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PF withdrawals possible through ATM, UPI? EPFO may soon have plan in place

Retirement fund body EPFO subscribers may soon be able to withdraw their employees' provident fund (EPF) directly from their accounts through ATMs or other modes like UPI after linking their bank accounts with EPF.

A highly placed source said the labour ministry is working on a project where a certain proportion of the EPF will be frozen and a large chunk will be available for withdrawal through their bank account using various modes like UPI or ATM debit cards.

The source also said there are some software challenges to implementing this system, which are being resolved. Presently, the members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have to apply for withdrawal claims to access their EPF money, which is time-consuming. Under the auto-settlement mode, the withdrawal claims are settled electronically without manual intervention within three days of filing the application form.

The limit of this auto-settlement mode has been raised to Rs 5 lakh on Tuesday from existing Rs 1 lakh. This will facilitate a large number of EPFO members to access their EPF money within three days for illness, education, marriage, and housing purposes.

The EPFO, which has more than 7 crore members, had first introduced online auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide quick assistance to those facing financial crunch.

However, all members have to file claims to access their own EPF. The new system is being evolved to avoid this time-consuming process and reduce the burden of the EPFO, as over 5 crore claims mostly for withdrawing EPF are settled every year.

The source said that the EPFO cannot allow its members to withdraw money directly from the EPF accounts because the body does not have any banking licences. However, the source said that the government wants to improve the services of the EPFO at par with banks.

India moves towards deeper nationwide Wi-Fi coverage: Jyotiraditya Scindia

New Delhi: India is moving towards a future where Wi-Fi is accessible in every corner of the country, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday. Speaking at a special conference organised by the Broadband India Forum (BIF) on the occasion of World Wi-Fi Day 2025 here, Scindia announced that the government is taking bold steps to ensure nationwide Wi-Fi coverage -- both wide

and deep -- which will help drive growth across sectors.

Highlighting the government's major policy reform, the minister confirmed that the country is moving ahead with the delicensing of the 6GHz spectrum, a crucial move that will enable faster, more reliable internet. "The relevant rules will be notified on or before Independence Day this year," he said. He emphasised that the government's role is evolving from



being a regulator to a facilitator and that technology must be made available for all,

without favouring any company or technology.

"This is a day to celebrate

the freedom to connect, to create, and to rise. As adoption increases, costs decrease. Penetration is growing, even into rural heartlands," the minister stated. "We are already running 5G use cases across 13 villages, providing 10 essential services in each. Now, we want to ensure that every Indian has access to high-speed internet, whether they are at home, at work, or in remote areas," Scindia added.

Sensex ends lower in volatile session as Mideast tensions flare up



Mumbai: The Indian stock markets started the week on a weak note as tensions escalated in the Middle East, after the United States bombed three nuclear facilities in Iran, showing clear support for Israel in the ongoing conflict. The development made investors cautious, leading to a fall in benchmark indices on Monday. The Sensex dropped 511.38 points, or 0.62 per cent, to close at 81,896.79. During the intra-day, it moved between a high

of 82,169.67 and a low of 81,476.76.

Similarly, the Nifty also ended in the red. It fell 140.50 points, or 0.56 per cent, to settle at 24,971.90. The index had touched an intra-high of 25,057 and a low of 24,824.85 during the session. Interestingly, broader markets performed better than the frontline indices. The Nifty Mid-cap100 closed with a gain of 0.36 per cent, while the Smallcap100 rose 0.70 per cent.

Out of the 30 stocks in the Sensex, HCL Tech, Infosys, Larsen and Toubro, Mahindra and Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were the biggest losers, falling between 2.28 per cent and 1.21 per cent. On the other hand, Trent, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers, rising between 3.39 per cent and 0.58 per cent.

The performance of sectoral indices was mixed as Bank Nifty, Auto, FMCG, and Realty ended in the red while metal, consumer durables, pharma, and media sectors managed to close with gains

Rupee rises 13 paise to 85.92 against US dollar in early trade

The rupee gained 13 paise to 85.92 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday amid hopes of an end to hostilities between Israel and Iran, and a strong opening in domestic equity markets. However, rise in global crude oil prices -- which had declined for two consecutive sessions -- and FII outflows limited the gains for the local unit, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.00 before rising to 85.92, up 13 paise from its previous close. The local unit had logged its steepest single-day gain in nearly five years on Tuesday to end 73 paise higher at 86.05

against the greenback. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.30 per cent to USD 68.01 per barrel in futures trade after US President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

"Brent oil prices rose slightly after falling in the last two sessions with focus squarely on whether a US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Iran will hold or not. The White House was also close to announcing a few more trade deals that raised the optimism for risky assets," Bhansali said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading up

marginally by 0.06 per cent at 97.91. "The dollar struggled to regain lost ground on Wednesday as investors who have been starved of good news latched on to the optimism of fragile truce between Iran and Israel as a reason to take more risk," Bhansali said, adding that the range of 85-87 continues for the dollar rupee pair.

Meanwhile, in the domestic equity market, Sensex jumped 426.79 points to 82,481.90 in early trade while Nifty was up 123.25 points to 25,167.60. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,266.01 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

India projected to see GDP growth of 6.5 pc in FY26: S&P Global Ratings



New Delhi: India is likely to see a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in current fiscal (FY26) due to robust domestic demand, a normal monsoon and monetary easing, a report by S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday. Domestic demand resilience is particularly relevant in limiting the economic slowdown in economies less exposed to goods exports such as India.

"We see India's GDP growth holding up at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026 (year ending March 31, 2026). That forecast assumes a normal monsoon, lower crude oil prices, income-tax concessions and monetary easing," said the report covering Asia-Pacific economies. In India, falling food inflation also helps contain headline inflation.

The country's annual rate of inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) eased further to a 14-month low of 0.39 per cent in May from 0.85 per cent in April and 2.05 per

cent in March. Meanwhile, the country's inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has declined to 2.82 per cent in May this year compared to the same month of the previous year. This is the lowest level of retail inflation since February 2019, figures released last week showed.

Food Inflation declined to 0.99 per cent during May, which is the lowest since October 2021. This is the seventh month in a row that food inflation has registered a decline as the agricultural output has been on the rise. The RBI has also revised its inflation outlook for 2025-26 downwards from the earlier forecast of 4 per cent to 3.7 per cent, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday. The sharp decline in inflation has enabled the RBI to go in for a 50 basis points cut in the repo rate from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent to spur growth in the economy, in the monetary policy review.

Sony launches flagship Alpha 1 II camera in India, blends AI precision with cinematic power

Guwahati: Sony India has launched its new flagship full-frame mirrorless camera, the Alpha™ 1 II, boasting a powerful combination of 50.1 MP resolution, blistering 30 fps shooting, and AI-driven subject recognition. Equipped with the advanced Exmor RS™ stacked CMOS sensor and BIONZ XR™ processor, the camera is designed for professional photography and

cinematography.

Notably, the Alpha 1 II includes Real-time Recognition Autofocus for both stills and videos, Pre-Capture mode, and blackout-free continuous shooting. It supports 8K 30p and 4K 120p movie recording, enhanced image stabilization of up to 8.5 stops, and comes with dual-battery charging support. With a lighter 743g body, ergonomic grip, and

cloud-enabled real-time workflow, Sony continues to elevate on-the-go professional usage.

Sony has also made the Alpha 1 II its first non-ZV Alpha camera to use eco-friendly packaging, aligning with global sustainability goals.

In Guwahati, where the demand for high-performance imaging tools is growing among wedding filmmakers, wildlife photographers, and

digital content creators, the Alpha 1 II is expected to generate strong interest. Retailers anticipate steady sales driven by the camera's unmatched speed, precision, and connectivity options.

The Alpha 1 II is priced at ₹579,990 and will be available from June 25, 2025, across Sony Centers, e-commerce platforms, and key electronics stores nationwide.

Indian missions lead International Yoga Day celebrations worldwide

Guwahati: Indian missions across the globe marked the 11th International Yoga Day with great zeal and participation on June 21. From Times Square in New York to cities in Africa, and from London to Beijing, thousands gathered to celebrate yoga, the ancient Indian practice symbolizing unity, peace, and wellness.

Mass yoga sessions were held in countries including the US, Russia, UK, France, China, Japan, Australia, and Qatar. At the UN Headquarters in New York, yoga guru Deepak Chopra led a meditation session with over 1,200 participants. Ambassador P. Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, said this year's theme, "One Earth, One Health," echoes the Indian ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family.

A special message from King Charles III was read out during the London event, while in Juba, South Sudan, the Indian Embassy's celebration saw involvement from UN peacekeepers and local citizens alike.

Guwahati also witnessed growing interest



in yoga-related products and wellness services. Local gyms and yoga studios reported a spike in inquiries, and shops offering mats, herbal supplements, and ayurvedic items saw a 20% rise in sales, highlighting the commercial impact of Yoga Day on the region's wellness economy.

International Yoga Day, proposed by PM Narendra Modi and adopted by the UN in 2014, continues to unite the world in a celebration of health and harmony.

Tetley launches India's first green tea with L-Carnitine and Biotin, taps wellness sector with Kriti Sanon campaign

Guwahati: Tata Consumer Products has announced a category-first innovation with the launch of Tetley Green Tea Slim Care with added L-Carnitine and Tetley Green Tea Beauty Care with added Biotin. These new functional variants aim to meet the growing demand for wellness-focused beverages, blending taste with scientifically backed ingredients.

The launch is backed by the #NotYourRegularGreenTea campaign, fronted by Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon, who also joins as the brand ambassador. Sanon, known for her fitness-conscious image, said the product "fits right in" with her active lifestyle, highlighting the blend's dual

benefits of flavor and function.

According to Puneet Das, President – Packaged Beverages, Tata Consumer Products, the move addresses consumer demand for efficacy in everyday choices. "These green teas support real wellness goals," he said.

In Guwahati, where urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented alternatives, local retailers have reported rising interest in value-added beverages. The Tetley variants are expected to perform well, especially among young professionals and fitness enthusiasts looking for convenient wellness solutions.

Available across retail and



e-commerce platforms nationwide, the new Tetley range reinforces Tata Consumer Products' position as a pioneer in health-forward beverage innovation.

Tata AIA unveils two new funds to tap into India's growth story



Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the launch of two new equity-focused unit-linked funds—Tata AIA Top 200 Alpha 30 Index Fund and Tata AIA Top 200 Alpha 30 Index Pension Fund—to help investors benefit from India's robust economic trajectory. Available at ₹10 per unit during the New Fund Offer (NFO) period till June 30, 2025, these funds offer long-term capital appreciation by investing in high-alpha stocks under the Nifty 200 Alpha 30 Index.

The Alpha 30 Index Fund is accessible through various Tata AIA plans including Param Raksha Life Growth+ and Shubh Fortune, while the Pension Fund is exclusive to the Smart Pension Secure Plan. These funds offer strategic diversification, alpha-generating stock exposure, and the added benefit of life insurance.

In Guwahati, financial advisors anticipate strong traction for these offerings, especially among salaried professionals and young investors seeking tax-efficient, equity-driven solutions. The city's rising awareness of wealth-building instruments aligned with national growth trends makes it a promising market for Tata AIA's latest products.

With 99.93% of its fund AUM rated 4 or 5 stars by Morningstar and a YoY AUM growth of 27.08%, Tata AIA continues to deliver performance-driven insurance solutions tailored to India's evolving financial landscape.

Naga sadhus turn eye charts, win global honour for India at Cannes Lions 2025



Guwahati: India's Naga Sadhus have earned global acclaim with the 'Naga Saint Eye Test'—a unique diabetes and blindness awareness campaign that bagged the Silver Lion at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2025. The initiative, conducted during Maha Kumbh 2025 at Prayagraj, was led by Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL) and Eyebetes Foundation.

With diabetes affecting nearly 100 million Indians and being a major cause of preventable blindness, the campaign transformed Naga Sadhus into living eye charts by painting bold Hindi letters on their backs in Devanagari script. Those unable to read them were offered free eye screenings. The campaign screened over 400,000 individuals and reached 600 million people globally.

Swati Bhattacharya of Godrej Creative Lab called it "an idea that travelled from the world's biggest spiritual festival to the world's biggest creative festival." Dr. Nishant Kumar, founder of Eyebetes, hailed it as a culturally resonant innovation.

In Guwahati, market experts view this recognition as a reminder of the potential for culturally rooted campaigns to elevate India's global image. Healthcare entrepreneurs and advertising firms in the region are now exploring similar awareness models that blend tradition with innovation.

Royal Stag Barrel Select Shorts launches a new campaign—'For the Select Ones'

Mumbai: Royal Stag Barrel Select Shorts, the critically acclaimed platform for India's finest short film storytelling—has unveiled its new thematic campaign, For the Select Ones, featuring celebrated artists Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha. Conceptualised by FCB NEO, the



campaign is a tribute to those who, in their journey to success, consistently make thoughtful choices—striving for refinement and knowledge while staying true to their values and aspirations. Watch the brand film here: For The Select Ones | Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha | Royal Stag Barrel Select Shorts - YouTube. Over the years, the platform has collaborated with India's most celebrated artists and filmmakers—Sujoy Ghosh, Anurag Kashyap, Neeraj Ghaywan, Dibakar Banerjee, and Tigmanshu Dhulia—each contributing distinct, thought-provoking stories that reflect a refined artistic lens.

Speaking on the campaign, Kartik Mohindra, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India, said: "Royal Stag Barrel Select Shorts has evolved into creating an ecosystem that brings world-class narratives to curious and discerning audiences, thus becoming the destination for short films in India." "The process of creating this story with Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha was about capturing that subtle, internal journey, where each choice becomes a building block of a legacy," expressed Mayuresh Dubhashi, CCO, FCB NEO. Sharing his thoughts, Rajkumar Rao said: "I'm proud to be part of Royal Stag Barrel Select Shorts' campaign that celebrates the strength of discerning choices." Adding her perspective, Patralekha said: "I'm honoured to collaborate with a brand that champions discernment and excellence."

Bajaj Allianz launches 'Aponar Babe' health insurance tailored for Assam residents



Guwahati: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a state-specific health insurance plan named 'Aponar Babe', specially curated to meet the unique medical needs of the people of Assam. The product offers extensive coverage, flexible premiums, and innovative features tailored to the healthcare landscape of the state.

'Aponar Babe' provides coverage ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh, available in both individual and floater variants. The plan includes hospitalisation, advanced treatments such as robotic surgeries, and organ donor expenses, with lifetime renewals and optional add-ons like unlimited sum insured reinstatement and accidental death cover. A unique 'Festive Bonus' benefit offers ₹1,000 per day for festival-time hospitalisations in Assam.

Highlighting its local relevance, Guwahati is expected to respond positively due to growing health awareness and demand for accessible medical coverage. With city hospitals offering modern treatments and a rising middle-class population, the plan's affordability and personalisation make it highly relevant for both urban and semi-urban families across Assam.

MD & CEO Dr. Tapan Singhel remarked, "With Aponar Babe—Insurance made for you—we aim to ensure health security is a right, not a privilege." The plan is available via physical branches, partner banks, agents, and online platforms.

International rush to join ISRL amid 50% spike in rider numbers

Guwahati: The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), the world's first franchise-based Supercross league, has officially closed rider registrations for its much-anticipated Season 2 mega auction, set to take place in August 2025. This year, ISRL has attracted a record-breaking 155 riders - registering over 50% growth from Season 1 and establishing itself as a serious international platform for elite Supercross athletes. With riders hailing from 21 countries from across 6 continents, the 2025 roster showcases a powerful blend of world champions, rising stars, and homegrown Indian talent. The league's exponential growth signals a pivotal moment in the evolution of motorsports in India. Joining the league for the first time are globally renowned Supercross athletes such as: 1) Greg Aranda (France) - 6X German Supercross Champion, 2) Anthony Bourdon (France) - Vice Champion, French SX1, 3) Maxime Desprey (France) - French MX & SX Champion, 4) Justin Starling (USA) - AMA SX veteran with 106 main events, 5) Alexander Fedortsov (USA) - 2025 SMX Next AMA National Champion, 6) Luke Clout (Australia) - AMA SX top 5, World Supercross Championship rider.

Eeshan Lokhande, Co-founder of ISRL, said: "Supercross in India is clearly on a sharp growth trajectory, and this year's volume and quality of



rider registrations reflect that momentum." John Short, USA (Top 10 AMA SX) who will be racing at ISRL for the first time, shared, "I've competed in leagues in various countries, and when I saw what the ISRL accomplished in Season 1, I knew I wanted to be part of it." With superstar Salman Khan as Brand Ambassador, Season 2 is set to be bigger, bolder, and faster. Some quotes from Global Champions who join the line-up for ISRL Season 2 following standout performances in season 1. Matt Moss (9X Australian Champion) - "Season 1 was a fantastic experience. Coming to India was a cultural shift but in the best way." Rugved Barguje (India SX/MX Champion) - "Racing on a proper Supercross track in India was a dream." Jordi Tixier (MXON World Champion) - "ISRL's debut season really impressed me."

Nissan expands Rajasthan footprint with five new touchpoints, eyes regional growth

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. has taken a major step in strengthening its regional presence by launching five new customer touchpoints across Rajasthan in a single week. With this expansion, the company now boasts 283 touchpoints nationwide and 19 in Rajasthan alone, reflecting its aggressive network growth strategy in high-potential markets.

The newly inaugurated facilities include a showroom and workshop in Jaipur, a 3S (Sales, Service, Spare Parts) centre in Udaipur, and a showroom in Ajmer. These modern centres are equipped to deliver a seamless and enriching customer experience and were inaugurated by Nissan India Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa, who emphasized the



company's commitment to service and accessibility in emerging Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Meanwhile, in Guwahati, Nissan's expansion move has sparked interest among dealers and customers alike. Industry experts believe that such regional strategies could lead to similar growth in Northeast India, where demand for compact SUVs

like the New Nissan Magnite is steadily rising due to affordability and urban mobility needs.

Nissan has also announced plans to roll out its government-approved CNG retro-fitment kit in Rajasthan, tapping into the growing demand for eco-friendly fuel alternatives as part of its sustainable mobility mission.

Amway India strengthens its nutrition category offering with Nutrilite Triple Protect

Imphal: With rising lifestyle diseases and growing health awareness, India is seeing a clear shift toward proactive healthcare. Aligning with the evolving consumer need, Amway India, a leading company supporting health and wellbeing, has strengthened its nutrition category offering with Nutrilite Triple Protect. A scientifically formulated, plant-based supplement powered by the natural strength of Acerola Cherry, Turmeric, and Licorice. This potent formulation has nutrients that offer triple-action benefits—supporting immunity, reducing inflammation, and providing strong antioxidant protection for the gut, skin, and immune health. Commenting on the launch, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, stated, "Keeping in mind the consumer needs and as part of our strategic business priority of Accelerating Product Innovation Pipeline, we are happy to introduce our latest innovation—Nutrilite Triple Protect by Amway."

Nutrilite Triple Protect embodies the philosophy of sustainable, plant-based, and evidence-backed nutrition. Each serving delivers 100% of the Recommended Daily Allow-



ance (RDA) of Vitamin C, ensuring support for immune health. Talking about the power-packed formulation, Amrita Asrani, Chief Marketing Officer, Amway India, said, "Nutrilite Triple Protect is a testament to Amway India's ongoing commitment to advancing holistic well-being." With Nutrilite Triple Protect, Amway India is reaffirming its commitment to helping millions embrace wellness as a way of life. Nutrilite Triple Protect is now available exclusively by Distributors/ Amway Business Owners across India, and to know more, visit the company's website www.amway.in.

'Udaan' initiative launched to tackle menstrual health challenges across four states

Dibrugarh: Flipkart Foundation in collaboration with Goonj, has launched 'Udaan: Empowered by Flipkart Foundation'—a grassroots initiative targeting menstrual wellbeing among women and adolescent girls in Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, and West Bengal.

The campaign aims to reach over 18,700 women through direct on-ground interventions and engage more than 5 lakh individuals via digital outreach. At its core are 225 'Chuppi Todo Baithaks'—interactive sessions encouraging open discussions to dismantle menstrual taboos. The initiative follows a Four-A model: Access, Awareness, Affordability, and Action.

A key component is the distribution of Goonj's eco-friendly 'MY Pads', made from upcycled fabric, to over 9,350 women, addressing both hygiene and environmental concerns. Urban cloth collection drives will also support pad production.

In Dibrugarh, the initiative is seen as timely. Many local women still lack access to affordable sanitary products. Community stakeholders believe Udaan will improve awareness, promote sustainable practices, and empower local women to lead health dialogues.

"This is about giving women voice and dignity," said Sarah Gideon, VP at Flipkart. Goonj co-founder Meenakshi Gupta emphasized the human aspect of menstrual wellbeing.

With Udaan, menstrual health is stepping out of the shadows—into dialogue, dignity, and change.



Novo Nordisk Launches Wegovy in India, Offering New Hope for Obesity and Heart Health

Mumbai: Novo Nordisk has launched Wegovy (semaglutide) in India, making it the country's first weight management drug also proven to reduce the risk of major cardiovascular events. Administered as a once-weekly injection,

Wegovy is available in five dosing strengths through a user-friendly pen device.

Wegovy is approved for adults with overweight or obesity and is clinically shown to help patients lose significant weight and lower their risk

of heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular death by 20%. The medication comes with an India-specific pricing strategy, ensuring the first three dosing strengths are offered at the same price to ease financial burden during dosage

adjustments.

With nearly one in four Indian adults living with overweight or obesity, experts say Wegovy could be a game-changer in tackling the nation's rising obesity and related health challenges.

Sony India launches Alpha 1 II full-frame camera, sets new benchmark in pro imaging

Guwahati: Sony India has unveiled its latest flagship camera, the Alpha™ 1 II, offering professionals a powerful combination of 50.1 MP resolution, advanced AI autofocus, and 8K video capabilities. Designed for photographers and videographers seeking speed, clarity, and precision, the camera goes on sale from June 25 at ₹5,79,990.



Equipped with a stacked Exmor RS™ CMOS sensor and the BIONZ XR™ processor, the Alpha 1 II enables up to 30 fps blackout-free shooting, Real-time Recognition AF, and Pre-Capture of up to one second. It also supports 8K 30p and 4K 120p recording, enhanced by image stabilization up to 8.5 stops for crisp and dynamic footage.

Sony has also emphasized sustainability, packaging the Alpha 1 II in plastic-free, eco-friendly material made from bamboo and sugarcane pulp.

In Guwahati, photography retailers and professionals have welcomed the launch, noting increased demand for high-speed, AI-enabled cameras for wildlife and sports coverage in the Northeast. “With its upgraded tracking features, this model is ideal for action-heavy assignments in Kaziranga or during Bihu festivals,” said a local retailer.

The camera will be available through Sony Centers, Alpha Flagship stores, and leading online platforms across India.

Moneyboxx Finance Sponsors Cricket Team in Bengal Pro T20 League



Mumbai: Moneyboxx Finance Ltd., a BSE-listed NBFC focused on transforming credit access for the underserved micro and small enterprises in India, has announced sponsorship initiative with one of India’s rapidly growing regional T20 cricket leagues with an aim to increase grassroots engagement. The company has partnered with Sobisco Smashers Malda in the Bengal Pro T20 League, securing prominent trouser branding on both legs for the team. Through prominent trouser branding on both legs, the company aims to go beyond traditional brand exposure and build a deeper emotional connection with the communities it serves. The Bengal Pro T20 league is scheduled to take place from 11th to 28th June 2025. This T20 League have 8 teams with a total of 31 matches to be played during the league.

Commenting on this campaign, Mr. Mayur Modi, Moneyboxx Finance Ltd., said, “Cricket and credit may seem like distant worlds, but at Moneyboxx, we see the same story of belief, opportunity, and breakthrough.” The league stands out as a valuable platform for aspiring cricketers, offering them the rare opportunity to share the field with seasoned national and international players like Mohammad Shami, Manoj Tiwari, Shahbaz Ahmed, and Abhishek Porel. Moneyboxx currently operates 163 branches across 12 states, leveraging a robust phygital lending model that combines strong on-ground presence with digital efficiencies.

IIMA Ventures, SAP launch ‘North East Growth Lab’ to boost 90 startups across Northeast

Guwahati: IIMA Ventures, in collaboration with SAP, launched the North East Growth Lab (NEGL)—a multi-state initiative to accelerate over 90 startups and social enterprises across all eight northeastern states.

Building on the success of the World Bank-supported Assam Agribusiness Growth Lab (AAGL), the NEGL aims to provide catalytic capital, mentorship, training, and market access to high-potential ventures. Over the next five years, the initiative targets to create an enterprise value of ₹100 crore and positively impact over 5 lakh individuals from low- and middle-income backgrounds.

The program is expected to be a game-changer for Guwahati, already emerging as a regional hub for innovation. With several startups like Dream Hives (mead from honey), Greengen (biofertilizer for tea plantations), and Pustikor Foods (Joha rice-based cookies) already gaining traction, the initiative is poised to energize local ecosystems and draw investor interest to Assam’s largest city.

NEGL will also facilitate outreach programs, investor demo days, and bootcamps in the region and metro cities. It will actively collaborate with institutions like NABARD, NEDFI, NEHDC, NERMAC, and the Ministry of DoNER to ensure long-term regional impact.

Medanta to hold multi-speciality medical camp in Kohima from June 25

Guwahati: In a move to boost access to quality healthcare in Nagaland, Gurgaon-based Medanta – The Medicity, in partnership with the Government of Nagaland, IDAN, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, and Nagaland Police, will organize a three-day multi-speciality medical camp in Kohima from June 25 to 27, 2025.

Ranked India’s Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for six consecutive years, Medanta is offering this camp as part of its collaboration under the Chief Minister’s Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS). The initiative aims to provide specialized care to underserved communities and address Nagaland’s pressing cancer burden.

The camp will be held across three venues: IDAN Capital Convention Center (June 25), Directorate of Industries and Commerce Office (June 26), and Police Headquarters (June 27). Distinguished guests like Speaker Sharingain



Longkumer, Director P. Tokugha Sema, and DGP Rupin Sharma will inaugurate the sessions.

Dr. Naresh Trehan, CMD of Medanta, emphasized, “Quality healthcare is a right, not a privilege.”

In Guwahati, medical professionals welcomed the initiative, noting that enhanced outreach in the Northeast could encourage similar health partnerships in Assam. Guwahati sees a rising demand for specialized care, and Medanta’s presence may pave the way for more collaborative health missions in the region.

Women prioritise term insurance to secure child’s future: Bajaj Allianz Life Survey 2025

Guwahati: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance’s latest Women Term Survey 2025 reveals that Indian women are increasingly choosing term insurance as a key tool to ensure their children’s financial security. Conducted in collaboration with Pixis Global and Qvals.AI, the survey covered over 1,000 salaried and self-employed women across metro, tier 1, and tier 2 cities.

The study shows that 73% of mothers are concerned about funding their child’s education in their absence, while 61% worry about their children’s financial stability in case of unforeseen events. As a result, 46% of women prefer term insurance, making it the most preferred financial product to safeguard their children’s future. Critical Ill-



ness cover (87%) and built-in health management services (50%) are among the most valued features.

In Guwahati, a growing number of women professionals are echoing this trend. Local insurance advisors noted a noticeable rise in interest from mothers seeking term plans with child income protection and health benefits. “We are

seeing more women taking independent financial decisions. For them, securing their child’s future is non-negotiable,” said a leading insurance consultant in Guwahati.

Bajaj Allianz Life aims to bridge existing gaps in term plans by offering flexible, comprehensive coverage to meet women’s evolving financial goals.

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 effi-



ciency 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.

Sara Ali Khan entertains with impromptu shayari during the promotion of 'Metro.. In Dino'

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan often leaves movie buffs impressed with her quick presence of mind at various events. During one of the promotional events for her upcoming movie, "Metro... In Dino" Sara was accompanied by Aditya Roy Kapur, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal and film's director Anurag Basu. Making a fun interaction even more memorable, Sara busted into an impromptu shayari. She was heard saying,

"Ankho main dikhta hain shaq, phir tum bologe what the duck, what the duck, Shayari karna hain mera haq, mera haq mera haq, Is shayari ko ap rakh, ap rakh, ap rakh, I don't thak, I don't thak, I don't thak, I go buk, I go buk, I go buk, This was your luck, this was your luck, this was your luck."

Everyone seemed to have been impressed with Sara's newfound talent. Sharing the clip of her on the spot shayari on her Instagram han-



dle, Sara captioned the post, "One more day of promotion! By the end it's only commotion...But long time no shayari...Maza aya impromptu without tayari...Goodnight from Sara the shayar...Say you loved my poem even if it makes you a liar."

Recently, actor Rohan Gurubaxani, who is also a part of the "Metro... In Dino" cast reflected on his experience of working with seasoned performers like Pankaj Tripathi and Konkona Sen Sharma.

Kajol breaks silence on her 'Haunted' Ramoji Film City remark: 'Stayed there many times'



Mumbai: Actress Kajol has been facing a lot of backlash for her remark on Hyderabad's iconic Ramoji Film City. Now, she has finally broken her silence on the matter, claiming that she has filmed several projects in the Ramoji Film City, and always found the environment there to be extremely professional.

Claiming that she even saw many tourists enjoying a good time there, Kajol wrote on her X (formerly known as Twitter) timeline, "I wish to address my earlier remark about Ramoji Film City in the context of promoting my film MAA. I have filmed multiple projects at Ramoji Film City and stayed there many times over the years. I have always found it to be a very professional environment for filmmaking and I have seen so many tourists enjoying themselves.

Rashmika Mandanna calls her 'Kuberaa' co-star Dhanush 'a gem of a person'

Mumbai: As Sekhar Kamula's "Kuberaa" finally reached the audience on June 20, the leading lady of the drama, Rashmika Mandanna penned an appreciation post for co-star Dhanush.

Dropping a cute selfie of the two on her Instagram account, the 'Animal' actress wrote, "@dhanushkraj sir, This is literally the only picture I have with you despite of doing an entire film with you.."

Calling Dhanush a gem of a person, Rashmika's appreciation post further read, "This is a random appreciation post for you. You've been an absolute gem of a person.. Thankyou so much for working so incredibly hard each and every day (only know this cz every time we talk we are in different cities, doing different things and talking about how important rest is but

how we are never actually able to do anything about it) and for giving us this kind of performance not only in Kuberaa, but in everything that you do.. it's nothing short of incredible..?"

The 'Pushpa' actress revealed that Dhanush is extremely kind to everyone around him. "You've been so incredibly kind, not only to me but everyone who I've seen you interact with.. and that I'll remember forever the number of laddoos you've given me on set.. the way you'd help me with my Tamil lines everyday.. when you liked the way I'd do a scene and you'd say.. 'that was nice..'", she added.

Wishing her co-star all the best, Rashmika concluding saying, "These might all be small things but they really stay with you.. @dhanushkraj sir. I wish you the bestest for everything



in the future and last but not the least..Yaaaay! We did it!"

Backed by Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP, in collaboration with Amigos Creations, the project features Nagarjuna, Jim Sarbh, and Dalip Tahil in crucial roles, along with others. The music for the drama has been provided by Devi Sri Prasad.

Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal, and Huma Qureshi groove to 'Dil Thaam Ke' from 'Maalik'

Mumbai: Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal, and Huma Qureshi turned up the energy as they danced together to the peppy track 'Dil Thaam Ke' from the upcoming film "Maalik." The trio showcased cool dance moves while performing to the foot-tapping number. On Tuesday, Iqbal posted a video on his Instagram where he is seen grooving alongside his wife, Sonakshi, and close friend Huma. Sharing the video, he wrote, "Khoob jamega rang jab naachenge teen yaar ... NIKITA ROY, MALLIKA aur MAIN #DilThaamKe Maalik ke saath performance pending hai @rajkummar_ao." At one point in the video, Qureshi



was seen teaching the steps to Zaheer Iqbal. The trio also danced together to the signature move from the song. The video ended with the actor's funny moves.

"Dil Thaam Ke" showcases Huma Qureshi in a vibrant,

high-octane performance. This upbeat track is composed by the acclaimed duo SachinJigar, with lyrics written by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The energetic vocals are delivered by Rashmeet Kaur and Rana Majumdar.

Vidya Balan seeks blessings from Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Temple

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Vidya Balan paid a visit to Lord Venkateswara at the famous Tirumala Temple, and offered prayers on Saturday. The actress was accompanied by her family members.

After offering prayers, Vidya Balan and her family members made offerings to the deity through the hundi, a traditional practice at the temple. They also received vedic blessings from the priests and were presented with prasad and sheshavas-taram by the temple officials.

For her visit to the temple, the actress opted for a traditional attire. After the prayers, the actress stepped out of the temple, where she was mobbed by fans and devotees. The actress was seen smiling and waving at the crowd as they clicked photos and selfies with her.

Earlier in March this year, the actress Vidya Balan, took to her Instagram, and shared the video in question notifying her followers about its lack of authenticity. She urged her followers to not take anything on face value in current times where it is so easy to generate video content using deep fakes.



She also penned a long note in the caption asking her followers to be mindful of misleading information, and stressed upon the practice of verifying anything that's available on the Internet.

She wrote, "There are multiple videos currently circulating on social media and WhatsApp, which appear to feature me. However, I want to clarify that the videos are AI-generated and inauthentic. I have no involvement in its creation or dissemination, nor do I endorse its content in any way. Any claims made in the videos should not be attributed to me, as it does not reflect my views or work".

"I urge everyone to verify information before sharing and be cautious of misleading AI-generated content. #FakeAlert #StayAware", she added.

Sonam Kapoor donates 12 inches of her hair to charity

Mumbai: Actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor chopped off 12 inches from her long black tresses to donate to charity. Sonam took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself getting a haircut and flaunting her new look and credited her genetics for long thick hair. In the clip, she was heard saying: "Hi everyone, so I decided to cut 12 inches of my hair. It doesn't seem that much on this video, but it's a foot of hair. My hair has become really long because of my genetics, i.e. Anil Kapoor."

She added: "I have very long hair and thick hair. And I just felt it was time to kind of chop a lot of it off and give it away to charity. And my hair stylist, Pete, who has been doing my hair and has been taking care of my hair for the last couple of years, and I decided to cut a lot of it off. It's still really long hair, but I'm very happy and refreshed for the summer. Lots of love!"

Sonam took to the caption section and wrote: "Decided to cut off 12 inches off my hair and give it away! @peteburkill thanks @anilskapoor for the genes." Up next, Sonam will be seen in the "Battle of Bittora." It is based on Anuja Chauhan's 2010 novel of the same name that shares the love story between two upcoming politicians who despite being in love are contesting elections against each other.



Bumrah's Five-Wicket Haul Gives India Slim Lead as England Post 465 All Out

Leeds: Jasprit Bumrah produced a standout performance with the ball, claiming his 14th five-wicket haul in Test cricket, as India bowled out England for 465 on the third day of the opening Test. Despite Bumrah's brilliance, England managed to draw parity with India, conceding only a slender six-run lead after India's firstinnings total of 471. England resumed the day at 209 for three and pressed ahead with positive intent, reaching 327 for five at lunch, with Harry Brook leading the charge. The afternoon session saw the hosts continue their aggressive approach, adding 138 runs in just 23.4 overs before being dismissed, nullifying India's hard-fought advantage.

Brook, who survived multiple chances including a no-ball dis-



missal by Bumrah on day two and a drop on 46 by Rishabh Pant, played a commanding innings but fell agonisingly short of a century. He was dismissed for 99 off 112 balls in the 88th over by Prasidh Krishna, who also removed Jamie Smith earlier but conceded 128 runs in 20 overs due to a one-dimensional short-ball strategy.

India's bowling attack looked largely toothless apart from Bumrah. Shardul Thakur was underutilized once again, raising eyebrows over his continued selection. Mohammed Siraj and Krishna lacked the consistency required at this level, and the team's persistent fielding lapses further hampered their efforts. Yash-

asvi Jaiswal dropped Brook on 82, one of several missed opportunities in the field.

Bumrah was the standout, finishing with figures of 5 for 83 in 24.4 overs, eventually ending the English innings by bowling out Josh Tongue. However, Chris Woakes frustrated India towards the end, striking a brisk 38 off 55 balls and playing key shots against the short-ball barrage, including back-to-back boundaries off Krishna. England's intent to counterattack was evident throughout the day. Brook displayed aggressive strokeplay from the outset, targeting both pace and spin. His ability to dance down the track to pacers and loft them over the covers was particularly noteworthy.

Earlier in the day, Ollie Pope, who resumed on his overnight

score of 106, fell to a wide delivery from Krishna, edging behind. Ben Stokes followed soon after, caught behind off Siraj. India's bowlers also expressed frustration over the condition of the Dukes ball, repeatedly voicing concerns to the umpires. A replacement was finally agreed upon before the 75th over, with the new ball taken after 80.

The third day's play highlighted England's aggressive batting philosophy and exposed the inconsistencies in India's bowling unit outside of Bumrah. The match now heads into a crucial phase, with India needing a strong second innings to regain control and avoid a momentum swing in England's favour. With the scores nearly level and two full days left, the contest is finely poised at Headingley

Pant's Hundred Result of Hard Work on Defence After Australia Tour: Childhood Coach Devender Sharma



New Delhi: Rishabh Pant's scintillating century in the opening Test against England at Leeds has been the product of significant improvements to his defensive game and shot selection following a disappointing tour of Australia, according to his childhood coach Devender Sharma. Speaking to PTI Videos, Sharma—who mentored Pant alongside the late Tarak Sinha—said the left-hander had worked extensively on curbing rash strokeplay after his failures Down Under.

"After he failed in Australia, he made a lot of changes to his defensive techniques and curbed his stroke play, which you also saw in the match. Pant is a match-winner," Sharma said. "Before he went to England, we discussed his defence because his Australia tour didn't go well. We decided he would play fewer strokes and focus more on batting there. England's conditions are different; there's more movement," he added. The results were on full display in Leeds, where Pant struck a magnificent 134, peppered with a dazzling array of shots while showing greater control and discipline at the crease.

During this innings, Pant surpassed MS Dhoni for the most Test centuries by an Indian wicketkeeper, registering his seventh hundred with a six off Shoaib Bashir. He also crossed the 3,000-run mark in Tests and now averages close to 44 from 44 matches. This wasn't Pant's first hundred in England—he also scored one on India's previous tour—and Sharma highlighted his unique ability to adapt to the challenging English conditions. "He scored a hundred last time in England as well. He has a lot of time when he bats, which is a factor that makes him successful in England. Playing from a slightly deeper position gives him a significant advantage," Sharma noted.

Hockey India congratulates Lalit Upadhyay on stellar career as veteran forward retires



New Delhi: Hockey India on Monday extended heartfelt congratulations to veteran forward Lalit Kumar Upadhyay as he announced his retirement from international hockey, bringing the curtains down on a remarkable career that spanned over a decade—from 2014 to 2025. Lalit, who hails from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, announced his decision through a heartfelt social media post shortly after India's final match of the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25 season against Belgium. Though he featured in four matches during the tour, his final ap-

pearance in the Indian jersey came against Australia on June 15.

Lalit played 183 matches for India at the senior level, scoring 67 goals. Over the years, he became a trusted name in India's forward line, known for his versatility, on-field intelligence, and calm demeanour in high-pressure situations. From making his debut at the 2014 Hockey World Cup to standing tall on the Olympic podium twice, Lalit's career is a timeline of some of Indian hockey's biggest milestones in the modern era.

Manu Bhaker posts inspiring message on Olympic Day: says 'It's just the beginning, we have so much more in us'

New Delhi: India's star of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, Manu Bhaker, took to social media to write an inspiring message for all aspiring Olympic champions as a part of the 2025 Olympic Day, being celebrated across the globe on Monday. Manu's performances in Paris took the nation by storm as she became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting with a bronze at Paris 2024 in the women's 10m air pistol event. It came a day after she became the first female shooter to reach an Olympic final in an individual event in 20 years.

Just days later, she teamed up with Sarabjot Singh to win bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, making her the first athlete from independent India to win two medals at a single Olympic Games.

"Every day, I thank my fate and my gods, who made it possible for me to live the dreams of millions of athletes. My shooting career is 9 years young, but like a desi, I have been an athlete ever since I gained consciousness. There is



no dream that cannot be fulfilled and no destination that cannot be reached, but the fuel will only be honesty, hard work, and hope. To all the aspiring Olympic champions, including myself, it's just the beginning; we have so much more in us. Let's get it! Jai Hind!! o #happyolympicday," posted Manu on Instagram.

Neeraj Chopra enters Ostrava Golden Spike as favourite ahead of homecoming

London: After securing his first win of the season with a fantastic performance at the Paris Diamond League, Neeraj Chopra now shifts his focus to the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 - a World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level) meeting - scheduled for Tuesday, June 24.

With the 90m barrier finally breached and a title already in his bag, this will be Neeraj's final competition before he returns home to Bengaluru for the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic on July 5. This will be Neeraj's first appearance at the Golden Spike event, having missed out in recent years

due to injury. But this time, the 27-year-old arrives with momentum on his side, enjoying a strong run of form under the guidance of Jan Zelezny. It will be his fifth outing of the season, following impressive performances at the Diamond League meets in Doha and Paris.