

COCOMI submits memo to PM against claims by Kuki groups on Manipur hill areas

Imphal: The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a joint body of Meitei civil society organisations, has submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, refuting claims made by the United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) on Manipur's hill areas. "The assertion that the hill areas of Manipur were never under the rule of the Maharaja of Manipur is a deliberate misrepresentation of historical and legal facts, specifically designed to justify the demand for a separate Kuki administrative territory," COCOMI convenor Khuraijam Athouba stated in the memorandum to the Prime Minister.

Representatives of the UPF and KNO had made the claims during meetings with Union home ministry officials earlier this month in New Delhi. "On the contrary, historical records, the Manipur State Darbar Rules (1907), and post-independence judicial rulings (1963 and 1979) unequivocally affirm that the entire territory of Manipur, including the hill areas,

remained under the continuous and lawful jurisdiction of the state and its successors," Athouba said. COCOMI emphasised that the presence of Kuki groups in Manipur was a colonial-era development and that owing to the absence of pre-colonial continuity, the claim of Kuki indigeneity did not meet internationally recognised standards. Further, the committee stated that the term "Kuki" is a colonial construct, used by British administrators as a blanket label for multiple clans of the Chin-Lushai region. Such categorisation, it stated, cannot serve as the basis for claims of ancestral land rights. COCOMI has urged the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs to reject the claims made by KNO and UPF, labeling them colonial-era constructs lacking historical, legal, and cultural legitimacy. It warned that accepting such demands would undermine Manipur's territorial integrity and the rightful claims of its indigenous communities, violating constitutional and administrative continuity.

UPF-KNO dismiss news report on Kuki-Zo MLAs joining govt in Manipur

Imphal: Kuki groups, United Peoples' Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) have objected to a local news report alleging that Kuki-Zo MLAs have decided to join the formation of a "popular Ministry" in place of the existing President's Rule in Manipur. A local newspaper had, on November 16, published a news report with the headline, "Kuki-Zo MLAs decide to join formation of popular Ministry," drawing flak from the Kuki groups and legislators, who have termed the headline misleading and factually incorrect. "We strongly and unequivocally refute the news report published on November 16, 2025, alleging that Kuki-Zo MLAs have decided to

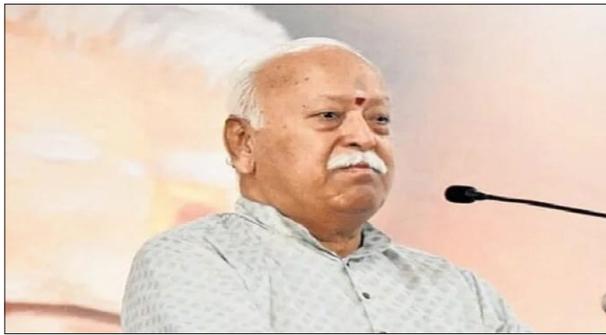
join the formation of a "popular Ministry" in place of the existing President's Rule. No such decisions were taken, nor was any commitment made to be part of any future government formation," a statement issued by the information and publicity department of UPF and KNO, said.

"While a general conference of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) was held on November 15, 2025, to discuss critical issues, no official resolution or decision was passed committing the Kuki-Zo MLAs to join a future popular government. The discussion focused primarily on the urgent demand for a UT with Legislature," it clarified. The groups stated that the report misrepresented

the internal deliberation. "The question of joining a Ministry was debated at length with strong views expressed, with many representatives strongly asserting that Kuki-Zo MLAs should not join any popular Ministry until the Government of India provides an unequivocal statement regarding the objective for UT with legislature," it stated. "Any discussion concerning a future Ministry was strictly contingent upon progress on this core political objective and did not result in a binding decision to participate in government formation under the current circumstances," it further clarified. Kuki-Zo leaders reject ministry claim, reaffirm political demand priority.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat arrives in Guwahati on 5-day tour to Assam and Manipur

Guwahati: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat arrived in Guwahati today on a five-day visit to Assam and Manipur. During the visit, he will interact with eminent personalities, youth, and community leaders to discuss key societal and developmental initiatives as part of the Sangh's centenary celebrations. After his arrival, he visited



the RSS state headquarters in Guwahati this evening and held discussions with its members. On Tuesday,

Bhagwat is scheduled to address a citizens' meet where prominent litterateurs, editors and industrialists will participate in discussions, a RSS spokesperson said. Bhagwat will address a youth meet on Wednesday, which will be attended by people from different walks of life, he said. He will leave for Manipur on November 20, the spokesperson added. (EOM).

BJP plans triple attack on Bengal

New Delhi: In a decisive move to expand its political footprint in West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has unveiled a comprehensive three-pronged strategy aimed at dislodging the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The plan, revealed in mid-November 2025, reflects the party's intensified focus on the eastern state following its electoral success in Bihar. The first pillar of the BJP's strategy involves targeted outreach to non-Muslim minority communities, including Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. Recognizing that a significant portion of the Muslim vote—estimated at around 30% of the electorate—is likely to remain loyal to the TMC, the BJP is recalibrating its approach to consolidate support among other religious groups that have traditionally remained outside its core voter base. The second component centers on narrative control. BJP strategists aim to shape the political discourse in the state proactively, positioning the party as a credible alternative to the TMC. This involves deploying high-profile national leaders to an-



chor campaign efforts and amplify messaging that resonates with local sentiments. The party is also working to resolve internal differences within its Bengal unit and reinforce organizational discipline.

The third and most assertive leg of the strategy is a legal and administrative offensive against alleged TMC strongmen. The BJP is reportedly compiling dossiers on key figures within the TMC accused of using muscle power to influence local politics. These dossiers are expected to be used to initiate legal proceedings and administrative actions, thereby weakening the TMC's grassroots machinery. Senior BJP leaders—including Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, and IT Cell head Amit Malviya—have been entrusted with overseeing the campaign.

Manipur governor orders crackdown on drug trafficking networks

Guwahati: Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Monday asked the security agencies to launch a crackdown on drug trafficking networks in the state.

The Governor chaired the 10th State Level Narco Co-ordination Centre (NCORD) meeting, where he reviewed emerging narcotics trends, illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation, and drug abuse in the State. The discussion underscored the urgent need for stronger inter-agency coordination and more robust, intelligence-led operations. The meeting also called for swift and decisive action against



illegal plantations to curb the growing drug menace. The chief secretary, the DGP and other senior officers, and representatives of law enforcement and security agencies were present at the meeting.

The meeting also decided to examine the use of state-of-the-art technologies, including scanners, surveillance systems, and other detection equipment, to curb the movement of narcotics. (EOM)

SC: No bail if timely-tryed

New Delhi: In a significant observation, the Supreme Court of India has suggested that accused individuals in cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) may not be granted bail if their trial is completed within six months. The remark was made by a bench led by Justice Surya Kant during a hearing on November 18, 2025. The court emphasized the need for exclusive NIA courts to ensure swift trials in cases involving national security. It noted that if the judicial process is expedited and concludes within a reasonable timeframe, the rationale for granting bail diminishes.



3 radio-tagged amur falcon begins transoceanic journey

Imphal: Three amur falcons (*Falco amurensis*) fitted with radio transmitters in Manipur's Tamenglong district have begun their uninterrupted 3,000-km transoceanic flight. Amur falcons are pigeon-sized raptors known for their impressive annual migration. These birds travel up to 22,000 km yearly, flying from eastern Asia to Southern Africa and back. They gather in northeastern India, particularly in Nagaland and Manipur, forming massive flocks exceeding 100,000 birds for rest and feeding. Dr. Suresh Kumar of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, who is monitoring their migratory route, confirmed that the latest signals showed the birds were flying over the Arabian Sea. The three



Amur Falcons -- Apapang, Ahu and Alang -- were successfully tagged with satellite transmitters and released at the Chiuluan roosting site, Tamenglong in Manipur on November 11.

The three tagged falcons were named after their roosting villages and rivers in Tamenglong. This initiative,

led by the Tamenglong Forest Division, Forest Department, Manipur, in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, aims to track the migratory journey of these incredible long-distance flyers and deepen our understanding of their global migration routes. The event witnessed the participation of forest officials, scientists, members of the Rainforest Club Tamenglong and volunteers from Chiuluan village -- all united in their prayer for the safe journey of the tagged falcons. The event witnessed the participation of forest officials, scientists, members of the Rainforest Club Tamenglong and volunteers from Chiuluan village -- all united in their prayer for the safe journey of the tagged falcons.

Mother, daughter die in Sivasagar blaze

Guwahati: A retired teacher and her daughter, who is also a school teacher, were charred to death, at their residence near the ONGC Colony in Sivasagar late last night. The bodies of Rupa Borgohain and her daughter Upasana have been recovered, police said. It is suspected that the mother and daughter died by suicide by setting their house ablaze, and further investigation is going on. It may be mentioned that Upasana, who is married to one Budyut Nath, had attempted suicide on May 10, 2024, by jumping from the roof of her husband's house, but she somehow survived with injuries, and since then she had been living with her mother. Police have recovered a purported suicide note near the charred bodies wherein the

mother-daughter duo blamed harassment by Upasana's estranged husband for taking this extreme step. Initial reports suggest that the fire may have been deliberately set, as investigators found signs indicating the use of inflammable substances. While the exact cause of the fire is yet to be confirmed, police sources indicated that a suicide pact is being considered as a possible motive. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, and forensic teams are examining the site for further evidence. Family members and neighbours have expressed shock over the incident, describing the duo as quiet and reserved. Authorities have launched a detailed investigation to ascertain the circumstances leading to the tragedy.

Tributes flood Zubeen's birthday

Guwahati: Messages remembering Zubeen Garg flooded the social media as fans and admirers of the iconic singer celebrated his first birthday after his tragic demise in Singapore on September 19 this year. "Remembering the versatile musical genius Zubeen Garg on his birthday. His music transcends boundaries," wrote West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on X. Singer Papon also paid tribute to his friend Zubeen with a message that says "missing you bondhu". Zubeen's fans gathered outside his Guwahati home at midnight for a poignant birthday celebration that was high on emotions. They cut a birthday while Zubeen's wife Garima and his father, Kapil Borthakur, unveiled a statue of the singer in front of their house.

Second phase of Tura beautification project to start soon: Conrad

Tura: Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma on Tuesday said the second phase of the Tura beautification project would start soon with a sum of Rs 16 crore allocated for the beautification of the Tura Bazar area. Sangma, who led the official flag hoisting ceremony at the P.A. Sangma Sports Complex in Tura, said the beautification of Tura Bazar would include street lights, pavement renovation transformation of the overall facade of Tura Super Market.

He said that in the third phase, beautification of the road starting from Araimile Junction till the end of the P.A. Sangma Road would be taken up. He also solicited cooperation for the Paint My City Campaign, under which buildings, boundary walls, retaining walls would be painted.



The Chief Minister also highlighted the infrastructure that has been constructed as well as coming up in the Dakopgre area. "Dakopgre is a very important area of Tura town with a lot of developmental activities and infrastructures taking place here," he said. He informed that works for the additional secretariat are going on in full swing. "Next to the MPSC office building that was inaugurated last week, work is

underway for a convention centre that will be an important venue to host important small to medium scale events and gatherings," he said.

The Chief Minister also informed that an important infrastructure will come up where the old Orchid Hotel was in Dakopgre and said, "The first five-star hotel of Tura, by the Hilton Group, will be an important infrastructure and we expect this

hotel to be completed within 24 months." Informing about the readiness of Tura town for the National Games in 2027, the Chief Minister said, "Work for the extension of Pa Togan Nengminja Stadium for constructing additional galleries and other facilities is ongoing while works are going on as we speak for the Multi-Disciplinary Indoor Stadium next to P A Sangma Stadium and also for Sunny Hill Indoor Stadium."

The Chief Minister further urged the citizens of Tura town to cooperate and support the initiatives of the government especially the beautification projects. "It is the responsibility of every citizen to keep Tura town clean without which all the other developmental projects or infrastructures will be meaningless," he said.

Nagaland University unveils high-yield ginger variety

Lumami: Nagaland University researchers have developed a new ginger variety that consistently delivers superior yield, dry matter recovery and culinary quality, making it a high-value option for farmers, the fresh produce market, and the spice-processing industry. Take up under the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Spices, located in Nagaland University, SAS-KEVÜ emerged after nearly a decade of scientific evaluation and extensive multi-location testing across seven AICRP centres in India. The research was led by Prof. C. S. Maiti and Dr. Graceli I. Yephthomi from the School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University. The SAS-KEVÜ was formally notified by the Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties (Horticultural Crops), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and published



in the Gazette of India (No. CG-DL-E-04092025-265957) on 2nd September 2025. With a yield potential of 17.21 tonnes per hectare, SAS-KEVÜ outperformed the national check variety by more than nine per cent in national demonstrations. Its dry recovery rate of 21.95 per cent offers a strong advantage for processors looking for higher output during drying. The rhizomes exhibit a soft texture, bold size and lemon-yellow flesh with significantly lower fibre, enhancing both consumer appeal and suitability for pickles, beverages, culinary use and value-added products.

Clause implementation: Assam Accord panel to submit final report to CM soon

Guwahati: The Sub-Committee on Implementation of Clauses of the Assam Accord is set to present its final report to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma within the next few days. This was informed by Assam minister of Implementation of Assam Accord department Atul Bora after chairing the seventh meeting of the Sub-Committee on

Implementation of Clauses of the Assam Accord at Janata Bhawan here on Monday. The minister had taken part in a discussion with the leadership of the All-Assam Students' Union (AASU) and senior officials from the Implementation of Assam Accord Department, Government of Assam. "The Assam government continues its unwavering



dedication to protecting the rights of Assam's indigenous

communities and advancing their comprehensive development. A key aspect of this effort is the focused execution of the Clauses of the historic Assam Accord — a top priority for our government," Bora stated. The meeting saw the presence of Sub-Committee members — AASU Chief Advisor Samujjal Bhattacharjya, AASU president Utpal Sarma

and general secretary Samiran Phukan — along with Commissioner and Secretary G.D. Tripathi, Joint Secretary Arup Pathak, and other senior officials of the Implementation of Assam Accord Department. The state government has stepped up efforts to implement the long-overdue provisions of the historic Assam Accord.



Godrej Industries Group reaffirms partnership with Mumbai LitFest; 16th edition to spotlight global voices and inclusion

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group has announced the continuation of its partnership with Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest, as the festival enters its 16th edition. Scheduled to take place from November 7 to 9 at NCPA, Nariman Point, the three-day literary celebration will host over 120 renowned writers, thinkers, and performers from more than 10 countries.

The festival will feature a diverse range of sessions,

including the Great Debate, Book in Focus, children's events under The Little Festival, and an array of workshops. Godrej DEI Lab will also curate special sessions highlighting themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This year, the LitFest strengthens accessibility with more than 15 sessions supported by Indian Sign Language interpretation and a sensory-friendly tent designed for neurodivergent children,

equipped with tactile materials, soft seating, and trained facilitators. In Guwahati, literary enthusiasts and book retailers in the city expect increased demand for new titles and author-driven events following the Mumbai festival. With growing interest in cultural and literary engagement in the Northeast, bookstores and academicians in Guwahati anticipate the LitFest's impact to inspire similar creative forums locally. Godrej Chair-

person Nadir Godrej said the festival celebrates Mumbai's storytelling spirit, while festival co-director Amy Fernandes praised its evolution into a hub of ideas and inspiration. Prestigious awards including Fiction, Non-Fiction, Business, and Playwriting categories will be presented, alongside Poet Laureate and Lifetime Achievement honours for Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Vinod Kumar Shukla respectively.

Q2 GDP: SBI Forecasts 7.5%

Mumbai: SBI's Economic Research Department has pegged second quarter (Q2FY26) real GDP growth at 7.5 per cent, with the possibility of an upside surprise. The bank's economists, in a report, said growth is supported by a pick-up in investment activities, recovery in rural consumption, and buoyancy in services and manufacturing, underpinned by structural reforms like GST rationalisation that also helped unleash a festive spirit that decisively showcased the triumph of hope over hype.

Johnson's Baby rebrands with eco packs, Kapoor-led campaign

New Delhi: Johnson's Baby, the world's No.1 baby care brand, has announced a major brand transformation with upgraded skin-science-based formulations, refreshed sustainable packaging, and the launch of its new campaign "It's Pure Love" featuring Anil and Sonam Kapoor. The relaunch reflects the brand's philosophy—"Better for Baby, Better for Mum, and Better for the Planet." The new range offers gentle, 100% doctor-tested formula-

tions enriched with natural ingredients like Aloe Vera, Vitamin B5, milk protein, and turmeric. Designed to nourish delicate skin, the upgraded line promises up to 72 hours of moisturization and triple protection against germs, dryness, and irritation. The packaging now uses 50% post-consumer recycled plastic and introduces 'The Iconic Drop' mascot to symbolize love and care.

Conceptualized by FCB Group India, the "It's Pure

Love" campaign highlights the emotional bond between mothers and babies, brought to life through the Kapoor duo. In Guwahati, Johnson's Baby continues to be a household favorite, with rising demand for dermatologically safe and eco-conscious baby care products. Local distributors anticipate the brand's sustainable innovations will strengthen its presence among young urban parents in Assam and the Northeast.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds scales hunger free world initiative globally, targets Ethiopia next

Guwahati: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, India's leading jewellery retailer and the world's fifth largest, has announced the expansion of its flagship Hunger Free World initiative to Ethiopia, following successful implementations in India and Zambia. The program, which provides over 115,000 meals daily across 119 locations globally, aims to reach 10,000 children in Ethiopia by 2026, with an investment of USD 864,000 covering school meals, infrastructure, scholarships, and educational development programs. The expansion was formally announced at Malabar International Hub, Dubai Gold Souq, where Vice Chairman Abdul Salam K.P handed over the Letter of Intent to H.E. Asmelash Bekele, Consul General of Ethiopia in Dubai. "Access to daily nutrition transforms communities. Our mission in Ethiopia reflects our commitment to holistic development and

sustainable impact," Mr. Salam said. The initiative aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals on zero hunger, quality education, and partnerships for sustainable growth. In Guwahati, where Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates multiple showrooms, the program has strengthened its market presence and community engagement. Local management reports over 5,000 meals served daily to children across Assam, reinforcing the brand's reputation for social responsibility. Business analysts note that such initiatives not only enhance Malabar's corporate image but also drive consumer loyalty and long-term market growth in the Northeast. With a \$7.36 billion turnover and a strong retail network spanning 14 countries, Malabar continues to set benchmarks for corporate social responsibility and ESG-driven business practices.

Tata AIA launches AI engine to streamline insurance underwriting experience

Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched its cutting-edge Underwriting Rule Engine (URE), a digital innovation aimed at making life insurance faster, simpler, and more transparent for consumers. The URE leverages machine learning, generative AI, and big data analytics to automate the traditionally manual underwriting process. It analyses applicants' medical and lifestyle data in real time, generating instant risk assessments and approvals without human intervention. This advancement enables policies that previously took weeks to process to be issued within hours. Key benefits of URE include faster approvals, minimal paperwork, fewer medical tests, and greater transparency through real-time updates. Sanjay Arora, Chief of Operations at Tata AIA, said the initiative reinforces the company's commitment to consumer-centric innovation and operational excellence, setting new benchmarks in the in-



urance industry. Aizawl is witnessing growing consumer interest in digital insurance services, with tech-driven processes like Tata AIA's URE expected to boost trust and accessibility among urban professionals and small business owners seeking seamless policy issuance. Tata AIA also reported an impressive claim settlement ratio of 99.41% in FY 2024-25 and ranked #1 in four out of five persistency cohorts, reaffirming its industry leadership.

Godrej Agrovet invests 70 crore to expand Andhra dairy, palm network

Guwahati: Godrej Agrovet Limited has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Government to invest ₹70 crore in expanding its dairy processing capacity and setting up new Samadhan Centres for oil palm farmers. The MoU was formalised in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Godrej Agrovet MD & CEO Sunil Kataria and Rakesh Swami, Group President - Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group. Lauding the collaboration, Chief Minis-

ter Naidu said strengthening the agri-food processing sector is essential for farmer prosperity. He expressed confidence that Godrej Agrovet's involvement will enhance the agricultural ecosystem and generate sustainable livelihoods. Kataria said the company remains committed to empowering farmers and advancing India's nutrition landscape.

The expansion will take place through Creamline Dairy Products Limited, which sells products under the Godrej Jersey brand. Additionally, five new Samadhan Centres will pro-

vide farmers with tools, knowledge and services across the oil palm crop cycle.

In Guwahati, the move reflects growing investor confidence in India's agri-business sector, with analysts noting that increased dairy processing capacity in southern India often improves product flow toward northeastern markets. Guwahati—one of the region's fastest-growing consumption hubs—is likely to see improved availability of packaged dairy products as national brands expand production.

Vi introduces family IR plan to meet global travel connectivity demand surge

Mumbai: Vi has announced an industry-first Family International Roaming (IR) proposition as India witnesses a sharp rise in outbound travel. According to the India Tourism Data Compendium 2025, outbound travel grew 10.79% in 2024, with 30.89 million Indians flying abroad.

Market reports show that 59% of Indians travel with a spouse or partner, while 26% prefer travelling with family, prompting telecom players to enhance global connectivity solutions. Vi's new Family IR offering introduces special discounts for secondary members on Family Post-



paid plans—10% for Vi Family users and 25% for REDX Family customers. The discounts apply to 10-, 14-, and 30-day IR packs starting at ₹2,999. Vi Family Postpaid plans begin at ₹701, with

the option to add up to eight members at ₹299 each. The operator is also pushing its REDX Family Plan at ₹1,601 per month for two members, featuring unlimited data, IR benefits, premium services, complimentary lounge access, and yearly IR pack discounts. Complementing its IR propo-

sition, Vi has partnered with Aditya Birla Health Insurance to provide a ₹40 lakh travel insurance cover at ₹285, and Blue Ribbon Bags to offer delayed baggage protection at ₹99. The company aims to position these add-ons as essential tools for worry-free international travel.



Rozgar Mela 2.0 opens in Siliguri with 10,000+ job offers, major firms drive strong hiring momentum

Guwahati: Rozgar Mela 2.0 opened to an overwhelming response on Saturday, with thousands of young jobseekers gathering as more than 60 top Indian companies launched recruitment for over 10,000 positions across banking, IT, manufacturing, tourism, aviation and healthcare. The mega fair, organised by the Darjeeling Welfare Society, is attracting candidates from North Bengal, the hills and neighbouring districts.

Major employers including HDFC, Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Hero MotoCorp, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Electronics, Taj Group, ITC, Indigo Airlines and Apollo Hospitals began their hiring activities with a 100% in-person selection process. Aspirants first underwent career counselling before participating in personal interviews, group discussions and screening rounds, ensuring clarity and smooth engagement with

recruiters. In Guwahati, recruiters say the surge seen in Siliguri mirrors expanding job demand across Assam's capital, particularly in BFSI, hospitality, aviation and electronics. Industry analysts note that large-scale multi-sector job fairs can strengthen regional labour mobility, helping Guwahati employers tap skilled candidates while boosting career opportunities across the Northeast. Rajya Sabha MP and Darjeeling Welfare Soci-

ety President Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the turnout reflects youth readiness for structured opportunities and aligns with the Prime Minister's Viksit Bharat vision. MPs Shri Samik Bhattacharya and Shri Jayanto Kumar Roy, along with Shri Ram Lal Ji, lauded the initiative for bridging talent and industry needs. With several candidates receiving on-spot offers, organisers expect an even larger turnout on Day 2.

Bajaj General Insurance uncovers Rs 25-crore motor accident fraud

Pune: Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited) has detected a ₹25-crore motor accident insurance fraud, highlighting the growing need for vigilance in India's insurance sector. The fraud involved a fabricated FIR and misleading documentation submitted to the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Bhuj, Gujarat. The alleged driver had claimed a fatal accident in a Mahindra Xylo, seeking compensation of ₹25 crore through the deceased co-driver's legal heirs. Upon receiving the court summons, Bajaj General Insurance launched a

comprehensive internal investigation, reviewing the FIR, chargesheet, post-mortem report, spot panchamas, and vehicular documents. Suspicions of deliberate fabrication prompted the company to petition the Gujarat High Court, which appointed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the CID Crime Branch. The SIT confirmed that the incident was staged and that the accused had submitted fabricated evidence to support the claim. Following the findings, Bajaj General Insurance filed an FIR against both the driver and insured for conspiracy and attempted fraud.

BSNL loss deepens sharply

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has continued its loss trajectory for the second straight quarter in the current financial year after a brief return to profitability in last two quarters of fiscal 2025. In the September quarter, BSNL reported a net loss of ₹1,357 crore, wider than ₹1,048 crore in the preceding quarter and the ₹1,241.7 crore it lost in the year-ago quarter, the company's financial statements dated 14 November show. BSNL's widening losses stem from rising depreciation, network, and finance costs.

TVS RONIN marks Children's Day with youth safety campaign

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company, a leader in the two- and three-wheeler segment, reinforced its commitment to road safety this Children's Day with the launch of "The Art of Protection" initiative at KidZania, Noida, from November 14-16. The event, part of the TVS Racing x KidZania India experience, engaged over 10,000 children and parents with interactive workshops designed to instill safe riding habits and responsible behavior on roads. Since 2023, the collaboration has empowered over 258,000

participants through immersive, hands-on activities. Highlights of the event included the TVS RONIN Art Gallery, showcasing helmets adorned with Indian folk art, a helmet-painting competition for children, interactive games, quizzes, and a collaborative canvas-wall activity. A 'TVS RONIN Little Artists' social media contest further promoted engagement, blending creativity with safety awareness. Speaking at the event, Vimal Sumbly, Head of Business - Premium, TVS Motor Company, said, "Awareness

is the foundation of true road safety. Our aim is to inspire the next generation to value protection, responsibility, and empathy both on and off the road."

In Guwahati, local dealerships report growing interest in road safety initiatives among parents and young riders, with schools and riding clubs increasingly supporting helmet safety and educational programs. The campaign is expected to boost awareness of responsible riding and reinforce TVS RONIN's presence in the Northeast market.

Reliance Snaps Up 1 Million Barrels of Crude Oil in Kuwait Deal

Mumbai: Reliance Industries has purchased 1 million barrels of heavy crude from Kuwait Petroleum Corp via a tender, four trade sources said. Last week, KPC issued a tender to sell crude oil that the Al-Zour refinery is unable to process because of unplanned maintenance after a fire. The cargoes - 500,000 barrels of Kuwait Heavy Crude for loading on December 6 to December 7 and the same volume of Eocene crude for loading on December 8 to December 9 - were awarded to Reliance, the people said. The prices for the purchase were not immediately clear. Reliance industries halted Russian oil purchases last month after Russian producers Rosneft and Lukoil were sanctioned by the United States. The Indian refiner has bought at least 12 million barrels of spot crude from the Middle East and the Americas, Reuters has reported.



India eyes Latin America growth, deepens ties with Ecuador, Bolivia and Cuba



Guwahati: India is strategically expanding its footprint in Latin America as Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita completed visits to Ecuador, Bolivia, and Cuba, aimed at boosting diplomatic, trade, and investment relations. The tour, which began on November 4 in Quito, Ecuador, coincided with India's focus on enhancing collaboration across agriculture, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, textiles, health, phar-

maceuticals, and tourism. In Ecuador, MoS Margherita inaugurated India's resident Embassy in Quito alongside Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld and signed a MoU between India's and Ecuador's diplomatic training institutions. Bilateral discussions with President Daniel Noboa Azin and other officials emphasized strengthening trade, investment, and cultural cooperation. In Bolivia, the Minister attended the inauguration of President

Rodrigo Paz Pereira, inaugurated the Indian Embassy's new Chancery in La Paz, and opened India House, the ambassador's official residence. Meetings with Bolivian business associations highlighted opportunities in minerals, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and tourism, signaling potential for expanded bilateral commerce. In Guwahati, these developments are expected to create new export channels for Assam's key sectors such as tea, handicrafts, and pharmaceuticals. Local traders and entrepreneurs anticipate that enhanced India-Latin America relations could lead to increased foreign investment, technology sharing, and trade growth, further strengthening the regional economy.

Govt boosts tribal trade with global investment push initiatives

New Delhi: The Indian government unveiled a series of initiatives to promote tribal products in domestic and international markets at the Tribal Business Conclave 2025. Union Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, addressing the event alongside Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram, emphasized the vision of transforming "Van Dhan to Vyapar Dhan," aiming to strengthen market access and empower tribal communities. Organized by DPIIT in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the conclave coincided with Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda. Key announcements included the launch of the Gramya Yuva

Arth Niti (GYAN) Lab for tribal enterprise innovation, the Tribal Affairs Grand Challenge for startups, and distribution of Geographical Indication (GI) certificates recognizing unique tribal crafts nationwide. Over 250 tribal enterprises and 100 startups showcased products on the "Roots to Rise" platform, attracting investment commitments exceeding Rs. 10 crore and generating more than 1,500 direct jobs. The conclave also highlighted the government's efforts to improve export promotion channels, provide incubation support, and enhance the visibility of tribal enterprises, positioning India's indigenous products for both domestic growth and global recognition.

Contrasting EdTech Giants: The Strategies That Drove PhysicsWallah's Success and Led to Byju's Decline

New Delhi: Edtech company PhysicsWallah Ltd's listing is one of the sector's most telling turnarounds. It's a business that is rising amongst many that didn't. PhysicsWallah is entering the public market with a valuation of Rs 31,170 crore, while the industry's former poster child, BYJU'S, faces insolvency proceedings and regulatory ac-

tion. On the eve of PhysicsWallah's biggest show, Byju's issued a media statement over the fund siphoning allegations. But before we delve into comparing the fortunes of two edtech giants of India, let's start from where it all began. COVID turned out to be both a boon and a bane for India's Edtech market, which saw India's

mammoth coaching industry go online. Between 2020 and 2022, edtech apps became a household name, and venture capital poured in at a record pace. But within two years, as physical schools reopened and digital fatigue set in, user engagement plateaued, funding dried up, and valuations were recalibrated to more realistic levels.



Norton Motorcycles rides global resurgence wave with Manx and Atlas Models at EICMA 2025

Guwahati: Norton Motorcycles, under TVS Motor Company, unveiled its bold resurgence strategy at EICMA 2025, introducing four all-new models — Manx, Manx R, Atlas, and Atlas GT. The relaunch is backed by over £200 million in investments at Norton's Solihull manufacturing facility, a 25% workforce expansion, and plans to establish a global retail network

of more than 200 showrooms across the UK, USA, India, and Europe. The launch is complemented by a dynamic new logo, blending Norton's heritage with a modern global outlook. The Manx and Manx R represent Norton's pinnacle in sports motorcycles, combining emotional design, technical innovation, and real-world performance, while the Atlas and Atlas GT ad-

venture bikes are engineered for versatility on and off-road. The resurgence strategy reflects Norton's commitment to design, dynamics, and detail, aiming to create the world's most desirable motorcycles. In India, Guwahati is emerging as a key market for Norton's expansion. With rising interest in premium motorcycles in the Northeast, local dealers anticipate strong demand for

the Manx and Atlas models. TVS plans to leverage its nationwide distribution network to ensure service excellence and availability, positioning Guwahati as a strategic hub for premium motorcycle sales in the region. With this revival, Norton Motorcycles is set to merge its 127-year legacy with modern luxury and global scale, targeting discerning riders worldwide.

RBI MuleHunter flags 20,000 monthly mules

Mumbai: MuleHunter.ai, an AI-enabled tool designed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), to detect and flag mule accounts in real-time, is detecting about 20,000 mule accounts every month, RBIH CEO Sahil Kini said on Tuesday. Speaking at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, he said that as the volume of digital transactions grows, so does the number of first-time users, thus increasing the chances of fraud unless there are protective systems put in place. So a mule account is an essential intermediary in the movement of fraudulent funds, Kini, who was earlier the co-founder of fintech infrastructure firm Setu, explained.

These are funds from financial frauds, from illegal gambling sites, or funds that are used for the financing of terrorism, and they are usually moved through a network of bank accounts. It moves like a spidering pattern through the banking system, and mule accounts are intermedi-



ary accounts that enable that. MuleHunter's AI models are analysing transaction patterns of over 20 banks. "We expect that in two months, that number will go up significantly. Over the last few months, we have detected over 85,000 mule accounts, and their accuracy is between 85-90%," he said. RBIH is also developing the United Lending Interface (ULI), which is the RBI's digital public infrastructure for the lending ecosystem, giving banks and NBFCs access to key financial and non-financial data of borrowers to make credit decisions more efficient. It helps lenders improve credit underwriting and disbursement, while allowing consumers to choose from a wider range of loan offers.

Eutelsat champions digital inclusion

New Delhi: Bharti Enterprises-backed Eutelsat OneWeb, one of the companies vying to offer satellite internet in India, said on Tuesday that the true economic value of satellite communication (satcom) services didn't lie in government revenue streams such as licence or spectrum fees, but in the long-term national benefits they would provide. Satcom's value lies beyond spectrum fees, regulators must recognize that.

Medanta unveils Northeast helpline as healthcare demand rises in key markets

New Delhi: The Medicity, Gurgaon, ranked India's Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for six consecutive years, has announced the launch of a dedicated helpline aimed at strengthening healthcare access across the Northeast. The helpline 8904395588, active from 8 am to 8 pm, will support patients with doctor selection, appointment bookings, and

travel and stay coordination, operating in Assamese, Bengali, Nagamese, English, and Hindi, with more languages planned. Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, said the initiative aligns with the institution's mission to ensure quality healthcare for underserved regions. "North East India has long faced challenges in accessing reliable

healthcare. With this service, we reaffirm our ethos—'Har Ek Jaan Anmol'," he said. Pankaj Sahni, Group CEO, said the helpline will enhance patient-centric services across Medanta hospitals. The hospital has also partnered with IDAN, Government of Nagaland, for a health awareness booklet and continues to offer specialty OPD services in Nagaland.

India Research Tour champions inclusive Northeast research

Itanagar: The India Research Tour 2025, one of the country's largest research outreach programs, arrived in Guwahati this week, engaging with leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and the OKD Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD). Organized by Springer Nature in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the tour aims to strengthen research capacity, inclusivity, and innovation across India, with a special focus on regions that have been historically underrepresented in national research narratives. Spanning 29 institutions across 15 cities in seven states from 6 October to 13 November, the initiative promotes Open Access and Open Science, encourages adoption of e-books, supports editorial board member recruitment, and highlights diversity and inclusion in research. Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi, Managing Director, Springer Nature India, said, "The Northeast holds unique perspectives and immense potential. By including institutions like IIT Guwahati and OKDISCD in this tour, we aim to provide researchers with the training, tools, and visibility they need to connect to the national and global research eco-



system. Inclusive participation is essential for India to achieve world-class research outcomes."

The India Research Tour 2025 in Guwahati spotlighted ethical research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and inclusive initiatives like ONOS and Her Research, Our Future. These programs aim to enhance accessibility, uphold integrity, and empower women and underrepresented groups. With its rich diversity and socio-economic potential, Northeast India offers fertile ground for research-driven development. The visit reaffirmed Springer Nature and the Ministry of Education's commitment to democratizing knowledge and fostering sustainable research culture. Following stops in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, the tour heads to Arunachal Pradesh, continuing its mission to nurture impactful, inclusive, and innovative research across India.

TRAI drive test highlights mobile network performance across Shillong, boost business connectivity

Shillong: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for Shillong city and East Khasi Hills district under the North-East Licensed Service Area (LSA). Conducted from September 1 to 5, 2025, the drive tests spanned 269.4 km of city routes, 9 hotspot locations, and 1.6 km of walk tests, assessing 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks

across urban, institutional, rural, and tourist areas. Key performance indicators included call setup success rate (CSSR), drop call rate (DCR), call setup time, speech quality, coverage, data download/upload speeds, latency, jitter, packet drop rate, and video streaming delay. The results showed CSSR for Airtel, BSNL, RJIL, and VIL at 96.34%, 73.63%, 99.12%, and 80.20%, respectively, while

DCR stood at 2.46%, 12.19%, 0.89%, and 3.49%. 5G services delivered maximum average download speeds of 157.15 Mbps and upload speeds of 10.89 Mbps in city drives. In Shillong, commercial hubs such as Police Bazaar, ISBT Mawlai-Mawiong, and other shopping districts benefited from robust mobile connectivity. High-speed 4G/5G networks have enabled smoother

digital transactions, mobile payments, and real-time communication, enhancing retail efficiency and customer experience for businesses across the city. The assessment covered key areas including Jorabat, Byrnihat, Umiam, Cherrapunji, Mawsynram, and tourist and institutional hotspots like Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, IIM Shillong, Ward's Lake, and Elephant Falls.

RBI resume bond buy

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has resumed purchase of government bonds after a gap of six months, as it infuses liquidity into the banking system via the secondary market, according to central bank data released on Friday. The RBI net bought bonds worth Rs 12,470 crore for the week ended November 7, and was on the bidding side for three of the four sessions for which data were published. The intervention has brought some relief among market participants. Speculation was rife last week that the RBI might have bought bonds, as there was a noticeable rise in purchases.

Banks see no pressure on profitability

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to extend the moratorium period for export credit, from 270 days to 450 days, is unlikely to hit banks' bottomlines. "These measures are at a much smaller scale, only targeting exporters who have some outstanding loans as of August 31," said a senior banker from a state-run bank. He highlighted that this is not comparable to the COVID-era moratorium, which covered a broader spectrum of loans and included additional credit guarantees. "Export credit is only a very, very small part of the overall bank loans portfolio, hardly Rs 2 lakh crore vis-à-vis Rs 170 lakh crore of



overall outstanding," he added. While banks may need to make a standard 5% provision on deferred loans, the impact on profitability is expected to be negligible. The scheme offers a four-month moratorium on export credit repayments due between August 31 and December 2025, with accrued interest payable by March 31, 2026. Most believe that these measures will provide a liquidity cushion for exporters grap-

pling with deferred orders and payment delays amid global trade disruptions. "It is simply a deferment of the payment, giving exporters sufficient time to look for an alternate buyer or location," added another banker. Analysts say the move, along with the Centre's export credit guarantee scheme, strengthens working-capital support at a time when Tier-2 and Tier-3 exporters are facing the brunt of weakening demand. Industries most affected by US tariffs, including textiles, clothing, leather, chemicals, plastics and machinery, stand to gain the most. At the same time, segments that are already structurally weak.



Mizoram woman becomes mother twice after kidney transplants

Aizawl: Aizawl: 37-year-old Lallianpuii from Aizawl has conceived naturally twice after undergoing two kidney transplants, delivering healthy children in 2023 and 2025 at Manipal Hospital EM Bypass, Kolkata. Her high-risk pregnancies were managed under the expert care of Dr. Rohit Rungta, Senior Consultant, Nephrology, and Dr. Shilpita Banerjee, Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Diagnosed with chronic kidney disease over a decade ago, Lallianpuii underwent her first transplant in 2012, followed by a second in 2020 due to graft rejection. Despite lifelong immu-



nosuppressive therapy, she defied medical odds to conceive naturally twice, giving birth to a healthy baby girl and later a 3.2 kg baby boy through cesarean section at 36+6 weeks, with stable kidney function throughout. Dr. Rungta highlighted the rarity

and complexity of consecutive pregnancies in transplant recipients, while Dr. Banerjee said the meticulous coordination required to balance medications and ensure fetal growth. Lallianpuii credited the medical team for her journey, calling it a source of hope and confidence for women battling chronic illnesses. In Aizawl, her story has resonated deeply with locals, sparking conversations on maternal health and the importance of advanced medical facilities. Hospitals and clinics in the city have reported increased inquiries from patients seeking guidance on managing high-risk pregnancies.

Canara Robeco launches Assam bus tour for investor education

Aizawl: Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited (AMC), India's second-oldest asset management firm, has launched its investor education initiative, the 'Nivesh Bus Yatra,' in Assam to raise awareness about mutual fund investments. The campaign will cover major cities, including Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, and Silchar, offering practical sessions to simplify investing, dispel myths, and promote long-term financial planning.

The initiative kicked off in Guwahati, a key financial and commercial hub in the Northeast. The Nivesh Bus engaged with residents at high-footfall public spaces and local markets, highlighting the benefits of systematic investment plans and mutual fund options. Local investors, including young professionals and small business owners, participated in interactive demonstrations and digital learning sessions, reflecting the growing appetite for structured investment products in the city. "In today's financial landscape, knowledge is as



powerful as understanding. An informed investor strengthens the broader financial ecosystem," said Rajnish Narula, MD & CEO, Canara Robeco AMC. The bus will next travel through Jorhat, Dibrugarh, and Silchar, bringing financial education to emerging and underserved communities. Gaurav Goyal, Head - Sales & Marketing, noted that the initiative leverages on-ground interactions to provide actionable guidance, helping investors adopt disciplined, long-term investment strategies. With the Nivesh Bus Yatra, Canara Robeco AMC reinforces its commitment to making financial literacy accessible and actionable across Assam.

Nissan celebrates Children's Day with 'Little Champs' to boost customer engagement

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India marked Children's Day with "Nissan Little Champs," a nationwide experiential learning initiative hosted across its service centres for children of Nissan owners. The programme drew 1,304 participants aged 10-15 years, offering an interactive, hands-on introduction to automotive basics, Nissan's innovation journey, and a guided "Walk Around" tour of workshop operations and the Nissan Magnite. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said the initiative was designed to foster early curiosity. "It was our way of celebrating the day by combining experi-



ential learning with fun while strengthening our bond with Nissan families," he said. Children also received certificates and Nissan-branded goodies at the end of the sessions. In Gu-

wahati, Nissan dealers reported robust participation, reflecting the city's growing appetite for structured brand-led engagement. With compact SUVs gaining steady traction in the

region, local dealers noted that initiatives like Little Champs help reinforce customer trust while expanding visibility for models such as the 5-star Global NCAP-rated Nissan Magnite. The initiative aligns with Nissan's broader child welfare efforts, including partnerships with Smile Train India—supporting 290 free cleft surgeries—and The Akshaya Patra Foundation, which enabled over 50 lakh mid-day meals in Delhi schools. Nissan also reaffirmed its global strategy with the Made-in-India Magnite now sold in 65 countries and preparations underway for the India launch of its new C-SUV, the Nissan Tekton.

Apollo Pharmacy marks milestone with 1000th store in East India



Guwahati: Apollo Pharmacy, India's largest and most trusted pharmacy network, has opened its 1000th store in East India, marking a major expansion milestone. The new outlet, launched in Darjeeling on November 17, will offer residents access to over 10,000 SKUs of genuine medicines and essential healthcare products. With this addition, Apollo now operates 1,000 pharmacies across West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Tripura, employing more than 7,500 people in the region. Of these, over 850 stores are in West Bengal, where the company has also recently rolled out quick medicine delivery services to enhance accessibility. In Guwahati, Apollo's strengthened presence is significant as the city continues to witness rising demand for reliable, round-the-clock healthcare services. Retailers in Guwahati say Apollo's expansion is expected to push overall market competition higher, improve availability of branded medicines, and accelerate adoption of faster delivery models. Healthcare consumers, too, are likely to benefit from better access to authentic medicines in a market known for its fast-growing urban population. Highlighting the milestone, P. Jayakumar, CEO of Apollo Pharmacy, said, "The opening of our 1000th pharmacy in East India marks an important step in our journey. We are strengthening our presence and ensuring people receive authentic medicines and quality care quickly and reliably." Apollo also continues to expand its omnichannel platform, Apollo 24/7, offering teleconsultations, diagnostics, and customised insurance services directly to users' homes.

Deeptech Faces Huge Customer Adoption Hurdle



Mumbai: Customer adoption is the primary challenge in the country facing deep technology startups across sectors from quantum security to semiconductors and space, even as early-stage capital, and talent has become readily available, according to founders. "People would rather stick with what they have and be unhappy with it rather than try something new," Deepak Shapeti, co-founder of Morphing Machines, a fabless semiconductor startup, said.

Montra Electric expands Northeast footprint with new e-3W dealership in Silchar

Silchar: Montra Electric, the EV arm of the 125-year-old Murugappa Group, has launched an exclusive electric three-wheeler (e-3W) dealership in Silchar, Assam, in collaboration with Sunbird Super Energy Private Limited. Strategically situated on Sonai Road, the 1200 sqft showroom with a 900 sqft workshop will retail Montra's SUPER AUTO (Passenger) and SUPER CARGO (Load Carrier) models. Both vehicles offer high-performance, extended range, and lower total cost of ownership, supported by a dedicated service bay, trained technicians, and ready spare parts for prompt after-sales service.



The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries, including MLAs Shri Khalin Uddin Mazumdar and Shri Karim Uddin Barbhaya. Montra Electric MD Jalaj Gupta emphasized Assam's rapid adoption of electric three-wheelers and reaffirmed the company's commitment to building a trusted EV ecosystem. Sunbird EV Dealer Principal Suhel Ahmed highlighted the company's customer-cen-

tric approach in driving Silchar toward greener mobility. In Silchar, local fleet operators and last-mile transport providers are increasingly transitioning to electric three-wheelers due to rising fuel costs and sustainability incentives. The new dealership is expected to meet growing demand, enhance urban connectivity, and support Assam's goal of becoming India's first state with 100% electric three-wheeler adoption. This launch marks Montra Electric's 12th dealership in Assam, strengthening its retail and service network as the company accelerates its mission for intelligent, sustainable mobility solutions across India.

Lilavati Trust Fraud: Mumbai Police to Summon Accused

Mumbai: Mumbai Police is likely to summon all accused in the Lilavati Hospital Trust case, says a CNBC-TV18 report. The report adds that the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing will summon all the accused in the case for questioning. The

Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police is investigating the case of financial fraud and misappropriation of funds of Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust. In July of this year, the trustees of the Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust,



SportEdge Meerut set to transform India's sports economy, boost entrepreneurship and exports

Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with SPEFL Skill Council and the British Asian Trust, has launched "SportEdge Meerut", a flagship initiative aimed at developing Meerut as India's model Sports Hub. The program seeks to strengthen livelihoods, empower women entrepreneurs, and nurture young sporting talent while leveraging Meerut's ₹1,500 crore sports goods industry, which contributes over 40% of India's exports. The workshop convened leaders from government, industry, finance, and development sectors, including



ADB, World Bank, Microsoft, ONGC Foundation, and SBI Foundation. Discussions focused on enhancing research and development, design innovation, technology adoption, and establishing stronger industry representation to meet global

standards. Experts stressed the need for affordable raw materials, upgraded certification systems, and innovation in product design to strengthen competitiveness and global positioning. In Guwahati, the initiative is expected to benefit the city's

retailers, distributors, and sports academies. Increased access to high-quality sports goods from Meerut will expand product portfolios, while skill development programs and partnerships with local institutions are anticipated to create entrepreneurial opportunities and support athlete training initiatives across Assam and the northeast. MSDE Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasized that SportEdge Meerut integrates sports, skills, and entrepreneurship into a sustainable engine for growth, aiming to transform local talent into a globally competitive workforce and promote women-led enterprises.

SBI MD: Govt Credit Guarantee Sought for Startups

Mumbai: Country's largest lender, the State Bank of India (SBI), is in talks with the government for having a credit guarantee scheme for risky, new-age sectors, its managing director Ashwini Kumar Tewari said on Monday.

SBI also wants the inclusion of green finance in priority sector lending mandate, but the RBI and the government are averse to the idea because of the crowding-out effects on other aspects, Tewari said. Speaking at the CII Finance Summit here, Tewari said SBI will soon be inaugurating a centre of excellence that will help not just itself but the broader universe of financiers with aspects like drafting policies on lending, assessing and pricing of risk, etc.

The CoE will focus on eight sectors, including electric vehicles, high-end solar technology, green hydrogen, green ammonia, batteries and data centre, he said. "We are telling the government to build in some guarantee schemes for the new age and riskier elements of the industry," he said, without elaborating on the specifics being sought. Tewari said the CoE will be interfacing with think tanks and multilateral institutions as well, and added that the bank has signed 20 MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding) in this regard. On the renewable energy front, Tewari said SBI has helped 3 lakh households install solar rooftops under a government scheme, and added that it is planning to take it to 5 lakh.

Cyient, SIDBI open Dimapur AI hub for Northeast talent

Dimapur: Cyient Foundation, the CSR arm of Cyient, has partnered with SIDBI Swavalamban Foundation to establish an AI & Future Skills Center of Excellence (CoE) at the Nagaland Tool Room & Training Centre (NTTC) in Dimapur. Inaugurated on November 15 by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and Cyient Founder Chairman Dr. BVR Mohan Reddy, the initiative aims to accelerate AI-driven skilling and employability in the North-East. Conceptualized and executed by Cyient Foundation, the CoE will

offer AI-integrated skilling programs across handloom, handicraft, software coding, robotics, and emerging technologies. Supported through SIDBI Swavalamban Foundation's CSR funding, the project includes state-of-the-art AI simulation labs and digital classrooms designed to bridge employability gaps and foster entrepreneurship. In Dimapur, industry stakeholders view the CoE as a catalyst for economic activity, expecting it to strengthen the local talent pool and support MSMEs, start-ups, and digital service providers. Traders believe the availability of skilled youth will boost

productivity, improve tech adoption, and expand opportunities in the region's growing innovation ecosystem. Dr. Reddy said the initiative reflects Cyient's commitment to using technology for social good and integrating AI into skilling for developing states. SIDBI DMD Sudatta Mandal added that the collaboration aims to build a scalable model for technology-led livelihood generation. The CoE will train 200-240 youth annually, with 75% expected to secure employment or self-employment, reinforcing national missions including Digital India, Skill India, and Viksit Bharat 2047.

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Norton's heritage with a modern global outlook. The Manx and Manx R represent Norton's pinnacle in sports motorcycles, combining emotional design, technical innovation, and real-world performance, while the Atlas and Atlas GT adventure bikes are engineered for versatility on and off-road. The resurgence strategy reflects Norton's commitment to design, dynamics, and detail, aiming to create the world's most desirable motorcycles. In India, Guwahati is emerging as a key market for Norton's

expansion. With rising interest in premium motorcycles in the Northeast, local dealers anticipate strong demand for the Manx and Atlas models. TVS plans to leverage its nationwide distribution network to ensure service excellence and availability, positioning Guwahati as a strategic hub for premium motorcycle sales in the region. With this revival, Norton Motorcycles is set to merge its 127-year legacy with modern luxury and global scale, targeting discerning riders worldwide.

JSW Cement Sells Algebra Endeavour to Nuvoco Vistas for Rs 191 Cr

Mumbai: JSW Cement has signed a Securities Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Nuvoco Vistas Corporation to sell its entire stake in Algebra Endeavour. The agreement, signed on Tuesday, November 17, also involves Alpha Alternatives Holdings, which is the second seller in the transaction.

According to the regulatory filing by JSW cement, the deal is valued at Rs 1,91,63,01,956, which will be paid as cash consideration. The transaction will be completed within 10 days from the fulfilment of all conditions precedent listed in the agreement. The company said the division does not contribute to its turnover, income or net worth. The SPA covers the transfer of 100% of Algebra Endeavour's securities held by both sellers to Nuvoco Vistas.

After acquisition, Algebra will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Nuvoco and will therefore be classified as a related party. Al-



gebra Endeavour is engaged in advisory and investment activities and, through its wholly owned subsidiary Vadraj Energy (Gujarat), owns power plants in Kutch and Surat. Nuvoco said these power facilities will be used for the company's captive power consumption. The share price JSW Cement has declined nearly 13.04% so far this year on BSE.

\$62 Silver Rally, ETFs Outperform

New Delhi: Silver is emerging as one of the most compelling tactical opportunities in the precious metals space, with Emkay Wealth Management projecting a sharp rebound in global prices and highlighting strong outperformance by Silver ETFs and Fund of Funds (FoFs) over physical silver.

In its latest outlook, Emkay said silver is poised to bounce back to \$52-53 per ounce in the near term, potentially advancing to \$58 and \$62 thereafter. The metal currently trades around \$48.80, following a brief correction triggered by profit-taking and easing US-China trade restrictions on critical minerals. According to Emkay, silver has built strong support at \$47.60, with additional layers at \$45.60 and \$42.00.

Norton unveils Manx R superbike with tech

Guwahati: Norton Motorcycles has officially unveiled the Manx R, the first of six models in its new line-up, signaling the company's renewed focus on the global premium superbike segment. The Manx R features an all-new 72-degree 1,200 cc V4 engine, semi-active Marzocchi suspension, Brembo Hypure brakes, carbon fibre panels and wheels, under-slung exhaust, and a single-sided swingarm. The bike's 8-inch touchscreen TFT cluster integrates smart connectivity, GoPro control, Bluetooth, and advanced rider-assist technologies including cornering cruise control, wheelie control, and slope-dependent braking. Designed for both road and track, the Manx R delivers 206 hp at 11,500 rpm with 130 Nm torque at 9,000 rpm, focusing on real-world usability rather than peak track-only performance. Norton's design philosophy emphasizes integration, modernity, drama, and connection, combining aesthetic appeal with functional engineering to offer riders a visceral and premium experience. Guwahati is witnessing a growing appetite for high-performance and luxury motorcycles. Dealers report early interest in the Manx R from enthusiasts seeking a blend of technology, design, and exclusivity. With rising disposable incomes and a niche but passionate customer base, premium motorcycles like the Manx R are expected to attract attention from urban riders and collectors in the region. With the Manx R, Norton aims to redefine the premium superbike segment, offering innovation, craftsmanship, and an emotionally engaging ride experience for discerning global and Indian customers alike.



Mbappe, PSG face off in multi-million lawsuit



Paris: The bitter dispute between Kylian Mbappe and his former club Paris Saint-Germain reached the French labour court on Monday for a tense hearing in which the France captain claimed 263 million euros (\$304m) and the club responded by demanding he pay them 440m euros. Both sides offered a long shopping list of grievances with price tags attached. PSG said they are basing their figure in part on a botched 300m-euro transfer to Saudi club Al Hilal which Mbappe refused in June 2023, and its aftermath. Mbappe left for Real Madrid on a free transfer when his contract expired the following summer. "We are indeed claiming 440 million euros," Renaud Semerdjian, one of the seven lawyers representing the PSG, told AFP after the hearing. Semerdjian said the figure included lost transfer revenue, compensation for damage to the club's image and for what the club said was a breach of an agreement they made with Mbappe after he refused to move to Saudi Arabia. Mbappe, absent on Monday but represented by four lawyers, says he made no agreement in 2023 to waive any payment from the club. The 26-year-old striker initially filed a complaint in June over the way he was treated by PSG at the start of the 2023-24 season. Mbappe argues that he was sidelined by the Qatari-owned club and made to train with players the club were trying to offload after refusing to agree a new contract. It is a widespread practice that in France prompted the players' union to lodge a complaint last year. Mbappe was not invited to take part in PSG's 2023 pre-season tour of Asia and missed the first game of that season but was later recalled to the team after holding talks with the club. He is also claiming the Parisian club are applying the wrong French legal classification to his contract. After seven seasons with PSG he joined Real Madrid where he earns a reported annual salary of 30m euros.

He scored 256 goals in 308 games for PSG but the club won the Champions League for the first time last season following the striker's departure. The tribunal will take several weeks to reach a decision which is expected on December 16.

Mahima Chaudhry Reveals That a Regular Check-Up Resulted in Her Breast Cancer Diagnosis: 'I Was Unaware'

Since Mahima Chaudhry revealed her breast cancer diagnosis in 2022, she has consistently spoken out about her fight against the illness. When she took the stage at the Young Women Breast Cancer Conference 2025, she did more than recount her personal experience — she delivered a crucial message. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022 during a routine examination without any symptoms, the actress is now encouraging all women to undergo early testing. Reflecting on the moment she found out, Mahima said, "There were no symptoms. I didn't go in for a breast cancer screening. I just went in for a yearly check-up. I had no clue I had breast cancer. Cancer is something that you can't recognise on your own early. It can only be detected early through tests. So if you keep going in for a yearly check-up, you will be able



to detect it early and seek early treatment." The shock of diagnosis came completely out of the blue. In speaking publicly now, Mahima wants her story to empow-

er others: women don't always feel "ill" when cancer strikes. As she put it, no symptoms means you can't rely on how you feel — you must act. Early detection, she believes, is the strongest weapon. She observed how treatment in India has also changed dramatically since her diagnosis. She said, "Since my diagnosis three to four years ago, there has been a huge difference in cancer treatment in India. Many generic medicines are much cheaper now, you get better support from pharmaceutical companies, and there's much more awareness of cancer... I got a lot of motivation by hearing the stories of other people fighting strongly against cancer." Her latest film, *The Signature*, and upcoming *Durlabh Prasad Ki Doosri Shaadi* may mark a return to the screen, but her message is clear: health comes first, and awareness can save lives.

Former Pakistan captain Ramiz says Babar Azam showed 'restraint' while facing personal criticism

Karachi: Pakistan's former captain Ramiz Raja has praised batter Babar Azam for showing patience and "restraint" despite allegedly facing intense criticism in recent years over his failure to live up to expectations. Babar broke a streak of 807 days and 83 international innings without a century last week when he scored a hundred against Sri Lanka in the ODI series in Rawalpindi. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ramiz said Babar recently expressed his frustration during a meeting. "I met him recently in a café and he expressed his frustration at the way he had to face criti-

cism, personal comments over his place in the team and his performances," Ramiz said. The former chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said he had just one message



for Babar: "Just continue to do what you have done, be patient and show restraint and don't react to outside noises. Because as a player your only job is to perform on the field."

"I was very happy to see him back among the runs with his century against Sri Lanka," he said. Ramiz added that he admired the way Babar had preferred not to respond to the criticism directed at him on any forum. Ramiz was PCB chairman when Babar was made captain in all three formats in 2021, and his liking for the batter is well documented.

He said Babar did not need to worry about strike rates since he was a stylish player in Tests and ODIs. "He has all the shots and he is a treat to watch even when he defends. He shouldn't be worried about strike rates; he just needs to bat longer."

Ranji Trophy: Ajitesh, Sonu help TN post 455 in first innings



Chennai: Debutant G Ajitesh's brilliant 86 and a valuable 44 by all-rounder Sonu Yadav came in handy for Tamil Nadu to post 455 in 136.3 overs against Uttar Pradesh on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'A' match played at CD-CA-Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science ground, Coimbatore, on Monday. In reply, Uttar Pradesh was 87 for one in 33 overs with Abhishek Goswami batting 54. R Sai Kishore took the lone wicket to fall that of opener Madhav Kaushik. Resuming from the overnight score of 282 for 5, Indrajith and Ajitesh began the day's play in earnest, watchful and playing to the merit of the ball. For about ten overs or so they managed to play smoothly without any damage, after which is a momentary lapse of concentration Indrajith fell leg before to Karthik Yadav after making 149. During the course of his innings Indrajith reached the 6000-run landmark in First Class cricket. He achieved this feat in 88 matches, from 132 innings, which included 17 centuries and 31 fifties, best being 200.

Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra's Sholay is set to be re-released in 4K, featuring its original ending after a span of 50 years.

The iconic Indian film *Sholay* is poised to return to cinemas, this time in a completely restored 4K edition named *Sholay – The Final Cut*. The nationwide re-release, planned for December 12, 2025, commemorates the film's 50th anniversary and will be presented in 1,500 theatres. Restored to Director Ramesh Sippy's Original Vision What makes this release historic is the reinstatement of the film's original uncut ending—screened publicly for the first time in five decades. Ahead of its 1975 release, the climax was altered due to strict censorship imposed during India's Emergency era. Now, viewers will finally be able to watch *Sholay* exactly as director Ramesh Sippy intended. Sippy Films announced the restoration on social media, writing, "Sholay: The Final Cut" – In cinemas December 12, 2025. Experience the original uncut version for the first



time ever, restored in 4K and Dolby 5.1 by Film Heritage Foundation." The Original Ending Finally Returns The previously censored sequence depicts Thakur (Sanjeev Kumar) killing Gabbar Singh (Amjad Khan) using spiked shoes—an act of raw vengeance that the Central Board of Film Certification found too violent at the time. The

CBFC insisted on toning down the climax before the film could be released. For decades, the existence of this alternate ending remained a part of Indian cinema folklore. With *The Final Cut*, audiences will now witness the emotional weight and dramatic resolution that Sippy originally conceived. A Landmark Cel-

ebration for a Cultural Phenomenon The re-release forms the centerpiece of *Sholay*'s 50th anniversary celebrations. Earlier this year, the restored film was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, earning applause from global audiences and reaffirming its enduring legacy. The film's ensemble—Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, Hema Malini, Sanjeev Kumar, and Amjad Khan—continues to be celebrated for performances that shaped generations of Indian cinema. A Film That Redefined Indian Cinema Released in 1975, *Sholay* has long cemented its place as one of Indian cinema's most influential films. Despite being overtaken by later blockbusters in earnings, it still holds the distinction of being the most-viewed Indian film in history, with its dialogues, characters, and scenes woven deeply into the cultural memory of the nation.