



# THE MILEAGE

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2025 | GUWAHATI | AIZAWL | IMPHAL | ITANAGAR | KOHIMA | SHILLONG PAGES 06 | Rs 3.00



VOL 7, ISSUE 21

## Flight returns mid-air after circling

**New Delhi:** An Air India Express flight en route from Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu made an unexpected return to the national capital on Monday after failing to land at Jammu airport, despite clear weather and runway conditions. Flight IX-2564 was scheduled to land in Jammu around noon before proceeding to Srinagar. However, after circling the Jammu airspace multiple times, the pilot decided to abort the landing and head back to Delhi. Officials stated that while visibility and runway conditions were favorable, the pilot reportedly could not locate the appropriate landing area. The incident caused delays and confusion among passengers, many of whom were left without clear information about the reason for the turnaround. Air India Express has not yet issued an official statement explaining the circumstances behind the aborted landing. Navigational challenges, or other factors contributed to the decision. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) may also seek clarification.

## Congress slams govt silence on US bombing, urges moral stance

### U.S. strike on Iran sparks global conflict fears

**New Delhi:** The Indian National Congress has strongly criticized the Modi government for its silence on the recent U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, calling for a more assertive and morally grounded foreign policy stance. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh condemned U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to launch airstrikes on Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites, describing it as a move that "makes a mockery" of his own calls for



dialogue with Tehran. The strikes have escalated tensions in the already volatile Middle East, drawing global concern over the potential for a wider regional conflict. Ramesh accused the Indi-

an government of failing to uphold its long-standing diplomatic principles by not condemning either the U.S. bombing or Israel's aggressive actions, including targeted assassinations.

## Samajwadi Party expels 3 MLAs for dissent

**Lucknow:** The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday expelled three sitting MLAs — Abhay Singh (Gosaiganj), Rakesh Pratap Singh (Gauriganj), and Manoj Kumar Pandey (Unchahar) — citing repeated instances of anti-party conduct and ideological deviation. In an official statement shared on its social media platforms, the Akhilesh Yadav-led party accused the legislators of aligning with "communal, divisive, and negative ideologies" that contradict the SP's inclusive and progressive values. The party further alleged that the trio supported forces that are

"anti-farmer, anti-women, anti-youth, anti-business, and anti-employment," and were working against the interests of marginalized communities. The SP noted that the expelled MLAs had been given a "grace period" to reconsider their stance and return to the party fold, but failed to do so. The statement emphasized that there is no place in the party for individuals who act against public welfare or its core ideological framework. The expulsions come in the wake of the MLAs' controversial conduct during the 2024 Rajya Sabha elections.

## Bengal Speaker suspends 4 BJP MLAs

### Forty BJP MLAs protest expunging of Ashok Lahiri's remarks

**Kolkata:** High drama unfolded in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Monday as Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay suspended four BJP MLAs for the remainder of the session following a raucous protest by the opposition. The suspended legislators — Shankar Ghosh (chief whip), Agnimitra Paul, Dipak Barman,

and Manoj Oraon — were accused of disrupting proceedings, disobeying the Speaker's orders, and damaging House property. The protest erupted during a discussion on the expunging of certain remarks made by BJP MLAs, including noted economist and legislator Ashok Lahiri.

According to reports, the

BJP MLAs stormed the well of the House, tore business papers, and banged microphones, prompting the Speaker to call in marshals to evict the four members. The situation escalated into a scuffle, during which Ghosh's spectacles were reportedly broken and several MLAs claimed to have been manhandled. Leader of Op-

position Suvendu Adhikari condemned the incident, alleging that BJP legislators were assaulted by individuals posing as security personnel. He accused the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) of stifling dissent and announced plans to move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker in the upcoming winter session.

## Gadkari blames global conflict on ambition

**Pune:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday attributed rising global tensions to what he termed "uncontrollable over ambition," urging India to lead the world with a message of peace and humanism.

Speaking at the inauguration of Shri Saraswati Karad Hospital, built by the MIT Group of Institutions in Pune, Gadkari emphasized India's historical commitment to non-expansionism and collective welfare. "Our heritage, legacy and history is so rich that our country was never authoritarian and expansionist," he said. "However, there is a kind of uncontrollable over ambition that is leading to the conflict in the world today."

He stressed the need for India to project its civilizational ethos on the global stage, asserting that the country must strive to become a Vishwa Guru — a global teacher. "Our ethos does not preach 'my welfare' or 'my family's welfare' but it talks about the world's welfare," Gadkari added.

## RSS to host 3-day prant pracharak meet in Delhi from July 4

### RSS meet to plan centenary events from Vijayadashami

**New Delhi:** The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is set to convene its annual national-level Prant Pracharak Baithak from July 4 to 6 at its headquarters, Keshav Kunj, in the national capital. The high-level meeting will bring together senior functionaries from across the country to review recent activities and strategize for the organisation's centenary year celebrations.

According to a statement by RSS national publicity head Sunil Ambekar, the meeting will be attended by top leadership including Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale, and all Sah Sarkaryavahs. Also present will be pracharaks



from 46 provinces and 11 regional units, along with national organising secretaries of RSS-inspired organisations.

The agenda includes a comprehensive review of training camps held in April, May, and June following the March 2025 Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha

(ABPS). Discussions will also focus on the execution of year-long programmes marking the RSS's centenary year, which begins on Vijayadashami (October 2, 2025) and continues until the same festival in 2026. The meet is expected to finalise the tour plans of the RSS chief for 2025–26.

## Bypoll victories welcome relief for AAP after Delhi defeat

**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has secured a much-needed morale boost with victories in two key bypolls, following its recent electoral defeat in Delhi. The party retained its seats in Ludhiana West (Punjab) and Visavadar (Gujarat), signaling continued grassroots support in these regions.

In Ludhiana West, AAP's Sanjeev Arora, a sitting Rajya Sabha MP, defeated Congress candidate Bharat Bhushan Ashu by a margin of 10,637 votes. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of AAP MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi. Arora's win not only reaffirmed AAP's hold in the constituency but also reignited speculation about party chief Arvind Kejriw-



al potentially entering the Rajya Sabha from Punjab. Meanwhile, in Gujarat's Visavadar, AAP's Gopal Italia triumphed over BJP's Kirit Patel by 17,554 votes. The seat had fallen vacant after former AAP MLA Bhupendra Bhayani defected to the BJP. Italia's victory ended the BJP's 18-year dry spell in the constituency and underscored AAP's growing presence in the state.

These wins come at a critical time for AAP, which recently lost power in Delhi and faced internal dissent in Punjab.



## Tripura airport panel recommends 10-km bird-free zone for safer flights

**Agartala:** Tripura's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport's Airfield Environment Management Committee (AEMC) has strongly recommended the establishment of a 10-kilometre bird-free zone around the airport to prevent bird strikes and ensure safe flight operations.

The recommendation comes in the wake of heightened aviation safety concerns following the tragic crash of a private airline aircraft in Ahmedabad on June 12, which claimed 274 lives shortly after take-off. Airport Director K. C. Meena confirmed the de-



velopment following a key meeting chaired by West Tripura District Magistrate Vishal Kumar. "The objective of the meeting was to review and improve environmental practices in and around the airport to en-

sure safe and sustainable flight operations," Meena told PTI. The AEMC meeting focused on several critical safety issues, including bird hazard management, solid waste disposal, and improved coordination.

## Meghalaya police recovers Sonam Raghuvanshi's charred bag in Indore

**Shillong:** The Meghalaya Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Sunday recovered a charred bag in Indore, believed to belong to prime accused Sonam Raghuvanshi in the Raja Raghuvanshi murder. Sources reveal that the Meghalaya police SIT discovered the charred bag at a site in MR3 Hare Krishna Vihar.

Investigators found the bag, reportedly containing crucial items like Rs 5 lakh in cash, a country-made pistol, Sonam Raghuvanshi's mobile phone, and Raja Raghuvanshi's jewelry, completely burned. Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills Superintendent



of Police, Vivek Syiem, confirmed the discovery of the charred bag, stating that a forensic team has secured the debris. He said that the SIT will send the evidence to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for detailed analysis. The dis-

covery follows the arrest of property dealer Silome James late Saturday night at the Bhonrasa Toll Gate in Dewas district. During interrogation, James reportedly revealed the location where he attempted to dispose of Sonam's bag.

## Nagaland Congress submits representation to AICC opposing Amit Shah's English remarks

### Nagaland Congress Warns Shah's English Remark Divisive

**Kohima:** The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) has submitted a formal representation to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) expressing serious concern over recent remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the use of the English language in India. The representation, addressed to the AICC President, cites a statement made by Shah during the launch of a Hindi book

"Main Boond Swayam, Khud Sagar Hoon" on June 19, 2025. Shah had reportedly stated, "In this country, those who speak English will soon feel ashamed," and further emphasized that the country should be run in Indian languages, not "half-baked foreign languages."

Terming the comments alarming and exclusionary, NPCC President S. Spongmeren Jamir said the Home Minister's statements could

have far-reaching policy implications and would disproportionately impact states like Nagaland, where English remains the primary medium of communication among its 16 major tribes.

The NPCC stated that such a stance undermines India's linguistic diversity and threatens the constitutional rights of states and communities that rely on English for education, governance, and inter-tribal

communication. The letter further recalled a similar threat to regional autonomy during the Janata Party regime in the 1970s, when former Prime Minister Morarji Desai attempted to dilute the distinct identities of smaller northeastern states. That attempt, the NPCC said, was thwarted by the timely intervention of then-Congress President Indira Gandhi, who stood by the hill leaders and safeguarded minority rights.

## Another Margherita woman missing, safety fears grow

**Guwahati:** A 45-year-old woman has gone missing from Segunbari Sukapha Nagar in Margherita, adding to growing concerns over the safety of women in the 83rd Margherita constituency of Tinsukia district.

The missing woman, identified as Gouri Dey, was last seen early on the morning of Friday, June 20. According to her elder sister, Jharna Dey, Gouri left their rented home around 5:00 am and has not returned since. The family has filed a missing

persons report at the Margherita Police Station. Authorities are urging anyone with information about her whereabouts to contact the nearest police station or call 8453202843.

Local residents have expressed concern over what they describe as a troubling pattern of cases involving women in the area. The Margherita constituency has seen a noticeable increase in reports related to crimes against women in recent months, prompting calls for stronger local safety measures.

## Assam approves ₹5,400 crore 900 MW project in Karbi Anglong

**Guwahati:** The Assam Cabinet has approved a series of proposals spanning renewable energy development, social welfare, ecological conservation, and mineral exploration.

The Cabinet cleared the allotment of a self-identified site in West Karbi Anglong to Hinduja Renewables Energy Private Limited for the development of a 900 MW off-stream Pumped Storage Project (PSP). The project involves an investment of Rs 5,400 crore and will contribute to the state's target of achieving 2 GW PSP capacity by 2030. It aims to support grid stability by storing surplus electricity during off-peak hours and releasing it during peak



demand. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Assam Industrial and Green Growth Fund, a Rs 3,000 crore SEBI-registered Alternate Investment Fund. With an anchor investment of Rs 500 crore to be released in phases, the fund is intended to mobilise

long-term capital for renewable energy, green infrastructure, tourism, agrotech, MSMEs, startups, and other priority sectors. In a move aimed at facilitating the dignified return of deceased persons who are domiciled in Assam and die outside the state.

## Manipur flagged in U.S. travel alert as 'no-go' zone

**Imphal:** The United States advises its citizens to "exercise increased caution" when traveling to India, citing prevalent concerns over crime and terrorism. This Level 2 travel advisory highlights the potential for violent crime, including sexual assault at tourist locations, and the risk of terrorist attacks that can occur with little to no warning, targeting public areas like transportation hubs, markets, and government facilities.

Within this broader advisory, Manipur stands out as a particular area of concern. The U.S. State Department explicitly advises Americans not to travel to Manipur due to the ongoing threat of violence and crime. The state

continues to grapple with extensive ethnic-based conflict, primarily between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, which has led to widespread violence and significant community displacement. Attackers regularly target Indian government installations, contributing to the volatile security situation. Beyond Manipur, the U.S. government urges travelers to reconsider travel to the broader Northeastern states. While the region has seen a notable decline in insurgency-related incidents over the past decade, ethnic insurgent groups occasionally commit violent acts, including bombings of buses, trains, rail lines, and markets in some areas.

## Modi to launch Bairabi-Sairang railway



**Aizawl:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the 51.38 km long Bairabi-Sairang rail line connecting Mizoram and other states of the country in July, according to officials of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

Officials said that the Bairabi-Sairang rail line connecting the capital city of Mizoram is on the verge of completion and expressed hope that the Prime Minister will inaugurate it soon. However, there is no certainty about the inauguration.



## Tetley unveils green tea with L-Carnitine, Biotin; Kriti Sanon leads wellness-focused campaign

**Guwahati:** Tata Consumer Products has announced a category-first innovation with the launch of Tetley Green Tea Slim Care with added L-Carnitine and Tetley Green Tea Beauty Care with added Biotin. These new functional variants aim to meet the growing demand for wellness-focused beverages, blending taste

with scientifically backed ingredients.

The launch is backed by the #NotYourRegularGreenTea campaign, fronted by Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon, who also joins as the brand ambassador. Sanon, known for her fitness-conscious image, said the product “fits right in” with her active lifestyle,

highlighting the blend’s dual benefits of flavor and function.

According to Puneet Das, President – Packaged Beverages, Tata Consumer Products, the move addresses consumer demand for efficacy in everyday choices. “These green teas support real wellness goals,” he said.

In Guwahati, where urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented alternatives, local retailers have reported rising interest in value-added beverages. The Tetley variants are expected to perform well, especially among young professionals and fitness enthusiasts looking for convenient wellness solutions.

## Tata AIA launches equity funds for growth

**Guwahati:** Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the launch of two new equity-focused unit-linked funds—Tata AIA Top 200 Alpha 30 Index Fund and Tata AIA Top 200 Alpha 30 Index Pension Fund—to help investors benefit from India’s robust economic trajectory. Available at ₹10 per unit during the New Fund Offer (NFO) period till June 30, 2025, these funds offer long-term capital appreciation by investing in high-alpha stocks under the Nifty 200 Alpha 30 Index.

The Alpha 30 Index Fund is accessible through various Tata AIA plans including Param Raksha Life Growth+ and Shubh Fortune, while the Pension Fund is exclusive to the Smart Pension Secure Plan. These funds offer strategic diversification, alpha-generating stock exposure, and the added benefit of life insurance.

In Guwahati, financial advisors anticipate strong traction for these offerings, especially among salaried professionals and young investors seeking tax-efficient, equity-driven solutions. The city’s rising awareness of wealth-building instruments aligned with national growth trends makes it a promising market for Tata AIA’s latest products. With 99.93% of its fund AUM rated 4 or 5 stars by Morningstar and a YoY AUM growth of 27.08%, Tata AIA continues to deliver performance-driven insurance solutions tailored to India’s evolving financial landscape.

## Godrej’s ‘Naga Saint Eye Test’ wins Cannes Silver for health brilliance

**Guwahati:** Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL), in collaboration with the Eyebetes Foundation, has earned India global recognition by winning a Silver Lion in the Health & Wellness category at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2025. The award-winning campaign — ‘Naga Saint Eye Test’ — transformed Naga Sadhus into living eye charts during Maha Kumbh 2025 at Prayagraj, spotlighting the issue of di-

abetes-induced blindness. Conceptualized by Godrej Creative Lab, the initiative used Hindi letters painted on the bare backs of Naga Sadhus to test vision. Those unable to read the script were directed to free eye check-up camps. With over 600 million reached and 400,000 eye screenings conducted, the campaign has become one of the largest public health interventions in India. Swati Bhattacharya of Godrej Creative Lab noted the

campaign’s emotional and cultural depth, while Dr. Nishant Kumar of Eyebetes Foundation called it a globally impactful innovation. In Guwahati, health-tech startups and marketing firms are taking cues from the campaign’s success, recognizing the value of culturally integrated communication. Local entrepreneurs see this as a blueprint for impactful outreach, blending heritage and innovation to drive social change and market growth.

## Bajaj Allianz launches ‘I tan’ for Mizoram residents

**Aizawl:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has introduced ‘I tan’, a region-specific health insurance plan crafted exclusively for the people of Mizoram. The plan offers personalised coverage reflecting the state’s unique healthcare needs, with sum insured options ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh, and is available in both individual and floater variants. ‘I tan’ covers inpatient hospitalisation, pre- and post-hospitalisation, day care procedures, and advanced treatments like robotic surgeries and stem cell therapy. It includes organ donor expenses, offers lifetime renewability, and features such as Unlimited Sum Insured Reinstatement and Super Cumulative Bonus. Add-ons like Accidental

Death Cover and Cashless Discounts make it a comprehensive and customisable product. A unique Festive Bonus of ₹1,000/day during emergency hospitalisation in festival weeks adds further value. In Aizawl, where access to specialised healthcare often comes with significant cost challenges, ‘I tan’ is expected to fill a critical gap. Local agents report growing demand for affordable, quality coverage, and this plan—especially with wellness-linked renewal discounts—aligns with the city’s shift towards preventive healthcare. Available via agents, banks, branch-places, and digital platforms, ‘I tan’ aims to make quality healthcare protection accessible and affordable across Mizoram.

## Global Yoga Day boosts wellness; India leads worldwide celebrations proudly

**Guwahati:** The 11th International Yoga Day witnessed grand celebrations across the globe, led by Indian missions in countries including the US, UK, France, Russia, China, Japan, Qatar, Australia and several African nations. Thousands participated in mass yoga sessions, reaffirming yoga’s growing influence on global wellness and lifestyle industries. Special sessions were held at the United Nations headquarters in New York and Geneva, with over 1,200 participants meditating under the guidance of yoga guru Deepak Chopra. India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P. Harish, highlighted the theme “One Earth, One Health” as a reflection of Vasudhai-



va Kutumbakam. Events at iconic locations like Times Square and Beijing showcased yoga’s universal appeal. In London, a special message from King Charles III was read, while in Juba, South Sudan, celebrations involved the Indian diaspora, local citizens, and UN peacekeepers. Back home, Guwahati saw a noticeable uptick in wellness-related commerce. Yoga studios re-

ported increased bookings, and retailers saw a sharp rise in demand for yoga mats, herbal supplements, and ayurvedic products.

With growing awareness and health consciousness, Yoga Day has become a key driver for local wellness economies. Proposed by PM Modi and adopted by the UN in 2014, Yoga Day continues to fuel both global unity and business.

the Smart Pension Secure Plan, respectively. In Aizawl, the launch has sparked growing interest among young professionals and salaried investors, especially those exploring strategic retirement planning tools with equity exposure. Financial advisors in the city are optimistic, highlighting rising financial literacy and increased demand for hybrid investment products that offer both growth and security.

## Medanta to host 3-day medical camp in Kohima starting June 25

**Kohima:** Medanta – The Medicity, consistently ranked India’s Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for six consecutive years, is pleased to announce a three-day multi-specialty medical camp in Kohima,

Nagaland, from June 25 to 27, 2025. The initiative is being conducted in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland, Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), Directorate of Industries

and Commerce, and Nagaland Police. This medical outreach follows Medanta’s recent empanelment under the Chief Minister’s Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) through a formal MoU with the state. The camp aims to

provide quality healthcare access to government employees, public sector workers, and police personnel, particularly addressing critical health challenges such as cancer — one of the top five causes of death in Na-

galand. Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, stated, “This initiative reflects our core belief that every life is precious and deserves access to world-class healthcare.”



# Almonds see rising demand as wellness trend boosts Yoga Day nutrition focus

**Guwahati:** With International Yoga Day around the corner, the spotlight is on combining physical wellness with mindful nutrition. California almonds, hailed as a natural source of protein, are gaining traction among health-conscious consumers for their ability to support muscle recovery and enhance physical performance—key needs for yoga practitioners. Commenting on this International Yoga Day, **Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan said**, “As a mother and a working woman, yoga has been my anchor for years. It not only helps me stay centered but has also brought incredible health benefits—better digestion, stronger immunity, glowing skin, and a sense of calm amidst my hectic schedule. To complement my yoga practice, I follow a balanced diet filled with seasonal fruits, vegetables, yogurt, and almonds. Almonds, in particular, have always been my go-to snack. Packed with protein and some of the essential nutrients, they help sustain my energy and support my overall well-being—making it easier to juggle both my personal and professional roles with confidence.”

**Nutrition and Wellness Consultant Sheela Krishnaswamy said**, “I always recommend pairing physical activity, such as yoga, with a balanced diet for the best overall results. This includes incorporating protein-rich foods like almonds and others. With



their protein, dietary fiber, and heart-healthy fat content, almonds support weight management and other nutrient requirements. Their benefits reflect not only the wisdom shared by our mothers and grandmothers, but are also backed by over 200 scientific findings, making them a truly valuable addition to any daily diet.”

**Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New Delhi said**, “Yoga is a powerful practice that supports both physical and mental well-being, and it plays a key role in maintaining a healthy, balanced lifestyle. To truly maximize the benefits of yoga, I always recommend complementing it with a nutritious diet. Including foods like almonds in your daily routine can be especially beneficial for those who practice yoga regularly. Almonds are a natural source of protein, which supports muscle recovery after physical activity. In addition to aiding post-exercise recovery, regular

consumption of a handful of almonds can also help lower LDL cholesterol and support stable blood sugar levels, contributing to overall health and vitality.”

**Fitness and Celebrity instructor, Yasmin Kachhiwala**, also incorporates yoga into her weekly routine. She said, “To stay healthy, I rely on a mix of regular exercise and clean eating. While workouts keep me physically fit, yoga helps me stay calm and centered. I make it a point to include yoga in my routine to restore balance and peace of mind. Alongside staying active, I focus on a diet rich in natural, wholesome foods—almonds being a key part. They’re packed with protein, fiber, and healthy fats, making them a valuable addition to my daily nutrition. What I love most is their versatility—you can enjoy them in many ways and still benefit from their nutrients.”

**Popular South Indian actress Shriya Saran said**, “For me, yoga has always been more than just a workout—it’s a way

to connect with both my body and mind. I prefer yoga over intense gym sessions because it helps me stay grounded, flexible, and focused, especially amidst a hectic schedule. To support my practice, I focus on clean eating and nourishing my body with natural foods. Almonds are one of my favorite go-to snacks—they help keep my energy levels steady and support recovery after each session. I usually enjoy a handful post-yoga, and it really makes a difference.”

**Ayurveda expert Madhumitha Krishnan said**, “Practicing yoga promotes holistic well-being by connecting the body and mind. When combined with nourishing foods like almonds, it creates a complete approach to overall wellness. In Siddha, almonds are known to tone body tissues, and Ayurveda says that almonds support the nervous system, enhance strength, and help build muscle mass. They’re also great for skin health and easy to include in daily meals.”

In Guwahati, the growing wellness trend has fueled a surge in almond consumption. Local retailers note a spike in demand, especially among urban professionals and yoga enthusiasts. Health stores and premium grocery outlets report higher sales in the lead-up to Yoga Day, reflecting a broader consumer shift toward natural, protein-rich foods.

# Bajaj Allianz launches Meghalaya health plan ‘Na Ka bynta jong phi’

**Shillong:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a region-specific health insurance plan, Na Ka bynta jong phi (“For You”), aimed exclusively at addressing the health-care needs of Meghalaya. Designed with affordability and accessibility in mind, the plan offers flexible sum insured options ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh, with both individual and floater variants available.

The policy covers inpatient and day care procedures, pre- and post-hospitalisation, advanced treatments like robotic surgeries and stem cell therapy, and organ donor expenses. Add-ons such as Unlimited Sum Insured Reinstatement, Super Cumulative Bonus (up to 200%), Accidental Death Cover, and a unique Festive Bonus enhance the coverage further. Discounts for cashless claims,



family cover, loyalty, and wellness incentives—like walking 10,000 steps daily for 10% renewal discount—make the plan highly attractive.

In Shillong, where families often seek affordable and inclusive medical cover, this plan has generated significant interest. Local agents report strong uptake, particularly among salaried professionals and senior citizens who value the comprehensive features and lifetime renewal benefit. Available through branches, partners, and online platforms, Bajaj Allianz’s move sets a new benchmark for personalized insurance solutions in Northeast India.

# Flipkart, Goonj launch ‘Udaan’ for menstrual health innovation



**Dibrugarh:** Flipkart Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Flipkart Group, has partnered with Goonj to roll out ‘Udaan: Empowered by Flipkart Foundation’, a multi-state grassroots initiative aimed at improving menstrual wellbeing and driving environmental sustainability. The initiative is set to directly benefit over 18,700 women across Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, and West Bengal, while digitally engaging more than 5 lakh individuals.

Udaan operates on the Four-A framework—Access, Awareness, Affordability, and Action—providing women with menstrual health education, upcycled cloth sanitary pads (‘MY Pads’), and a platform to lead local change. With 225 ‘Chuppi Todo Baithaks’ and 18 exhibitions, the

campaign seeks to normalize menstrual health discussions and reduce textile waste.

In Dibrugarh, the initiative is expected to catalyze positive market trends. Local NGOs and community health workers anticipate a rise in demand for sustainable sanitary solutions. Stakeholders view Udaan as a potential model for integrating women’s health and green business practices, aligning with broader ESG goals.

Flipkart’s Sarah Gideon emphasized, “This is about voice, dignity, and sustainable access.” Goonj co-founder Meenakshi Gupta highlighted the human dimension of menstrual health. Udaan marks a strategic step in fusing social impact with environmental responsibility.

# Sony launches Alpha 1 II in India, targets tier-II markets with AI imaging innovation

**Guwahati:** Sony India has launched its second-generation flagship full-frame mirrorless camera, Alpha™ 1 II, combining high resolution, blazing speed, and AI-powered subject recognition for professional creators. Priced at ₹5,79,990, the camera will be available from June 25 across Sony Centers, Alpha Flagship stores, and leading e-commerce platforms. The Alpha 1 II features a 50.1 MP Exmor



RS™ stacked CMOS sensor, powered by a BIONZ XR™ image engine, offering 30fps blackout-free shooting, Real-time Recognition AF, Pre-Capture, and Continuous Shooting Speed Boost. For vid-

eographers, the camera delivers 8K 30p and 4K 120p recording with enhanced image stabilization of up to 8.5 stops. Sony has also improved ergonomics, workflow responsiveness, and introduced eco-friendly packaging using sugarcane and bamboo. In Guwahati, professional photographers and content creators have expressed keen interest in the Alpha 1 II. With the Northeast’s increasing me-

dia production for tourism and wildlife, the camera’s advanced AI tracking and high-speed capabilities are seen as ideal for capturing fast-paced events and rich biodiversity. Local retailers anticipate strong uptake among wedding and documentary photographers. The camera also includes a dual battery charger, LAN support, and seamless integration with Adobe Lightroom™ via Sony’s Creators’ Cloud.



## IIMA Ventures and SAP launch North East Growth Lab to fuel Rs 100 cr startup ecosystem across northeast

**New Delhi:** IIMA Ventures, in strategic collaboration with SAP, has launched the North East Growth Lab (NEGL)—a comprehensive platform designed to accelerate 90 startups and social enterprises across North-east India. Building on the success of the World

Bank-supported Assam Agribusiness Growth Lab (AAGL), NEGL will offer catalytic capital, including grants and optionally convertible debt, alongside intensive mentoring, training, and market access. Spanning all eight north-eastern states—Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mani-

pur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim—the initiative aims to create ₹100 crore in enterprise value and uplift over 500,000 individuals from low- and middle-income backgrounds. Supported ventures include Dream Hives (honey mead), Greengen (biofertilizer for

tea), Fuloni (biodegradable pots), Chefresco (ready-to-eat food), and Pustikor Foods (Joha rice cookies). NEGL will collaborate with key institutions including NABARD, NEDFI, NEHHDC, NERAMAC, and the Ministry of DoNER to drive long-term regional business transformation.

## Women choose term insurance as top financial tool for child's future: Bajaj Allianz Life Survey 2025

**Guwahati:** Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, in partnership with Pixis Global and Qualls.AI, has released its Women Term Survey 2025, highlighting a shift in women's financial priorities towards securing their children's future through term insurance. Covering over 1,000 salaried and self-employed women across metro, tier 1, and tier 2 cities, the survey found that 73% of mothers are concerned about funding their child's education in their absence, while 61% worry about ensuring financial stability during unforeseen events. Term insurance emerged as the most preferred product, with 46% of women opting for it to safeguard their child's future. Key

features women seek include critical illness coverage (87%), health management services (57%), and child income protection (93%). Flexibility, maturity benefits, and education-specific financial support are also high on the list. In Guwahati, insurance advisors report a rise in young mothers seeking comprehensive term plans. "There's a noticeable shift among women towards financial independence and long-term planning," said a local agent. Products offering health-linked riders and child-specific benefits are gaining traction in the region, reflecting the national trend. Bajaj Allianz Life plans to tailor future offerings to address these emerging needs.

## Kingfisher Water partners with Argentine FA as India sponsor

**Itanagar:** United Breweries Ltd, part of the HEINEKEN Company, is proud to announce that its flagship brand, Kingfisher Premium Packaged Drinking Water, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Argentine Football Association (AFA) as Regional Sponsor in India. The partnership was officially announced on June 17, 2025, at a grand event held at River Plate Stadium, Buenos Aires, with senior representatives from both organisations in attendance. This collaboration reflects Kingfisher's commitment to expanding its presence in India's football-loving regions, including West Bengal, Kerala, Goa, and the Northeast. The campaign will combine digital and on-ground activations, immersive fan experiences, and grassroots football development programs. A major highlight will be the Argentine National Team's international friendly match scheduled in Kerala this October. This association underlines Kingfisher's vision to celebrate togetherness, joy, and the spirit of football, reinforcing its market leadership in the non-alcoholic beverage segment.

## India starts 'Operation Sindhu'; Guwahati eyes education risks

**Guwahati:** In response to escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has launched Operation Sindhu to ensure the safety of Indian nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed the successful evacuation of 110 Indian students, including 90 from Jammu & Kashmir, from northern Iran on June 17. The students were transported via road to Armenia with the support of Indian embassies in Iran and Armenia, and later flown to New Delhi, where they arrived on June 19 and were received by Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh. The MEA emphasized that "India accords the highest priority to the safety and security of its nationals abroad," adding that relocation efforts from high-risk areas in Iran continue under close monitoring. In Guwahati, the evacuation has stirred concern



among families and education consultants. Study-abroad agencies in the region have reported a noticeable dip in interest for West Asia-bound academic programs, with many parents now inquiring about contingency support, insurance cover, and real-time embassy coordination before sending their wards abroad. The regional shift may temporarily influence outbound student flows from Assam, reflecting wider national sentiment.

## Adani Group plans \$20 bn investment



**New Delhi:** At the Adani Group's Annual General Meeting on June 24, 2025, Chairman Gautam Adani announced a record-breaking investment plan of \$15–20 billion annually over the next five years to drive the conglomerate's next phase of growth.

Adani emphasized that this capital infusion will span across sectors including seaports, airports, renewable energy, data centers, cement, gas, and electricity, reinforcing the group's position as India's largest infrastructure powerhouse. He highlighted that the group's revenue grew by 7%, with adjusted EBITDA reaching ₹89,806 crore, and a healthy net debt-to-EBITDA ratio of 2.6x. Addressing past controversies, Adani firmly stated that no one from the group has been charged under the U.S.

## Birla Fertility launches 'Fertility Circle' helpline nationwide

**Guwahati:** Birla Fertility & IVF, one of India's leading fertility care networks under the CKA Birla Group, has launched Fertility Circle — the country's first toll-free, unrecorded support line offering judgement-free fertility counselling. The helpline (1800 123 1515) is operational across India in English and Hindi on weekdays between 9 AM and 6 PM, with plans to introduce regional languages soon. This strategic launch aims to tap into India's rising demand for accessible and emotionally supportive fertility care. Internal studies by the company revealed that over 90% of people facing fertility challenges suffer emotional burnout, yet most delay seeking

help. Fertility Circle is positioned as a unique market offering, delivering confidential, pressure-free, expert-led guidance at zero cost. In Guwahati, where the fertility services segment has shown a steady uptick, this initiative is expected to enhance awareness and engagement. Local healthcare providers note that stigma and lack of reliable information have been key barriers, and Birla Fertility's move could help catalyse more open conversations and timely interventions in the region. The initiative bolsters Birla Fertility & IVF's growing footprint in the ₹5,000 crore Indian fertility market, reinforcing its blend of clinical excellence and empathetic care.

## ISRL registers 50% surge in global rider sign-ups, ignites supercross boom in India

**Guwahati:** The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) has announced a record-breaking 50% year-on-year growth in rider registrations for its upcoming Season 2 mega auction, with 155 professional riders signing up from 21 countries across six continents. The sharp rise signals India's rapid emergence as a global Supercross destination. Global champions including Greg Aranda, Justin Starling, Luke Clout, and Maxime Desprey will join returning stars like Matt Moss and Jordi Tixier. Homegrown talent, led by Ikshan Shanbhag and Rugved Barguje, further reinforces ISRL's commitment to developing Indian motorsports. The mega auction, scheduled for August 2025, will finalize franchise teams ahead of the October–December league season. In Guwahati, the surge in Supercross interest is expected to fuel a new market wave. Local biking clubs and motorsport retailers report growing demand for high-end off-road bikes and gear, with youth engagement at an all-time high. Dealers are exploring tie-ups with global brands to meet the evolving appetite for performance products. With Bollywood star Salman Khan as Brand Ambassador, ISRL's meteoric growth is reshaping India's sports economy, offering a high-octane mix of global talent, local heroes, and expanding commercial opportunities.

## Medanta brings 'Mission Save Heart' to Guwahati youth

**Guwahati:** The Medicity, India's leading private hospital chain, has launched its national heart health campaign Mission Save Heart in Guwahati, amid rising cardiovascular risks among India's youth. The initiative, led by Dr. R. R. Kasliwal, Chairman of Clinical & Preventive Cardiology, aims to tackle the growing burden of hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, and heart attacks—now increasingly common among Indians aged 40–69. At a Continuing Medical Education (CME) event in Guwahati, Dr. Kasliwal emphasized that cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) account for 1.7 million deaths annually in India and warned of their earlier onset in Indians compared to the West. He noted the "4 Hs"—heart attack, hypertension, heart failure, and cardiomyopathy—as key culprits, often interlinked and underdiagnosed due to lack of awareness



and trained specialists. In Guwahati, there has been growing demand for preventive cardiac solutions and advanced diagnostics. With younger demographics showing signs of early heart-related conditions, initiatives like Mission Save Heart are expected to drive awareness and increase adoption of quality cardiac care in Assam and the Northeast region. Founded by Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. Naresh Trehan, Medanta operates five hospitals across India and serves over 30 specialties with more than 1,850 doctors.





Lionel Messi will lead a quartet of former Barcelona players

## Madrid, City dominate despite CW Cup scare

**New Delhi:** Juventus and Manchester City remained in firm control of Group G with emphatic victories, setting up a high-stakes clash on Thursday to determine the group winner. In Group H, Real Madrid overcame an early red card to outclass Pachuca and keep their qualification hopes alive, while Al Hilal and Red Bull Salzburg played out a hard-fought draw that left both sides still in contention in one of the tournament's most competitive groups. Despite being reduced to 10 men in just the eighth minute after Ral Asencio was sent off for a reckless challenge on Salomn Rondn, Real Madrid kept



their composure and quality intact to register a commanding 3-1 win over Mexico's Pachuca. Jude Bellingham, continuing his rich run of form, opened the scoring in the 35th minute with a neat finish, before Arda Gler doubled the lead ten minutes later with a composed strike. Federico Valverde's curling effort in the 70th minute effectively sealed the win, before 19-year-old Elas Montiel pulled one back for Pachuca late on—a mere consolation in the end.

## India tops medal table at Seychelles National Day boxing tourney

Sharma wins by walkover; Mudshaniya secures gold with 4:1 decision victory

**New Delhi:** All seven Indian boxers, who participated in the Seychelles National Day Boxing Tournament, held at the Paradise Arena in Mahe, returned with medals. Comprising medal-winners from recent Elite Nationals and National Combined Championships, the Indian contingent secured three gold, three silver, and one bronze medals, topping the charts with one more gold than Mauritius.



In the gold medal bouts, Himanshu Sharma (50kg) was awarded a walkover, while Ashish Mudshaniya (55kg) claimed a well-earned 4:1 split decision. Gaurav Chauhan (90+kg) edged past his opponent in a tense final, sealing gold with a hard-earned 3:2 ver-

dict. The silver medallists — Anmol (60kg), Aditya Yadav (65kg), and Neeraj (75kg) — all fought their finals valiantly before going down by identical 2:3 split decisions, underlining the competitive quality of their performances. Kartik Dalal (70kg) added to India's tally with a bronze.

This campaign is part of a broader shift in India's

## Jasprit Bumrah: Relentless, razor-sharp, remarkable

Every time he bowled, a wicket felt just moments away

**Leeds:** Jasprit Bumrah's recent performance has reignited the awe surrounding his fast-bowling mastery. In the opening Test against England at Headingley, Bumrah delivered a sensational spell, taking 5 wickets for 83 runs—his 14th five-wicket haul in Tests and his fourth in the last six matches. What



made this performance even more remarkable was the context: on a batting-friend-

ly pitch where most bowlers struggled, Bumrah stood out with his relentless accuracy and ability to adapt. His spell was instrumental in restricting England to 465, despite Indian fielders dropping multiple catches off his bowling. Former England pacer Steven Finn hailed Bumrah as the "most complete fast

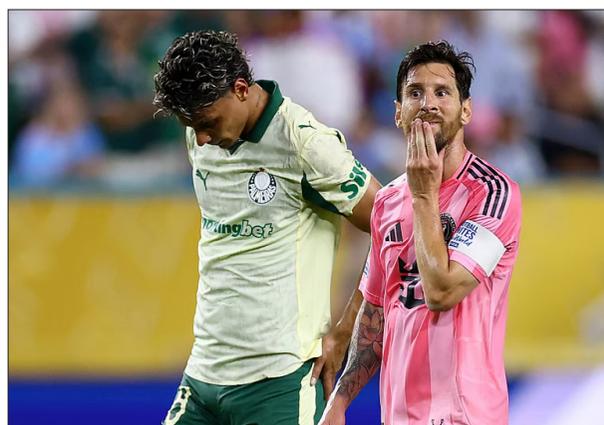
bowler ever," comparing his unique biomechanics to a catapult that launches the ball at 90 mph with deceptive angles and late movement. English media echoed this sentiment, with one columnist writing, "There were two games here: one when Bumrah was bowling, one when he wasn't".

## Palmeiras, Inter Miami both advance to Club World Cup last 16; Porto end run

Palmeiras top, Miami second; Al-Ahly, Porto out

**Miami:** Palmeiras and Inter Miami both advanced to the last 16 of the FIFA Club World Cup after a dramatic 2-2 draw at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. The match saw Inter Miami take a commanding 2-0 lead with goals from Tadeo Allende in the 16th minute and Luis Suárez in the 65th. But Palmeiras mounted a late comeback, with Paulinho scoring in the 80th minute and Mauricio equalizing in the 87th to secure top spot in Group A.

Both teams finished with five points, but Palmeiras edged Miami on goal difference. The result eliminated Al-Ahly and Porto,



who played out a thrilling 4-4 draw in their final group match. Lionel Messi's Inter Miami will now face European champions Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16—a reunion with his

former club. Palmeiras, meanwhile, will take on Brazilian rivals Botafogo in an all-Brazilian clash. Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano called it a "historic night" for Major League Soccer.

## ICC reprimands Rishabh Pant

**New Delhi:** India wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant has been officially reprimanded by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for breaching Level 1 of its Code of Conduct during the third day of the first Test against England at Headingley on June 22, 2025.

The incident occurred in the 61st over of England's first innings when Pant expressed dissent after umpires declined to change the ball following a shape check. In frustration, he threw the ball on the ground in front of the umpires. This act violated Article 2.8 of the ICC Code, which pertains to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match."

## Eng vs India

### Rahul vows thrilling finish despite England's bold call



**New Delhi:** India opener KL Rahul said his team is ready to seize the opportunity and go for the kill on Day 5 of the first Test at Headingley after England pacer Josh Tongue declared the hosts were eyeing a result rather than a draw in pursuit of a daunting 371-run target.

Rahul, who struck a classy 137 in India's second innings, acknowledged the boldness of Tongue's statement and

welcomed the prospect of an attacking final day, saying it gave India a real shot at claiming the ten wickets needed to go 1-0 up in the five-match series. "Blockbuster finish waiting tomorrow. There's definitely going to be a result. That's what England have said openly, and it gives us the opportunity to pick up 10 wickets," Rahul said after stumps on Day 4, referring to Tongue's post-day remarks.

