

Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in as Assam CM again



Guwahati, May 12: Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term on Tuesday, marking the formation of the NDA government in the state for the third straight time. Four from NDA – Rameswar Teli, Ajanta Neog (both from BJP), AGP president Atul Bora and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) leader Charan Boro – took oath as ministers. Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Sarma and the four legislators at a grand ceremony held at the Veterinary Ground in Khanapara, Guwahati.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Ministers of 22 NDA-ruled states and Union Territories, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, ambassadors of some countries, industrialists, and religious leaders attended the swearing-in ceremony. Sarma's mother and other family members were also present.

Ahead of his swearing-in, Sarma posted on X, "May the blessings of Maa Kamakhya and Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev illuminate the lives of everyone in Assam and open new pathways to peace, progress and prosperity. Assam will scale new heights of development

in the coming days with their blessings." Atul Bora said the NDA's third term would be a golden period for Assam. Several Chief Ministers, who attended the swearing-in ceremony, thanked the people of Assam for voting for development, calling the mandate historic. They praised Modi for his increased focus on the Northeast and for ensuring the region's continuous development. The NDA secured a record 102 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly, with the BJP winning 82 constituencies. Its allies, the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodoland Peoples' Front, bagged 10 seats each.

The NDA had opened the gateway to the Northeast by winning Assam in 2016 under the leadership of former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of the BJP. The BJP fought this year's elections on the planks of identity and development. Consistent with that agenda, Sarma had on Monday posted on X, "Assam's land, identity and future are non-negotiable. After freeing 1.5 lakh bighas of land from encroachment, #NDA3.0 moves ahead with a firm resolve to reclaim 5 lakh more bighas for the people of Assam. Because for us, Jati (community), Mati (land), Bheti (foundation) come first."

Garga Chatterjee held over EVM remarks

Kolkata, May 12: The cyber cell of the Kolkata Police arrested Garga Chatterjee, head of the Bengali nationalist organization Bangla Pokkho, on Tuesday for allegedly spreading misinformation and inflammatory claims regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The arrest follows a formal complaint by the Election Commission of India (ECI) after Chatterjee's social media posts during the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Authorities allege that on counting day, May 4, Chatterjee suggested the ECI had a "secret plan" and questioned the integrity of EVMs despite them being sealed overnight. Key Developments: Police Commissioner Ajay Nand stated that Chatterjee's posts aimed to incite public unrest and panic among political supporters. Non-Cooperation: The arrest was made after Chatterjee reportedly ignored two prior summons from the cybercrime division. During the operation in South Kolkata, police allegedly seized over 20 live cartridges from Chatterjee's private security detail, though the activist himself was unarmed. Chatterjee, an academic and Harvard alumnus, has a history of legal friction; in 2022, he was arrested for disparaging remarks against the founder of Assam's Ahom dynasty. He is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, where police are expected to seek his custody for further interrogation into his alleged role in spreading election-related rumors.

SC quashes 35-year old case against officer

1989 FIR alleged assault over food



New Delhi, May 12: The Supreme Court of India has quashed a 35-year-old criminal case pending in Prayagraj, observing that the constitutional guarantee of a speedy trial under Article 21 cannot become a "mere platitude" and that prolonged delays violate the right to life and liberty. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the plea filed by senior police officer Kailash Chandra Kapri and set aside the Allahabad High Court order refusing to quash proceedings pending since 1991 in a case arising from an FIR registered in 1989 at GRP Rambagh Police Station in Prayagraj. "35 years for a trial for simple hurt and criminal intimidation is too long a time and that keeping a person in suspended animation for decades violates Article 21 of the Constitution," the court observed.

The Bench further remarked that "the prosecution should not be allowed to become a persecution." The case originated from a 1989 FIR alleging that five police constables deployed for Kumbh Mela duty assaulted another constable in a police mess following a dispute over food. Charges included Sections 147, 323 and 504 of the IPC along with Section 120 of the Railways Act.

The court noted that Kapri was 22 years old when the FIR was registered and is now 59, while the proceedings remained unresolved. It also recorded that two co-accused died during the pendency of the trial, while the remaining two were acquitted in 2023 after the prosecution failed to examine even a single witness over three decades de-

spite repeated opportunities granted by the trial court.

Referring to earlier landmark rulings, including Husainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak and P. Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka, the Bench reiterated that the right to a speedy trial is a fundamental constitutional guarantee under Article 21. The court also made strong observations on the justice delivery system, stating, "Guidelines just remain on paper; guidelines do not work fully," and added that lack of accountability was a major reason why earlier judicial directions had failed to bring effective reform. Stating that the right to speedy trial "should not remain as an abstract or illusory safeguard," the Supreme Court expanded the matter into a wider examination of criminal case pendency, undertrial detention and judicial vacancies in Uttar Pradesh. The court directed the Registrar General of the Allahabad High Court to file a detailed affidavit on pending criminal cases before magistrate and sessions courts, age-wise breakup of cases, number of undertrial prisoners and duration of incarceration, stalled trials and reasons for delay. The Bench also sought data on pending bail applications before the High Court, including categorisation based on the duration of custody undergone by undertrial prisoners. The affidavit has been directed to be filed before the Supreme Court registry by July 13, 2026. The court ordered that the matter be treated as "part-heard" for further consideration after the data is submitted.

NTA Chief: Saboteurs targeting NEET-UG system

New Delhi, May 12: NTA Chief: Saboteurs Targeting NEET-UG System NEW DELHI — National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Abhishek Singh revealed that the recent cancellation of the May 3, 2026, NEET-UG exam was triggered by a whistleblower's tip-off. Speaking with TNIE, Singh stated that a WhatsApp message received on May 7 confirmed a paper leak, where several questions matched the actual exam.

Singh characterized the leak as a deliberate attempt by "certain individuals" to sabotage the system. While a seven-member committee led by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan previously recommended transitioning to a computer-based, multi-staged format, Singh noted that the Ministry of Health



must authorize such changes.

Despite the massive logistical challenge of rescheduling for 22.05 lakh students, Singh emphasized that cancelling the

exam was necessary to ensure fairness. New exam dates are expected to be announced shortly as the NTA works to identify and fix security gaps.



Amit Shah: Assam transformed from violence to growth hub

Guwahati, May 12: Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared that Assam has undergone a remarkable transformation under a decade of NDA rule, shifting from what he described as the “epicentre of violence” to a state recognised for learning, healthcare, and development. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shah emphasised that the people’s repeated mandate for the BJP-led government reflects their trust in its record of achievements. He noted that the NDA government has laid a strong foundation of security and progress, upon which further development will be built. “Electing the BJP-led NDA for the third consecutive term, the people of Assam have reaffirmed that the BJP-NDA governments are the dispensations of trust. I bow to the people of Assam



for the historic mandate,” Shah said in a post on X. Congratulating Sarma and his newly sworn-in ministers, Shah assured that the government would leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the aspirations of the people. Sarma, acknowledging Shah’s presence and blessings, pledged to continue delivering good governance under Prime Minister Narendra

Modi’s leadership. Earlier in the day, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sarma and his council of ministers. Alongside Sarma, BJP leaders Rameswar Teli and Ajantha Neog, AGP’s Atul Bora, and BPF’s Charan Boro were sworn in as ministers, marking the beginning of the new government’s tenure.

Nagaland CS: Article 371A Transitional

Dimapur, May 12: Nagaland Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen stated on Tuesday that Article 371(A) is a temporary, transitional provision of the Constitution designed to protect Naga customary identity. Speaking at a seminar in Mokokchung, Imchen noted that the provision is frequently misunderstood. While acknowledging its role in safeguarding tradition, he emphasized that laws must evolve as instruments of social change. He urged the public to adapt to contemporary rules essential for societal progress. Organized by the Ao Senden, the event focused on village governance and constitutional safeguards, drawing attendance from legislators, village councils, and student bodies.



Himanta Biswa Sarma takes oath as Assam CM second time



Guwahati, May 12: Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term on Tuesday, making history as the first non-Congress leader in the state to achieve back-to-back terms. The high-profile ceremony at Khanapara was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and CMs from 22 NDA-ruled states. Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath to Sar-

ma and several cabinet ministers following the NDA’s decisive electoral victory. Reaffirming his “Jati, Mati, Bheti” (Community, Land, Foundation) agenda, Sarma pledged to reclaim 5 lakh bighas of encroached land and provide ₹5 lakh entrepreneurship support to 10 lakh youth. He also committed to a phased wage increase to ₹500 for tea workers. This marks the third straight term for the NDA in Assam, further solidifying the alliance’s stronghold in the Northeast.

KNO, ZRO boycott CM Khemchand’s Churachandpur visit



Churachandpur, May 12: The Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the Zomi Re-unification Organisation (ZRO), currently under Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements with the government, have jointly resolved not to participate in any programme related to Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh’s proposed visit to Churachandpur on May 15. According to reports, the decision was taken during a joint meeting of the two organisations held on May 11 at the residence of the ZRO president. The meeting also resolved to establish a Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC) to monitor alleged communal content circulating on social media plat-

forms, including WhatsApp groups, WhatsApp channels and Facebook pages. The monitoring mechanism will reportedly be jointly supervised by the secretaries of KNO and ZRO. The two organisations further reaffirmed that their common political demand for a Union Territory with Legislature, adopted following the outbreak of violence in Manipur on May 3, 2023, remains unchanged. The issue concerning the use of the term “Kuki-Zo” was also discussed during the meeting. Reports said ZRO leaders objected to the nomenclature and proposed the use of “Kuki-Zomi” instead. The matter is expected to be deliberated further in future meetings.

Sikkim’s Madhu Mala Gurung Honoured With National Florence Nightingale Award 2026

Gangtok, May 12: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has extended heartfelt congratulations to Madhu Mala Gurung, Senior ANM of Rangpo PHC, on receiving the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award 2026. The award was conferred by President Droupadi Murmu during a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday. Gurung was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the healthcare sector, marked by nursing excellence and years of dedicated



service. Her achievement has brought immense pride to the state and stands as a testament to her commitment to the profession. In his congratulatory message, the Chief Minister praised Gurung’s selfless service to society and wished her continued success in the noble field of healthcare. The National Florence Nightingale Award is regarded as one of the country’s highest honours for nursing professionals, celebrating exceptional dedication and service in healthcare.

Manipur: Rescued Snakes Released Into Langol Reserved Forest

Manipur, May 12: A wildlife relocation and release operation was carried out at Langol Reserved Forest on May 12 by the Central Forest Division, Manipur, in the presence of Divisional Forest Officer Shri Vikram Suresh Nadhe (IFS), Range Forest Officer Yumnam Kiranjit of Sadar West Range, forest staff and a research scholar from the Department of Zoology, Manipur University. During the operation, five rescued snakes were safely relocated and released into their natural habitat inside the reserve forest. The reptiles included one adult Copper-headed Trinket Snake, three Monocled Co-

bras — two of them unusually large in size — and one Indochinese Rat Snake. The snakes had earlier been rescued from various locations in Imphal West and Imphal East districts through coordinated rescue efforts conducted by the Forest Department. The Central Forest Division reiterated its commitment to wildlife conservation and appealed to the public to immediately inform the Forest Department or authorised rescue personnel in case wild animals or reptiles are spotted in human habitation areas. The Department also urged people not to harm wildlife.



TVS Motor bets on urban EV growth with new TVS Orbiter campaign

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has launched a new marketing campaign for its electric scooter TVS Orbiter, targeting India's rapidly growing segment of young urban commuters and life-style-driven consumers.

Built around the brand message "Always On The Move With You", the campaign positions TVS Orbiter as a smart and practical electric mobility solution for consumers balancing work, fitness, education, social life and side hustles in fast-paced urban environments.

The campaign film, conceptualised by Kinnect, highlights the evolving aspirations of India's new-age riders while integrating the iconic Bollywood track 'Idhar Chala Main Udhar Chala' to reflect



the spontaneity and energy of modern city lifestyles.

Saurabh Kapoor, Vice President – Marketing, EV Business at TVS Motor Company, said urban youth are increasingly seeking mobility solutions that combine technology, comfort, design and practicality. He said the campaign aims to build a strong emotional connection with consumers while showcasing

TVS Orbiter as a dependable partner for everyday commuting.

The company also highlighted the scooter's key features including a 34-litre twin-helmet boot space, IDC range of 158 km, large front alloy wheels, Cruise Control, Hill Hold, Reverse Parking Assist and connected safety technologies such as Crash Alerts, Anti-Theft and Geo-Fencing.

Nissan rolls out nationwide AC check-up drive with summer service offers till June 15

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has launched a nationwide AC Check-up Camp across its authorised service network as part of its summer customer service initiative. The campaign, which will continue till June 15, 2026, is being conducted across 125 authorised Nissan service touchpoints in the country.

Under the initiative, Nissan customers can avail a 12-point AC inspection conducted by trained service professionals to ensure vehicle air-conditioning systems remain summer-ready and function efficiently during peak heat conditions. The company is also offering complimentary top wash along with pick-up and drop-off services during the camp period.

In addition, customers can avail up to 10 per cent discount on Value Added Services and select paid labour charges. Nissan said the campaign is aimed at encouraging preventive vehicle maintenance while strengthening customer engagement through its authorised workshops.

Customers can book service appointments



through the My Nissan App and the official Nissan Motor India website. The company said the initiative reflects its focus on customer satisfaction, proactive service support, and seamless ownership experience.

In Guwahati, automobile service centres in the city generally witness increased demand for AC servicing during the summer months due to rising temperatures and humidity in the Northeast region. Industry players believe Nissan's service campaign could help improve workshop footfall in Guwahati as customers increasingly opt for authorised service networks for seasonal vehicle maintenance and after-sales support.

IndiaFirst Life rolls out GOLD Plus plan targeting long-term savings and guaranteed income market

Guwahati: IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Ltd. on Monday announced the launch of its new IndiaFirst Life GOLD Plus Plan, a non-linked, participating individual life insurance savings product that combines guaranteed income, equity-linked growth potential, and life protection up to the age of 100.

The company said the plan has been designed to cater to customers across different life stages, helping them meet long-term financial goals such as children's education, retirement planning, and wealth creation. The product offers regular income either for a defined period or for whole life till the age of 100, along with maturity benefits and life cover options.

IndiaFirst Life said the optional Goal Protection Benefit (GPB) ensures continuity of all policy benefits for nominees in case of the policyholder's death during the policy term. Customers can also enhance coverage through rider options including accidental death benefit, total and permanent disability cover, and waiver of premium benefits.

Speaking on the launch, Rushabh Gandhi said the product has been developed

to address rising demand for financial solutions that combine certainty with long-term growth opportunities.

The plan offers limited premium payment terms of 6, 8, 10, and 12 years, along with flexible income payout options, special date income features, discounts for women policyholders, and loan facilities subject to policy conditions.



The launch could find strong traction in Guwahati, where demand for long-term savings and retirement-focused insurance products has been steadily increasing. Insurance advisors in Guwahati noted that customers are increasingly preferring products that provide guaranteed income along with protection and wealth-building opportunities amid evolving financial planning trends.

Tata Consumer crosses Rs 20,000 crore revenue milestone in FY26 as profit, volume growth stay strong

Guwahati: Tata Consumer Products reported a strong performance for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2026, driven by broad-based volume-led growth across its foods, beverages and international businesses.

The company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 18 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,434 crore in the March quarter, while FY26 revenue grew 15 per cent to Rs 20,290 crore, crossing the Rs 20,000 crore milestone for the first time. Consolidated EBITDA increased 27 per cent to Rs 796 crore in Q4 and 12 per cent to Rs 2,815 crore for the full year. Group net profit climbed 22 per cent to Rs 424 crore in the quarter and 20 per cent to Rs 1,547 crore in FY26.

The India branded business posted robust underlying volume growth of 16 per cent in Q4 and 13 per cent for the year. India Foods business grew 21 per cent in the quarter, led by strong performance in Tata Salt and Tata Sampann, while India Beverages grew 4 per cent with coffee revenue rising 20 per cent.



The Ready-to-Drink segment recorded 23 per cent growth for the third straight quarter.

The company said its 'Growth businesses' crossed Rs 4,000 crore in FY26 and now contribute 31 per cent of the India business. International business revenue rose 21 per cent in Q4, aided by strong coffee sales in the United States, where Eight O'Clock Coffee continued gaining market share.

During FY26, the company launched

80 new products across health, wellness and convenience categories. Tata Starbucks expanded to 502 stores across 80 cities and recorded its third consecutive quarter of positive same-store sales growth.

Managing Director and CEO Sunil D'Souza said the company remains focused on scaling growth, strengthening its portfolio and delivering value through innovation and execution across markets.

Oriflame leader's 23-year journey highlights power of women entrepreneurship across generations

New Delhi: A Kolkata-based Oriflame leader's journey from self-doubt to becoming a Senior Gold Director is being highlighted this Mother's Day as an example of how women-led entrepreneurship continues to transform families and inspire future generations.

The journey began in 2005 when she attended a seminar at Mahajati Sadan, where discussions around financial

independence and self-confidence encouraged her to take her first step into direct selling. Initially uncertain about entering business and worried about societal perceptions, she gradually built confidence through continuous learning, training sessions and disciplined work.

Her daughter, Haichai, who spent much of her childhood watching her mother work beside an old computer after

school, says those moments became life lessons in resilience and determination. From helping arrange documents to typing names into the computer and reviewing handwritten training notes, she witnessed firsthand the dedication behind the journey. The entrepreneur's growth was not without challenges. At one stage, her performance reportedly dropped to 9 per cent, testing her confidence

and commitment. However, she continued rebuilding steadily through consistency and persistence.

Today, after 23 years with Oriflame, she has achieved the position of Senior Gold Director. The family says her biggest achievement remains inspiring her daughter to carry forward the same confidence, discipline and entrepreneurial spirit she spent years building within herself.



TVS Motor expands EV portfolio with new iQube S 4.7 kWh variant

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company has strengthened its electric vehicle portfolio with the launch of the new TVS iQube S 4.7 kWh variant, as the company looks to further consolidate its position in India's fast-growing electric two-wheeler market.

Priced at ₹1,37,142 (effective ex-showroom Delhi, inclusive of central and state subsidies), the latest variant offers an IDC-certified range of 175 km on a single charge. The company said the upgraded 4.7 kWh battery has been introduced to provide greater practicality for both daily commuting and longer rides, while retaining the trusted riding experience of the iQube range.

The scooter will be available in three colour options — Magnificence Purple Beige, Harlequin Blue Beige, and Titanium Grey Matte. TVS

Motor said the iQube platform is built around offering customers greater choice in range, connected technology, colours, safety, and ease of operation. The company noted that over 900,000 Indian families currently use TVS iQube electric scooters, which are now available across more than 1,000 cities and 3,300 dealerships nationwide, reflecting rising consumer acceptance of electric mobility in the country.

In Guwahati, automobile dealers said demand for electric scooters has witnessed steady growth amid rising fuel costs and increasing awareness about eco-friendly transportation. Industry observers believe longer-range models like the new iQube S 4.7 kWh could attract office-goers, students, and urban commuters in Assam, where EV adoption has been gradually expanding.

HP bets big on AI future with 20+ new products, enters new device categories in India

Guwahati: HP India on Monday unveiled more than 20 new AI-powered products and solutions across PCs, printing and workforce technologies, marking a major expansion of its India strategy focused on the future of work and connected digital experiences.

The launch includes HP's entry into new categories with the India-first HP OmniPad 12 tablet and the HP EliteBoard G1a Next Gen AI PC, described by the company as the world's first AI keyboard PC designed for collaborative workplaces. HP also introduced new EliteBook, ProBook and OmniBook AI PC series powered by Intel, AMD and Qualcomm processors.

The company said the devices are aimed at students, creators, professionals and enterprises seeking intelligent, portable and secure computing solutions. HP also announced HP IQ, an on-device AI platform offering contextual assistance, meeting note capture and seamless device connectivity through HP NearSense technology.

Alongside personal computing devices, HP launched new Z Workstations, Poly confer-



encing solutions and AI-powered print technologies aimed at improving enterprise productivity and hybrid work environments.

Ipsita Dasgupta, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director, HP India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, said HP aims to create a connected ecosystem that supports learning, work and innovation across India's evolving technology landscape.

In Guwahati, the new AI-powered laptops, tablets and hybrid work solutions could see strong demand among students, startups, educational institutions and corporate users in Northeast India. Market observers said the growing shift toward hybrid work and AI-enabled productivity tools in Guwahati is expected to boost interest in premium devices such as the OmniBook and EliteBook series.

IIT Madras BS Programmes gain momentum as demand rises for flexible, skill-based higher education



Chennai: Indian Institute of Technology Madras has opened admissions for its BS Degree Programmes for the

2026 academic cycle, with applications open till May 31, amid rising demand for flexible and industry-aligned higher education models in India's evolving job market.

The institute is offering four programmes — BS in Data Science and Applications, BS in Electronic Systems, BS in Management and Data Science, and BS in Aeronautics and Space Technology — aimed at learners seeking future-ready skills in technology, analytics, management, and emerging sectors.

The programmes are open

to anyone who has completed Class 12, with no age restrictions, and do not require candidates to clear the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Admissions are conducted through a qualifier process, widening access to IIT education for students across diverse academic and economic backgrounds.

IIT Madras said the programmes can be pursued alongside regular undergraduate courses such as BCom, BSc, BBA, and Engineering, reflecting growing market demand for multidisciplinary

and data-driven skill sets. Courses are delivered primarily online, with physical examinations held across India.

Prof. Prathap Haridoss, Dean (Academic Courses), IIT Madras, said the programmes are designed to combine flexibility with IIT-level academic quality and improve career opportunities for students.

The institute also offers fee support of up to 75 per cent for eligible economically disadvantaged learners. Interested candidates can apply through the official IIT Madras BS admissions portal.

Rasna Chairman Piruz Khambatta launches 'Ashoi', announces startup fund for next-generation entrepreneurs

Guwahati: Piruz Areez Khambatta, Chairman of Rasna Group, has launched his new book Ashoi: The Zoroastrian Art of Success and Immortality while also unveiling an entrepreneurial fund aimed at supporting emerging business leaders and startups.

The book launch was held at The Taj Mahal Palace in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora, Justice (Retd.) Shahrukh J. Kathawalla, Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, and several business leaders and members of the Parsi community.

Khambatta said the book brings over

3,000 years of Zoroastrian wisdom into a practical modern framework focused on integrity, discipline, leadership and ethical living. The publication outlines 51 principles linked to personal growth, family values, business leadership and long-term success. According to Khambatta, the teachings are not limited to religion but are intended to serve as a guide for meaningful living and nation-building. Alongside the launch, an entrepreneurial fund was announced in knowledge partnership with the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce. Backed by Parsi business leaders, the initiative will pro-

vide mentorship, strategic guidance and financial support to early-stage ventures, while encouraging talented youth to build enterprises in India under the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In Guwahati, the initiative highlights the rising focus on ethics-driven entrepreneurship and startup mentorship in India. Entrepreneurs and trade circles in Guwahati believe such initiatives could encourage youth in the Northeast to pursue innovation-led businesses and attract greater investment interest in emerging regional enterprises.

CFA Institute expands northeast outreach with First Finance Roundtable in Guwahati

Guwahati: CFA Institute hosted its first Finance Industry Network (FIN) Roundtable in Guwahati, bringing together academicians and finance educators from leading institutions across the Northeast to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and enhance finance education standards.

The event marked the 13th Professors' Roundtable organised by CFA Institute in India and focused on aligning academic curriculum with the rapidly evolving requirements of the global investment industry. Discussions highlighted the globally recognised CFA Program and its practitioner-driven curriculum, particularly its focus on ethics, investment analysis, practical learning, and real-world financial applications.

Participants were also introduced to the Investment Foundations Certificate, an entry-level programme aimed at helping undergraduate students and early learners develop strong fundamentals in investment concepts. The roundtable further explored skill development, employability, ethical decision-making, and globally relevant job-ready competencies.

Saim Fakhri, Manager, University Relations – India, CFA Institute, said the initiative reflects the organisation's com-



mitment to building stronger institutional connections in Assam and supporting students with globally relevant finance education. Faculty members from institutions including IIT Guwahati, Cotton University, Assam Downtown University, Guwahati College, Mangaldai Commerce College, and Royal Global University attended the session.

In Guwahati, such initiatives could

boost awareness of international finance certifications among students and professionals in Assam. With the city emerging as an educational and business hub in the Northeast, stronger collaboration between academic institutions and global professional bodies is expected to improve employability and support the growing banking, investment, and financial services ecosystem in the region.



Godrej Enterprises Group invests Rs 100 crore to boost India's aero engine manufacturing capability

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group is strengthening India's aerospace and aero engine manufacturing ecosystem with fresh investments, advanced precision engineering capabilities and expanding partnerships with global aerospace majors. The company on Tuesday said it plans to invest nearly ₹100 crore over the next three years to accelerate growth in design, research and development, new product development and advanced digital manufacturing technologies.

The aerospace business of the group, established in the 1980s, has emerged as a key player in the global aerospace supply chain and currently partners with leading aerospace OEMs including Boeing,

Safran Aircraft Engines, GE Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and RTX. The company said it is the only private player in India with demonstrated capability to manufacture all modules of an aero engine, supporting the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

The company has recorded nearly 25 per cent year-on-year growth, while exports have risen by over 30 per cent. It has also set up a dedicated R&D centre and a specialised design office focused on mechanical and electromechanical actuation systems for aircraft. Its new 100-acre manufacturing facility at Khalapur in Maharashtra is expected to strengthen capacity for advanced aerospace and propulsion-related programmes.

Maneck Behramkamdin, Business Head of the Aerospace Business, said the company remains focused on innovation, quality execution and indigenisation of critical aerospace systems, including actuators developed within India.

From a Guwahati market perspective, industry experts believe the growth of India's aerospace manufacturing sector could create opportunities for engineering graduates, precision component suppliers and skilled technical workers from the Northeast. Guwahati's growing industrial and logistics network is also expected to support future participation in the country's expanding aerospace supply chain ecosystem.

Bhutan secures \$515 million World Bank funding for mega hydropower push

Guwahati/Dispur: The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank on May 7 signed financing agreements worth \$515 million for the 1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project, a landmark infrastructure initiative expected to transform Bhutan's economy and strengthen regional clean energy cooperation. The project, located on the Kurichhu River in eastern Bhutan, will generate over 4,500 GWh of electricity annually and contribute nearly one-third of Bhutan's total power generation capacity.

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said the project is a key pillar of Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan and the country's largest hydropower venture under a public-private partnership model. The estimated \$1.7 billion project is expected to increase Bhutan's GDP by 2.4 per cent, create

jobs, boost manufacturing and tourism, and generate long-term revenues through electricity exports to India.

The financing package includes \$300 million from the International Development Association (IDA), including a \$150 million grant, and \$215 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The project also involves Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation and Tata Power, which holds a 40 per cent stake in the special purpose vehicle developing the project.

Officials said nearly 80 per cent of the project's annual electricity generation will be supplied to India, helping meet rising peak summer demand while strengthening regional energy security and reducing carbon emissions by around 3.3 million tonnes annually.

Toyota to build 100,000-unit Maharashtra plant by 2029

Bengaluru: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced Monday a major expansion of its Indian manufacturing footprint with a new vehicle plant in the Bidkin Industrial Area, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra. Scheduled to begin production in the first half of 2029, the facility will have an annual capacity of 100,000 vehicles and generate approximately 2,800 jobs. While TKM did not explicitly link this to the ₹20,000 crore MoU signed with the Maharashtra government in 2024, reports suggest this plant will be a cornerstone of that investment, potentially producing the much-anticipated Land Cruiser FJ (a compact SUV) alongside electric and hybrid models. The Bidkin site will be Toyota's third Indian plant, joining its existing duo in Bidadi, Karnataka, which currently produce 3.42 lakh units annually. This strategic move aims to transform India into a regional export hub for surrounding markets while meeting surging domestic demand for SUVs. TKM stated the facility would handle core processes including stamping, welding, painting, and final assembly.



Vi sees 65% jump in data consumption in Assam & Northeast on network expansion push

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea (Vi) on Monday announced a 65 per cent rise in data consumption across Assam and the North East circles, driven by aggressive network expansion and growing adoption of its unlimited data plans.

The telecom operator said it added over 890 new sites across key spectrum bands between January and December 2025, expanding coverage to 19 additional towns in the region. The company stated that the network enhancement initiative has strengthened connectivity and improved customer experience across the circles.

Vi said the surge in data usage was also supported by strong traction for its unlimited data offerings. The company claimed it is currently the only telecom operator providing unlimited

4G data plans in Assam and the North East. Its "Non-Stop Hero" prepaid plans, starting at Rs 349, offer 24-hour unlimited 4G data for an entire month. The "Hero Plans", starting at Rs 249, include unlimited night-time data from midnight to 6 am, weekend data rollover and up to 2GB additional data through Data Delight benefits.

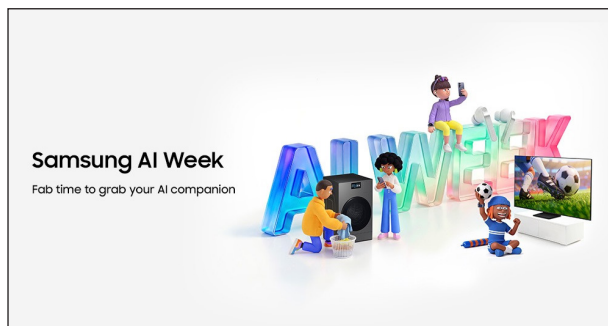
At the national level, Vi said it has added more than 1.3 lakh new sites over the past year, leading to a 40 per cent increase in overall network capacity. The company aims to expand 4G population coverage to 90 per cent from 85.5 per cent recorded in December 2025, while also planning to roll out over 30,000 additional sites and expand 5G services across 17 priority circles this financial year.

Samsung rolls out 'AI Week' 2026 with massive discounts across galaxy devices and home appliances

Guwahati: Samsung has launched its flagship retail campaign 'Samsung AI Week' 2026, unveiling aggressive discounts and financing offers across its AI-powered consumer electronics portfolio as the company looks to accelerate premium technology adoption in India. The limited-period sale, which went live on May 8, is available through Samsung.com, the Samsung Shop App and Samsung Exclusive Stores nationwide.

The campaign, themed "Your Companion to AI Living", brings offers across Galaxy smartphones, tablets, laptops, wearables, TVs, monitors and digital appliances. Samsung said the initiative is aimed at expanding access to AI-integrated devices that enhance everyday living through connected and intelligent experiences.

Under the sale, select Gal-



axy S26 series, Galaxy S25 series, Galaxy Z Fold7 and Galaxy Z Flip7 smartphones are available with discounts of up to 36% and instant bank benefits of up to Rs 25,000. Galaxy Tab devices, wearables and accessories are seeing discounts of up to 60%, while Galaxy Book laptops are being offered at up to 37% off.

In the premium television segment, Neo QLED, OLED, Mini LED and The Frame TV models are available at dis-

counts of up to 55%, along with free TVs, soundbars and exchange bonuses on select products. Samsung is also offering up to 50% off on refrigerators, 48% off on washing machines and 38% off on microwaves.

The company has additionally partnered with HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI and other lenders to provide cashback of up to 22.5%, no-cost EMI options and extended warranty plans across categories.

ICICI Prudential Life expands ULIP portfolio with launch of BSE enhanced value 30 index fund



Imphal: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of the ICICI Prudential Life BSE Enhanced Value 30 Index Fund for customers investing through its Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs), aiming to provide long-term wealth creation opportunities through disciplined exposure to value-focused equities.

The company said the fund is designed to invest in 30 attractively valued companies from the BSE Large & Mid-cap universe using parameters such as book value-to-price, earnings-to-price and sales-to-price ratios. The fund follows a passive, rule-based index-mirroring strategy with periodic review and rebalancing to maintain diversification across sectors and market capitalisation segments.

Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer of the company, said the new fund offers customers a transparent and structured way to participate in equity markets while focus-

ing on companies with strong fundamentals and attractive valuations. He added that the disciplined investment framework is aimed at helping investors remain confident during volatile market conditions. According to the company, the ICICI PRU BSE Enhanced Value Index delivered annualised returns of 32 per cent over three years, 28.9 per cent over five years and 19.4 per cent over ten years as of March 30, 2026.

In Imphal, awareness around ULIP-based investment products has been steadily rising among young investors and salaried professionals. Advisors in the region noted increasing interest in investment solutions that combine equity participation with life insurance protection and long-term financial planning benefits.

The fund will be available through ULIP products including ICICI Pru Signature Assure, SmartKid Assure and Smart Insurance Plan Plus (SIP+).



Medanta sees rising demand for digestive care in Northeast, pushes preventive healthcare focus

Guwahati: Medanta has highlighted the growing burden of digestive health disorders in Assam and the Northeast, signalling increasing demand for specialised gastro care services amid changing food habits and lifestyle patterns in urban India. The Gurugram-based hospital group, ranked India's best hospital by Newsweek in 2026, said digestive illnesses linked to processed food consumption, stress, irregular eating schedules and poor sanitation are emerging as major public health concerns. The company stressed that early screening and preventive healthcare could help reduce long-term treatment costs and disease burden.

Dr. Pawan Rawal, Senior Director, Gastroenterology at Medanta Gurugram, said recurring symptoms such as bloating, acidity and irregular bowel movements should not be ignored, as delayed treatment can lead to chronic compli-

cations. He also pointed to seasonal outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases, cholera and typhoid in Assam's flood-prone regions due to sanitation and contaminated water issues.

In Guwahati, rising health awareness, urbanisation and increasing disposable income are driving demand for premium multispecialty healthcare services in the city. Expansion of advanced gastroenterology and preventive healthcare facilities is expected to strengthen Guwahati's position as a major medical hub for the Northeast healthcare market.

Medanta currently operates six hospitals across India and is expanding its footprint with upcoming facilities, including one in Guwahati. The company has also launched a Northeast helpline with multilingual support to improve patient access and appointment services across the region.

Manipal Hospitals expands advanced cancer care reach in Northeast with successful robotic prostate surgery

Aizawl: Manipal Hospitals EM Bypass Kolkata has successfully treated a 56-year-old prostate cancer patient from Mizoram through advanced robotic-assisted surgery, underlining the growing demand for high-end minimally invasive healthcare solutions across Eastern and Northeastern India.

The patient, businessman H. Zohmingthan-ga from Aizawl, had initially visited the hospital for treatment related to diabetes and general health concerns. During routine investigations, doctors detected elevated PSA levels, while an MRI later revealed a suspicious prostate lesion. A biopsy conducted in June 2025 confirmed prostate cancer.

Following the diagnosis, the hospital's urology team led by Dr. Abhay Kumar, Director – Urology and Uro-Oncology, performed a robotic radical prostatectomy in

August 2025. The patient was discharged within three days and subsequent PSA tests in October 2025, January 2026 and April 2026 remained undetectable, indicating successful recovery with no signs of recurrence.

Dr. Kumar said robotic-assisted surgeries are witnessing rapid adoption in India due to benefits such as higher precision, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery. He added that Manipal Hospitals Kolkata has completed over 3,000 robotic-assisted procedures, reflecting increasing patient trust in advanced cancer care technologies.

The hospital said the case highlights the expanding accessibility of specialised robotic oncology treatment for patients from the Northeast seeking advanced healthcare closer to home.

Medanta steps up Northeast cancer outreach as doctors stress early detection of Esophageal cancer

Dimapur: Medanta - The Medicity has intensified its healthcare outreach in Northeast India amid growing concerns over rising cases of esophageal cancer in the region, particularly in Nagaland, where tobacco use, chewing betel nut (supari), and dietary habits remain major risk factors.

Doctors from the Gurugram-based hospital, recently ranked India's Best Hospital by Newsweek in 2026, warned that many patients continue to seek treatment only at advanced stages because early symptoms are often mistaken for acidity or throat irritation. Specialists said symptoms such as difficulty swallowing, unexplained weight loss, persistent cough, vomiting, chest discomfort, regurgitation, and hoarseness should not be ignored.

Dr. Rajesh Puri, Vice Chairman, Interventional Gastroenterology at Medanta, said early diagnosis can dramatically improve survival rates, while Dr. Hitesh Panchal highlighted Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy as an effective and minimally invasive screening tool that enables faster treatment and recovery.

The awareness drive is also expected to influence Dimapur, where demand for advanced diagnostics, specialty consultations, and preventive screening services has been steadily increasing. Industry observers say growing awareness campaigns and improved access to tertiary healthcare could strengthen the city's position as a regional medical hub for Nagaland and neighboring states.

Medanta has signed an MoU with the Government of Nagaland for accreditation under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) and partnered with IDAN to promote healthcare awareness. Dr. Panchal will consult patients in Dimapur on May 15 and 16, while Medanta has also launched a dedicated Northeast helpline with multilingual support.

India pushes trade, tech ties with Costa Rica as Margherita leads diplomatic outreach

Guwahati: Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita held key diplomatic and business-focused meetings in Costa Rica during his official visit to Central American and Caribbean nations from May 8 to 15, aimed at strengthening India's trade and economic engagement in the region.

Margherita represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of Costa Rica's 50th President, Laura Fernández Delgado, in San José. During talks with newly appointed Costa Rican Foreign Minister Manuel Tovar, both sides discussed democracy, multilateral cooperation and expanding bilateral partnerships. The minister also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the University for Peace and inaugurated the "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" wall. Technology cooperation emerged as a major focus during the visit. Margherita inaugurated a new office of Fujitsu in San José and met Costa Rica's Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications, Paula Bogantes Zamora. Discussions focused on supporting Indian businesses, capacity building and Quick Impact Projects to deepen



economic ties. In Guwahati, India's expanding outreach to Latin America could create new export opportunities for Assam tea, agri-products and IT services. Industry circles in Guwahati also see potential for increased technology collaborations and business exchanges as India strength-

ens its presence in emerging overseas markets.

After concluding his Costa Rica visit, Margherita departed for Honduras, Belize and Dominica as part of India's broader diplomatic and economic outreach in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

No plans to raise duty on gold, silver to restrict import: Govt source

New Delhi: There is no immediate plan to increase the import duty on gold and silver to curb the import, confirmed source from the Commerce Ministry on Monday. The comment came as there has been a growing concern over India's widening import bill and pressure on foreign exchange reserves. "There will be no import restrictions on gold and silver. There's no plan to increase the import duty," said the source.

The clarification came amid speculation that the Centre could consider raising customs duties on gold and silver imports to discourage non-essential purchases and ease pressure on the current account deficit. However, government officials indicated that no such tariff revision is under consideration at this stage.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on Sunday the need for greater economic self-reliance and urged citizens to reduce dependence on imported products and avoid buying precious metal. Modi had flagged the strain caused by elevated crude oil prices, a weakening rupee and rising imports of non-essential items such as gold jewellery due to the West Asia crisis.

He appealed to citizens to curb avoidable imports, particularly gold purchases and excessive overseas expenditure, in order to conserve foreign exchange for priority requirements. He stressed that every dollar saved through low-



er discretionary imports could help strengthen India's economic resilience at a time of global uncertainty.

India is one of the world's largest importers of gold, with purchases of the precious metal traditionally rising during the festive and wedding seasons. Higher imports of precious metal along with elevated crude oil prices, led to widening of the trade deficit and increase pressure on the rupee.



West Asia Rifts Test BRICS Unity



New Delhi, May 12: Foreign ministers from the BRICS bloc are convening in New Delhi on May 14–15 for a high-stakes summit that will test the group's cohesion amid deepening geopolitical fractures. Chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the meeting faces a primary hurdle: a sharp divide over the West Asia conflict.

Diplomatic sources indicate that a formal joint statement remains uncertain. Tensions between Iran and the UAE—exacerbated by recent attacks on Iranian soil and subsequent strikes on UAE energy infrastructure—have stalled consensus. If a joint communique cannot be reached, India may be forced to issue a "Chair's Summary" to reflect diverging national positions.

Key Highlights: High-Level Attendance: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi are

confirmed. However, China's Wang Yi will skip the event due to a scheduling conflict with U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to China.

Strategic Balancing: Minister Jaishankar is set to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from Russia, Brazil, South Africa, and the Maldives.

Agenda: Discussions will center on global security, multilateral reform, and the session "BRICS@20: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability."

The gathering serves as a critical litmus test for India, which is slated to assume the BRICS chairmanship in 2026. As the bloc expands to include nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the inability to find common ground on West Asia could expose the limitations of BRICS as a unified alternative to Western-led governance.

Bengal BJP gov't terminates 232 Group A rank officers nominated during TMC regime

Opposition Leader Claims State Officials Acted as Cadres

Kolkata, May 12: The new BJP government in West Bengal on Tuesday terminated 232 Group A rank officers, who were nominated by the previous TMC government as members, directors and chairpersons of non-statutory bodies, boards, organisations and public sector undertakings across the State.

A day after the swearing-in ceremony of the West Bengal Chief Minister (CM) Suwendu Adhikari on May 9, before the Governor R N Ravi at the Brigade Parade Grounds, the first-ever BJP Government in the state on Monday took drastic steps, directing all departments to immediately terminate the services of such officers. On Tuesday, the state government released a list of 243 officers and terminated them from the services. Most of these officers are posted at different offices belonging to the finance, home, labour, urban development and municipal affairs, MSME and other departments. They were nominated by the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government in West Bengal during her 15-year regime. The order issued on Monday also asked the departments to end the re-employment and extension of the tenure of officers and officials who have continued in service beyond the normal superannuation age of 60 years.

A few senior administrative officials felt that several hundred IAS, IPS, WBCS and other officers under state government service categories would also be culled by the termination order. "The government has directed all departments to take necessary steps to



immediately terminate the tenures of the nominated members, directors, or chairpersons of different boards, organisations, non-statutory bodies and public sector undertakings of the state government," an administrative official at the state secretariat Nabanna said. According to Monday's directive, addressed to all additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries of departments, "the tenure of officers/officials who are on re-employment/ extension of service beyond the normal age of superannuation (60 years) in different departments under the state government may also be terminated immediately".

The order said the decision was taken "with the approval of the competent authority". Officials, however, did not

immediately elaborate on the reasons behind the move or specify how many appointments and extensions would be affected by the decision. Suwendu had been alleging that these officers, rehabilitated by the previous Trinamool Congress government in different departments and non-statutory bodies, used to work as cadres of the party.

Today's order virtually broke the political eco-system, a section of BJP insiders felt. Three retired bureaucrats life former Chief Secretaries Alapan Bandyopadhyay, H K Dwivedi, and Manoj Pant, who were rehabilitated by the previous state government in different posts after their retirement, have already tendered resignations after the formation of the BJP government in Bengal.

'LoP cannot be a rubber stamp': Rahul Gandhi dissents on CBI director selection process

New Delhi, May 12: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi registered formal dissent regarding the selection process for the new CBI Director. He wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting that the LoP is not a rubber stamp and he cannot abdicate his constitutional duty by participating in this biased exercise. In his letter, Gandhi said that despite repeated written requests, he was not provided with the self-appraisal reports or 360-degree reports of the eligible candidates. "Instead, I was expected to examine the appraisal records of sixty-nine candidates for the first time during the Committee meeting. The 360-degree reports were denied to me outright. A detailed review of these records is crucial to assess



each candidate's history and performance," he added. "This deliberate denial of information, without any legal basis, makes a mockery of the selection process and ensures that only your

pre-decided candidate is selected", Gandhi pointed out. The three-member selection panel comprises the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. Gandhi said,

"Your government has repeatedly misused the CBI, intended to be India's premier investigative agency, to target political opponents, journalists, and critics. It is to prevent such institutional capture that the Leader of the Opposition is included in the Selection Committee. Regrettably, you have continued to deny me any meaningful role in the process." Gandhi further recalled that he had recorded his dissent in the previous meeting on 5th May 2025. "I had also written to you on 21st October 2025, suggesting measures for a fair and transparent process, to which I have not even received a response. By denying the Selection Committee crucial information, the government has reduced it to a mere formality," Rahul Gandhi added.

MEA Rebukes China Over Support To Pakistan

New Delhi, May 12: India Rebukes China Over Technical Support to Pakistan During Operation Sindoor NEW DELHI – The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday stated that recent reports from Chinese state media confirm New Delhi's long-standing claims regarding Beijing's direct involvement in the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal questioned whether "responsible" nations should assist in protecting terrorist infrastructure. His remarks followed a South China Morning Post report detailing interviews with engineers from the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). These engineers admitted to providing on-site technical support to the Pakistan Air Force during Operation Sindoor in May 2025. Context of the Conflict:



Trigger: A terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 civilians. Operation Sindoor: Launched May 7, 2025, targeting nine terrorist locations in Pakistan.

China's Role: AVIC engineers, including Zhang Heng, confirmed they worked under "extreme conditions" to ensure Chinese-supplied J-10CE fighters reached "full combat potential" during the four-day skirmish.

Jaiswal emphasized that the operation was a "calibrated response" to state-sponsored terror, noting that China's support for Pakistan during the crisis directly impacts its global reputation.



Prakadeswaran Puts Village On Global Map

Chennai, May 11: S Prakadeswaran's year so far has been filled with pleasant surprises. From being called up to the senior team when he was on the verge of signing for Bengaluru-based Agniputhra FC, to seeing his number '52' light up on the substitution board, the teenage forward has been making a mark, whenever given the chance. But his journey to the top-level football is inspiring. Born at a house with a thatched roof in Brislee Nagar settlement near Otteri, Prakadeswaran's first tryst with football came in the narrow lanes of the area. His father Sakthivel, a rehabilitation worker-turned security guard, played football at a recreational level. He explained how playing in festival tournaments got him enraptured by the game. "There used to be an empty space in the area. There, we set the goal-posts and install the floodlights. I played matches without boots. Although the teams I played for did not win anything, I won a lot of individual awards. They used to hand out stockings, shoes and jerseys for the award winner," he explained. As he grew up, the ISL was gaining traction after the inaugural season in 2014. Prakadeswaran revealed how he and his cousins managed to get a glimpse of Chennaiyin. "It was difficult to get tickets. Me and my cousins tried to convince our elders to get us tickets. We travel by bus to the stadium on our own, watch matches and return home the same way," he added.



That same club that he religiously supported first identified him in 2017. "The youth coaches Ramakrishnan (U13) and Lakshmanan (U15) sir spotted me and got me into the academy after I excelled in a selection match." Then, the following year, he set his eyes on joining the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) sports hostel in Neyveli. He revealed how his parents, despite difficulties, were supportive of sending

home on April 7, he scored his first goal in this level against Jamshedpur. The two-time winners lost 4-1. "In the home match against SC Delhi, I kept shooting it with lots of power, which either did not trouble the keeper or was blocked by the defender. As I took up extra training before the match against Jamshedpur, Clifford (Miranda) sir saw me shooting and helped me with tweaking. Instead of going for glory, he told me to cut inside and make space," he said.

Prakadeswaran did just that to score his first goal. Receiving the ball on the right wing just outside the box, his first touch helped him deceive the defender, make space and curl it into the top right corner of goal. With that goal, Prakadeswaran gained more prominence in the team he grew up watching. Apart from wanting to grow and make inroads into the national team, the teenager wants more like him from his area to take up football. "I'm the only professional from the settlement. But I'm also happy to see so many children joining local clubs on my advice. Whenever I go back there, I keep hearing people say that I have put Brislee Nagar on the map. Before this, football was prominent only in Vyasarpadi but now it's slowly changing," he said.

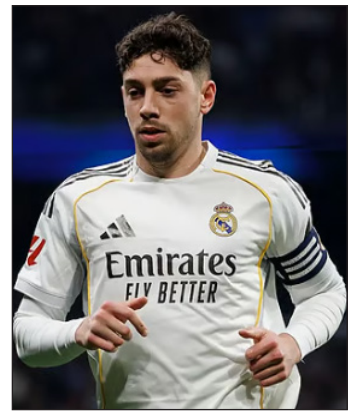
Coaching is also something that people are taking up in his area. "They are now pursuing 'D' and 'C' level licenses and are training kids. I hope they turn pro," he said.

him to Neyveli. "I really wanted to go there. My brother Kamleshwaran was studying there. We trained under D Johnson there in the hostel. While studying there for four years, I was also in Chennaiyin's U13 team. I had to travel back for matches and return to the hostel frequently," he revealed. As he continued to shuttle between cities and rise through the ranks, his commitment to his cause of being a professional finally bore fruit. After making his debut as a substitute in Chennaiyin's 1-2 defeat to Inter Kashi at

Valverde injured in Tchouaméni altercation

Madrid, May 11: Real Madrid's disastrous season hit a breaking point Thursday as a training ground altercation between midfielders Federico Valverde and Aurélien Tchouaméni left Valverde with a head injury and both players facing massive fines. The club confirmed Valverde was diagnosed with cranio-encephalic trauma after he reportedly hit a table during the heated exchange. He is expected to be sidelined for 10 to 14 days, missing Sunday's crucial Clasico at the Camp Nou. In a swift disciplinary move, Madrid slapped both players with a €500,000 (\$589,000) fine. A Season of Unrest—The infighting comes as Madrid faces a trophy-less campaign. Already eliminated from the Champions League and Copa del Rey, they now face the humiliation of watching Barcelona clinch the La Liga title this weekend—the Catalan side needs only a draw to secure their 29th championship. The club's internal friction has been mounting since the January departure of coach Xabi Alonso. This week alone, defender Álvaro Carreras also

confirmed a "minor incident" with teammate Antonio Rüdiger. Valverde Speaks Out—On Instagram, a remorseful Valverde apologized for the "meaningless fight," citing the "anger and frustration" of a difficult season. "After a season without titles... everything is magnified. I'm truly



sorry because this situation hurts me," Valverde wrote. Valverde's injury also worries Uruguay supporters ahead of the 2026 World Cup, where the Celeste open their campaign against Saudi Arabia on June 15. While the injury is not expected to rule him out of the tournament, the psychological toll on Madrid's fractured dressing room remains high.

'We were not consistent enough': Jayawardene on MI's disastrous IPL season



Raipur, May 11: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene offered a blunt assessment of his team's performance after a heartbreaking two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Raipur. The defeat, MI's eighth in 11 matches, officially ended their hopes of reaching the IPL playoffs.

Jayawardene admitted the five-time champions were "not good enough" this season, citing a lack of consistency with both bat and ball. The match reached a dramatic conclusion when rookie Raj Angad Bawa was tasked

with defending the final over. Despite showing promise in practice, Bawa struggled under pressure, conceding extras and a decisive final-ball six.

The coach defended the decision to bowl the youngster, noting that all experienced options had exhausted their quotas. Jayawardene also pointed to a disrupted campaign plagued by injuries and "unforced mistakes" during crucial batting phases. Despite the poor results, he stood by his senior core, insisting their commitment remained high throughout the disappointing season.

Revised norms likely in BFI selection trials

Instant Verdicts: Sports Science Points Dropped

Chennai, May 11: It was an eventful Monday as head coaches met the Sports Authority of India to find a solution to the selection mess surrounding Indian boxing. It is understood that on the same day, the sports ministry also served a show-cause notice to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). If sources are to be believed, the selection trials, which were originally supposed to begin on Monday, could be conducted under a new set of rules. Even the sports science test scores could be done away with.

SAI had taken exception to the selection policy of the BFI and suspended the trials on Sunday. A number of complaints received from boxers apparently led to the decision which was precipitated by BFI's approach. It is understood that the BFI did not reply to queries from the SAI which led to such a strong action. This prompted the sports ministry to even shoot a show-cause notice to the federation the next day. On Sunday, SAI

had suspended the selection trials of boxers for the Commonwealth and Asian Games. There are quite a few sticky points the SAI had raised. SAI's Target Olympic Podium Scheme looks after boxing and its Chief Executive Officer had written to the BFI to



maintain a fair selection policy.

A day later, the TOPS had a meeting with the head coaches of men and women including foreign coach Santiago Nieva. In the meeting, SAI said that BFI's existing criteria to announce winners days after trials should stop. This

had grown into a full grown turf war between the BFI and sports ministry as well. The ministry also sent a show-cause notice to the BFI on its selection policy and pointed out that some of the provisions lack clarity. Apparently, the notice questioned even

selection of coaches that was apparently done without keeping SAI in the loop. The point that did not go down well with SAI was making the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Cup as a pathway to the national camp from where boxers would be chosen for Commonwealth and Asian Games.

The SAI, too, had mentioned this in their letter to the BFI on Sunday. The ministry has warned that if they do not adhere to transparency, impartial and transparent selection procedures. On Monday, the meeting between SAI and coaches had a few points for selection. It is understood that one of the points to be part of the selection process was a five-member jury with head coach and four judges for greater transparency. It is learnt that the BFI is set to agree to SAI's suggestions. The scores will have to be announced immediately after each bout. Both the head coaches would be part of the evaluation process. This is expected to lead to a truce and the assessment could be held soon.

According to top SAI officials, it is quite clear in individual sport. If there are two contenders, whosoever wins and there is no ambiguity. If their suggestions are taken, then selection trials will continue as per new norms.