



Bomb threat diverts IndiGo flight in Nagpur

Security agencies conducted a thorough inspection of the aircraft

Kochi: An IndiGo flight traveling from Kochi to Delhi made an emergency landing in Nagpur on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, following a bomb threat received mid-air. The flight, numbered 6E2706, had departed Kochi at 9:20 a.m. and was scheduled

to arrive in Delhi by 12:35 p.m. However, after receiving the threat, the aircraft was diverted to Nagpur as a precautionary measure. Upon landing, all passengers were safely deboarded, and security agencies, including police and fire teams, conducted

a thorough inspection of the aircraft. According to Nagpur DCP Lohit Matani, no suspicious items were found, and all passengers were reported safe. Authorities are continuing their investigation, and all standard safety protocols were followed. The incident

comes just a day after a similar bomb threat forced a Lufthansa flight bound for Hyderabad to return to Frankfurt. This incident follows heightened aviation security concerns in recent days, including a similar threat to a Lufthansa flight bound for Hyderabad.

Bus fall into Mandi gorge, 15 passengers injured

Shimla: A private bus traveling from Jahu in Hamirpur district to Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, plunged into a gorge near Kalkhar around 9 a.m. on June 17, 2025, leaving 15 passengers injured. The accident occurred when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle near Patrighat, causing it to veer off the road and tumble down a steep slope.

Local villagers were the first to respond, helping rescue trapped passengers before emergency services

arrived. The injured were transported to the government medical college and hospital in Nerchowk for treatment. Fortunately, no fatalities have been reported so far, though one passenger remains in critical condition.

Heavy rainfall in the region hampered rescue operations, and authorities have launched an inquiry into the cause of the accident. The bus was reportedly carrying passengers within its permitted capacity at the time of the incident.

MEA evacuates students from Tehran

New Delhi: Amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has moved swiftly to ensure the safety of its nationals in Tehran. On June 17, 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that over 110 Indian students have been relocated from Tehran to safer areas, with some even facilitated to exit Iran via the Armenia border.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran coordinated the evacuation, while also advising other Indian nationals and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have access to private transport to leave the city independently. The embassy remains in close contact with the Indian community and continues to provide logistical and advisory support. In light of the volatile situation, the MEA has activated a 24x7 control room in New Delhi and issued emergency contact numbers for Indian citizens in Iran. The Embassy in Tehran has also set up round-the-clock helplines to assist those in need. The evacuation comes as the conflict between Iran and Israel intensifies, with both nations engaging in missile and drone strikes.



Smoke rises following attack on Sahran Oil depot in Tehran

Ahmedabad plane crash: 135 victims identified, 101 bodies handed over to kin

Ahmedabad: Five days after the devastating crash of Air India flight AI-171 in Ahmedabad, authorities have confirmed that 135 victims have been identified through DNA matching, and 101 bodies have been handed over to their families. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, carrying 242 passengers and crew, crashed into a medical college complex shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1:39 p.m. on June 12, 2025. The crash claimed 270 lives, including 29 people on the ground, among them five



MBBS students. Only one passenger on board survived the tragedy. Due to the severity of the crash, many bodies were charred or damaged beyond recognition, prompting authorities to rely on DNA testing for

identification. According to Dr. Rakesh Joshi, superintendent of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, the 101 bodies handed over included victims from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Diu.

MP CM announces ₹250 Rakhi gift for women

Indore: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced a special festive bonus of ₹250 as 'shagun' for beneficiaries of the Ladli Behna Yojana on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. This amount will be transferred in addition to the regular ₹1,250 monthly installment, bringing the total payout for the month to ₹1,500 for each eligible woman.

The announcement was made during a public event in Belkheda village, about 40 km from Jabalpur, where the Chief Minister also transferred ₹1,551.44 crore into the bank accounts of 1.27 crore women as part of the scheme's 25th installment. The Ladli Behna Yojana is a flagship initiative aimed at empowering women financially and socially across the state.

In addition to the financial announcement, CM Yadav also laid the foundation stones for several



development projects in the region, including a new government college and residential quarters for revenue department staff.

Beyond the financial boost, the Chief Minister also unveiled a series of development projects in the region. These include the foundation of a new government college, and the construction of office complexes and residential quarters for revenue department staff. These efforts reflect the government's broader strategy to improve infrastructure and educational access alongside social welfare. The ₹250 Raksha Bandhan bonus is being positioned not just as a symbolic gesture, but as a part of larger narrative.



G7 statement expresses support for Israel, calls Iran source of instability

Congress open to UP alliance, strengthening base

New Delhi: The Congress party has signaled its openness to forming a "respectable and suitable" alliance in Uttar Pradesh, likely within the INDIA bloc, as it prepares for the 2027 Assembly elections. At the same time, the party is actively rebuilding its grass-



roots presence across all 75 districts of the state through a 100-day organisational campaign called

Sangathan Srijan. Congress general secretary and UP in-charge Avinash Pande emphasized that while alliances are on the table, the party's primary focus is on strengthening its own cadre and expanding rural outreach—especially

ahead of the 2026 panchayat polls. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-Samajwadi Party alliance had a strong showing, with Congress winning 6 of the 17 seats it contested and SP securing 37, significantly reducing the BJP's tally in the state.



Tripura launches Stop Diarrhea Campaign 2025 to eliminate child deaths from diarrheal disease

The campaign aims to reduce child mortality from diarrhea to zero

Agartala: The National Health Mission (NHM) has rolled out the "Stop Diarrhea Campaign-2025" across Tripura with the ambitious goal of reducing child mortality due to diarrhea to zero.

The state-wide campaign began today and will continue until July 31, will be implemented across all eight districts, targeting over 3 lakh children under the age of five. The initiative places a strong emphasis on hygiene awareness and timely medical intervention, with this year's theme being: "Diarrhea can be prevented, cleanliness and ORS are your focus." To ensure smooth execution, a high-level inter-departmental coordination



meeting was held at the state secretariat. Officials present included Tapan Kumar Das, Director of Social Welfare and Social Education; Tapan Majumdar, Director of Health and Family Welfare; and representatives from the departments of Food, Consumer Affairs, Panchayat, School Education, and Information

& Cultural Affairs. Under the campaign, Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and zinc tablets will be distributed to children across the state, with special focus on aspirational districts, remote tribal blocks, urban slums, flood-prone zones, and areas previously affected by diarrhea outbreaks. The

district-wise child outreach includes 57,512 in West Tripura, 45,627 in Sepahijala, 42,779 in North Tripura, 38,096 in Gomati, 36,293 in Dhalai, 32,667 in South Tripura, 26,241 in Khowai, and 25,847 in Unakoti.

According to official data, 12,075 children were affected by diarrhea in Tripura in 2024. Thanks to timely government intervention and community health awareness efforts, all of them recovered without fatalities. The state government has called upon all departments and stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure the campaign's success and protect the health of children across Tripura.

Manipur police arrest active CKNDF/A cadre

Imphal: Manipur Police have arrested an active member of the Chin Kuki National Defence Force/Army (CKNDF/A), a non-SoO militant group, in connection with multiple unlawful activities. The arrested individual, identified as Ngamkhosat Touthang alias Sasat (38) of B. Ebenezer, Tuibong under Churachandpur Police Station, was apprehended from his residence in Churachandpur district.

According to police, Touthang is wanted in a case involving serious charges such as extortion, kidnapping, weapon smuggling, and drug trafficking, allegedly carried out across the Myanmar border on behalf of the CKNDF/A. Prior to the arrest, a raid conducted on May 16, 2025,



at his hideout led to the recovery of one locally made pistol with three live 9mm rounds and five letterheads bearing the insignia of the CKNDF/A. The police are continuing further investigations into his network and cross-border activities. Based on intelligence input from various sources that there were some underground activities at the hinted location, the joint team launched a swift operation, leading to the arrest of the Kuki underground on Monday.

Meghalaya allocates 8% of state budget to health, highest in India

Shillong: Meghalaya has allocated eight per cent of its total state budget to the health sector, the highest proportion among all Indian states, according to an official statement released during the first Meghalaya Health Summit 2025 held at the State Convention Centre in Shillong. The summit was chaired by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma and organized by the state Department of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with the National Health Mission.

Since 2010, Meghalaya's health budget has increased nearly sixfold from ₹300 crore to ₹1,700 crore in 2023. Major investments have been directed



toward strengthening Primary and Community Health Centres, sub-centres, and district hospitals. These investments cover infrastructure development, procurement of medical equipment, IT systems, logistics, storage facilities, and real-time monitoring of supplies.

During the summit, the Chief Minister distributed

appointment letters to over 200 newly recruited nurses under the Meghalaya Medical Services Recruitment Board (MMSRB) and 115 staff under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM). Addressing the recruits, he said, "This is more than just a job it's a calling. Approach every patient with empathy; your compassion can transform lives."

IMD issues heavy rainfall alert for northeast states

Guwahati: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rainfall alert for the Northeastern region, forecasting intense showers in several states over the next two to three days. According to the IMD, isolated places in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall.

The department has warned of possible localized flooding, landslides, and disruption to transport and communication in vulnerable areas. Authorities have been advised to remain on alert and take necessary precautions.



In addition to the Northeast, heavy rain has also been predicted in Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand till Thursday. Northeast food festivals. The IMD has also forecast light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and gusty winds in Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh till Friday. In Northeast India, Arunachal to Tripura face days of rain.

SC grants bail to Nagaland's retired judge

Guwahati: The Supreme Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to retired Nagaland district judge Inalo Zhimomi, who claimed he is facing malicious prosecution and was forcibly retired after raising concerns about irregularities in the state's bail surety system.

Authorities had booked Zhimomi and two others in a case involving the alleged misappropriation of Rs 14.35 lakh in cash bail sureties during his tenure as Principal District and Sessions Judge in Mon district. The current presiding judge in Mon district lodged the complaint, prompting the police investigation.

Zhimomi had previously flagged that district courts in Nagaland were not depositing bail amounts or cash sureties into the respective District Treasuries, a violation of standard financial protocols. Instead, cash was reportedly handled directly by court staff, raising accountability concerns. The retired judge moved the Supreme Court after the Gauhati High Court's Kohima bench refused to grant interim protection in a related case filed on May 29, where he challenged the legality of his compulsory retirement.

Shillong police target illegal vehicle rentals

Guwahati: Shillong Traffic Police have launched an enforcement drive to identify and penalize individuals illegally renting out private two-wheelers and four-wheelers for commercial use in violation of Meghalaya's transport regulations. Following a public notice issued by Transport Commissioner David D. Sangma on June 13, officials have begun conducting checks at strategic locations across the city. Sangma clearly stated that Meghalaya has not approved any schemes allowing individuals or organisations to operate rent-a-bike or rent-a-cab services. Therefore, such activities remain strictly prohibited. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Kamakhya Prasad confirmed the operation during a press briefing on Monday.

Jitendra Singh highlights Modi govt's push for inclusive growth in Northeast

New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Personnel, Jitendra Singh, on Monday, June 16 underscored Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of positioning the Northeast as a critical growth engine rather than a peripheral region. His remarks came during a high-level outreach visit to Nagaland's Wokha district, where he engaged with tribal leaders, civil society



organisations, and local administration officials. The visit is part of the Centre's broader strategic approach aimed at fostering inclusive development, cultural integration, and enhanced connectivity across the

Northeast.

"Prime Minister Modi has given special focus to the Northeast, treating it not as a periphery but as a growth engine. Every visit here is about listening, understanding, and responding to local aspirations," said Singh during a series of interactions with tribal representatives. Structural, policy-driven Northeast development.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches 'Super Term Plan' with life, health & income protection

Guwahati: Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited (ABSLI), the life insurance arm of Aditya Birla Capital, has introduced the ABSLI Super Term Plan, a comprehensive pure protection term insurance product combining life cover, income security, and built-in health management services. The launch reflects ABSLI's commitment to a customer-first approach and holistic well-being. The Su-



per Term Plan offers three flexible coverage options — Level Cover, Increasing Cover (5% annual simple interest), and Level Cover with Return of Premium. It also includes Enhanced Life Stage Protection, al-

lowing policyholders to increase coverage upon key life events like marriage or home loans. Key features include an Instant Payment on Claim Intimation within one working day and multiple death benefit payout options — lump sum, monthly income, or both. A Staggered Death Benefit enables payouts over five years, with an option to convert to a lump sum anytime. In Guwahati, the plan is expected to gain momen-

tum among salaried professionals and young families seeking customisable financial protection with integrated health services. The region's increasing awareness of health-linked insurance products makes this offering especially relevant for Assam's evolving urban insurance landscape. Kamlesh Rao, MD & CEO of ABSLI, called the plan "a thoughtfully designed solution to ensure lasting protection and peace of mind."

Godrej Industries champions queer voices and businesses with Pride@Godrej 2025

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group has unveiled a bold and business-driven approach to LGBTQIA+ inclusion through its Pride@Godrej 2025 initiative, blending cultural celebration with economic empowerment. A vibrant Pride March at its Godrej One headquarters, led by Manish Shah, MD of Godrej Capital, set the tone for a day-long series of events emphasizing meaningful inclusion. One of the standout initiatives was the launch of Queer Directions, a publishing imprint in col-

laboration with Westland Books, aimed at bringing authentic queer narratives to the literary forefront. The accompanying Pitch Bazaar connected unpublished queer writers with publishers, while the Queer Bazaar showcased products from queer-owned small businesses, promoting visibility and commerce.

In Guwahati, where queer-led ventures are gradually emerging, Godrej's model was viewed as a benchmark. Local entrepreneurs and advocacy groups noted that a similar

ecosystem could foster inclusive growth in Assam's commercial hubs. The initiative sparked interest among younger business leaders and retailers eager to align with progressive values.

The celebration also featured Jhumkewali, a multilingual play on queer identity, and company-wide Pride Month activities. Godrej's commitment spans hiring drives, wellness programs, and DEI workshops, positioning the group as a front-runner in inclusive corporate leadership.

Jio BlackRock unveils Aladdin for India

Mumbai: Jio BlackRock, a 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services (JFSL) and BlackRock, on Monday introduced Aladdin, which it described as a unique investment analytics and risk management platform. "Investing should be simple. And it should work for you. That's the belief that brought Jio Financial Services and BlackRock together. We've blended Jio's digital-first approach with BlackRock's global investment expertise to build solutions."

PSU bank stocks surge on disinvestment

Mumbai: Shares of public sector banks (PSBs) rallied up to 4% on Tuesday following reports that the government is set to fast-track the process of offloading its stake in select lenders.

Indian Overseas Bank share price surged as much as 4% to ₹38.99 apiece, while Central Bank of India shares rose 2.68% to ₹39.00. UCO Bank stock price gained 2.7% to ₹32.14, and Bank of Maharashtra shares advanced 2.8% to ₹56.15. Meanwhile, Punjab & Sind Bank share price added 3.4% to trade at ₹32.30 on the BSE.

According to a report by CNBC Awaaz, the government plans to accelerate the disinvestment process in public sector banks, with the appointment of merchant bankers in the final stages. The Centre aims to sell up to a 20% stake in five PSU banks over the next six months.

Jana Bank files for universal license, eyes inclusive national growth phase

Guwahati: Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB), one of India's leading small finance banks, has officially submitted an application to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking a Universal Banking License—a strategic move that signals its ambition to scale up and diversify its offerings. Since obtaining its small finance bank license in 2017, Jana SFB has built a strong foundation with a nationwide footprint, a growing

deposit base, and a robust loan portfolio focused on individuals, MSMEs, and institutions. The bank's transition to a Universal Bank is aimed at enabling it to provide a broader range of financial services while reinforcing its commitment to financial inclusion and digital innovation.

"This is a natural progression for Jana Bank," said Ajay Kanwal, MD & CEO. "Our mission is to serve the underserved and build a

bank that's inclusive, agile, digital, and forward-looking. Becoming a Universal Bank aligns with that mission and our goal to become the anchor bank for a rising and Atmanirbhar India." With proven financial and governance credentials, Jana SFB's move comes at a time when India's banking sector is rapidly evolving, underscoring its readiness to play a larger role in the country's economic transformation.

Sony launches BRAVIA 8 II QD-OLED, targets cinematic TV market

Guwahati: Sony India has introduced its new BRAVIA 8 II QD-OLED television series, aiming to redefine premium home entertainment with state-of-the-art display and sound technologies. Available in 65-inch (₹3,41,990) and 55-inch (₹2,46,990) models, the TVs feature the advanced XR Processor™ with AI, delivering precise visuals and



Acoustic Surface Audio+ for sound that emanates directly from the screen. The BRAVIA 8 II boasts

QD-OLED panels offering perfect blacks, XR Contrast Booster for dynamic brightness, and XR Triluminos Max for over a billion vibrant colours. Studio Calibrated Modes, including Prime Video and Netflix Adaptive modes, ensure content is

Kriti Sanon's green tea moment sparks wellness speculation

Guwahati: A viral moment featuring actress Kriti Sanon has sent ripples through the wellness and lifestyle segments, sparking speculation of a possible new entrant in the premium health beverage market.

Sanon was recently seen sipping what appeared to be green tea on a film set, but the simplicity of the moment quickly gave way to a wave of online buzz. Hashtags such as #NotYourRegularGreenTea and #WellnessDisrupted began trending, with observers and fans alike hinting at a potential product tease or wellness initiative in the making. The timing is notable. The wellness beverage category, particularly

functional teas and natural infusions, has been experiencing steady growth across urban markets. With consumer demand shifting towards healthier, daily rituals, even a subtle endorsement from a high-profile celebrity has the potential to impact market dynamics significantly. As anticipation brews, stakeholders in the health and wellness space are watching closely for cues. A disruption may well be in the making steeped in intrigue and timed to perfection. As anticipation brews, stakeholders in the health and wellness space are watching closely for cues. A disruption may well be in the making steeped in intrigue and timed to perfection.

Shell India and DGT launch EV labs for green workforce

Guwahati: In a strategic push towards green workforce development, the Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has partnered with Shell India to roll out an Electric Vehicle (EV) and Green Skills training program across select ITIs and NSTIs. Implemented by Edunet Foundation, the initiative targets five states—Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka—with a multi-tier curriculum designed to build industry-aligned capabilities.

The program includes a 240-hour advanced EV technician course, a 90-hour job-oriented module, and a 50-hour foundational course, along with co-branded certifications, placement support, and



hands-on lab training. More than 250 trainers will be upskilled to ensure knowledge continuity. "This is a generational opportunity to align skill development with climate priorities," said Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), MSDE. In Guwahati, where EV adoption is steadily rising, the initiative is expected to unlock job opportunities in service, repair, and battery management for two- and three-wheelers. The region's growing EV market, supported by state EV policies, is likely to benefit from the steady flow of trained professionals.



Nissan drives deeper into Rajasthan with five new touchpoints, sets sights on emerging markets

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has expanded its footprint in Rajasthan with the launch of five new customer touchpoints across Jaipur, Udaipur, and Ajmer, taking its total network in the state to 19 and 283 nationwide. The move underscores Nissan's commitment to enhancing accessibility and delivering premium customer experiences in high-growth regional markets. The new facilities include a showroom and a 20,000 sq. ft. service workshop in Jaipur, a 10,000 sq. ft. integrated 3S facility in Udaipur, and a 4,000 sq. ft. showroom in Ajmer. These state-of-the-art centres are designed to provide seamless sales and service experiences, aligning with Nissan's strategy to strengthen its presence in



Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The expansion comes alongside the rollout of a government-approved CNG retrofit kit for the New Nissan Magnite, priced at ₹74,999, targeting the rising demand for greener fuel options. In Guwahati, a key hub in the Northeast, market observers view this expansion

as a signal for similar growth strategies. With increasing consumer interest in compact SUVs and sustainable mobility, stakeholders anticipate that Nissan's moves in Rajasthan may soon be mirrored in markets like Guwahati, where demand for affordable, feature-rich vehicles is accelerating.

Škoda Auto India accelerates expansion plan, eyes record growth in 2025

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has unveiled an aggressive growth roadmap as it marks 25 years in India and 130 years globally, positioning 2025 to be its biggest year yet. The company aims to strengthen its brand through a comprehensive product portfolio, expanded customer network, and enhanced ownership experience.

Brand Director Ashish Gupta highlighted India as Škoda's most important growth market outside Europe, stating, "We are building a strong, future-ready brand with clarity of vision and agility of execution. 2025 will be the year we surge ahead in India." Škoda's product offensive includes a full SUV lineup—Kushaq, Kylaq,

and Kodiaq—alongside the Slavia sedan and an upcoming global model. The company targets 350 customer touchpoints across 200 cities by the end of 2025, up from 290 today.

In Guwahati, where demand for premium vehicles is on the rise, Škoda's growing presence is seen as a boost to the city's evolving auto landscape. Local dealerships report increasing customer interest in SUVs, making Guwahati a key Tier-II market for Škoda's expansion.

The brand is also enhancing customer experience with Škoda SuperCare, loyalty initiatives, and flexible service packages aimed at ensuring long-term trust and satisfaction.

MakeMyTrip plans \$2B fundraising drive

New Delhi: MakeMyTrip is seeking to raise more than \$2 billion in concurrent sales of shares and convertible bonds, as the US-listed Indian travel firm aims to buy back a stake held by Trip.com Group. The Gurugram, India-based company is offering 14 million new shares, and is also seeking to raise \$1.25 billion from the sale of zero-coupon convertible bonds, according to a statement Monday. At MakeMyTrip's closing price on Monday of \$100.88 per share, the shares would be valued at \$1.4 billion, according to Bloomberg calculations. MakeMyTrip shares fell 7.8% to \$93 each in after-market trading as of 7:12 p.m. Monday in New York.

ICICI Prudential Life disburses Rs 900 crore in policy loans in FY25, sees 60% surge in demand

Imphal: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has disbursed over ₹900 crore in loans against traditional policies during FY2025, marking a significant 60% year-on-year increase. The facility benefited more than 42,700 customers, providing them with timely liquidity without affecting their long-term financial plans.

The insurer allows policyholders to borrow up to 80% of the surrender value of their traditional life insurance plans. Impressively, over 98% of these loans were processed and disbursed within 24 hours, thanks to a seamless, paperless digital



platform available through the company's website and mobile app. Amish Banker, Chief Operations Officer, ICICI Prudential Life, stated, "The loan against policy feature ensures financial stability while keeping long-term goals intact. Increased

adoption reflects our customers' commitment to stay invested in life insurance." In Imphal, financial advisors note a growing trend among policyholders using this facility to address short-term cash flow needs, particularly for education, healthcare,

and premium payments. The feature is gaining popularity as a prudent financial option that preserves policy continuity while offering quick access to funds, reinforcing trust in traditional insurance products across the region.

Amway launches Nutrilite Triple Protect for wellness

Imphal: Amway India, a leading direct-selling FMCG company, today announced the launch of Nutrilite Triple Protect, a scientifically formulated, plant-based dietary supplement aimed at supporting immunity, skin health, and gut balance. The launch aligns with the company's strategic focus on expanding its health and wellness portfolio in response to increasing consumer demand for preventive, clean-label nutrition.

Nutrilite Triple Protect is powered by three potent natural ingredients—Acerola Cherry, Turmeric, and Licorice—sourced from certified organic farms. Each serving delivers 100% of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of Vitamin C and offers triple-action benefits: antioxidant protection, inflammation reduction, and immune support. The formulation contains no artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives, underscoring Amway's commitment to sustainability and safety. Speaking on the launch, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, said, "With 52% of consumers ranking immunity



as the top benefit in supplements, Nutrilite Triple Protect addresses a clear market need for holistic, plant-based wellness solutions."

In Imphal, a rising wellness-driven market in Northeast India, the launch has been met with optimism. Local distributors report growing interest in high-quality immunity products post-pandemic, with consumers showing strong preference for trusted, science-backed supplements. The product is now available exclusively through Amway Business Owners and on www.amway.in.

SATYA MicroCapital's collateral-free loans uplift rural women entrepreneurs in Assam

Guwahati: SATYA MicroCapital Limited, a leading microfinance institution in India, is driving financial inclusion for rural women in Assam through its collateral-free loan model. The company has supported over 1.6 million women across rural and semi-urban India, enabling them to start small businesses and achieve financial independence. In Biswanath, Sumitra Devi, once a homemaker, became an entrepreneur with a ₹40,000 loan from SATYA. Unable to access formal credit due to lack of collateral, Sumitra launched a



tailoring business from her home. With steady repayments, she qualified for higher loans, expanded her inventory, and now earns about ₹1,100 per day. She has also built savings and financial management skills. The impact of such microenterprises is also visible

in Guwahati. As demand for fabrics and tailoring materials grows, women entrepreneurs like Sumitra are increasingly sourcing supplies from the city's wholesale hubs. This has led to a noticeable uptick in local trade activity, especially in textile and sewing-related sectors. SATYA MicroCapital's initiative highlights the growing role of microfinance in promoting grassroots entrepreneurship and strengthening local economies by bridging the credit gap for women often overlooked by traditional financial institutions.



Chartered Speed drives green mobility forward with electric bus launch in Arunachal Pradesh

Guwahati: In a significant push towards sustainable transportation, Chartered Speed, a leading passenger mobility company, has launched 10 electric buses in Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Service (APSTS). The green fleet was officially flagged off by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein at a formal ceremony held today. The 9-meter, air-conditioned electric buses will operate in key cities including Itanagar, Namsai, and Pasighat. To support efficient and uninterrupted service, Chartered Speed has installed EV charging stations at strategic locations in these cities, ensuring minimal downtime and swift turnarounds. "Our partnership with APSTS reinforces our mission to bring eco-friendly transport



solutions to every corner of India," said Mr. Sanyam Gandhi, Whole-Time Director, Chartered Speed. "We're proud to enable modern mobility in remote regions while advancing India's green goals." In Guwahati, where Chartered Speed already maintains a strong operational base, the announcement is expected to accelerate the

shift toward electric public transport. Stakeholders anticipate increased EV integration across intercity routes, enhancing both environmental benefits and commuter experience. The company, which operates over 1,800 buses nationwide, was recently awarded a CESL contract to run 900+ electric buses across 13 Indian cities.

India to lead global oil demand growth by 2030 on economic expansion: IEA

India to add 1 million bpd oil demand by 2030: IEA

New Delhi: India is projected to contribute the most to global oil demand growth by 2030, adding 1 million barrels per day (bpd), according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The IEA stated that global oil demand is expected to increase by 2.5 million bpd by 2030, reaching around 105.5 million bpd. India, which imports more than 95 per cent of its oil, will see its crude oil demand rise from 5.64 million bpd in 2024 to 6.66 million bpd in 2030. "India's oil demand will increase by a steep 1 million bpd over the forecast period – more than any other country – in the wake of gross domestic product (GDP) expansion, at an average annual rate



of 2.8 per cent," the IEA stated. India will continue to be the third-largest oil consumer and importer globally and is set to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2025 for the fourth consecutive year. Jet fuel and kerosene are forecast to see the highest annual growth at nearly 6 per cent. The increase is attributed to population growth of 5 per cent between 2025 and

2030 and the expansion of the middle class. Demand for industrial fuels such as gasoil, naphtha, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)/ethane is projected to grow annually by 3.3 per cent, 2.0 per cent, and 2.5 per cent, respectively. The IEA highlighted a rise in household borrowing in India, with debt levels growing to 43 per cent in 2024 from 35 per cent of GDP in 2022.

Mastercard enters a landmark collaboration with EVA Live

Guwahati: In a country where music is not just entertainment but a way of life, Mastercard is turning up the volume. As India's live music and performing arts scene experiences a dynamic resurgence, it is evolving beyond traditional genres to embrace a rich tapestry of artistic expression. The blend of Bollywood ballads, classical ragas, improv comedy, and diverse stage formats reflects a cultural renaissance that unites people across generations, languages, and geographies. Tapping into that passion to create truly priceless moments and experiences for its millions of cardholders, Mastercard has entered a landmark collaboration with EVA Live, one of India's premier live entertainment companies, to bring over 20 unforgettable performances to cities across India from October to December 2025. The excitement kicks off on October 30 in Mumbai with global pop icon Enrique Iglesias, marking his return to India after 13 years. Gautam Aggarwal, Division President, South Asia at Mastercard, said: "Mastercard's

collaboration with EVA Live is designed to create unforgettable moments that connect with people's hearts and leave lasting memories." Julie Nestor, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Communications, Asia Pacific, Mastercard, added, "This collaboration with EVA Live extends this legacy to India in a way that's immersive, inclusive, and deeply rewarding for our cardholders." Deepak Chaudhary, Founder & Managing Director, EVA Live, said, "This seminal collaboration with Mastercard heralds a transformative era for live music in India." To be part of these experiences, fans can purchase tickets using any Mastercard—credit, debit, or prepaid—issued globally. Explore exclusive experiences and benefits at www.priceless.com/music or apply for a Mastercard at specials.priceless.com. Building on its sponsorships of the GRAMMY Awards®, Latin GRAMMY Awards® and BRIT Awards, Mastercard has created countless innovative, inclusive Priceless Experiences connecting fans and artists.

Rupee slides to two-month low on West Asia jitters; ends lower at 86.24/\$

Mumbai: The Indian rupee fell to its lowest in over two months after a slightly higher open as crude oil prices rose amid rising geopolitical tensions. The domestic currency depreciated 18 paise to end at 86.24 against the dollar, the lowest level since April 9 this year, according to Bloomberg. The currency has fallen by 0.77 per cent so far this month, and has depreciated 0.73 per cent in 2025.

As Iran-Israel clashes entered day four, US President Donald Trump urged Tehran's evacuation on Truth Social, saying: "Iran should've signed the deal. What a shame and waste of



life. Iran can not have a nuclear weapon." The President cut short his visit to the Group of Seven summit in Canada on Tuesday.

This comes a day after a report suggested that Tehran wants to restart nuclear negotiations. After a brief

cool-off, crude oil prices staged another rally after Trump's warning. Brent crude price was up 1.64 per cent to \$74.43 per barrel, while WTI crude prices were higher by 1.56 per cent at 72.89, as of 3:35 PM IST.

UPI to get faster from today; Daily caps on usage roll out from July 31

Mumbai: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has provided India with a quick and easy way to send and receive money online. Starting June 16, the process will get even faster. From balance checking to auto-payment mandates, UPI has also finalised several notable changes that will be implemented after July. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which



oversees UPI, in a circular issued on April 26, 2025, said that they are working to reduce the response time to improve the performance of UPI transactions. The official release stated that

the adjustments will benefit sender banks, beneficiary banks, and payment service providers (PSPs) such as PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. "The above amendments are aimed at improving customer experience. Members have to ensure that they make necessary changes in their systems so that responses can be handled within the revised time.

Silver surges to record high

New Delhi: Silver futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) hit a fresh all-time high of ₹1,09,250 per kilogram on Tuesday, 17 June 2025, as the precious metal gained 2.5 per cent or ₹2,686 per kilogram. The rise in silver futures comes as investor tensions fueled the demand for safe-haven assets over the raging conflict between Israel and Iran.

Silver futures for the July 2025 contract jumped 2.5 per cent to hit an intraday high of ₹1,09,250 per kilogram in the commodity market session on Tuesday, compared to the previous market close at ₹1,06,564 per kilogram, according to data collected from MCX.

As of 4:56 p.m. (IST), the Silver futures are trading 2.23 per cent higher at ₹1,08,945 per kilogram, according to the official data. Investors are more likely to withdraw their money from high-risk asset classes like the equity markets in the case of geopolitical uncertainties in the global market. Safe-haven assets like silver, gold, and government treasuries are the focus of global market investors. Gold and other safe-havens gain Tuesday.



Inter Kashi win CAS case, regain I-League points



New Delhi: Inter Kashi on Tuesday won their first appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the All India Football Federation (AIFF) after the Varanasi-based side were deducted three points for a contested I-League match earlier in the year. The CAS ruling, though, will not hand Inter Kashi the I-League title yet. The AIFF's appeals committee had on April 18 ruled against Inter Kashi in a case relating to their match against Namdhari FC — who were alleged to have fielded an 'ineligible player' — on January 13, setting aside a decision given by the national federation's disciplinary committee.

After the appeals committee ruling, Inter Kashi finished the I-League at second spot with 39 points, while Churchill Brothers of Goa were declared champions on 40 points. Inter Kashi filed an appeal at the Switzerland-based CAS on April 24 against the decision of the AIFF appeals committee and the world's apex sports tribunal ruled in favour of the club on Tuesday. There is another Inter Kashi appeal pending at the CAS and that may decide who will be the 2024-25 I-League champions, though the AIFF had already handed the trophy to Churchill Brothers on the basis of its appeals committee decision.

Manchester United can win 2028 Premier League: CEO

London: Manchester United CEO Omar Berrada has stood firm on his ambitious goal for the club—winning both the men's and women's Premier League titles by 2028, coinciding with the club's 150th anniversary. Following what was arguably their worst season in decades, Berrada remains optimistic. United finished 16th in the 2024–25 Premier League, narrowly avoiding relegation—a low not seen since the 1973–74 season, when they were demoted to the second tier. Despite the dramatic slump, Berrada is sticking to his "Project 150" plan, which he first unveiled in September 2024.



"It's establishing a series of targets within a time-frame so we can focus our efforts and energy on that goal. Can the team win the Premier League title by 2028? Of course. We've just finished 15th and it seems an impossi-

ble task. But why not aim for it? Why not do everything in our power?" the 47-year-old said. "We have two or three summer windows to build a team to start competing to win the Premier League... Nobody is saying we don't want to win it until then. We're setting ourselves a target with a specific time-frame to go and aim for," Berrada added. While the men's team has been clouded by internal tensions—most notably Alejandro Garnacho's reported fallout with manager Ruben Amorim, and the exits of Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho on loan—Berrada acknowledged the unrest but promised that rebuilding efforts are in motion.

STRIDE TWINS

Bumrah to miss Tests for workload management

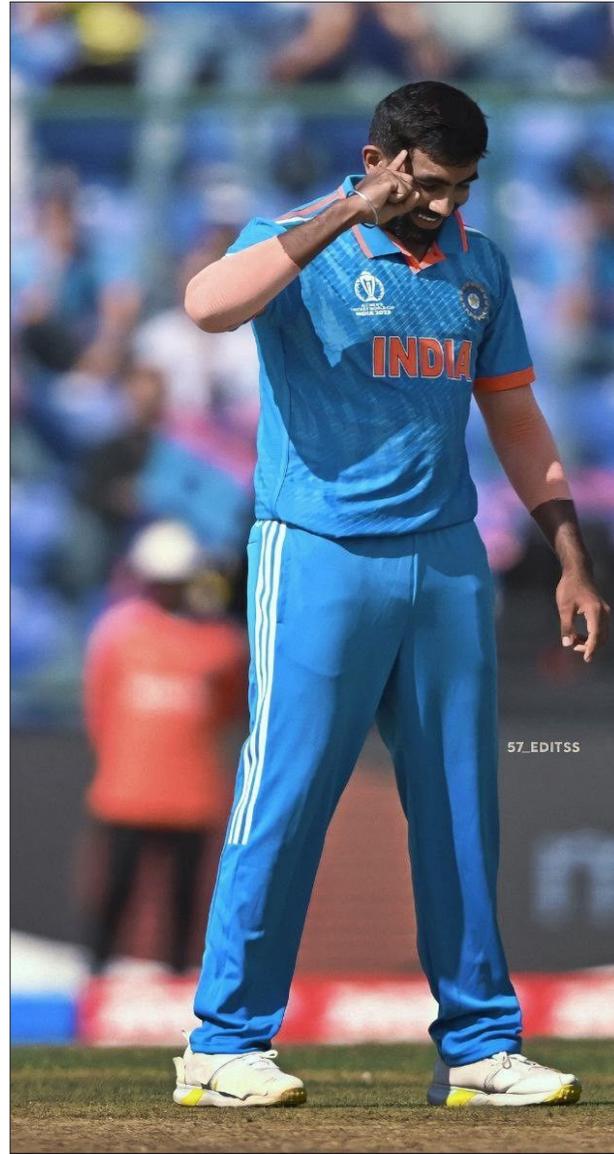
Mumbai: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will not feature in all five Tests of the upcoming India-England series, starting June 20, due to workload management, as confirmed by chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Bumrah, who recently returned to form in IPL 2025 after recovering from a back injury, has been advised by the BCCI medical team to avoid playing consecutive Tests. Agarkar stated, "Even if he is fit for three or four Tests, he's going to win us matches. We'd rather have him bowling at his best than burdened with leadership or overuse".

Head coach Gambhir echoed this sentiment, saying the team is yet to finalize which Tests Bumrah will play. Former cricketers like Dinesh Karthik have speculated he might be fielded in the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tests, allowing adequate recovery time between matches.

Interestingly, Bumrah also revealed he declined the Test captaincy offer, citing the same workload concerns. "I told the BCCI I didn't want to be considered for leadership because I wouldn't be able to play all the matches. It's not fair to the team," he said in an interview.

The decision comes amid a transitional phase for Team India, following the retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Shubman Gill has been named Test captain, with Rishabh Pant as vice-captain. Bumrah had led in two Tests in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 in the absence of Rohit. He led India to a victory in the series opener in Perth, but was ruled out of the final Test midway through the match due to a recurring back injury. Bumrah's fitness and workload management concerns appear to have influenced the selectors' decision to not name him as full-time captain after Rohit's retirement. Bumrah missed India's Champions Trophy campaign due to the back injury, but he has returned to play for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2025.



Sinner Haunted by French Open Loss

London: World No. 1 Jan-nik Sinner is hoping to use the Halle Open as a springboard to move on from the sleepless nights that followed his agonising defeat to Carlos Alcaraz in the French Open final - a five-set epic that left the Italian reeling after squandering three championship points. In one of the most gripping Grand Slam finals in recent memory, Sinner led by two sets and had the title within reach, only for Alcaraz to claw back and prevail 4-6, 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(10-2) after five hours and 29 minutes—the longest men's final in Roland Garros history.

Reflecting on the loss ahead of his campaign at the grass-court ATP 500 event in Halle, Sinner admitted the emotional toll had lingered. "Often. It happens. I don't know how it will look in the future," he said, when asked if the missed championship points had stayed with him. "I think that it is not the most important thing, but I nevertheless try to forget the negative things and see what I can do here in Halle."

Shanto, Mushfiqur centuries lift B'desh on dominant Day 1 vs SL

Shanto smashed unbeaten 136 to lead Bangladesh's batting charge

Dhaka: The 2025–27 World Test Championship cycle got underway in Galle on a commanding note for Bangladesh, who put up a solid batting display on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka. After losing early wickets, captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim turned the tide with a brilliant unbroken partnership, ending the day with their side firmly on top.

Put in to bat on a dry Galle surface, Bangladesh were rocked early by Sri Lanka's spinners, slipping to 45 for 3 within the first hour. Debutant Tharindu Rathnayake made an immediate impression, picking up two quick wickets including opener Shadman Islam. But that early momentum faded as



Bangladesh's middle-order brought their experience into play. From a position of pressure, Shanto and Mushfiqur stitched together a remarkable stand, adding 247 runs for the fourth wicket by stumps. The Bangladesh skipper was aggressive against spin, frequently using his feet to disrupt lengths and pierce the infield. Mushfiqur,

steady and composed, anchored his end with minimal risk and quiet efficiency. The duo's centuries—Shanto unbeaten on 136 and Mushfiqur on 105—were a product of calculated batting and smart rotation. Their partnership helped Bangladesh post 292 for 3 at the close of play, flipping the momentum of the day entirely after a tricky start.