



# THE MILEAGE

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## BJP to Rahul: uphold values

The Supreme Court recently stayed criminal proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his controversial remarks about the Indian Army during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in December 2022.

## 8 militants arrested in Manipur

Security forces in Manipur have arrested eight militants affiliated with four banned insurgent groups during coordinated operations across multiple districts on Sunday, August 3. The arrests mark a significant breakthrough in the state's ongoing efforts to curb militant activity and restore public safety.

## Naval drill irks Beijing ahead

India and the Philippines began their first joint naval drill in the disputed South China Sea, sparking strong reactions from Beijing ahead of the Modi-Marcos summit in New Delhi.



## Anil Ambani faces ED in loan probe and PMLA case



**New Delhi:** Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in New Delhi on August 5, 2025, for questioning under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The case involves alleged financial irregularities and loan diversions exceeding ₹17,000 crore across multiple group companies, including Reliance Infrastructure (R Infra). Yes Bank allegedly disbursed ₹3,000 crore in loans to Ambani's companies between 2017-2019, which were reportedly diverted to shell entities. ED suspects Yes Bank promoters may have received funds in their own firms just before loan approvals, indicating possible quid pro quo arrangements.

## Jharkhand Assembly adjourned sine die following ex-CM Shibui Soren's death

The 81-year-old tribal leader died at a private hospital in Delhi

**Ranchi:** The Jharkhand Assembly's Monsoon Session was adjourned sine die on Monday as a mark of respect for Shibui Soren, the former Chief Minister and founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), who passed away earlier in the day at the age of 81.

Assembly Speaker Rabinendra Nath Mahato made the announcement shortly after the House convened, stating, "Dishom Guru Shibui Soren left for heavenly abode today... His demise is not only an irreparable loss to Jharkhand but to the nation. He was known for his fight for the poor...". Legislators across party lines paid tribute, raising slogans such



as "Shibui Soren Amar Rahe" (Long live Shibui Soren) inside the Assembly chamber. Soren died at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi, where he had been undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments and had been on life support for nearly a month. He was shifted to

Delhi from Ranchi on June 19, 2025, following a stroke. His son, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, expressed his grief on social media, stating, "Today, I have become empty...". Top leaders, including President Murmu and PM Modi, offered condolences.

## Parliament street crash kills biker

**New Delhi:** A tragic road accident claimed the life of a young motorcyclist early Monday morning in the heart of the capital. The incident occurred around 8:30 AM on Parliament Street, one of Delhi's most prominent and heavily monitored thoroughfares. According to preliminary reports from Delhi Police, the victim, identified as Deepak, aged approxi-

mately 25, was riding his motorcycle when an SUV collided with him at high speed. The impact left Deepak critically injured. He was immediately transported to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash. A senior police official stated,

"The car hit the bike, leading to Deepak sustaining severe injuries. We are reviewing CCTV footage from the area and speaking to witnesses to ascertain the sequence of events." The identity of the SUV driver and details regarding the vehicle remain undisclosed as of this report. Police have not confirmed whether the driver fled the scene or remained to assist.

## PFT backs SIR demand in Tripura, plans rally to press for Tipraland

**Agartala:** The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), a key ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tripura, has formally demanded a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the state's electoral rolls, citing concerns over the inclusion of non-genuine voters. The move aligns with a similar demand recently raised by the Tipra Motha Party (TMP), another BJP ally in the state.

A four-member IPFT delegation led by party president Prem Kumar Reang met Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi on August 1 and submitted a memorandum supporting the SIR initiative. The party emphasized that the Election Commission of India (ECI) must ensure no genuine citizen is disenfranchised during the revision process.

PFT general secretary Swapan Debbarma stated that the demand mirrors the Bihar model of voter roll verification and aims to safeguard the rights of indigenous communities. He further announced



that the party will hold a massive rally on August 23 at Swami Vivekananda Ground in Agartala to mark 'Sixth Schedule Day' and reinforce its longstanding demand for the creation of Tipraland — a separate state comprising the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) regions.

The party also plans to submit a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah via Tripura Governor N. Indrasena Reddy, reiterating its call for Tipraland's formation under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The IPFT, which won 14 ST-reserved seats in the 2018 Assembly elections, continues to advocate for greater autonomy and direct central funding for tribal areas.

## Election system 'already dead' in country; 2024 LS poll was 'rigged': Rahul Gandhi

### Congress leader alleges PM holds thin majority position

**New Delhi:** Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi has launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging that the 2024 general elections were rigged and that the country's electoral system is "already dead." Speaking at the Congress Party's Annual Legal Conclave in the capital, Gandhi claimed to possess irrefutable evidence of large-scale electoral manipulation. Addressing the gathering under the theme "Constitutional Challenges: Perspectives and Pathways," Gandhi asserted that



the current Prime Minister holds office with a "thin majority" and would not have retained power had 10-15 seats not been rigged. He

further alleged that the actual number of manipulated seats could be as high as 70 to 100. Gandhi cited a six-month investigation

conducted by the Congress in a Karnataka Assembly constituency, where the party reportedly found 1.5 lakh fake votes out of 6.5 lakh electors. "This data is like an atom bomb," he said, promising to release it publicly in the coming days. He accused the ECI of failing in its constitutional duty, stating, "The institution that protects the Constitution has been obliterated and taken over." Gandhi claimed that the Commission had become complicit in "vote chori" (vote theft), allegedly aiding the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).



### MNF slams CM's Thenzawl shift plan

The Mizo National Front (MNF) has strongly criticized Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, alleging a covert move to shift the state capital from Aizawl to Thenzawl. Party leaders have described the proposal as a "backdoor attempt" that undermines public consensus and transparency.

### Tripura cricket stadium ready December

Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha announced that the state's first international cricket stadium, located at Narsingarh near Agartala airport, is expected to be completed by December this year. The announcement was made during the inauguration of the KC Girls' School Cricket Ground in Kamalpur.

### Manipur expands police, 12 SDPOs

Manipur government has approved the creation of a new police station in the state capital Imphal and 12 new Sub Divisional Police Officers (SDPO) posts across nine districts of the state.

## Congress wants Centre to heed Assam's Dibang concerns

### Saikia warned project may disrupt Assam's river ecosystems, communities

**Guwahati:** The Indian National Congress on Monday called upon the central government to address growing concerns from Assam regarding potential downstream impacts of the Dibang Multipurpose Project, currently underway in Arunachal Pradesh. Party representatives highlighted the ecological and livelihood risks associated with the 2,880 MW hydropower initiative, which is slated to be India's largest.



Assam leaders have expressed fears that the dam's location on the Dibang River could alter water flow and sediment patterns, affecting

agriculture and biodiversity in the state's eastern districts.

Congress spokespersons emphasized the importance of conducting a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and ensuring transparent consultation with all stakeholders, including Assam's state government and local communities.

"Development should not come at the cost of regional stability and eco-

logical health," the party stated, urging the Centre to act in a spirit of federal cooperation and sustainable planning.

The Dibang Project, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, is expected to play a significant role in boosting India's renewable energy capacity. However, debate continues over its cross-border ecological implications and long-term sustainability.

### BTC Polls: Assam CM Backs IIT, Inclusion

**Udalguri:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma formally kicked off the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign for the upcoming Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections with a rally in the Mwdwibari constituency of Udalguri district. Addressing party workers and local residents, Sarma outlined a roadmap for polling by mid-September and results before Durga Puja.

Framing the BTC elections as a referendum on inclusive development, Sarma pledged to replicate the BJP-led state government's achievements in infrastructure, education, and

social welfare across the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). He announced plans to establish an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the region during the next council term, calling it a "game-changer for youth empowerment and regional progress." Sarma emphasized grassroots mobilization by forming 21-member booth-level committees in each constituency, describing them as the "backbone of BJP's outreach." He claimed that the government has already created 1.5 lakh jobs and promised 50,000 more appointments by October, assuring fair representation for BTC youth.

### 20th PM-KISAN installment disbursed, says Tripura CM

**Agartala:** In a significant boost to farmer welfare, Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Saturday announced the successful disbursement of ₹45.43 crore to 2.84 lakh farmers under the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. The announcement was made during a ceremonial event held at the State Agricultural Research Centre in Agartala, coinciding with the national launch of the installment by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Banuoli, Varanasi. The Prime Minister transferred ₹20,500 crore to the bank accounts of ap-



proximately 9.70 crore farmers across India, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to direct benefit transfers and agricultural empowerment. Dr. Saha lauded the initiative as a transformative step for

Tripura's agrarian community, emphasizing that the direct transfer mechanism reflects the joint commitment of the central and state governments to ensure transparency.

## Centre to set up ₹188-Cr maritime training hub, Dibrugarh, says Sonowal

### Maritime hub to train, employ via smart navigation tech

**Dibrugarh:** Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, announced the Central Government's approval of a ₹188 crore maritime training hub to be established in Dibrugarh, Assam. The initiative aims to create a state-of-the-art facility for skill development in inland and coastal maritime operations, while positioning Dibrugarh as a strategic node in India's maritime infrastructure expansion.



employment generation, capacity building, and regional connectivity under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. The proposed hub will focus on modern training programs for inland waterway transport, cruise services, cargo handling, navigation technologies,

and logistics operations. The facility is part of the Centre's broader thrust on leveraging the Brahmaputra River as an economic artery for Northeast India. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will spearhead the implementation, support-

ed by public-private partnerships for operational expertise and international best practices. Sonowal emphasized that the maritime training hub reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming the Northeast into an economic powerhouse, integrating it with national logistics corridors, and providing local youth with global-standard maritime education. The project is expected to be completed in phases over the next three years and will incorporate simulation labs, training vessels, and international certification modules aligned with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards.

## Meghalaya HC orders probe into cement mining allegations

### Court awaits mining PIL outcomes

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**Shillong:** The Meghalaya High Court has directed the state government to maintain strict oversight of Amrit Cement Ltd's operations in East Jaintia Hills district, following allegations of illegal limestone mining. The directive came during the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) focused on the company's activities in Mulieh, Umlong village.

The bench, led by Chief Justice IP Mukerji, noted that while Amrit Cement was granted a mining licence on January 11, 2023, the petitioner alleged that the company had engaged in unauthorized mining

both before and after the licence was issued. Although a state inquiry absolved the company of wrongdoing, the petitioner contested the findings, claiming procedural lapses and lack of representation during the investigation.

The court refrained from declaring the company's actions illegal but laid down safeguards to ensure compliance. It instructed the Chief Secretary to conduct periodic reviews and publish quarterly updates on the government's website confirming whether the company is operating within the bounds of its licence.



## Muthoot Microfin enters Assam, targets Northeast's growing microfinance market

**Guwahati:** Muthoot Microfin Ltd (NSE: MUTHOOTMF, BSE: 544055), India's second-largest NBFC-MFI, has announced its foray into Northeast India with the launch of its first branch in Assam. The new branch, located in Mirza, Guwahati, marks a strategic milestone in the company's expansion to underserved regions, taking its total footprint to 21 states and union territories. The company's entry into Assam aligns with its mission to deliver inclusive financial services and support women-led micro-entrepreneurs.

Commenting on this development Sadaf Sayeed, CEO, Muthoot Microfin, said, "Assam represents more than a new market, it reflects the entrepreneurial resilience and untapped



potential of India's Northeast. Our presence here is rooted in our commitment to bridging financial access gaps, and promoting responsible credit practices. As a company that serves millions across rural India, we understand the importance of tailoring our approach to regional needs, and we are committed to working closely with local

communities to create lasting value." In Guwahati, Muthoot Microfin's presence is expected to enhance access to rural credit while supporting urban micro-entrepreneurs. The region's active informal sector and growing demand for microloans make it a key area for financial inclusion. Local communities, especially women entrepreneurs, stand to benefit from income-generating microloans and financial literacy initiatives.

The Assam operations will integrate the company's full suite of offerings, including lending, financial literacy, and community development, reinforcing its core objective of empowering rural India through sustainable financial solutions.

## Shopsy at 4 fuels dreams across Bharat's heartlands



**Bengaluru:** In just four years, Shopsy by Flipkart has transformed the way millions of Indians shop, especially in remote towns and rural markets. Celebrating its fourth anniversary, the hypervalue platform announced it has crossed 450 million app downloads and added 11.5 million new users in the past year, many experiencing e-commerce for the first time. From Bhagalpur to Rajnagar, Shopsy is making digital commerce accessible, affordable, and deeply local.

With over 16 million products across 1,300+ categories, Shopsy's offerings cater to the daily needs and dreams of Bharat. The Grand Shopsy Mela, featuring products under ₹149, has become a household event in smaller cities. Kidswear demand has grown 150%, while large appliances saw a 20% increase—proving that aspirations are rising in every corner of the country.

Local families are embracing Shopsy's intuitive platform for everyday shopping. Affordable fashion, kitchen tools, and personal care items are especially popular. Sellers in the region are also finding new livelihoods by joining the platform, reaching beyond city limits during festival seasons.

## Aditya Birla Capital PAT up 10%



**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Capital on Monday reported a 10% year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 835 crore for the June quarter, boosted by a robust performance from its subsidiaries. Consolidated revenue increased 10% to Rs 11,333 crore, including a gain of Rs 16 crore from sale of shares in Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC in Q1FY25. On a standalone basis, the net profit rose 6% to Rs 676 crore while the net interest income grew 7% to Rs 1,869 crore. Net worth was at Rs 25,915 crore. The capital adequacy ratio stood at 18.11%. Aditya Birla Capital is the holding entity for the Aditya Birla group's financial services businesses. Assets under management of the non-bank lender were up 22% to Rs 1.31 lakh crore. The net interest income grew 9% to Rs 1,859 crore.

Total disbursements rose 18% to Rs 15,851 crore, but declined 19% on a sequential basis. The management in the post-earnings analyst call said they are uncertain about small-ticket unsecured loans.

## SEBI, FinMin mull weekly options exit

The markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is in talks with the Finance Ministry to curb options market speculation. It is likely that SEBI may discontinue weekly options expiry and instead bring a bi-monthly or monthly expiry, according to CNBC-TV18.

## NTPC Green secures major ammonia order

NTPC Renewable Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Green Energy, has won a major green ammonia supply contract from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

## RBI MPC Meet August 2025

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India will announce the decision of the third monetary policy meeting of the financial year 2026 on Wednesday. Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank, will announce the outcome of the three-day-long Monetary Policy Committee meeting at 10 AM.

## JICA and Assam govt launch sports leadership drive to empower women in coaching sector

**Guwahati:** The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Government of Assam, concluded the JICA-Assam Women's Leadership & Coaching Empowerment Programme in Guwahati on July 30, 2025. Held at the Arjuna Bhogeswar Baruah Sports Complex from July 23–30, the programme trained 60

women participants under the theme "Building a Kaizen Culture."

The initiative featured two core modules: "Seeds of Leadership," focusing on developing future women leaders and role models in sports; and "Seeds of Change," offering athlete-centered coaching techniques rooted in the Kaizen philosophy of continuous improvement.

Spearheaded by Dr. Masamitsu Ito of Japan's Nippon Sport Science University, the programme emphasized value-based, inclusive coaching methodologies.

In Guwahati, the programme is poised to enhance the city's sports development ecosystem, offering new opportunities for women professionals in coaching and sports

management. It reflects a growing demand for diversity-driven talent and leadership in Assam's expanding sports infrastructure. JICA India Chief Representative TAKEUCHI Takuro called the initiative a transformative step, combining technical skills with a leadership mindset to drive systemic change and long-term empowerment in Indian sports.

## Park Avenue taps premium deo market with 4X perfume spray 'Amazon Woods' at Rs 225

**Guwahati:** Park Avenue Fragrances, a flagship brand of Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), has launched 'Amazon Woods', a 4X Premium Perfume Spray, as part of its strategic expansion in India's ₹2,800 crore deodorant market. Aimed at the experience-driven male grooming segment, the launch introduces superior fragrance performance at an accessible ₹225 price point, packed in revamped, premium packaging.

The new variant features high perfume concentration—four times more per spray—designed for lasting impact. With top notes of lemon, mandarin, and bergamot, and a strong base of sandalwood, ambergris, and musk, Amazon Woods

positions itself as a bold choice for everyday wear. The launch is backed by a TVC starring actor Ishaan Khatter, emphasizing confidence and performance in high-pressure corporate scenarios. In Guwahati, a fast-evolving FMCG market, local retailers view Amazon Woods as a potential best-seller. With increasing demand for long-lasting and budget-friendly grooming products among the city's urban and semi-urban male consumers, the launch is expected to attract significant shelf space across general trade outlets. The city's younger demographic, particularly working professionals and college students, are showing a growing preference for products that

offer both performance and style. Retailers anticipate a strong uptake during festive and wedding seasons, when personal grooming sees a spike. "Consumers in the fragrance category seek exceptional scents that truly last. Inspired by this key insight, we're excited to introduce Amazon Woods—the newest addition to the Park Avenue range. It's a beloved fragrance known for its long-lasting performance, all at a price that's remarkably affordable," said, Neeraj Senguttuvan, Head of Marketing – Personal Care, Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL). GCPL boosts General Trade via youth-focused activations; Park Avenue redefines deodorant value with Amazon Woods.

## Center Fresh-YouGov report reveals Indians overthink Pizza more than politics

**Shillong:** A groundbreaking consumer insight report by Center fresh in collaboration with YouGov reveals India's growing habit of overthinking, with 81% of respondents admitting they spend over three hours a day second-guessing routine decisions. Titled the India Overthinking Report, the study surveyed a diverse cross-section across Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities, focusing on food habits, digital life, relationships, and career anxieties. The data shows that 63% of Indians find choosing a restaurant dish more stressful than selecting a political leader—rising to 69% in South India. Over 60% confess to overanalyzing their social media posts, particularly regarding filters, captions, and reactions. Alarming, 42% panic when their boss texts a curt "Ok," and one in three Indians now seek emotional guidance from platforms like Google or ChatGPT. In Shillong, the trend is clearly visible among urban youth and working professionals. Local cafés and restaurants report delayed order placements as customers overthink menu choices. Meanwhile, marketing agencies note a rise in demand for digital content tailored to soothe social anxiety, especially among Gen Z. Gunjan Khetan, Director – Marketing at Perfetti Van Melle India, said, "This report highlights the need for mental clarity in a hyper-connected world—Center fresh encourages Indians to trust their instincts."



## California Almonds fuel healthy festive gifting trend this Raksha Bandhan

**Guwahati:** As Raksha Bandhan ushers in the festive season, California Almonds are positioning themselves as a top choice among health-conscious consumers, promoting mindful indulgence over traditional high-sugar treats. Backed by nutrition experts and celebrity endorsements, almonds are being marketed as a smart investment in long-term wellness.



Revealing how she celebrates Raksha Bandhan, **Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan** said, "Raksha Bandhan is a special day for my family. I prepare healthy yet tasty treats like grilled almond burfee and almond brownies. As a daily habit, I make sure to give almonds to my husband and daughter as part of their morning routine - something I never skip, even on festivals. Almonds are not only flavorful but also incredibly beneficial for our health, which is why I try to incorporate them into as many dishes as possible."

**Regional Head-Dietetics, Max Healthcare - Delhi, Ritika Samaddar** said, "During festivals like Raksha Bandhan, people often indulge in unhealthy food without realizing its impact on health and

weight. I recommend celebrating mindfully with nutritious options like almonds. Rich in essential nutrients, almonds make a great replacement for unhealthy snacks and can be added to festive dishes. The latest ICMR Dietary Guidelines for Indians highlight almonds as a daily, healthy choice offering plant protein and long-term wellness. Regular almond consumption supports not just better health, but also the prosperity and well-being of the whole family."

**Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant** said, "Sweet treats are a staple during Raksha Bandhan, but their impact on blood sugar and overall health is often overlooked. Sugar intake can cause glucose spikes, which is a concern especially for

those with diabetes or pre-diabetes. This advice is for everyone who feels anxious about festivals because of sweets—you don't have to miss out to stay healthy. As a nutritionist, I recommend choosing healthier options like almonds and fresh fruits during festive indulgence. Almonds are rich in protein and fiber, and when included in a balanced diet, they help maintain stable blood sugar levels and support heart health too. Guwahati is witnessing a noticeable uptick in demand for dry fruits, especially almonds. Retailers say consumers are increasingly choosing nutrient-rich options over conventional sweets, reflecting a broader shift toward healthier celebrations. With awareness rising, premium almond packaging and gift boxes are seeing strong sales.

## Renault Group takes full charge of Chennai plant, boosts India strategy

**Guwahati:** Renault Group has taken full ownership of its Chennai plant, Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd (RNAIPL), by acquiring Nissan's 51% stake, positioning India as a core pillar in its global expansion strategy. With this move, RNAIPL will now be fully consolidated into Renault's financials, reinforcing its operational and industrial footprint in the world's third-largest automotive market.

India's steady automotive growth—7% in 2024 with a projected 3.5% in 2025—makes it a key target for Renault's International Game Plan 2027. The company recently inaugurated its largest design center outside France and launched the new Renault Triber, the first of four new

models set for release. To lead this expansion, Stéphane Deblaise has been named CEO of Renault Group India, effective September 1. In Guwahati, local dealers and suppliers view Renault's renewed focus on India as a welcome development. With new models and localized production, industry insiders expect better availability, improved after-sales service, and increased competitiveness in the Northeast market. Despite the ownership change, Renault will maintain collaboration with Nissan, with RNAIPL continuing to produce Nissan models. The move reflects Renault's long-term commitment to innovation, youth-driven demand, and Indian market relevance.

## Vi enters fintech with 'Vi Finance'; targets Guwahati's digital youth

**Mumbai:** Leading telecom operator Vi (Vodafone Idea) has launched Vi Finance, a comprehensive personal finance platform integrated into the Vi App. The initiative aims to provide customers with seamless access to personal loans, fixed deposits, and credit cards, in collaboration with Aditya Birla Capital, Upswing Financial Technologies, and Credilio. The platform offers collateral-free personal loans starting from ₹50,000 at competitive rates (from 10.99% p.a.), FD investments with returns up to 8.4%, and a



wide range of credit cards from major banks including SBI, Axis, and HDFC. All services are designed to be digital-first, paperless, and quick to access, aligning with Vi's commitment to simplifying lifestyle services via technology.

Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vi said, "At Vi, we are committed to bringing convenience to our customers' lives through digital solu-

tions. By making financial solutions easy, quick, and accessible within the Vi App with Vi Finance, we are enabling customers to take control of their finances without the usual complexities. Our partnerships with trusted financial institutions ensure that every customer can find the right product for their needs. We believe this digital-first, paperless approach will simplify how millions of Indians manage their finances."

Vi Finance is now live and accessible through the Vi App on Android and iOS platforms.

## Addressing diabetes distress: Experts highlight role of CGMs and holistic care in managing burnout

**Dibrugarh:** As part of its ongoing commitment to improving health outcomes for people with diabetes, healthcare leaders and medical professionals are calling attention to the rising incidence of Diabetes Distress & Burnout—a condition that now affects an estimated 18% of India's over 101 million people living with diabetes.

Managing diabetes extends far beyond checking blood sugar. It involves daily decisions around food, activity, and medication, which over time can lead to emotional and mental fatigue. Diabetes Distress & Burnout can manifest in different ways—from

frustration and irritability to skipped medications and disengagement from care. Dr Subhajyoti Ghosh Consultant Physician & Diabetologist Apollo Clinic, Dibrugarh, Assam, said, "Managing diabetes requires a holistic approach that nurtures both body and mind. Effective diabetes management is about striking a balance. A well-rounded routine includes nutritious eating, regular physical activity, and consistent glucose monitoring. Tools like Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices play a vital role in this journey. By offering real-time insights into glucose trends,

CGMs help individuals understand how specific foods, activities, or stressors affect their levels. This immediate feedback empowers people to make informed decisions, reduces uncertainty, and can significantly ease the emotional burden of diabetes."

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices are increasingly being seen as transformative tools in this context. They offer real-time blood glucose alarms and continuous, prick-free monitoring that helps users recognize glucose trends and respond before levels become critical. These technologies not only support

clinical care but also contribute to emotional relief by reducing uncertainty.

Dr. Vivek Iyer Head, Medical Affairs, South Asia, Abbott, said, "To ease the burden of diabetes distress and prevent burnout, Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices can be transformative. Today's CGMs go beyond tracking—they serve as comprehensive digital health platforms that foster connection. By allowing individuals to share real-time glucose data with loved ones and healthcare providers CGMs help create a supportive, informed care network."

Healthcare experts also

highlight the importance of lifestyle strategies that complement technology: Use Technology To Lighten The Load – CGMs track glucose levels every minute and generate visual trends, making daily management simpler and less stressful.

Find balance through routine and joy – People are encouraged to let go of perfection and focus on meaningful goals and routines. Stay active and focus on mindful eating – A balanced combination of aerobic and resistance-based exercise, along with conscious eating, significantly enhances well-being.

## UPI daily hits 700 million milestone

The daily unified payments interface (UPI)-based transactions have crossed 700 million for the first time, touching 707 million, according to the latest National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data.



## Berger Paints profit dips; revenue steady

Berger Paints reported an 11 per cent YoY profit decline in the first quarter of FY26. The company posted a net of Rs 315.04 crore in Q1 FY26.



## SAP and IIMA ventures launch 'North East Growth Labs' to accelerate social enterprises in NE India

**Guwahati:** In a strategic push to foster inclusive growth in Northeast India, SAP and IIMA Ventures have unveiled the North East Growth Labs (NEGL)—a new initiative aimed at scaling 75 impact-focused social enterprises across all eight Northeastern states. The program combines SAP's enterprise ecosystem and Social Procurement agen-

da with IIMA Ventures' incubation expertise to drive innovation in agri-tech, education, healthcare, livelihoods, and climate resilience. NEGL aims to unlock the region's entrepreneurial potential by enabling over 3,000 livelihoods and offering technical guidance, catalytic funding, and market access. Manish Prasad, President & MD, SAP Indian Subcontinent, emphasized

that this initiative builds on their past support for over 100 social enterprises. Chintan Bakshi, Partner – Incubation at IIMA Ventures, described NEGL as a bold platform to empower entrepreneurs tackling India's next wave of innovation.

The program kicked off with a high-impact bootcamp in Guwahati, where startups explored AI, B2B

strategies, and storytelling for scale. Guwahati's rising startup ecosystem has made it a critical launchpad, drawing attention from investors, government bodies, and global partners aiming to tap into Northeast India's innovation potential. Startups like Dream Hives, Chezfresco, and Greengene Agri Biotech headline the diverse and sustainability-driven NEGL cohort.



## 'Key Man Risk' concerns rise at PNB Housing Fin

**New Delhi:** PNB Housing Finance (PNBHF) has been thrust into the spotlight following the sudden announcement of its Managing Director and CEO, Girish Kousgi's resignation effective October 28, 2025. While the move surprised both investors and stakeholders, Kousgi clarified that the decision was entirely personal and driven by career aspirations, and unrelated to the exit of the private equity investors from the company. Meanwhile, the board's Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) has initiated the process for identifying a new CEO, considering both internal and external candidates. While the Board has reaffirmed its commitment to the franchise's growth and stability, Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL) said, the new CEO may either chart a new strategic course or build upon the strategy formulated by their predecessor. "Given the current lack of clarity, we have kept our earnings estimates

unchanged and will await further clarity on the CEO appointment," it added.

Since Sanjay Gupta resigned from PNB Housing in 2020, PNBHF will now be appointing its fourth MD & CEO (including an interim CEO) in a very short span, to succeed Kousgi. This factor weighed heavily on market sentiment. Motilal Oswal said that the resignation by Girish Kousgi has rekindled concerns about 'Key Man Risk'. The share price has corrected nearly 20 per cent over two trading sessions post-announcement, underscoring the importance investors attribute to leadership stability. According to Motilal Oswal, Kousgi was beginning to lay a strong foundation and strategic roadmap for the company's future growth through product mix realignment and healthy execution. Under his leadership, it added, following initiatives were cheered: 1) Build-out of an affordable housing franchise which was able to scale faster than peers.

## Balaji named Jaguar CEO by Tata



**Mumbai:** Tata Motors has named P.B. Balaji as the next Chief Executive Officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), effective November 2025. He will succeed Adrian Mardell, who will retire at the end of this year after a 35-year career with the British luxury automaker. The transition was approved by JLR's Board of Directors and disclosed in a regulatory filing. Mardell, who has served as CEO since 2022, will stay on until December to support a smooth leadership handover.

Balaji currently serves as the Group Chief Financial Officer of Tata Motors, a role he has held since 2017. Over the past eight years, he has been closely associated with JLR's executive leadership and has played a pivotal role in shaping its financial and strategic roadmap. His promotion comes as part of a planned succession strategy overseen by the board. An alumnus of IIT-Chennai and IIM-Kolkata, Balaji brings over three decades of global experience across the automotive and consumer goods sectors, with previous stints in Europe and Asia. His appointment is being seen as a move to maintain strategic continuity as JLR navigates its next phase of transformation. Adrian Mardell's term as CEO was marked by notable financial recovery and structural overhauls.

## India loses \$1.65B to illicit tobacco; PMI urges global government action

**New Delhi:** Philip Morris International (PMI) has called for intensified government-to-government (G2G) dialogues with source and transit countries to combat the surging illicit tobacco trade, which drains India's economy by an estimated \$1.65 billion annually. Addressing the ASIA Security Conference & Exhibition 2025 in New Delhi, Rodney Van Dooren, Head - Illicit Trade Prevention at PMI, emphasized that 25% of India's tobacco market is illicit, resulting in the loss of around 12,000 jobs each year. Van Dooren highlighted the role of transnational smuggling routes, with Cambodia named as a key source and ASEAN nations such as Vietnam and Malaysia



Rodney Van Dooren, Head - Illicit Trade Prevention, Philip Morris International (PMI)

acting as transit points. He called for a multi-pronged strategy involving stronger manufacturing and export controls, robust tracking systems, and expanded regional cooperation.

Globally, illicit tobacco re-

sults in \$40–50 billion in tax losses. PMI's five-pronged strategy—research, partnerships, awareness, supply chain protection, and collaboration—aims to close enforcement gaps and promote compliance.

## RBI likely delivers \$5 billion USD/INR swap

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India likely conducted the second leg of the \$5 billion USD/INR buy/sell swap as the system liquidity remained high, said market participants. There is little need to roll over the swap given the condition of ample liquidity surplus in the banking system, they said.

With the swap, the RBI will drain liquidity around Rs 43,000 crore from the system. However, it is not expected to have a major impact on the system liquidity as it will be still above 1% of the net demand and time liabilities, the level at which RBI is comfortable. The system liquidity was Rs 4.09 lakh



crore on August 3, according to latest RBI data. "With a massive system liquidity, the requirement was less to roll over the swap. RBI likely gave majority delivery but seems like it rolled over a small portion of it," said a senior forex dealer from a private sector bank. The central bank conducted the first leg of the six-month buy/sell operation in January-end to support the system with liquidity, which had a maturity on Monday.

## Markets end lower: Nifty below 24,700, Sensex falls 300 points

### Broad selloff trims gains across sectors

**Mumbai:** Indian equity markets closed the session on a negative note. The Nifty 50 closed the session over 70 points lower, ending at 24,650, and the Sensex closed the day more than 300 points or 0.38% lower at 80,700. The Nifty Bank settled 260 points or 0.47% lower at 55,360. In line with the overall bearish sentiments, the BSE Midcap fell 62 points, or 0.14%, lower at 45,596.16. On the other hand, the BSE Smallcap fell 140 points to finish at 52,831.41.

"Nifty traded with a negative bias throughout the



day, remaining below the 50EMA. On the daily chart as well, the index is comfortably placed below the 50EMA. The current range is 24,400–24,850, and in the short term, the index is likely to remain within this band. Only a decisive move beyond this range might determine the next course of action for the market," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst

at LKP Securities. Today, the benchmark indices experienced selling pressure at higher levels. The Nifty closed 73 points lower, while the Sensex was down by 308 points. Among sectors, intraday buying interest was seen in selective Defence stocks, whereas the capital market index lost the most, shedding over 1%, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research at Kotak Securities. "We believe that the market is currently exhibiting non-directional activity, with traders possibly waiting for either side to break out," said Chouhan.

## Canella backs 3x3 for India



**Bengaluru:** Spanish basketball star and 2021 FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup champion Marta Canella has voiced strong support for the 3x3 basketball format as a strategic fit for India's evolving sports landscape. During her visit to Bengaluru as part of a multi-city elite training initiative, Canella emphasized the format's accessibility, pace, and developmental potential for young Indian athletes.

Canella, who has represented Spain at the highest levels in both 3x3 and traditional 5x5 basketball, believes the 3x3 format offers a practical entry point for countries like India where infrastructure and competitive exposure are still developing. "Given the reduced time and number of players, everybody has to show up and do a little bit of everything," she said, highlighting the format's demand for versatility and teamwork. Alongside award-winning coach Bernat Canut, Canella conducted basketball camps in Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru.

# India stun England with Oval miracle

## India, England draw intense Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2

**New Delhi:** In a finish worthy of Test cricket's most storied epics, India beat England by just six runs at The Oval on Monday — levelling the five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series 2-2 and sealing a result that will echo in memory long after the scoreboard fades. This was no ordinary Test, and no ordinary ground. It was at The Oval, after all,



that India won their first Test in England in 1971

under Ajit Wadekar, when Bhagwat Chandrasekhar spun India into history. It was here again in 2007 that Rahul Dravid's side sealed a series win. And now, in 2025, the site of those landmark moments has delivered another — a match of drama, resilience and raw nerve, decided by the barest of margins. Chasing 374 in the fourth innings,

England looked poised for a commanding win. Harry Brook's masterful 111 and Joe Root's stately 105 took them to 301 for 3 on Day 4. For a while, it looked like India were done, their bowlers tired, their body language sagging. The home crowd rose with every stroke, the tricolours in the stands outnumbered but undeterred.

## India unveils first-ever national Archery League

**New Delhi:** The Archery Association of India (AAI) today announced the first-of-its-kind Archery League, a path-breaking global initiative, bringing together men and women recurve and compound archers from India and the world, who will be competing in an intense franchise-styled tournament. The league aims to enhance the growth of Indian archers to support the nation's Olympic movement and to enhance the global popularity of the sport. It aims to be a professional platform that strengthens the overall archery ecosystem across India and the



world. The league will feature foreign archers from among the world's top 10, along with top Indian archers who will all be representing six franchise teams, as per a press release from AAI. The tournament will offer a chance to Indian archers to gain exposure in a high-pressure environment, competing with international archers, thus advancing their growth.

## Sreeshankar leaps 7.94m to Kazakhstan long jump gold

### Sreeshankar wins with 7.94m opening leap

**Almaty:** Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar continued his remarkable comeback from injury by securing the men's long jump title at the Qosanov Memorial 2025 athletics meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The 26-year-old athlete registered a winning leap of 7.94 meters on his very first attempt, outclassing a competitive international field at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level event. Sreeshankar's subsequent jumps — 7.73m, 7.58m, 7.57m, 7.80m, and 7.79m



reflected his consistent form throughout the competition. The Philippines' Janry Ubas (7.53m) and Azerbaijan's Nazim Babayev (7.48m) claimed second and third

places respectively. This victory marks Sreeshankar's third consecutive title since returning from a career-threatening knee injury sustained in April 2024.

## KL Rahul spent every minute post last IPL match preparing for England series: Abhishek Nayar

### Rahul hits 532 at 53.20, Jaiswal partnership flourishes

**Mumbai:** Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has revealed that KL Rahul dedicated every moment following his last IPL 2025 appearance to preparing for the high-stakes Test series against England. The veteran batter's commitment has earned widespread praise after he emerged as India's second-highest run-scorer in the five-match series.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Nayar emphasized Rahul's intense focus and adaptability. "There are very few people who know this — after the birth of his child, he returned from the IPL and immediately began training for the England tour," Nayar said. "Every minute post that last IPL game was spent figuring



out how to succeed in this Test series." Speaking in an exclusive interview, Nayar emphasized Rahul's intense focus and adaptability. "There are very few people who know this — after the birth of his child, he returned from the IPL and immediately began training for the England tour," Nayar said. "Every minute post that last IPL game was spent figuring

Test series."

Rahul's efforts translated into a stellar performance: 532 runs at an average of 53.20, including two centuries and two fifties, while playing across multiple positions in the batting order. His partnership with Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top of the order was particularly impactful, laying strong foundations for India's innings throughout the series. While Nayar de-

clined to disclose the specific technical adjustments Rahul made, he affirmed that the changes were highly effective. "Sometimes in a cricketer's journey, things need to click. He's had that rub of the green, and the results speak for themselves," he noted. Nayar also lauded the Indian team's overall character and hunger during the tour, especially their resilience in challenging conditions. "The fight they showed in Manchester and the determination throughout the series reflect the mentality and passion our players have for Test cricket," he added. With the final Test underway, Rahul's form and preparation stand as a testament to his professionalism and the evolving depth of Indian cricket.

## Can't throw in towel yet: Morkel



**London:** As the fifth and final Test between India and England heads into a nail-biting conclusion at The Oval, India's bowling coach Morne Morkel has called on his team to remain resolute, stating, "You can't afford to throw in the towel in a very important Test match". India staged a spirited fightback late on Day 4, dismissing centuries Harry Brook and Joe Root in quick succession to leave England at 339/6, still needing 35 runs to win. With rain and

bad light halting play, the match is set for a dramatic finish on Monday. Morkel emphasized the importance of breaking key partnerships and maintaining pressure. "We've seen it so many times before—get one, and you can get two. It's about staying calm and getting the ball in the right areas," he said at the post-day press conference. He also praised Mohammed Siraj, the series' leading wicket-taker with 20 scalps, for his leadership and consistency.