumping out of a helicopter 16 times with a fuel-soaked chute set ablaze in a stunt for the final instalment in the action franchise. "Tom doesn't just play action heroes — he is an action hero!" said Craig Glenday, Guinness World Records editor-in-chief in a statement. "A large part of his success can be chalked up to his absolute focus on authenticity and pushing the boundaries of what a leading man can do. It's an hon-



our to be able to recognise his utter fearlessness with this new Guinness World Records title." Newcomers to the "Mission: Impossible" franchise include "Ted Lasso" star Hannah Waddingham, Nick Offerman, Lucy Tulugarjuk, Katy O'Brian, Tramell Tillman and Stephen Oyoung.

Ananya Panday

trolled over '3/10' remark

Ananya Panday is one of the top actresses in the industry today. She is receiving a lot of praise for her recent performance in Akshay Kumar's Kesari 2. The actress also received a lot of applause for her work in Netflix's CTRL and Prime Video's Call Me Bae, and after these shows, her career has skyrocketed.

An old video of the actress is now surfacing on social media, where she can be seen rating herself as a below-average actress. On one hand, fans are sad for her shaken confidence, trolls on the other hand are calling her out for playing the sympathy card. In the viral video, when asked to rate herself as an actor, initially hesi-



tant, Ananya says, "I can't do this... Like a 3... How can I rate myself as an actor?" Her Call Me Bae co-stars Niharika Dutt and Muskaan Jaferi try to lift her spirits, nudging her to rate herself higher. Eventually, Panday settles on a 7 out of 10.

Housefull 5 opens with ₹24.35 crore

Akshay Kumar's latest comedy extravaganza, Housefull 5, has kicked off with a blockbuster opening, raking in ₹24.35 crore on its first day in India. The film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, is the fifth installment in the wildly popular Housefull franchise, known for its slapstick humor and star-studded ensemble cast.

Featuring Nana Patekar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Jackie Shroff, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, and Sanjay Dutt, the film hit theaters on Friday and has already set the stage for a massive weekend run.

Adding a twist to the madness, Housefull 5 comes with two alternate endings, titled Housefull 5A and



Housefull 5B, keeping audiences guessing till the very last scene.

With its record-breaking opening, Housefull 5 has outperformed its predecessor, Housefull 4, which had a first-day collection of ₹19.08 crore. The film has also surpassed Akshay Kumar's recent releases, including Sky Force (₹11.50 crore) and Fighter (₹22.50 crore).

The film's hilarious plot unfolds on a luxurious cruise ship, where a billionaire announces his

fortune will go to someone named Jolly—only to be mysteriously murdered moments later. With three men named Jolly (played by Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and Abhishek Bachchan) onboard, the chaos escalates as everyone becomes a suspect.

With strong word-of-mouth and a loyal fanbase, Housefull 5 is expected to continue its winning streak over the weekend, promising non-stop entertainment for moviegoers. However, what happened on Mon-

day was even better, what with as much as Rs. 13.15 crores coming in, which is a really good hold. The good part is that the hold is all across and not lopsided to any particular territory. The film has found acceptance amongst audiences, especially amongst families, and when that happened then footfalls in the evening and early night shows are always encouraging, as seen on Monday as well.

While the Akshay Kumar led killer comedy has already entered the Rs. 100 Crore Club with the collections reaching Rs. 104.98 crores, the real game is a double century score. This franchise by Sajid Nadiadwala has already seen Housefull 4 entering the Rs. 200 Crore Club and by the look of things so far, Housefull 5 is all set to achieve that milestone as well.

Diageo considers selling RCB stake post-tragedy

Bengaluru: Diageo, the British spirits giant, is considering selling its stake in the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), just days after a tragic stampede in Bengaluru raised concerns about event safety. The company, which owns RCB through its Indian subsidiary United Spirits Ltd, is reportedly consulting advisors to explore options for a partial or complete stake sale.

RCB, which won its maiden IPL title this season, has seen its brand value soar, making it one of the most sought-after franchises in the league. Reports suggest that Diageo may seek a valuation of up to \$2 billion for the team. The news has already impacted the stock market, with United Spirits' shares rising by 3% following reports of the potential sale.

The discussions come at a time when India's health ministry is pushing for stricter regulations on tobacco and alcohol advertising in sports, particularly in the IPL. The ministry has urged a ban on indirect



promotions of unhealthy products by sports personalities, which could affect Diageo's marketing strategies.

RCB was originally owned by Vijay Mallya, who purchased the franchise for \$111.6 million in 2008. After financial troubles led to the downfall of Kingfisher Airlines, Diageo acquired Mallya's stake in United Spirits, thereby gaining control of RCB. The franchise has since become one of the most commercially valuable teams in the IPL, largely due to the presence of Virat Kohli, one of the most followed athletes globally.

While Diageo has not made a final decision, the potential sale could set a new benchmark for IPL franchise valuations. The IPL has grown into a global sports powerhouse, rivaling leagues like the NFL and English Premier League in commercial value.

Portugal clinch Nations League title in shootout



Munich: Portugal secured their second UEFA Nations League title with a tense 5-3 shootout victory over Spain after a 2-2 draw in the final at Allianz Arena, Munich.

Spain took the lead in the 21st minute through Martin Zubimendi, capitalizing on a defensive lapse. Portugal responded swiftly, with Nuno Mendes equalizing five minutes later. Mikel Oyarzabal restored Spain's advantage just before half-time, but Cristiano Ronaldo leveled the score in the

61st minute, registering his 138th international goal.

With neither side breaking the deadlock in extra time, the match went to penalties. Spain's Álvaro Morata missed a crucial spot-kick, while Portugal converted all five of their attempts, with Rúben Neves sealing the victory.

Portugal, winners of the 2019 edition, become the first team to claim multiple Nations League titles, further enhancing Ronaldo's legacy in international football.

DHONI HONORED!

Dhoni & Six Icons Join ICC Hall!

London: MS Dhoni, India's legendary cricket captain, has been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, becoming the 11th Indian cricketer to receive this prestigious honor. The induction ceremony took place in London on June 9, 2025, where Dhoni was recognized for his remarkable contributions to the sport.

Dhoni, known for his calm leadership and finishing prowess, remains the only captain to have won all three major ICC white-ball trophies—the T20 World Cup (2007), ODI World Cup (2011), and Champions Trophy (2013). His batting legacy includes over 10,000 ODI runs at an impressive average of 50.57, and his wicketkeeping skills revolutionized the game with lightning-fast stumpings.

Alongside Dhoni, six other cricketing greats were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame Class of 2025: Hashim Amla, Matthew Hayden, Graeme Smith, Daniel Vettori, Sana Mir, and Sarah Taylor. ICC Chairman Jay Shah praised the inductees, stating that their careers have shaped cricket's legacy and inspired generations.

Reflecting on the honor, Dhoni expressed his gratitude: "It is an honor to be named in the ICC Hall of Fame, which recognizes the contributions of cricketers across generations and from all over the world. To have your name remembered alongside such all-time greats is a wonderful feeling—something I will cherish forever."

This induction further cements Dhoni's status as one of cricket's most influential figures, celebrated for his leadership, consistency, and impact on the game.

Dhoni, known for his calm leadership and finishing prowess, remains the only captain to have won all three major ICC white-ball trophies: the T20 World Cup (2007), ODI World Cup (2011), and Champions Trophy (2013).

His batting legacy includes over 17,000 international runs.



Sudharsan sharpens defense for England test

London: Tamil Nadu's young top-order batter B Sai Sudharsan is one of the Indian players who has found himself in the spotlight as the countdown begins for the first Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, set to kick off on June 20 at Headingley.

The focus tends to shift towards Sudharsan naturally, considering he is among the forerunners to feature in the number three spot for India. The 23-year-old who stands in contention for earning his maiden Test cap for India will have to bear the responsibility on his shoulders of filling a spot that Cheteshwar Pujara held. Pujara offered stability at number three, making the spot his own while raising the bar with his robust performances. The baton was eventually passed down to the newly crowned Test captain, Shubman Gill. While India is yet to confirm officially, the rumour mill has suggested Gill is expected to occupy the number four spot, which was up for grabs after batting maestro Virat Kohli retired from the format last month.

Former West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran retires from internationals

Pooran's final WI matches: Bangladesh T20, Sri Lanka ODI

New Delhi: Nicholas Pooran, the former West Indies white-ball captain, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29. His decision comes as a shock to the cricketing world, as he was still in his prime and had been a key player for the West Indies in limited-overs formats. Pooran made his international debut in a T20I match in September 2016, followed by his ODI debut in February 2019. Over the years, he became West Indies' most-capped T20I player and their leading run-scorer in the format, amassing 2,275 runs in 106 matches. In ODIs, he played 61 matches, scoring 1,983 runs at an average of 39.66, including three centuries and



11 fifties. One of his most memorable performances came during the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers, where he smashed a blistering century against the Netherlands, reaching his ton in just 63 balls, making it the fourth-fastest ODI century by a West Indian batter. His aggressive batting style and ability to clear boundaries made him a T20

powerhouse, hitting 170 sixes in 2023 alone, the most by any player that year. Over the years, he became West Indies' most-capped T20I player and their leading run-scorer in the format, amassing 2,275 runs in 106 matches. In ODIs, he played 61 matches, scoring 1,983 runs at an average of 39.66, including three centuries.