

TMC Councillor Arrested Over Airport Ammunition Seizure

Kolkata, May 06: Amirul Sheikh Islam, a Trinamool Congress councillor from ward number 14 of Pujali Municipality under Diamond Harbour subdivision in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, was arrested under the Arms Act 1959 in relation to an old case against him. On September 21, 2025, he was detained at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata after a magazine and six rounds of ammunition were detected by the scanner in the bag with which he was trying to board a plane.

Then he had claimed that he possessed proper documents of authorisation to carry those items and a valid licence for the firearm for which the magazines and ammunition were meant. He also claimed that since he was not carrying the documents then, he would later furnish them to the law enforcement agencies. However, despite repeated reminders from the police, he never turned up to furnish the documents he claimed to possess. Finally, on Wednesday, the police arrested him and slapped charges against him under the Arms Act 1959.

"He was given sufficient time for furnishing those documents. But he failed to do that. Hence, a fresh FIR and a case were registered against him, and a new investigation was initiated. Finally, we arrested him today based on the fresh FIR and the fresh case," said an investigation officer in the matter. After being detained at the Kolkata Airport in September last year with the magazine and ammunition, the police faced questions on why they allowed Islam to go freely, just based on his verbal assurance of processing the necessary documents. At that time, many people alleged that the police had deliberately given a long rope to Islam because of his political affiliations as an influential councillor in an important municipality under Diamond Harbour subdivision. However, finally, he could not escape as the police arrested him on Wednesday.

India and Vietnam Elevate Ties to 'Enhanced' Strategic Partnership



New Delhi, May 06: India and Vietnam, on Wednesday, elevated their relations to enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership and vowed to significantly expand economic and defence ties following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam. Modi said the two countries have a common outlook for the Indo-Pacific and both sides will continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity. "Vietnam is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and Vision Ocean. In the Indo-Pacific region as well, we share a common outlook," Modi said. The Prime Minister said India will broaden its relations with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) with Vietnam's cooperation. "Through our strengthening defence and security cooperation, we will continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity," he said. To

boost financial connectivity, the two countries have decided to enhance cooperation between central banks of the two countries. India's UPI and Vietnam's fast payment system are going to be linked soon, Modi added.

It is understood that China's growing military muscle-flexing figured in the delegation-level talks between the two sides. Lam, accompanied by a high-level delegation, kick started his three-day trip to India on Tuesday. It is his first state visit to the country since his election as the President this month. In his remarks, Lam said both sides agreed to deepen political trust and elevate security cooperation. Last year, the two sides inked a pact to set up a framework for submarine search, rescue and support mechanism. They also signed a letter of intent (LoI) to strengthen bilateral defence industry collaboration.

BJP set to pick first Bengal CM on May 8

New Delhi/Kolkata, May 06: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has arrived in Kolkata to preside over the selection of West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister on May 8. This follows the party's historic landslide victory, securing 207 of 294 seats and ending the Trinamool Congress's 15-year reign.

Government Formation Shah's rare direct involvement as a central observer aims to ensure a seamless transition and prevent internal friction. Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur, is the frontrunner for the top post. Other names in circulation include Samik Bhattacharya and Sanjeev Sanyal. Additionally, former TMC leader Tapas Roy is being considered for the Assembly Speaker's role.

The Swearing-In Ceremony The oath-taking ceremony



ny is scheduled for May 9 at the historic Brigade Parade Ground, strategically coinciding with Rabintra Jayanti (the birth anniversary of Rabinranath Tagore). Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders will attend the event.

State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya assured a "violence-free" tenure, contrasting it with the previous regime. Adhikari, meanwhile, signaled the party's intent for long-term governance, stating the BJP is poised to formalize a significant political shift in the state.



Mamata Rejects Results, Refuses To Resign

Fact-finding panel to probe post-poll unrest

Guwahati, May 05: Outgoing West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday, refused to resign following her party's defeat in the Assembly elections, alleging that the outcome was not people's mandate but a "conspiracy". Addressing a press conference, Banerjee asserted that the electoral verdict had been influenced by irregularities and claimed her party had effectively been up against the Election Commission of India (ECI), rather than just the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "The question of my resignation does not arise. We were not defeated by the people's mandate but by a conspiracy. I did not lose, and I am not stepping away. They may act as per constitutional provisions, but I will continue to fight," she said.

She also targeted Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, ac-



cusing the poll body of failing to uphold democratic norms. "This election raises serious questions about transparency and fairness. People's

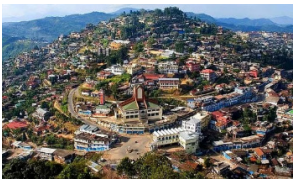
democratic rights have been undermined," she added. The TMC supremo also announced the formation of a 10-member fact-finding committee

to visit areas allegedly affected by post-poll developments and assess the ground situation. She dismissed accusations of post-poll violence, particularly those linked to the 2021 elections, as "baseless and politically motivated".

Banerjee said she had received calls from several leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc expressing support after the results. "Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have spoken to me, along with other leaders. There is solidarity among opposition parties," she noted. Looking ahead, she indicated a shift in focus towards national politics and opposition unity. "We will work to strengthen the INDIA alliance and continue the fight to protect democracy," Banerjee said. The BJP secured a sweeping victory in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly, winning 207 seats and ending the TMC's 15-year rule in the state.



Kohima Mandates Strict Reporting For Foreign Nationals



Kohima, May 06: The Deputy Commissioner of Kohima has issued an order mandating strict compliance with the provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, and related rules. The directive, issued following instructions from the State Government and the Ministry of Home Affairs, requires all accommodation providers in Kohima district, including hotels, guest houses, homestays, private rentals, hospitals, and nursing homes to report the arrival of any foreigner or Overseas Citizen of India to the designated Registration Officer.

The order further directs these establishments to maintain accurate records of foreign guests and produce them when demanded by authorities. The compliance requirement also extends to hostels, boarding houses, educational institutions, and other facilities housing foreign nationals.

Saikia Dismisses CM's 'BJP Switch' Claim as 'Baseless'

Guwahati, May 06: Senior Congress leader and former Nazira MLA Debabrata Saikia has rejected Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that he may eventually join the BJP, describing the speculation as "completely baseless". In a message addressed to the people of Nazira after the 2026 Assembly election results, Saikia said serving the constituency in the Assam Legislative Assembly for the past 15 years had been the greatest honour of his life.

He also denied reports that he had sought a Lok Sabha ticket, calling such claims part of a politically motivated campaign aimed at damaging his image. Accusing the ruling side of spreading false narratives to demoralise Congress workers, Saikia said the morale of the party remained intact despite the electoral setback. He congratulated newly elected BJP MLA Mayur Borgohain on his victory from Nazira and expressed hope that the new representative would work in

the interest of the constituency. Saikia also said he would continue to serve the people with the same commitment irrespective of whether he held any official position. Earlier on May 5, Sarma had reiterated his prediction following Saikia's defeat in

as the Leader of Opposition in the Assam Assembly, lost the Nazira seat by more than 46,000 votes to BJP candidate Mayur Borgohain.

According to the election results, Borgohain secured 98,198 votes, while Saikia polled 51,497 votes. The de-



Nazira. "I had predicted that Debabrata Saikia will lose this Assembly election and later join BJP. The first part of my prediction has come true. The second may happen later. Five years is a long time," the Chief Minister had said. Saikia, who served

feat marked a setback for the Congress in upper Assam, where Nazira had long been regarded as one of the party's strongholds. Saikia is the son of former Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia and has remained active in state politics since the late 1970s.

Runiel Debbarma Sworn In As CEM



Agartala, May 06: A new phase in the administrative functioning of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council commenced on Wednesday with the swearing-in of new leadership at the Council Bhawan in Khumulwng. Runiel Debbarma assumed office as the Chief Executive Member (CEM), while Chandra Kumar Jamatia was sworn in as an Executive Member (EM). Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Runiel Debbarma said that ensuring holistic development of the ADC areas would be the foremost priority of the new administration. He assured that he would carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him with sincerity, dedication, and integrity, emphasizing that the welfare of the Tiprasa community remains at the core of their governance agenda. The newly sworn-in CEM highlighted that despite financial constraints, several developmental initiatives have been undertaken across ADC areas over the past five years. However, he acknowledged that multiple challenges still persist and need to be addressed.

Underscoring the need for greater financial support, Debbarma stated that enhanced funding is crucial for resolving existing issues. He added that he would appeal to both the Central Government and Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha for additional financial assistance to accelerate development in the region.

Guv Pushes Welfare, Reviews Monsoon Readiness



Dimapur, May 06: Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav chaired high-level review meetings at Lok Bhawan, Kohima, on Monday to streamline welfare delivery and assess state preparedness for the 2026 monsoon season. Expanding Welfare Access During a briefing with the Social Welfare Department, the Governor emphasized improving reach for persons with disabilities. He proposed organizing block- and village-level camps in coordination with the Health Department to issue disability certificates, enabling easier access to central benefits. Director Tosheli Zhi-

moni presented updates on flagship missions, including Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti, focusing on child protection and women's empowerment. Monsoon Preparedness In a separate session, Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha warned that while India may see below-normal rainfall due to El Niño, Nagaland expects normal to above-normal rainfall with intense distribution. Key measures discussed include: Infrastructure: The PWD is monitoring national highways and identifying alternative routes for emergencies. Response Mechanisms: District administrations have established control rooms and task forces for flash floods and landslides. Resource Management: Ensuring the availability of essential commodities and medical readiness in vulnerable areas. Governor Yadav urged all departments to maintain "sustained vigilance" and ensure timely information dissemination to minimize public disruption during the rainy season.

Himanta resigns as Assam CM; oath-taking ceremony likely after May 11

Guwahati, May 06: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday resigned along with his cabinet, clearing the way for the formation of a new BJP-led government after the NDA's decisive victory in the Assembly polls, officials said. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured 102 seats in the 126-member Assembly, comfortably crossing the majority mark. The elections were conducted in a single phase on April 9, with counting of votes held on May 4, confirming the alliance's return to power with a strong mandate. "Following the formal notification of the results of #AssamElections2026 and to enable the formation of the new government, Dr @himantabiswa tendered his resignation as Chief Minister along with that of the council of Ministers to Hon'ble Governor Shri @Laxmanacharya54 today at Lok Bhawan," the Chief Minister's Office said in a post on X.

The Governor has accepted the resignation and requested Sarma to continue as the caretaker CM till the new government assumes office, it said. Later, speaking to reporters outside the Lok Bhawan, Sarma said the oath-taking ceremony is likely to take place after May 11. "As it was a historic win, we have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to grace the occasion," he said.

The PMO has intimated that Modi is



busy till May 11 and he will be able to visit the state after that date, Sarma said. Asked about the selection of the chief minister, he said: "The BJP has appointed two central observers. In their presence, the legislature party will nominate the leader to become the next CM. After that, NDA constituents will sit and finalise the name. So, we should wait for the process to complete." The BJP had on Tuesday appointed Union minister J P Nadda as its central observer for election of the legislative party leader in Assam, while Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was made the co-observer. Accompanied by his cabinet colleague Ranoj Pegu and MLA Manab Deka, Sarma said: "The meeting of the legislature

party will take place before May 11. We will get the information from Nadda's office today or tomorrow. The date will be finalised by Nadda and Saini."

Following the meeting of the party MLAs and endorsement of the leader's name by the NDA members, the BJP will stake claim to form the government, he said. Asked if new faces will get berths in the cabinet, Sarma said: "The leader of the legislature party is yet to be selected. The new CM will decide if there will be new faces in the council of ministers." In the assembly elections, the ruling BJP won 82 seats, and its allies Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) pocketed 10 seats each.



Nissan India posts 75% sales surge in April, rides on strong SUV demand

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. reported a strong start to FY2026-27 with a 75 per cent year-on-year rise in domestic sales in April 2026, driven by robust demand for its SUV portfolio, particularly the all-new Nissan GRAVITE and the New Nissan Magnite.

The company on Friday said its total sales stood at 5,388 units in April 2026, comprising 3,203 domestic wholesales and 2,185 export units. Nissan said the performance reflected growing customer interest across its expanding product lineup and reinforced the company's strengthening position in the Indian automobile market. The company also highlighted that it now serves export markets across 65 international destinations and had achieved 1.2 million cumulative vehicle exports in 2025.

The all-new GRAVITE has emerged as a key growth driver for the automaker, gaining traction among buyers for its



seven-seat modularity, comfort and everyday usability. Meanwhile, the New Nissan Magnite continued to remain a strong pillar for the brand in the competitive compact SUV segment.

"We are extremely encouraged by the positive start to the new financial year," said Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director of Nissan Motor India. He said the response to the GRAVITE and Magnite has strengthened the company's confidence as it prepares to introduce new products and expand its network footprint across the country during the current financial year.

In Guwahati, automobile dealers said demand for compact and family-focused SUVs has remained steady, with customers in the North-east increasingly preferring spacious and fuel-efficient vehicles suited for both urban and hilly terrain. Dealers added that Nissan models such as the Magnite and GRAVITE are attracting attention due to their competitive pricing and practical features.

Nissan said it will continue focusing on customer-centric innovation, network expansion and enhancing customer experience to sustain its growth momentum in India.

FIR filed after suspected IED blast, gunshots reported in Changlang district

New Delhi: Tension prevailed in parts of Changlang district after a suspected IED blast and reported gunfire incident came to light earlier this week. The incident is said to have targeted Nuravi Group Director Ravi Ranjan Choubey.

According to preliminary reports, the episode took place on the night of April 23 along the Kharsang-Jairampur stretch of Jinny Road. Officials have not yet confirmed the full sequence of events.

Police teams visiting the site recovered empty cartridges, suggesting possible firing after the explosion. The findings are being treated as crucial evidence in the case. An FIR has been filed at Kharsang Police Station, and an investigation is in progress. Authorities are working to verify all aspects of the incident.

TVS Motor sales rise 7% in April, supply chain disruptions hit dispatches

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company posted a 7 per cent increase in total sales for April 2026, supported by strong retail demand across domestic and international markets, although supply chain disruptions continued to affect production and dispatch volumes.

The company recorded monthly sales of 4,73,970 units in April 2026 compared to 4,43,716 units in April 2025. TVS Motor said retail demand for its two- and three-wheelers remained robust in both domestic and overseas markets. However, dispatches were impacted due to lower production caused by workforce availability issues, shortages of raw materials and consumables among tier-1 and tier-2 suppliers, and limited

container availability for international shipments.

The company said countermeasures have been implemented and production is expected to recover in May 2026. Total two-wheeler sales rose 6 per cent to 4,55,333 units from 4,30,150 units a year ago, while domestic two-wheeler sales grew 8 per cent to 3,48,545 units. Scooter sales jumped 24 per cent to 2,11,158 units, though motorcycle sales fell to 2,00,039 units from 2,20,347 units last year.

Electric vehicle sales surged 36 per cent to 37,771 units, while three-wheeler sales climbed 37 per cent to 18,637 units. International business sales also increased 3 per cent to 1,20,008 units in April.

Vi expands digital content play with microdrama entry, targets high-growth short-format market

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea (Vi) has entered the rapidly expanding microdrama segment, launching short-format serialised content on its Vi Movies & TV platform in partnership with the Bullet Microdrama App. The offering, available free of cost, signals Vi's strategic push to strengthen its digital content ecosystem and capture rising demand for mobile-first entertainment.

Market data indicates strong momentum in the microdrama segment, with India contributing 11% of global downloads in Q1 2025, reaching 35 million installs. The category is projected to grow to \$1.5 billion by 2026 and \$4.5 billion by 2030, driven by in-

creased adoption in Tier II and Tier III markets, younger audiences, and evolving consumption patterns. High engagement levels, with daily watch times of 40-90 minutes and completion rates above 90%, underline its monetisation potential.

Vi Movies & TV continues to consolidate its position as a content aggregator, offering access to 20+ OTT platforms such as JioHotstar, SonyLIV, ZEE5 and Amazon MX Player, alongside 400+ live TV channels. The new microdrama catalogue includes multilingual titles like Rickshaw Romeo, AutoRaja, Lady Boss, Comedy Couple, and Sweet 16, spanning key entertainment genres.

NPCI ramps up digital payment safety campaign amid rising adoption of cashless transactions

Itanagar: Amid the rapid expansion of India's digital payments ecosystem, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has intensified its consumer awareness efforts by issuing a fresh advisory focused on safe digital transaction practices to curb rising cyber fraud risks.

The advisory outlines five key measures aimed at strengthening user security in online transactions. NPCI urged consumers to verify the recipient's identity before making payments and transact only through trusted payment applications and official websites. The organisation also

cautioned users against sharing sensitive information such as UPI PINs, OTPs, or banking credentials with anyone, including individuals claiming to represent banks, law enforcement agencies, or government offices.

NPCI further advised customers not to make hurried payments under pressure and encouraged users to keep SMS and app transaction alerts activated for real-time monitoring of account activity. Consumers have also been asked to report suspicious numbers or fraud attempts through the national cybercrime helpline 1930

or the Department of Telecommunications portal while preserving screenshots and records for investigation purposes.

In Itanagar, traders and retailers are witnessing growing reliance on UPI and mobile payment systems as digital transactions gain momentum across local businesses. Market participants say stronger awareness around payment security is critical to sustaining customer confidence and supporting the continued growth of Arunachal Pradesh's emerging digital commerce landscape.

Nissan rolls out GRAVITE CNG with twin-cylinder tech, targets cost-conscious 7-seater buyers

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Private Limited on Monday launched a government-approved CNG retrofitment kit for the all-new Nissan GRAVITE, introducing a segment-first twin-cylinder setup aimed at combining space with fuel efficiency. Priced at an introductory ₹82,999, the kit will be available across 60 cities in 16 states via authorised dealerships.

The GRAVITE CNG features a dual-cylinder (2x25 litres) configuration that preserves full 7-seater functionality, ensuring no compromise on third-row space, comfort and practicality. The system has been developed and quality assured by Motozen and comes with a third-party warranty of three years or 1,00,000 km. Customers can opt for installation directly



through Nissan dealers.

Company officials said the move builds on the strong response to the Nissan Magnite CNG and reflects Nissan's focus on delivering accessible and future-ready mobility solutions in India. The GRAVITE CNG is positioned as a cost-efficient alternative for families seeking everyday usability

with lower per-kilometre running costs.

The kit includes a BS6.2-compliant sequential system, ICAT-approved safety standards, 8.1 mm cylinder thickness, dynamic advancer technology, seamless petrol-CNG switchover, and a fuel filling point under the fuel lid for factory-like integration. In Guwahati, where CNG adoption is gradually expanding, the GRAVITE CNG is expected to see demand among large families and high-mileage users. With rising fuel costs and increasing preference for economical commuting, Nissan's 7-seater CNG offering could strengthen its presence in the city's evolving mobility market while supporting cleaner urban transport choices.

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MSDE unveils roadmap to boost MSME apprenticeships, strengthen India's skilled workforce



Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Wednesday launched a major push to expand apprenticeship adoption among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), aiming to build a future-ready workforce aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision.

At a high-level workshop on "Scaling Apprenticeship Uptake in MSMEs," policymakers, industry leaders and MSME stakeholders discussed ways to increase apprenticeship participation

among smaller businesses. The deliberations focused on barriers such as low awareness, compliance complexities and limited industry engagement despite strong growth under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). Officials noted that 94 per cent of MSME apprentices are currently hosted by private sector establishments.

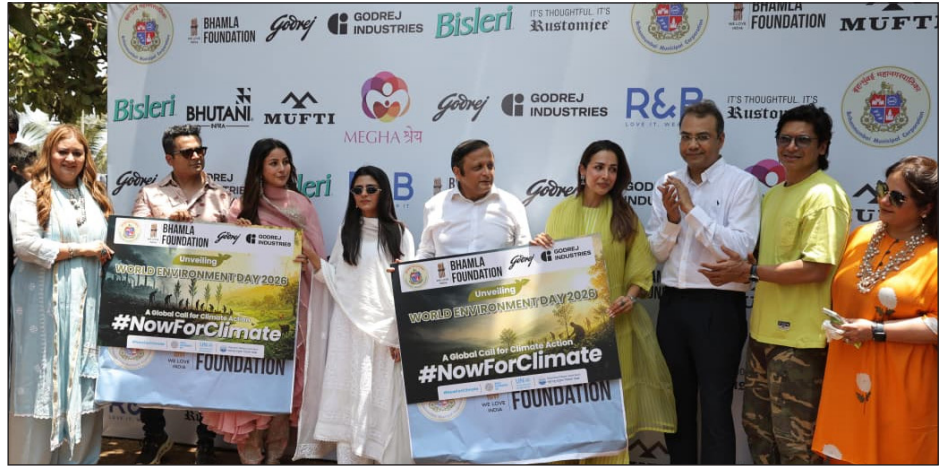
Debashree Mukherjee said apprenticeships can bridge the gap between education and employment while helping MSMEs access skilled

manpower. The workshop examined scalable models including Group Training Organizations (GTOs), Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) and Work-Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP).

The consultation also proposed pilot projects, policy reforms, targeted incentives and social security measures to improve apprenticeship accessibility, especially for women, PwDs, SC/ST/OBC groups and youth from remote areas.

In Guwahati, the initiative is expected to support Assam's expanding MSME ecosystem, particularly in sectors such as handloom, food processing, retail and small-scale manufacturing. Industry stakeholders in Guwahati believe simplified apprenticeship models and work-integrated training could help local businesses address skilled workforce gaps while generating employment opportunities for youth across the Northeast.

NowForClimate campaign drives green push: Bhamla Foundation, Godrej Industries lead World Environment Day plantation initiative



Guwahati: The Bhamla Foundation has announced a large-scale Tree Plantation Drive for World Environment Day 2026 under its #NowForClimate campaign, in collaboration with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme and Godrej Industries Group. Godrej L'Affaire has been onboarded as the digital amplification partner. The initiative aims to significantly enhance Mumbai's green cover while mobilising citizens, youth and communities toward climate-positive action through plantation drives across key urban locations.

The campaign will be flagged off in the presence of public figures including Malaika Arora, Sachiin J Joshi, Sadia Khateeb, Shaan, Shehnaaz Gill, RupaliGanguly and Seema Singh. Organisers said the initiative goes beyond symbolism, focusing on long-term ecological restoration, improved air quality and sustainable urban ecosystems.

Sujit Patil, Chief Communications Officer at Godrej Industries Group, said the campaign reflects how collective intent across institutions, communities and individuals can drive measurable environmental impact and wider citizen participation.

Aligned with the global World Environment Day theme, the initiative reinforces India's broader climate resilience and sustainability agenda, with more activities planned under the #NowForClimate campaign. In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to accelerate demand for nursery plants, landscaping services and eco-friendly products, as rising environmental awareness among consumers and businesses fuels growth in the region's green economy.

ICICI bank rolls out biometric UPI payments on iMobile to boost secure digital transactions

Guwahati: ICICI Bank has introduced biometric authentication for UPI transactions on its mobile banking platform iMobile, enabling customers to authorise payments of up to ₹5,000 using fingerprint or facial recognition technology. The move is aimed at strengthening security while offering a faster and more seamless digital payment experience.

The bank said customers can use biometric authentication for peer-to-peer fund transfers, QR-code based merchant payments, and on-line purchases made through the iMobile app. Transactions above ₹5,000 will continue to require the conventional UPI PIN for authentication. The feature is available on Android version 30 and iOS version 28.2 of the app, with Android users able to authenticate through fingerprint verification and iPhone users through facial recognition.

An ICICI Bank spokesperson said the feature aligns



with regulatory guidelines and reflects the bank's focus on advanced digital banking solutions. The spokesperson added that customers can choose between biometric and PIN-based authentication depending on their convenience.

In the Guwahati market, banking and fintech observers believe the feature could accelerate digital payment adoption among retailers, traders, and younger consumers as UPI usage continues to expand across Assam's urban centres. The added security layer is also expected to strengthen consumer confidence in cashless transactions in the region's growing retail and service economy.

CDSL IPF rolls out major investor awareness drive across Northeast to boost market participation

Guwahati: Central Depository Services (India) Limited Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust has launched a large-scale investor awareness campaign across 84 towns in Northeast India, aiming to strengthen financial literacy and improve participation in the securities market in the region.

The campaign, launched from Guwahati on April 28, will cover Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. The initiative seeks to bridge the awareness gap by delivering investment education in local languages through accessible communi-

ty-based formats. Mobile awareness vans equipped with LED screens and multilingual audio-visual content will conduct sessions on investor rights, safe investing practices and demat accounts. The outreach will also include street plays, mobile theatre integrations and youth-focused engagement programmes. Speaking on the initiative, Smt. Nayana Ovalakar and Shri. Sudhish Pillai of CDSL IPF said the Northeast remains a priority region where stronger investor awareness is needed to help individuals participate in market-linked investments safely and confidently.

According to the SEBI Kantar Report, household penetration in the securities market remains below the national average of 9.5% across several north-eastern states, with Meghalaya at 4.2% and Nagaland at 3.4%, highlighting a significant awareness gap. In Guwahati, the campaign could support the region's emerging retail investment ecosystem by encouraging informed participation in capital markets. They noted that growing financial awareness in the Guwahati market may increase interest in regulated investment products and expand retail investor engagement across the Northeast.

New Bengaluru University RISM to offer AI, aerospace and industry-focused courses from 2026

Bengaluru: Students looking for careers in artificial intelligence, aerospace engineering and technology-driven business sectors will soon have a new higher education option with the launch of Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM) in Bengaluru.

Launched by the Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) in partnership with the University at Albany, the deemed-to-be university will start its first academic session in August 2026 with a focus on globally aligned and industry-oriented education. The university will offer undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes, including B.Tech courses in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Aerospace Engineering and Electrical Sciences, alongside BBA and MBA programmes.

According to the institution, the curriculum has been designed with industry and academic partners to provide students with practical exposure through internships, live projects and industry-sponsored Centres of Excellence.

RISM said students will also learn under "Professors of Practice," where senior industry professionals will take up formal teaching and mentoring roles to provide real-world business and technology insights.

The university's residential campus is being developed near Devanahalli in Bengaluru's Information Technology Investment Region, close to aerospace and industrial hubs. Until the main campus becomes operational in 2027, academic activities will begin from a transit campus in Yelahanka.



Renault bets on premium affordable mobility with launch of upgraded Triber 2026

Guwahati: Renault has launched the upgraded Renault Triber 2026 in India, aiming to strengthen its position in the affordable family vehicle segment with a range of premium and segment-first features. Priced between ₹5.80 lakh and ₹8 lakh (ex-showroom), the multi-purpose vehicle is available in four variants — Authentic, Evolution, Techno and Emotion.

The company said the upgraded Triber introduces segment-first features such as automatic climate control and second-row one-touch fold-and-tumble seats. Renault has also enhanced the vehicle's practicality with fully foldable second-row seats that expand boot space to 1,065 litres, claimed to be best-in-segment. The cabin now features a modern dual-tone dashboard with a floating 20.32 cm touchscreen supporting wireless

Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Francisco Hidalgo Marques, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Renault India, said the upgrades reinforce the company's focus on delivering value-driven premium mobility solutions for Indian families. The Triber 2026 also comes with 21 standard safety features, including six airbags, ABS with EBD, electronic stability control and tyre pressure monitoring systems.

In Guwahati, automobile dealers expect the upgraded Triber to witness strong demand due to rising preference for spacious yet affordable family vehicles in Assam and the Northeast. Industry players believe the vehicle's modular seating, premium features and competitive pricing could attract middle-class buyers and boost Renault's presence in the regional passenger vehicle market.

Renault Group India seeks NCLT nod for major operational realignment, targets ₹2 billion exports by 2030

Guwahati: Renault Group India has approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for approval of a proposed structural realignment of its India operations as the automaker looks to strengthen its long-term manufacturing and export strategy in the country.

Under the proposed restructuring, the company plans to organise its powertrain manufacturing business as a dedicated entity, while vehicle manufacturing and sales operations will be consolidated under an integrated operating structure.

The move is aimed at creating clearer operational frameworks aligned with the distinct industrial and business requirements of each segment.

The company said the restructuring supports its broader strategy to position India as a key manufacturing and export hub within global operations, with an ambition to support exports worth up to ₹2 billion annually by 2030 under its futureReady plan.

Renault Group India clarified that the proposed changes will not impact em-

ployees, customers, dealers, suppliers, or partners, adding that all manufacturing, supply, and service commitments will continue without disruption. Employment terms and business relationships will also remain unchanged.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Renault Group, the company employs nearly 15,000 people across manufacturing, engineering, research, and design operations and operates through a nationwide network of over 600 sales and service touchpoints across India.

Rising pediatric liver disease cases open a preventive health care focus in Northeast: Medanta doctors

Guwahati: Medanta – The Medicity has flagged a sharp rise in pediatric liver diseases in the Northeast, with specialists linking the trend to unhealthy lifestyle patterns, growing junk food consumption, and reduced physical activity among children.

Dr. Neelam Mohan, Senior Director of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Medanta Gurugram and National President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), said cases of metabolic associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), or fatty liver disease, have increased

significantly over the past decade. She noted that 10-18 percent of school-going children in India are overweight or obese, while 35-45 percent of obese children are at risk of developing MASLD.

Dr. Mohan said excessive intake of processed foods, sugar-rich diets, irregular routines, and lack of exercise are contributing to obesity and liver disorders among children. She warned that many pediatric liver conditions remain undetected until advanced stages, increasing the risk of cirrhosis and long-term health complications. She also cautioned against

self-medication and overuse of antibiotics in children, saying it can damage liver function and weaken immunity. In Guwahati, healthcare providers are witnessing growing demand for preventive pediatric healthcare, nutrition counselling, and lifestyle management services as urban families become more aware of childhood obesity-related illnesses. The rise in lifestyle-linked disorders is also expected to boost investments in specialized pediatric care and diagnostic screening services across Guwahati's healthcare market.

HDFC Bank gets clean chit from law firms on governance issues

Mumbai: In a major relief to HDFC Bank, three law firms hired by the country's largest private sector lender to review allegations of ethical and governance lapses—raised by former part-time chairman Atanu Chakraborty—have given a clean chit to the bank and its management. Following Chakraborty's surprise resignation on March 18, the bank had engaged two Mumbai-based law firms—Trilegal and Wadia Ghandy & Co—along with a US-based firm, after the former civil servant-turned-banker stepped down citing an "incongruence" between his personal values and the bank's practices. However, despite repeated requests to substantiate his concerns, Chakraborty did not elaborate, prompting the bank to initiate an independent legal review on May 26.

While a bank spokesperson declined to comment on the development, a source confirmed that the findings pave the way for a potential third term for chief executive Sashidhar Jagdishan, whose current tenure ends in October. The bank is likely to send its recommendation to the Reserve Bank of India later this month. In a parallel development, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday dismissed a corruption case filed against Jagdishan last May by the Lilavati Trust, which runs the Lilavati Hospital, calling the case frivolous. Both developments boosted investor sentiment. Shares of HDFC Bank, which had been under pressure since the Chakraborty episode, rose 3% to Rs 796 on Wednesday, while the Bank Nifty index climbed 2.6%. Chakraborty's abrupt resignation had earlier triggered a 13.81% fall in the bank's share price, wiping out nearly \$16 billion in market

value and prompting a rare reassurance from the RBI the very next day to calm investor and depositor concerns about a systemically important lender.

The law firms are understood to have examined minutes and video recordings of board and extraordinary general meetings over the past three years to assess whether governance concerns had been raised by Chakraborty



and how they were addressed. They found no lapses, noting that all issues raised at the board level were handled in accordance with prescribed processes. Proxy advisory firm In-Govern Research had last month indicated that Chakraborty's resignation was likely driven by differences between key individuals at the bank rather than any threat to shareholder value.

Market participants also believe Chakraborty may have overstepped his non-executive role, acting more like an executive chairman and getting involved in day-to-day operations. This, they suggest, may have led to friction with the CEO, contributing to the fallout.

Zee files \$3 million lawsuit against Reliance-Disney joint venture

New Delhi: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) has filed a lawsuit against the Reliance-Disney joint venture in which it has alleging unauthorised use of its copyrighted music after licensing agreements expired. According to court documents seen by Reuters, the suit was filed in New Delhi on April 14 and it seeks \$3 million in damages. ZEEL claims that the JV, now operating as JioStar, used its music content across its TV channels and streaming platform without valid licences. Zee said that it works were used at least 50 times after agreements lapsed in 2024 and 2025 and were not renewed due to commercial disagreements. "The illegal exploitation thereof amounted to copyright infringement," said ZEEL while urging the court to restrain any ongoing usage. Zee and Reliance-Disney venture is yet to comment on the suit.

The dispute represents the newest clash between Zee and JioStar, the \$8.5 billion media joint venture created by Reliance Industries and Disney in 2024. It underscores growing tensions over content rights



as India's media sector undergoes rapid consolidation. The issue surfaced briefly in court on Tuesday, with the judge ordering JioStar to prevent any additional violations of Zee's content and to act within 15 days, according to a source familiar with the proceedings who spoke to Reuters.

The follow-up hearing is set for July 23.

JioStar runs the JioHotstar streaming service, which boasts about 500 million monthly users and a massive catalogue of TV shows plus sports rights. Zee, a veteran Indian media player, holds rights to more than 19,450 songs in 17 languages. The

dispute also runs parallel to arbitration proceedings in London, where Reliance is seeking \$1 billion in damages from Zee over a terminated cricket licensing deal. Zee has denied any wrongdoing and is contesting the claim.

Meanwhile, Zee Entertainment Enterprises has also filed a copyright violation case against FSN E-Commerce Ventures, the owner of beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa, in the Delhi High Court. Zee claimed that FSN E-Commerce had used the former's songs in brand promotion in about a dozen Instagram reels without seeking permission or licensing.



Beverages High in Magnesium to Naturally Enhance Your Hydration and Energy

Magnesium is essential for more than 300 bodily functions. It contributes to a robust immune system, supports bone strength, and helps regulate sugar and calcium levels in the body. Despite being present in various everyday foods like nuts, seeds, and beans, many individuals find it challenging to consume the necessary amount in their daily meals. Let us explore some homemade beverages that are not only delicious but also enhance our daily magnesium consumption. Here are a few homemade drinks that increase the magnesium intake of our body

Green Smoothies

Green leafy vegetables blended with fruits like bananas, berries can give a boost in magnesium level in your body. Add veggies like spinach, kale with the pumpkin and chia seeds to make it a healthy and nutritious breakfast.

Spinach Lemon Buttermilk

Buttermilk, as well as spinach, are both magnesium-rich foods. Mix the churned chass with a bunch of finely blended spinach with roasted jeera, and lemon for a tasty as well as healthy beverage



Coconut Water

Coconut water is an all-natural electrolyte drink. A single cup has about 60 mg of magnesium, making it ideal for a post-exercise drink or a lunchtime energy boost. Its refreshing flavor replenishes lost minerals and naturally hydrates you.

Cucumber-Mint Infused Water

Soaking water with slices of cu-

cumber and mint leaves makes a magnesium-infused drink. Although its mineral levels are low, the refreshing nature of the drink makes it an ideal candidate for everyday consumption, particularly in warm months.

Herbal Teas

Some herbs contain a lot of magnesium, and preparing teas from them

can contribute to nutritional requirements. Nettle or chamomile tea, for example, not only provides relaxation but also a magnesium supply. One cup of nettle tea can supply as much as 10 mg of magnesium, making it a relaxing part of night-time routines.

Soy Milk

Soy milk is an excellent non-

dairy product containing about 54 mg of magnesium per cup. It may be drunk plain, added to cereals, or used as a base for smoothies. It is a bone-friendly drink and brings variety to the diet.

Raw Cacao Hot Chocolate

Raw cacao is one of the richest sources of magnesium. Blended with warm milk or plant milk, a tablespoon provides approximately 35 mg of magnesium. With honey or maple syrup sweetening, it becomes a soothing, guilt-free indulgence to aid relaxation.

Prune Juice

Prune juice, which helps to digest food, also provides approximately 34.7 mg of magnesium per cup. Due to its natural sweetness and fibre content, it is a healthy beverage for digestive and mineral health in general. The amount of magnesium noted on each beverage is an estimate and may fluctuate depending on preparation technique and quality of ingredients. Specialists recommend consulting with a healthcare provider before implementing major dietary shifts, particularly for individuals suffering from pre-existing medical conditions or taking prescribed medication.

Korean Flavors Are Captivating Indian Tastes

Korean cuisine is currently experiencing a surge in popularity in India. K-pop concerts are selling out within minutes, K-dramas are the go-to choice for weekend binge-watching, and cafés are increasingly offering ramyeon and corn dogs. Events such as K-Town are highly anticipated by fans and K-enthusiasts, providing a comprehensive 360° experience of all things Korean. However, when it comes to exploring Korean food beyond the well-known options, many individuals remain hesitant. The flavors may seem unfamiliar, the names can be difficult to pronounce, and no one wants to take a risk on a dish they cannot clearly envision. That hesitation makes sense, after all, food is personal. We like to know what's on our plate before we dive in. This guide is here to bridge that gap. By pairing iconic Korean dishes with their closest Indian counterparts, we show how your palate might already be halfway there. Consider it a friendly roadmap for anyone curious but cautious, an invitation to explore a new cuisine that feels surprisingly familiar once you take that first bite. Pickle Nation: When Kimchi (kim-chee) Meets Achaar Kimchi is to Korea what achaar is to India: fermented, fiery, and fiercely personal. Just like every Indian household has its signature pickle, mango with mustard oil in the north, lime and chili in the west, or prawn pickle along the coast, Korean families guard their kimchi recipes closely. Napa cabbage, chili, garlic, and ginger are tucked into clay pots to ferment just right. Both kimchi and achaar are more than condiments; they're cultural signatures, telling stories about geography, family pride, and memory. Black Gold: Jjajangmyeon (jja-jang-myun) Meets Indian Kadhi or Dal Makhani Jjajangmyeon's thick noodles smothered in a rich black bean sauce are the Korean equivalent of a comforting bowl of dal makhani or kadhi, hearty, flavorful, and soul-soothing. It's heavy, filling, and best enjoyed with friends. While dal makhani simmers with cream and spices, jjajangmyeon simmers with savory black bean paste, but both deliver that deep, umami punch we crave in comfort food.

Roll With It: Kimbap (kim-bap) Meets Indian Litti Kimbap is Korea's rice roll, wrapped neatly in seaweed with veggies, eggs, or meat inside. Think of it as a more refined litti, portable, bite-sized, and filled with surprises. Where litti hides sattu, kimbap hides pickled radish and seasoned spinach, but the joy of unwrapping and discovering flavors is just the same. It's perfect for a festival picnic or a quick snack on the go. Soft, Warm, and Eggy: Gyeran Bbang (gyer-an bang) Meets Indian Egg Bhurji Pav Gyeran bbang, soft bread baked with a whole egg inside, is Korea's answer to a simple breakfast or snack. Imagine the comfort of egg bhurji tucked into a warm pav, with each bite soft, slightly sweet, and satisfying. It's humble, but once you try it, you realize how perfect the combination of bread and egg can be. Bold and Meaty: Tteokgalbi (tuhk-gal-bee) Meets Indian Seekh Kebabs Tteokgalbi are Korean short rib patties, grilled to smoky, juicy perfection. Think seekh kebabs with a Korean twist, spiced, minced, and expertly grilled. Rich and flavorful, they satisfy anyone craving a meaty, indulgent bite and showcase the depth of Korean grilling traditions. Chewy and Sweet: Japchae (jap-chay) Meets Indian Vegetable Hakka Noodles Japchae, stir-fried sweet potato noodles with vegetables and sometimes meat, is Korea's noodle dish that feels like a cousin to vegetable Hakka noodles. Chewy, colorful, slightly sweet, and versatile, it can be served hot or cold. It's approachable, healthy, and perfect for festival-goers looking for something light yet flavorful. Both India and Korea share a love for flavour, community, and tradition. Korean food might look different at first glance, but its focus on spice, comfort, and indulgence makes it feel instantly familiar. For beginners, newer fans, or those already fully immersed in all things K, K-Town 3.0 festival powered by Black & White Ginger Ale Non Alcoholic Carbonated Beverage, on November 1st is the ultimate one-stop shop from iconic dishes to a glamorous lineup featuring Taemin, SUPER JUNIOR-D&E, ONEWE, Yedam, and JEY. It's the perfect chance to taste the culture that's capturing hearts across the country.

Instant Pot Magic Apple Cake



You don't need fancy inserts or special pans to make a sweet and satisfying baked dessert in an instant pot. This easy recipe lets you cook up a warm, spiced apple treat right in the bowl of the machine. 1. Whisk together the brown sugar, granulated sugar, cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg and 1 1/2 cups water in a bowl and add to a 6-quart Instant Pot®. Add the apples to the pot. Follow the manufacturer's guide for locking the lid and set to pressure cook on low for 1 minute (see Cook's Note). 2. After the pressure-cook cycle is complete, follow the manufacturer's guide for quick release and wait until the quick-release cycle is complete. Being careful of any remaining steam, unlock and remove the lid. 3. Break each apple in half using a wooden spoon. Place the cake mix in a bowl and combine with the butter, eggs and 3 tablespoons of the liquid from the pot; the mixture will be thick. Pour it evenly over the apples in the pot. Sprinkle with the almonds. Lock the lid and set to pressure cook on low for 30 minutes. 4. After the pressure-cook cycle is complete, follow the manufacturer's guide for quick release and wait until the quick-release cycle is complete. Being careful of any remaining steam, unlock and remove the lid. Allow to sit for 15 minutes. Spoon the cake into bowls and top with ice cream and caramel sauce.



BJP Slams Rahul Gandhi as 'Unfit,' Claims INDIA Bloc Near Collapse

BJP: INDIA Bloc Collapse Imminent; Gandhi Insults Voters

New Delhi, May 06: The BJP on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling him an "unfit leader" and claiming the opposition INDIA bloc is on the verge of disintegration under his leadership. BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged that the alliance is facing an internal collapse and predicted it would break apart within weeks. "Rahul Gandhi, you are an unfit leader, and because of this, your entire party is deteriorating today and breaking apart. Wait for just a few weeks, the 'INDI' alliance will be destroyed. We have information from sources that it is going to break apart. The blame for this will fall on Rahul Gandhi's head," he told reporters.

The remarks came after Gandhi alleged "vote theft" in elections in a post on X, claiming that a significant number of BJP MPs had won through irregularities. "It's not hard to identify them -- should we call them 'infiltrators' in BJP's own language? And Haryana? There, the entire government is 'infiltrator'," Gandhi wrote.. Seats are sometimes stolen through vote theft, sometimes entire



governments. Their real fear is the truth." Responding, Patra accused Gandhi of insulting the mandate given by voters, particularly in Haryana. "Rahul Gandhi today posted that not only are votes being stolen and seats being stolen, but now the entire government has been stolen. Is this a government or one of your brother-in-law's land parcels that can be stolen? A thief sees everyone else as a thief," he said.

He also objected to Gandhi's remarks describing the Haryana government as "infiltrators." "The people have voted, and it is a BJP government. The MLAs are elected by the people, and the chief minister is chosen by the people.

How is it right to call them infiltrators?" he asked. Patra further alleged that Gandhi's leadership has weakened both the Congress and the broader opposition alliance. He also targeted leaders like Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee, accusing them of uniting only after electoral setbacks. "When they have to unite to fight elections, they do not come together... But after losing, they have all united. This is the height of frustration," he said. Escalating his attack, Patra accused Gandhi of being "disconnected" from electoral politics and alleged that he frequently travels abroad during crucial political moments.

SC Cancels Haldwani Riot Bail

New Delhi, May 06: The Supreme Court on Monday set aside the Uttarakhand High Court's order of granting default bail to 2024 Haldwani riots accused persons and ordered the accused duo to surrender before the trial Court within a period of two weeks failing which the trial Court shall take stringent measures to take them into custody. A two-judge bench of the apex court, presided by Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta, after hearing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the State of Uttarakhand, passed the order on May 4. "It is absolutely unreasonable of the High Court to have made observations on the investigation and had in fact made factually incorrect statements regarding recording statements by the investigating agency. Importantly, without a doubt, the investigation was proceeded with utmost expediency in a case presented grave challenges to the investigation agency, considering the magnitude of the crime and the large number of accused and witnesses," the apex court said in its order.

The Uttarakhand State had moved the apex court challenging the grant of default bail to two prime accused, Javed Siddiqui and Arshad Ayub, granted by a Division Bench of the Nainital High Court in the 2024 Haldwani riots case. The top court found substance and ground in the appeal of the Uttarakhand government and allowed it.

According to the prosecution case, the matter was related to the incident of February 8, 2024, Banbhoolpura, Haldwani riots, when a violent mob allegedly opened fire, threw stones and petrol bombs, burnt police vehicles and confined female constables in a police station

which was set on fire, leading to registration of 3 separate FIRs under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 15 & 16 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and section 3, 4, 7 and 25 of the Arms Act etc. In the case, the Uttarakhand State was represented by Jatinder Kumar Sethi, the Deputy Advocate General (DAG) and Ashutosh Kumar Sharma Standing Counsel. Siddharth Agarwal Senior Advocate represented the accused in the apex court. After hearing the parties, the top court observed that that the HC had completely gone wrong and noted that the FIR had been filed in relation to an incident of widespread arson, rioting and damage to public property including the building of the police station, wherein large number of accused persons were arraigned with the allegation of using petrol bombs and other arsenal in the incident. The apex court also pointed out that the HC failed to advert to the important fact that the accused nev-



er challenged the orders of extension of time and rejection of bail by promptly approaching the HC and instead waited till 2 months before filing the appeal. The court was of the opinion that the accused had lost the right to seek default bail by their acquiescence and set aside the order granting them default bail.

The State Prosecution is taking this as a big win for the State, since this was one case where the State's Law and Order machinery itself was under attack by a riotous mob who sought to oppose anti encroachment drive of the State. The entire Police Department of the State is taking this as a big morale booster when expeditious investigation is appreciated by no less than the Highest Court of the Country.

Chhattisgarh to Launch CISF-Style Industrial Force



Raipur, May 06: The Chhattisgarh government has finalized the blueprint for the State Industrial Security Force (SISF), an elite unit modeled after the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Designed to protect both public and private sectors, the SISF aims to secure the state's economic interests and industrial heartlands. Key Features of the SISF: Structure: Operating under the Director General of Police (DGP), the force is divided into Executive (field operations) and Secretarial (administration) branches. User-Pays Model: The financial burden rests on the industries, not the state. Companies must pay an advance fee of ₹1,00,000 for security assessments, with a minimum deployment of 59 personnel. Incentives: Personnel will receive a 12% additional allowance, with industries mandated to provide housing, medical facilities, and armouries.

Consultancy Services: Beyond guarding, the SISF will offer paid technical expertise in fire safety, security auditing, and disaster management. This strategic move is expected to bolster investor confidence and provide a robust security infrastructure, particularly in Chhattisgarh's mineral-rich tribal regions.

Police Shot in Bengal; CEC Orders Arrests

Subhendu Maiti, May 06: The Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, directed the authorities concerned to immediately arrest those involved in post-poll violence and vandalism in West Bengal hours after five policemen, including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Nazat police station, and a jawan were shot at during a clash in the Sandeshkhali area in North 24 Parganas on Wednesday. Incidents of post-poll violence remained unabated after the results of the elections in 294 assembly constituencies in Bengal were announced, showing the BJP's victory with an overwhelming majority in 207 seats in the state. Two-phase elections in Bengal were held on April 23 and 29 respectively in the state. On Tuesday, two persons were killed in alleged incidents of post-poll violence in the state, besides scores of party offices being ransacked in Kolkata and districts.

Today, the CEC issued instructions to the West Bengal chief secretary, director general of police, Kolkata police commissioner and directors general of central armed police forces (CAPF), along with all district magistrates and superintendents of police to maintain continuous patrolling in sensitive areas, according to

the Election Commission of India (ECI) sources. "Those responsible for inciting violence and carrying out acts of vandalism must be arrested immediately," the sources said, quoting Kumar's instruction. Four state police personnel, including the OC Bharat Prasun Purkayastha and a woman constable, and two CAPF



jawans sustained bullet injuries during a clash between two political parties at Rajbari area under Nazat PS on Wednesday night. A group of criminals allegedly fired at the policemen and jawans when they rushed to the spot. They sustained injuries on legs, according to local police sources. OC's condition is serious.

The injured were taken to a state-run medical college hospital in Kolkata. The

incident has triggered tension in the village. Huge contingent of central forces and police were deployed to bring the situation under control. On Tuesday, at Debipur near Udaynarayanpur in Howrah, a BJP activist, Jadab Bar, 45, was allegedly beaten to death on Monday night. According to local and police sources, Bar had attended a picnic to celebrate the party's victory and returned home late at night, only to be called out again by some individuals. He was then allegedly attacked with iron rods. Bar was rushed to Udaynarayanpur State General Hospital, where he was declared dead. At New Town in North 24-Parganas, BJP worker Madhu Mondal was allegedly killed by his rival. "Mondal was a BJP worker, and Trinamool goons killed him for helping the BJP win the support of voters in the locality," a family member of the victim said. A Trinamool Congress supporter, Abir Sheikh, was killed allegedly by BJP activists at Nanoor in Birbhum on Tuesday. Authorities have intensified vigil across districts, with coordinated deployment of state police and central forces to prevent further escalation. Security presence has been increased in vulnerable areas as a precautionary measure.

Vinesh Phogat Fails First Dope Test

Chennai, May 05: Just as star wrestler Vinesh Phogat prepares for her first official competition following her Paris Olympics heartbreak, the International Testing Agency (ITA) has officially recorded her first "missed test." The Whereabouts Failure In a letter dated May 4, 2026, the ITA confirmed a whereabouts failure stemming from an unsuccessful testing attempt on December 18, 2025. Doping Control Officers (DCOs) arrived at her provided location in Bengaluru at 10 PM for an unannounced out-of-competition test but could not locate her within the stipulated one-hour window. Phogat's Defense and ITA's Verdict-Vinesh, now a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Haryana, explained that she was attending the State

Assembly's winter session in Chandigarh on the day of the attempt. She also cited the recent arrival of her child as a factor in her disrupted routine. While the ITA acknowledged her cooperation when reached by phone, they ruled her explanation insufficient: Failed Notification: Under WADA rules, athletes must update their location before the designated testing window.

Negligence: The ITA stated Phogat failed to prove that "no negligent behavior" contributed to the failure.

Vinesh, who recently reversed her retirement, remains in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP). While this is her first recorded failure, a total of three within 12 months could lead to a two-year suspension. She has seven days to request an administrative review.



Jayawardene and Mumbai not ready to give up just yet



Chennai, May 06: Mumbai Indians head coach Maheela Jayawardene continues to back Suryakumar Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah despite their ongoing IPL slump. Following a loss to Chennai Super Kings where Yadav fell for 21, his season total reached just 183 runs in nine outings at a modest average of 20.33.

Yadav admitted the pressure of failing to be the dugout's "comfort factor," but Jayawardene dismissed concerns over a decline in skill. "I don't think his output is down; class is permanent," the coach said, noting that Yadav's shots have frequently found fielders this season.

Addressing Jasprit Bumrah's dip in form, Jayawardene emphasized a "collective effort," stating that other bowlers must provide support to allow the ace pacer to attack. With five games remaining, Jayawardene insists the team will fight until mathematically eliminated.

Arsenal on cusp of history after reaching Champions League final



London, May 06: Mikel Arteta has urged Arsenal to use the "energy and belief" generated by reaching the Champions League final for the first time in 20 years as fuel to complete an historic double. Even by his frenetic standards, Arteta was a blur of energy as the Gunners boss embarked on a jubilant lap of honour with his players after Tuesday's 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid in the semi-final second leg at the Emirates Stadium. Bukayo Saka's close-range finish in the first half sealed a 2-1 aggregate victory that sent Arsenal back into the Champions League final for the first time since their only previous appearance ended in defeat against Barcelona in 2006.

The north London club are now four games from immortality, with three wins from their remaining Premier League matches against West Ham, Burnley and Crystal Palace guaranteeing a first English title since 2004. After the title fight with Manchester City is decided, Arteta's side will travel to Budapest to face Paris Saint-Germain or Bayern Munich on May 30 as they chase a maiden Champions League crown. Holders PSG, who beat Arsenal in the semi-finals last year, head into Wednesday's

second leg in Munich with a 5-4 lead. Whoever they face in Hungary will encounter an Arsenal team riding a tidal wave of emotion after the outpouring of joy from Arteta, his players and 60,000 fans on Tuesday. From the moment, thousands of Arsenal fans massed outside the stadium to greet the team bus with red flares, flags and defiant roars of encouragement, it was clear this was a day unlike any other for the Gunners.

Arteta was ecstatic during the wild post-match celebrations and, on the cusp of history, he challenged his players to use the feeling to carry them to the finish line in both competitions. "It's great. Everybody can feel a shift in energy, in belief, in everything," he said. "Let's use it in the right way and understand that the margins and the difficulty of what we are trying to achieve are huge, but that we have the ability and the conviction to do it. "I'm really going to enjoy it tonight, everybody is enjoying this moment now. But the high is not too high and the low is not too low. My job is to be quite stable. "We have an incredible game against West Ham, a really tough one, and we're going to have four days to do that."

KSCA Disappointed as IPL Final Moves to Ahmedabad

Bengaluru was supposed to host the IPL final as RCB are the defending champions

Bengaluru, May 06: Hours after the BCCI moved the 2026 Indian Premier League final out of Bengaluru, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) has expressed its disappointment with the decision. On Wednesday afternoon, the BCCI said that Mullanpur and Dharamsala (one match) will host the play-offs while Ahmedabad will host the final once again. In its release, the BCCI said that certain requirements from local association and authorities as the reason behind Bengaluru not getting the final. "Bengaluru was originally designated to host the Final. However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and re-assigned," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium was supposed to host the final as Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the title last year. However, due to the stampede that followed -- where 11 people died -- during celebrations, the venue did not host any games till the start of this year's IPL and underwent major changes in protocols and safety measures under the eyes of the new state



association office bearers and the state government. KSCA went on to say that Bengaluru will host a playoff match and the final. Now, with Ahmedabad set to host another final, KSCA has expressed its disappointment. Responding to BCCI statement, KSCA has claimed that while they respect the decision, the board did

not formally communicate any specific reason. "Despite our preparedness and willingness to host the Playoffs, we understand that the BCCI has taken a decision to allot these matches to other venues. While the specific reasons for the same have not been formally communicated to KSCA, we fully respect the prerogative

and decision-making authority of the BCCI in this regard," KSCA said in a statement. "The IPL matches conducted in Bengaluru during the current season were widely appreciated for their smooth execution, crowd management, operational efficiency, and overall spectator experience, reaffirming KSCA's capability to successfully host marquee fixtures of such scale and importance," it added.

"In this regard, KSCA had addressed a detailed communication to the BCCI outlining its preparedness and explaining the operational framework under which the current IPL season was conducted in Bengaluru. Most of these arrangements and protocols have been consistently followed since the inception of the IPL in 2008 and were implemented uniformly during the current season as well, including during earlier playoff matches hosted at Bengaluru. The communication addressed by KSCA was purely factual, operational, and clarificatory in nature, intended only to provide transparency and clarity regarding logistical and stakeholder-related requirements associated with hosting such high-profile matches," Vinay Mruthyunjaya, Official spokesperson, said.

