

Anil Ambani-led Reliance group grabs Bhutan solar project in agreement with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd

Mumbai: Anil Ambani-led Reliance group announced on Wednesday it has entered into an agreement with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd (DHI), the commercial and investment arm of the Bhutan government, to jointly develop a solar and a hydroelectric project in the Himalayan kingdom.

The group also announced a new flagship company — Reliance Enterprises — which will be for promoting investment in Bhutan's renewable and green energy sector.

Jointly promoted by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd, Reliance Enterprises will focus on enhancing sustainable energy solutions and implementing smart distribution and metering systems throughout

Bhutan.

A press statement said the partnership between Reliance Group and Druk Holding will focus on green energy generation, specifically solar and hydropower initiatives, while also exploring innovative green technologies.

Reliance Group further disclosed it will collaborate with government-owned companies in Bhutan to implement infrastructure projects that support its net-zero goals. The partnership agreement was signed by Harmanjit Singh Nagi, president (corporate development), Reliance Power Ltd. and Ujjwal Deep Dahal, CEO, Druk Holding and Investments, in the presence of Anil Ambani.

Reliance Enterprises will join



hands with Druk Holding to jointly develop a 500MW solar power plant in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan. The project will be executed over the next two years in two phases of 250 MW each.

It will also mark the single largest investment in Bhutan's renewable energy sector and the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) by an Indian company in the country. Reliance Power Ltd and Druk Holding also announced plans to jointly develop the 770 MW Chamkharchhu-1 hydro project.

"We are pleased to be partnering Reliance and together we are committed to delivering world-class clean energy projects that will benefit both India and Bhutan," Ujjwal Deep Dahal, CEO, Druk Holding and Investments, said. Reliance Power has a total installed capacity of 5,340MW, including the 4,000 MW project at Sasan, Madhya Pradesh.

SEBI announces new measures to curb F&O trading, strengthen equity markets



Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced several new measures to curb speculative trading in the futures and option (F&O) segment as nine out of ten participants have consistently lost money over the past three years. Under the F&O measures, market regular has increased the minimum contract size in the index derivatives to Rs 15 lakh from the current Rs 5 lakh.

SEBI has also reduced the weekly index expiry count to one per exchange. This means that exchanges can only offer one expiry in a week on one benchmark index.

"In order to specifically address this issue of excessive trading in index derivatives on expiry day, it has been decided to rationalise index derivatives products offered by exchanges which expire on a weekly basis. Henceforth, each exchange may provide derivatives contracts for only one of its benchmark index with weekly expiry," SEBI said in a circular.

Apple to launch more retail stores in India as it manufactures all iPhone 16 models in country



New Delhi: Driven by the positive response to its Mumbai and Delhi retail stores, Apple on Friday said it is geared up to launch more exclusive, own-branded stores in the country where the iPhone maker is witnessing a surge in domestic sales as well as export figures. New Apple retail stores will come in Bengaluru, Pune, DelhiNCR and Mumbai. However, no timeline has been set so far.

According to Deirdre O'Brien, Apple's senior vice president of Retail, the company is thrilled "to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India, because we are inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across this country". "Our stores are incredible places to experience the magic of Apple, and it's been wonderful to deepen our connection with our customers in India," said O'Brien.

"We can't wait for them to have even more opportunities to discover and shop for our amazing products and services, and connect with our extraordinary, knowledgeable team members," she said in a statement. The tech giant is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India, the company informed. The India-made iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max will soon be available for local customers and for export to select countries across the world.

Apple currently has its own branded retail store in Saket, Delhi, and BandraKurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. The India retail expansion comes as Apple is already locally manufacturing the iPhone 16 and Pro models, and exporting them to other countries. The new Apple flagship retail stores will fuel Apple's growth in the years ahead.

GST panel deliberates on lowering rate on health insurance, tractors

New Delhi: As the government focuses on GST 2.0 which further eases tax laws, enhance tax simplification and adoption of technology, the ministerial panel tasked to rationalise rates is deliberating on lowering GST on essential items like health insurance and tractors up to 5 per cent.

As tractor segment volumes saw marginal growth (year-on-year) in September, a reduction in GST on tractors will offset

the revenue loss, according to industry experts. Tractors currently attract 12-28 per cent GST, depending on their classification.

Similarly, a cut in GST on health and term insurance - a long-pending demand of the sector -- will further make them more affordable for the masses. As per experts, health insurance is likely to see a decrease from 18 per cent to 12 per cent, while term insurance may attract a



GST of 5 per cent.

According to reports, the panel, chaired by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, is focused on moving certain items from the 12 per cent slab to 5 per cent.

Record 22.98 lakh director KYC forms filed in first 6 months of FY25: Centre

New Delhi: A record 22.98 lakh director KYC forms have been filed in the first six months of the current fiscal (FY25), exceeding the entire FY24 figures, the government informed. According to a Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) statement, it observed robust director KYC filing during FY25. From April 1 till September 30, 22.98 lakh DIR-3 KYC forms were filed, compared to 20.54 lakh forms filed during the same period last fiscal.

"The filing upto September 2024 during FY25 has exceeded filing of 22.02 lakh forms during entire FY23-24," the ministry noted. The government is aiming to enhance stakeholders' experience on MCA-21 portal and taking proactive measures towards ease of doing business and ease of living. According to MCA, a special team has also been constituted to look into the grievances of stakeholders for efficient disposal, suggest systemic solution, if required, and provide better guidance to the stakeholders for their compliances on MCA-21 Portal.

As per the provisions of Rule 12 A of Compa-

nies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules 2014, every individual who holds a Director Identification Number as on March 31 of a financial year need to submit DIR3 KYC form on or before September 30 of immediate next financial year.

According to the government, the number of new company and LLP (limited liability partnership) incorporations increased by nearly 5 per cent in the first four months during the current financial year to touch the 91,578 mark, compared to 87,379 in the same four-month period last year.

The growth in new companies being set up during the current financial year (2024-25) comes on the back of a 15 per cent surge in new firms incorporated in 2023-24 as compared to 1.59 lakh companies registered in 2022-23. The continuous growth reflects an improvement in the business climate of the country, a senior official said. At the end of March 2024, India had a total of 26,63,016 companies that were registered.

Hyundai Motor India may launch \$3 bn IPO on Oct 14

Mumbai: Hyundai Motor India is likely to launch a \$3 billion (about Rs 25,000 crore) Initial Public Offering (IPO) on October 14, according to a report. It would be the largest IPO of India after LIC, which was around Rs 21,000 crore.

According to several media reports, Hyundai has given final consent for opening the IPO subscription from October 14 to 16.

The report further said that barring any unexpected changes in the market due to the conflict between Iran and Israel in the Middle East, it has been agreed to open the subscription of the IPO on these dates.

Oriflame leads the charge in sustainability and women empowerment at Swedish Networking Reception

Guwahati/ Shillong: Oriflame, the celebrated Swedish holistic well-being brand, recently captured attention at the Swedish Networking Reception hosted by the Swedish Embassy, where the theme of sustainability took center stage. Joining forces with iconic Swedish brands like Ikea, Volvo, H&M, and Tetra Pak, Oriflame showcased its dedication to fostering India-Sweden relations through eco-conscious initiatives.

At the event, Oriflame's stall stood out with its 100% biodegradable design, symbolizing the brand's commitment to nature. The company proudly highlighted that



80% of its brand partners are women, and an impressive 85% of products sold in India are locally produced. This commitment underscores Oriflame's significant role in empowering women and contributing to

India's economic landscape.

Edyta Kurek, Senior Vice President & Head of India, emphasized the brand's mission: "We are committed to empowering millions of women by offering them financial independence through our business model." With 60% of its global workforce being women, Oriflame champions gender equality and community upliftment.

Additionally, 95% of Oriflame's rinse-off products launched in 2023 are formulated to be biodegradable, reinforcing the brand's dedication to sustainability and its vision for a greener, more equitable future through micro-entrepreneurship.

Air India Express completes merger with AIX Connect, aims for enhanced growth



Guwahati: Air India Group has officially merged Air India Express Ltd and AIX Connect Pvt Ltd (formerly AirAsia India), creating a more robust low-cost carrier under the Air India Express brand. This strategic move is part of the group's ongoing Vihaan. AI transformation program, which aims to streamline operations and improve service delivery by merging four airlines into two.

The integration, finalized in less than a year since the rebranding of AIX Connect, included harmonizing operational manuals and transferring aircraft while securing essential approvals from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The successful completion of this merger sets a precedent for future airline consolidations in India, highlighting the country's growing aviation market.

In Guwahati, the merger is expected to significantly enhance air connectivity and options for travelers in the Northeast region. With a growing demand for affordable travel among the region's youth, Air India Express plans to expand its fleet from 88 to over 100 aircraft by the end of the financial year, increasing its route offerings and catering to the rising aspirations of passengers seeking efficient travel solutions.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance achieves unprecedented 99.35% claim settlement ratio in Q1-FY2025

Shillong: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has set a new industry benchmark with a remarkable claim settlement ratio of 99.35% for the first quarter of FY2025, reaffirming its commitment to customer satisfaction in the Indian life insurance market. The company settled death claims worth ₹381.24 crore during this period, with an impressive average turnaround time of just 1.2 days for non-investigative claims.

Mr. Amish Banker, Chief Operations Officer of Customer Service, emphasized the importance of trust in the insurance industry, stating, "Life insurance ensures financial security for families in the absence of an earning member. We process

claims with sensitivity and speed, reflected in our leading ratio." This achievement highlights ICICI Prudential's consistent performance, improving from a ratio of 97.94% in Q1-FY2024 to 99.17% for FY2024.

Shillong has welcomed ICICI Prudential's swift claims processing, with many residents expressing their confidence in the insurer's ability to provide timely support during challenging times. The 'Claim For Sure' initiative, which promises to settle eligible claims within one day, has particularly resonated with customers, reinforcing the company's reputation as a reliable choice for life insurance in the region.

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles launch the all-new 350 Jawa 42 FJ in Assam

Guwahati: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles, the pioneers of the 'Neo-Classic' segment in India, has launched the all-new 350 Jawa 42 FJ, the latest member of the Jawa 42 Life series in Assam. Building on the success of the 42 and 42 Bobber, the 350 Jawa 42 FJ marks an exciting new chapter for the "42 Life" theme, celebrating a commitment to superior design and an unparalleled riding experience. The company also initiated the deliveries of the new motorcycle by handing over the keys to 10 customers in the city. Jawa disrupts the category again with prices starting at Rs. 1.99 Lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), delivering the trinity of design, performance and price. Expands the '42 Life' series - 42, 42 Bobber, and now 42 FJ.

Bold road presence by longer wheelbase and higher ground clearance. Segment-first brushed aluminium tank panels. All-new muscular neo-classic design with enhanced ergonomics. New upswept exhaust with a distinct soundtrack; all-LED lighting. New 350 Alpha2 engine for class-leading performance. Benchmark-setting handling and class-leading braking. Five stunning colours, and multiple cladding options. Aims to expand its footprint in Assam with over 20 customer touchpoints making the brands more accessible for existing and new customers. The Jawa 42 FJ is available in a range of premium colours, with prices starting from Rs. 2,02,142 (ex-showroom Assam).

Guwahati braces for an exciting shift with Intel's new AI-driven chip portfolio

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has officially launched the New Nissan Magnite, now available at a special introductory price of INR 5.99 lakhs. This updated model boasts a bold new design, enhanced safety features, and advanced technology, reaffirming Nissan's commitment to innovation and quality.

The New Magnite features a redesigned exterior with a prominent honeycomb grille, improved ground clearance, and an array of segment-first features, including a floating touchscreen infotainment system compatible with Android Auto

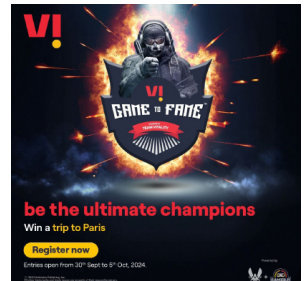
and Apple CarPlay. The interior showcases a premium leatherette finish, ample cabin storage, and a spacious boot that expands from 336L to 540L.

Manufactured at Nissan's Alliance plant in Chennai, the New Magnite will now be exported to over 65 markets globally, marking a significant expansion in Nissan's international presence. "India plays a crucial role in our global strategy," said Mr. Frank Torres, Divisional Vice President for Nissan India Operations, highlighting the model's export potential and its success since its launch in December 2020.

Vi launches 'Game to Fame' tournament, usher in a new era for eSports in India

Guwahati: Vi is stepping into the vibrant world of eSports with its inaugural tournament, 'Vi Game to Fame,' aimed at nurturing amateur gamers across India. Launched ahead of the India Mobile Congress 2024, this initiative is set to provide a dynamic platform for budding eSports enthusiasts to compete and shine on both national and international stages.

With India accounting for approximately 20% of global mobile game downloads, the timing is perfect for this initiative. The tournament will feature the widely popular Call of Duty: Mobile, beginning on October 1, 2024, with the grand finale slated for October 15-18 at the IMC 2024. Participants will engage in a knockout format, with prizes



that include a trip to Paris to visit the Team Vitality facility.

In Guwahati, the excitement is palpable. Local gamers are eager to participate, viewing the tournament as a golden opportunity to showcase their skills and connect with the wider eSports community. This event is not just a competition; it's a celebration of gaming culture that promises to inspire the next generation of eSports champions in the region.

BSA Motorcycles delivers first Gold Star 650 to Arunachal MLA, Oken Tayeng



Guwahati: BSA Motorcycles, the legendary British brand, celebrated a milestone with the delivery of the first BSA Gold Star 650 in North-East India to Mr. Oken Tayeng, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Tayeng, known for his contributions to infrastructure development and adventure tourism in the state, praised the iconic motorcycle for its blend of heritage and performance.

The Gold Star 650, launched in India on August 15, 2024, showcases BSA's classic British design and modern engineering. Mr. Tayeng expressed excitement about owning a piece of motorcycle history, stating, "The BSA Gold Star 650 perfectly

suits Arunachal's terrain and my passion for promoting adventure tourism."

Ashish Singh Joshi, Director of BSA Company, highlighted the symbolic importance of delivering the bike in North-East India, saying, "It bridges BSA's rich legacy with India's motorcycling culture."

The launch of the Gold Star 650 in the North-East, including Guwahati, is expected to energize the premium motorcycle segment. Guwahati, as a key market, is witnessing growing demand for adventure bikes, driven by its proximity to scenic landscapes and rising interest in motor tourism.

With a price starting at Rs 2.99 Lakh, the BSA Gold Star 650 is available across select dealerships in India.

ICICI Bank launches festive bonanza with attractive discounts and offers

Guwahati: ICICI Bank has kicked off its much-anticipated annual Festive Bonanza, offering an impressive range of deals across electronics, fashion, and more. Customers can enjoy discounts of up to ₹40,000 on leading brands such as LG, Samsung, and Sony, alongside attractive offers from retail outlets like Croma and Reliance Digital.

In a special highlight, customers purchasing the new iPhone 16 will receive an instant cashback of ₹5,000. Additionally, there are enticing cashback offers of up to ₹10,000 on popular laptops from brands like Macbook Air, HP, and Dell. The festive season is further enhanced with exclusive deals on Myntra's Big Fashion Festival and no-cost EMI options for various purchases.

Mr. Rakesh Jha, Executive Director of ICICI Bank, expressed enthusiasm for the event,



stating, "We are pleased to bring back 'Festive Bonanza' with curated offers that enhance our customers' shopping experience during this festive season."

In Guwahati, shoppers can look forward to leveraging these discounts to make significant savings while purchasing essential items, driving both local consumer engagement and sales during this festive period. With the availability of special offers on loans and e-commerce purchases, the Festive Bonanza promises to make this season rewarding for all.

MoS Pabitra Margherita embark on a nine-day official tour to four countries

Guwahati: Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, has embarked on a nine-day official tour to four countries. From September 30 to October 2, he will be in Mexico, where he will represent India at the presidential inauguration ceremony of Dr. Claudia Sheinbaum. This participation highlights India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Mexico, which has emerged as a significant political and economic partner in the region. Following his visit to Mexico,

the Minister will travel to Grenada (October 2-4), Barbados (October 4-6), and Antigua and Barbuda (October 6-8). This extensive tour aims to further solidify India's ties with Latin American and Caribbean nations.

In an official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "Margherita's visit to Grenada marks the first ministerial-level visit from India since May 2018 and only the second such visit in history. In Barbados, the Minister will visit areas of mutual interest, and

during the final leg of his trip in Antigua, he will hold bilateral meetings."

According to the Ministry, Margherita's itinerary will primarily involve meetings with foreign ministers of these nations. In addition, he will engage with key political figures, business leaders, and industry representatives. This tour underscores the deepening relations between India and Latin American and Caribbean nations, fostering stronger political, economic, and cultural ties.

JSW MG Motor launches special editions of Hector SNOWSTORM and Astor BLACKSTORM

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India has launched two special editions – the Hector SNOWSTORM and Astor BLACKSTORM 2024 – aimed at SUV enthusiasts. Priced at INR 21,52,800 (ex-showroom) for the Hector SNOWSTORM and INR 13,44,800 (ex-showroom) for the Astor BLACKSTORM, these vehicles feature striking designs, advanced technology, and bold aesthetics.

The Hector SNOWSTORM, with its pristine white body and fiery red accents, boasts a panoramic sunroof and India's largest 14-inch HD infotainment system. The Astor BLACKSTORM stands out with its black-themed exterior, featuring a honeycomb pattern grille, black alloy wheels, and JBL speakers.

According to Satinder



Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer of JSW MG Motor India, "These editions reflect our commitment to delivering innovative products that resonate with customer preferences."

Guwahati for its increasing demand for premium vehicles, is expected to welcome these editions with enthusiasm. The stylish features and tech-rich appeal of Hector

SNOWSTORM and Astor BLACKSTORM cater well to the tech-savvy consumers in Assam's largest city, aligning with local market preferences for luxury and performance.

Both models come with MG's comprehensive "MG SHIELD" maintenance program, ensuring a hassle-free ownership experience for buyers.

Mahindra launches ZEO Electric 4-Wheeler, aims to transform urban logistics

Guwahati: Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited (MLM-ML) has officially launched the Mahindra ZEO, a groundbreaking electric small commercial vehicle (SCV) designed to electrify the sub-2-tonne segment. Priced from ₹7.52 lakh, the ZEO is set to disrupt the market with its high-voltage 300+ V architecture, delivering superior energy efficiency, a real-world range of 160 km, and fast-charging capabilities that provide 100 km in just 60 minutes. Powered by a 30 kW motor with 114 Nm torque, the ZEO boasts a 21.3 kWh liquid-cooled battery that meets AIS038 safety standards. Mahindra has equipped the ZEO with features like regenerative braking, Hill Hold Assist, and advanced ADAS safety functions such as Lane Departure Warning and Pedestrian Collision Warning.



In Guwahati, the introduction of the ZEO is expected to significantly benefit the local logistics industry, particularly in managing last-mile deliveries. With its robust 765 kg payload capacity and faster turnaround times, businesses in Guwahati stand to save up to ₹7 lakh over seven years compared to diesel vehicles, positioning the ZEO as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative.

Mahindra's Managing Director, Suman Mishra, said, "The Mahindra ZEO embodies our vision of electrifying urban logistics while helping customers thrive."

Unlocking Northeast's potential: 30 entrepreneurship centres launched at Skill Conclave 2024

Guwahati: The Northeast is set to become a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship with the launch of 30 Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and four Incubation Centres at the Northeast Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Conclave 2024. Spearheaded by Minister Jayant Chaudhary, this initiative aims to nurture 900 startups, with a focus on regional skill development and economic sustainability.

Held at IIM Shillong, the event brought together leaders and experts from the region to discuss how to align traditional craftsmanship, such as bamboo and woodwork, with emerg-

ing market trends. Chaudhary emphasized the importance of regional cooperation under the "Act First for Northeast" policy, stating that the region's double-digit growth will significantly contribute to India's ambitious \$5 trillion economy goal.

For the Guwahati, this initiative is a game changer. As the economic gateway to the Northeast, Guwahati will see enhanced entrepreneurial activity, with startups benefiting from the incubation programs and mentorship opportunities. The city's strategic position will make it a crucial player in driving regional economic transformation.

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles partners with Flipkart

Guwahati: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has announced collaboration with Flipkart, marking a significant step in the premium motorcycle market in India. This partnership makes Jawa Yezdi the first premium motorcycle manufacturer to offer its products on Flipkart's e-commerce platform, aiming to improve how enthusiasts access and purchase high-end motorcycles across the country. The collaboration is a key part of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles' digital strategy, designed to improve the customer experience and increase the accessibility of its premium motorcycle range. By using Flipkart's platform with over 500 million users, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles will reach a wider audience, allowing motorcycle enthusiasts from various parts of India to explore, compare, and choose from their range of performance-classic bikes.

Ashish Singh Joshi, CEO of Classic Legends, commented on the partnership: "Our collaboration with Flipkart marks a significant milestone in the premium motorcycle segment. By bringing Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles to Flipkart's platform, we're enhancing the discovery and purchase experience for enthusiasts across India."

This collaboration offers several benefits to motorcycle enthusiasts, changing how they can access and purchase premium motorcycles which are improved accessibility, informed decisions, financial options, cost savings and streamlined purchase process. This approach simplifies the purchase process and introduces premium motorcycling to a wider audience, allowing more enthusiasts to own a Jawa or Yezdi motorcycle.

Flipkart's Big Billion Days 2024: A festival of joy for millions of Indian shoppers

Guwahati: The excitement is palpable as Flipkart unveils the 11th edition of its Big Billion Days (TBBDD), which kicked off on September 27, drawing an impressive 33 crore user visits. This much-anticipated shopping festival began with exclusive early access for VIP and Plus customers, igniting festive fervor among millions of shoppers nationwide.

In Guwahati, local consumers are reveling in the vast array of offerings, particularly in the mobile and fashion categories. The city has seen a remarkable surge in online shopping as families come together to take advantage of the festival deals, transforming their shopping habits and

preferences.

The festival's success is attributed to innovative features like Video Commerce and 'FlipIn-Trends,' which have attracted diverse customer groups, including a significant increase in engagement from Gen Z. Moreover, over 75% of sellers reported a notable rise in orders, showcasing the positive ripple effect on small businesses.

As Flipkart enhances delivery logistics to cover over 19,000 pin codes, the Big Billion Days not only celebrate shopping but also create a shared sense of community, joy, and empowerment among sellers and buyers alike, making this festive season truly special.

2036 Olympics Vision: Army Hosts Sports Conclave to Forge Collaborative Efforts

New Delhi: As India eyes hosting the 2036 Olympics, the Indian Army took a pivotal step by organizing a sports conclave on Monday, aimed at aligning national efforts toward this ambitious goal. The event, attended by key figures including Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Union Minister for Labour and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, and Rajasthan minister Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (retd), served as a platform for creating a “comprehensive roadmap” to elevate India’s global sporting aspirations.



The Army Sports Conclave focused on fostering collaboration between national stakeholders such as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA),

the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and national sports federations. The goal is to enhance India’s preparations and performance on the international

sports stage, including the 2036 Olympics. India’s armed forces have a long-standing tradition of supporting the country’s sports achievements, particularly in international competitions like the Asian Games and the Olympics. The Indian Army’s Mission Olympics Wing, established in 2001, currently trains about 9,000 athletes across 28 sports centers. The conclave highlighted the Army’s significant contributions to India’s sports ecosystem, showcasing its role in developing athletes who bring accolades on global platforms.

India win 25m rapid-fire pistol team event to clinch 11th gold at Lima Junior Worlds

Lima: Indian junior shooting team continued to showcase the depth of talent, winning their 11th gold of the on-going International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship, as the trio of

MukeshNelavalli, RaajwardanPatil and Harsimar Singh Rattha clinched the team competition in the junior men’s 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP). It was also Mukesh’s fourth gold in the competition, including one indi-

vidual gold. India remains perched firmly on top of the medal tally with a silver and four bronze giving them a total of 16 medals so far. China was second with three gold and one silver. Mukesh and Raajwardan also made

it to the individual final in the RFP, however, the latter finished fourth with 17 hits in the first six series of shots, while Mukesh bowed out earlier in fifth, getting 10-hits out of the 25-targets available till then.

World Jr Mixed Team Badminton: India beat Turkiye to top Group E, to meet Indonesia in quarters

New Delhi: India successfully quelled a tough challenge from Turkiye in its last Group E clash 110-99 to top the group and secure their quarterfinals berth in the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships in Nanchang, China on Wednesday. Badminton World Federation (BWF) has introduced the relay scoring system for the first time in the World Junior Mixed Team Championships in which the winning team has to reach 110 points in 10 matches to clinch the tie.

India, who had comfortably beaten Peru, Azerbaijan and Mauritius in their earlier group games, had an indifferent start as they conceded the advantage when TusharSuveer lost the first singles to Mehmet Can Toremis 7-11. N. Srinidhi and U. Reshika then stepped up to put India ahead 22-18 and the team then maintained that advantage throughout the tie despite Toremis putting pressure on them in singles and doubles as well. But India’s girls’ singles and doubles players took big leads in their matches to negate Toremis’s impact. India will now face Indonesia in the quarterfinals.

Rohit Sharma Trusts His Judgement, Even in High-Risk Situations

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma, the Indian cricket captain, emphasized his confidence in his own judgement and decisionmaking after India’s remarkable seven-wicket victory against Bangladesh in a rain-affected Test series. Despite losing over 220 overs due to inclement weather, India achieved the win by scoring at an unprecedented rate of over eight runs per over. This victory completed a 2-0 sweep of the series. Reflecting on the match, Rohit stated, “I have been out there enough to trust my judgements on what I do,” highlighting the importance of experience and gut instinct in making high-stakes decisions. While he welcomes suggestions from teammates, he said the final call is always his, and he relies heavily on his own instincts.

“The decisions that I take on the field, I go by it. Obviously, there are players around me who are open to giving suggestions, but at the end of the day, I trust my mind and my judgement, and that’s all that matters when you are playing,” he asserted. Rohit acknowledged that not all decisions will work out, but experience helps in making the right call most of the time. “At the highest level, you need to have a bit of everything. Rohit admitted that the team’s ultra-aggressive approach could have attracted criticism if it had backfired. “What was important is what we are thinking inside the change room, and that’s what matters. The result could have gone either way, but I was okay with it, and so was the coach, because you have to be brave enough to take certain decisions,” he noted. India’s fielding performance, with 23 out of 24 catch-



es taken, was another highlight for Rohit. He credited fielding coach T. Dilip for the team’s improvements, especially under challenging conditions. “The catches are hard to take as reaction time is very less. Everyone has put in a lot of effort in getting those things right.” Redefining Aggression.

When asked about aggression, Rohit revealed that he believes it should be expressed through actions rather than reactions. “Aggression for me is all about actions. It’s not about my reactions. The kind of batting we do, the kind of field positioning we do, the kind of bowling we do—that, to me, is aggression.”

He also praised fast bowler Mohammed Siraj for his energy and effort, even on flat pitches. “You saw Siraj, superb athlete, he gives everything on the field. Even on flat pitches, when nothing is happening, he wants to do something—talk to the batter, make him uncomfortable, so the team gets into the game,” Rohit said. With this mindset, Rohit Sharma continues to steer India towards success, balancing high-risk strategies with his experience and instincts.

Messi and Inter Miami Poised for MLS Supporters’ Shield, But Eyes Set on More



Fort Lauderdale: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami are on the brink of securing the MLS Supporters’ Shield and the coveted No. 1 overall seed for the upcoming MLS Cup playoffs. The simplest way to accomplish this? Win on Wednesday.

Inter Miami, a preseason title favorite with a star-studded lineup featuring Messi, Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba, and Sergio Busquets, can clinch the Supporters’ Shield—awarded to the team with the best regular-season record—with a victory against Columbus. “It’s a great opportunity for us,” said Inter Miami midfielder Matias Rojas. “We’re taking it step by step. This team has built itself one step at a time. So, on Wednesday, we will go to win and achieve that goal.”

Barring an unlikely collapse in their final three matches, Inter Miami is well-positioned to claim the No. 1 seed for the MLS Cup playoffs. Securing the Supporters’ Shield would mark the club’s second trophy, following their Leagues Cup win in 2023, shortly after Messi’s arrival elevated the club to global prominence. Miami has tasted Supporters’ Shield glory once before

when the now-defunct Miami Fusion won it in 2001. However, Inter Miami has never come close to the top of the MLS standings until this season, where they have soared to the top after finishing 27th out of 29 teams just last year.

This season has been vastly different. After opening with a 3-2-1 record in their first six MLS matches, Inter Miami has since gone 16-2-7. A 3-0-0 finish would set a new MLS points record, surpassing New England’s 73 points in 2021. “When a team like Inter has 65 points and has lost only four matches all season ... we should recognize all the good things we have accomplished this season,” said Inter Miami coach Gerardo “Tata” Martino.

Surprisingly, Inter Miami has performed well even without Messi in the lineup, boasting a 10-3-2 record when the Argentine hasn’t played. With Messi, the team averages 2.06 points per match, but without him, they average 2.13 points per match. This showcases the depth and versatility of Inter Miami, with goalkeeper Drake Callender noting the team’s ability to thrive despite Messi’s absence.

China Open 2024: Alcaraz beats Sinner in epic final to claim title

Beijing: World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz dug deep to beat reigning champion and World No. 1 Jannik Sinner to lift his first China Open ATP 500 title here on Wednesday. The Spaniard came from a set down to register a 6-7(6), 6-4, 7-6(3) triumph against World No. 1 Italian. With his title run on the hard courts of Beijing, Alcaraz became the first player to win an ATP 500 crown on all three surfaces (hard, clay and grass) in series history (since 2009).



“He could have won in two, I could win in two, he could win in three. It was a really close match. Jannik, once again, showed that he’s the best player in the world, at least for me.”