

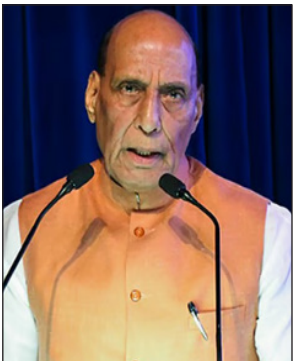
CM Pema Khandu Welcomes CBI Probe Into Contract Case



Guwahati, Apr 07: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday said he supports the recent move by the Supreme Court of India to have the Central Bureau of Investigation examine a case connected to his government. He said the state authorities are prepared to assist the central agency at every stage of the process. Denying any irregularities, Khandu added that the exercise would help clear long-standing doubts surrounding the issue. Referring to the background of the case, he said it relates to developments from many years ago and has repeatedly come into discussion. He expressed hope that the probe would lay out the facts clearly and address the allegations. The Chief Minister also said the investigation offers him an opportunity to put forward his position. He added that he has confidence in the judicial system and believes the outcome will reflect the truth. The development follows an order issued on April 6 by the Supreme Court of India, asking the Central Bureau of Investigation to carry out an initial review of claims related to the awarding of government contracts in the state. The accusations involve firms said to have links with members of the Chief Minister's family.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N V Anjaria has asked the agency to submit its findings within 16 weeks, after which it will be decided whether a full investigation is required. According to the plea, one instance involves a construction company believed to be connected to Khandu's wife, while another concerns a firm reportedly associated with his nephew, Tsering Tashi. It alleges that proper procedures may not have been strictly followed during the tender process. The petition, submitted in 2024, had requested an independent investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team, raising concerns about possible preferential treatment in awarding major public works.

Rajnath Invokes 1971 After Pakistan's Kolkata Threat



Kolkata, Apr 07: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday issued a stern warning to his Pakistani counterpart, Khawaja Asif, following provocative remarks about striking Kolkata. Singh advised Asif to remember the "consequences of 55 years ago," referring to the 1971 war that led to the partition of Pakistan and the

creation of Bangladesh.

"Pakistan should remember the memories of 1971. They will face dire consequences again if they dare to go beyond," Singh stated while addressing reporters and later an election rally in Barrackpore.

The exchange follows a political firestorm in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee had earlier slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" on Asif's threat during his recent visit to the state, demanding his resignation. Singh's rebuttal aimed to assert India's military resolve while simultaneously criticizing the TMC government over issues of infiltration and lawlessness.

Bhopal to Get Anti-Terror Training Center

Bhopal, Apr 07: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav announced on Monday the establishment of a premier Counter Terrorist Group (CTG) training centre in Tumda village, on the outskirts of Bhopal. The Rs 200 crore project aims to modernize the state's security apparatus and reduce dependence on the national NSG facility in Manesar. Modelled after elite centres like the Greyhounds in Telangana, the facility will provide specialized training for the state's Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), Special Task Force (STF), and Quick Reaction Teams. The focus will be on tackling urban insurgency, lone-wolf attacks, and extremist threats. The announcement followed a joint training demonstration by the National Security Guard (NSG) and MP Police at Lal Parade Ground. DGP Kailash Makwana noted that a month-long intensive training program is currently underway to enhance the skills of 1,164 personnel, ensuring the state remains equipped to handle evolving national security challenges.



Campaigning Ends in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry



New Delhi, Apr 07: The high-octane public campaigning for the crucial Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry drew to a close on Tuesday evening. Political heavyweights from across the spectrum made a final, aggressive push to influence voters before the 48-hour silence period began. Polling for 126 seats in Assam, 140 in Kerala, and 30 in Puducherry is scheduled for a single phase this Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Regional Power Struggles In Assam, the BJP-led NDA is eyeing a third consecutive term. Union Home Minister Amit Shah headlined the closing rallies, promising that a decision to implement the

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be taken in the first state cabinet meeting if the party is re-elected. The campaign turned particularly bitter following personal allegations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and subsequent police searches at the residence of Congress leader Pawan Khera.

Kerala presents a unique battleground where the ruling LDF seeks to break the state's tradition of alternating power. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed confidence in overcoming anti-incumbency, claiming 97% fulfillment of past promises. However, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra countered by labeling the LDF

"corrupt" and accusing it of making "deals with the BJP." In Puducherry, the contest has become triangular with the entry of actor Vijay's TVK, challenging both the ruling NDA and the Congress-DMK alliance.

National Significance These elections serve as a critical test for the INDIA bloc and the NDA ahead of upcoming polls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal later this month. With national leaders like PM Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi crisscrossing these states, the results—expected on May 4—will likely set the tone for the national political narrative for the remainder of the year.

Bihar CM Nitish likely to chair his last cabinet meet on April 8 before taking oath as RS member

Patna, Apr 07: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will chair his last cabinet meeting on Wednesday (April 8) before leaving for New Delhi to take oath as a Rajya Sabha member on April 10. He will reach the national capital on April 9, where he will chair a meeting with senior JD(U) leaders. JD(U) insiders said that the meeting will likely be to discuss key issues with senior party leaders before formally moving to the Rajya Sabha. JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh are among the top leaders of the party to attend the meeting.

A senior JD(U) leader said that the meeting would also be to discuss issues related to the formation of a new government in Bihar and about the role of Nitish's son, Nishant Kumar, who joined the party on March 8. The proposed meeting is also expected to discuss the leader to be selected as Nitish's successor. State BJP leaders have emphatically said that the next CM will be decided after consul-



tation with Nitish. However, strong talks are doing the rounds that the new CM will be from the BJP.

The meeting is scheduled to be held at Nitish's residence in New Delhi. The meeting is being held amid reports of Nitish's resignation from the CM's post, likely on April 12. The longest serving chief minister of Bihar is expected to return to Patna on April 11 and submit his resignation to the Governor the next day. Sources said that Nitish will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the national capital to discuss the name of his successor, who will be from the BJP. This

will be the first occasion when the BJP will have its chief minister in Bihar, even though the party has been in power for the last two decades.

Deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary, a Kushwaha by caste, is the front-runner among probable candidates for the chief minister. Other names doing the rounds are Union Minister Nityanand Rai, BJP MLA Sanjeev Chaurasia and State Industries Minister Dilip Kumar Jaiswal. Samrat Choudhary, MLA from Tarapur in Munger, is considered close to both Amit Shah and Nitish Kumar. Moreover, his chances seem bright as he belongs to the Kushwaha community, which comes under the Other Backwards Community (OBC). Kushwahas (or Koeris) and Kurmi (the caste Nitish belongs to) are the second largest group in the OBC category after Yadavs in the State. "If Nitish Kumar has some say in the selection of his successor, he will suggest Samrat Choudhary's name," a senior JD(U) leader said.



BJP workers from other states entering Assam in hordes to cast votes: Gaurav Gogoi

Gogoi Questions Police On Unchecked Entry Of Outsiders

Jorhat, Apr 07: Assam Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi on Tuesday alleged that BJP workers from other states have entered the state in large numbers to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections. Talking to reporters during a roadshow in Jorhat, where he is making his Assembly election debut, Gogoi said, "Like I had said earlier, BJP workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are coming to Assam in hundreds. Their names had been included in the electoral rolls, and they will now vote. Will we tolerate it? Will they decide our political future?"

He questioned the state police for allowing outsiders to enter the poll-bound state in



hordes "without checking", urging the people to be vigilant in this regard. Polling for the 126-member Assembly will be held on Thursday, with Congress seeking to return to power after a decade of BJP-

such people," Gogoi added. Congress' Dispur candidate and state women wing president Mira Borthakur Goswami also raised similar apprehension on social media.

In a Facebook post, she wrote, "Buses of Bihar have filled the roads! Request to every conscious citizen to keep a watch on polling centres. It is the duty of the public to stop misdeeds!" The Congress had raised suspicion over the special revision of electoral rolls carried out in the state ahead of the elections. The final rolls published on February 10 at the end of the SR exercise had total of 2.49 crore voters, a decrease of 0.97 per cent from the draft rolls.

Assam BJP Files FIR Against Kharge Over 'Poisonous' Remarks

Guwahati, Apr 07: Guwahati, April 7: The Assam Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced on Tuesday that it has formally lodged complaints with the state police and the Election Commission against Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. The ruling party alleges that Kharge delivered a "provocative and divisive" hate speech during an election rally held in Sribhumi district earlier this week.



In an official statement, Assam BJP spokesperson Pranjal Kalita confirmed that a First Information Report (FIR) was filed at the Basistha Police Station in Guwahati, alongside a separate complaint submitted to the state's poll panel. The controversy stems from remarks made by Kharge during a campaign event on April 6 at Nilambazar, where he reportedly called for a ban on the RSS and the BJP.

Kalita characterized the Congress leader's comments as an "outright insult to Hindu beliefs and traditions" and a deliberate attempt to undermine 'Sanatan' culture for

political mileage. The spokesperson argued that while Congress leaders frequently claim to be guardians of the Constitution, their rhetoric at the Nilambazar rally contradicted the spirit of constitutional freedom and mutual respect for all faiths. "The demand to ban the RSS-BJP not only reflects political intolerance but also exposes intellectual bankruptcy," Kalita stated, adding that such inflammatory language poses a significant danger to social harmony in the state. The BJP has demanded immediate legal action against the Congress president, asserting that the public has already rejected what it describes as a "divisive approach" to governance.

Found 'incriminating' material: Assam Police after search at Pawan Khera's residence

Guwahati / New Delhi, Apr 07: The Assam Police on Tuesday claimed to have recovered "incriminating" material from the New Delhi residence of Congress leader Pawan Khera. An Assam Police team, accompanied by Delhi Police personnel, went to Khera's residence in connection with a case registered with the Crime Branch in Guwahati, but did not find him. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma had lodged an FIR against the Congress leader following his claims that she possesses passports of three countries, owns luxury properties in Dubai and has investments worth several lakh crore rupees in the United States. Guwahati Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Debojit Nath, who led the Assam Police team, told media persons outside Khera's residence that the Congress leader was wanted in the case. "A case has been registered with the Crime Branch police station in Guwahati and we wanted Mr Pawan Khera. We searched his house and found some incriminating material which I cannot disclose right now," Nath said. "We don't know where he is but we will trace him out," the DCP further stated.

Pradyot Urges Reporting Voter Bribery While Avoiding Election Violence

Agartala, Apr 07: Tipra Motha chief Pradyot Kishore Debbarma has called on party workers to prioritize legal documentation over physical confrontation. In a social media address on Monday, Debbarma urged supporters to refrain from violence and instead record any violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the current election cycle.



The appeal follows a series of violent incidents in Tripura, including reported attacks on BJP supporters and a state minister. Debbarma emphasized that while elections are temporary, social harmony is permanent. He warned that political clashes only serve to deepen community divisions and tarnish the state's public image.

Addressing claims of electoral malpractice, the Tipra Motha leader alleged that rival groups were attempting to influence voters with inducements. However, he strictly advised against direct retaliation. "If there are

violations, record them and inform the authorities," he stated, expressing confidence that the Tripura Police would act impartially based on evidence.

Debbarma concluded by appealing to the electorate to vote freely and without intimidation. He maintained that any proven malpractice should be handled strictly through legal channels, ensuring that the democratic process remains transparent and peaceful for all citizens.

Assam Elections: Highly Educated Women Candidates Take Center Stage



Guwahati, Apr 07: Two emerging women candidates, London-educated Kunki Chowdhury (27) and PhD holder Gyanashree Bora (34), have become the focus of Assam's April 9 elections. Representing the anti-CAA

parties Assam Jatiya Parishad and Rajior Dal, they are challenging established BJP strongholds in Guwahati Central and Mariani.

Chowdhury, the great-granddaughter of Constituent Assembly member Ari Bahadur Gurung, has drawn significant support, including an endorsement from Parakala Prabhakar. Bora, a former lecturer from a farming background, is campaigning on rural infrastructure and water issues. Their rise has prompted aggressive rhetoric from the ruling party. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has targeted their backgrounds, sparking controversies over personal heritage and local residency. Despite the pressure, both candidates continue to gain momentum, focusing on urban planning and youth skill hubs to win over voters seeking fresh leadership.

NIA Probing Manipur Bombing: Two Dead



Imphal, Apr 07: Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Tuesday announced that the investigation into the bomb attack in Bishnupur district, which claimed the lives of two children, will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Addressing a press conference, Singh condemned the incident as a "barbaric act" and said it appeared to be the handiwork of individuals or groups with vested interests in disturbing peace in the state. He added that the decision to involve the NIA was taken after discussions with the state home minister and other MLAs.

The attack occurred around 1 am on Tuesday when suspected militants hurled a bomb at a house in Moirang Tronglaobi area, killing a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl, and injuring their mother. Security forces including police, Assam Rifles, and CRPF have launched massive combing operations, with helicopters deployed to track down the perpetrators.

The Chief Minister appealed to the public to remain calm and cooperate with security forces, even as protests erupted across Bishnupur and Imphal. Locals torched oil tankers, trucks, and tyres, and vandalised a police outpost in Tronglaobi. Demonstrators also blocked roads in Imphal East and West districts, burning tyres in several locations.



Oriflame rolls out North-East yatra to tap rising social selling market among youth

New Delhi: Swedish beauty and well-being firm Oriflame has launched its “Whosthat360 North-East Yatra” across 13 cities, aiming to capitalise on the growing shift among young consumers toward flexible income models and social selling. The month-long campaign, beginning April 7, blends on-ground beauty experiences with entrepreneurship opportunities.

The yatra started at Lady Keane College, Shillong, and will move through Agartala, Aizawl, Dimapur and Kohima before entering Assam. In Assam, it will cover Guwahati College (April 21), Nagaon College (April 23) and Soham Mall in Dibrugarh (April 25). The tour will further span Itanagar, Siliguri and Durgapur, culminating in Kolkata on May 10, with South City Mall hosting the penultimate event.

The initiative focuses on direct engagement through product trials, skincare sessions and consultations across campuses



and public spaces. Senior Vice President EdytaKurek said the campaign responds to rising demand for flexible and ownership-driven income avenues, while Brand Head Abhishek Chakraborty highlighted the Northeast as an emerging market for new-age earning models and community networks.

Alongside engagement, the company is promoting its low-investment “plug-and-play” social selling model, enabling individuals to build scalable income streams without heavy upfront costs. The campaign also includes daily rewards, where participants spotting the yatra truck can win curated beauty hampers.

Škoda Auto India posts record Q1 sales, sustains strong growth momentum

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has recorded its highest-ever quarterly sales in Q1 2026, selling 20,028 units, a 17% increase from 17,138 units in the same period last year. The performance extends the company’s record-breaking run from 2025, when it registered 107% year-on-year growth with 72,665 units sold, underlining its strengthening position in the Indian passenger vehicle market.

The growth was driven by a robust product portfolio, led by the Kylaq, which has crossed the 50,000 sales milestone, alongside the newly introduced Kushaq, steady demand for the Slavia, and continued traction for the premium SUV Kodiaq. The company said its strategy of offering accessible European technology, including features such as an eight-speed automatic transmission and rear seat massager, has resonated with evolving customer

preferences. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said the strong quarterly performance reflects sustained momentum built through a wider product range, deeper market reach, and customer-centric initiatives. The introduction of ‘Škoda Super Care’, offering a standard 4-year warranty, roadside assistance, and labour-free services, has further strengthened customer confidence. The company now has 330 customer touchpoints across more than 180 cities.

In Guwahati, demand for compact and mid-size SUVs is witnessing steady growth, driven by improving infrastructure and rising purchasing power. Models like the Kylaq and Kushaq are increasingly appealing to urban buyers seeking premium features at competitive pricing, positioning Škoda to expand its footprint in Northeast India.

Honda Inaugurates New Dealership At Morigaon In Assam

Morigaon: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India has inaugurated a new authorised main dealership, RD Autozone Honda, in Morigaon, Assam, expanding its presence in the state.

The 4S facility offers Sales, Service, Spare Parts and Safety Riding Promotion under one roof. Customers can explore Honda’s full range of scooters and motorcycles, including models such as Activa, Dio, Shine, Unicorn and Hornet.

The dealership is supported by trained sales and service staff and features advanced riding simulators imported from Japan to promote safe riding practices.

BHIM launches ‘Mahi Way’ campaign with MS Dhoni to drive trust-led digital payment adoption



Kohima: BHIM Payments App, developed by NPCI BHIM Services Limited, has unveiled its new ‘Mahi Way’ campaign, aimed at reinforcing simplicity, security and reliability in digital transactions. The campaign positions BHIM as a dependable platform enabling users to complete payments instantly, while strengthening trust among both existing and new users.

The 360-degree campaign features brand ambassador Mahendra Singh Dhoni, aligning his calm and dependable persona with BHIM’s user experience. Built around the thought “BHIM App se karo pay, it’s the Mahi Way,” the campaign highlights everyday payment scenarios where

users choose a simple and reliable option amid multiple choices. The films showcase BHIM’s scan-and-pay functionality and instant rewards, emphasising quick and worry-free transactions.

Lalitha Nataraj, MD & CEO of NBSL, said trust remains central to digital payment adoption in India, adding that the campaign reflects consumer preference for secure and seamless transactions. Conceptualised by Tilt Brand Solutions, the campaign will roll out across television, digital platforms, cinema and outdoor media. The flagship film will be released in a 25-second format, supported by 10- and 15-second edits, and will be available in 11 languages including Hindi, English, Assamese and other regional languages. In Kohima, the campaign is expected to gain traction as digital payment adoption rises among small businesses and young consumers in Nagaland. BHIM’s multilingual outreach and focus on ease of use could support wider acceptance of QR-based transactions, particularly in semi-urban pockets where trust and simplicity remain key drivers of fintech adoption.

TVS Motor posts record FY26 sales, volumes jump 24% to 5.9 million units



Guwahati: TVS Motor Company reported its highest-ever annual sales in FY 2025-26, with total volumes rising 24% year-on-year to 5.89 million units, driven by strong growth across domestic, export and electric vehicle segments.

The company also recorded its best-ever quarterly performance, with Q4 FY26 sales increasing 28% to 1.56 million units from 1.21 million units in the same period last year. Two-wheeler sales in the quarter grew 27% to 1.50 million units, while three-wheelers surged 65% to 0.60 lakh units. Exports during the quarter rose 24% to 4.22 lakh units.

In March 2026, total sales grew 25% to 519,358 units

compared to 414,687 units a year ago. Two-wheeler sales rose 25% to 498,134 units, led by domestic growth of 25% at 372,383 units. Motorcycles grew 18% to 232,788 units, while scooters outperformed with a 31% jump to 217,624 units.

Electric vehicle sales registered a strong 44% growth at 38,877 units. International business also expanded 25%, with total sales reaching 141,443 units. Three-wheeler sales increased 46% to 21,224 units.

For the full year, two-wheelers grew 23% to 5.67 million units, three-wheelers rose 63% to 2.19 lakh units, while exports climbed 33% to 1.58 million units, reflecting robust demand across key markets.

Nissan India logs 98% MoM sales surge in March; new gravite fuels growth momentum

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. reported a strong business performance in March 2026, posting cumulative sales of 10,388 units, led by a sharp rise in domestic demand. The company recorded domestic wholesale of 4,408 units, marking its highest monthly domestic sales in the past five years and a significant 98% growth compared to February 2026. Exports

contributed 5,980 units during the month, highlighting steady overseas traction.

The growth was largely driven by the rollout of customer deliveries of the all-new Nissan GRAVITE, which has received an encouraging response across markets. The GRAVITE is the first of three upcoming models under Nissan’s India Resurgence plan and is expected to further strengthen

its product portfolio alongside the continued performance of the Nissan Magnite.

Commenting on the performance, Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa said March marked a “defining month” for the company, driven by strong customer response and network support. He added that Nissan remains focused on expanding its footprint and enhancing

sales and service experience to sustain long-term growth.

In Guwahati, the surge reflects growing consumer preference for compact SUVs, with dealers reporting strong enquiries for the GRAVITE. Improved financing support and expanding dealership networks are aiding Nissan’s deeper penetration in Assam and the Northeast market.



OutStation bets big on Guwahati with 'Aaj Kal' launch as 10,000+ fans register

Guwahati: India's teen pop boy band OutStation is set to launch its second single 'Aaj Kal' in Guwahati on April 4, 2026, signalling a strategic push into high-growth youth markets. The free-entry event at Silpagram, part of the band's "OutStation-To Your Station" pop-up IP, has already crossed 10,000 RSVPs, highlighting strong pre-release traction and fan engagement.

Organisers expect a turnout comparable to the band's December performance in the city. A key highlight will be a synchronised crowd sing-along of 'Aaj Kal', positioned as a first-of-its-kind live launch aimed at creating a large-scale shared fan experience. "We knew our second song had to be launched here... we want this to be larger than life," the band

said.

The 30-minute set will include their debut single 'Tum Se', unreleased tracks, and interactive segments. Formed through Visva Records' nationwide talent search, the five-member band is mentored by Grammy-nominated songwriter Savan Kotecha, known for global pop collaborations, and has previously supported Akon and Anuv Jain on India tours.

In Guwahati, the scale of early registrations underscores the city's emergence as a strong consumption hub for live youth entertainment. Rising Gen Z engagement, coupled with proven audience turnout, is positioning Guwahati as a key market for music IPs, brand activations, and touring artists targeting India's expanding pop segment.

TAFE posts record FY26 sales, outpaces industry growth with over 2.14 lakh tractor dispatches

Guwahati: India's second-largest tractor manufacturer, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), has reported its highest-ever annual performance in FY26, clocking total tractor sales of 2,14,951 units. The company also outpaced industry growth, registering a strong 37.4% surge in March 2026 compared to the domestic industry's 29% growth for the same period.

The record performance was driven by robust demand across key agricultural regions, supported by TAFE's strong product portfolio and deep engagement with farmers. Both its flagship brands—Massey Ferguson and Eicher Tractors—achieved their highest-ever domestic sales during the fiscal year. Export performance also remained steady, with 12,584 tractors shipped globally, highlighting the company's diversified growth strategy.

To meet rising demand, TAFE's manufacturing plants operated at full capacity, with the company now evaluating expansion plans. Vice Chairman Lakshmi Venu attributed the growth to favourable monsoons, GST reductions, and increasing mechanisation among small and first-time farmers, which is improving



productivity and rural incomes.

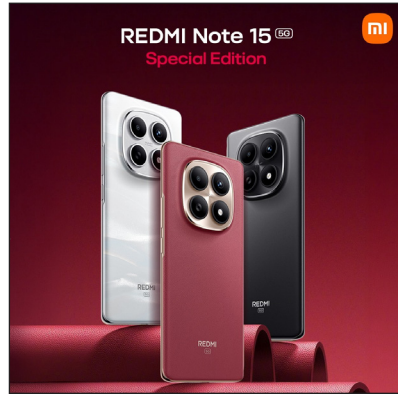
Despite global uncertainties and inflationary pressures, TAFE expressed confidence in sustained growth, citing resilient agricultural fundamentals and rising mechanisation trends.

In Guwahati and across Assam, the surge in tractor demand reflects a gradual shift towards farm mechanisation, particularly in semi-urban and rural belts. Dealers report increasing interest among small farmers, aided by improved credit access and government support. With agriculture remaining a key economic driver in the region, TAFE's strong performance is expected to further boost equipment adoption and strengthen the local agri-machinery market.

Xiaomi bets on mid-premium segment with REDMI Note 15 SE launch at aggressive pricing

Guwahati: Xiaomi India has expanded its smartphone portfolio with the launch of the REDMI Note 15 Special Edition (SE), targeting India's fast-growing mid-premium segment with a mix of design, performance and AI-led features. The device features a 6.77-inch curved AMOLED display with FHD+ resolution, 120Hz refresh rate and peak brightness of 3200 nits, housed in a slim 7.35mm body weighing 178g and offered in three colour variants.

Powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 chipset, the smartphone integrates a 50MP AI dual rear camera and a 20MP front camera, supported by tools such as AI Erase, AI Sky and AI Reflection Removal. It is backed by a 5800mAh battery with 45W fast charging, dual speakers



with Dolby Atmos, AI noise cancellation, and 5G connectivity. The device also includes Google Gemini and Circle to Search for enhanced user interaction.

On durability, the smartphone comes

with IP65/IP66 ratings, MIL-STD-810H certification and Titan Solid build, alongside in-display fingerprint and AI face unlock. Xiaomi has committed four years of Android updates and six years of security support.

Priced from ₹24,999, the device will be available at an effective starting price of ₹17,999 with ICICI Bank offers across Flipkart and mi.com from April 7.

In Guwahati, there is a strong potential demand for the REDMI Note 15 SE, citing its aggressive pricing and feature-rich positioning. The combination of AMOLED display, large battery and AI capabilities is expected to appeal to young consumers and upgraders in the region, particularly as competition intensifies in the ₹15,000–₹25,000 segment.

LPG supply crunch opens new market avenues as Godrej Jersey pushes smart cooking alternatives

Guwahati: Amid an ongoing LPG cylinder shortage affecting several parts of India, delays in supply, refill constraints and extended waiting periods are disrupting household cooking routines, creating a ripple effect across consumer markets. Responding to the situation, Godrej Jersey, a subsidiary of Godrej Agrovet Limited, has rolled out a consumer-focused initiative aimed at promoting

alternative cooking solutions.

Through a recent content campaign, the company is encouraging households to adopt appliances such as microwaves, air fryers and electric kettles to prepare everyday meals without LPG dependency. Highlighting options ranging from quick pulao bowls and paneer-based dishes to sandwiches and chaat-style snacks, the brand is positioning adaptability as

both a necessity and an opportunity. The initiative also underscores reduced reliance on food delivery and increased family engagement in meal preparation.

Commenting on the development, Shantanu Raj, Head of Marketing at Godrej Jersey, said the move is aimed at enabling consumers with confidence and ideas during uncertain times, while reinforcing the evolving versatil-

ity of Indian kitchens.

In Guwahati, the LPG shortage is beginning to reshape consumption trends, with rising demand for electrical cooking appliances and alternative meal solutions. Retailers are witnessing increased consumer interest in convenient, non-LPG cooking methods, indicating a shift that could influence future kitchen and appliance markets in the region.

ICICI Prudential announces 'ICICI Pru GPP Flexi' to deliver guaranteed lifetime income solutions



Imphal: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of its retirement-focused offering, ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi (ICICI Pru GPP Flexi), aimed at addressing the growing need for assured income in post-retirement years. The announcement comes against the backdrop of rising longevity in India, with the UNDP's 2025 Human Development Report noting an increase in life expectancy from 58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023. Government data further indicates that by 2036, nearly one in seven Indians will be aged 60 years or above.

The ICICI Pru GPP Flexi enables customers to build retirement savings through systematic contributions and receive guaranteed regular income for life. The payout rate is fixed at the time of purchase, ensuring stability and protection from interest rate fluctuations.

Commenting on the launch, Vikas Gupta said, "Retirement planning is driven by one core need – certainty of income for life. ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi is designed to deliver this certainty through a simple and flexible structure." The product offers seven flexible options, including Joint Life with Waiver of Premium, and features such as increasing income, top-ups, liquidity through loans, and a full refund option in case of critical illness or permanent disability.

In Imphal, improving financial awareness, expanding insurance penetration, and a gradual shift towards long-term financial planning are supporting demand for structured retirement products. Solutions like ICICI Pru GPP Flexi are expected to gain traction as individuals increasingly prioritise income security and financial stability in their retirement years.

Air India Hikes International Fuel Surcharges

Air India has announced a significant revision to its fuel surcharge structure, effective April 8, 2026, driven by a nearly 100% surge in global aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. Following a sharp rise in energy costs triggered by conflicts in West Asia, domestic surcharges have transitioned from a flat rate to a distance-based grid, capping at Rs 899 for flights exceeding 2,000 km.

International travelers face even steeper hikes, with surcharges reaching up to \$280 (~Rs 26,000) for North America and Australia, and \$205 for Europe (excluding the UK). The airline noted that while domestic price hikes were capped at 25% by government ministries, international fuel costs remain unmitigated. With jet fuel accounting for up to 40% of operating costs, Air India stated it is still absorbing a significant portion of the expense despite these revisions.



CCTV regulations trigger industry shift, Godrej flags rising focus on data security and trust

Guwahati: Amid tightening regulatory action on surveillance systems in India, Pushkar Gokhale, Business Head – Security Solutions Business at Godrej Enterprises Group, has termed the move a key inflection point for the country's security industry. In a statement, Gokhale said the evolving regulatory landscape is reshaping expectations in the CCTV segment, where data protection, system integrity and national security converge. "Trust and accountability cannot be optional; they must be foundational," he said,

underlining the growing importance of compliance-driven operations.

He noted that Indian brands have steadily built credibility by aligning with local regulations, prioritising data security, and ensuring consistent product quality and service support. This, he said, has positioned them as trusted partners at a time when concerns around data vulnerabilities and supply-chain transparency are intensifying.

Gokhale also highlighted that security solutions are no longer limited to mon-

itoring, reflecting a broader technological and operational shift in the sector. The transition is further reinforced by the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, which mandates that user consent must be free, informed, specific and unambiguous.

He added that organisations must ensure transparency in data collection, storage and usage, while reaffirming Godrej's commitment to delivering reliable, resilient and responsible security solutions tailored for India.

IndiaSkills 2025–26 ends with 288 medals, Odisha leads as India pushes skill economy

Guwahati: The IndiaSkills National Competition 2025–26 concluded at India Expo Mart, positioning itself as a key driver of India's emerging skill economy. Organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and supported by the National Skill Development Corporation, the event saw over 650 participants compete across 63 categories, with 288 winners securing medals. Odisha topped the tally with 57 medals, followed by Tamil Nadu (46) and Karnataka (29). Notably, 45 women were among the winners, reflecting rising female participation in technical and vocational domains.

Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said the competition reflects a "young India ready to compete globally," backed by ₹84,000 crore allocation for education and ₹60,000 crore for strengthening skilling institutions like ITIs. Industry-aligned evaluation standards and participation from over 200 companies,

including Toyota Kirloskar and Maruti Suzuki, underscored strong public-private collaboration. With over 3.65 lakh youth participating nationwide, winners will now represent India at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

State leaders, including ministers from Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, stressed that skilling is emerging as a core economic pillar, driving employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth, especially in rural and semi-urban regions.

In Guwahati, the outcomes are expected to positively impact hiring trends in Assam, particularly in IT, construction, logistics, and service sectors. With increased alignment to industry standards and emerging technologies, local businesses and startups in Guwahati could benefit from a more skilled workforce, enhancing productivity and boosting regional economic competitiveness.

TVS expands premium play with 2026 Apache RTR 160 4V, adds advanced features across variants

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has rolled out the all-new 2026 TVS Apache RTR 160 4V, strengthening its presence in the competitive 160cc premium motorcycle segment with feature upgrades across variants. The company introduced two new trims alongside the existing top-end variant, extending key technologies such as a Class-D projector headlamp with LED DRLs, all-LED lighting setup, and Assist & Slipper Clutch across the range.

The move aligns with TVS Motor's strategy to enhance rider safety, nighttime visibility and control while main-

taining its "Track to Road" philosophy rooted in TVS Racing. The motorcycle continues to deliver segment-leading performance with 17.55 PS power and retains features such as three ride modes—Sport, Urban and Rain—radial tyres, hydroformed handlebar, and TVS SmartXconnect with navigation and alerts.

The top variant comes equipped with USD suspension, traction control and a 5-inch TFT display, while pricing for the updated range starts at ₹1,25,440 (ex-showroom, Delhi). The broader Apache RTR series begins at ₹1,12,190.

Commenting on the launch, Vimal Sumbly said the upgrade reflects evolving rider expectations and reinforces the brand's leadership in performance motorcycling, backed by a global community of over 6.5 million riders across 60+ countries.

In Guwahati, the upgrade is expected to accelerate demand in the premium commuter category, where rising disposable incomes and a young rider base are driving preference for technologically advanced, performance-focused motorcycles, positioning TVS Motor for stronger regional growth.

HPCL maintains robust fuel, LPG supply; steps up crackdown on distribution malpractices

Guwahati: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has maintained uninterrupted nationwide supply of fuel and LPG, underscoring operational resilience amid evolving global conditions. On April 4, the company sold 38,986 KL (over 3.8 crore litres) of petrol and 69,357 KL (over 6.9 crore litres) of diesel, serving more than 1.94 crore customers. To support distribution, 9,951 tankers were dispatched to retail outlets, ensuring timely deliveries across regions.

In the LPG segment, HPCL delivered 14.4 lakh cylinders, maintaining normal supply levels. It also supplied 31,786 units of 5 kg and 2,383 units of 2 kg free trade LPG cylinders. The company said domestic LPG availability remains stable and under close monitoring despite ongoing geopolitical developments, with LPG distribution continuing as a top operational priority.

HPCL reported that nearly 94% of LPG refill

bookings are being made through digital platforms such as IVRS, SMS, missed call, HP PAY, and WhatsApp. Deliveries are secured through DAC/OTP-based authentication. Customer support remains active via social media, web portal, toll-free number (1800-2333-555), and myhpgas.in. To curb malpractices, HPCL conducted over 4,028 inspections between March 14 and April 4, taking action against 53 distributors, including suspension of 20 distributorships. Around 653 raids were carried out, 40 FIRs registered, and over 3,163 cylinders seized in coordination with other oil marketing companies and state governments.

In Guwahati, fuel and LPG supplies remain steady with no disruption reported. Dealers indicated normal demand trends and timely replenishment, while high adoption of digital booking systems has improved delivery efficiency and transparency in the region.

HPCL reports stable fuel sales, 62.83 lakh LPG deliveries; enforcement push strengthens market discipline

Guwahati: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) reported stable fuel sales and strong LPG distribution in the early days of April, underpinned by robust logistics and stricter enforcement across its network.

Between April 1 and 5, HPCL recorded nozzle sales of 132.81 TMT of Petrol (MS) and 277.64 TMT of Diesel (HSD), reflecting steady consumption trends across markets. The company dispatched 30,994 tankers car-

rying MS, HSD and PDS SKO to ensure seamless nationwide supply.

In the LPG segment, HPCL delivered 62.83 lakh cylinders during the period, maintaining normal supply levels. It also supplied 1,05,183 Free Trade LPG cylinders of 5 kg and 10,187 cylinders of 2 kg, enhancing last-mile connectivity for migrant workers and economically weaker sections. Digital penetration remained high, with 96.4% of LPG book-

ings routed through IVRS, SMS, Missed Call, HP PAY and WhatsApp on April 5, supported by DAC/OTP-based authentication for secure deliveries. On the regulatory front, HPCL conducted 4,110 inspections between March 14 and April 5, taking action against 55 distributors, including 22 suspensions. Joint operations led to 656 raids, 40 FIRs and seizure of 3,163 LPG cylinders, reinforcing compliance and consumer protection. The company main-

tained that LPG supply remains adequate and advised consumers to avoid panic stocking.

In Guwahati, the steady flow of fuel and LPG has kept supply conditions stable, with no visible shortages across retail outlets. Strong tanker movement and rising digital booking trends are improving turnaround time and service reliability, supporting sustained demand momentum in one of Northeast India's key fuel markets.

REDMI 15A 5G launched in India with focus on battery, performance and affordability

Guwahati: Xiaomi India on Monday launched the REDMI 15A 5G, a new smartphone aimed at delivering reliable performance and long battery life for everyday users. The device is designed to support heavy daily usage such as streaming, multitasking and social media, without compromising on efficiency.

The smartphone is powered by an octa-core 5G processor on a single charge. It supports 15W charging and 7.5W wired reverse charging. The REDMI 15A 5G features a 6.9-inch display with up to 120Hz refresh rate, 800 nits brightness and Wet Touch Technology 2.0, along with TÜV Rheinland certifications for reduced eye strain.

For imaging and entertainment, the device offers a 32MP AI dual rear camera, an 8MP front camera and up to 200% volume boost. Running on HyperOS 3.0 based on Android

16, it promises four years of Android updates and six years of security support. Additional features include IP52 rating, fingerprint sensor, dual SIM and expandable storage up to 2TB.

The launch is expected to strengthen Xiaomi's foothold in the Guwahati market, where demand for budget-friendly 5G smartphones continues to rise. With competitive pricing starting at Rs 12,999, the REDMI 15A 5G is likely to attract students, young professionals and



first-time smartphone buyers in the region, especially as offline retail and e-commerce penetration grows steadily.

The device will go on sale from April 3 via Flipkart, mi.com and authorised Xiaomi retail stores.

Vegetable Cutlet to Chicken Curry: 7 Indian Railway Dishes That Every Traveler Should Experience

While Indian Railways may not provide the most opulent meals, it compensates for this with a diverse range of food options. For numerous Indians, the food served on trains is a vital component of the overall travel experience. From the basic taste of chai to the crispiness of cutlet, railway food has become an integral part of every train journey. Serving the meal on foil plates, steel trays or passing through compartments, these meals have made unforgettable memories for generations of passengers.

Veg Cutlet With Bread And Butter

Few breakfasts evoke the spirit of Indian train travel as much as the vegetable cutlet. Golden brown and crispy on the outside, soft and spiced on the inside, it's accompanied by two slices of white bread, a block of Amul butter and a sachet of ketchup. Comforting and uncomplicated, it's the breakfast that has welcomed hundreds of travellers as the countryside rolls by.

Omelette And Toast

The omelette and toast are a railway staple. Freshly cooked on a hot pan and frequently seasoned with



onions or chillies, it's buttered between slices of bread and served hot. Simple to consume and easy to balance on the tray table, it's the ideal way to begin a day on the rails

Chai

No trip ever seems complete with-

out a piping cup of railway chai. Initially served in earthy terracotta kulhads that imparted a subtle aroma of clay, it's now largely served in paper cups from huge steel kettles. Sweet, creamy and fragrant, railway chai generates conversa-

tions and provides warmth along long voyages.

The Standard Veg Thali

The IRCTC veg thali is still a reliable friend at lunch or dinner time. With dal, vegetable curries, rice, chapati, pickle and curd served in

steel trays, it is a taste and a treat. Although it tends to be plain, it is the perfect comfort and sustenance halfway through the journey.

Chicken Curry Meal

For non-vegetarians, the chicken curry meal is a train favourite. The well-seasoned curry is served with rice or with chapatis. Its delicate yet full-bodied gravy, redolent of onions and masala, is infused with a heat that differs slightly from train to train

Rajma-Chawal

The rajma-chawal duo is still one of the comforting staples at hand. Prepared in a light, wholesome tomato-onion gravy, it's just the thing for travellers pining for homestyle food. Every bite is comforting, delivering a small dollop of home amidst the bustle of the rails.

Chole Kulche

Chole kulche are a favourite among crowds. Soft kulchas served with spicy chickpeas and topped with onions and lime are a tasty and filling dish. Handy to carry around and full of flavour, it's great for short-distance travellers looking for something both filling and refreshing.

How to Extract Coconut from Its Shell in Just Seconds

For those who dedicate time to culinary activities, opening a coconut is merely the initial challenge; the true difficulty arises when attempting to detach the solid white meat from its obstinate brown exterior. However, an ingenious kitchen tip currently gaining popularity on the internet claims to simplify this arduous task remarkably, requiring only a combination of heat and cold. Cooking enthusiasts say this "crazy" trick can save time, effort, and even your fingers from accidental nicks. Instead of scraping the coconut out bit by bit, the method allows you to lift the entire flesh in one neat piece. Here's how it works: start by breaking the coconut and draining out the water. Clean the shell thoroughly and place it with coconut side facing upward, on a low flame for about five to ten minutes. Be cautious not to burn the shell; gentle heating is key. For those with a microwave, 30 seconds of heating will do the job just as well. Once heated, imme-



diately place the coconut in cold water or the freezer for a few minutes. The sudden temperature shift causes the fibrous layer between the shell and the flesh to contract, loosening the coconut naturally. When you tap the shell gently with the back of a spoon or the blunt edge of a knife, the coconut slips out effortlessly - no scraping, no mess. This easy kitchen hack has quickly become a favourite among home cooks who once dreaded the task. The result: perfectly intact coconut pieces, ready for chutneys, curries, or festive prasadam, and far less time spent struggling in the kitchen.

This pizzeria is the first in India to receive the prestigious AVPN certification

Si Nonna's, the pizzeria celebrated for infusing the essence of Naples into India's culinary landscape, has reached a significant milestone. It has officially been recognized as the first pizzeria in India to obtain the esteemed certification from the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana (AVPN). Established in Naples in 1984, the AVPN serves as the worldwide authority dedicated to protecting the authentic tradition of Neapolitan pizza, boasting fewer than a thousand certified pizzerias in sixty countries. This distinction positions Si Nonna's within a prestigious global network committed to maintaining the age-old craft of Neapolitan sourdough pizza production. The certification confirms that Si Nonna's sourdough pizzas meet every international standard set by AVPN — from the dough's 24-hour fermentation to ingredient quality, oven design, and baking technique. The recipe itself traces its origins to a serendipitous encounter with Nonna Galliano's original mother dough in Naples — the spark that inspired founder Ayush Jatia to bring authentic Neapolitan pizza to India. "Earning the AVPN certification is a landmark moment not only for Si Nonna's but also for the evolution of pizza culture in India," said Ayush Jatia, Founder of Si Nonna's. "It reaffirms our promise of bringing true Neapolitan flavours and



techniques to Indian diners... This recognition reflects the hard work, dedication, and passion of our team, and it motivates us to continue sharing the joy of authentic Italian sourdough pizza with every guest who walks through our doors." Every stage of Si Nonna's process reflects meticulous craftsmanship — from using natural yeast and Italian flour to baking pizzas in custom-built ovens lined with tiles made from Vesuvian lava. The certification stands as both a validation and a symbol of the brand's passion for authenticity.

"We are delighted to welcome Si Nonna's into the global AVPN family," said Antonio Pace, President of AVPN. "Their respect for Neapolitan tradition in a market as diverse and fast-growing as India demonstrates the universal appeal of our heritage." With over 35 outlets across eight major cities, including Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Pune, and Bangalore, Si Nonna's continues to lead India's evolving gourmet culture, where Italian heritage meets Indian innovation, one sourdough pizza at a time.



Congress Seeks Cancellation of Assam CM's Candidature

Guwahati, Apr 06: The Congress on Monday escalated its legal offensive against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, filing a formal complaint with the Election Commission (EC) seeking the cancellation of his candidature for the Jalukbari constituency.

The complaint, submitted by Sarma's electoral rival Bidisha Neog, alleges that the Chief Minister failed to disclose his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma's purported offshore assets in his mandatory Form 26 election affidavit. Neog cited documentary evidence from the Dubai Land Department, claiming Sarma's spouse owns two properties in Dubai and holds assets through shell companies in Wyoming, USA.



Parallely, the party moved the Enforcement Directorate (ED), urging a probe under the PMLA into claims that the CM's family operates undisclosed foreign businesses. This follows a high-voltage "exposé" by Congress's Pawan Khara, who alleged Sarma's wife holds passports from the UAE, Egypt, and Antigua-Barbuda.

Sarma dismissed the charges as "fabricated" and "concocted," claiming the documents were sourced from a Pakistani social media group. While Sarma challenged his rivals to prove the claims, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi dared the CM to deny the assets under oath on the Bhagavad Gita, intensifying the pre-poll battle in Assam.

Air India To Hike Ticket Fares As Jet Fuel Prices Surge Globally

Surcharge Details Finalized as Hike Nears

Guwahati, Apr 06: Air India is set to hike fuel charges across domestic and international routes, following a similar move by IndiGo due to surging Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) costs. Domestic price increases will follow distance-based slabs, while international fares face steeper hikes as global fuel prices for Indian carriers have nearly doubled to over ₹2 lakh per kilolitre.

The airline's operational costs have been further strained by the Middle East crisis, which forces flights to Europe to fly an additional 3.5 hours, increasing fuel consumption by 30%. Long-haul flights, such as those to New York, now require refueling stops in cities like Rome, add-



ing parking and crew change expenses.

While the Indian government has capped domestic ATF price increases at 25%, no such limit exists for international travel. With the International Air Travel Association (IATA) reporting a month-on-month fuel price surge of over 130% in the

region, Air India officials describe current international operations as "totally unsustainable" without these adjustments. Exact surcharge details are expected following imminent board approval, signaling an end to the period of lower ticket prices for travelers heading to the US, Europe, and Australia.

Two children killed in bomb attack in Manipur



Manipur, Apr 07: A suspected militant attack in Manipur's Bishnupur district claimed the lives of two young children and left their mother injured early Tuesday morning. The incident occurred around 1:00 AM in the Moirang Tronglaobi area when an explosive device was hurled into a residence while the family was asleep. The victims were identified as a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old infant girl.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh condemned the "barbaric act" as a direct attempt to derail peace in the state, vowing that the perpetrators would be "hunted down" and dealt with firmly. He urged citizens to remain united against those seeking to disturb communal harmony. The killings sparked immediate outrage among locals, who staged violent protests this morning. Demonstrators torched two oil tankers and a truck near a petrol pump, burnt tires outside the Moirang Police Station, and destroyed a makeshift police outpost. Heavy security forces have been deployed to the area to stabilize the situation and maintain order following the tragic assault.

Amethi Posters Target Akhilesh Yadav

Amethi, Apr 07: Posters and hoardings targeting Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav have appeared at several locations in Amethi, sparking a political row months before the 2027 Assembly elections. The posters, displayed outside Amethi railway station and at various intersections, carry the slogan: "Aap ko kya chahiye? Akhilesh ka Lyari raj." The phrase refers to Lyari, a locality in Karachi, Pakistan, once known for gang violence, and recently referenced in the Bollywood film Dhurandhar.

The hoardings, reportedly put up by a group calling itself "Youth Against Mafia", juxtapose alleged incidents of violence and riots during Yadav's tenure as



chief minister with the current government's crackdown on organised crime under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. They also feature the names and photographs of the organisation's office-bearers, including its executive president, general

secretary and Pratapgarh in-charge. The Samajwadi Party condemned the development, describing it as politically motivated. District spokesperson and advocate Rajesh Mishra said the posters reflected the "frustration and desperation" of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He alleged that the BJP had resorted to such tactics after realising it might not return to power, adding that the public was aware of these "attempts to mislead". Meanwhile, Amethi police station in-charge Ravi Singh confirmed that the authorities had been alerted. A police team has been sent to the locations where the posters were found, and further action will follow after an investigation.

Modi: Work on UCC, ONOE on and govt committed to women quota bill

Deliberations Underway on Key Reforms

New Delhi, Apr 07: On the BJP's 47th Foundation Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed the government's focus on two major "unfinished agendas": the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the One Nation, One Election initiative. Addressing party workers virtually, the Prime Minister noted that serious deliberations are underway, with a special session of Parliament reportedly planned for April 15-16 to discuss key legislative moves.

Modi also underscored the party's long-standing com-

mitment to women's empowerment, specifically the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam.



He pledged that the 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state legisla-

tures would be fully implemented by the 2029 General Election. Highlighting past

successes, he cited the construction of the Ram Temple, the abolition of "black laws"

from the British era, and the implementation of the CAA as evidence of the BJP's promise-keeping record.

The Prime Minister framed these objectives as essential steps toward transforming India into a "viksit" (developed) and "aatmanirbhar" (self-reliant) nation. By emphasizing the 10% EWS quota and the ban on triple talaq, Modi reinforced the party's narrative of inclusive development while signaling a meticulous approach to fulfilling the remaining pillars of the BJP's core political manifesto.

Mamata: Communities Targeted in Roll Deletions



West Bengal, Apr 07: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that voters from specific communities were deliberately removed from electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Speaking at a rally in Chakdaha, Nadia district, Banerjee said her party, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), would support those whose names were excluded. She claimed that nearly 91 lakh names were deleted from the rolls after the revision, citing Election Commission data.

The Chief Minister also stated that after her intervention in the Supreme Court, around 32 lakh names were reinstated from nearly 60 lakh cases that were under adjudication. Alleging targeted deletions, Banerjee said, "Names were being removed from official records by singling out certain communities." The 294-seat West Bengal Assembly elections will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29, with counting scheduled for May 4.



Sputtering Arsenal Face Test vs Sporting



London, Apr 06: Mikel Arteta has urged shell-shocked Arsenal to embrace a major test of their character as they seek to recover from a pair of devastating defeats in Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final at Sporting Lisbon. Arteta's side suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at second-tier Southampton in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday, a fortnight after losing 2-0 to Manchester City in the League Cup final. The Gunners had been chasing an unprecedented quadruple until their domestic cup dreams were demolished in painful fashion.

The chastening loss to Southampton was only Arsenal's fifth defeat this season and marked the first time they have been beaten in successive games in this campaign. Arsenal's slump has plunged the club's long-suffering fans into a bout of soul-searching.

The north Londoners haven't won a trophy since the 2020 FA Cup and three consecutive runners-up finishes in the Premier League have raised doubts about their ability to finally land silverware. Arteta is convinced Arsenal can handle the mounting pressure of bidding to win the Champions League for the first time, while aiming to finally lift the Premier League trophy after a 22-year wait. "In the season, you always have moments, normally two or three. This is the first moment that we have with a certain level of difficulty," Arteta said. "We're going to say difficulty when we're going to play the Champions League quarter-finals and the run-up for the league. "If this is a difficult period, I believe there are many other ones that are much more difficult, so let's stand up, make yourself comfortable and deliver like we've been doing all season."

Praggnanandhaa Faces Candidates Pressure

Praggnanandhaa Chasing Second Win

Paphos (Cyprus), Apr 06: At the halfway stage of the Candidates Tournament in Paphos, Cyprus, 20-year-old Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finds himself in a must-win situation. Currently tied for third place with 3.5 points, the Chennai native faces Dutchman Anish Giri in Tuesday's eighth round, desperate to reclaim the momentum he had after defeating Giri in their opening encounter. Praggnanandhaa's journey has been grueling, marked by five draws and a loss to the tournament's runaway leader, Javokhir Sindarov. The Uzbek sensation has stunned pundits, amassing an incredible 6 points from seven rounds. American Fabiano Caruana remains the only player with-in striking distance, trailing Sindarov by 1.5 points.



In the women's section, the competition remains fierce. Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk, a late replacement for Koneru Humpy, leads the field with 4.5 points. However, India's R Vaishali is hot on her heels in second place with 4 points, while Divya Deshmukh sits closely behind with 3.5.

As the tournament shifts into its final half, the stakes are at their peak. The eventual winner will earn the right to challenge reigning world champion D Gukesh later this year for the ultimate title in chess.

Noguera looking to take it one day at a time at Chennaiyin FC

Noguera Joins Chennaiyin FC Following Brief Stint In Madrid

Chennai, Apr 06: Spanish midfield maestro Alberto Noguera remains one of the most decorated foreign imports in the Indian Super League (ISL), continuing his journey now with Chennaiyin FC. After successful stints with FC Goa and Mumbai City FC—where he clinched the ISL Shield and Cup—Noguera's most recent chapter at Bengaluru FC saw him instrumental in their run to the final. The 36-year-old's return to India this season is a testament to his commitment. Following the conclusion of his Bengaluru contract in May 2025, Noguera returned to Madrid to play for CF Rayo Majadahonda during a period of administrative uncertainty in the ISL. However, a call from his former coach at Goa, Clifford Miranda, drew him back to the



subcontinent. At Chennaiyin, Noguera has transitioned into a deep-lying playmaker role, a shift from his usual advanced position. "This club is a little different because everything is getting started. Things are building up," Noguera explained, highlighting the "project" nature of his new home.

With nearly 400 professional appearances, including stints at Atletico Madrid and Black-

pool, the veteran is grounded about the future. Choosing to focus on the immediate season rather than long-term retirement plans, he stated he is "trying to survive day by day" and stay injury-free. For Noguera, the goal remains clear: guiding Chennaiyin into the top echelons of the table before deciding if his storied Indian odyssey will continue for another year.

Ruthless Warriors Dominate Misogynist XI in Noida T20

Chennai, Apr 06: AT any given point in time, YouTube hosts a number of unrecognised cricket tournaments. People within India tune in to watch these games because, well, there's always an audience for live cricket here. One such match, streamed on the platform on Sunday, raised eyebrows because of the names of the teams who were facing each other. Misogynist XI were playing against Ruthless Indian (Warriors) in a Noida ground. Two teams are part of the five-month long Smashers Cup, a corporate meet, in Noida.

When one of the organisers



asked about the team name when they had come to register for the tournament last year, 'they were okay with it'. "When they came for registrations, I asked them about the name and why they decided to have it," one of the organisers told this daily. "I asked them about the name and why they decided to have it. Only they knew why they named it (like that). As an organiser, we do research about teams interest-

ed to take part in our event. We did the same in this case as well. They fulfilled our criteria."

When this daily got in touch with one of the team members of Misogynist XI, they said that they have already applied for name change. "We have realised that it was a big mistake," the member told this daily. "We have contacted the organisers and applied for a change. We never meant that and after naming the team, we just forgot about it as we got busy with our jobs and cricket. But I admit we should not have done it and we will rectify our mistake. We are sorry."

Indian Women's Hockey Argentina Tour

New Delhi, Apr 07: The Indian senior women's hockey team is set to embark on a crucial four-match tour of Argentina, competing at the CENARD in Buenos Aires from April 13 to 17, 2026. This series serves as a vital preparation ground for the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands, and the Asian Games later this year. Chief coach Sjoerd Marijne, who returned for his second stint in January, has selected a 24-member squad to test bench strength and tactical combinations. "This tour is about giving more players

the chance to perform at the highest level," Marijne noted, emphasizing that selection for major tournaments will

encounter, India faces a world-class Argentine side to gauge their progress. With the World Cup scheduled for Au-



prioritize "team-first" players.

Following a competitive 2-2 draw in their last Pro League

gust 15-30, these high-tempo matches are essential for refining the team's cohesion under pressure.

Minakshi, Jaismine Reach Asian Boxing Semis



Chennai, Apr 05: Reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg) produced power-packed performances to enter the semifinals of the ongoing Asian Boxing Championships at the ASA Arena in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) on Sunday. Having received byes in the opening round, the No 1 seeds in their weight categories were making their first appearance in the ongoing edition of the continental meet.

Besides, the male boxers — Lokesh (85kg), Akash (70kg) and Harsh Choudhary (90kg) — also entered the last-four stage. However, Ankush (80kg) suffered a loss. Controlling the bout with sharp combinations and ring awareness, Minakshi defeated Yuka Sadamatsu of Japan by unanimous verdict. Jaismine, who was making her first international appearance of the season, also produced a similar show to outclass China's Ziyi Chen. Jaismine was the stand-out pugilist last year and she'll be hoping to go all the way. Minakshi will also be eyeing nothing but a gold medal.

Oscar Retires Following Cardiac Issues



London, Apr 05: Former Chelsea star Oscar has retired at age 34 following a serious cardiac diagnosis. His club, Sao Paulo, confirmed the decision on Saturday after the Brazilian midfielder was diagnosed with vasovagal syncope, a condition causing sudden drops in heart rate and blood pressure.

The two-time Premier League winner and three-time Chinese Super League champion returned to his boyhood club in late 2024 but chose to terminate his contract early to prioritize his health. Oscar, who earned 60 caps for Brazil, stated he is "ending his career" to focus on life as a supporter of the club.