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Bharti Airtel inks multi-year pact with Ericsson for pan-India network

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel on Monday signed a multi-year strategic agreement with Ericsson where the Swedish giant will manage Airtel ser-



vices across 4G, 5G NSA, 5G SA, Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), Private Networks and Network Slicing. The partnership will see Ericsson manage Airtel's panIndia network through its state-of-the-art Network Operations Centre (NOC) while scaling FWA and Network Slicing across the country.

"We are excited to enhance our strong collaboration with Ericsson as we pursue our goal of creating a future-ready network that delivers an exceptional experience for our customers. We believe that these innovative technologies will empower us to meet the growing data demands of consumers in a digitally connected India," said Randeep Sekhon, CTO of Bharti Airtel.

The agreement underscores Ericsson's leadership in managed services and reaffirms its commitment to delivering exceptional value to Airtel customers.

Stock market ends in green, Bank Nifty hits new all-time high of 57,000

Mumbai: The Indian stock markets closed in the green on the first trading day of the week, as Bank Nifty hit a new all-time high of 57,000 on Monday, reflecting strong sentiment and momentum in the banking sector. The Sensex ended 256.22 points or 0.31 per cent up at 82,445.21 and Nifty closed 100.15 points or 0.40 percent up at 25,103.20.

Midcap and smallcap stocks saw a rise compared to large-caps. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was up 664.65 points or 1.13 per cent at 59,674.95 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was up 290.95 points or 1.57 per cent at 18,873.40. On a sectoral basis, auto, IT,

PSU banks, financial services, pharma, metal and media indices closed in the green. Only the Nifty Realty index closed in the red.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, TCS and Tata Motors were the top gainers in the Sensex pack. while Eternal (Zomato), ICICI Bank, Titan, M&M and Tata Steel were the top losers. Financial stocks extended their rally in the Indian markets, driven by the RBI's supportive aggressive policy of rate and CRR cut.

"These actions have boosted investor confidence and



are expected to enhance liquidity in the near to medium term, especially in midcaps. The positive US jobs data and renewed optimism over US-China trade talks lifted global sentiment. Domes-

the milestone and confirming a decisive breakout from its month-long ascending triangle formation.

"This upward breach follows multiple failed attempts and finally clears the previous congestion zone with conviction," said Om Mehra from Samco Securities. According to analysts, the index remains firmly positioned above all key moving averages. The daily Relative Strength Index (RSI) stands at 69, while the weekly RSI is at 68, reflecting sustained strength without entering overbought territory. The recent bullish divergence on the RSI lends further credibility to the move.

SBI pays Rs 8,077 crore as dividend to govt for FY 2024-25

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday received a dividend cheque of Rs 8,076.84 crore on behalf of the government from the State Bank of India (SBI) for the financial year 2024-25. The cheque was presented to the Finance Minister by SBI chairman CS Setty at her office in the presence of senior officials.

"Smt @nsitharaman receives a dividend cheque of Rs 8076.84 crore for FY 2024-25 from CS Setty, Chairman - @TheOfficialSBI," Nirmala Sitharaman Office posted on social media platform X. The robust dividend came as India's top public sector companies in the financial, power and energy sectors have recorded a robust growth in profit during the Janua-

ryMarch quarter of 2024-25, which is expected to further strengthen the government's fiscal position. The country's largest lender SBI and insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) led the charge with a net profit of Rs 18,643 crore and Rs 19,013 crore, respectively. SBI's net profit for the financial year 2024-25 has now soared to Rs 70,901 crore while LIC has recorded an impressive net profit of Rs 48,151 crore for the year.

In the energy sector, Coal India earned a net profit of Rs 9,604 crore during the fourth quarter while Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) registered a net profit of Rs 7,265 crore with upstream oil exploration giant ONGC registering a net profit of Rs 6,448 crore during the quarter.

Gold ETFs rebound in May, record net inflow of Rs 292 crore



New Delhi: Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) regained investor interest in May after two months of net withdrawals, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data showed on Tuesday. Gold ETFs recorded a net inflow of Rs 291.91 crore in May 2025, marking an improvement from the marginal outflow of Rs 5.82 crore in April, according to the AMFI data.

"Flows into the category had remained muted over the past two months, following modest outflows in March as well. The renewed traction in May signals a gradual return of investor interest, likely driven by resilient gold prices and sustained global uncertainties that reinforce gold's appeal as a strategic hedge," said Nehal Meshram, Senior Analyst-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India. The uptick also shows that investors are regaining confidence in gold, as it continues to offer stability amid mixed signals from equity and bond markets. Furthermore, the relative stability in gold prices through May have provided a more attractive entry point for investors looking to build or rebalance allocations toward safer assets. The resurgence in flows also highlights the growing role of Gold ETFs in strategic asset allocation, especially as investors seek to manage risk in an increasingly uncertain investment environment. "While inflows are yet to reach the levels seen earlier in the year, the trend suggests a gradual and measured return of interest in gold, underpinned by its long-term diversification benefits," said Meshram.

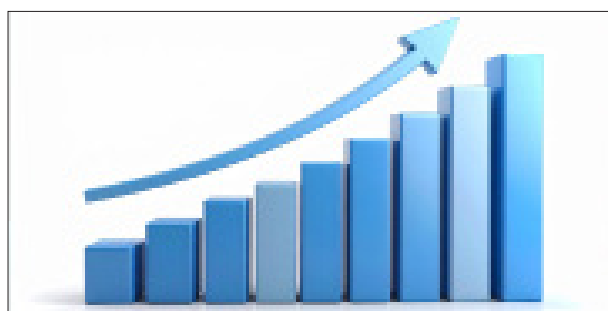
Indian corporates to double capital spending to \$800-\$850 billion over next 5 years

New Delhi: Indian corporates are projected to double their capital spending to \$800 billion-\$850 billion over the next five years, which will be largely financed by operating cash flows and facilitated by ample domestic funding options, said an S&P Global Ratings report on Tuesday. Barring execution mistakes or negative macro changes, these investments should boost business scale without driving up leverage, the report noted.

"Corporate India is chasing

growth opportunities. In our view, Indian companies are well positioned for a growth run. Balance sheets are the leanest they've been in years. Companies are investing to meet demand underpinned by favourable government policies and a positive economic outlook," according to the credit rating agency. Successful execution of plans would enlarge their operational scale, providing lasting cost benefits and business efficiencies.

Higher investments in power, particularly renewables,



will be a major spending area. Power, including transmission, combined with airlines, and emerging areas like green hydrogen, will (by estimates) account for about

threequarters of the increase in capex over the next five years. "In absolute terms, investments in airports could double, or even triple during this period.

Godrej joins hands with BMC and Bhamla Foundation to fight plastic pollution



Guwahati: In a powerful show of environmental commitment, Godrej Industries Group (GIG), in collaboration with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Bhamla Foundation, launched the #BeatPlasticPollution campaign, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The initiative urges sustainable choices to tackle India's mounting plastic waste problem—9.46 million tonnes in 2023, with 43% being single-use plastics.

Godrej CMD Nadir Godrej highlighted the company's green efforts: 64% of energy from renewables, a 20% reduction in plastic packaging intensity, and 100% recycling of

its plastic waste. Over 63,000 MT of waste has been diverted from landfills through its waste management projects.

The campaign includes a Godrej Magic Ready-to-Mix Handwash Station in Bandra, promoting refills over new bottles. This innovation uses 50% less plastic and significantly reduces carbon footprint. "Every refill is one less bottle in a landfill," said Neeraj Senguttuvan, GCPL's Marketing Head.

In the Guwahati market, where plastic waste management is a growing concern, the campaign is seen as a model. Local environmentalists have expressed hope that similar initiatives will inspire north-east India's urban centers to adopt sustainable practices.

Boost Immunity Naturally During Flu Season, Expert Advises

Mumbai: As COVID and flu cases rise across India, a nutritionist is recommending specific superfoods to strengthen natural immunity during the seasonal spike in infections.

Dr. Rohini Patil, MBBS and Nutritionist, suggests incorporating six key foods into daily diets: California almonds, turmeric, ginger, garlic, citrus fruits, and papaya.



"These nutrient-rich superfoods can significantly help bolster the immune system during this vulnerable time," said Dr. Patil, citing persistent coughs, colds, and digestive issues as common health challenges this season.

California almonds top the list, containing 15 essential nutrients including vitamin E, zinc, and antioxidants that promote heart health and boost energy. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recommends almonds for strengthening immunity.

Other recommended foods include turmeric for its anti-inflammatory properties, ginger for digestive support and antibacterial effects, garlic rich in immune-boosting allicin, vitamin C-packed citrus fruits, and papaya for its vitamins A and C content.

The recommendations come as seasonal infections continue affecting communities nationwide, with health experts emphasizing natural immunity-building approaches alongside conventional prevention methods.

Chartered Speed rolls out electric buses in Arunachal Pradesh to boost green mobility

Guwahati: In a key move toward sustainable public transport, Chartered Speed has deployed 10 electric buses in Arunachal Pradesh in partnership with the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Service (APSTS). The initiative was officially flagged off by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein during a formal ceremony held today.

The newly launched fleet includes 9-meter, air-conditioned electric buses that will operate in Itanagar, Namsai, and Pasighat. To ensure operational efficiency, Chartered Speed has set up EV charging stations at strategic points in these cities, facilitating quick recharging and minimiz-



ing service disruptions.

Sanyam Gandhi, Whole-Time Director of Chartered Speed, emphasized the company's commitment to inclusive green mobility. "Our partnership with APSTS reflects

our belief that geography should not limit access to clean transport," he said.

In Guwahati, a strategic node for Chartered Speed in the Northeast, is also witnessing a growing demand for eco-friendly public transport. With Assam already integrated into the company's electric mobility roadmap, industry stakeholders in Guwahati expect further expansion in EV services to reduce pollution and improve intercity connectivity.

Chartered Speed, which operates over 1,800 buses nationwide, has also secured a contract from CESL to operate 900+ electric buses across 13 cities in India.

Tata Salt reboots iconic jingle with new campaign spotlighting iodine and mental development

Guwahati: Tata Salt, India's No.1 iodized salt brand under Tata Consumer Products Ltd., has rolled out the 2.0 version of its beloved 'Namak ho Tata Ka... Tata Namak' campaign. The new edition, launched on June 2, 2025, revives the nostalgic jingle while communicating the essential role of iodine in children's mental development. The campaign builds on the emotional resonance of last year's version and aims to deepen consumer trust across households nationwide.

Developed by Ogilvy, the campaign features eight short films showcasing slice-of-life moments—from lullabies and weddings to classrooms and kitty parties. Each film reflects the cultural richness of Hindi, Bengali, and Marathi households, reinforcing Tata Salt's identity as "Desh Ka Namak." The brand also released four initial films during the IPL to maximize reach.

In Guwahati, retailers and consumers have responded positively to the campaign's educational angle and nostalgic appeal. Local grocery outlets report increased inquiries and engagement, especially from young parents focused on child nutrition. The jingle's familiarity combined with its health-focused messaging has enhanced brand visibility in Assam's urban hubs.

Tata Salt's new campaign smartly blends heritage with health, reaffirming its commitment to quality, trust, and consumer well-being.

This World Environment Day, Amazon spotlights Kraftinn Home Decor India Pvt. Ltd.

Guwahati: This World Environment Day, Amazon has spotlighted Kraftinn Home Decor India Pvt. Ltd.—a purpose-driven brand that blends traditional craftsmanship with conscious, contemporary design. Founded by Parikshit Borkotoky and Pramathesh Borkotoky in 2015 in Jorhat, Assam, Kraftinn is redefining sustainable living through handcrafted home décor and lifestyle products made from natural, biodegradable materials. From Assam's Heartlands to Indian Homes: Kraftinn was born out of a simple yet powerful idea: to preserve Assam's rich legacy of handicrafts while empowering its artisan communities. Kraftinn tapped into this heritage to bring age-old techniques into contemporary Indian homes through their design intervention—starting with

bamboo floor lamps and expanding into a diverse range of over 100 handmade products, including bags, photo frames, garden accessories, office stationery, storage solutions, and MacBook sleeves.

Artisan-First, Always: Kraftinn's design journey is fueled not by formal training, but by hands-on experimentation and deep respect for craft. The team collaborates directly with artisans to co-create products that are functional, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally responsible. Powered by Amazon: Local Roots, National Reach, Kraftinn began selling on Amazon in 2013, using the platform for early market research and to connect with a broader audience. In 2020, the brand joined the Local Shops on Amazon program, which enabled them to further scale their



operations while staying rooted in their homegrown values. A Green Future, Handcrafted: Kraftinn's long-term vision is to elevate Indian handicrafts by combining cultural heritage with global design sensibilities. As conscious consumerism rises, Kraftinn is well-positioned to lead the movement, delivering beautiful, sustainable products that reflect both tradition and innovation.

Nissan drives green with solar-powered dealerships and eco-initiatives on World Environment Day

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India marked World Environment Day 2025 with a series of impactful sustainability initiatives, reinforcing its long-term commitment to environmental stewardship. The company has installed solar power systems across seven dealerships, including those in Baroda, Mehsana, Kerala (three locations), Jalandhar, and Jaipur. These systems now power 100% of dealership operations, with surplus energy redirected to the grid.

Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa stated, "Our actions today shape the world tomorrow. At Nissan, sustainability is a core philosophy, guiding us toward reducing environmental impact and resource consumption."

On June 5, Nissan organized a nationwide tree-sapling drive at all its dealerships and workshops, inviting customers to plant saplings tagged with their names and vehicle numbers. Each participant also received a Green Service Certificate and seed packets to inspire further greening efforts.



Nissan has also reduced plastic packaging usage by 15% and launched a government-approved CNG retrofit kit for the New Magnite at ₹74,999, targeting eco-conscious customers in seven states.

In Guwahati, dealers have welcomed these sustainability moves, citing growing consumer interest in green mobility. The popularity of the Nissan Magnite, coupled with CNG options and eco-friendly services, is expected to boost sales and customer engagement in the region.

TKM launches Environment Month 2025 with the theme “Sustainable Resource Management Drive”

Shillong: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has flagged off the Environment Month 2025, reaffirming its commitment to sustainability through the theme “Sustainable Resource Management Drive”. This initiative aligns with the broader goals of the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 and the global theme of “Enhancing Awareness Towards Realising Toyota Global Vision 2050”. The campaign aims to strengthen a culture of sustainability across the company and its value chain. A key element of this year’s focus is the adoption of ‘Zero-Base Thinking’—a strategy that involves reevaluating all resources from the ground up and retaining only those that contribute genuine value, thereby promoting long-term sustainable efficiency through Refuse, Recycle (circular economy), Reuse and Reduce (4Rs).

The 2025 edition builds on the continual efforts to strengthen awareness and engagement, while also marking more than 25 years of TKM’s successful journey in India and reflecting its key environmental achievements through the theme “Journey to Green @ 25”. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. B. Padmanabha, Executive Vice



President and Director – Manufacturing, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, “Environment month is more than just a calendar event—it serves as a call to action for every individual in our value chain to actively contribute to a greener future”. Environment Month 2025 will be driven by the “TKM Sustainable Hub 2025”, a dynamic platform focuses on learning, innovation and interactive engagement in sustainability. Guided by Toyota’s philosophy of “Respect for the Planet,” the initiative translates vision into actions through meaningful collaboration and forward-thinking solutions that inspire long-term eco-responsibility.

DSP Mutual Fund unveils index funds in IT and healthcare to tap defensive sector strength

Guwahati: DSP Mutual Fund has launched two new index funds—the DSP Nifty IT Index Fund and the DSP Nifty Healthcare Index Fund—offering investors a strategic opportunity to participate in sectors known for resilience during market downturns. The New Fund Offer (NFO) for both schemes is open from June 2 to June 16, 2025.

Defensive sectors like IT and Healthcare have historically shown lower beta and steadier performance during economic shocks. During the 2008 financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, both Nifty Healthcare and Nifty IT indices registered smaller drawdowns and faster recovery

than the broader Nifty 500.

With global markets contributing ~96% of revenues for Nifty IT and ~52% for Nifty Healthcare companies, these sectors are less dependent on India’s domestic cycles, unlike the Nifty 50 Index, which garners only ~25% globally.

In Guwahati, financial advisors are seeing increased investor interest in sector-specific funds, particularly among young professionals seeking diversification and downside protection. Local advisors believe that passive exposure to IT and Healthcare will offer stable growth, especially amid global economic volatility.

Pioneer India inaugurates its new Research & Development (R&D) Center in Bengaluru, India



Kolkata: Pioneer India, a subsidiary of Pioneer Corporation, a global leader in automotive electronics and mobility solutions, has inaugurated its new Research & Development (R&D) Center in Bengaluru, India. This milestone follows the company’s 2023 announcement to establish an R&D presence in Bengaluru (<https://global.pioneer/en/corp/news/press/index/2786/>). The new facility reinforces Pioneer’s strategic vision to expand its innovation capabilities and strengthen its global product development footprint. The Bengaluru R&D center is designed to drive innovation across a comprehensive range of automotive and mobility technologies addressing the growing demand for smart, safe, and affordable mobility across developing and urban markets. “The launch of our Bengaluru R&D center represents a critical step in our global growth strategy,” said Shiro Yahara, President and CEO, Pioneer Corporation.

“We are building a world-class R&D team in India to lead the development of future mobility solutions,” said Siva Subramanian, PhD, CEO, Pioneer Mobility AI & Connectivity Company (MAC). Joining the overseas executive members on the occasion, Aniket Kulkarni, Managing Director – Pioneer India, and Manish Bhasin, Vice President – R&D, Pioneer India, expressed their strong commitment to supporting Indian automotive manufacturers with integrated hardware and software solutions, aligned with the organization’s mission of advancing mobility experiences. This expansion reflects Pioneer’s group vision, “Creating the Future of Mobility Experiences” while focusing on Sound, Safety, Security, Comfort, and Convenience.

Bolt.Earth Launches Blaze DC, India’s First Universal Fast Charger

Bengaluru: Bolt.Earth, India’s largest EV charging network, unveiled Blaze DC, the country’s first universal DC fast charger for electric two- and three-wheelers, addressing the critical need for high-speed, interoperable charging. Designed and manufactured in India, Blaze DC supports major EV brands like Ather, Ola, and Hero MotoCorp, offering up to 120 km range in 15 minutes on its 12kW variant.

Compact, grid-friendly, and equipped with Type 6 and LECCS Type 7 connectors, Blaze DC ensures compatibility, easy maintenance, and remote diagnostics. Bolt.Earth aims to deploy 25,000 chargers across India within a year, targeting cities like Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Bangalore, to support over 90% of fast-charging two- and three-wheelers.

CEO Raghav Bharadwaj emphasized, “Blaze DC is built for daily commuters and small businesses, making EV adoption more accessible.” The launch, attended by BESCOM MD Dr. Shiv Shankara N, highlighted potential collaborations to expand Karnataka’s 5,200+ charger network. Bolt.Earth’s app already supports 37,000 charging points across 1,700+ cities, serving 224,000+ EV users.

Allcargo Gati revises bike express pricing to enhance two-wheeler transport across India

Guwahati: Allcargo Gati Limited, India’s leading express distribution and supply chain management company, has announced a revision in pricing for its popular Bike Express service. Effective immediately, the service will operate on a fully pre-paid model, with new rates set at ₹9,999 for bikes up to 150 CC and ₹11,999 for those above 150 CC. This move aims to streamline customer experience and reinforce transparency.

Mr. Mayank Dwivedi, National Head of Sales & Market-

ing at Allcargo Gati, highlighted that Bike Express remains a trusted choice for bike enthusiasts, professionals, and students needing hassle-free, secure transportation across challenging terrains and iconic routes, including destinations like Leh. The service offers complimentary doorstep pickup and delivery, secure containerized transport, consignment tracking, 24/7 customer support, and a free Labh Box for bike accessories, ensuring a comprehensive solution for two-wheeler logistics.



In Guwahati, the revised pricing and service enhancements are expected to benefit the growing number of two-wheeler owners in the city who frequently relocate or undertake long-distance travel. Local customers can now rely on the improved service for safe, timely transport

tation of their bikes, supporting the region’s increasing demand for dependable logistics solutions.

Bike Express continues to set industry benchmarks by combining innovation and customer-centric service for seamless bike transportation across India.

Beyond Symbolism, Empowering LGBTQIA+ Voices and Businesses: Pride@Godrej 2025

Guwahati: This year, Pride@Godrej has built on a decade-long project of cultural inclusion within the Godrej Industries Group to create a meaningful platform for authentic queer storytelling, entrepreneurial spirit, and artistic expression. The Group on recently hosted a vibrant Pride March at its headquarters, Godrej One, led by Manish Shah, Managing Director of Godrej Capital, and joined by senior leaders across the organization. This march was a powerful demonstration of solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community, including Godrej’s queer employees in India and globally, alongside their allies. A key highlight of Pride@Godrej 2025 was the launch of Queer Directions—a pioneering publishing



imprint in collaboration with Westland Books, dedicated to amplifying queer voices and narratives.

The event began with the Pitch Bazaar, where over a dozen unpublished

queer writers connected with publishers and media professionals. This day-long celebration seamlessly blended culture, conversation, and community through thoughtfully curated experiences. “What excites me most about this celebration is how we moved beyond just rainbow flags to create real opportunities,” said Parmesh Shahani, Head of the Godrej DEI Lab and author of Queeristan. “The launch of Queer Directions represents our belief that great stories deserve great platforms,” said Karthika V.K., Publisher at Westland Books. Godrej Capital is fostering inclusion through events at Pride@Godrej One, including Nukkad Natak, allyship panels, LGBTQIA+ hiring drives, and wellness programs.

Lifestyle declares its End of Season Sale with Tamannaah Bhatia featured in the new campaign

Mumbai: Lifestyle, one of India's leading fashion destinations, has rolled out its much-awaited End of Season Sale (EOSS), offering shoppers up to 50% off across a wide range of fashion-forward products. Additionally, there is a special offer for HDFC credit card holders, who get an instant 10% discount. T&C Apply. Adding even more excitement to the season, Lifestyle has partnered with Tamannaah Bhatia exclusively for this campaign. Known for her effortless charm and pan-India appeal, Tamannaah brings her unique blend of glamour and relatability to the new campaign. With an extensive selection of the latest trends and fashion choices from leading national and international brands, the Life-



style Sale offers fashion-conscious shoppers access to a wide range of wardrobe upgrades at unmatched value. Lifestyle Spokesperson

Quote—Our campaign invites shoppers to explore the latest fashion trends through Lifestyle's End of Season Sale. With a collection that blends

style and accessibility, Tamannaah brings the campaign to life, inspiring everyone to express their unique style with confidence. Ritesh Mishra - President - Deputy CEO. Tamannaah Bhatia, Indian actress, said, "What I love about Lifestyle's Sale is that it makes premium, on-trend fashion accessible to everyone, empowering people to embrace their individuality with confidence." Lifestyle's sale presents a great opportunity for trendsetters to shop the newest styles from over 300 top brands—including Biba, Global Desi, Jack & Jones, Indian Terrain, Park Avenue, Pepe Jeans, AND, Melange, Ginger, FORCA, CODE, Puma, Adidas, Fossil, Armani Exchange, Maybel-line, L'Oréal, and more.

ZEE5 announces a bold new brand identity and strategic shift

Mumbai: ZEE5 has announced a bold new brand identity and strategic shift, reaffirming its positioning as India's foremost homegrown platform. The relaunch marks a pivotal step in ZEE5's evolution, anchored in the promise of "Apni Bhasha, Apni Kahaniyan" (Multiple Languages, Infinite Stories) and a sharper focus on culturally authentic narratives, language driven personalization and cutting-edge technology. With a new visual identity, a reimagined product experience, and language plans designed around India's major languages, ZEE5 deepens its connect with its audiences. This strategic shift is built on three foundational pillars—content, experience, and affordability crafted to meet India's next wave of digital demand. While the language packs will start at ₹120/month, the Hindi pack (including Punjabi & Bhojpuri content) is priced at ₹220/month. The All Access pack will be available at ₹320/month, and all packs will have Annual pack variants.

The upcoming language titles include - Detective Sherdil (Hindi), Chhal Kapat: The Deception (Hindi), Sattamum Neethiyum (Tamil), Mothubaru Love Story (Telugu), Inspection Bungalow (Malayalam), Maarigallu (Kannada), Aata



Thambbahya Naay (Marathi), and Vibhishan (Bengali), among others. Amit Goenka, President, Digital Businesses and Platforms, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., said, "Our new brand identity marks a pivotal step in our journey to become a deeply personalized, language-first platform that mirrors the diversity of Indian audiences." Kartik Mahadev, Chief Marketing Officer, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., said, "Our brand campaign with the tagline 'Apni Bhasha. Apni Kahaniyan' is rooted in the idea that language is belonging, a celebration of a deeply personal emotion." Raghavendra Hunsur, Chief Content Officer, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., added, "At ZEE5, we've always believed that powerful storytelling begins with deep cultural insight. We're deeply committed to serving audiences that have historically been underserved."

In Tripura, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow sparks a wave of young innovators



Agartala: As the monsoon clouds gather over the lush hills of Tripura, a different kind of storm of ideas, innovation, and ambition is taking over college campuses. Samsung's flagship innovation competition, Solve for Tomorrow, has made its mark in the farthest corners of India in Season 4, igniting the spirit of problem-solving and nation-building among young minds. After a powerful launch on April 29, the design thinking workshops and college Open Houses swept across India—reaching not just major metros but also the vibrant heartlands of the Northeast. Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2025 will provide INR 1 crore to the top four winning teams to support the incubation of their projects, along with hands-on prototyping, investor connects, and expert mentorship from Samsung leaders and IIT Delhi faculty. In Agartala, Tripura, two colleges—Bir Bikram Memorial College and Netaji Subhash Mahavidyalaya—witnessed a groundswell of students coming together to imagine solutions to India's most

pressing problems.

At Bir Bikram, second-year student Tarit Chakma walked out of the Open House with a quiet determination in his eyes. "I want to solve the water logging issues in tribal areas using smart but low-cost drainage tech." Tarit isn't alone in his vision. Sitting next to him was Sangeeta Dey, a science undergraduate, who spoke of the growing mental health crisis among youth in smaller towns. Sourav Shukla das, a tech enthusiast from Netaji Subhash College, said, "This platform gave me the confidence that such ideas can be built right here, from Tripura, for the world." His classmate, Sangeeta Saha, said, "We've always believed we had to leave Tripura to do something meaningful. Today made me think differently." Each voice in these packed halls echoed the larger mission of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow—to democratize innovation, to reach every young mind with potential, and to build a new generation of problem-solvers across India's many geographies.

Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water Game Nights turns Guwahati into a playground

Guwahati: Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water, a brand long associated with bold energy and a rich cricketing legacy, has brought its digital-first property, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water Game Nights, to Guwahati. The event, held at Sarokri on GS Road, transformed the venue into a high-octane zone of competition, creativity, and next-gen entertainment, setting the stage for a nationwide series of experiences. Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water aims to bridge these worlds by creating spaces where community, competition, and creativity collide.

The Game Nights event brought together fans, creators, and digital athletes for an electrifying evening. Highlights included cutting-edge VR cricket, a Play-Station gaming zone with cricket-themed titles, and interactive challenges with exciting prizes. Guests also enjoyed a live screening of a marquee league match, blending traditional fandom with modern play under one roof. "Gaming is an organic extension for Royal Challenge—a brand that has always stood at the crossroads of high-energy sport and bold self-expression," said Varun Koorichh, Vice President – Marketing & Portfolio Head at Diageo. After Mumbai, Ludhiana, and Guwahati, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water Game Nights is heading to Bangalore and beyond—tapping into India's booming gaming scene and connecting with passionate youth communities across the country.

India's skill surge fuels job market, women and digital push lead the way

Guwahati: India's skilling mission has reached a major milestone, with over 1.5 crore individuals trained in the past year under the leadership of Minister Jayant Chaudhary. Programs like PMKVY 4.0 and NAPS have driven industry-aligned training, placing lakhs in high-demand sectors such as logistics, healthcare, and electronics. Over 8.7 lakh apprentices have been onboarded across 1.5 lakh enterprises, while a 36% stipend hike now offers better financial security to trainees.

Women are at the forefront of this transformation—under Jan Shikshan Sansthan, 5.05 lakh people have been trained, 80% of them women, reflecting a notable shift toward inclusive workforce participation. The Skill In-

dia Digital Hub (SIDH), with over 1 crore users, is expanding access to AI, drone tech, and green energy training across India.

In Guwahati, the skilling drive is energizing the local employment landscape. Digital courses in cloud computing and healthcare are gaining popularity, with SIDH-supported centres witnessing growing enrollments. Businesses in the logistics sector are particularly keen on hiring SIDH-certified youth, indicating a strong local demand-supply alignment.

With ₹60,000 crore invested in ITI upgrades, new Centres of Excellence, and global partnerships, India's skilling strategy is setting a strong foundation for a competitive, future-ready workforce.

Priyanka Chopra's daughter Malti Marie adorably does makeup, paints her tiny nails

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra's daughter, Malti Marie Chopra, is already showing signs of becoming a little style icon. Recently, the adorable toddler was seen happily doing her own makeup and painting her tiny nails. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a series of photos featuring herself, husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti. Priyanka shared her top 20 moments from May dump, and it's pure cuteness. The highlights include a family yacht outing in New York with little Malti, sweet nursery playdates, and precious scenes of Malti experimenting with makeup, painting her tiny nails, and having fun with dad Nick and the Jonas brothers.

In the first image, Priyanka and Nick, along with their daughter Malti, can be seen enjoying a meal on a yacht with a stunning view. The singer lovingly looks at his wife, who is holding little Malti. In the next, the couple is seen posing for a group picture with their friends. The third photo shows Nick holding his daughter's hand while strolling with wife Priyanka. In one of the images, little Malti is seen applying makeup. Another photo captures Priyanka posing with her daughter. Sharing these images, the 'Baywatch' actress simply wrote, "May." Priyanka Chopra paired her recent post with Joe Jonas' new track, 'Heart By Heart.' For those unfamiliar, Priyanka and Nick tied the knot in 2018, celebrating their union with both Christian and Hindu wedding ceremonies. In January 2022, they joyfully welcomed their daughter Malti via surrogacy. The couple frequently shares touching glimpses of their family life on social media.

Randeep Hooda, wife Lin plant over 500 trees to celebrate World Environment Day

Mumbai: To celebrate World Environment Day on Thursday, actor/filmmaker Randeep Hooda and his wife Lin Laishram planted over 500 trees near Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Randeep said that World Environment Day is not just a "symbolic date on the calendar."

He added: "It's a reminder that we are running out of time to repair the damage we've done to nature. Forests are the lungs of our planet, and without them, the rich biodiversity we so often take for granted

will not survive." "My connection to wildlife has always been spiritual, and every visit to Kanha only reinforces the urgency of our responsibility toward nature," he added.

The Kanha National Park is known for its rich biodiversity, the park is home to majestic Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, sloth bears, swamp deer, blackbucks, and dhole. It is also the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, Bhoorsingh the Barasingha. The actor added that planting a tree may seem like a small act,



but it is deeply powerful.

He added: "A tree gives shelter, food, oxygen, and balance

- just like nature gives us everything without asking in return. My wife Lin and I feel truly

humbled to contribute, even in a small way, to this incredible ecosystem that needs our protection now more than ever. Forests and wildlife are not separate - they are interdependent, and both must thrive together."

Randeep urged everyone to not just celebrate this day, but to embody its message every day in whatever capacity they can. "Nature doesn't need us - we need nature." Randeep's latest work includes the Sunny Deolstarrer high octane actioner Jaat, which has been directed by Gopichand Malineni.

Shamita Shetty calls it 'absolutely wonderful' to watch sister Shilpa Shetty grow into strong woman



Mumbai: Actress Shamita Shetty took to social media to wish her sister Shilpa Shetty on her 50th birthday. In her heartwarming post, the 'Mohabbatein' actress opened up about her admiration for her sister Shilpa, calling it "absolutely wonderful" to witness her evolution into a beautiful, strong, and empowered woman. Celebrating her sister's journey, Shamita reflected on Shilpa's growth over the years, both personally and professionally, and expressed her pride in the woman she has become.

Shamita Shetty took to her Instagram handle to share a heartfelt picture and video featuring her sister Shilpa Shetty. Expressing the depth of their bond, she regards Shilpa as a second mother figure in her life. The Bigg

Boss 15 contestant wrote, "Happy Birthday my Munki ! It's been absolutely wonderful to watch you grow into the beautiful, strong woman you are today.. balancing life so well with such grace.

Thank you for always watching over me like a second mother for being such an important part of my life and for teaching me so much. Side by side or miles apart.. you and I will ALWAYS be connected by heart! Love you to the moon n back @theshilpashetty." Shamita and Shilpa Shetty share a deeply close bond that goes beyond just being sisters. They often express their admiration and love for each other publicly by sharing heartfelt messages and moments on social media.

Meanwhile, on her special day, the 'Dhadkan' actress is receiving heartfelt birthday wishes from her loved ones and celebrities on social media. Wishing Shilpa, actor Rohit Roy shared their cherished throwback photo and captioned it.

"This one warrants a post... Happy Birthday dearest Shilpa From being your 1st co-star to a friend has been a long journey and I'm happy to be a part of it. Continue inspiring people with the way you conduct your life, both personal and professional... welcome to the best phase of your life yet! PS: My brother is lucky to have you in his life!!"

Pooja Hegde reveals her favourite homesick remedy



Mumbai: Being an actor means staying away from home for long periods of time, and everyone ends up inventing their own way of overcoming their feeling of being homesick. Through her latest Instagram post, actress Pooja Hegde shared that one of her favorite homesick remedies is to enjoy a hot cup of tea with some yummy Parle-G biscuits.

The 'Retro' actress dropped a clip on her Instagram handle, where she was seen en-

joying this beloved combo. She was heard saying in the background, "Simple joys to make me feel like I am at home". Taking out one of the biscuits from the pack, she said, "Dubaoing (dipping) this in my chai".

After treating herself to this soul food, Pooja proclaimed at last, "Oh my God! This is some dangerous stuff." Her post further included the caption, "Nothing screams home like parle g in my chai... Homesick remedies."

Manushi Chhillar to play Rajkummar Rao's lady love in 'Maalik'

Mumbai: Actress Manushi Chhillar will be starring opposite Rajkummar Rao in the upcoming action drama "Maalik". Rajkummar and Tips Films took to Instagram, where they shared a poster featuring Manushi as a sim-pleton standing alongside the National Award-winning actor. Manushi is seen dressed in a soft pink traditional outfit smiling brightly at Rajkummar as the two are gazing into each other's eyes.

The caption read: "Jinke

bina chalti nahi #Maalik ki dhadkan, unse hogi aaj mulaqaat #Naamumkin Song Out Today. #Maalik se milne ajana 11 July ko sirf cinema gharon mein!" The actioner, which was earlier scheduled to hit theatres on June 20, will now be released on July 11. In the film, which is currently in post-production, the actor will be seen playing a ruthless gangster.

Directed by Pulkit, "Maalik" is produced by Kumar Taurani under the Tips Films

banner and Jay Shewakramani's Northern Lights Films. The film will be released in theatres on 11th July. The film was initially announced on Rajkummar Rao's 40th birthday.

Manushi was last seen on screen in 2024 film "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan" directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. The film stars Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles alongside Manushi Chhillar, Alaya F and Ronit Roy. In the film,



two former soldiers race against time to save India from an imminent attack by

a vengeful scientist. It was declared a box-office bomb. Rajkummar's latest release

is 'Bhool Chuk Maaf'. The film, which is directed by Karan Sharma, also stars Wamiqa Gabbi, Dhanashree Verma, Sanjay Mishra, and Raghubir Yadav

The film is about Ranjan, a starry-eyed romantic from Banaras who finally lands a government job and is ready to marry his childhood sweetheart, Titli. In all the rush towards his happily-ever-after, Ranjan forgets a sacred vow and fate refuses to let it slide.

Athletics: Jyothi Yarraji wins in 12.99s as India claims six gold in Taiwan Open

Mumbai: Jyothi Yarraji, Tejas Ashok Shirse, and Abdulla Aboobacker won the gold as India dominated the track in the 2025 Taiwan Athletics Open, finishing with six gold medals in the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze meet held in Taipei on Saturday. Pooja in women's 1500m and the quartet of Sudheeksha Vadluri, Sneha Sathyanarayana Shanuvalli, Abinaya Rajarajan, and Nithya Gandhe in the women's 4x100m relay picked the other two gold medals for India in the event. The Indian quartet of Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, and Amlan Borgohain added to the gold rush by winning the men's 4x100m relay race.

Jyothi, who recently broke the national record in the women's 100m hurdles of 12.96 at the Asian Athletics Championships



in Gumi, South Korea, last month, went under 13 seconds once again. She surged to victory in a field of eight with a time of 12.99 seconds. Jyothi got off to a good start, took an early lead, and won the race with a strong finish. Asuka Terada of Japan took silver in 13.04 seconds while her compatriot Chisato Kiyoyama won the bronze medal in 12.10 seconds. Jyothi, who

had earlier qualified for the final by winning Heat 1 in 13.18 seconds. In the men's 110m hurdles, Tejas Shirse came first in 13.52 seconds to claim the gold medal, winning with a tailwind of +1.5 as compared to 1.067 m/s. Yuan Kai Hsieh of Taiwan finished second in 13.72 seconds.

In the men's triple jump, Aboobacker came first with a leap of 16.21m, which he achieved in

the third turn. He started with 15.80m and then 15.97m in the second. She fouled the fourth jump before closing it out with 15.33 and 15.81m in his fifth and sixth. Li Yun-Chen of Taiwan and Zhou Zheng Jia finished third. Pooja set a competition record (CR) of 4:11.63 to win the women's 1500 metres, bettering the old record of 4:15.81. Jon Su Gyong of PR Korea finished second in 4:28.03 while Hui Tung Tsang of Hong Kong came third in 4:34.92.

The Indian women's 4x100m relay team of Sudheeksha Vadluri, Sneha Sathyanarayana Shanuvalli, Abinaya Rajarajan, and Nithya Gandhe set a competition record (CR) of 44.07, improving on the old record of 44.50 seconds. The men's 3x100m relay team bagged the sixth gold for India, finishing the race in 38.75 seconds.

WTC Final: ICC chair Jay Shah extends best wishes to SA and Australia for 'Ultimate Test' at Lord's

New Delhi: As the World Test Championship (WTC) final is set to begin on Wednesday, where South Africa and Australia will fight for the coveted mace, the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah expressed his excitement for the "enthralling contest" and gave his best wishes to both teams for the "Ultimate Test".

Pat Cummins-led Australia will be looking to retain the mace that they claimed after defeating India in the previous edition of the World Test Championship Final at the Oval in June 2023. On the other side, South Africa are aiming for their first ICC trophy in over two decades, with Temba Bavuma leading the charge. Taking to X, Shah wrote, "Looking forward to an enthralling contest in the @ICC World Test Championship Final at Lord's. Best of luck to both @ProteasMenCSA and @CricketAus in the Ultimate Test!"

The winner of the WTC 2023-25 will walk away with USD 3.6 million, a significant jump from the USD 1.6 million awarded in both 2021 and 2023 while the runners-up will earn USD 2.16 million, up from USD 8,00,000.

Ronaldo Rules Out Club WC Appearance, Despite FIFA Interest



Munich: Cristiano Ronaldo has confirmed that he is "practically certain" he won't be participating in the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup, despite receiving multiple offers from participating clubs — a decision that comes as a major blow to FIFA's hopes of featuring one of football's biggest icons at the high-profile tournament. Speaking on the eve of Portugal's Nations League final against Spain, the 40-year-old superstar said that while he had "quite a few" invitations to play at the expanded 32-team event starting June 14, he has chosen to step back.

"Some things make sense to talk about, other things don't," Ronaldo said in Munich. "You

can't take part in everything. It's a decision practically made on my part not to go to the Club World Cup." FIFA president Gianni Infantino had earlier hinted that Ronaldo might participate, citing a special transfer window created to allow players to join clubs for the tournament. Speculation grew after Ronaldo's cryptic social media post following Al-Nassr's final Saudi Pro League game, which read: "this chapter is over."

Ronaldo was linked with a short-term move to Brazil's Palmeiras and even to Al-Hilal, Saudi Arabia's Club World Cup representative and fierce rival of Ronaldo's current team, Al-Nassr. Such a move,

though feasible in theory, seemed highly unlikely given the cultural and competitive norms of the sport — particularly in European-style club rivalries. With Lionel Messi set to participate in the Club World Cup with Inter Miami, FIFA had reportedly hoped to capitalize on another round of the legendary Messi-Ronaldo rivalry to boost global interest and ticket sales. The tournament is heavily funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), which also holds a majority stake in Al-Nassr and Al-Hilal.

When asked directly about the Club World Cup, Ronaldo brushed aside the topic: "This is irrelevant right now. It makes no sense to talk about anything other than the national team." Ronaldo remains focused on international duty, fresh off scoring the winning goal in Portugal's 2-1 semi-final win over Germany — his 137th international strike. A start in Sunday's final would mark his record-extending 221st appearance for the national side. For now, the world will have to watch the Club World Cup without one of its biggest stars — a rare stage where Cristiano Ronaldo has decided not to shine.

T20 Mumbai League: SoBo Mumbai Falcons ready to face NaMo Bandra Blasters in semis



Mumbai: Shreyas Iyer will be hoping to reach a second successive final when his side SoBo Mumbai Falcons takes on NaMo Bandra Blasters in the second semifinal of the T20 Mumbai League at the Wankhede Stadium here on Tuesday. A week back, Iyer had guided Punjab Kings to the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at Ahmedabad, where they finished runnersup to Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Having already secured their spot in T20 Mumbai League semifinals, SoBo Mumbai Falcons warmed up for the knockout stage with a facile win against Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs in the last league stage match at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday night.

The five-wicket win - set up by Ishan Mulchandani's second fifty of the season and his crucial partnership with captain Angkrish Raghuvanshi, who took over from Shreyas Iyer for Sunday night's game - was SoBo Mumbai Falcons' fourth win in five league games. Eagle Thane Strikers were the only other team to win four league games.

It means that the Falcons will take on NaMo Bandra Blasters in the second semifinal on Tuesday under lights at the Wankhede Stadium. The Falcons' troupe - led by Shreyas and Raghuvanshi and ably guided by Team Principal Vikrant Yelgati - has all the bases covered heading into the business of the tournament.

Indian junior women's hockey team beat Belgium 3-2



Antwerp: The Indian junior women's hockey team kicked off their tour of Europe with a fantastic win against Belgium on Sunday. The Indian side won the game 3-2 at the Hockey Center of Excellence, Wilrijkse Plein in Antwerp, Belgium. In what was a competitive contest, it was India who opened the scoring through Geeta Yadav (11'). However, in the second quarter, hosts Belgium equalised through Marie Goenns (25'). Soon after Belgium took the lead as Louise van Hecke (34') found the back of the net.

India came back fighting and it was Sonam (40') levelled things up. India continued to attack, and the pressure paid off as they won a Penalty Corner soon after, which was converted by Lalanthlangi (45'). After that, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team did not let Belgium get another equaliser, and walked away with the win. India will take on Belgium in the second game of their European tour on June 10. After wrapping up the promising outing at the Four Nations Tournament in Rosario, Argentina, the Indian team has now reached Europe for the five-match tour.

India are set to play three matches against Belgium in Antwerp. They will then face Australia at Beerschot Tennis Hockey Padel Club, in Kontich, before wrapping up the tour with a match against the Netherlands at Hockey Club Kampong, in Utrecht.