

India in a 'much better' to face Trump-era trade disruptions: ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri

India is in a 'much better' place to deal with the global trade disruptions caused by the actions of the Trump administration as it continues to be driven by domestic consumption, ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri said. Puri, who is also the president of the CII, believed that India would be able to weather the storm as it is already in discussions with multiple trade partners such as the US, the UK and the EU to forge bilateral deals which will facilitate trade and investment.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs on many countries, including India, which he postponed by three months on June 9 with the exception of

China, which continues to face a 145 per cent tariff. However, a 10 per cent additional duty on exports from all countries to the US is still in place. The so-called reciprocal tariffs have been suspended until July 9.

When asked about the impact of such tariffs on the domestic industry, Puri said it will be difficult to say how it will evolve, but India will be 'much better' placed in this. "It's difficult to say how it will evolve, but my own sense is that at the end of it, I think India is going to be much better placed, because I do see the possibility of several FTAs (free trade agreements) being inked, which industry has been looking forward to for some time, hopefully during



the year, whether it's the EU, the UK, and, of course, the US, where there is, I think discussions, dialogue happening at a faster rate," Puri said while speaking at a fireside chat — Resilience and Growth in the

New World Disorder — at the AIMA summit.

India and the US have been engaged in negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March. Both sides have targeted to conclude the first phase

of the pact by fall (September-October) of this year with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Puri argued India's domestic consumption driven economy would not be hit much.

"So while short-term uncertainty, unpredictability may be causing some kind of impact on global growth also... a consequent little impact on India — because it is a consumption driven economy — will be also there," he said.

Commenting on the impact on ITC, Puri observed that it is also a "more domestic-focused industry" but admitted it may face some impact due to the US tariffs.

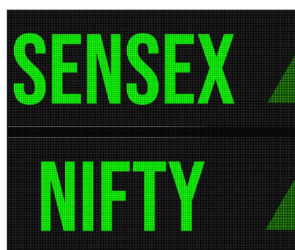
Sensex, Nifty surge on global markets rally after Trump's exemption for tariffs on electronics

Mumbai (PTI): Benchmark equity indices surged in early trade on Tuesday tracking a rally in global markets as investors sentiment became buoyant after US President Donald Trump relaxed some of the tariffs on electronics for now.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,750.37 points to 76,907.63 in early trade. The NSE Nifty surged 539.8 points to 23,368.35.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Motors rallied 5 per cent. Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other big gainers. Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Nestle and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng were trading in the positive territory while Shanghai SSE Composite index quoted lower. US markets ended higher on Monday.

"Global indices across the US, Asia, and Europe gained 3-4 per cent over Friday and Monday, after the US government excluded computers, and other electronics from reciprocal tariffs. This move is being seen as a significant softening of the US stance toward China,



boosting global sentiment.

"Adding to the positive outlook, US President Donald Trump announced on Monday that he is considering exemptions on tariffs for imported vehicles and auto parts. Last week, he also declared a 90-day pause on tariffs for all countries except China, signalling a potential window for trade negotiations and easing global trade war concerns," Vikas Jain, Head of Research, Reliance Securities, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,519.03 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude went up by 0.09 per cent to USD 64.94 a barrel. Equity markets were closed on Monday for Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti. The Sensex jumped 1,310.11 points or 1.77 per cent to settle at 75,157.26 on Friday. The Nifty surged 429.40 points or 1.92 per cent to 22,828.55.

Government plans 50 airport projects in 5 years to boost India's aviation ecosystem

The government plans to take up 50 airport development projects, including new airports, in the next five years as holistic efforts are being made to boost the country's aviation ecosystem. Currently, there are 159 operational airports in the country and the number has doubled compared to 74 in 2014.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam on Wednesday said efforts are being made in a holistic manner to develop the aviation ecosystem, including supporting airlines and scaling up flying training organisations. In five years, the plan is to have 50 airport development projects.

The government plans to take up 50 airport development projects,

including new airports, in the next five years as holistic efforts are being made to boost the country's aviation ecosystem. Currently, there are 159 operational airports in the country and the number has doubled compared to 74 in 2014.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam on Wednesday said efforts are being made in a holistic manner to develop the aviation ecosystem, including supporting airlines and scaling up flying training organisations. In five years, the plan is to have 50 airport development projects. This will include new airports as well as significantly enhancing existing airports, he said.

He was speaking at the ACI



Asia Pacific & Middle East Regional Assembly in the national capital.

Airports Council International (ACI) represents airports. An analysis by ACI Asia Pacific & Middle East showed that capital expenditure worth USD 240 billion will be required for brownfield and greenfield airports in the region. India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets.(PTI)

SBI General Insurance Settles ₹1.06 Crore Claim to Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority

Mumbai: SBI General Insurance has processed its first claim settlement of ₹1.06 crore to the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) under its Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solutions (DRTPIs) program.

The settlement, which covers excess rainfall during the monsoon season, was made possible through a parametric insurance model that triggers automatic payouts based on weather data parameters without requiring individual claim intimation.

This follows an MoU signed in August 2024 establishing a three-year partnership between

SBI General Insurance and NSDMA, supported by reinsurers GIC Re, Munich Re, Hannover Re, and SCOR.

"Our parametric insurance model ensures financial assistance reaches affected communities without delays," said Naveen Chandra Jha, MD and CEO of SBI General Insurance. "As climate variabilities increase, parametric insurance plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development." The funds will be distributed to communities affected by rainfall in Nagaland, supporting the state's disaster resilience and recovery efforts.

Bank Credit Growth Likely To Rise To 12-13% In FY26, Says Crisil

Mumbai: Given the recent supportive regulatory measures, a boost to consumption from tax cuts and softer interest rates, bank credit is likely to grow 100 to 200 basis points (bps) on-year to 12 to 13 per cent this fiscal year (FY26), compared with 11 to 11.5 per cent estimated for fiscal 2025, as per a report.

Crisil Ratings, in its report, stated that deposit growth, a crucial support for credit growth, bears watching. The report highlighted that two key regulatory changes are expected to support bank credit growth. It noted that as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rolled back the 25 percentage points' (pps) increase in the risk weights for bank loans to certain categories of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), this will improve the credit flow to NBFCs.

The banking system's exposure to NBFCs had risen at a compound annual growth rate of around 21 per cent over fiscals 2023 and 2024 but fell sharply to an estimated around six per cent in fiscal 2025, the report highlighted.

"Credit growth in the corporate sector, which accounts for around 41 per cent of bank loans, is expected to be 9 to 10 per cent, compared with eight per cent estimated for fiscal 2025, as lending to NBFCs — one of the largest sub-segments of corporate credit and a key contributor to growth prior to fiscal 2025 — improves with the rollback of higher risk weights," stated Subha Sri Narayanan, Director, Crisil Ratings.

The apex bank has also deferred the implementation of the more stringent liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms by a year. Their implementation, as proposed, would have reduced the LCRs of most banks by 10 to 30 pps. The funds to be set aside to create the LCR cushion can now be directed towards credit growth, the report added.

The Crisil Ratings' report further noted that the income tax breaks afforded in this fiscal's Union Budget and expected benign inflation have the potential to spur consumption and thus demand for retail loans. Lower lending rates, following the 50 bps of repo rate cuts since February 2025 and another 50 bps of reductions likely this fiscal year, should also support demand for loans, it added.

JK Tyre flags off Indian Racing Festival in Kohima, boosts local economy and motorsport culture

Kohima: JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, in partnership with the Nagaland Adventure & Motor Sports Association (NAMSA), kicked off its Indian Racing Festival in Kohima, bringing world-class motorsport to the North-East for the first time. Held at the 4th NAP Battalion Ground in Thizama, the event also launched NAMSA's year-long celebration of 25 years in promoting adventure and motorsport in the region.

The event featured India's premier motorsport talent across generations, from



9-year-old karting prodigies to renowned racing and rally champions. High-performance displays included international Formula 4 and Wolf cars, drifting showcases with Lexus and

BMWs, and gravity-defying stunts by Superbikes—all powered by JK Tyre's Levitas Ultra range.

Kohima experienced a notable boost, with local vendors,

eateries, and service providers benefiting from increased footfall and tourist inflow. Traders noted a spike in weekend sales, while the buzz around the event added cultural and commercial momentum to the city's growing urban appeal.

The spectacle opened with addresses by NAMSA's Tovi Chophi and JK Tyre's Hari Singh, followed by a live performance by the DGP Band. The festival now shifts to Aizawl on April 16, continuing its high-octane tour of the North-East.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal says union government committed to modernizing maritime education

Guwahati: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, has laid the foundation stone for girls hostel building and virtually inaugurated infrastructure development projects across six campuses of the Indian Maritime University (IMU) for the upgradation of maritime education and infrastructure. The projects, with a total estimated cost of Rs 67.77 crore, were announced during a ceremony held at the IMU campus in Kochi. Among the key projects is a new girls' hostel at IMU Kochi, for which Shri Sonowal laid the foundation stone in person. Developed at a cost of Rs 13.11 crore, the facility will significantly improve residential accommodation for female maritime students.

Simultaneously, the minister also virtually inaugurated several infrastructure projects across five IMU campuses—Chennai, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai Port, and Visakhapatnam. The ceremony also witnessed the presence of Shri Hibi Eden, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) representing Ernakulam, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Sunil Mukundan, MD, India Ports Global, B. Kasiviswanathan, IRSME, Chairperson, Dr. Malini V. Shankar, Vice Chancellor of IMU; and other senior officials and stakeholders from the maritime education sector. "These 17 projects mark a significant step in our mission to strengthen India's maritime education landscape," he said.

Almonds: The secret to heart health and weight management, experts say

Guwahati: A new peer-reviewed study has reaffirmed that daily consumption of almonds provides significant benefits for cardiometabolic health, supporting heart health, weight management, and gut microbiome. The consensus, reached by 11 leading scientists and physicians, concludes that eating almonds daily, especially 50g per day, can help reduce LDL cholesterol, lower diastolic blood pressure, and promote healthy weight management.

The study, published in Current Developments in Nutrition, highlights that almonds are not only heart-healthy but also

contribute to metabolic health by improving the gut microbiome. Almonds are rich in fiber, protein, and unsaturated fats, which help reduce body fat and support blood sugar control. Notably, the research found that almonds could significantly aid weight management without leading to weight gain.

Dr. Anoop Misra, a leading Indian expert, emphasized the relevance of this study for India, where rising cardiometabolic diseases are a growing concern. He noted that almonds can help manage blood glucose levels, particularly in Asian Indians

with prediabetes.

In Guwahati, the demand for healthy snack options is on the rise, with almonds becoming increasingly popular among health-conscious consumers. As the city witnesses growing interest in nutrition and wellness, local retailers are reporting an uptick in almond sales, driven by the increasing awareness of their health benefits. As more people adopt healthier lifestyles, almond-based products are gaining a foothold in the local market, aligning with the broader trend of improving dietary habits across the region.

Beware of fake mosquito repellents; HICA urges vigilance amid monsoon disease surge

Guwahati: With mosquito-borne diseases on the rise during the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, the Home Insect Control Association (HICA) has issued an urgent advisory urging consumers to beware of counterfeit mosquito repellents flooding the market.

In a statement, Jayant Deshpande, Honorary Secretary of HICA, warned that fake or substandard repellents not only fail to protect against deadly diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya, but also pose serious health risks due to unregulated and unsafe chemical formulations.

To help consumers stay protected, Deshpande outlined several key tips to identify genuine products.

The most critical check is the CIR number—a Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIBRC) approval code found on every government-approved repellent. Missing, unclear, or tampered CIR numbers are red flags for counterfeits. Additionally, buyers should verify packaging for clear manufacturer details, batch numbers, expiry dates, and scannable QR codes for authenticity.

Highlighting effective formulations, Deshpande said that trusted ingredients such as Renofluthrin, Transfluthrin, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) are scientifically backed and government-approved. Notably, Renofluthrin, India's first indigenously developed

and patented molecule, is used in Goodknight Flash liquid vapourisers, considered among the most effective.

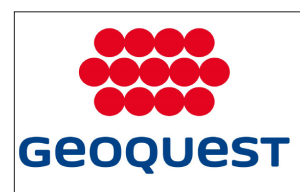
Consumers are also advised to purchase only from reputed brands that adhere to rigorous testing protocols lasting 2–3 years before product launch. Fake repellents often come in flimsy packaging with poor print quality, exaggerated claims, and suspiciously low prices.

HICA urged consumers to report any suspected counterfeit products to the manufacturer or regulatory authorities. "By staying alert and making informed choices, families can protect themselves from the dangers of both mosquitoes and fake repellents," Deshpande said.

Geoquest: A New Era of Innovation and Growth

Guwahati: New Delhi, April 2025: Terre Armée has officially rebranded as Geoquest, marking a significant evolution in its identity and operations. The new name reflects the company's global expertise and its expansion beyond traditional Reinforced Earth solutions to include advanced geosynthetics and geohazards management.

With annual revenues exceeding €330 million in 2024, Geoquest continues to lead the geotechnical engineering industry while prioritizing environmentally responsible practices. The Terre Armée brand will remain integral to



its offerings, emphasizing innovation and excellence.

Managing Director of Geoquest India, Somnath Biswas stated, "This name change is a milestone in our journey, aligning our identity with our global ambitions and commitment to sustainable solutions." Geoquest aims to deliver high-performance infrastructure solutions while maintaining its legacy of quality and expertise.

Xiaomi India announces the launch of the Redmi A5

Guwahati: Xiaomi India, a global leader in technology and innovation, has announced the launch of the Redmi A5, a breakthrough in the entry-level smartphone space. Featuring a 120Hz high-refresh-rate display, a 32MP AI dual camera system, and a smooth processor, the Redmi A5 delivers an immersive and efficient experience for users seeking advanced features. With a focus on design, reliability, and ease of use, the device elevates everyday smartphone usage without compromise.

Commenting on the launch, Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India, said, "The Redmi A5 reflects our ongoing commitment to pushing the boundaries of what users can expect from an entry-level smartphone." The Redmi A5 is built to deliver an immersive visual experience, featuring a large 6.88-inch HD+ display with Triple TÜV Rheinland certification for reduced eye strain and comfortable viewing, even during extended use. The Redmi A5 will be available in two storage variants: 3GB + 64GB at INR 6499/- and 4GB + 128GB at INR 7499/-. All variants support up to 8GB RAM and 2TB of expandable storage. The Redmi A5 will go on sale starting 16th April 2025 and will be available on Mi.com, Amazon, Flipkart, and across leading retail outlets.

Bingo! TedheMedhe brings flavour and fun to Bihu with 'Jomonir Adda' in Guwahati

Guwahati: In a bold and flavourful tribute to the spirit of Bihu, ITC's Bingo! TedheMedhe has launched a unique experiential campaign, Jomonir Adda, right in the heart of Guwahati. The event, which kicked off on April 14 at Lata-sil Park, invites Bihu revellers to indulge in Assam's culture through interactive and food-filled experiences.

The Jomonir Adda zone features a 'Build Your Own Bingo' (BYOB) chaat stall, allowing visitors to whip up their own creations using Bingo! TedheMedhe snacks with a local twist — from bamboo-flavoured toppings to regional herbs and spices. Complementing the food is an interactive content zone celebrating Assamese music, pop culture, and quirky catchphrases, perfect for selfies and dancing to Bihu beats.

"Bingo! TedheMedhe is all about embracing your cravings and expressing yourself without filter," said Suresh Chand, VP and Head of Marketing - Snacks, Noodles and Pasta, ITC Foods. "Through Jomonir Adda, we're celebrating both flavour and Assam's vibrant cultural spirit."

In Guwahati, the campaign brings fresh energy to the city's festive economy. Retailers and snack vendors expect an uptick in footfall and demand for regional fusion products as brands like Bingo! localise their approach and engage directly with youth during peak celebrations.

JK Tyreignites North-East with Indian racing festival tour

Guwahati: JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, a pioneer in Indian motorsport and tyre manufacturing, has announced a thrilling regional campaign—"JK Tyre powered Indian Racing Festival – a carnival of Total Control"—across five North-Eastern cities from April 12 to 22. The tour will accelerate through Kohima, Aizawl, Shillong, Guwahati, and Gangtok, offering a unique mix of motorsport showcase and brand engagement.

The festival will spotlight international Formula 4 and Wolf cars, electrifying drifting displays, superbike stunts, and performances by young karting prodigies. These events will run on JK Tyre's ultra-high-performance Levitas Ultra tyres, reaffirming the brand's technological edge.

In Guwahati, the city's growing appetite for premium tyres and adventure sports makes it a crucial market for JK Tyre. The brand's leadership in the SUV tyre segment strongly aligns with Assam's hilly terrain and the rising demand for performance-focused products. The motorsport fest is expected to energize consumer connect and further boost sales in the region.

Director-Sales & Marketing Srinivasu Allaphan said, "This tour celebrates our synergy with the North-East's dynamic spirit and our market dominance, especially in high-performance segments."

Nissan India rollout 'Hattrick Carnival' with festive offers worth Up to Rs 65,000

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has launched the 'Hattrick Carnival', a nationwide campaign running from April 1 to 30, 2025, aimed at capitalizing on the festive spirit of Navratri and the ongoing cricket season. The campaign offers a hattrick of rewards, including total benefits of up to ₹55,000, additional carnival incentives of up to ₹10,000, and an assured gold coin with every purchase.

The company is supporting the campaign with a robust 360-degree media strategy across digital platforms, print, outdoor advertising, and influencer engagement. To enhance customer interaction, all Nissan dealerships will host cricket-themed activations, creating a festive and



sporty showroom experience.

Guwahati has shown a notable uptick in showroom visits, as the Hattrick Carnival aligns well with consumer sentiments during the festive and IPL season. Local dealers report increased inquiries, particularly for the Nissan Magnite, which continues to gain popularity among SUV enthusiasts in Assam for its

affordability and features.

Nissan closed FY2024-25 with a record performance—over 99,000 units sold domestically, driven by the Magnite's strong presence. Exports also soared, with 71,000+ units shipped to over 65 international markets, reinforcing India's role as a key export hub for the brand.

Indian Supercross Racing League Season 2 opens rider registration amid global buzz

Guwahati: The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) has officially announced the opening of rider registrations for its much-awaited Season 2, set to kick off on 24th April 2025. After the success of Season 1, which saw over 100 elite riders from nine countries, ISRL is set to escalate its global appeal, drawing attention from international athletes and investors alike. The season promises high-octane action, international talent, and a major boost with Bollywood superstar Salman Khan joining as the league's brand ambassador.

Riders can register for four competitive categories, including 450cc International Riders and 250cc India-Asia Mix. The registration

process is the first step toward the mega auction, where teams will build their dream squads for the 2025 season. With ISRL's inaugural season setting new records for physical attendance and viewership, the upcoming season is expected to raise the stakes even higher.

In Guwahati, the growing interest in motorsports has sparked significant excitement among local fans and businesses. With a rising demand for world-class events, the ISRL is becoming a prominent attraction in the city's market, positioning Guwahati as an emerging hub for motorsport in Northeast India. The league's success is anticipated to further boost the regional market, attracting new fans and investors.

Sunrise Spices brings back rustic Bihu vibes to Guwahati with 'Smritir Rongali'

Guwahati: In a vibrant revival of Assam's cultural heritage, ITC's Sunrise Spices has launched its Rongali Bihu campaign, 'Smritir Rongali', to reconnect urban dwellers with the traditional spirit of the festival. The initiative, unfolding from April 14 to 17 across Latashil, Chandmari, Khanapara, and Geetanagar in Guwahati, recreates an immersive village-style Bihu experience right in the heart of the city.

The campaign features bamboo huts, haystacks, earthen lamps, and soulful folk music, offering a nostalgic nod to rural Assam. Cultural performances, traditional games, and festive canters traveling through neighborhoods bring the celebration to life. Sunrise has also embraced innovation with an AI-powered Bihu filter, enabling users nationwide to transform their selfies into Assamese avatars, blending tradition with technology.

In Guwahati, 'Smritir Rongali' has sparked notable buzz. Local vendors and shoppers at Fancy Bazar and Paltan Bazar have embraced the festive spirit, with increased footfall and a surge in traditional attire, décor, and spice sales. The campaign is seen as a welcome boost to community engagement and local commerce during the festive period.

Sunrise's Bihu festivities extend to RWAs, fostering unity through singing, dancing, and cooking competitions. The brand calls on all to celebrate Bihu the Sunrise way—rooted, festive, and full of heart.

World Health Day spurs demand for California Almonds in India's wellness market



Guwahati: As India gears up for World Health Day on April 7, the spotlight is on nutrition and healthier lifestyle choices. Experts and celebrities emphasize the benefits of incorporating California almonds into daily diets, citing their role in heart health, weight management, and diabetes prevention. With over 200 research studies backing their benefits, almonds have emerged as a preferred health snack.

Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head – Dietetics, Max Healthcare, stressed the need for mindful eating amid rising obesity and cardiovascular diseases. "Replacing deep-fried snacks with nutrient-dense options like almonds can significantly improve health outcomes," she said. Wellness expert Sheela Krishnaswamy highlighted almonds' role in satiety and weight control, while nutritionist Dr. Rohini

Patil emphasized their benefits in blood sugar management.

Celebrity endorsements have further fueled the almond market. Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan and South Indian star Shriya Saran swear by almonds as a daily energy booster. "A handful of almonds keeps me energized through long shoots," said Khan.

In Guwahati, health-conscious consumers are driving a surge in demand for California almonds. Retailers report an increasing shift from traditional snacks to dry fruits, reflecting growing awareness of wellness trends. With rising disposable incomes and lifestyle shifts, the city's dry fruit market is experiencing steady growth.

As the health movement gains momentum, California almonds are poised to capture a larger share of India's evolving wellness market.

TATA AIG launches 'MediCare Select' to deepen retail health access, expand hospital network

Guwahati: TATA AIG General Insurance Company has launched MediCare Select, a next-generation health insurance product aimed at expanding its retail health portfolio and enhancing healthcare accessibility across India. As part of its ambitious strategy, the insurer plans to scale up its hospital network from 11,500 to over 14,000 facilities by FY27.

The product launch reflects TATA AIG's focus on reaching underserved regions, with Tier 2 and 3 cities expected to contribute 35% of its health portfolio by FY27, up from 26%. Key features of MediCare Select include unlimited restorations under 'Restore Infinity Plus', lifetime claim coverage under 'Infinite Advantage', and OPD benefits covering dental, vision, and teleconsultations. Additional offerings include maternity care, daily cash benefits, discounts for young families and salaried individuals, and coverage for non-payable hospital consumables.

In Guwahati, where healthcare costs are rising and demand for comprehensive, yet customizable insurance is increasing, MediCare Select is poised to gain traction. Local agents report that consumers are actively seeking plans that offer modular benefits and OPD coverage without inflating premiums—aligning closely with TATA AIG's latest offering.

NSDC International forges partnerships for cross-border skills in Germany

Guwahati: NSDC International has delegated a visit to Germany and held deliberation with various stakeholders about the strategic and cross-border skill partnerships to equip the global workforce with relevant, future-oriented capabilities in the context of rapidly evolving industry landscapes. The delegate also participated in the prestigious OAV Conference held in Hamburg, Germany, wherein 100 delegates from various countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and others, participated to discuss the critical role of international cooperation in shaping a future-ready and globally competitive workforce. As part of a high-level panel discussion, NSDC International focussed on bridging the gap between industry requirements and

education providers across the globe, with a particular emphasis on Germany's leadership in international workforce development.

During his address, Shri Alok Kumar, CEO, NSDC International, mentioned, "As we navigate the complexities of global workforce demands, NSDC International is committed to fostering robust partnerships that bridge skill gaps and enhance employability worldwide." During the visit, the NSDC International delegation participated in two key roundtable conferences. The first, hosted by iMove, enabled impactful discussions with leading German language and cultural training providers. The visit reinforced the importance of hands-on training and institutional collaboration in workforce development.

Bayern Held by Dortmund, Misses Chance to Widen Bundesliga Lead



Berlin: Bayern Munich missed a golden opportunity to move eight points clear at the top of the Bundesliga as Borussia Dortmund fought back for a 2-2 draw in a thrilling edition of “der Klassiker.” Bayern looked poised for a comfortable win after substitutes Serge Gnabry and Raphaël Guerreiro struck in quick succession, turning the game around following Maximilian Beier’s opener for Dortmund. But a resilient Dortmund side struck back as defender Waldemar Anton netted the equalizer in the 75th minute, pouncing on a rebound after Jonas Urbig denied Serhou Guirassy’s overhead attempt. Harry Kane squandered a key chance to seal the win, one of several missed by the hosts as Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel was kept busy throughout.

“A game of missed opportunities,” said veteran Thomas Müller, who made a rare start and captained the side. The 35-year-old received a warm ovation pre-match, with Bayern confirming this week that his contract won’t be renewed after the season. The result keeps Bayern six points ahead at the summit with five matches left, failing to fully capitalize on Bayer Leverkusen’s earlier 0-0 draw against Union Berlin. Next up, Bayern will shift focus to the Champions League, needing to overturn a first-leg deficit against Inter Milan in the quarterfinals. The final will be held in Munich this May.

Salt-Kohli Gear Up for Archer Showdown as RR, RCB Aim to Rebound

Jaipur: Explosive openers Phil Salt and Virat Kohli are set to face a fiery challenge from pace ace Jofra Archer when Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) clash with Rajasthan Royals (RR) in a crucial IPL encounter on Sunday. Both teams are looking to bounce back after disappointing defeats — RCB lost to Delhi Capitals by six wickets, while RR suffered a heavy 58-run thrashing at the hands of Gujarat Titans. RCB currently sit fourth on the points table with three wins from five matches. Meanwhile, RR are struggling at seventh with just two victories in as many games.

Archer, who had a nightmare start to the season with the most expensive spell in IPL history, has bounced back in style. Hitting speeds well over

144 kph, the English speedster produced a gameturning 3/25 against Punjab Kings, including a 148.6 kph thunderbolt to dismiss an in-form Shreyas Iyer. He clocked 152.3 kph against Gujarat and removed Shubman Gill with a sharp 147.7 kph in-swing. RR will depend heavily on Archer to neutralize Kohli (186 runs) and his English teammate Salt (143 runs), a dangerous opening duo capable of shifting momentum within a few overs.

While Kohli has had a patchy campaign despite two fifties, Salt has been in aggressive touch from the start. Kohli’s measured approach alongside Salt’s explosiveness gives RCB a balanced top order. Devdutt Padikkal will also look to make a strong statement after



a quiet run. RCB will count on the in-form Rajat Patidar as skipper, with finishers like Tim David and Liam Livingstone expected to do damage in the death overs. Their pace attack, led by Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, remains a strength, though their spinners need to step up. For RR, a strong batting response is vital after their collapse for 159 against GT. With Sanju

Samson, Riyan Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Nitish Rana up top, and the likes of Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer down the order, the Royals have plenty of firepower. But with only Sandeep Sharma holding up the bowling end consistently, Archer’s resurgence couldn’t have come at a better time for RR. Match begins at 3:30 PM IST.

Squads: RCB: Rajat Patidar (c), Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, De-

vdutt Padikkal, Liam Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal, Suyash Sharma, Rasikh Salam, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethell, Swapnil Singh, Abhinandan Singh, Romario Shepherd, Lungi Ngidi, Nuwan Thushara, Mohit Rathee, Swastik Chikara. RR: Sanju Samson (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubham Dubey, Nitish Rana, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Shimron Hetmyer, Jofra Archer, Maheesh Theekshana, Tushar Deshpande, Sandeep Sharma, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Kunal Singh Rathore, Akash Madhwal, Kumar Kartikeya, Kwen Maphaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Yuvraj Singh, Ashok Sharma, Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

Struggling CSK Seek Revival Against In-Form LSG

Lucknow: Reeling from their worst-ever run in IPL history, a desperate Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will hope to break their losing streak when they face an in-form Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in a must-win clash on Monday. For the first time, CSK have suffered five consecutive losses, including an unprecedented three defeats at their Chepauk stronghold. Even the return of MS Dhoni as skipper, stepping in for the injured Ruturaj Gaikwad, couldn’t prevent their latest loss on Friday.

With their top-order struggling — especially against spin — the away fixture might be a welcome change. But the absence of Gaikwad, their most consistent batter, only deepens their woes. Criticism has mounted over CSK’s continued reliance on aging players, with their lack of firepower a major concern. Dhoni admitted that even aiming for 60 runs in the powerplay feels overly optimistic with this lineup. Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway are technically solid but not known for explosive starts. Rahul Tripathi, stepping in at No. 3, is under pressure to deliver immediately. The team also needs more impact from experienced all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Shivam Dube remains CSK’s most aggressive option, but he needs support — possibly from Dhoni himself. However, with the former India

captain batting as low as No. 9 in the last game, the chances of him making a meaningful contribution are limited. Despite the slump, CSK batting coach Mike Hussey remains hopeful. “We’re not giving up. We still believe we’ve got the right players. We don’t want them to completely change their natural game,” Hussey said after the defeat to KKR. Meanwhile, LSG are riding a wave of momentum with three straight wins and increasing consistency. Initially let down by injuries in their bowling unit, LSG have turned things around, thanks to impressive performances from Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, and Shardul Thakur. The trio successfully choked Gujarat Titans in the final overs on Saturday, showcasing their growing strength.

The Lucknow pitch, once known for being sluggish, has turned batter-friendly — a boost for Nicholas Pooran, who is in sublime hitting form. LSG’s batting order remains fluid. With Mitchell Marsh missing the last game, Rishabh Pant opened alongside the in-form Aiden Markram. Pant looked steady at the top, but with Marsh expected to return, it remains to be seen whether Pant continues as an opener or returns to the middle order. The stage is set for a crucial battle — CSK fight for survival, while LSG aim to extend their winning run.

CSK Suffer Humiliating 8-Wicket Defeat to KKR, Face 3rd Consecutive Loss at Chepauk

Chennai: In a crushing defeat, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) endured an 8-wicket loss to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Friday, marking their third consecutive loss at the iconic Chepauk Stadium for the first time in IPL history. The MS Dhoni-led side, already grappling with a tough season, slumped to their fifth straight defeat, continuing their downward spiral in this edition of the IPL. CSK’s batting woes were once again on full display as they were bundled out for just 103/9, their lowest total at Chepauk and the lowest total of the season so far. The innings was marked by a lack of partnerships, and despite a gritty effort from Shivam Dube, who topscored with an unbeaten 31 off 29 balls, CSK struggled to find any rhythm. Vijay Shankar also contributed 29, but the rest of the lineup failed to make significant contributions. The team could manage only nine boundaries throughout their innings.

KKR’s bowlers were in complete control, with Sunil Narine (3/13) leading the charge. He was well-supported by Harshit Rana and Varun Chakravarthy, who took two wickets each. Moeen Ali and Rana removed key CSK batters early, and Narine also played a pivotal role in dismantling the home side. CSK’s powerplay struggles continued, as they could only score 31 runs for the loss of two wickets. A brief partnership between Shankar and Dube provided some hope, but CSK’s innings fell apart as wickets continued to tumble. The collapse was swift, with CSK at 71/6 by the 12th over.

Mohun Bagan Clinch Historic ISL Double with Final Win Over Bengaluru FC

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) etched their name in Indian Super League (ISL) history on Saturday by securing a memorable double, lifting the ISL Cup with a thrilling 2-1 extra-time win over Bengaluru FC to add to

the League Winners’ Shield they had already claimed earlier this season. In front of a packed Salt Lake Stadium, MBSG overcame an early second-half setback, rallying from an own goal to seal the win in extra time. With this victory,

they became only the second team in ISL history — after Mumbai City in the 2020-21 season — to win both the Shield and Cup in the same campaign.

The League Winners’ Shield is awarded to the team finishing first

in the league standings after 24 matches. MBSG topped the table with 56 points to secure their AFC Champions League 2 berth and a spot in the playoffs. After progressing past the knockout stages, they met Bengaluru FC in Saturday’s

title decider. The final was a tense affair. After a goalless first half, the deadlock was broken in the 49th minute when MBSG defender Alberto Rodriguez turned a cross into his own net under pressure, giving Bengaluru FC a surprise lead.