



Congress blames Modi for Parliament disruption

New Delhi: The Congress party has sharply criticized the Narendra Modi-led government for its refusal to allow a parliamentary discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, alleging that this "obstinacy" has led to repeated disruptions and adjournments in both Houses during the ongoing Monsoon session.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh stated that the SIR exercise, initiated less than five months before the Bihar assembly elections, could result in the disenfranchisement of voters from marginalized communities. "The Modi government has repeatedly refused even a discussion on the SIR, which will lead to massive disenfranchisement of voters belonging to weaker sections of society," Ramesh said on social media platform X. Since the Monsoon session began on July 21, Parliament has witnessed frequent adjournments, with little legislative business conducted apart from discussions on Operation Sindoor.

NGRI begins search for 66 missing in Uttarkashi

Uttarkashi: A team of experts from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has launched a high-tech search operation in Dharali village, Uttarkashi, to trace 66 individuals reported missing after devastating floods and mudslides struck the region on August 5. Among the missing are 24 Nepali labourers, nine army personnel, and several res-



idents from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tehri district. The NGRI team, airlifted to the disaster-hit site due

to impassable terrain and continuous rainfall, is using Ground Penetrating Radars (GPRs) to detect signs of

life beneath the debris. These radars, capable of identifying human presence even through mud and water, were previously deployed during the SLBC tunnel collapse in Telangana earlier this year. Despite persistent rain hampering rescue efforts and road restoration, over 1,300 people have been evacuated through air operations. Relief supplies including

food, clothing, gumboots, and sleeping bags have been distributed to affected families. The Uttarakhand government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for each disaster-affected family, with 98 cheques already distributed on-site by officials. Uttarakhand government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for each disaster-affected family.

Odisha govt rejects online sale of temple Mahaprasad

Odisha: The Odisha government has officially rejected a proposal to sell the sacred 'Mahaprasad' of Puri Jagannath Temple through online platforms. The decision was announced by State Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, who emphasized the need to preserve the sanctity of the holy offering.

Speaking to reporters, Harichandan revealed that certain organizations had approached the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) with a request to facilitate home delivery of Mahaprasad and dry prasad to devotees across India and abroad.

While acknowledging the intent to make the offering more accessible, the minister stated that both the government and SJTA declined the proposal due to concerns over maintaining its spiritual purity during transportation.

"Though it was a good idea to provide the prasad to devotees worldwide, the government and SJTA rejected the proposal to preserve the sanctity of the holy offering," Harichandan said. Odisha government won't support, promote, or plan online Mahaprasad sale, citing concerns over sanctity and preserving temple traditions.

Abhishek: PM must resign if EC confirms flawed voter rolls

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP and national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday issued a sharp rebuke to the Election Commission of India (ECI), demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet resign if the Commission confirms discrepancies in the electoral rolls. He further called for the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, arguing that the legitimacy of the current government would be nullified if it was elected on flawed voter data. Speaking to reporters at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International



Airport, Banerjee criticized what he described as the ECI's "selective approach" in conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He questioned why the EC deemed voter lists accurate in states

like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, but found faults in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu. "If EC finds voter roll flaws, PM and cabinet must resign, Lok Sabha dissolved," said Banerjee.

Bihar SIR: SC begins hearing pleas against Election Commission's drive Sibal: EC marked alive voters dead in constituencies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday began hearing a series of petitions challenging the Election Commission's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The revision exercise, which started on June 24, has drawn criticism from opposition parties and civil society groups who fear it may lead to voter disenfranchisement ahead of the state elections.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joydeep Chandra heard arguments led by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing RJD MP Manoj Jha. Sibal alleged serious discrepancies in the



draft rolls, including cases where deceased individuals were listed as alive and living voters were marked as dead. The bench questioned the absence of directly affected individuals in the petitions and asked

for a list of such cases to be submitted.

The Court directed the Election Commission to present detailed data, including the number of voters before and after the revision, the count of

deceased voters identified, and the grounds for deletions and additions. The EC was asked to be ready with this information for the next hearing. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, defended the revision process, stating that minor errors were inevitable in a draft roll of such scale. He emphasized that citizens had the opportunity to file objections and that the final roll would be published on September 30, following the draft release on August 1. The EC maintained that the SIR was intended to improve the accuracy of the voter list by removing ineligible entries.

TN to deliver doorstep ration to 21 lakh

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Tuesday launched the "Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme," a major welfare initiative aimed at delivering ration items directly to the homes of over 21 lakh senior citizens and differently abled individuals across the state. The scheme will benefit 20.42 lakh senior citizens aged above 70 and 1.27 lakh differently abled ration card holders. Essential items such as rice and sugar will be delivered to their doorsteps every second Saturday and Sunday of the month. The Department of Food and Consumer Protection is overseeing the implementation. Field staff have been equipped with electronic weighing machines



and e-Point of Sale (e-PoS) devices to ensure accurate and efficient delivery. Beneficiary data has already been collected and distributed to field-level teams. Chief Minister Stalin, who flagged off the delivery vehicles and personally handed over ration items to select beneficiaries, described the scheme as "close to his heart." He emphasized that the ₹30.16 crore allocated for the initiative is not an additional expense but a life-saving responsibility toward the people.



CM Sarma pledges action, not words, for Koch Rajbongshi empowerment

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has reiterated his government's commitment to empowering the Koch Rajbongshi community, emphasizing "action, not just words" in a series of initiatives aimed at socio-economic upliftment, educational access, and cultural preservation. In a public statement, Sarma outlined a multi-pronged strategy that includes legal relief, infrastructure development, and targeted educational support. A landmark decision to withdraw 28,000 pending cases against Koch Rajbongshi



individuals from Foreigners' Tribunals marks a significant step toward resolving longstanding grievances and removing legal hurdles faced by the community. To honor the legacy of the Koch Rajbongshi people, the government will install a

grand statue of Bir Chilarai, the revered 16th-century Koch general, in Bongaigaon. Sarma described the monument as a tribute to the community's valor and a symbol of inspiration for future generations. The state has earmarked ₹80.10 crore

for development projects focused on infrastructure, skill-building, and cultural initiatives. Additionally, the government has introduced dedicated reservations for Koch Rajbongshi students—22 seats in 12 universities, 58 in polytechnic institutes, and 22 in engineering colleges—to enhance access to higher education and professional opportunities. "These interventions reflect our broader vision of inclusive growth and cultural preservation," Sarma said, adding that the Koch Rajbongshi community is an inseparable part of Assam's heritage and future.

Centre clears ₹8,146Cr Tato-II project in Arunachal



New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned an investment of ₹8,146.21 crore for the construction of the 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh. The project is expected to be completed within 72 months. The Tato-II HEP, with an installed capacity of 4 x 175 MW, is projected to generate approximately 2,738.06 million units (MU) of electricity annually. This output will significantly enhance the

power supply in Arunachal Pradesh and contribute to balancing the national grid. The project will be executed through a joint venture between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. As part of the financial structure, the Centre will provide ₹458.79 crore as budgetary support for enabling infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and transmission lines. Additionally, ₹436.13 crore will be extended as Central Financial Assistance towards the state's equity share.

Bangladesh duo held in Meghalaya

Shillong: In a major cross-border security breach, Indian authorities have arrested four Bangladeshi nationals—including a former police constable and an ex-Army personnel—in connection with an attempted robbery and kidnapping in Meghalaya's South West Khasi Hills district. The arrests were made during a joint operation by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Meghalaya Police on August 9, following a violent raid near the India-Bangladesh border. The suspects—identified as Jahangir Alam (Jamalpur), Marfur Rahman (ex-police constable, Jamalpur).

Shillong launches public bicycle sharing system to promote green mobility

Shillong: In a landmark move toward sustainable urban transport, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Tuesday inaugurated Shillong's first Public Bicycle Sharing (PBS) system, aiming to make 35% of the city's transport non-motorised. The initiative, titled Ride Shillong, is part of the Shillong Urban Mobility Policy 2024 and seeks to transform the capital into a "walking and cycling city." The launch event, held at Khyndailad (Police Bazar), saw CM Sangma and fitness icon Milind Soman take a symbolic ride on electric bicycles, underscoring the project's commitment to health,



accessibility, and environmental responsibility. "This is a step toward a greener and healthier Meghalaya," Sangma said, urging citizens to embrace cycling and walking as daily modes of transport. The

PBS system begins with over 20 electric bicycles stationed at key points across the city. These bikes, equipped with electric assist and gear systems to navigate Shillong's hilly terrain.

Bhutan seeks Assam police training at LBPA

Deragaon: In a significant enforcement cooperation, Bhutan has formally approached the Assam government to train its police personnel

from Goa, and now receives requests from other countries, it proves how empowered our country has become". LBPA, located in Dergaon, Assam, was inaugurated in its



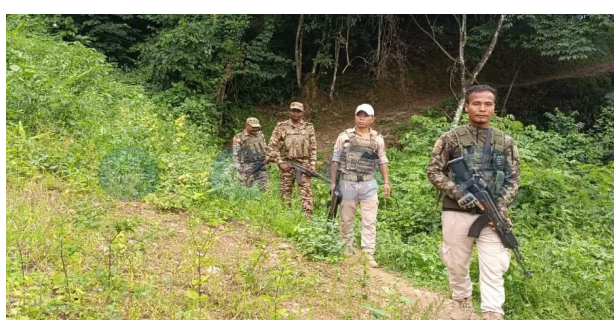
at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy (LBPA), one of India's premier police training institutions. The announcement was made by Assam Director General of Police (DGP) Harmeet Singh during the passing-out parade of 700 Goa Police cadets at the academy. The request from Bhutan follows LBPA's successful training of 2,000 Manipur Police cadets and the recent completion of a 43-week intensive course by Goa Police recruits. DGP Singh highlighted the academy's growing stature, stating, "When an academy in Assam trains 2,000 Manipur Police cadets, 700

first phase by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in March and is being developed in three phases at a projected cost of ₹1,050 crore. The completed first phase, built at an investment of ₹167.4 crore, includes smart classrooms, weapon simulators, research labs, administrative offices, and residential facilities. It is equipped to train over 2,600 personnel in advanced policing techniques, commando operations, and specialized courses. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been credited with the academy's rapid development and rising national profile. ment collaboration.

Security Forces Arrest 22 Militants, Seize Arms Cache Across Six Manipur Districts

Six arms, IEDs, grenades, ammo, war stores seized

Imphal: In a sweeping counter-insurgency operation, security forces in Manipur have apprehended 22 militants affiliated with various banned outfits and seized a substantial cache of arms, explosives, and ammunition. The coordinated operations, conducted over the past week, spanned six districts: Bishnupur, Chura-chandpur, Chandel, Thoubal, Imphal West, and Imphal East. The multi-agency crack-down was led by the Indian



Army, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Police, acting on intelligence inputs. Among those arrested were active members of the Kangleipak Com-

munist Party (KCP), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), and United National Liberation Front (UNLF). Authorities recov-

ered six sophisticated firearms, grenades, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and a large quantity of assorted ammunition. One of the key arrests was Mayengbam Amitab Singh alias Khaba (32), a top operative of the KCP (People's War Group), who was captured in Thoubal district. Investigations have linked him to previous attacks on police personnel and threats issued to staff at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Imphal.



Truecaller-Khyaal join forces to boost senior cyber safety standards

Guwahati: Truecaller, a leading global communications platform, has partnered with Khyaal, India's foremost app for senior citizens, to tackle the growing threat of digital scams targeting the elderly. This strategic collaboration aims to combine technological protection with community-driven education, offering seniors a safer digital environment. As part of the initiative, Khyaal members will receive a 50% discount on Truecaller Premium, which offers enhanced

spam blocking and fraud detection features. The partnership will also introduce educational programs, including "New Scam Highlights," "Spot the Scam" workshops, safety guidelines, and real-life success stories—all delivered via the Khyaal app and through on-ground awareness drives like the "50Above50" event.

In Guwahati, where smartphone usage among seniors has risen sharply in recent years, has seen a parallel increase in scam incidents—particularly fake

insurance and healthcare calls. Local community leaders have welcomed the initiative, calling it a timely solution to restore digital trust among the elderly. Truecaller CEO Rishit Jhunjhunwala and Khyaal CEO Hemanshu Jain both emphasized the emotional and financial toll such scams take on seniors and underscored the partnership's mission to empower and protect. Together, the firms are setting a precedent in technology-led social responsibility.

Vi Business to light up 12 million homes with smart meters by 2028

Mumbai: Vi Business—the enterprise arm of Vodafone Idea Limited—has announced its mission to deploy 12 million smart meters across India in the next three years. Designed to transform the way households and utilities manage electricity, the initiative aims to empower consumers with real-time data and help DISCOMs reduce power losses and improve billing accuracy. Backed by Vi's IoT Smart Central platform and years of on-ground experience,



the rollout will bring secure, efficient, and scalable solutions to urban and rural areas alike. From onboarding to deployment, each meter will be tested through Vi's dedicated IoT Lab, ensuring performance and reliability. "We are committed

to driving India's smart energy future and enhancing the everyday lives of millions," said Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vi. This people-first innovation marks a new era of digitally connected, responsible energy use.

Vi's REDX Family Plan redefines digital living with unlimited data, roaming, and perks

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea (Vi) has introduced the REDX Family Plan, a game-changing postpaid offering designed to meet the needs of digitally connected families across India. Priced at ₹1601/month for two members, the plan offers truly un-

limited 4G/5G data and international roaming for all members—breaking the industry norm of restricting benefits to the primary user. What sets this plan apart is the inclusive access to premium services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, SonyLIV, JioCin-

ema, a 6-month Swiggy One subscription, and a 7-day international roaming pack worth ₹2,999. Vi also offers four complimentary airport lounge visits annually, Norton device protection, and Vi Priority customer care. Additional members can join the

plan for just ₹299/month, with full benefits extended equally. More than just a telecom plan, REDX Family is Vi's step toward enabling stronger family connectivity and digital freedom, redefining how families experience postpaid services in India.

TAFE's Massey DYNASTAR Contest Season 2 awards top agri-innovators



Guwahati: Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), among the world's largest tractor manufacturers and maker of the legendary Massey Ferguson brand in India, has concluded Season 2 of its Massey DYNASTAR Contest, #SabseBadeAllrounder Ki Talaash, celebrating grassroots agri-innovation. This year's edition attracted over 16,000 entries from 26 states and 5 Union Territories, with 12 finalists from seven states. The grand prize, a Massey Ferguson 254 DYNASmart 2WD tractor worth ₹8.2 lakh, was awarded to Avinash Desai from Belgaum,

Karnataka, for his mobile slurry dewatering machine. Prateek Agarwal from Hojai, Assam, won second place for a solar-powered energy hub, while Punjab's Amrit Jot Singh took third with a water purifying unit. The Jury's Choice Award went to retired IAS officer Dr. Jayakumar Karuppusamy from Assam. Institutional category winners included Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Bannari Amman Institute of Technology for advanced transplanter designs. TAFE has confirmed Season 3 will be launched next year with expanded reach and impact.

Tata Tea's AI-led campaign honors India's art with hand-painted kettles

Guwahati: Tata Tea Premium, the flagship brand of Tata Consumer Products, has launched the 2025 edition of its Independence Day campaign 'Desh Ka Garv – Pradesh Ki Kala', celebrating India's rich cultural legacy through an exclusive collection of hand-painted kettles. In collaboration with Kaushalam, the campaign showcases regional art forms like Warli, Gond, Madhubani, Sanjhi, Kalighat, Phulkari, and Pattachitra—transforming everyday tea kettles into artistic tributes to Indian heri-



tage. This limited-edition collection is available on www.IndiakiChai.com, with 100% of proceeds dedicated to empowering women through Indian Army Skill Development Centres. The campaign also features a striking AI-generated brand film voiced

by singer Piyush Mishra, presenting classical dance forms such as Kathak and Odissi in a visually immersive format. In Guwahati, the campaign has garnered strong consumer interest. Retailers note a growing preference for culturally resonant and artisanal products, especially among younger buyers seeking deeper connections with regional identity. Assam's tea-savvy consumers have responded positively, viewing the campaign as a thoughtful fusion of tradition, artistry, and modern technology.

Tide rolls out fixed deposit feature for SMEs, targets idle capital with up to 8.84% returns

Guwahati: Tide, a leading business management platform for SMEs, has launched Fixed Deposits (FDs) on its app, enabling entrepreneurs to invest idle funds and earn returns of up to 8.84% per annum. The feature offers tenure options from 7 days to 60 months and allows investments starting at ₹1,000 through partnerships with RBI-regulated banks and NBFCs such as Suryoday Small Finance Bank, Bajaj



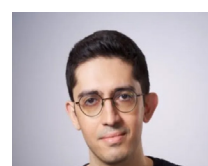
Finance Ltd., and Mahindra Finance. According to RBI data, over 85% of SME funds remain in low-yield

current accounts, while CRISIL's SME Insight Report 2022 notes that over 60% prefer fixed-return instruments due to low-risk appetite. Tide's solution offers instant booking, paperless processing, and integrated management of payments, invoices, expenses, and investments. In Guwahati, SMEs across retail, transport, and local manufacturing are expected to benefit from the simplified investment process. The

city's business community, which often faces challenges in securing safe, high-yield avenues for surplus capital, could find the low entry threshold and flexible tenure options particularly attractive. Gurjodhpal Singh, CEO, Tide India, said the offering aligns with the company's mission to empower SMEs by unlocking value from idle funds and streamlining financial operations through one unified platform.

Jay Kotak criticises ICICI Bank's Rs 50,000 MAB decision

Mumbai: Jay Kotak, co-head of Kotak811 and son of veteran banker Uday Kotak, on Monday took to X to criticise ICICI Bank's decision to raise the minimum average balance (MAB) for new savings accounts to Rs 50,000 from Rs 10,000. "Every Indian must access our financial sector. 90% of India makes less than Rs 25,000 a month. A Rs 50,000 minimum balance implies a sum equal to around 94% of Indians' monthly income is to be left with the bank at all times, else a fee!" said Kotak on the social media platform.



Tata AIA Life boosts digital education and insurance awareness in Mizoram through strategic CSR push

Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance, a leading life insurer and designated Lead Insurer for Mizoram, has launched a transformative CSR initiative to bridge the digital education divide in the state. With only 10.6% of schools in Mizoram equipped with computers (ASER 2024), the company's digital classroom program is now operational in eight government schools in Aizawl, benefiting 1,436 students between 2024 and 2026. The initiative includes smart classrooms with interactive tools, specialized teacher training for over 75 educators, and locally relevant digital



content developed with Teachmint Edutech. Infrastructure upgrades include computers, projectors, and connectivity solutions, aiming to improve attendance, learning outcomes,

and digital adoption in schools. Aizawl's education sector has shown strong interest in the initiative, with schools reporting increased student participation and growing demand

for more digital-enabled teaching. The city's educators have welcomed the professional development aspect, noting improved teaching outcomes and alignment with students' digital aspirations. Parallelly, Tata AIA has reached over 8 lakh people across Mizoram through insurance awareness efforts such as the Bimarath van, out-of-home campaigns, social media outreach in the Mizo language, and monthly Masik Bima Diwas sessions—reinforcing its long-term commitment to inclusive growth and IR-DAI's "Insurance for All by 2047" vision.

PNB targets ₹30L cr growth

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank is targeting a Rs 30 lakh crore business in FY26. Ashok Chandra, MD and CEO of the Punjab National Bank, told PTI that the bank has devised the right strategies to reach a Rs 30 Lakh crore business milestone by the end of the financial year 2026. "We have a target of Rs 29.56 lakh crore for the current financial year. We may do better than our target and can touch Rs 30 lakh crore by March next year, but let me add that we are very mindful that whatever the top line, we are going to build, it should add profit to my bank," he said. Chandra said that he is very conscious of the bottom line. He said that for the same reason, the bank has brought down the bulk deposits and corporate deposits.

DSP Mutual Fund launches India's first flexicap index fund focused on quality and momentum

Guwahati: DSP Mutual Fund has introduced the DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund, India's first low-cost flexicap index fund that combines quality stock selection with dynamic market cap allocation driven by momentum signals. The fund tracks the Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index, which selects 30 fundamentally strong companies equally from large, mid, and small caps based on high ROE, low debt, and earnings growth. The index uses a unique flexicap momentum strategy, adjusting quarterly allocations between large caps and small & midcaps based on their relative performance. Since 2009, the index has delivered a CAGR of 18.1%, outperforming the broader Nifty 500 TRI's 13%. DSP rec-



ommends investors to take the SIP route as valuations (especially in quality small & mid-caps) can be high & unpredictable. SIPs help investors average their purchase cost over time, reduce the risk of catching a peak, and aligns with the philosophy behind this fund: disciplined, long-term investing in quality businesses across cycles. In Guwahati, the fund is expected to attract investors looking for diversified exposure with a focus on quality businesses. With rising awareness and participation in equities in the region, Guwahati's retail

investors appreciate the fund's disciplined, low-cost approach that balances growth with risk management.

"Two conditions are important for investors to achieve compounding - investing in high quality businesses at reasonable valuations. The quality factor is going through sharp price and time correction. We have always believed in launching funds when the strategy is in low cycle. Hence, we are introducing the first flexicap index fund which invests in 30 high quality companies across all market caps," said Kalpen Parekh, Managing Director & CEO, DSP Mutual Fund. The New Fund Offer opens on August 8 and closes on August 22, 2025, marking a significant innovation in India's mutual fund industry.

Honda expands Northeast reach with new Jorhat dealership launch



Jorhat: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has expanded its retail network in Assam with the launch of a new Authorized Main Dealership (AMD) — Jainco Honda — at MG Road, Jorhat. The outlet features Honda's 4S setup — Sales, Service, Spare Parts, and Safety — aimed at delivering a complete and premium two-wheeler ownership experience. Jainco Honda will retail HMSI's full product portfolio, including Activa and Dio (110cc), Activa 125 and Dio 125 (125cc), and motorcycles such as Shine 100, Livo, Unicorn, SP160, Hornet 2.0, and NX200. The facility houses a trained sales and service team and offers safety riding promo-

tion programs with advanced riding simulators imported from Japan. In Guwahati, HMSI's move signals a strong push into key urban hubs of Assam, where rising middle-class incomes and a preference for fuel-efficient scooters and motorcycles are driving growth. Guwahati, being a trade and transport hub for the Northeast, has witnessed increasing competition among two-wheeler brands, and Honda's expanded presence is expected to strengthen its market share in the region. HMSI said the Jorhat dealership will cater to evolving mobility needs while reinforcing its commitment to safety and customer satisfaction in Northeast India.

Nissan drives in Magnite KURO Special Edition at Rs 8.30 lakh to boost SUV portfolio

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has unveiled the New Magnite KURO Special Edition, a bold all-black variant of its compact SUV, priced from ₹8.30 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). With bookings open for just ₹11,000 via dealerships and the Nissan website, the KURO edition aims to attract premium SUV buyers looking for style and safety. The Magnite KURO — "Kuro" meaning "black" in Japanese — brings a distinctive all-black aesthetic, combining sleek exteriors with stylized KURO branding and a black-themed interior. Notable features include Signature Black LED headlamps with LightSable Turn Indicators, a Sable Black wireless charger, Advanced Driver Assist Display, and Premium i-Key with Walk Away Lock and Approach Un-



lock. A new Metallic Grey colour has also been added to the Magnite range. The Magnite continues to build on its strong market presence, having earned a 5-star GNCAP safety rating. In Guwahati, a rising demand for stylish yet affordable compact SUVs has created a buzz around the Magnite KURO. Local dealerships report growing interest among younger urban consumers drawn to its aggressive pricing and premium features. The variant is expected to further strengthen Nissan's footprint in Tier-2 cities like Guwahati.

super.money enters travel sector with 'FLIGHTS', targets Gen Z with rewards-first UPI bookings

Guwahati: super.money, one of India's fastest-growing UPI-first platforms, has announced the launch of 'FLIGHTS'—a rewards-first flight booking feature built for Gen Z travellers. Powered by Cleartrip, the new service allows users to book domestic flights via UPI and earn an exclusive 5% benefit stacked on top of existing offers, positioning it as the most rewarding way to book flights



today. This strategic move strengthens super.money's vision of expanding UPI beyond utility payments into high-value commerce. As UPI now accounts for 85% of India's digital transac-

tions (IMF, 2024), FLIGHTS empowers users with simplicity, security, and value without relying on credit. Recent Cleartrip data indicates Gen Z is driving a shift in travel behaviour, preferring UPI and debit card payments, solo travel, and immediate benefits. super.money directly addresses this trend with a smart, flexible, and debt-free booking experience. In Guwahati, where travel

demand among youth is rising post-pandemic, this launch is well-timed. Local travel agents note a surge in UPI-driven bookings, and super.money's FLIGHTS could become a preferred tool for budget-conscious and tech-savvy young travellers in Assam and the Northeast. With FLIGHTS, super.money cements its role as a digital lifestyle enabler for India's next-gen consumers.

Tata AIA powers digital education in Nagaland, targets 3,267 students with smart classrooms

Kohima: Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched a landmark digital education initiative across seven government schools in Dimapur, aiming to empower 3,267 students through state-of-the-art smart classrooms. The three-year CSR project (2024–2026) addresses the digital infrastructure gap highlighted in the ASER 2024 report, which found that only 32.6% of schools in Nagaland have computers, with minimal usage. The initiative includes smart classrooms with interactive tools, subject-specific digital content, training for 168



teachers, and essential infrastructure like projectors and connectivity. In collaboration with Teachmint Edutech, localized e-learning resources are also

being developed to align with regional needs. Kristyl Bhesania, CHRO, Tata AIA Life Insurance, said, "Our presence in Nagaland is not just about insurance — it's

about building a digitally empowered future for communities." In Kohima, local educators and parents have welcomed the move, seeing it as a potential blueprint for replication in the capital's schools. The market sees strong interest from educational stakeholders and policymakers looking to bridge the digital divide in urban and semi-urban clusters. Additionally, Tata AIA continues its support for vulnerable families through a state-run INR 2 lakh insurance cover scheme, reinforcing its long-term commitment to Nagaland's development.

Nissan India unveils unique 10-year extended warranty for new Magnite SUV



Gurugram: Nissan Motor India has launched a first of its kind 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan for the New Nissan Magnite. This is a segment first customer-focused initiative that underscores the brand's long-term commitment to quality, reliability, and peace of mind. This plan has been announced immediately after the success of the New Nissan Magnite scoring a 5-star rating on overall passenger safety with a perfect 5-star rating on AOP (Adult Occupant Safety). The plan offers 3 years of standard warranty, extendable through flexible plans of up to a 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan, ensuring a full decade of driving confidence and protection applicable for up to 10 years/2 lakh kms at a super affordable price of just 22 paise/Km or 12 INR/Day. This 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan is designed to give customers greater confi-

dence and peace of mind. It reinforces Nissan's global promise of Japanese DNA, quality standards, robust reliability and premium craftsmanship and technology. Comprehensive coverage offers cashless repairs across the country at any Nissan-authorized service workshops, with no limit on the number or value of claims. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said: "The New Nissan Magnite has emerged as a symbol of quality, reliability, safety, and long-term value for Indian customers, and we're proud to see it stand tall with a prestigious 5-star safety rating from Global NCAP making it one of the safest B-SUVs in India." Customers can also opt for a flexible warranty with combinations such as 3+4, 3+3, 3+2, or 3+1 years, ensuring they enjoy long-term peace of mind and security with their vehicle.

Muthoot Microfin profit crashes

New Delhi: Muthoot Microfin Ltd, a leading non-banking financial company-microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI), reported a sharp 95% year-on-year decline in net profit to ₹6 crore for the first quarter ended June 2025. The steep fall was primarily attributed to a surge in non-performing assets (NPAs), signaling asset quality stress in its loan portfolio.

Godrej Industries taps workplace bonds with Raksha Bandhan 'Work Sibling' campaign

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group (GIG) has rolled out a unique Raksha Bandhan campaign targeting India's evolving work culture. Branded "The Work Sibling – India's New Badge of Workplace Bonding," the initiative aims to celebrate the camaraderie between colleagues who share sibling-like banter and support. With traditional sibling relationships becoming rarer due to shifting family dynamics, including a 2023 YouGov-Mint-CPR survey showing 47% of urban mil-

lennials prefer one child, workplaces are emerging as the new hubs of emotional connections. GIG's campaign, launched via lifestyle platforms Godrej L'Affaire and Vikhroli Cucina, features a satirical digital film and social media drive encouraging professionals to "adopt" colleagues as work siblings. Participants can tag colleagues, share anecdotes, and send personalised e-Rakhi cards. In Guwahati, where the organised corporate sector is expanding alongside tradition-

al markets, the concept has found traction among young professionals in IT, retail, and service industries. Local business leaders note that fostering such interpersonal bonds can enhance productivity and team cohesion, mirroring the collaborative spirit long present in the city's commercial hubs. Sujit Patil, Chief Communication Officer, GIG, said the campaign reflects the company's belief that "strong teams are built on beautiful bonds of friendship and understanding, not just roles."

Center Fresh targets India's overthinking habit with 'Dimaag Pe Rakhe Lagaam' campaign

Shillong: Perfetti Van Melle India's flagship chewing gum brand, Center Fresh, has rolled out a new marketing campaign, "Dimaag pe rakhe lagaam," addressing the widespread tendency of overthinking among Indian consumers. Backed by the India Overthinking Report conducted with YouGov, the study reveals that 81% of people spend

more than three hours a day overthinking. The campaign positions Center Fresh as a refreshing mental break, offering a burst of minty clarity. The initiative includes two television commercials directed by Nitesh Tiwari and conceptualised by Ogilvy, portraying humorous yet relatable overthinking scenarios. According to Marketing Director Gun-

jan Khetan, the campaign is designed to "break the cycle of overthinking and bring moments of clarity," while MD Nikhil Sharma emphasised the brand's cultural relevance and its presence in over 3 million outlets nationwide. In Shillong, retailers anticipate a spike in Center Fresh sales, particularly among students and young professionals. Shop owners

note that the humorous and relatable theme could drive impulse purchases, as many consumers look for quick, affordable refreshments during their daily routines. The campaign is being promoted across television, digital platforms, and social media, reinforcing Center Fresh's role as a go-to refreshment for both mouth and mind.

RBI okays Hinduja-NDL Ventures merger

Mumbai: Ashok Leyland on Monday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared the merger scheme of its subsidiary Hinduja Leyland Finance with NDL Ven-



ture. "We are in receipt of a no-objection certificate from the RBI for the proposed scheme of merger of Hinduja Leyland Finance with NDL Ventures," the commercial vehicle maker said in a regulatory filing. The company said it will now move ahead with the next steps for the merger, including regulatory, shareholder and other approv-

als. Earlier, Ashok Leyland had said it was awaiting final regulatory clearance to proceed with the public listing of the NBFC. "Although there has been slight delay in the listing of Hinduja Leyland Finance, it continues to grow well in all parameters... Its subsidiary, Hinduja Housing Finance, is now the fourth-largest affordable housing finance company and is also delivering good numbers," Dheeraj Hinduja, executive chairman, Ashok Leyland, said in the Q4FY25 earnings call.

SBI halts Nayara deals over sanctions

Mumbai: The State Bank of India (SBI) has stopped processing trade and foreign currency transactions for Nayara Energy to avoid potential fallout from US and European Union sanctions linked to Russia, The Economic Times reported



on Tuesday. According to the report, the move was taken recently to ensure

compliance with global rules. "There has been no government direction, but every bank has to take a call on how to deal with these issues, and SBI has done so," the report said, citing a person familiar with the matter. SBI, India's

largest lender, has a significant international presence, including branches in the US and Europe. This means it must comply with sanctions imposed by Western authorities. Nayara, formerly Essar Oil, acquired by Rosneft.

Škoda Auto India launches limited editions of Kylaq, Kushaq and Slavia to mark 25 years

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has rolled out Limited Editions of its Kushaq, Slavia, and Kylaq models to celebrate its 25th anniversary in India and 130 years of global legacy. Each variant, capped at 500 units, is based on high-spec trims such as Monte Carlo for Kushaq and Slavia, and Signature+ and Prestige for Kylaq. All editions feature distinctive styling, 25th Anniversary badging, and a complimentary accessories kit including a 360-degree camera, puddle lamps, underbody lighting, and pre-



mium garnishes. The Kushaq and Slavia Monte Carlo Limited Editions come in Deep Black and Tornado Red with contrasting accents, while the Kylaq is of-

fered in seven exterior colours. Prices start at ₹11.25 lakh for the Kylaq Anniversary Edition and go up to ₹19.09 lakh for the top-end Kushaq variant. In Guwa-

hati, Škoda dealers expect strong demand driven by rising interest in premium European cars among the city's affluent buyers. Industry analysts note that Assam's expanding urban economy and aspirational middle class make Guwahati a key growth hub for the brand, particularly for feature-rich SUVs and sedans. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, said the editions are "a tribute to the passionate community" and reaffirm Škoda's commitment to evolving customer preferences.

Kameng Kings launch jersey & logo backed by rising star TNR Mohit

New Delhi: The Kameng Kings officially launched their jersey and logo, marking a key milestone ahead of the Techii Tagar Arunachal T20 Championship set for September 1-16 at Mangaldai Cricket Ground. The event highlighted the franchise's business ambitions in Northeast Indian cricket, with young spin bowler TNR Mohit emerging as the team's flagship player. Mohit's standout performance—including 19 wickets in the first-class season and a stunning 9-wicket haul on debut—has attracted attention from sponsors and cricket enthusiasts alike. The launch was attended by prominent figures such as Nabam Vivek, MLA and Honorary Secretary

of Arunachal Cricket Association (ARCA), and Vice President Geda Kabak, both instrumental in the association's strategic growth plans focused on grassroots talent and sports infrastructure.

Wearing the Kameng Kings jersey is not just about playing cricket—it's about representing the hopes of a region," Mohit said. "That 9-wicket debut was special, but I'm more excited about what we can achieve together as a unit this season. Nabam abo, Under whose captaincy I made my debut."

The franchise's principal sponsor Mr. Arvind Tadakkamalla said, "Supporting Kameng Kings is more than a sponsorship—it's an investment in the youth and future of Arunachal."

KRAFTON India's 'Beyond Battlegrounds' initiative puts spotlight on India's grassroots gaming creators

Dimapur: KRAFTON India has launched Beyond Battlegrounds, a powerful digital storytelling initiative celebrating the creativity of grassroots gamers across India. The campaign opens with the remarkable journey of Karan Kargwal, a 28-year-old railway technician from Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, who built a life-sized replica of BGMI's iconic buggy atop his home—using only scrap metal, an old motorcycle engine, and sheer determination. Kargwal, with no formal



training in engineering or design, crafted the buggy using gameplay visuals and documented the process on Instagram. His reels quickly went viral, drawing over 220,000 followers—95% from Tier 2, 3, and 4 cities. Recognizing the impact, BGMI backed his vision, turning it into a national campaign

that highlights how gaming is transforming into a medium of identity and innovation. Dimapur has seen a significant uptick in mobile gaming adoption, particularly among youth in the 18–30 age group. With increasing access to smartphones and mobile internet, local gamers are actively engaging with platforms like BGMI, not just as players but as aspiring creators. KRAFTON's initiative is expected to inspire more from Dimapur to turn digital passion into real-world projects.

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Medanta posts record Q1, boosts Northeast care access

Guwahati: Global Health Limited (NSE: Medanta, BSE: 543654), among the largest private multi-specialty tertiary care providers in North and East India, reported its highest-ever Q1 performance for FY26. Total income rose 19.1% year-on-year to ₹10,513 million, EBITDA climbed 22.6% to ₹2,553 million, and PAT jumped 49.6% to ₹1,590 million, with margins improving to 15.1%. The quarter saw a 13.3% rise in occupied bed days, ARPOB growth of 4% to ₹66,584, and double-digit growth in both in-patient and out-patient volumes. Mature hospitals delivered ₹7,006 million in revenue, while developing hospitals surged 35.9% to ₹3,219 million. International patient revenue grew 33.8% to ₹636 million, and OPD

pharmacy sales increased 21.6% to ₹404 million. According to CEO Pankaj Sahni, the results were driven by rising patient volumes, improved realizations, and capacity expansion, including a newly operational 110-bed Ranchi facility and the upcoming 550-bed Noida hospital. In Guwahati, where Medanta has announced an upcoming hospital, industry experts expect a transformative impact on Assam's healthcare market. The facility is projected to draw patients from across the Northeast, boosting medical tourism and creating high-value healthcare employment in the region. Founded by Dr. Naresh Trehan, Medanta now operates five hospitals with over 3,000 installed beds.

ICICI Bank posts lowest attrition

Mumbai: ICICI Bank has reported the lowest employee attrition rate among large private sector lenders in the last three financial years, reflecting higher stickiness due to competitive remuneration and a better working environment. During the last three financial years, the industry has also witnessed a sustained decline on a year-on-year basis. The employee attrition rate at the country's second-largest private sector bank declined to 18 per cent in FY25 from 24.5 per cent in FY24, according to the bank's latest Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) report.

Elanpro trains 30 in Guwahati to boost cold chain workforce

Guwahati: Commercial refrigeration solutions provider Elanpro, in partnership with non-profit Care U 365, has completed the inaugural phase of its "Cool Skills, Bright Future" programme in Guwahati, certifying 30 service technicians to meet the talent needs of India's fast-expanding cold chain industry. The six-week training, conducted at Assam Engineering College, combined classroom learning, performance assessments, and hands-on work with refrigeration systems. The initiative addresses a critical skills shortage in an industry growing over 15% annually, driven by demand from quick service restaurants, quick commerce, and F&B retail. Selected graduates will also be offered internships and placement

opportunities. In Guwahati, the city's food service sector is undergoing rapid transformation. Growth in cloud kitchens, artisanal dairy units, ice-cream parlours, and D2C food brands—backed by the Assam Start-up & Innovation Policy 2025—is spurring demand for reliable cold storage and skilled maintenance personnel. This is creating strong business opportunities for refrigeration service providers. Elanpro Director Sanjay Jain said the programme aims to create a "future-ready workforce" to match industry standards. Following the success in Guwahati, the company plans to roll out similar training across Assam as part of its CSR commitment to skilling, sustainability, and cold chain resilience.

Higher treasury gains drive PSBs' profitability in Q1

Mumbai: At a time when interest income growth was sluggish and margins constrained, treasury income became the saviour for public sector banks (PSBs) in the first quarter of the current financial year. PSBs logged a net profit of Rs 44,218 crore in Q1FY26, registering an 10.6% year-on-year growth, according

to data from Capitaline. State Bank of India constituted 43% of the overall net profit at Rs 19,160 crore. On a sequential basis, the net profit of PSBs was

down 8.6%. The PSB's other income, which includes treasury gains, jumped sharply to Rs 48,996 crore in Q1FY26 compared to Rs 34,416 crore in the year-

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Gukesh roars back with queen sacrifice to finish Day 1 joint third in St. Louis

St. Louis: Reigning world chess champion D Gukesh delivered a dramatic comeback on Day 1 of the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament, part of the prestigious Grand Chess Tour. After suffering a tough opening-round defeat to American Grandmaster Levon Aronian, Gukesh roared back with consecutive wins over Grigoriy



Oparin and Liem Le Quang, ending the day in joint third place with four points out of a possible six. The highlight

of Gukesh's resurgence was a stunning queen sacrifice against Oparin, which led to a picturesque checkmate and drew admiration across the chess world. Gukesh was outplayed by Aronian in a complex Caro-Kann defense battle. Aronian, fresh off his Freestyle Chess win in Las Vegas, maintained a perfect score through the

day. - Gukesh rebounded with a brilliant win over Oparin, executing a queen sacrifice in a Sicilian Rossolimo that culminated in a decisive checkmate. - Playing black against Liem Le Quang, Gukesh navigated massive complications and capitalized on his opponent's errors under pressure to secure his second win of the day.

BCCI delays Kohli-Rohit ODI decision

New Delhi: Amid growing speculation over the ODI futures of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has opted not to rush any decisions regarding the two stalwarts. With the T20 World Cup scheduled for February 2026, the board's immediate focus remains on assembling the strongest squad for the Asia Cup T20 and subsequent global tournament. A senior BCCI official, speaking anonymously to PTI, emphasized that any decision regarding Kohli and Rohit would be made with careful consideration of public sentiment and team strategy. "If they have something in mind, they'll communicate it to the BCCI, as they did before the England Test tour," the source said.

Henderson the hero as Palace beat Liverpool in shootout to win Community Shield

London: Crystal Palace pulled off a dramatic upset at Wembley Stadium, defeating Premier League champions Liverpool 3-2 on penalties to win the 2025 FA Community Shield. The match ended 2-2 in regulation time, with goalkeeper Dean Henderson emerging as the hero in the shootout, saving two crucial spot-kicks and cementing Palace's third consecutive Wembley triumph. This victory marks Palace's first-ever Community Shield title and follows their historic FA Cup win earlier this year. Liverpool struck early through new signing Hugo Ekitike, who scored just four minutes into his debut after a slick combination with Florian Wirtz. Palace responded



in the 17th minute when Jean-Philippe Mateta converted a penalty after Virgil van Dijk fouled Ismaila Sarr. Jeremie Frimpong restored Liverpool's lead in the 21st minute with a looping cross that unexpectedly found the net. Palace, however, refused to back down. Sarr equalized again in the 77th

minute with a composed finish past Alisson, setting the stage for a tense finale. With no extra time played, the match went straight to penalties. Mohamed Salah missed Liverpool's opening spot-kick, blazing over the bar. Henderson then denied Alexis Mac Allister and Harvey Elliott, showcasing the

same penalty-saving prowess that helped Palace win the FA Cup against Manchester City in May. Substitute Justin Devenny, just 21 years old, stepped up to take the final penalty and smashed it into the top corner, sealing Palace's historic win. "Justin came to me and said, 'I'll take it, I'll take the last one,'" manager Oliver Glasner revealed, praising the youngster's confidence. Glasner's Vision and Palace's Rising Ambitions the team," he said. Palace manager Oliver Glasner expressed pride in his squad's resilience and performance. "It was a big performance. We were almost the same level as Liverpool. I'm really proud of the team," he said.

Neeraj Chopra's name not in entry list of Silesia DL on August 16

New Delhi: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will not compete at the Silesia Diamond League meet in Poland on August 16, as his name is missing from the official entry list. The development has dashed hopes of a much-anticipated showdown between Chopra and Pakistan's Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem, who is also absent from the roster. The reason for Chopra's withdrawal remains undisclosed, while Nadeem is recovering from calf surgery conducted in London last month.

The Silesia meet was expected to be the first face-

off between Chopra and Nadeem since their electrifying duel at the Paris 2024 Olympics, where Nadeem clinched gold with a throw of 92.97m and Chopra took silver with 89.45m. Organizers had confirmed their participation in early July, fueling excitement among athletics fans across South Asia. However, Nadeem's injury and Chopra's unexplained absence have left fans disappointed. The rivalry, which had gained momentum through regional and global competitions, will now likely resume at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo next month.

India Positions Ahmedabad for 2030 Commonwealth Games, Aims to Redeem 2010 Legacy

New Delhi: India has emerged as a strong contender to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad being proposed as the host city. Backed by robust government support and a renewed ambition to stage global sporting events, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is preparing a comprehensive bid to be submitted by the August 31 deadline.

The move is seen not only as a strategic effort to reclaim India's reputation after the controversy-marred 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi but also as a stepping stone toward the country's larger goal of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games. IOA executive council member Harpal Singh emphasized the up-



beat national mood and the government's commitment to hosting large-scale international events. "India wants to host larger sporting events—be it Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, or Olympics—and we have the

full backing of the government," Singh said.

Ahmedabad's existing infrastructure and future development roadmap reportedly impressed the visiting Commonwealth Sports delegation, which recently toured the city to

assess its preparedness. The delegation is evaluating key factors such as sustainability, gender balance, and alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals. India's last experience hosting the Commonwealth Games in

2010 was overshadowed by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. While the event itself was ultimately deemed a success, the lead-up left a lasting blemish on India's global sporting image.

This time, the IOA is determined to present a transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking bid. "We've not hosted a major sports event with so many countries across all six regions since 2010," Singh noted. "So it will be a right step in that direction for our final dream of 2036". India faces competition from Canada and Nigeria, both of which are also vying to host the centenary edition of the Games. The final decision will be made at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow this November.

Sanju Samson to replace MS Dhoni at CSK

Chennai: Speculation is mounting over Sanju Samson's potential move to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) as a long-term successor to MS Dhoni, whose illustrious IPL career is nearing its end. With Dhoni expected to retire after the 2026 season, CSK is reportedly exploring leadership and wicketkeeping options, and Samson has emerged as a top candidate. The buzz intensified following Samson's appearance on R Ashwin's YouTube channel, where a cheeky hint about a move to Chennai left fans intrigued. Former India captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth has publicly endorsed Samson as the "right replacement" for Dhoni, citing his popularity in Chennai and leadership credentials.