

NORTH EAST BUSINESS MIRROR

Vol.No. 03 ■ Issue - 07 ■ North East Business Mirror ■ Thursday, 29 May, 2025

■ Edition - Guwahati

■ Pages - 6 ■ Price ₹ 3

Apple expanding India manufacturing shows global confidence in country: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

New Delhi: Apple's decision to expand iPhone manufacturing in India despite challenges shows the growing global confidence in the country's manufacturing ecosystem, BJP's Kerala unit President and former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, has said.

By the end of 2025, about 25 per cent of all iPhones will be made in India, up from virtually zero a few years ago, when China dominated Apple's supply chain. "Thanks to forwardthinking policies like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and sustained efforts by the Indian government, India is fast be-



coming a global hub for high-tech manufacturing," said Chandrasekhar in a post on X social media platform.

Foxconn, a key Apple supplier, has invested Rs 12,700 crore in India, with other partners like Pegatron and

Wistron also scaling up operations. The Taiwanese electronics manufacturing major's facility in Bengaluru is nearly ready for launch, with commercial iPhone shipments expected to begin as early as June. "India is well on track to

hit \$300 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2027, with \$120 billion targeted for exports," he noted.

Just a decade ago, over 80 per cent of smartphones in India were imported, and smartphone exports were negligible. "I'm proud to have played a part in strengthening the India-Apple partnership. This is just the beginning," Chandrasekhar noted. Apple's contract manufacturers in India are already scaling up their operations. Foxconn's plant in Bengaluru could produce up to 20 million iPhones at full capacity. Apple's manufacturing strength in India is already impressive.

IndiGo announces appointment of Vikram Singh Mehta as new Chairman

IndiGo, the country's largest airline, on Wednesday announced the appointment of Vikram Singh Mehta as the new Chairman, succeeding Venkataramani Sumantran. Mehta has been a Member of the Board of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (IndiGo) since May 2022.

In a release, IndiGo said Mehta succeeds Sumantran, who stepped down from the post after the completion of his five-year term as a board member. Sumantran was appointed as the Chairman in May 2022 and, post-COVID, navigated the Board during IndiGo's strong recovery and incredible growth over the past three years, the release said.

Mehta, who was an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer, has served as Chairman of the Shell Group of Compa-

nies in India and as CEO of Shell Markets and Shell Chemicals, Egypt, among other roles. He has also served on the boards of various companies.

A Mathematics graduate from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, Mehta also holds master's degrees in Politics and Economics from Oxford University and in Energy Economics from Tufts University.

Apart from Mehta, there are six members on the company's board, including co-founder Rahul Bhatia, as per information available on the IndiGo website.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, IndiGo promoter and co-founder Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust reduced their holdings by divesting a 5.72 per cent stake in the airline for Rs 11,564 crore through open market transactions (PTI)

Cabinet approves hike in paddy MSP by Rs 69 per quintal to Rs 2,369 for 2025-26 Kharif season

The government on Wednesday raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy by 3 per cent to Rs 2,369 per quintal for the 2025-26 kharif marketing season. A decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The support price for common and A grade varieties has been increased by Rs 69 per quintal to Rs 2,369 and Rs 2,389 per quintal, respectively, for the forthcoming kharif season of 2025-26 crop year (July-June).

Among pulses, support price for tur has been raised by Rs 450 to Rs 8,000 per quintal, while that of urad MSP by Rs 400 to Rs 7,800 per quintal and moong

MSP by Rs 86 to Rs 8,768 per quintal for 2025-26 kharif marketing season.

The government has increased the MSP of Kharif crops for 2025-26, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for nigerseed, followed by Ragi, Cotton, and Sesamum.

The increase in kharif crops support price for 2025-26 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average cost of production.

Samsung first to cross Rs 10k cr in TV sales



New Delhi: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced that its television business has crossed INR 10000 Crore in sales in calendar year 2024. This makes Samsung the first brand in India to achieve the significant milestone in the television industry. Samsung said it is confident of achieving doubledigit growth in 2025, driven by an expansive portfolio of premium offerings and growing demand for large-screen, AI-powered televisions. "2024 was a landmark year for Samsung India. In value terms, we achieved a turnover of INR 10000 crore. We now aspire to grow in double-digit this year backed by our new AI TV lineup that breathes new life into every frame, setting a new benchmark for cinematic excellence at home. With this new era of AI-powered screens, we are confident of accelerating next-generation TV adoption and strengthening our leadership in India's premium television segment," said Viplesh Dang, Senior Director, Visual Display Business, and Samsung India. Samsung is positioning itself for long-term leadership in India's TV market as it continues to cater to value-conscious consumers through its 43-inch and mass-market range, while driving value and volume growth in the expanding premium category. With a strong offline footprint and a robust product roadmap, Samsung is well placed to accelerate the shift towards AI-enabled, immersive home entertainment in India.

LIC earns Guinness title for selling most life insurance policies in 24 hours



New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Saturday said it has earned a Guinness World Records (GWR) title for 'most life insurance policies sold in 24 hours.' On January 20 this year, a total of 4,52,839 agents of LIC successfully completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India.

This monumental effort established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry within a 24-hour period, according to the LIC. The record attempt was the culmination of a thoughtful initiative by Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO and MD, LIC in the form of an appeal to every agent to complete at least one policy on "Mad Million Day" (January 20, 2025).

Mohanty thanked all esteemed customers, agents and employees for making "Mad Million Day" historic as their incredible performance of procuring record number of policies on a single day has now been recognised globally. "Team LIC is absolutely thrilled to receive this prestigious Guinness World Records title. It is a powerful validation of the relentless dedication, skill, and tireless work ethics of our agents. This achievement reflects our deep commitment towards our mission to provide vital financial protection to our customers and their families," said the company.

Indian stock market ends lower over profit booking

Mumbai: The Indian stock market closed in the red on Tuesday due to profit booking, driven by valuation concerns and weakness across the Asian markets. At the end of trading, Sensex was down 624.82 points or 0.76 per cent at 81,551.63 and Nifty was down 174.95 points or 0.70 per cent at 24,826.20.

The decline was led by FMCG, IT, auto and metal sectors. Nifty Auto index closed down 0.70 per cent, Nifty IT index 0.75 per cent, Nifty Financial Service index 0.64 per cent and Nifty FMCG index 0.88 per cent. Unlike largecap, buying was seen in smallcap and midcap indexes. The Nifty Midcap 100 index rose 87.25 points, or 0.15 per cent, to close at 57,154.50, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rose 17.35 points, or 0.10 per cent, to close at 17,725.15.

"The Nifty has been consolidating for the past 10-11 days, setting an indecisive tone among investors. However, the overall trend remains strong as the index continues to sustain above the short-term moving average," said Rupak De from LKP Securities.

India developing electric 2-seater trainer aircraft, likely to cost just Rs 2 crore

New Delhi: India has initiated the process to develop electric Hansa (E-Hansa), a nextgeneration two-seater electric trainer aircraft, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday. The indigenously developed E-Hansa trainer aircraft is expected to cost around Rs 2 crore, significantly less than imported alternatives.

Dr Singh said that it is a matter of pride that the new aircraft is being indigenously developed by the CSIR institute of "National Aerospace Laboratories" (NAL) Bengaluru. The E-HANSA is part of the larger HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft programme, which is designed to be a cost-effective and indigenous option for pilot training in India.

Godrej Food Trends Report 2025 unveiled with theatrical flair, spotlights seasonal revival

Guwahati: Godrej Vikhroli Cucina unveiled the 8th edition of the Godrej Food Trends Report (GFTR) 2025 through a theatrical food performance titled Feast for the Future. Eschewing traditional formats, the immersive event in Mumbai brought the report to life with storytelling and sensory drama, themed around “Seasons”.

Backed by inputs from over 190 culinary experts—including chefs, mixologists, nutritionists, and food entrepreneurs—the report underscores seasonality as the defining trend for 2025. A compelling 82% of contributors noted a renewed consumer interest in local, seasonal produce and culturally rooted ingredients, reshaping everything from restaurant menus to home kitchens.

Tanya Dubash, Executive Director & Chief Brand Officer, Godrej Industries, emphasized food’s evolving role in culture and identity. CEOs Abhay Parnerkar (Godrej Foods Limited) and Bhupendra Suri (Creamline Dairy Products Ltd.) highlighted the report’s strategic value in product innovation and dairy’s continued relevance in modern diets.



In Guwahati, this trend is translating into a revival of traditional ingredients like black rice, moringa, and indigenous greens. Chefs and local food businesses are aligning with the seasonal shift, tapping into Assam’s rich culinary heritage to meet growing demand for authenticity.

Transport Corporation of India Ltd. announces strong growth in Q4 & FY2025 financial results

Guwahati: Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), India’s leading integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain solutions provider, has announced its financial results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2025. Financial Highlights for Q4FY2025: Revenue: TCI reported a consolidated revenue of 11,972 Mn, marking a growth of 9.3% compared to ₹ 10,954 Mn in the same period last year. EBITDA: The company’s Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (EBITDA) stood at ₹ 1,401Mn, a 11.3% increase from ₹ 1,259Mn. in FY2024. Profit After Tax (PAT): PAT rose by 11.4% to ₹ 1,151

Mn., compared to ₹ 1,033Mn. in the previous year.

Summarizing the multidimensional performance insights, Mr. Vineet Agarwal, MD-TCI, said: “FY2025 has been a year of systemic growth at TCI. Despite global uncertainties and evolving supply chain dynamics, our focus on multimodal integration, sustainability and digitalisation have propelled decisive advancement.” The TEMT tool, developed by the TCI-IIM Supply Chain Sustainability Lab, which holds the distinction of being India’s first ISO-certified tool, has also been



recognized by the Smart Freight Centre in the Netherlands for its contribution in decarbonizing freight transportation. He further added, “With the global logistics sector undergoing transformative acceleration, TCI remains steadfast in its commitment to resilience, innovation, operational excellence and stakeholder value creation.”

36% stipend hike proposed to boost apprenticeship training, eyes expansion across emerging sectors

Guwahati: The Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC), chaired by Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary, has proposed a 36% increase in stipends under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS). The move raises the stipend range from ₹5,000–₹9,000 to ₹6,800–₹12,300, with future revisions linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), aligning with the July salary increment cycle.

Held at VigyanBhawan, the 38th CAC meeting empha-

sized reforms including degree apprenticeships, virtual training options, and broader coverage under NIC 2008 to include IT, biotech, and renewable energy. Provisions for persons with benchmark disabilities and regional cost-based stipend differentiation were also proposed.

In Guwahati, a growing industrial and educational center, stakeholders see the proposal as a catalyst for attracting apprentices into MSMEs and skill-focused institutes. The region is poised to benefit from digital training flexibility and



increased employer participation, which could help bridge the gap between education and employment.

The council also released a comprehensive data report by KPMG on NAPS perfor-

Vi announces a new add-on feature in family postpaid plans

Guwahati: Vi, India’s leading telecom operator, has announced a new add-on feature in Family Postpaid plans, wherein upto a total of 8 secondary members can be added to your existing family plan at just Rs 299 per member. This provides a convenient way for customers to add family members to their existing Vi Family plan via Vi App, allowing all members to enjoy superior benefits. Vi’s new add-on feature ensures each member who is part of the plan, gets 40GB high-speed monthly data. At Rs 299 per connection, it is one of the most competitive options in the market, offering excellent value and convenience.

The plan complements Vi’s existing Family Postpaid range, which includes data, OTT, voice and SMS benefits for two to five members, starting at Rs 701. With the introduction of the Rs 299 add-on feature, Vi customers can now add up to 8 secondary members to their account, offering greater flexibility without upgrading to a higher-tier plan. For example, a Vi Max Family Rs701 plan currently includes 2 connections – 1 Primary and 1 Secondary. With the introduction of this add-on feature, a Rs701 plan user can add upto 7 additional secondary members at Rs299/member. Vi’s Family Postpaid plans simplify account management through single billing, individual data allocation, and substantial cost savings.

How ManashNath is cultivating a greener future in Assam through agro-innovation

Guwahati: ManashNath, an agro-entrepreneur and social worker from Morigaon, is spearheading a quiet revolution in Assam’s agricultural sector through innovation and community-driven leadership. As a Board Member of Mohabahu Agro Farmer Producer Company Ltd., Nath has introduced maize silage—a nutrient-rich livestock feed—that has significantly boosted rural farming incomes and livestock health. His work earned him the prestigious State Award for Maize Silage from Assam’s Department of Agriculture.

Under Nath’s leadership, Mohabahu Agro FPC has become a key supplier of eco-friendly agricultural inputs including vermicompost, organic seeds, and earthworms.

These products are now trusted by tea estates, nurseries, and even government departments, with the Department of Agriculture, Morigaon, being a regular buyer.

Nath collaborates with institutions like the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK) for technical support, and actively participates in events like FPO Mela, Agri-Horti Show, and KrishiMela to advocate sustainable practices.

“Farming is not just about crops; it’s about nurturing lives and regenerating land,” says Nath. His vision for Mohabahu Agro FPC as a hub of sustainable farming reflects a new era of self-reliant, eco-conscious rural development.

In India, Toyota Fortuner and Legender achieve landmark milestone of 3-lakh sales



Shillong: Reinforcing its dominant presence in India’s premium SUV market, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has announced a significant milestone—cumulative sales of 3-lakh units of the Fortuner and Legender. This achievement underscores not only the unmatched popularity of these premium SUVs but also Toyota’s commitment to delivering reliable and high-performance that perfectly blend power with precision. Since its debut in 2009, the Toyota Fortuner has long been a benchmark in the SUV segment, seamlessly combining unyielding toughness with refined performance. Equipped with a robust 2.8L diesel engine that generates an impressive 204 PS of power and 500 Nm of torque, the Fortuner stands out for its formidable off-road capability, making it the ideal choice for adventurers and driving enthusiasts alike.

The Legender, intro-

duced in 2021, builds upon this legacy by offering a more luxurious and feature-packed experience designed for the modern, urban driver. Featuring exclusive dual-tone styling, sequential LED turn indicators, wireless charging, and an 11-speaker JBL audio system, the Legender delivers a more refined driving experience. Speaking on the milestone, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, “We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the passionate Fortuner and Legender fan base in India for their unwavering trust in our brand as we celebrate the remarkable 3-lakh milestone of our most admired SUV.” This achievement is further bolstered by TKM’s customer-centric service ecosystem—T CARE—which offers a seamless experience across the Toyota’s vehicle ownership lifecycle.

Tata Resources & Energy Fund sees 62% inflow jump from Guwahati amid energy megatrends

Guwahati: Tata Resources & Energy Fund has witnessed a remarkable surge in investor interest, with assets under management (AUM) doubling year-on-year to ₹1,048 crore as of March 31, 2025. The fund, focused on India's energy transition and industrial growth, saw inflows from Guwahati rise by 62% YoY to ₹3.12 crore, up from ₹1.93 crore in FY24.

Energy-themed mutual funds have become a preferred choice amid volatile markets, driven by India's push towards clean energy, infrastructure upgrades, and digital transformation. "Energy is at the core of India's growth story—electrification of transport, digital infrastructure expansion, and clean energy transitions are opening multi-year investment opportunities," said Satish Chandra Mishra, Fund Manager at Tata Asset Management.

In Guwahati, local investors are increasingly channeling funds into thematic portfolios to capitalize on emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, green hydrogen, and data centers. This growing appetite re-



flects Guwahati's evolving investor base keen on long-term growth opportunities tied to national energy goals.

The Tata fund combines cyclical sectors like metals and cement with long-term themes such as chemicals and agri-inputs, delivering a 14.58% annualized return over three years, outperforming benchmarks like the Nifty 50. With India targeting 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, energy-focused funds remain well-positioned for sustained inflows

Centrum launches 'Centrum Recharge' energy drink mix with Anushka Sharma as brand ambassador

Shillong: Centrum India has launched Centrum Recharge, a new effervescent energy drink mix enriched with 13 essential vitamins and minerals designed to boost energy, immunity, and hydration. The product, priced at ₹10 per sachet, comes in convenient single-use packets and contains twice the vitamins and minerals compared to leading competitors, with no added sugars. To support the launch, Centrum has rolled out a multimedia campaign starring Bollywood actress and brand ambassador Anushka Sharma,

highlighting the importance of replenishing vitamins and minerals lost during daily activities.

"AtishNegi, Category Lead – Vitamin & Mineral Supplements at Haleon ISC, emphasized that while many products focus on electrolyte replacement, Centrum Recharge addresses the crucial need for restoring key micronutrients like B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Magnesium, and Zinc, essential for maintaining energy and immune health. The product is available in two variants for kids and adults.

Centrum

In Shillong, health-conscious consumers have shown increasing interest in convenient wellness solutions amid busy lifestyles. Retailers report positive feedback for Centrum Recharge's combination of nutrition and taste, making it a promising addition to the city's health supplement offerings.

The campaign will span digital, offline, sports, and fitness platforms. Centrum Recharge is available nationwide in pharmacies, grocery stores, supermarkets, and e-commerce sites. Anushka Sharma commented, "Centrum Recharge helps people stay energized and hydrated naturally."

Smart strategies for parents to support children with diabetes at school

Guwahati: As the new school year begins in Guwahati, parents of children with Type 1 diabetes face unique challenges ensuring their kids' health and safety. Type 1 diabetes requires constant blood sugar monitoring due to the body's inability to produce insulin.

Dr. Abhamoni Baro, Consultant Endocrinologist & Diabetes Specialist, Pratiksha Hospitals, Guwahati, said, "Incorporating a regular routine and physical activity into the daily routine of a child with Type 1 diabetes is important for their health and well-being. For parents, integrating structured measures such as diet, exercise and continuous monitoring can positively impact their child's blood sugar control. It also enhances their insulin sensitivity and support a healthier lifestyle. Helping a child navigate their diabetes journey can be made hassle-free by embracing advancements that help simplify diabetes management. For instance, parents can utilize continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices, measuring glucose levels all day and night. These offer real-time data on how blood sugar levels respond to factors like meals, physical activity, and insulin doses."

CGM devices, which provide real-time glucose readings and alerts, have transformed diabetes management, offering parents peace of mind by allowing remote monitoring through smartphone apps.

Dr. Kenneth Lee, Director, Medical Affairs, Diabetes Division, Abbott, said, "It is difficult to manage diabetes, especially for a child. In cases like these, parents play a crucial role in caring for them. For the ease of managing diabetes and enabling families to cope, technology-driven progress such as continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices can provide immense benefits.



Unlike older CGM blinded technologies, which only provided retrospective data, advanced CGMs offer real-time, actionable insights that allow parents and children to respond to fluctuations immediately. With seamless smartphone integration, parents can remotely track their child's glucose trends and receive alerts about unexpected highs or lows, helping them make timely adjustments. This level of data-driven feedback ensures better glucose management and a smoother school experience."

Parents are advised to regularly check blood sugar before school, encourage enjoyable physical activities like cricket or dancing, teach stress management, keep diabetes journals, and promote balanced meal planning.

In Guwahati, parents find it increasingly convenient to access diabetes care supplies and nutritional options tailored for children managing diabetes, reflecting growing awareness and support within the community. With collaborative efforts between parents, schools, and healthcare providers, children with diabetes in Guwahati can look forward to safer and healthier school experiences.

Vi Business partners with HPE to deliver next-gen managed services

Guwahati: Vi Business, the enterprise arm of Vodafone Idea, has announced a strategic managed services agreement with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) in India to deliver innovative and future-ready solutions tailored to the evolving needs of modern enterprises. This collaboration will leverage HPE Aruba Networking products to offer cutting-edge managed wireless LAN, switching, and security solutions. The collaboration is designed to transform enterprise networking experiences across a wide range of environments, including campus networks, manufacturing facilities, large corporate headquarters, and regional offices. By combining HPE's world-class networking portfolio with Vi's robust connectivity and managed services capabilities, the two will offer end-to-end solutions that are intelligent, scalable, and secure.

All services under this agreement will be fully managed and supported by Vi's Network Operations Center (NOC), ensuring seamless delivery and proactive management. The collaboration will also focus on co-developing solutions around private data centers to meet the increasing demand for compute and storage capabilities. Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea said: "We are excited to sign this strategic partnership with HPE." "We are thrilled to join forces with Vi Business, as this represents a powerful leap forward for enterprise innovation in India," said Phil Mottram, Executive Vice President and General Manager, HPE Aruba Networking.

Balanced breakfasts with almonds; experts share PCOS-friendly diet tips

Guwahati: Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), a hormonal disorder impacting millions of women in India, demands a careful focus on diet alongside lifestyle changes. Experts stress that a nutritious breakfast rich in whole grains, greens, and particularly almonds can support hormonal balance, weight control, and overall well-being.

Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare, New Delhi, recommends simple yet effective breakfast ideas for women managing PCOS. Her suggestions include an almond and oat milk smoothie packed with fiber and protein, quinoa upma with vegetables and toasted almonds, almond flour pancakes ideal for gluten-sensitive individuals, moong dal chilla served with almond yogurt, and whole wheat toast topped with almond butter and berries to regulate blood sugar levels.

In Guwahati, the growing awareness about PCOS and diet has increased demand for almonds and other wholesome ingredients in local markets. Nutritionists highlight that Guwahati's health-conscious consumers are increasingly opting for nutrient-dense foods that aid in managing hormonal health, making almonds a staple item in morning meals across the city.

These breakfast options provide busy women a delicious, balanced start to their day while addressing the challenges of PCOS effectively.

KFC is here with an EPIC offer for all chicken lovers

Shillong: Calling all chicken lovers—KFC is here with an EPIC offer! Fans across India can feast on their KFC favorites with the all-new EPIC SAVERS. An offer so good that you'll be repeating 9 for 299 all day. Because with KFC Epic Savers, chicken lovers can enjoy 9 pieces of finger lickin' good chicken at ₹299/- only. Get 7 droolworthy Boneless Chicken Strips, and 2 crunchy, juicy pieces of Hot & Crispy Chicken at this unbelievable price. Valid for dine-in only across any of KFC's 1300+ restau-



rants in India.

The campaign film sees big screen's favourite Mrunal Thakur and Internet funnyman Danish Sait screaming with joy at the jaw-dropping 9 for 299 offer. Because why choose between EPIC taste and EPIC savings when you can have both? So, what are you waiting for? Gather your friends and family and get together for an EPIC time at your nearest KFC. Walk into any of the 1300+ KFC restaurants across India today and check it out for yourself.

Government Launches North East Apprenticeship Pilot Scheme



Aizawl: The North East Apprenticeship Pilot Scheme has been launched by Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Lalduhoma, and Union Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary, aiming to enhance apprenticeship training across the region.

The initiative, supported by ₹43.94 crore, will provide over 26,000 youth with an additional ₹1,500 monthly stipend for one year, facilitating access to quality training both locally and beyond. This program aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision for inclusive growth, with a focus on enhancing women's participation.

Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasized the importance of industry exposure for youth, while Chief Minister Lalduhoma highlighted Mizoram's demographic advantages and commitment to skill development. The scheme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and the National Skill Development Corporation.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Welspun Living Limited to train 1,000 youth in the textile sector, ensuring at least half are women. The program aims to build a capable workforce, contributing to India's goal of a \$5 trillion economy.

IIT Guwahati, NE states advance disaster risk training in Japan under JICA project

Guwahati: To strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) capabilities in India's North Eastern Region, 13 delegates including officials from State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and IIT Guwahati participated in the second technical training under Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) DRR project in Japan from May 12 to 23. The three-year initiative (2024–2026) aims to enhance the Centre for

Disaster Management and Research (CDMR) at IIT Guwahati as a regional hub for capacity building.

The training focused on flood and landslide challenges, with visits to advanced disaster management sites across Nagano, Kanagawa, Gunma, and Tochigi Prefectures. Delegates explored Japanese innovations in hazard mapping, embankment projects, reinforced infrastructure, and early warning systems, helping tailor training mod-



ules and action plans for the Northeast.

Guwahati sees immense potential in the initiative, especially with rising concerns over urban flooding and infrastructure resilience. Stake-

holders believe CDMR's evolving training modules could significantly support disaster-ready planning, protecting investments and ensuring business continuity in the region's growing urban economy.

JICA India's Chief Representative, Mr. Takeuchi Takuro, noted the program reflects deep Indo-Japan cooperation and empowers IIT Guwahati to spearhead regional DRR efforts with global insights and local solutions.

What to anticipate during your fertility clinic visit (It's not what you think)

Guwahati: Hesitation is normal. Most couples are anxious before entering a fertility clinic. Reading and knowing about fertility treatments may not be enough and there tends to a lot of questions around what it would be like inside a fertility clinic. Will there be too many tests? Will they recommend IVF immediately? What if something is actually wrong? What will others say? But here's the reality: infertility is a medical condition—not a measure of your worth. Just like you visit doctors for any other health issue, seeing a fertility specialist for your reproductive health is no different. At a fertility clinic, your journey doesn't begin with scans or needles. It starts with a conversation. First Step: Listening, Not Testing: On day one, you aren't just immediately put through medical tests. You're heard—your lifestyle, stress, medical history, diet, even emotional readiness are all understood carefully. The goal? To know your story, not just your symptoms. There is also an initial registration, which is just to make a safe pa-



tient record.

Simple Initial Tests, No Panic: Once an initial understanding is gained, doctors would suggest the most basic of the tests and they aren't hectic at all. For women: hormone test, thyroid test, and an ultrasound. For men: semen analysis. IVF Isn't the Only Solution: Most people think that fertility clinics instantly suggest IVF, which is not the case. Good fertility clinics personalise your care, which might only need emotional or lifestyle-based intervention at times. Financial Clarity, Always: After your initial consultation with the fertility specialist, you should get a clear breakdown of all involved costs and the best fertility clinics are transparent and have financial plans to help you make informed choices.

Tata AIA declares its highest ever bonus of ₹1,842 crore for FY25

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd., one of India's most trusted life insurers, has announced a record bonus payout of ₹1,842 crore in its participating plans for the financial year ending March 31, 2025, which will benefit over 8.15 lakh policies. This year's payout marks a 26% increase over last year's bonus of ₹1,465 crore — the highest ever in the company's history. Among other participating plans, the bonus has been declared for key participating plans such as the Diamond Savings Plan, Smart Value Income Plan, Value Income Plan and Shubh Flexi Income Plan. Participating Insurance Plans, also known as "Par" plans, are life insurance policies that share profits with policyholders in the form of bonuses or dividends.

This announcement reaffirms Tata AIA's unwavering commitment to partner with its consumers and enabling them to fulfil their dreams. "We are excited to announce



another year of exceptional bonus payouts for our participating policyholders." said Kshitij Sharma, Executive Vice President and Appointed Actuary at Tata AIA. PAR (Participating) Plans make a lot of sense in the current market conditions. Tata AIA's participating plans are designed to help you meet your life goals — be it saving for your child's future, building a retirement corpus, or creating a reliable income stream — all while safeguarding your loved ones. These plans offer the perfect balance of protection and performance: Low Volatility, Equity Upside, Life Cover.

New Nissan Magnite is now available with CNG retrofitment kit

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India's popular SUV, the New Nissan Magnite, is now available with a government-approved CNG retrofitment kit. The CNG Kit is fully developed, manufactured & Quality Assured by Motozen (3rd Party) as per country regulatory standards. Motozen will provide warranty for Kit components. This initiative reflects focus on providing customer-focused solutions. The fitment of these kits will be carried out at government-authorised fitment centres. The complete retrofitment will be available at competitive additional price of INR 74,999 only. The rollout of this eco-friendly CNG kit fitment for the sustainability-aware and environment-conscious customer will be done in a phased manner across the country. In the first phase, Nissan customers can order the CNG kit installation via Nissan authorised dealerships in 7 states, namely Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, and Karnataka.

Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, commented: "The New Nissan Magnite has been a phenomenal product for us and has led the success story in India."



The New Magnite SUV's bold and stylish design, 20+ first & best-in-segment features, and 55+ safety features make it a standout choice in the compact SUV segment. With its bold road presence, premium features, and expanding global reach, the new Nissan Magnite is now present in over 65 countries, including both the Right-Hand Drive and Left-Hand Drive markets. Nissan facility: 1) Nissan remains fully committed to India, 2) Nissan has a robust and future-ready product line-up, and 3) Nissan is on track to achieve its business and growth goals.

Glucon D's 'Energy Ka Gola' Initiative Energizes 10,000+ Children Across Four Cities

Mumbai: Glucon-D has launched the 'Energy Ka Gola' initiative to support over 10,000 children in Kolkata, Lucknow, Hyderabad, and Mumbai amid fluctuating weather conditions. The campaign distributes more than 700 kgs of Glucon-D infused golases in popular flavors like Orange, Mango, and Nimbu Pani at over 100 playgrounds and stadiums.

As children engage in outdoor activities during the summer,

the initiative aims to combat fatigue and enhance immunity, addressing the rapid loss of glucose caused by physical exertion in humid and hot climates. Glucon-D, known for its quick energy replenishment, plays a crucial role in supporting children's health during these challenging weather conditions.

Key public locations in Kolkata, such as Lichu Bag and Belgharia Athletic Club, are currently hosting

the campaign, which is also active in other participating cities. CEO Tarun Arora emphasized Glucon-D's commitment to children's well-being, stating, "Our approach must adapt swiftly to support energy and resilience."

Local influencers are amplifying the campaign's message, highlighting the importance of instant energy for children as Indian summers continue to evolve.

Madhuri Dixit recalls 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun' magic with Salman Khan as rain pours in

Mumbai: Madhuri Dixit took a walk down memory lane, as the arrival of the rainy season stirred fond memories of her iconic film "Hum Aapke Hain Koun." Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a video of herself enjoying the rainy weather. She also added the iconic track 'Mausam Ka Jaadu' from the 1994 romantic classic "Hum Aapke Hain Koun." Sung by legends Lata Mangeshkar and S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, the song featured Madhuri Dixit and Salman Khan in one of their most memorable on-screen moments. As the first song



in the film, it set the tone for the love story that followed between Madhuri

and Salman's characters and went on to become one of the most popular tracks from the film.

On Monday, Madhuri shared a delightful video of herself enjoying the monsoon magic in the hills. Holding an umbrella, the actress is seen dancing playfully in the rain, soaking in the scenic beauty around her. With a radiant smile and carefree moves, she embraced the weather with pure joy, perfectly capturing the essence of the season. For the caption, the Devdas actress wrote, "Let the magic of the season cast a spell."

Ananya Panday shows a glimpse of the 'world around her



Mumbai: Ananya Panday took to social media to offer her fans an intimate glimpse into the world around her. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared moments that reveal a fresh and personal side of her life. The 'Kesari Chapter 2' actress posted a series of pictures and wrote, "Some of meeee and some of the world around meeee." Her posts include solo pictures, candid moments with her furry friend, and stunning shots of beautiful landscapes. In the first shot, Ananya is seen flaunting her makeup and hairstyle as she looks straight into the camera. In the next, she is seen posing with her hand resting on her face. Her collection of photos also features a cute picture of her cousin Alanna Panday's son, River, along with some delicious cookies. Meanwhile, Ananya Panday recently grabbed attention with a heartfelt tribute to her father, veteran actor Chunky Panday, at the Zee Cine Awards 2025. She performed some of his classic hits, including the lively number "Main Tera Tota, Tu Meri Maina." The performance saw Ananya shining brightly on stage, supported by a dynamic group of dancers. The highlight came when Chunky Panday joined her mid-performance, turning the tribute into a truly special father-daughter moment.

How Riteish Deshmukh's kids pay tribute to grandfather Vilasrao Deshmukh on his 80th birth anniversary

Mumbai: Riteish Deshmukh took to social media to reveal how his children honored their grandfather, late Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, on what would have been his 80th birth anniversary.

Sharing a heartfelt message, Riteish spoke about how the kids have embraced the day as "Ajoba's Day," making it a special occasion to celebrate their grandfather's lasting legacy and love. Taking to Instagram, the 'Masti' actor paid an emotional tribute to his late father, Vilasrao Deshmukh. In his tribute, Riteish reflected on the deep personal and emotional connection he still feels with his father. The actor posted photos showing the whole family gathered together to honor and pay tribute to his late father, Vilasrao Deshmukh.

He captioned the post, "Earlier we wanted to celebrate your birthday Pappa but now



your grand kids want to make this day their Ajoba's day... Coming to Latur, Babhalgaon feels like running back into your arms. Fulfillment, content, happiness, bliss. The heart still yearns for that one touch, that one hug and that one smile that makes everything alright.. we know you are looking out for us from up above. Miss you Pappa. #vilasraodeshmukh #80thbirthanniversary."

Rasha Thadani has 'first Dan rank' in Taekwondo, reveals mother Raveena



Mumbai: Actress Raveena Tandon revealed that her actress-daughter Rasha Thadani, whom she lovingly calls her "Lakshmi", has a first Dan rank in Taekwondo. Raveena was in conversation with Farah Khan on the latter's Youtube channel.

While giving a tour of her sustainable home, which has furniture made out of recycled wood, Raveena showcased a wall with the belts,

which included a red, green and black. Raveena said: "She is a first Dan First Dan Taekwondo She is a Dan." In martial arts, a 1st Dan rank signifies the beginning of black belt level. It's the first level of a black belt, indicating that the individual has achieved a certain level of mastery and expertise. Farah said: "My children also did Judo But after Blue Belt I think they left."

'Bhool Chuk Maaf' album is a musical tribute to Ranjan & Titli's love journey

Mumbai: After making everyone grove to their bangers like "Koi Naa", "Chor Bazari Phir Se", "Sawariya Tera", "Ting Ling Sajna", and "Hutt Badmaash", the makers of Rajkummar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi starrer "Bhool Chuk Maaf" have dropped the music album from the romantic comedy. Composed by Tanishk Bagchi and penned by Irshad Kamil, the album enjoys the beautiful voices of Sunidhi Chauhan, Neeraj Shridhar, Raghav Chaitanya, Varun Jain, Suvarna Tiwari, Pravesh Mallick, Priyanka Sarkaar, and Madhubanti Bagchi.

Talking about the music, protagonist Rajkummar said, "Each track in the album captures the sentiment of the film. Bringing these songs to life was an absolute joy, and having such a supportive team made the whole journey even more special." Leading lady Wamiqa added, "Each track in



"Bhool Chuk Maaf" felt like an extension of our characters. I have been hooked to the songs of our movie album that echoes Ranjan & Titli's love-struck energy. And of course, the songs were pure joy to shoot"

Composer Tanishk expresses, "Our songs are nothing less than a joyride, just like love. I wanted each track to feel like a different heartbeat of a pure relationship crossing boundaries & transcend-

ing all the struggles yet being spontaneous throughout the journey. Working with all the legendary singers & re-imagining the iconic songs with a modern twist, I feel honoured. I hope the audience feels every beat of emotion I've tried to convey through the album." Lyricist Irshad said, "Every song in this album is a memory waiting to be made. I wrote the lyrics with the belief that love is never perfect but always worth it."

Kajol unleashes her inner warrior in fiery new avatar for 'MAA' poster



Mumbai: Bollywood star Kajol metamorphosed into a fierce warrior in her powerful new avatar for 'MAA,' embodying a protector to save her loved one from the dark force. Kajol took to Instagram, where she shared a new poster of the film. The dramatic poster features a dark, stormy background with a bolt of lightning illuminating the scene, emphasizing the supernatural or mythological tone of the film.

In the center, two characters are facing off in a fierce confrontation. One is a monstrous figure with glowing red eyes and charred skin. While Kajol can be seen screaming at the demon. She exudes strength, rage, and maternal power with visible wounds on her forehead. The tagline in red reads: Rakshak Bhakshak aur Maa. Kajol captioned the post: "Rakshak. Bhakshak. MAA. The protector. The destroyer. Trailer drops in 4 days."

The film is directed by Vishal Furia, who has previously helmed movies such as "Chhorii" and "Chorii 2." The movie is produced by Ajay Devgn and Jyoti Deshpande. The film reportedly also stars Indraneil Sengupta, Ronit Roy and Jitin Gulati. The actress had earlier hinted that her husband's "Shaitaan" is an expanding universe with "Maa" being a part of. Maa is about a woman going lengths to protect her daughter from evil.

Dhoni wants to play, the fire still burns to win championships: Uthappa on CSK legend's IPL future

New Delhi: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Robin Uthappa said that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) legend MS Dhoni still wants to play for the franchise and he has the fire still burning within him to lift another title for the side. "It all depends on his health and how he feels. You have to understand that he really wants to play - the fire still burns. From what he said during the post-match presentation, it's clear that the fire still burns to win championships, to play out there in the middle. Now it's about going back and working on his body to bring it to the level he wants for the next IPL. If that doesn't happen, he'll call it before the mini-auction. If not, you'll see a tweet or an Instagram post," Uthappa said on JioStar. After the win against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Dhoni



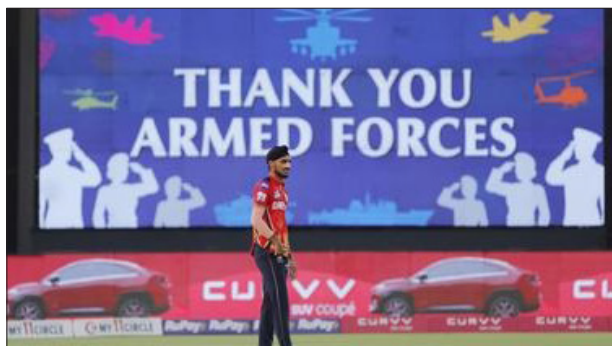
ni continued the tradition of not confirming his participation for the next season. The wicketkeeper-batter left everyone in limbo over his return for the IPL 2026 season.

Nadal Honored with Emotional Farewell at Roland-Garros

Paris: Rafael Nadal received a hero's send-off at Court Philippe-Chatrier on Sunday as thousands of fans rose to their feet, chanting "Rafa!" and applauding the 14-time French Open champion during a special farewell ceremony. Retired last year, Nadal donned a dark suit in place of his trademark head-band, soaking in the adulation at the stadium where he compiled a staggering 112-4 record and a perfect 14-0 mark in finals. A highlight reel on the big screens traced Nadal's clay-court mastery— from his lefty forehands and pumped "Vamos!" celebrations to his sprinting defense—and left him visibly moved. Fighting back tears in French, English and Spanish, he thanked tournament organizers, coaches, family members (including his wife and young son), and greatest rivals Federer, Djokovic and Murray, who later joined him on court. "You made me feel like a Frenchman," Nadal said, calling Roland-Garros "the most important court of my career."

Fans wore rust-colored "MERCI RAFA" shirts and held up coordinated banners reading "14 RG" and "RAFA." A new plaque near the court immortalizes Nadal's footprint, name and the number "14" alongside a sketch of the Coupe des Mousquetaires. Among the guests was Carlos Alcaraz, last year's champion and Nadal's heir apparent, who sported the clay-hue tribute tee. Nadal, who turns 39 in early June, finished his career with 22 Grand Slam titles, claiming at least two at each major.

BCCI to honour Operation Sindoor heroes at IPL final; Service chiefs invited



New Delhi: The final of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, scheduled to be held on June 3 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, will be dedicated to the Indian Armed Forces as a tribute to Operation Sindoor - a recent military operation carried out in response to the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalagam, that claimed the lives of 26 civilians.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and IPL Governing Council have decided to use the platform of the tournament's finale to

honour the armed forces and pay homage to the victims of the tragic incident. "We have invited all three service chiefs of the Indian Armed Forces to attend the IPL final on June 3 in Ahmedabad. The theme is to honour our heroes of Operation Sindoor," said IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal, confirming the development to IANS.

The BCCI has officially extended invitations to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Chief of Naval Staff and Chief of Air Staff for the high-profile finale.

Iga Swiatek made to sweat in first round, Casper Ruud advances

Paris: Iga Swiatek was made to sweat in the first round to make it past Rebecca Sramkova as the Polish star started her title defence with a straight sets win on Monday, May 26. Swiatek won the match with a scoreline of 6-3, 6-3, and it took the former World No.1 one hour and 24 minutes to get past the Slovakian star. In a match earlier in the day, Casper Ruud progressed to the second round of the competition with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Albert Ramos-Violas.

Swiatek needed to start the campaign without any major stumbles after a good lead up to Roland Garros, winning titles in Madrid and Rome. However, Sramkova wasn't ready to give up without a fight and fired 5 aces throughout the game as compared to Swiatek's one. The Polish star also committed three double-faults. However, it was in the break points column that Swiatek made a difference in the contest as she converted 4 while Sramkova just got one.

Swiatek broke for a 4-3 lead after a lengthy seventh game and then again to wrap up the first set. The second one saw Sramkova push the Polish star with the score at 0-2 at one point, before Swiatek showed her class to win the match.

IPL 2025: Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders aim to sign off with consolation win

New Delhi: The contest that ended IPL 2024 is now back in the business end of the ongoing season, but with very little context. Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders, already eliminated from the race to IPL 2025 playoffs, will aim to sign off from their respective night-marish campaigns with a consolation win when they face-off in a clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday evening.

ireworks from SRH's power-packed batting line-up after setting new batting standards in their runners-up finish in 2024. But they failed to touch those lofty batting heights, and with the bowling not being at its efficient best, the sun barely rose for the Hyderabad-based outfit in IPL 2025. But SRH still have the edge over KKR, especially after denting Royal Challengers Bengaluru's hopes of a top two finish in the points table with a 42-run win in Luc-



know, thanks to Ishan Kishan and Eshan Malinga. Moreover, with KKR not taking the field after their May 7 clash against Chennai Super Kings, it means that SRH have more game time under their belt. With the pitch at Kotla expected to be another batting beauty, it should help the likes of Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Heinrich Klassen and Aniket Verma to showcase their six-hitting skills to the fullest and post a

wacky high total, which can be firmly out of KKR's reach.

On the other hand, KKR's season really didn't justify their billing of being the defending champions in this season. This time last year saw them run all the way to the trophy and bask in the joy of winning their third title. But now, the side needs a win to close a season they would like to take lessons from and get back to the drawing board to come back stronger in IPL 2026.

Harbhajan Singh on Shubman Gill's Appointment: "Lead from the Front, But Don't Judge the Young Team Too Soon"

Mumbai: Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has expressed his support for Shubman Gill's appointment as the new captain of the Indian Test team. However, Harbhajan emphasized that Gill will face significant challenges, especially in the absence of key players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Despite these hurdles, Harbhajan urged patience and cautioned against making premature judgments about the young team, even if they do not win their upcoming series in England. Gill, 25, was appointed as the full-time Test captain on Saturday, with Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy. This new leadership comes ahead of India's tour of England, which marks the start of the new World Test Championship cycle.

Harbhajan, speaking during the launch of the TV show Who's the Boss on Sunday, welcomed the decision to hand the captaincy to the promising young batsman. "It is a great move, having a young captain like Shubman Gill who has done



well in franchise cricket," Harbhajan said. "But this is going to be a tough tour. England has never been an easy tour." With the absence of stalwarts like Kohli and Sharma, Harbhajan believes the team will face a challenge in filling the leadership void. "I hope Shubman and Rishabh Pant... this is a young team. There is no Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma, suddenly there is a big gap in that team and that also needs to be filled. So Shubman will have to lead from the front," he added.

Despite the challenges,

Harbhajan urged fans and critics to give the team time to settle into their new roles. "I will also like to ask people to not start judging too early even if this tour doesn't go their way," Harbhajan said. "It is okay even if they do not win, they will be learning (from it). I have the belief that all those who are going on this tour will get better." With the team in transition and new leadership taking the reins, Harbhajan's words emphasize the importance of patience as India looks to establish itself under Gill's captaincy.