



## Coimbatore assault: 3 suspects shot, arrested

**Coimbatore:** In a dramatic turn of events, Tamil Nadu police arrested three suspects linked to the sexual assault of a female student in Coimbatore after an intense chase that ended in gunfire. The accused were reportedly attempting to flee when law enforcement officers intercepted them early Monday morning.

According to official sources, the suspects had been under surveillance following the registration of a case involving the assault of a college student last week. Acting on a tip-off, police tracked the trio to a remote location on the outskirts of Coimbatore.

When confronted, the suspects allegedly resisted arrest and attempted to escape, prompting police to open fire in self-defense. All three individuals sustained minor injuries and were taken into custody. They are currently receiving medical treatment under police supervision. Authorities confirmed that the injuries were non-life-threatening and that the suspects will be produced before the magistrate once cleared by doctors.

The incident has sparked widespread public outrage and renewed calls for swift justice in cases of sexual violence.

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## Stalin dares PM Modi to repeat Bihar remarks in Tamil Nadu

### Stalin pledges to liberate Tamil Nadu from AIADMK's political hold

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has publicly challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeat his recent remarks made in Bihar during a political rally, suggesting that such statements would not be received well in Tamil Nadu. The remarks in question, reportedly targeting opposition alliances and regional governance models, have sparked reactions across party lines. Addressing a gathering in Chennai, CM Stalin questioned the Prime Minister's courage to make similar comments in Tamil Nadu,



stating that the people of the state are politically aware and would not tolerate divisive rhetoric. He emphasized that Tamil Nadu has a strong tradition of social justice, inclusive governance, and

regional pride, and warned against attempts to undermine these values through political speeches.

The Chief Minister's comments come amid heightened political activity and

campaigning ahead of upcoming elections. Stalin accused the BJP-led central government of attempting to polarize voters and divert attention from pressing economic and social issues. He reiterated the DMK's commitment to federalism, linguistic rights, and secularism. The DMK has also called on other regional parties to stand united against what it describes as "centralized and authoritarian tendencies." BJP Tamil Nadu calls Stalin's remarks political posturing, reaffirms focus on national unity.

## Mumbai Tragedy

**Mumbai:** A domestic worker was found dead under suspicious circumstances in a residential apartment in Mumbai on Monday evening. The woman, reportedly in her early twenties, was discovered hanging from a ceiling fan in a flat located in the Andheri area. According to preliminary police reports, the incident was reported by the apartment owner, who claimed to have found the maid unresponsive upon returning home. Local authorities arrived at the scene shortly after and initiated an investigation.

## Mohammad Azharuddin sworn in as minister in Telangana

**Hyderabad:** Congress leader and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as a minister in Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet on Friday. In a simple function held at Raj Bhavan, Governor Jishnu Dev Verma administered the oaths to the former Indian skipper in the presence of important leaders, including the CM. With the inclusion of Azharuddin, the total strength of the cabinet rose to 16, with room for two more. As per the Assembly strength, Telangana can have 18 minis-



ters. The former cricketer's appointment to the ministry is seen as a crucial step as the Congress party has been fighting tooth and nail in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, where over a lakh Muslim voters could play a decisive role. The bypoll was necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti

Gopinath in June this year, following a heart attack. Azharuddin was nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota by the Telangana government in August last week. However, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the appointment. Azharuddin unsuccessfully contested from the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency in the 2023 polls. I know what I have done for the country, and I don't need anyone's certificate," Azharuddin added.

## India always first responder in any global crisis: PM Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to global humanitarian efforts, stating that the country has consistently acted as the first responder during international crises. Speaking at the inauguration of the Shanti Shikhar Centre for Spiritual Learning and Meditation of the Brahma Kumaris in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on November 1, 2025, Modi emphasized India's evolving role as a reliable and proactive global partner. "Whenever a crisis arises anywhere in the world today, whenever a disaster strikes, India steps forward as a reliable partner to provide help. India is always the first responder," the Prime Minister said during his address. He underscored that this ap-



proach reflects India's values of compassion, spiritual inclusivity, and its growing capacity to contribute meaningfully to global stability. The Prime Minister's remarks come amid India's increasing involvement in international disaster relief and humanitarian missions. From providing aid during earthquakes in Afghanistan and Nepal to dispatching medical teams and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, India has demonstrated a consistent doctrine of humanitarian leadership.

## PACT FINALIZED AS BOTH SIDES WORKED TO MEND TIES

## India, US ink Defence Framework pact

**New Delhi:** India and the United States have signed a landmark 10-year Defence Framework Agreement aimed at deepening bilateral military cooperation and enhancing strategic alignment in the Indo-Pacific region. The agreement was formalized during a high-level meeting between Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur. The pact



outlines a comprehensive roadmap for collaboration across key areas such as joint military exercises, defence technology sharing, co-development and co-pro-

duction of equipment, intelligence exchange, and logistics support. It also emphasizes interoperability between the armed forces of both nations and ca-

capacity building in emerging domains like cyber defence and space security.

Defence Minister Singh described the agreement as a "new chapter" in India-U.S. defence relations, reaffirming India's commitment to working with like-minded partners to ensure regional peace and stability. Secretary Hegseth echoed the sentiment, stating that the framework would "advance our defence partnership and reinforce shared strategic priorities."

## Noida hospital sealed after Oxygen blasts

**Noida:** A private hospital in Noida has been sealed by local authorities after two consecutive explosions occurred in its oxygen pipeline system within a span of 15 hours. The incidents have raised serious concerns about safety protocols and infrastructure maintenance in healthcare facilities. According to ini-

tial reports, the first explosion took place late Sunday night, followed by a second blast early Monday morning. Both incidents were linked to the hospital's oxygen supply system, which is critical for patient care, especially in emergency and intensive care units. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported so far.



## Arunachal to sponsor 400 youths annually for adventure sports training at NIMAS

**Itanagar:** The Arunachal Pradesh government has announced plans to double the number of youths sponsored annually for adventure sports training at the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang. Chief Minister Pema Khandu made the announcement on Monday, highlighting the state's commitment to promoting adventure education and skill development among young people. Khandu said the number of



trainees sponsored by the state would increase from 200 to 400 each year, allowing more youths to receive professional training in ad-

venture sports. "Good news for adventure enthusiasts! We have decided to increase the number of youths sponsored by the Government

of Arunachal for training at NIMAS, Dirang, from 200 to 400 annually," he stated in a post on X. The chief minister visited NIMAS on Sunday, where he reviewed the institute's infrastructure and ongoing projects with Director Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal, a renowned mountaineer. "During my visit to NIMAS, India's only institute offering training across all three domains of adventure sports, I reviewed campus facilities and ongoing development," Khandu wrote.

## Mizoram launches tobacco-free youth campaign 3.0 drive

**Aizawl:** The Mizoram government has intensified its efforts to combat tobacco use among young people with the launch of Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0, aimed at creating healthier learning environments and building tobacco-free villages and schools across the state. Health and Family Welfare Minister Lalrinpui formally inaugurated the campaign at a function in Aizawl on October 31, reaffirming the government's resolve to protect the state's youth from tobacco-related

harm. Highlighting the urgency of the initiative, Lalrinpui said studies by the state's health department revealed that most drug addicts in Mizoram begin with tobacco and alcohol use, with worrying signs of middle school students already consuming both. "Tobacco use not only affects mental and physical health but also impacts our environment, finances, and daily life," the minister said, urging all participants to play an active role in curbing the growing problem.

## Ellora Vigyan Mancha's 5th convention, Rangiya

**Rangiya:** The Ellora Vigyan Mancha, a prominent science and rationalist organization in Assam, is set to hold its 5th State Convention in Rangiya from November 7 to 9, 2025. The three-day event will bring together scientists, educators, activists, and youth leaders from across the state to promote scientific temper, critical thinking, and evidence-based discourse. Organizers have announced that the convention will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, exhibitions, and interactive sessions focused on science education, public health, cli-

mate change, and combating superstition. The event is expected to draw participation from various districts, with special emphasis on engaging students and grassroots educators. The Ellora Vigyan Mancha has been actively working to foster rational thought and scientific awareness in Assam through community outreach, publications, and educational programs. This year's convention aims to deepen its impact by addressing contemporary challenges such as misinformation, pseudoscience, and the role of science in policy-making.

## Shillong MP flags Umngot river pollution, blames NHIDCL for soil dumping

**Shillong:** Shillong Member of Parliament Ricky AJ Syngkon has raised serious concerns over environmental degradation in Meghalaya's Umngot River, widely regarded as one of Asia's cleanest water bodies. In a formal letter addressed to Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, Syngkon alleged that construction activities under the Shillong-Tamabil highway expansion project, implemented by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), have led to rampant soil dumping into



the river. The MP stated that the river's once-pristine waters have turned muddy and lifeless, particularly during October—a time when the river is typically crystal clear. He attributed this change to unchecked earth-cutting and disposal of construction debris into the Umngot and

Umtyngar rivers, which has alarmed local communities, tourism operators, and environmental groups. Syngkon emphasized that the ecological damage threatens not only the river's biodiversity but also the livelihoods of those dependent on tourism and fishing.

## Poppy Raid

**Imphal:** In a major anti-narcotics operation under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, security forces have successfully destroyed poppy plantations spread across 30 acres in Songlung village and the adjoining areas of Lhangjol and Waphong villages under Kangchup Police Station in Kangpokpi district on November 2.

## Flute Farewell

**Guwahati:** Celebrated Assamese flutist Dipak Sarma passed away after a prolonged illness, leaving behind a deep void in the state's musical fraternity. In January 2023, Sarma made a heartfelt appeal on Facebook seeking public support for an expensive liver surgery.

## AGP independent; BJP to discuss alliance early next year: CM Sarma

CM Sarma signals January talks for 2026 alliance plans

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has clarified that the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), a longstanding ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), remains an independent political entity with its own ideology and decision-making authority. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Sarma stated that formal discussions regarding a pre-poll alliance for the 2026 state elections will commence early next year, likely in January. The Chief Minister emphasized that while the BJP and AGP have a history of electoral collaboration, including seat-sharing arrangements, the future of their alliance will be determined through mutual dialogue and stra-



tegic planning. "AGP is an independent political party with its own ideology and beliefs. The BJP respects that autonomy," Sarma said, adding that any decision on continuing or modifying the alliance will be taken after comprehensive discussions. In response to Sarma's remarks, AGP President Atul Bora affirmed the party's intention to "explore its roots" and align with the people's mandate. Bora indicated that AGP would assess its

organizational strength and historical constituencies before entering alliance negotiations. "We will seek to understand our roots and the aspirations of the people before finalizing any alliance strategy," Bora said. The BJP-AGP alliance has been a key factor in Assam's political landscape, particularly in the last two assembly elections. However, with the 2026 polls approaching, both parties appear to be reevaluating their positions to maximize electoral gains. BJP leaders, including MP Dilip Saikia, have previously stated that the alliance aims to work "from Panchayat to Parliament," underscoring a long-term vision for joint governance.

## Rare pesquet's parrot missing; Rs 20K reward

**Aizawl:** Authorities at the Aizawl Zoological Park have announced a ₹20,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of a rare Pesquet's Parrot, which has gone missing from its enclosure. The bird, known for its striking black-and-red plumage and distinctive hooked beak, is considered one of the rarest parrot species in the world and is native to New Guinea. The disappearance was discovered during a routine inspection earlier this week, prompting an immediate search operation within the zoo premises and surrounding areas. Officials suspect the bird may have escaped or been stolen, and have alerted local law enforcement and wildlife agencies. Zoo Director Dr. Lalrinma-



wia confirmed that the parrot was part of a conservation program and had been under close observation due to its rarity and sensitivity to climate. "This is a serious loss for our conservation efforts. We urge the public to come forward with any information that could help us locate the bird," he said. The ₹20,000 reward is being offered to encourage citizens to report sightings or leads. Posters with the bird's image and details have been distributed across Aizawl, and surveillance footage is being reviewed for clues.

## Tribal Tension

**Guwahati:** Thousands of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists took to the streets of Donkamukam town on November 2 in a massive demonstration against Indian National Congress – Assam president and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi. The protesters accused Gogoi of holding an anti-tribal.



## MSDE, partners launch startup challenge to boost entrepreneurship in NSTI campuses nationwide

**Guwahati :** In a major push to nurture grassroots innovation in India's vocational training ecosystem, the Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with Aditya Birla Capital Foundation (ABCF) and Piloni Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Society (PIEDS) of BITS Piloni to launch Navonmesh Protsahan Spardha: Kaushalta se Udyamita. The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students across all National Skills Training Institutes (NSTIs). Currently, 33 NSTIs operate nationwide, training over 10,000 students



under the Craft Instructor Training Schemes (CITS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), including dedicated NSTI(W) centres for women. The challenge will provide mentoring, prize funding, incubation access and resources to help NSTI trainees transform technical skills into scalable ventures, with focus sectors including IT/

ITeS, automotive, apparel, electronics & hardware, power, and capital goods & manufacturing.

Emphasising the vision, MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee said the initiative would "enable NSTI students to channel their technical skills into innovation and enterprise," supporting India's Aatmanirbhar mis-

sion.

Industry voices in Guwahati welcomed the move, stating that Assam's growing industrial base—particularly in automotive services, electronic repair, and MSME manufacturing—will benefit from a stronger pipeline of innovation-driven skilled entrepreneurs. With increased youth participation in skill programmes, the initiative is expected to enhance start-up activity and employment opportunities in the Northeast. The challenge also addresses the gap in innovation support within the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) segment, which covers over 13 lakh students across ITIs and NSTIs.

## TCI posts strong Q2 growth boost

**Guwahati:** Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), India's leading integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain solutions provider, reported steady growth in Q2 FY2026, supported by robust auto, FMCG and consumer durables movement and improved compliance under GST 2.0.

For Q2 FY26, consolidated revenue rose to ₹12,174 million, up 7.6% from ₹11,314 million last year. EBITDA grew 6.9% to ₹1,624 million while Profit After Tax increased 5.8% to ₹1,135 million. In the first six months of FY26, the company reported an 8.3% rise in revenue to ₹23,680 million and an 11% jump in PAT to ₹2,207 million. Standalone revenue came in at ₹10,652 million, up 5.3%, with PAT increasing 6.4% to ₹878 million. MD Vineet Agarwal said all business segments

performed satisfactorily, adding that festive demand and simplified taxation have boosted logistics efficiency. He highlighted expansion in warehousing, investments in automation and multimodal assets, and continued green fleet initiatives. TCI's transportation emissions tool developed with IIM Bangalore has been adopted by DPIIT. Logistics operators in Guwahati said TCI's multimodal expansion and warehousing push aligns with rising Northeast consumption. With festive-season inventory buildup and improving road-rail connectivity, market stakeholders expect faster goods turnaround across Assam and neighbouring states. TCI, with revenues over ₹7,000 crore, continues strengthening freight, cold chain, coastal shipping, express services and logistics parks nationwide.

## Purple Finance eyes SFB license

**New Delhi:** In the heart of India's small towns – with population size of three lakh – where kirana stores, tailoring shops, and roadside eateries form the backbone of local economies, Purple Finance is expanding its business by providing secured loan against property (LAP), with ticket sizes averaging Rs 7 lakh. The loan size is 40%, or even 100% lower than listed housing finance companies whose average ticket size hover between Rs 10-15 lakh.

## Amway announces Rs 100 crore plan for India, Imphal growth

**Imphal:** Amway President and CEO Michael Nelson has announced a ₹100-crore (USD 12 million) investment for Amway India over the next three to five years, signaling the company's next phase of innovation and expansion in alignment with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The announcement marks 10 years of Amway's manufacturing journey in India, now one of its three global manufacturing hubs alongside the US and Chi-

na. Nelson, on his maiden visit to India as CEO, said, "India stands at the very core of Amway's global vision. It is a powerhouse of potential driven by its digitally empowered population and entrepreneurial spirit." The investment will focus on upgrading distributor capabilities, enhancing customer experiences, and transforming retail stores into engagement hubs. Amway India Managing Director Rajneesh Chopra said the move reflects Amway's

long-term commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, science-backed product innovation, and holistic wellbeing. In Imphal, the investment is expected to catalyze local entrepreneurship and retail activity. With growing consumer demand for health and nutrition products and a rising youth-led distributor base, Imphal is emerging as a promising regional market for Amway's wellness and direct-selling business expansion.

## Nissan India posts 45% MoM sales jump in October, crosses 1.2 million export mark

**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) recorded a sharp 45% month-on-month growth in October 2025, clocking 9,675 consolidated units, supported by festive demand and the recent GST rate reduction. The company reported 2,402 domestic wholesale units and 7,273 export units, reaffirming its role as a key global export hub. Nissan also celebrated reaching 1.2 million cumulative exports, led by the success of the New Nissan Magnite. The festive season during Navratri, Dussehra and Diwali, coupled with GST benefits, boosted retail movement. Nissan has passed on the full GST benefit to buyers, reducing Magnite prices by up to ₹1 lakh. The carmaker highlighted strong customer response to the KURO

Special Edition and the new Metallic Grey variant, alongside the expansion of its CNG retrofitment programme for the Magnite BR10 EZ-Shift (AMT). Dealer partners are preparing for three upcoming launches, including the Nissan Tekton, a 7-seater B-MPV, and a 7-seater C-SUV. In Guwahati, Nissan dealerships reported heightened festive showroom traffic and a rise in Magnite enquiries, particularly for the special edition trims. Local dealers anticipate further demand momentum with the GST-driven price cuts and upcoming Nissan models. Nissan said its growing dealer network, lower inventory levels, and focus on customer experience support its "Make in India, Make for the World" and "One Car, One World" strategy.

## PNB MetLife expands Assam network, opens new branch in Lakhimpur to deepen insurance reach

**Guwahati :** PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has strengthened its presence in Assam with the launch of a new branch in Lakhimpur, reflecting its focus on expanding insurance access in tier-II and tier-III markets. The announcement was made in Guwahati on October 30, 2025. With this launch, the insurer now operates four branches across Assam. The company said the expansion is aligned with its strategy to take insurance services closer to customers through on-ground support and advisory. "Trust has always been the foundation



of PNB MetLife's relationship with its customers. With 177 branches now across India, we are not only expanding our reach but also strengthening the assurance that customers can depend on us at every step. Our focus is to be present where they

need us most—bringing protection closer, making it simpler, and helping them plan their financial future with confidence," said Sameer Bansal, MD & CEO, PNB MetLife. The entry into Lakhimpur is expected to boost insurance penetration in a region

witnessing rising financial awareness and demand for long-term savings and protection solutions. With small businesses, salaried earners and farmers increasingly exploring formal financial instruments, the new branch is likely to improve access to insurance consultation, claims support, and personalised financial planning services. PNB MetLife currently reaches customers through 177 branches and over 20,000 bancassurance partner locations nationwide, offering a wide distribution network for its protection and savings products.



## IREDA boosts renewable push in Northeast, targets major investments to build green power hub

**Guwahati:** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has strengthened its focus on accelerating renewable energy growth in the North-East, reaffirming its long-term commitment to clean power investments in the region. Addressing a session on "Financing Renewable Energy in the North Eastern Region" in Guwahati, CMD Pradip Kumar Das underlined the North-East's strategic role in India's clean energy transition, identifying hydropower and solar as the primary drivers.

Das said India's renewable energy capacity has tripled since FY14 and is expected to double again by FY2030, demanding



nearly ₹28 lakh crore in fresh investments. The North-East already generates about 5 GW of renewable power, accounting for almost 60% of its total power capacity. IREDA has sanctioned more than ₹3,500 crore in the re-

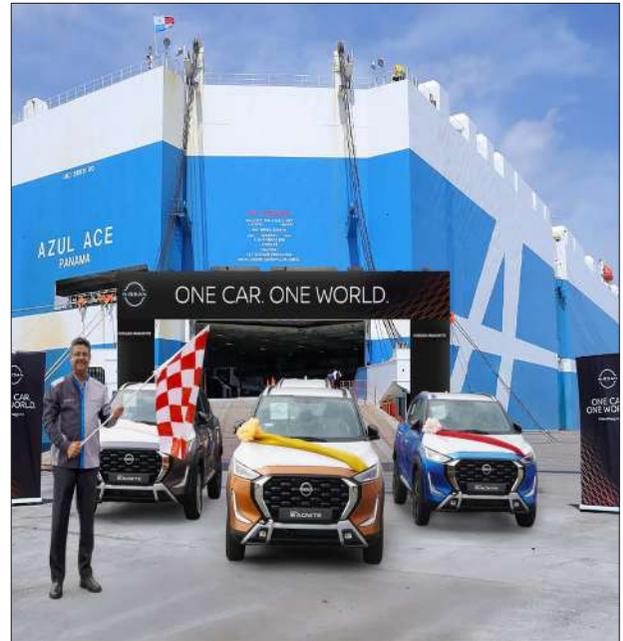
gion, offering concessional interest rates including a 50-basis-point rebate for North-East projects and an additional 50-basis-point rebate for women-led projects. The agency has also supported over 3,800 solar pumps in Tripura and mul-

iple rooftop solar installations across Assam under PM-KUSUM and Rooftop Solar schemes.

In Guwahati, industry players see rising investor interest in solar rooftops, decentralized systems, and EV-linked energy projects. Local businesses expect improved grid connectivity and financial incentives to bring more green MSMEs and innovation hubs to the city, boosting Assam's clean-tech ecosystem.

Das added that with targeted reforms and strong regional leadership — including several IREDA business heads from the North-east — the region is poised to become a major green energy hub for India and neighbouring economies.

## Nissan drives past 1.2 million Made-in-India exports, Magnite steers global momentum



**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India has announced a major export milestone, crossing cumulative exports of 1.2 million vehicles from India. The landmark vehicle — a New Nissan Magnite B-SUV — was ceremoniously dispatched to the GCC region from Kamarajar Port, Ennore, Tamil Nadu, marking a fresh chapter in the company's 'Make in India, Make for the World' strategy. The accomplishment reflects India's growing importance as a strategic export hub for Nissan in the AMIEO region.

Built on the strong foundation laid by models like the Nissan Sunny, Nissan Kicks and Nissan Micra, the Magnite has significantly expanded Nissan India's global footprint, now reaching over 65 countries across both left-hand and right-hand-drive markets covering Africa, Middle

East, Latin America and Southeast Asia. "Exporting 1.2 million vehicles from India is a historic moment that showcases customer trust worldwide in our Made-in-India cars," said Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India. Auto dealers in Guwahati believe Nissan's global export strength and the Magnite's 5-star Global NCAP safety rating will boost consumer confidence in the Northeast. With compact SUVs witnessing rising demand in Assam's capital, the Magnite's feature-rich value proposition and global success story may further strengthen Nissan's presence in the region. Nissan is also gearing up to introduce its new global C-SUV, the Nissan Tekton, in India next year, which will also be exported to select international markets.

## Berger Paints Q2 profit down

**New Delhi:** Berger Paints India Q2FY26 reported a decline in its consolidated net profit by 23.53% to Rs 206.38 crore Vs Rs 267 crore in Q2FY25, on account of lower sales of exterior products and increased investments in brand building. Revenue from operations was up 1.9% to Rs 2,827.49 crore in Q2FY26.



## IndiGo posts Rs 2,582 crore Q2 loss

**INTERGLOBE AVIATION,** the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, reported a net loss of Rs 2,582 crore for the three months ended September, as the bottom line was mainly impacted by currency movements. The airline's loss in the year-ago period stood at Rs 986 crore. According to a regulatory filing, the company raked in a total income of Rs 19,599



## American Tourister promotes Nashik-made bags, showcasing India's strength

**Guwahati:** American Tourister has launched its new campaign, "Made in Nashik. For the World," celebrating Nashik's pivotal role in powering the brand's global journey. The film showcases the brand's largest factory in the world located in Nashik, where craftsmanship, tradition, and modern manufacturing converge. Set against the city's lively backdrop—from riverbanks and bazaars to the beat of the dhol and the elegance of Paithani—the campaign honours the precision and passion of thousands of workers who bring the brand's products to life. With over 60 lakh units produced annually and nearly 25,000 families connected to the brand, the campaign underlines Nashik's growing stature as a hub for world-class travel goods manufacturing. The



initiative also highlights Samsonite's other iconic brands being crafted at the same facility, positioning Nashik as a symbol of India's manufacturing ambition. In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to strike a chord with consumers who increasingly prioritise quality and durability. Retailers in the city note rising demand for premium travel gear as domestic and international travel from the Northeast expands,

and products with strong Make-in-India credentials continue to gain traction among aspirational buyers. "Our aim is to make every Indian swell with pride upon seeing an American Tourister," said Anushree Tainwala, Executive Director – Marketing, Samsonite South Asia, adding that the film reflects gratitude to Nashik's skilled workforce. "Behind every journey stands the spirit of Nashik," she said.

## Škoda India breaks sales record, posts best October

**Guwahati :** Škoda Auto India has set a new benchmark in the country's automotive market by registering its highest-ever annual sales within just the first 10 months of 2025. The company sold 61,607 cars between January and October 2025, surpassing its previous full-year record of 53,721 units in 2022. October alone contributed 8,252 units — marking Škoda's best monthly

sales ever. The feat comes as the Czech carmaker celebrates 25 years in India. The strong momentum has been driven by robust demand for the Kylaq, Škoda's first sub-4m SUV, which has nearly touched 40,000 units since launch. Steady demand for flagship models like the Kodiaq, alongside the Kushaq and Slavia, and the lightning-fast sell-out of the high-performance



Octavia RS within 20 minutes, further underscored the brand's appeal. Škoda has also crossed 200,000 locally manufactured cars and expanded its network

to 318 customer touchpoints across 180 cities. In Guwahati, Škoda dealers report rising interest in premium SUVs and performance-centric cars, driven by growing disposable incomes and aspirational buying trends in Assam. With more customers seeking technology-loaded and global-standard vehicles, the city has emerged as a promising hub for upper-mid-segment passen-

ger vehicles. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, credited the success to "purpose-driven execution, product offensive, and network expansion." The company plans to scale dealer workforce by 50% and invest 25,000 training days to enhance service excellence, reinforcing confidence and community building as it eyes continued growth in India.



## Godrej renews Mumbai LitFest ties, champions inclusive literary voices

**Guwahati:** Godrej Industries Group has reaffirmed its partnership with Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest, as the prestigious festival returns for its 16th edition. Scheduled from November 7 to 9 at NCPA, Nariman Point, the three-day literary celebration will bring together more than 120 distinguished writers, thinkers, and performers from over 10 countries. The festival will host signature events including the Great Debate, Book in Focus, indoor and outdoor performances, The Little Festival for children, and curated workshops. Special sessions by the Godrej DEI Lab will explore critical

themes around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As part of its expanded accessibility initiative, this year's edition will feature over 15 sessions interpreted in Indian Sign Language by Access for All. A dedicated sensory-friendly tent will offer a calming zone equipped with tactile materials, soft seating, and noise-cancelling tools for neurodivergent children, managed by trained facilitators.

In Guwahati, the festival's continued corporate-cultural collaboration signals growing interest among regional publishers and bookstores. Industry stakeholders in Guwahati

expect increased literary engagement and author meet-ups in the Northeast, driven by rising consumer appetite for quality literature and cultural platforms. Nadir Godrej, Chairperson, Godrej Industries Group, said the LitFest is a celebration of Mumbai's vibrant storytelling spirit. Festival Co-Director Amy Fernandes highlighted the platform's evolution into a community-driven literary movement. The Godrej Literature Live! Awards will honour excellence across Fiction, Non-Fiction, Business, and Playwriting, alongside top honours for Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Vinod Kumar Shukla.

## TVS Motor debuts globally at EICMA, unveils six models, AR helmets

**Guwahati:** TVS Motor Company marked a milestone at EICMA 2025 with a commanding debut, unveiling six new models across petrol and electric platforms, next-gen AR-enabled Heads-Up Display helmets, and connected vehicle technologies. The company also showcased its global growth strategy and reaffirmed its commitment to European expansion. The lineup featured revolutionary concepts such as the TVS Tangent RR supersport, TVS eFX three o electric motorcycle, TVS M1-S electric maxi-scooter, TVS RTR HyprStunt urban sports concept, the adventure-focused TVS



Apache RTX 300, and the futuristic TVS X. In a major highlight, the revitalised Norton brand returned with modern engineering rooted in over a century of racing legacy, backed by TVS's £200-million investment. TVS Chairman Sudarshan Venu said the debut underscores the brand's global

ambition. "We underline our vision to serve customers in Europe with passion, precision and pride," he said. In Guwahati, TVS's EICMA showcase reinforces rising aspirations in North-east India's two-wheeler market, where demand for performance bikes and electric mobility is growing. Dealers expect heightened interest in premium models and advanced EV offerings once launched in India. With AR helmets built with Swiss startup Aegis Rider and expanded SmartXonnect features, TVS aims to redefine tech-led mobility as it prepares European rollout between 2026 and 2027.

## Spot power prices down 32% in Oct

**New Delhi:** Electricity prices in the spot market declined by 32% on year in October owing to enhanced hydro, wind, and solar generation, combined with steady supply from coal-based plants. As per data from the Indian Energy Exchange, market clearing price in the Day Ahead Market stood at Rs. 2.67/unit during October, down 32% from the same period last year. Similarly, prices in the Real Time Market stood at Rs 2.73/unit during last month, down 27.8% from October 2024.

## M&M profit, revenue surge

MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,673 crore in Q2FY26, up nearly 15.85% year-on-year (YoY) from Rs 3,170.72 crore in the same quarter previous year (Q2FY25). Revenue from the operations stood at Rs 45,885.40 crore, up 21.75% From Rs 37,689.04 crore recorded in Q2FY26.

The company said it has reported 28% growth in profit after tax after excluding a one-time gain on account of land sale in the second quarter of FY25. Auto segment reported quarterly volumes at 2,62,000 (includes sales by LMM & MEAL), up 13%.

## India's retirement index hits 48, urban Indians plan smarter, start earlier

**Guwahati:** India's retirement readiness is steadily improving, as the India Retirement Index Study (IRIS) 5.0 by Axis Max Life Insurance, conducted in partnership with Kantar, recorded a national score of 48 — up from 44 in 2022. The report reflects higher financial, health, and emotional awareness, with half of urban Indians now believing that retirement

planning should start early in their earning years.

Despite the growing awareness, action remains limited — only 37% of respondents have achieved even a quarter of their target corpus, and 63% fear their savings would not last beyond 10 years post-retirement. Health preparedness has improved the most, supported by increased fitness habits

and 50% health insurance ownership. Women and gig workers showed slightly higher preparedness levels, while the East Zone led in overall readiness.

In Guwahati, financial planners observed that awareness of long-term savings and retirement schemes is rising among young professionals. However, most still rely on traditional instruments like

fixed deposits and gold rather than diversified financial products, indicating room for deeper financial literacy and investment diversification in Assam's urban segment. Axis Max Life MD & CEO Sumit Madan said IRIS 5.0 marks a "clear shift toward holistic retirement planning," emphasising the need for advisory-led and inclusive financial solutions.

## IDBI flags RCom as fraud

ANIL AMBANI Group company Reliance Communications (RCOM) has informed the exchanges that IDBI Bank has declared the company's loan account as "fraud". In a letter dated October 29, IDBI Bank said it had reported the matter to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other actions will be initiated including submission a complaint.

## SBI Q2 profit, NII show growth

**Mumbai:** State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a net profit of Rs 20,159.67 crore, up 9.97% year-on-year (YoY), from Rs 18,331.44 crore. Net Interest Income (NII) stood rose 3.3% year-on-year to Rs 42,985 crore from Rs 41,620 crore in Q2FY25.

Revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,19,653.93 crore from Rs 1,13,870.56 crore in a year ago period. The PSU bank divested 13.18% of its equity holding in Yes Bank on 17 September at Rs 21.50 per share, generating a profit of Rs 4,593.22 crore. The bank had also divested entire 14.96% stake in Jio Payments Bank to Jio Financial Services for Rs 13.22 per share. SBI Chairman C.S. Setty noted that the bank's performance ex-



ceeded expectations, especially in managing deposit costs and maintaining asset quality. He also highlighted the role of digital platforms like YONO in driving customer acquisition and operational efficiency. The bank's stock responded positively to the results, hitting a 52-week high and closing at ₹954.60 after intraday gains. Analysts view the results as a sign of resilience amid tightening monetary conditions and expect SBI to maintain its growth trajectory in the coming quarters.

## Godrej renews Mumbai LitFest ties, champions inclusive literary voices

**Guwahati:** Renault India, the wholly owned arm of French automaker Renault Group, has reported robust wholesale figures of 4,672 units for October 2025, marking an impressive 21% year-on-year growth compared to 3,861 units sold in October 2024. This surge was fuelled by the successful launch of the new Triber and Kiger models, coupled with the favourable impact of the GST 2.0 reforms. Renault's performance outpaced the industry's overall growth rate of 17.3% for the month. On a sequential basis, the company also achieved a healthy 9.54% increase over September 2025, when it sold 4,265 units. Riding the wave of festive cheer, Renault witnessed a notable rise in



dealership footfall across the country. Enthusiastic customer response to its refreshed lineup translated into a retail milestone of 5,041 units in October 2025, as per VAHAN registration data—reflecting a 12.7% growth over the same period last year. Speaking on the company's strong sales performance, Mr. Francisco Hidalgo, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Renault India, said,

"October recorded a notable upswing in sales, driven by overwhelming customer response to the newly launched Triber and Kiger. The models have captured strong interest across urban and rural markets alike, reflecting renewed consumer confidence and vibrant demand during the festive season. We are confident this encouraging momentum will continue in the months ahead."



## BCCI rewards women's champions 51 crore

**New Delhi:** In a landmark gesture celebrating India's maiden ICC Women's World Cup victory, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of ₹51 crore for the national women's cricket team. The announcement was made on November 3, 2025, following India's historic win over South Africa in the final held at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. BCCI Secretary Devajit

Saikia confirmed that the reward will be distributed among the players, selectors, and support staff, including head coach Amol Muzumdar. "BCCI is elated and, without touching anything from the ICC kitty, will pay ₹51 crore as a reward to the Indian team," Saikia stated. The Indian team's triumph marks a watershed moment in the history of women's cricket in the country.

## Alexander-Arnold defends Liverpool loyalty despite Anfield jeers

**Madrid:** Real Madrid defender Trent Alexander-Arnold has stated that his affection for Liverpool remains undiminished despite the prospect of a hostile reception at Anfield. The England international, who joined Real Madrid earlier this year after the expiry of his contract with Liverpool, is set to face his former club in a high-stakes UEFA Cham-



pions League group stage match on Tuesday. Alexander-Arnold, a product

of Liverpool's youth academy, enjoyed a decorated spell with the Merseyside club, winning two Premier League titles, the Champions League, and the Club World Cup. His departure to Real Madrid was one of the most talked-about transfers of the summer, sparking mixed reactions among Liverpool supporters. Speaking ahead of the match, Alexander-Arnold acknowledged the emotional complexity of returning to Anfield.

## PCA rewards Harmanpreet, Amanjot

**Mohali:** The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) has announced a cash reward of ₹11 lakh each for Harmanpreet Kaur and Amanjot Kaur in recognition of their outstanding contributions to India's historic triumph in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. The announcement was made shortly after India clinched its maiden ODI World Cup title, marking a landmark moment in the nation's sporting history.



## England defeat sparked India's winning spirit

India edged out by England, narrowly

**Mumbai:** India's Women's Cricket Team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has revealed that the team's narrow defeat to England during the group stage of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 served as a pivotal moment in their championship journey. Speaking after India's historic title win, Harmanpreet emphasized how the setback galvanized the squad, fostering introspection, unity, and renewed determination.

India had lost to England by just 3 runs in a tense group-stage match, which exposed key vulnerabilities in middle-order batting and death-over bowling. According to Harmanpreet, the team used the loss

as a learning opportunity, holding internal reviews and making strategic adjustments that proved crucial in the knockout stages. Following the defeat, India bounced back with commanding wins against Australia and New Zealand, eventually defeating South Africa in the final to claim their maiden ICC Women's World Cup title. Harmanpreet praised the team's resilience and credited the coaching staff for instilling belief and tactical clarity. "The England match was a wake-up call," Harmanpreet said. "It reminded us that talent alone isn't enough; we needed sharper execution and mental toughness. That loss transformed us."

## India Win ICC women's World cup 2025

**Mumbai:** In a historic triumph, the Indian Women's Cricket Team secured their first-ever ICC Women's World Cup title by defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final held on November 2, 2025, at the Dr. DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Batting first, India posted a formidable total of 298 for 7 in 50 overs. The innings was anchored by Shafali Verma, who scored a brilliant 87 off 78 balls, supported by Deepti Sharma with 58 runs, and Smriti Mandhana contributing 45 runs. South Africa's Ayabonga Khaka was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 wickets for 58 runs.

In response, South Africa began steadily but faltered under pressure. Despite a



valiant 101-run knock by Laura Wolvaardt, the team collapsed from 209/5 to 246 all out, falling short of the 299-run target. Deepti Sharma led the bowling attack with a match-winning 5-wicket haul for 39 runs, while Shafali Verma chipped in with 2 wickets for 36 runs. Deepti Sharma was named Player of the Series for her all-round per-

formance throughout the tournament, amassing 215 runs and 22 wickets. Shafali Verma was awarded Player of the Match for her decisive contributions in the final. This victory marks a watershed moment for Indian women's cricket, ending a long wait for World Cup glory and showcasing the team's growing dominance on the global stage.

## MAXWELL'S HEROICS SEAL AUSTRALIA'S OPENING WIN

### Australia beat India by 4 wickets, lead series

**Melbourne:** Australia secured a commanding four-wicket victory over India in the first T20 International of the series held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match contest. The hosts chased down India's competitive total with five balls to spare, showcasing depth in their batting and composure under pressure.

India, batting first after losing the toss, posted a total of 172 for 6 in 20 overs. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav led the charge with a fluent 58 off 38 balls, supported by Rinku Singh's quickfire 34. Despite a promising start, India's middle order faltered



against Australia's disciplined bowling attack, led by Pat Cummins and Adam Zampa. In response, Australia's top order laid a solid foundation, with opener Travis Head scoring a brisk 45 and Mitchell Marsh contributing 39. The chase was

anchored by Glenn Maxwell, whose unbeaten 42 off 26 balls sealed the win. India's bowlers struggled to contain the scoring in the death overs, with Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel proving expensive. The match witnessed a packed crowd

and high-energy performances, setting the tone for a competitive series. Australia's fielding was sharp, and their tactical execution in both innings drew praise from analysts. The second T20 will be played in Sydney on November 2, where India will look to bounce back and level the series. The match drew a packed crowd and delivered high-octane entertainment, with both sides displaying flashes of brilliance. Australia's fielding and game awareness were lauded, while India will look to regroup and address their bowling concerns ahead of the second T20 in Sydney on November 2.

## Ilamparthi becomes India's 90th chess Grandmaster

**Chennai:** In a landmark achievement for Indian chess, 16-year-old Ilamparthi A.R. from Chennai has officially become the country's 90th Grandmaster after securing his final GM norm at the Bijeljina Open 2025 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The young prodigy's accomplishment marks a new milestone in India's rapid ascent in global chess rankings. Ilamparthi's journey to the Grandmaster title has been marked by consistent excellence and resilience. He earned his first GM norm at the Ha Noi tournament in Vietnam in December 2023, followed by his second at the Singapore International Open in 2024.



He crossed the crucial 2500 Elo rating threshold during the Rilton Cup (2024-25), and sealed his final norm at the Bijeljina Open this October. A former World U-14 Open champion, Ilamparthi is the 35th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu, a state widely regarded as the cradle of Indian chess. He trains under Grandmaster Shyam Sundar at Velammal School and is a part of Viswanathan Anand's WestBridge Anand Chess Academy.

