



Telangana pharma plant explosion

BJP MPs walks out Parliament panel meet over summoning Medha Patkar

New Delhi: A scheduled meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was abruptly adjourned on Tuesday after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament staged a walkout in protest against the summoning of social activist Medha Patkar. The committee, chaired by Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka, had convened to review the



implementation and effectiveness of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The agenda included hearing from vari-

ous stakeholders, including officials from the Ministries of Rural Development, Environment, and Tribal Affairs, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations. Tensions escalated before the meeting began, with BJP MPs objecting to Patkar's inclusion among the invitees. They alleged that the Narmada Bachao Andolan leader was "anti-national" and "anti-development,".

TMC: BJP singling out Bengali migrants

New Delhi: The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) has accused Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled states of systematically targeting Bengali-speaking migrant workers, branding them as illegal immigrants and subjecting them to harassment and detention despite valid documentation.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and AITC MP Samirul Islam raised serious concerns over what they described as a "witch-hunt" against Bengali-speaking citizens. Addressing the media from the West Bengal Assembly, Banerjee claimed that hundreds of workers from districts like Itahar were recently detained in Rajasthan's Bhiwadi region for speaking Bengali, despite possessing Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, and ration cards. "Is it a crime to speak Bengali—the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda?"

PM Modi calls steel sector India's backbone, lauds growth, innovation

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underscored the pivotal role of India's steel industry in driving the nation's infrastructure, defence, electric mobility, and clean energy ambitions, calling it the "backbone of a rising India." His remarks came in response to a post by Union Steel Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who detailed the sector's transformation under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. In a post on social media platform X, Modi wrote,



"From infrastructure and defence to electric mobility and clean energy, steel is the backbone of a rising India." He praised the policy push and innovation that

have positioned India as the world's second-largest steel producer. Minister Kumaraswamy elaborated that India's steel production has nearly doubled since 2014.

Maha Dy CM Ajit Pawar unveils ₹57,510 crore proposal

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday presented supplementary demands totaling ₹57,509.71 crore in the State Legislative Assembly, marking a significant financial move on the opening day of the Monsoon Session. The additional allocations aim to support infrastructure development, welfare schemes, and pending liabilities across various departments. Of the total demand, ₹19,183.85 crore has been earmarked for committed expenditures, ₹34,661.34



crore for planned schemes, and ₹3,664.52 crore for Centrally-sponsored initiatives. Pawar clarified that while the gross demand stands at ₹57,509.71 crore, the net financial impact on the state exchequer is estimated at ₹40,644.69 crore. The Opposition criticized the move, citing Maharashtra's rising revenue deficit.

Akhilesh accuses BJP of corruption using Banke Bihari corridor project façade

Project threatens shops, artisans, favors big business in alleged scam

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav has launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that the proposed Banke Bihari temple corridor in Mathura is being used as a vehicle for corruption, land acquisition, and displacement under the pretext of religious development. Speaking at a press conference in Lucknow and through a detailed post on social media platform X, Yadav accused the BJP of turning faith-based infrastructure projects into "corridor corruption" schemes. He mockingly referred to what he called the BJP's "Bhajpai Mahabhrashtachar: Training Manual," claiming it includes a chapter on



how to exploit religious sentiments for financial and political gain.

Yadav alleged that the project is part of a systematic effort to seize control of land, displace traditional artisans and shopkeepers, and hand over commercial rights to large businesses in exchange for commissions. "How to grab con-

trol, wealth, property and funds; how to impose government control; how to fill BJP pockets by selling temple offerings; how to mislead the public in the name of amenities," he wrote, listing what he described as the BJP's tactics.

He further claimed that the corridor would destroy livelihoods and homes of

families settled in the area for generations, while benefiting outsiders and creating local-outsider divides. "If the local people had truly benefited from the so-called corridor development, then why does the BJP lose or nearly lose in the very areas where such projects are carried out?" Yadav questioned. The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed the Banke Bihari corridor to improve infrastructure and manage crowd flow around the historic temple. However, the plan has faced stiff resistance from local residents, shopkeepers, and religious groups, who allege that the project lacks transparency and threatens their livelihoods.

President Murmu urges natural, affordable animal healthcare

Bareilly: President Droupadi Murmu has called for the advancement of indigenous, low-cost, and chemical-free treatments to improve animal healthcare in India, emphasizing the need for sustainable and side-effect-free alternatives that benefit both animals and the environment.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, the President highlighted the critical role of veterinary science in biodiversity conservation and public health. "Find indigenous and low-cost treatments and nutrition for animals," she urged, adding that medicines with harmful side effects should be replaced with safer alternatives. Presi-



dent Murmu also advocated for the integration of cutting-edge technologies such as genome editing, embryo transfer, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics to revolutionize veterinary care.

President Murmu also advocated for the integration of cutting-edge technologies such as genome editing, embryo transfer, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics to revolutionize veterinary care. "Technology, like in other fields, has the potential to bring revolutionary changes in veterinary medicine and care too," she said.



Northeast emerges as key hub for rare earth and critical minerals: GSI

Arunachal and Assam emerge rich in rare mineral deposits

Guwahati: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified the Northeastern region as a promising frontier for rare earth elements (REEs) and other critical minerals essential for clean energy, electronics, and defence technologies. This revelation comes amid India's strategic push to secure domestic sources of high-demand resources. Timely resumption of services. Priority was given to goods trains carrying



essential commodities such as petroleum products and food grains, especially for Tripura and the Barak Val-

ley. According to the GSI's newly released handbook on the "Geological Potential of North East India," states like

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland host significant untapped deposits of REEs, graphite, vanadium, lithium, cobalt, and bauxite. These minerals are vital for manufacturing batteries, semiconductors, permanent magnets, and advanced alloys. Arunachal Pradesh has emerged as a standout contributor, with delineated resources of 24.81 million tonnes of graphite.

PM Modi celebrates sustainable heritage of Meghalaya's eri silk

Shillong: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded Meghalaya's traditional Eri silk, describing it as a "symbol of sustainable heritage" and a testament to India's rich indigenous craftsmanship. His remarks came during the 123rd episode of his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat, where he spotlighted the fabric's cultural and ecological significance.



Modi praised the recent recognition of Eri silk with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, calling it "a proud moment not

just for Meghalaya, but for the entire country." He emphasized that Eri silk, also known as "Ahimsa silk," is produced without harming silkworms, making it an ethical and eco-conscious textile rooted in the traditions of the Khasi community.

Arunachal achieves enrolment milestone, lowers dropouts

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh has reached a significant milestone in its education sector, achieving a 100% adjusted net enrolment rate in elementary education and reducing the average annual dropout rate at the secondary level to 11.7%, according to Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The announcement, made via social media and official statements, highlights the state's progress under the framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), which emphasize inclusive and eq-



uitable quality education. Chief Minister Khandu credited the achievement to a series of targeted interventions, including the implementation of innovative programs such as 'Building as Learning Aid' and the expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools. These initiatives have improved access to modern educational facilities, particularly in remote and tribal areas.

Train services resume in parts of NE after week-long disruption

Guwahati: After a week-long suspension due to massive landslides, train services in parts of Northeast India have resumed, restoring critical connectivity between South Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, and the rest of the country via Guwahati. The disruption, which began on June 23, was triggered by heavy rainfall that caused multiple earth slips in the Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section under Assam's Dima Hasao district. The landslides severely damaged railway tracks, halting both passenger and



freight movement across the region. According to Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) officials, partial restoration began on Sunday, with the Kanchenjunga Express and goods trains successfully crossing the affected Jatinga Lampur section. Full-fledged operations resumed on Monday following intensive restoration efforts. NFR General

Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava personally visited the site to assess the damage and oversee the restoration work. Under his direction, maximum manpower and machinery were deployed to expedite debris clearance and track repairs. The railway teams worked around the clock to ensure safe and timely resumption of services. Priority was given to goods trains carrying essential commodities such as petroleum products and food grains, especially for Tripura and the Barak Valley.

Gunmen kill four in Manipur



Imphal: In a fresh outbreak of violence in Manipur, four individuals, including a 60-year-old woman, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Mongjang village in Churachandpur district on Monday afternoon, police confirmed.

The victims were travelling in a car when they were ambushed around 2 p.m., approximately 7 km from Churachandpur town. Preliminary investigations suggest the assailants fired at point-blank range. Over a dozen empty shells were recovered from the scene, indicating the intensity of the attack.

The identities of the deceased have not yet been officially confirmed. No group has claimed responsibility for the killings so far. Law enforcement agencies have launched a probe, and additional security forces have been deployed to the area to prevent further escalation. The incident has heightened tensions in a region already grappling with ethnic unrest and sporadic violence. Authorities have urged residents to remain calm and avoid spreading unverified information.

Assam CM reviews restoration work at historic Rang Ghar in Sivasagar

Sivasagar sees heritage revival, infrastructure growth together

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday visited the historic Rang Ghar, an 18th-century Ahom royal sports pavilion, to inspect the progress of an ongoing beautification and restoration project aimed at preserving the monument's architectural and cultural legacy. During his visit, the Chief Minister emphasized the government's commitment to safeguarding Assam's heritage and transforming Rang Ghar into a globally recognized tourist destination. He noted that the restoration work is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed within the next 16 to 18 months. The project includes com-



prehensive landscaping, structural preservation, and the development of visitor-friendly infrastructure. Sarma highlighted that the initiative will rejuvenate the amphitheatre—believed to be Asia's first—and enhance its visibility on the global tourism map. In addition to Rang Ghar, the Chief Minister reviewed several key in-

frastructure projects in the region. These included the construction of the Sivasagar Medical College and the Sivasagar Cancer Care Hospital at Demow, both envisioned as state-of-the-art healthcare institutions. He also inspected the proposed RCC-lined covered canal system to address rainwater accumulation in the town.

Assam emerges as Northeast's industrial powerhouse: Shah

Guwahati: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has asserted that Assam is set to become the driving force behind industrial development in the Northeast, citing the state's rapid infrastructure expansion, strategic investments, and policy reforms as key enablers of this transformation.

In an exclusive interview with The Assam Tribune, Shah highlighted that Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹5.18 lakh crore have been signed during the recent Advantage Assam Summit, amounting to nearly 80% of the state's estimated Gross Domestic Product. He emphasized that these investments span sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics, and

are expected to significantly boost employment and economic output.

"Assam has now become a hub for health in the Northeast, whether it is cancer treatment or medical education," Shah noted, attributing the progress to the "double-engine government" model that aligns state and central development agendas.

The Home Minister also underscored Assam's role in national self-reliance efforts, pointing to the state's growing contribution to domestic production and exports. He reiterated the Centre's commitment to enhancing connectivity, citing high-value infrastructure projects and improved law enforcement mechanisms as foundational to sustained growth.



Vi unveils ₹871 Max Postpaid Plan with Netflix, industry-first data benefits

Mumbai: Vi, one of India's leading telecom operators, has announced the launch of its new Vi Max Family Postpaid Plan at ₹871. Designed to deliver unmatched value and entertainment, the plan offers the industry's highest data quota of 120GB, bundled with a Netflix Basic subscription and access to 18 additional OTT platforms. The plan includes two connections—70GB for the primary, 40GB for the secondary user, and 10GB shared data—making it the most comprehensive family-centric offering in the segment. Additional features include unlimited night data (12 am–6 am), data rollover up to 400GB (200GB per



user), and unlimited 5G access in cities such as Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Patna, Chandigarh, and Bengaluru. Users also benefit from Vi's 'Choice' feature, selecting perks across entertain-

ment, mobile security, and travel, including Norton Mobile Security and EaseMyTrip discounts. Vi aims to complete its 5G rollout across 17 priority circles by August 2025.

Operation Sindhu evacuates 4,400 Indians, enhances overseas safety confidence

Guwahati: The Government of India has successfully concluded Operation Sindhu, evacuating 4,415 Indian nationals from conflict-affected regions in Iran and Israel, reaffirming its strong diplomatic and logistical capabilities. Launched on June 18, the mission involved 19 special flights, including three IAF C-17 aircraft, and was coordinated through Indian missions in Tehran, Yerevan, and Ashgabat. Between June 18 and 26, a total of 3,597 individuals were repatriated from Iran via Yerevan, Ashgabat, and Mashhad, including students, workers, pilgrims, and fishermen. The Israel operation began on June 23, evacuating 818 people



from Amman and Sharm El Sheikh. India also extended humanitarian aid to neighboring citizens—rescuing 14 OCI cardholders, 9 Nepali nationals, 4 Sri Lankans, and an Iranian spouse of an Indian. In Guwahati, the operation has had a notable ripple effect. Local travel and overseas education consultants report increased inquiries about visa advisories, travel

insurance, and emergency protocols. Families with members in West Asia expressed relief, boosting confidence in government intervention and international mobility from the Northeast region. The MEA expressed gratitude to regional governments and reaffirmed continued monitoring across West Asia through its embassies and consulates.

Ather Energy powers up Northeast push; Mizo warp club debuts in Aizawl to boost EV sentiment

Aizawl: Ather Energy Ltd., a key player in India's electric two-wheeler space, has intensified its Northeast expansion strategy with the launch of five new outlets and the introduction of the Mizo Warp Club in Aizawl. This initiative is designed to celebrate Mizoram's early EV adopters and cultivate a vibrant user community as EV sentiment surges across the region.



folio—including the 450S, 450X, 450 Apex, and family-friendly Rizta—alongside supportive measures like the Eight70 Warranty (8 years/80,000 km), 60

upcoming Ather Grid fast chargers, and FlexiPay financing options via NBFCs. In Aizawl, where scooter culture is robust, consumer appetite for per-

formance-based and thoughtfully designed EVs is rapidly expanding. Competitive ex-showroom pricing—₹1.10 lakh for the Rizta S and ₹1.21 lakh for the 450S—is attracting urban riders and families alike. With advanced safety features and long-range capabilities, Ather's EVs are becoming the preferred upgrade over ICE vehicles in the city. With over 3900 fast chargers nationwide, Ather is poised to capture significant market share as EV demand accelerates across the Northeast belt.

ITC's Sunfeast Marie Light unveils cooling caps for Rath Yatra 2025

Guwahati: Sunfeast Marie Light, a leading brand under ITC Ltd.'s Foods Division, made a notable mark at the Puri Rath Yatra 2025 by introducing the innovative 'Surya Vardaan' cooling caps. Designed to offer relief to devotees walking for hours under the scorching sun, the cap is crafted with sandalwood and a menthol-infused layer that activates on exposure to sunlight—delivering a soothing, cooling effect.



Thousands of these specially designed caps were distributed from on-ground experience zones during the Yatra, merging utility with spiritual symbol-

ism. Odia film star Archita Sahu lent her support to the initiative, participating in the distribution and engaging with devotees. Ali Harris Shere, COO, Biscuits & Cakes Cluster, ITC Ltd., stated, "The Surya Vardaan cap symbolizes our commitment to tradition, care, and innovation—values rooted in the very essence of Sunfeast Marie Light." In Guwahati, the initiative drew attention from both consumers and retailers. With the city's summer religious events like Ambubachi Mela drawing large crowds, local distributors see potential for similar heat-relief products. The innovation reflects a broader market trend where functional offerings with cultural relevance are increasingly welcomed by Northeast consumers.

India's IPO market eyes July surge

Mumbai: Indian firms could raise some \$2.4 billion through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) in July, investment bankers said, raising hopes of a sustained revival in primary offerings after demand was dented by the US trade war and global geopolitical tensions earlier this year. That amount would mark the strongest month since December and would follow a robust \$2 billion raised in June, though most of that was raised by one company, HDB Financial Services.

Medanta outreach strengthens healthcare sentiment in Kohima

Kohima: The Medicity, Gurgaon, recently named India's Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for the sixth year running, concluded a high-impact three-day medical camp in Kohima on June 27, 2025. Conducted in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland, the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, and Nagaland Police, the camp provided multi-specialty consultations to over 400 people. The initiative follows Medanta's MoU with the state government under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CM-HIS), positioning the hos-



pital group for deeper regional integration. Senior officials including Assembly Speaker Sharingain Longkumer, Director P. Tokugma Sema, and DGP Rupin Sharma participated across the three-day event. Medanta's Chairman Dr. Naresh Trehan emphasized that expanding access to predictive, preventive healthcare in underserved regions like Nagaland is both a strategic necessity and a moral imperative.

Lauritz Knudsen unveils vast product lineup to boost India's industry

New Delhi: Lauritz Knudsen Electrical & Automation, a leading name in India's electrical and automation sector, has unveiled its most ambitious product portfolio to date, aimed at powering the nation's key industrial clusters. As part of this major push, the company has launched a 30-city 'Technology Tour' to showcase over 10 advanced, future-ready solutions including a comprehensive EV charging ecosystem, digital power distribution

systems, and end-to-end industrial automation tools. The initiative is designed to enhance technology access, adoption, and innovation tailored to region-specific industrial needs, aligning with the government's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The new offerings include air and molded case circuit breakers, smart numerical protection relays, and IoT-powered automation systems, supporting sectors from clean energy to manufacturing.



Vi Business unveils MSME study 2025; 76% small businesses prioritise cybersecurity investments

Mumbai: On World MSME Day, Vi Business, the enterprise arm of Vodafone Idea, announced the findings of its third edition of the Ready for Next MSME Growth Insights Study 2025. The study highlights a sharp increase in digital intent among India's MSMEs, with 76% planning to invest in cybersecurity and 72% in cloud infrastructure. India's Digital Maturity Index (DMI) has risen from 56.6 in 2023 to 58.0 in 2025, underscoring steady national progress. Over two



lakh MSMEs across 15,000 pin codes participated in the Vi Business "Ready for Next" digital advisory platform, now certified as India's largest by Cyber Media Research. Telangana leads with the highest DMI (71.2), followed by Kerala (63.7) and Maharashtra (59.2). Financial Services, Retail, and Transportation top the digitally mature sectors.

Demand for heart-healthy foods rises as cholesterol awareness boosts market growth



Guwahati : The health food segment is witnessing steady growth driven by increasing awareness around cholesterol management and lifestyle diseases. Nutritionist Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare, New Delhi, has identified four key foods—almonds, oats, fruits, and garlic—that are seeing a demand uptick as consumers integrate them into their daily diets to manage cholesterol levels.

Almonds, packed with 15 vital nutrients, help lower LDL cholesterol while boosting HDL and reducing belly fat. Oats and whole grains are effective in regulating blood pressure and supporting cardiovascular health. Fruits aid lipid control and satiety due to their fiber content and low saturated fat. Garlic, known for its cholesterol-lowering effects, is gaining popularity in both raw and processed forms. Analysts expect the cholesterol-management food category to expand further, with regional markets like Kolkata playing a pivotal role in driving nationwide trends in preventive nutrition.

ICICI Prudential unveils Smart Plan Plus



New Delhi: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus, a new market-linked product designed to help India's youth build long-term wealth with affordable monthly premiums starting at just ₹1,000. This product offers a dual benefit of investment and life cover, catering to the financial aspirations of a digitally-savvy generation.

The plan provides access to 25 diverse funds and four portfolio strategies, along with cost-free, tax-efficient fund switching. Additionally, customers can opt for a Waiver of Premium benefit to ensure savings continue uninterrupted in the event of the policyholder's absence. The product is designed for a fully digital purchase journey, reflecting the brand's commitment to convenience and accessibility.

Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Product and Distribution Officer at ICICI Prudential Life, stated, "India's youth is driving economic growth. This plan is tailored to encourage early investments and help them take charge of their financial future." The product is now available on ICICI Prudential's digital platform.

Toyota, Ohmium unite to boost hydrogen revolution, energize India's green future

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has partnered with Bengaluru-based Ohmium International to co-develop scalable Green Hydrogen-based power solutions. The partnership, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), brings together Toyota's fuel cell expertise

and Ohmium's modular PEM electrolyzer technology, supporting India's ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission and the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. This initiative aims to create innovative microgrid solutions for data centers and remote areas, with Toyota providing system integra-

tion and fuel cell modules, and Ohmium handling design and development. The collaboration embodies the "Make in India" vision and reflects Toyota's long-standing commitment to sustainable innovation—from launching India's first hydrogen FCEV to working with state governments and industry players.

Bajaj Finserv AMC unveils small cap fund with focus on quality, growth and value

Guwahati: Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd. (BFAML) has launched the Bajaj Finserv Small Cap Fund, an open-ended equity scheme aimed at long-term wealth creation through investments in small-cap companies. The fund opens for subscription on June 27 and closes on July 11, 2025. Offering a 3-in-1 advantage—quality, growth, and value—the fund targets fundamentally strong businesses trading below their intrinsic worth. Despite 80% of small-cap firms posting 38% profit growth and healthy return ratios, many remain 15–45% below their 52-week highs, presenting a strategic entry point. Backed by internal forensic and risk-aware analysis, the fund

narrows over 1,100 stocks down to a focused portfolio of 40–100. Ganesh Mohan, MD, BFAML, stated the fund aims to capture early-stage growth opportunities in quality businesses. Nimesh Chandan, CIO, added that several sectors exclusive to small caps present attractive valuation plays post market correction.

In Guwahati, it is said that the fund has stirred strong interest among retail investors seeking diversified exposure. Local advisors believe the low entry threshold of ₹500 and Bajaj Finserv's robust fund management record are appealing factors in the region's growing mutual fund participation. The fund is benchmarked to the BSE 250 SmallCap Index TRI.

Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow 2025' drives innovation in Shillong, Jammu, Kolkata

Shillong: Samsung's flagship innovation programme Solve for Tomorrow 2025 is generating strong momentum across India's youth, with recent roadshows in Jammu, Kolkata, and Shillong sparking tech-driven ideas aimed at solving real-world problems. The programme, launched on April 29, offers expert mentorship, prototyping support, and a chance for four winning teams to receive INR 1 crore each for project incubation. Applications are open for individuals aged 14–22 until June 30, 2025. At North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in Shillong, student Bashan Kur Buhroy proposed using drone-based delivery systems to transport emergency medicines to remote



areas. "Many parts of the Northeast lack ambulance access. My goal is to bridge that gap using drones," he said. The Shillong market, known for its growing interest in sustainable tech and public health solutions, presents a ripe ecosystem for innovation. The local startup community and university-backed incubators are increasingly aligning

with national platforms like Samsung's to bring ideas to life. Meanwhile, students in Kolkata and Jammu pitched innovations ranging from AI tools for early learning disabilities to mobile apps for soil health monitoring. As the final application deadline nears, Samsung's campaign leaves behind a stronger belief in the power of youth-led innovation.

Jayant Chaudhary unveils report on India's workforce transformation

Guwahati: Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and MoS for Education, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, unveiled a landmark report titled "Skills for the Future: Transforming India's Workforce Landscape" in New Delhi. Developed

independently by the Institute for Competitiveness, the report provides an in-depth, data-driven analysis of India's skilling ecosystem using the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24. The report reveals that 88% of India's workforce is engaged in low-competen-

cy occupations, with only 10–12% in high-skilled roles. It identifies five high-impact sectors—IT & ITes, Textile & Apparel, Electronics, Healthcare & Life Sciences, and Beauty & Wellness—as leading in vocational training. Minister Chaudhary stressed the need for a demand-driven,

industry-aligned skilling model and proposed a national employability index to track outcomes. In Guwahati, industry players in healthcare and electronics see immense potential for aligning local talent with national skilling frameworks. With growing demand in the Northeast,

Guwahati could emerge as a regional skilling hub if programs are tailored to local industry needs. The report calls for better data systems, industry accountability, and incentivized hiring from certified talent pools to build a resilient, future-ready workforce.



Reise Moto accelerates fan engagement with ISRL fan parks, eyes market boost in Guwahati

Guwahati: Reise Moto, a leading performance tyre brand, has announced a dynamic partnership with the Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) to power the upcoming Season 2 Fan Parks — a first-of-its-kind motorsport festival experience across Indian cities from October to December 2025. As the presenting partner of the ISRL Fan Park and Associate Sponsor of the main league, Reise Moto aims to elevate fan interaction and motorsport culture through immersive, family-friendly events. The ISRL Fan Park will operate two days before each Sunday race, offering a rich mix of pit-lane access, rider meet-and-greets,



VR/AR simulators, live music, demo rides, DIY workshops, and a dedicated kids' zone. Reise Moto's focus is to attract over 5,000 families per weekend, fostering deeper connections with both seasoned fans and newcomers. In Guwahati, a key stop in the ISRL calendar, local markets are gearing up for a surge in demand.

Two-wheeler showrooms and aftermarket retailers anticipate increased footfall as the event is expected to energize youth interest in motorsports and performance biking. Industry insiders see this as a unique opportunity to tap into Northeast India's growing appetite for premium auto accessories and lifestyle motor gear.

Škoda Auto India clocks record H1 sales, rises to top 7 automakers in India

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has set a new benchmark by recording its highest-ever half-yearly sales, selling 36,194 units between January and June 2025—a remarkable 134% growth over H1 2024. This achievement marks a significant leap, propelling the automaker into the top seven automotive brands in India, up from 11th place last year. The strong performance is attributed to the successful launch of the Kylaq—Škoda's first sub-4m SUV—and the second-generation Kodiaq luxury 4x4, along with sustained momentum from the Kushaq and Slavia sedan. The expansion of Škoda's nationwide network to over



295 touchpoints, with a target of 350 by year-end, has also bolstered accessibility and customer trust. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "Our landmark sales reflect growing trust and acceptance from Indian customers. We aim to stay relevant through innovative products and a robust ownership experience." In Guwahati, Škoda's lat-

est offerings have stirred strong interest among consumers seeking stylish yet dependable mobility solutions. Local dealerships report increased bookings for the Kylaq and Kushaq, driven by demand from both urban and semi-urban buyers, as the brand's reach and after-sales services expand across the Northeast market.

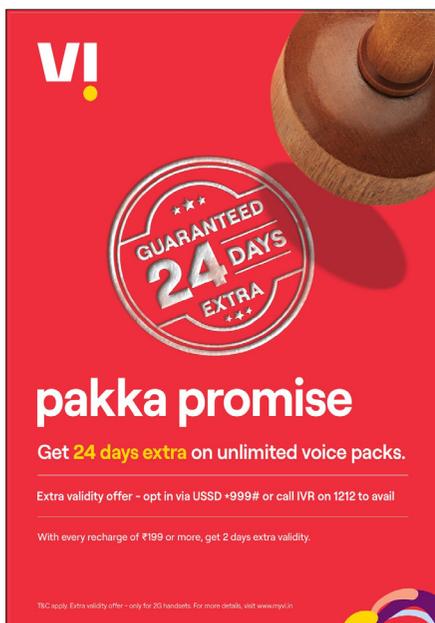
Tetley launches Slim Care green tea



Guwahati: Tetley, a trusted name in green tea under Tata Consumer Products, has introduced its latest innovation—Tetley Green Tea Slim Care. This unique blend is crafted for the modern Indian woman, combining the antioxidant benefits of premium green tea with added L-Carnitine, a natural nutrient proven to burn body fat. Tetley Green Tea Slim Care is available in refreshing Lemon & Honey and Ginger Mint Lemon flavors, making it a delicious and convenient addition to your daily wellness routine. Available SKUs & Pricing: Lemon & Honey: 25 tea bags (MRP ₹185), 10 tea bags (MRP ₹80); Ginger Mint Lemon: 25 tea bags (MRP ₹185), 10 tea bags (MRP ₹80). Availability: Now available across major retail stores and leading e-commerce platforms, including Amazon. Choose Tetley Green Tea Slim Care with added L-Carnitine for a tasty way to support your wellness journey every day.

Vi rolls out the Vi Guarantee Programme for its 2G handset customers

Mumbai: India's leading telecom operator Vi, has rolled out the Vi Guarantee Programme for its 2G Handset customers. Under this programme, the benefit of 24 Days Extra validity will be credited over a 12-month period wherein 2 Days Extra Validity will be credited with every Unlimited voice recharge pack of Rs. 199 and above. The Vi Guarantee programme aims to address a long-standing challenge faced by voice-only or low data usage prepaid customers, which is the need to recharge again within the same month. With traditional 28-day packs, customers often recharge twice in a single calendar month or sometimes continue with interrupted service. With the introduction of Vi Guarantee, customers will now get 30 days of service validity instead of the usual 28 days, enabling one recharge per month. The Vi Guarantee benefit is applicable for prepaid cus-



tomers who are using 2G handsets and are on Unlimited voice recharge packs of Rs 199 and above. The Vi Guarantee programme for 4G and 5G customers, launched last year, continues to be available offering a total of 130GB guaranteed extra data over one year, with 10GB being credited automatically every 28 days for 13 consecutive cycles. To avail this, customers will need to be on daily data unlimited plans of Rs 299 and above. Customers can opt in for the Vi Guarantee - Extra validity benefit via USSD *999# or call on 1212. The Vi Guarantee- Extra Data offer can be availed on the Vi App.

Sony India launches new BRAVIA Theatre System 6 and Bar 6 soundbars

Guwahati: Sony India has expanded its BRAVIA Theatre portfolio with the launch of two new immersive soundbars; the BRAVIA Theatre Bar 6 (3.1.2ch soundbar with a wireless subwoofer) and the BRAVIA Theatre System 6 (5.1ch home theatre system with Wireless Rear speakers). Engineered to bring cinematic audio home, these soundbars deliver powerful surround sound, seamless BRAVIA TV integration and intelligent sound technologies designed to elevate every movie night, game and concert experience. Sunil Nayyar, Managing Director, Sony India said, "With the BRAVIA Theatre System 6 and Bar 6, we are delivering a truly cinematic experience right into the heart of Indian homes." Nezu Daisuke, Global Head of Home Product Business Div., Home Entertainment Business Unit, Sony Corporation said, "By bringing our home theatre products under the BRAVIA brand—renowned for its visual excellence—we are creating a truly integrated entertainment ecosystem." Tomoya Kato, Senior



Acoustic Engineer, Sony Corporation, said, "The idea behind BRAVIA Theatre System 6 was clear — to bring the true cinematic experience into the home." BRAVIA Theatre System 6 is an all-in-one 5.1ch 1000W powerful sound system with a subwoofer, delivering a deeper, richer, and well-balanced sound. BRAVIA Theatre Bar 6 is a 3.1.2ch soundbar offering immersive surround sound and clear dialogue. Compatible with Dolby Atmos, DTS:X, and more, both the System 6 and Bar 6 bring depth, clarity and dimension to movies, music, and games—transforming your living room into a cinematic soundscape. The BRAVIA Theatre System 6 and BRAVIA Theatre Bar 6 are equipped with Sony's Voice Zoom 3™ technology. Both System 6 and Bar 6 include

Night and Voice modes for a consistently clear and comfortable audio experience. With the BRAVIA Connect app, you can adjust volume and settings and even check your set up without using the remote or on-screen menu. BRAVIA Theatre home audio products are reducing the amount of plastic packaging. The fabric used in the BRAVIA Theatre home audio products is recycled from PET bottles. BRAVIA Theatre System 6 and Bar 6 will be available across Sony retail stores (Sony Center and Sony Exclusive stores) and major electronic stores, www.ShopatSC.com, and other e-commerce portals in India from 1st July 2025 onwards. The price of the BRAVIA Theatre System 6 (5.1ch) is 49,990/- and the price of the BRAVIA Theatre Bar 6 (3.1.2ch) is 39,990/-.



Steve Smith turns to baseball cage in New York to fast-track recovery for Caribbean Test

Injury sidelined Smith for series opener in Barbados

New Delhi: Australian batter Steve Smith has taken an unconventional route to regain match fitness, training in a baseball batting cage in New York to recover from a dislocated finger ahead of the second Test against the West Indies.

Smith, 36, suffered a compound dislocation to the little finger of his right hand while attempting a catch during the World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's. Following immediate medical attention, including stitches and splinting, he missed the first Test in Barbados, which Australia won by 159 runs. Rather than remain idle, Smith utilized a baseball cage located under a



bridge near his New York apartment to resume batting drills. Starting with tennis balls and soft-core balls, he gradually progressed to facing cricket balls, simulating match conditions in the summer heat. "My mate actually told me about it... it was ideal because it was pretty warm there," Smith

told reporters. "It was good to be in the shade, and he was able to throw me a few balls there." Smith shared footage of his training with Australia's medical staff, who cleared him for a return. With stitches now removed and a smaller splint in place, he reported no pain and said he felt con-

fident about resuming full training. "I don't really feel any pain or anything. Just getting used to the splint and the slight limited movement," he said. "Hitting the ball felt completely fine."

Smith is expected to rejoin the Australian XI for the second Test in Grenada starting July 3, pending a final fitness assessment. He acknowledged that fielding in unfamiliar positions—such as mid-on or fine leg—might be the biggest adjustment, given his usual role in the slips. The veteran also voiced support for Australia's younger players, urging patience and backing their potential to adapt to international cricket conditions's creative recovery.

Maharaj becomes first South African spinner to take 200 test wickets

Bulawayo: South Africa's Keshav Maharaj has etched his name into cricketing history by becoming the first spinner from his country to take 200 wickets in Test matches. The landmark was achieved during the second day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.

The 35-year-old left-arm orthodox spinner reached the milestone by dismissing Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine, who was stumped by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne in the 34th over. Maharaj, who is leading the Proteas in the absence of regular skipper Temba Bavuma, returned figures of 3 for 70 in 16.4 overs as Zimbabwe were



bowled out for 251 in response to South Africa's imposing first-innings total of 418 for nine declared. Maharaj now has 202 wickets from 59 Tests, including 11 five-wicket hauls and one 10-wicket match haul. He surpassed the previous record held by Hugh Tayfield, who claimed 170 wickets, to become South Africa's most successful spinner in the format.

Azhar Mahmood named acting red-ball head coach of Pakistan men's team

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood as the acting red-ball head coach of the national men's team. The appointment is effective immediately and will continue until the conclusion of his current contract, covering Pakistan's upcoming Test series against South Africa and Sri Lanka. Azhar, 50, brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously served as Pakistan's bowling coach and assistant head coach. His elevation follows the departure of Australian Jason Gillespie, who resigned as head coach in December 2024. Since then, Aaqib Javed had been handling the red-ball coaching responsibilities in an interim capacity.

The PCB described Azhar as "a seasoned cricketing mind" with a strong red-ball pedigree, underscored



by two County Championship titles during his time in English domestic cricket. His deep understanding of the game, combined with international exposure and strategic insight, is expected to strengthen Pakistan's Test squad. "Azhar has long been a pivotal part of the team's strategic core," the PCB said in a statement. "His leadership, tactical acumen, and unwavering commitment to excellence make him exceptionally well-suited for this position." Azhar's

immediate task will be to prepare the team for the new ICC World Test Championship cycle, beginning with a two-match home series against South Africa later this year. He is also expected to oversee the squad during the home series against Sri Lanka scheduled for December–January. The PCB expressed confidence that under Azhar's guidance, the red-ball team will grow in strength, discipline, and performance on the global stage.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin bids farewell to Everton after nine-year tenure

Liverpool: Dominic Calvert-Lewin has officially announced his departure from Everton Football Club, bringing an end to a nine-year association with the Premier League side. The 28-year-old striker will leave as a free agent following the expiration of his contract on July 1.

Calvert-Lewin joined Everton from Sheffield United in 2016 and went on to make 273 appearances across all competitions, scoring 71 goals. His most prolific season came in 2020–21, when he netted 16 Premier League goals. Despite battling injuries in recent years, he remained a key figure in the squad and a fan favorite at Goodison Park. In a heartfelt message shared on social media, Calvert-Lewin described the decision to



leave as "incredibly difficult," stating, "Everton has been my home since I was 19 years old. It's the place that saw potential in me, challenged me to grow, and shaped me both as a footballer and as a man." He expressed deep gratitude to the club's managers, coaches, teammates, and supporters, emphasizing the emotional bond he shares with the Everton faithful.

SC rejects Modi's BCCI plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has rejected a petition filed by former cricket administrator Lalit Modi, who sought to compel the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to pay a ₹10.65 crore penalty imposed on him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

A bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan upheld the Bombay High Court's earlier ruling, which had dismissed Modi's plea as "frivolous and wholly misconceived." The apex court clarified that while Modi may pursue civil remedies available under the law, no writ could be issued directing the BCCI to bear the financial penalty.

Kane double powers Bayern past Flamengo to set up PSG showdown

Miami: Harry Kane struck twice as Bayern Munich defeated Flamengo 4–2 in a high-octane Club World Cup quarterfinal at the Hard Rock Stadium on Sunday, setting up a much-anticipated all-European semifinal clash with Paris Saint-Germain. The

German champions made a blistering start, going 2–0 up within the first 10 minutes. Erick Pulgar inadvertently opened the scoring with an own goal in the 6th minute, deflecting a corner into his own net. Just three minutes later, Kane doubled the



lead with a precise low finish off the post. Flamengo, backed by a raucous

crowd, responded with intensity. Gerson pulled one back in the 33rd minute with a thunderous strike off the underside of the bar. However, Bayern restored their two-goal cushion before halftime through Leon Goretzka, who capitalized on defen-

sive gaps to fire home from distance. The Brazilian side narrowed the deficit again early in the second half when Jorginho converted a penalty awarded for a Michael Olise handball. But Kane sealed the result in the 73rd minute with another clinical finish,

bringing his tally to three goals in the tournament. "It was tough. We were playing against a really good side in difficult conditions," Kane said post-match. "The fourth goal was important to ease the nerves, and from there we managed it well."