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Auto, steel, consumer durables make merry amid hopes of GST rate cuts

Mumbai: Auto stocks zoomed on Monday amid prospects of a reduction in GST rates from 28 per cent, with the government having sent a proposal for rate rationalisation and reforms to the group of ministers.

Shares of Maruti Suzuki India surged 8.94 per cent, Hyundai Motor India by 8.45 per cent, Ashok Leyland by 8.12 per cent, Apollo Tyres by 7.28 per cent, TVS Motor Company by 6.58 per cent, Hero MotoCorp by 5.90 per cent, and Bajaj Auto advanced 4.52 per cent on the BSE.

The stock of MRF went up 4.11 per cent, Mahindra & Mahindra by 3.54 per cent, Eicher Motors by 2.46 per cent, and Tata Motors by 1.78 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki chairman RC Bhargava told Reuters that the proposal to rationalise goods and services tax is a "huge reform", which is bound to have good outcomes.

Consumer durables stocks surged on Monday, buoyed by plans for big bang reforms in the GST regime by Diwali.

Shares of Amber Enterprises India zoomed 7.93 per cent, Blue Star surged 7.35 per cent, Voltas jumped 5.78 per cent, Havells India climbed 5.12 per cent, Whirlpool of India by 4.74 per cent, and Symphony by 3.69 per cent on the BSE.

Steel stocks such as JSW Steel, Tata Steel, and Jindal Steel rose between 2-3 per cent on Monday after the DGTR proposed a safeguard duty for 3 years. The GST rate cut also improved prospects for a demand uptick. JSW Steel closed at ₹1079.8 on the NSE, a new 52-week closing high. Tata Steel closed at ₹157.96, up 1.71 per cent.

Airtel users face widespread network outage

New Delhi: Airtel customers across several parts of India faced a major network outage on Monday, with many reporting problems using mobile data, voice calls and SMS services. According to outage tracking website Downtdetector, more than 2,300 complaints were registered by 4:32 PM -- suggesting that the disruption was widespread and affected both mobile data and voice connectivity.

Responding to a post on X that said Airtel users in Delhi-NCR were facing problems making calls, the company said it is working to fix the issue. Airtel acknowledged the problem and issued a statement saying, "We are currently experiencing a network outage, our team is actively working to resolve the issue and restore services promptly. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused."

No proposal to impose transaction charges on UPI payments, reiterates Centre

New Delhi: There is no proposal to impose transaction charges on unified payments interface (UPI) based digital payments, the government reiterated on Monday. Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions are facilitated by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), and its circular (dated 30.08.2019) had permitted the acquiring banks to charge Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) at 0.30 per cent of the transaction value.

"However, section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, provides that no bank or system provider shall impose any charge on a payer making payment, or a beneficiary receiving payment, through electronic modes prescribed under section 269SU of the Income-tax Act, 1961," Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.



Indian Oil inks pact with Air India for supply of sustainable aviation fuel

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Air India on Tuesday for the supply of sustainable aviation fuel, in a significant step towards a greener future for aviation in the country. By integrating certified green fuels into commercial operations, Indian Oil and Air India are together reinforcing India's position as a front-runner in sustainable aviation and energy transition. Through this MoU, Indi-

an Oil and Air India aim to collaborate on the supply of SAF to meet the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) targets for international flights, ensuring a reliable, transparent, and sustainable fuel supply to support the environmental goals of both companies, the statement said. As part of its broader strategy to achieve the IATA Net Zero by 2050 target and comply with CORSIA obligations.



White House weighs Intel stake buy in biggest federal intervention since 2008 auto bailout

The Trump administration has held talks on taking a 10 per cent stake in Intel, in one of the largest government interventions in a US company since the 2008 auto bailouts.

The discussion has included converting \$10.86 billion in recent federal grants into equity in Intel, which is worth about \$100 billion.

In 2008, to prevent the collapse of Chrysler and General Motors, the government poured tens of billions of dollars into the companies and helped them reorganise. The manoeuvre is believed to have saved more than a million auto industry jobs.

While the US is not facing a similar economic threat today, the Trump administration has been unusually aggressive in taking stakes in businesses. The federal government took a "golden share" in US Steel this year as part of a deal to approve its sale to Japan's Nippon Steel.

Tuesday's move would underscore Intel's strategic importance as America's last advanced chip producer, at a time when Taiwan's TSMC dominates the market and tensions with China are rising.

But analysts question whether a government stake would solve Intel's deeper issues, including a struggling foundry business and missed opportunities in AI.

Indian stock market rally continues, Sensex jumps 370 points

Mumbai: The Indian benchmark indices ended the session with a decent rally on Tuesday for the second consecutive day, buoyed by the GST rationalisation move. Sensex settled at 81,644.39, up 370 points or 0.46 per cent. The 30-share index started the session with a decent gapup at 81,391.11 against last session's closing of 81,273.75. Continuing the last session's gaining momentum, the index touched an intra-day high at 81,755.88, buoyed by buying in auto, FMCG, oil and gas and others.

Nifty ended the session at 24,980.65, up 103.70 or 0.42 per cent. "The national market continued the renewed



momentum, buoyed by expectations of GST rationalisation and a recent upgrade in India's credit rating," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

Additional optimism came from signs of easing geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine, shifting the

nearterm outlook from consolidation to a more constructive stance, Nair added. Tata Motors, Adani Ports, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Bank, Maruti, Bharati Airtel, Tata Steel, ITC, Ultratech Cement and Infosys were the top gainers among the Sensex basket.

Include mobile phones in 5 pc GST slab of essential goods: Industry



New Delhi: As the country awaits GST rate rationalisation, the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) on Tuesday called for the inclusion of mobile phones and components in the 5 per cent GST slab reserved for essential goods. Calling the current 18 per cent GST slab "regressive", ICEA argued that mobile phones, essential for digital access for over 90 crore Indian citizens, should be classified as 'necessities' in

the upcoming GST reform.

"The mobile phone is no longer an aspirational good; it is an essential digital infrastructure for education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and governance. It should rightly be taxed at 5 per cent GST, in line with the Prime Minister's GST reform agenda and his vision of a \$500 billion electronics ecosystem," said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA.

India cannot create an inclusive Digital India if the devices that enable it remain unaffordable for millions. Placing mobile phones in the 5 per cent GST slab will restore affordability, stimulate demand, and accelerate India's journey towards universal digital access, Mohindroo added. The Central government has mulled reducing the current four-slab structure into two primary rates - 5 per cent and 18 per cent - while introducing a special 40 per cent slab for luxury and sin goods.

Center Fresh launches humorous ‘Dimaag Pe Rakhe Lagaam’ campaign to tackle overthinking

Shillong: Chewing gum brand Center Fresh, from Perfetti Van Melle India, has unveiled its latest campaign, “Dimaag pe rakhel agaam,” targeting the growing habit of overthinking among Indians. Inspired by the India Overthinking Report developed with YouGov, which found that 81% of people spend over three hours daily lost in thought spirals, the campaign presents the gum as a refresh-

ing pause that helps clear the mind.

The campaign features two quirky TVCs directed by Nitesh Tiwari and conceptualised by Ogilvy, humorously portraying relatable moments such as overanalyzing a deleted message or misreading small situations. “The minty burst of freshness will help break the cycle of overthinking and bring moments of clarity,” said Gunjan Khetan,

Marketing Director, Perfetti Van Melle India.

In Shillong, the campaign is expected to resonate strongly with younger shoppers navigating a mix of digital interactions and everyday stress. Local traders believe the ad’s playful approach could boost impulse purchases, especially among college students and office-goers who often seek quick refreshments during breaks.



The campaign will run across TV, digital, and social media, reinforcing Center Fresh’s image as more than gum — a quick refreshment for the mind.

Godrej expands smart security range in Guwahati, targets 80% market share

Guwahati: Godrej Enterprises Group’s Security Solutions division on Wednesday unveiled its latest range of tech-enabled premium home lockers in Guwahati, reaffirming its leadership in the growing security market of Assam and the Northeast. The company, which already holds a 75% share in the home locker segment and about 70% in the jewellery segment, now aims to expand its dominance to 80% over the next three years with 18% year-on-year growth.

Pushkar Gokhale, Business Head of Security Solutions, said, “As Guwahati and the Northeast emerge among India’s fastest-growing markets, security is no longer just a safeguard but a lifestyle necessity. Our new range blends intuitive design with advanced technology, catering both to households and jewellers.”

Guwahati is witnessing a surge in demand for advanced security products as rapid urbanisation, premium housing projects, and increasing jewellery sales reshape consumer behaviour. With gold prices soaring to ₹1 lakh per 10 grams, jewellers in Guwahati are also experiencing a shift towards recycled gold transactions, further fuelling the need for reliable and BIS-certified safes.

Among the new launches are the Defender Aurum Pro Royal safe for jewellers, the AccuGoldiEDX gold testing machine, and advanced home lockers such as NX Pro Luxe, Rhino Regal, and NX Seal, designed for both style and security.

Education key to India’s development by 2047, says VIT Chancellor at 40th convocation

Guwahati: Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), stressed the critical role of education in transforming India into a developed nation by 2047 during the university’s 40th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday. Supreme Court Justice R. Mahadevan served as the chief guest, conferring degrees to 8,310 undergraduates, 2,802 postgraduates, and 451 doctoral recipients. Additionally, 68 students were awarded gold medals for outstanding achievements, and 203 were recognized for their rankings.

Notable attendees included Tamil Nadu Police Academy Director DGP Sandeep Rai Rathore, who received a Ph.D. in Disaster Management, and Times of India CEO Sivakumar Sundaram as guest of honor. Student hostels named after Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and



Jagadish Chandra Bose were inaugurated during the event.

Dr. Viswanathan highlighted India’s education expenditure, urging allocation of 6% of GDP, compared to the current 3%. He called for expanded higher education infrastructure to achieve a 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio. Stressing ethical responsibility, he urged students to fight corruption and black money, while enhancing India’s global competitiveness in education.

In Guwahati, industry experts said the focus on higher education and skill development could boost local talent pipelines, increase employability, and stimulate demand for educational services and allied sectors, supporting the city’s growing economy.

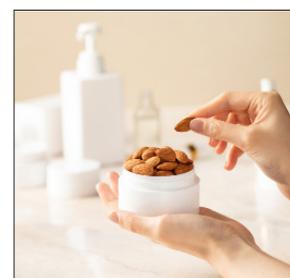
Justice Mahadevan lauded VIT’s integration of technology in academics and research, emphasizing ethical values and continuous learning as essential for India’s progress.

Ayurvedic superfoods offer natural solution to monsoon acne

Guwahati: As monsoon humidity and fluctuating temperatures trigger skin problems like clogged pores, excess oil, and persistent breakouts, Ayurveda experts are turning attention to diet as a crucial remedy.

Leading Ayurveda practitioner, Dr. Madhumitha Krishnan, suggests including that balance Vata and Pitta Dosha with inherent properties of being sweet in nature, slightly oily foods in your monsoon diet to soothe your body and manage skin issues. She recommends five Ayurveda superfoods, from nutritious almonds to tridosha balancing amla, to keep pimples at bay and have clear skin.

Almonds: Almonds perfectly fit the bill as an addition to the monsoon diet as they are primarily sweet in taste. They are known to balance the Vata and Pitta Dosha. They are slightly oily perfect to nourish the skin from within. As such, they are perfect for preserving balance throughout the rainy season. According to



published Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani texts, almonds are good for skin health and can enhance skin glow. Soaking them overnight aids in better digestion and provides deep skin nourishment.

In Guwahati, health-conscious consumers are increasingly seeking California almonds, turmeric powder, fresh amla, and neem-based supplements, with local traders reporting a spike in demand for organic and raw variants during the monsoon season.

Dr. Krishnan concludes that integrating such superfoods alongside proper skincare ensures clearer, healthier skin, even in the wettest months.

Sony India unveils ULT POWER SOUND series with powerful bass and portable party speakers

Guwahati: Sony India has launched the second-generation ULT POWER SOUND lineup, featuring ULT TOWER 9, ULT TOWER 9AC, ULT FIELD 5, ULT FIELD 3, and ULTMIC1, promising deep bass, immersive sound, and festival-like energy. Each product comes with the signature ULT button for enhanced bass modes.

Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said the launch reflects the company’s vision of transforming music experiences, adding that brand ambassador Karan Aujla’s youth connect amplifies the appeal. Aujla called the range “par excellence,” delivering “deep, soul-stirring bass and crystal-clear sound.”

In Guwahati’s electronics market, dealers expect strong interest from youth and music enthusiasts, particularly for the portable ULT FIELD 5 and ULT FIELD 3, given the city’s growing culture of outdoor events and home parties. Retailers anticipate demand ahead of the festive season, with premium buyers eyeing the ULT TOWER 9 for large gatherings.



The ULT TOWER 9 boasts 25-hour battery life, while the ULT TOWER 9AC offers plug-and-play convenience. The rugged, waterproof ULT FIELD models cater to travel and adventure needs, and the ULTMIC1 ensures high-quality karaoke experiences. The lineup is available at Sony retail outlets, major electronics stores, and online platforms, starting at ₹14,990.

Titas Footwear secures Mohta family backing, announces Rs 50 cr investment for expansion

Guwahati: Kolkata-based footwear brand Titas Footwear Pvt. Ltd. has entered a new growth phase with the Mohta family acquiring a majority stake and committing an investment of ₹50 crore over the next three years. The move marks a strategic shift after three decades of operations under Global Footwear & Leathercraft Industries.

A new leadership team led by Anirudh Mohta will oversee the company’s transition, focusing on brand development, retail expansion, and customer-centric innovation. “Titas is synonymous with

quality, comfort and longevity. Our aim is to make Titas a preferred family footwear destination with world-class products,” Mohta said.

The newly formed company will roll out expanded product lines, design-led innovations, refreshed brand identity, and improved customer experiences, alongside strengthening retail and distribution networks. Former promoter Masud Jamil noted that the investment would help Titas extend its reach nationally, building on its strong reputation in eastern India.

In Guwahati, industry



watchers believe the investment could drive stronger footwear penetration in Assam and the Northeast. With rising disposable incomes and a growing preference for branded products, Titas is expected to tap into the region’s expanding retail hubs, offering affordable yet premium options to middle-class buyers.

86% in East India see dengue, malaria as year-round threat: Goodknight Survey

Guwahati: A new survey by Goodknight, India's leading household insecticide brand under Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL), has revealed that 81% of Indians fear mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria can strike at any time of the year, not just during monsoons. East India showed the highest concern, with 86% respondents agreeing to the year-round risk, followed by West (81%) and North and South (80%).

The pan-India study, conducted by YouGov, highlights how climate change, urbanisation and changing environmental conditions have led to year-round breeding of mosquitoes. India recorded over 2.33 lakh dengue cases last year, underscoring the need for constant vigilance.

In Guwahati, where dense population growth and waterlogging during both monsoon and dry months are common, traders in the city's markets note a spike in demand for mosquito repellents throughout the year. Consumers are increasingly opting for branded, government-approved solutions, avoiding unregulated products that may pose health risks.

Shilpa Suresh, Head of Marketing—Home Care, GCPL, urged families to use only safe, CIBRC-approved repellents. GCPL has introduced Renofluthrin, India's first indigenously developed and patented molecule, in its new Goodknight Flash liquid vaporiser, claiming it to be twice as effective as other formulations.

Rasnarevives iconic Jumpin, targets INR 1000 cr RTD market with pan-India launch

Guwahati: Rasna Pvt. Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of instant beverages, has officially launched the all-new Jumpin, a 100% Indian-made ready-to-drink (RTD) fruit juice, coinciding with India's 79th Independence Day. The launch aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to promote Swadeshi products under the "Be Indian, Buy Indian" campaign. With this move, Rasna enters the RTD segment, aiming to capture a share of the growing INR 1000 crore market.

As part of the celebrations, Rasna distributed Jumpin beverages to Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and their families, honoring their dedication to national security. Speaking at the launch, Rasna Group Chairman Pi-

ruzKhambatta said, "Jumpin reflects Rasna's commitment to self-reliance, supporting Indian farmers, MSMEs, and domestic supply chains. Every aspect—from R&D to packaging—is proudly developed within India."

The new Jumpin range includes Mango, Orange, Litchi, and Mixed Fruit, fortified with 10 essential vitamins and containing only 7 grams of added sugar. Available in PET bottles (250 ml to 1.2 L) and Tetra Packs (125 ml, 200 ml, 1 L), it is priced between Rs 10 and Rs 85, making it accessible to families, children, and working professionals. Notably, the brand offers an orange drink 125 ml in Rs 10 Tetra Pack, unique in the Indian market.

In Guwahati, local retail-



ers have welcomed Jumpin's launch, noting strong consumer interest in healthy, affordable RTD beverages. Market insiders report that early stock has seen brisk sales, especially among families seeking vitamin-fortified options for daily consumption.

SBI Life launches 'Smart Shield Plus' with milestone-based protection features

Guwahati: SBI Life Insurance, one of India's leading private insurers, announced the launch of its latest protection plan – 'SBI Life – Smart Shield Plus'. Positioned as a future-ready solution, the individual, non-linked, non-participating term insurance plan is designed to adapt to consumers' evolving financial responsibilities across key life stages.

The product offers three plan options — Level Cover, Increasing Cover, and Level Cover with Future Proofing Benefit. The Increasing Cover option enhances the sum assured by 5% annually up to 200%, while the Future Proofing Benefit allows policyholders to raise cover during life events like marriage, childbirth or home purchase, without medical underwriting. Features such as flexible death benefit payouts, the Better Half Benefit for spouses, and accident riders add further protection.

In Guwahati, financial planners and insurance agents expect strong uptake of the new plan. With rising financial awareness among salaried families and small business owners, demand for flexible and scalable protection products is increasing. Experts noted that milestone-based adaptability and whole-life options could make Smart Shield Plus particularly attractive to young professionals in Assam.

M. Anand, President and Chief Distribution Officer, SBI Life, said the product empowers customers to proactively secure their future while providing long-term financial confidence.

Vi brings Independence Day live celebrations and patriotic content to viewers nationwide

Guwahati: Vi Movies & TV, the content aggregator platform from Vi, is set to make India's 79th Independence Day celebrations more engaging for viewers with live streaming and curated patriotic content. Vi users can watch the Flag Hoisting ceremony and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address live from the Red Fort, New Delhi, directly on the Vi Movies & TV App, accessible to all Vi users without a subscription.

In addition, Vi has created a special Independence Day watchlist, featuring popular titles from India's top OTT platforms, including JioHotstar, SonyLIV, and ZEE5. Highlights include films and series such as Uri: The Surgical Strike, Mukhbir – The Story of a Spy, Sam Bahadur, Avrohd: The Siege Within, and Neerja, offering stories of courage, sacrifice, and national pride. Plans start at just Rs. 154, allowing easy access to 17 leading OTT platforms under a single recharge.

Guwahati viewers can now seamlessly enjoy live Independence Day coverage and premium OTT content, reducing the need for multiple subscriptions and providing entertainment options for families during the holiday. Local retailers have also reported rising interest in Vi's subscription plans ahead of the celebrations, reflecting growing demand in northeastern markets.

In East India, Axis Max Life India Protection Quotient 7.0 shows strong Life Insurance ownership

Guwahati: Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd. ("Axis Max Life" / "Company"), formerly known as Max Life Insurance Company Limited, has unveiled the East Zone findings of the seventh edition of its flagship India Protection Quotient (IPQ) survey, conducted in partnership with KANTAR, the world's leading marketing data and analytics company. With a robust sample of 6,360 urban respondents across 25 cities, IPQ 7.0 continues to track India's financial protection landscape. The findings from East India point to high life insurance ownership, growing awareness of savings and protection products. Prashant Tripathy, CEO and Managing Director, Axis Max Life Insurance "At Axis Max Life, we are focused on building that bridge through education, accessibility, and personalised protection solutions." East India shows



commitment to life insurance ownership: East India recorded a Protection Quotient of 42 and a strong life insurance ownership rate of 79%, well-aligned with national patterns. Kolkata, the region's financial hub, reflects this trend with 85% ownership and a PQ of 47.

Family-led goals and emotional intent continue to drive saving behaviour: In East India, financial planning remains deeply rooted in family responsibilities. A rising number of individuals cite children's education (35%), old-age protection (41%), and medical emergencies

(34%) as key motivators for saving and investment. Kolkata maintains strong ownership, rising intent: Kolkata continues to lead the region with robust life insurance coverage at 85% and a PQ of 47—comparable with Chennai and Hyderabad. While confidence in financial protection remains stable, the rising Knowledge Index suggests Kolkata residents are becoming more comfortable with advanced planning tools and goal-based investing. Room for growth in term insurance adoption: Term insurance uptake remains an opportunity area in the East, with just 25% of respondents owning a term plan—the lowest among zones. Barriers include affordability, paperwork complexity, and a perceived lack of value in the absence of a claim. Read more at -<https://www.axismaxlife.com/maxlife-ipq>.

Adani Group denies link to Mahabal Cement; calls reports of land allotment in DimaHasao "baseless"

Guwahati: The Adani Group on Monday issued a strong denial against circulating reports claiming that the Assam government had allotted 3,000 bighas of land in DimaHasao district for a cement plant linked to the conglomerate.

In a media statement from Ahmedabad, the group clarified that Mahabal Cement has no ownership, connection, or affiliation with Adani Group. "These reports and references are baseless, false and misleading. Linking the Adani name to Mahabal Cement is mischievous,"

the spokesperson said, urging media and social media users to verify facts before sharing information.

The statement read: "It has come to our notice that certain news reports, social media posts and clips from court hearings are being circulated, claiming that the Assam Government has allotted 3000 bighas in DimaHasao to the Adani Group for a cement plant.

We categorically state that these reports and references are baseless, false and misleading. Linking the Adani name to Mahabal Cement



is mischievous. Mahabal Cement is not related to, owned by or connected with the Adani Group in any manner whatsoever.

We strongly urge members of the media, digital platforms and the public to verify facts before making or sharing such claims. The circu-

lation of unverified and misleading content not only misinforms the public but also creates unnecessary confusion."

In Guwahati, the clarification is expected to stabilize investor sentiment, as previous speculation had briefly fueled uncertainty in local real estate and industrial sectors. Analysts suggest that cement and construction materials markets in Guwahati could see steadier activity following official confirmation of no involvement from the Adani Group.

Sanskriti University celebrates Sixth Convocation, confers degrees to over 2,000 graduates

Guwahati: Sanskriti University, Mathura, marked a landmark moment as it held its Sixth Convocation Ceremony, conferring degrees to 2,089 students across diverse disciplines. The event witnessed the presence of eminent personalities from academia, industry, and spiritual spheres, celebrating the achievements of the graduating cohort.

Dr. J. C. Chaudhry, Chairman of Aakash Educational Services Ltd., and actor-poet Ashutosh Rana were conferred with Honorary Doctorates in recognition of their exceptional contributions. A



total of 536 diplomas, 1,277 undergraduate degrees, 248 postgraduate degrees, and 28 Ph.D. degrees were awarded, while 130 students received gold medals for outstanding academic performance.

The convocation was further enriched by the presence of prominent dignitaries, including Dr. Nalinaksh S. Vyas (IIT Kanpur), Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak (AIU), and Sudeep Goenka (Goldie

Masale), who shared words of encouragement with the graduates. Spiritual leaders such as Anantshri Vibhushit Jagadguru Ramanadcharya Swami Satishacharya Maharaj, Acharya Manish (HIMS), Pujya Chinmaya Nand Babu, and Mahamandaleshwar Hemangi Sakhi graced the ceremony.

Dr. Sachin Gupta, Chancellor of Sanskriti University, congratulated the students, calling them “ambassadors of knowledge, integrity, and innovation” and emphasizing the inspirational role of the distinguished guests in guiding their future paths.

Xiaomi launches Redmi 15 5G in India, targets youth and tech-savvy consumers

Guwahati: Xiaomi India has unveiled the Redmi 15 5G, coinciding with the company's 15th global anniversary and 11 years in India. The launch highlights the brand's push to blend innovation, affordability, and performance for India's growing base of connected consumers.

The Redmi 15 5G is powered by a Snapdragon 6s Gen 3 processor with up to 16GB RAM (including virtual RAM) and UFS 2.2 storage. It features a 6.9-inch FHD+ Adaptive Sync display with a 144Hz refresh rate, Dolby-certified speakers, and TÜV Rheinland triple certification. The device is equipped with a 7000mAh EV-grade silicon-carbon battery, offering 48 hours of backup, 33W fast charging, and 18W reverse charging. A 50MP AI dual rear camera and 8MP front camera enhance imaging capabilities, while XiaomiHyperOS 2 on Android 15 promises smooth multitasking.

In Guwahati, retailers anticipate strong demand for the Redmi 15 5G, especially among students and young professionals. With its large battery and entertainment-focused features, dealers expect the device to perform well in the city's competitive mid-range smartphone segment.

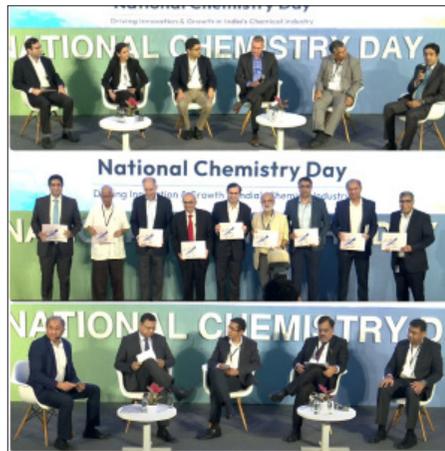
Available from August 28, the Redmi 15 5G will start at INR 14,999 in Frosted White, Midnight Black, and Sandy Purple.

Godrej Industries' National Chemistry Day Summit pushes India toward global chemical leadership

Guwahati: The Godrej Industries Group (GIG) hosted the second edition of the National Chemistry Day Summit, reaffirming its focus on innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness in India's chemical sector. Organized jointly by Godrej Industries (Chemicals) and AstecLifeSciences, the summit brought together industry leaders, academics, and researchers to shape the future of Indian chemistry.

Themed “Driving Innovation and Growth in India's Chemical Industry”, discussions centered on research and development, digitalisation, and future-ready talent as core enablers for global success. Burjis Godrej, Executive Director of Godrej Agrovet and Managing Director of AstecLifeSciences, along with Nadir Godrej, Chairperson of GIG, underscored the role of chemistry in building a sustainable future. Vishal Sharma, Executive Director & CEO of Godrej Industries (Chemicals), led deliberations on resilience, industry-academia partnerships, and transforming India from a backend producer to a global innovation hub.

A highlight of the summit was the launch of



the CTIER Innovation Report, which provided data-driven insights into India's R&D strengths.

In Guwahati, industry observers welcomed the summit's focus, noting that Assam's emerging industrial clusters and the Northeast's growing demand for specialty chemicals could directly benefit from innovation-driven initiatives, boosting regional trade prospects.

Tata AIA launches 'Shubh Shakti' to empower India's working women with comprehensive protection

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance has unveiled “Shubh Shakti,” a women-focused term insurance plan aimed at addressing low coverage among India's working women. The plan offers flexible, comprehensive protection tailored to women's unique financial and health needs, including premium holidays during pregnancy, women-specific health benefits, child education protection, and waiver of premium in case of accidental or spousal death.

Highlighting the need for such initiatives, Swati Jain, Women Advisor at Tata AIA, said, “With Shubh Shakti, we're empowering women to secure their family's future, invest in their health, and live a worry-free life.” The launch comes amid rising female workforce participation, which increased to 41.7% in FY24 from 23.3% in FY18, yet a significant number of women still rely on male family members for financial planning.



In Guwahati, the response is expected to be strong as local women increasingly prioritize financial independence. Brokers and advisors in the city noted a growing interest in women-centric insurance, with many viewing Shubh Shakti as a timely solution that combines security with affordable premiums and health incentives.

The plan also integrates Tata AIA Health Buddy, offering rewards for regular health checks, personalized wellness nudges, and family health support. With Shubh Shakti, Tata AIA reinforces its commitment to enabling strong, financially empowered women across India.

Škoda Auto India target premium growth with limited editions of Kylaq, Kushaq and Slavia



Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has rolled out Limited Editions of its Kushaq, Slavia, and Kylaq models to celebrate its 25th anniversary in India and 130 years of global legacy. Each variant, capped at 500 units, is based on high-spec trims such as Monte Carlo for Kushaq and Slavia, and Signature+ and Prestige for Kylaq. All editions feature distinctive styling, 25th Anniversary badging, and a complimentary accessories kit including a 360-degree camera, puddle lamps, underbody lighting, and premium garnishes.

The Kushaq and Slavia Monte Carlo Limited Editions come in Deep Black and Tornado Red with contrasting accents, while the Kylaq is offered in seven exterior colours. Prices start at ₹11.25 lakh for the Kylaq Anniversary Edition and go up to ₹19.09 lakh for the top-end Kushaq variant.

In Guwahati, Škoda dealers expect strong demand driven by rising interest in premium European cars among the city's affluent buyers. Industry analysts note that Assam's expanding urban economy and aspirational middle class make Guwahati a key growth hub for the brand, particularly for feature-rich SUVs and sedans.

Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, said the editions are “a tribute to the passionate community” and reaffirm Škoda's commitment to evolving customer preferences.

Season 2 of TAFE's MASSEY DYNASTAR Contest recognizes grassroots agri-innovation

Guwahati: TAFE—Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, one of the world's largest tractor manufacturers and the maker of the legendary Massey Ferguson Tractors in India, has successfully concluded the second edition of its Massey DYNASTAR Contest—Season 2, 2025 | #SabseBadeAllrounder Ki Talaash. This pioneering initiative by TAFE aims to discover and reward original, scalable, and socially impactful ideas powered by the versatile Massey Ferguson DYNATRACK 241 tractor. Season 2 of the contest received an overwhelming 16,000+ entries from across 26 states and 5 Union Territories, reflecting the remarkable diversity of India's agricultural landscape. From this pool, 12 finalists were selected, representing 7 states—Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. The grand prize was awarded to Avinash Desai, IT employee turned farmer from Belgaum, Karnataka, who presented an innovative idea for a mobile slurry dewatering machine powered by the Massey Ferguson DYNATRACK 241.

He was felicitated with a brand-new MF 254 DYNASTAR 2WD tractor, worth approximately ₹ 8.2 lakhs. The second prize went to Prateek Agarwal from Hojai, Assam, for his concept of a solar-powered sustainable energy hub, earning him an 8 gm gold coin. The third prize was awarded to Amrit Jot Singh from Patiala, Punjab with 8 gm gold coin for his idea of a water purifying unit powered by the MF DYNATRACK 241. The Jury's Choice Award was presented to Dr. Jayakumar Karuppusamy, retired IAS officer from Kamrup Metropolitan, Assam, who proposed a multipurpose farm machine, and was honoured with a 50 gm silver coin. Building on the success of this edition, TAFE is pleased to announce that the MASSEY DYNASTAR Contest will return next year, with Season 3 promising to be even more expansive in reach, scale, and impact.

Preity Zinta shares glimpse of her Janmashtami celebration in the US

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Preity Zinta has shared a few glimpses of her celebrating Janmashtami at the Valley Hindu Temple, calling it a heartwarming and fun experience with family, friends, and community. Taking to Instagram, she shared a string of images from the temple and captioned the post:

“Janmashtami celebrations at the Valley Hindu Temple was so heartwarming and so much fun. Friends, family, community & devotion. The kids were so excited and I loved every moment of it. She went on to thank the priest, his family, and the temple for their warmth and hospitality. “A big thank you to Punditji, his beautiful family & everyone at the temple for indulging us & making us feel so welcome & loved. Here is a sneak peak folks. Jai Shree Krishna #radheradhe #ting,” Preity wrote. Talking about the actress, Preity is all set



to make her comeback in the Hindi film industry after a long gap with filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi's directorial 'Lahore 1947'. The film was officially announced last October, garnering attention for its star-studded cast and promising storyline.

She was last seen in the 2018 film “Bhaiji Superhit”, an action comedy film directed by Neeraj Pathak. The film features an ensemble cast including Sunny Deol, Preity G Zinta, Arshad Warsi, Ameesha Patel and Shreyas Talpade.

The actress' film 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' recently completed 19 years in Hindi cinema on August 11. The film released on August 11, 2025, and features Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, Abhishek Bachchan and Rani Mukerji. The film told the story of an extra-marital affair between the characters of Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji. The film proved to be a commercial disaster, and was criticised for its portrayal of an extramarital affair as the critics at the time felt that the film would cause damage to Indian society because of such a narrative.

Josh Brar on 'Guzaara' from 'Baaghi 4': Words I've never shared before



Mumbai: The makers of “Baaghi 4” unveiled the new emotional and soul-stirring love song “Guzaara” and its singer Josh Brar said the words are from his heart and the words he has never shared before. The talented Josh Brar shared, “From my heart to yours, words I've never shared before.”

“When Sajid Nadiadwala Sir and Bhushan Sir heard these unreleased lyrics, they really wanted them to be in Baaghi 4. Truly truly grateful to them for trusting me with this! Excited to bring this to life beautifully on Tiger Shroff and Harnaaz Sandhu,” Brar said. “Guzaara” shows us a side of the Tiger Shroff character that we don't see in action. The Hindi version of the already hit song is also sung by Josh Brar, with lyrics by Jagdeep Waring and Kumar, and music by Salamat Ali Matoi and Josh Brar, the soundtrack is presented by T-Series Music.

With story and screenplay penned by Sajid Nadiadwala

and helmed by director A. Harsha, Baaghi 4 promises bonebreaking action, explosive drama, and a showdown soaked in blood, fury, and chaos. Baaghi 4 is set to release on September 5. The teaser of the film was unveiled on August 11 and it showcased that the fourth installment will be unhinged, unrelenting, and more ferocious than ever.

The film also stars Harnaaz Sandhu, who was crowned the Miss Universe in 2021, as the female lead. Joining her is Sonam Bajwa, who steps into the Baaghi universe post 'Housefull 5'. Senior Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt delivers a spine-chilling performance as a deranged antagonist. The first film in the series, 'Baaghi', was released in 2016 and was directed by Sabbir Khan, followed by its sequels, 'Baaghi 2' (2018) and 'Baaghi 3' (2020), both directed by Ahmed Khan. 'Baaghi' produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

My friendship with Prabhas is still the same, says actress Sridevi Vijayakumar

Chennai: Actress Sridevi Vijayakumar, who is making a comeback to the big screen with director Venkatesh Nimmalapati's upcoming Telugu film 'Sundarakanda' featuring actor Nara Rohit in the lead, has now disclosed that her friendship with Prabhas, who was her co-star in her first film as heroine, was still the same despite the actor having gone on to become a huge pan Indian star. For the unaware, actress Sridevi Vijayakumar was the heroine in actor Prabhas's debut film called 'Eeswar', which was directed by Jayanth C Paranjee. Although Sridevi made her acting debut as a child artiste, Eeswar marked her debut as a film's lead heroine.

At a press conference called by the unit of 'Sundarakanda', actress Sridevi was asked about her friendship with Prabhas to which the actress said, “The friendship with Prabhas is still the same. Prabhas is now a big star. However, he hasn't changed one bit.” Stating that Prabhas even now smiled and talked with the same innocence of a child, Sridevi said everybody in her first film unit Eeswar itself got the feeling that Prabhas would go on to become a huge star. “We all thought that he would become a big superstar even during the time of Eeswar.

Hema Malini reflects on doing action sequences in 'Sholay'

Mumbai: Hema Malini reflected on doing action sequences as Basanti in Ramesh Sippy's 'Sholay' as the iconic movie completed 50 years of release on Friday.

During an exclusive interaction with IANS, Hema Malini was asked, “You performed stunts in the film. How did you manage that?”

Speaking to IANS, the actress and politician revealed they she has done stunts in many of her films.

“Fight sequences used to be created in the films especially for me -- ‘If Hema Malini is there in the film, we must make her fight.’ Whatever character I am playing, there had to be a fight sequence,” she revealed. Talking about 'Sholay', Hema Malini added: “There were action sequences in Sholay as well, but they were mostly while going in the tanga (Horse



Cart) -- the dacoits are all behind me, chasing me. There is a very beautiful chasing scene in the movie. Every scene in the film is a moving shot, nothing is in one place.”

She said that she will show 'Sholay' to her grandchildren.

When asked, “We are talking about Sholay even after fifty years. You have grandchildren. Have they seen Sholay.?”

Hema Malini replied: “I don't think so, but now that it has completed fifty years, I will show it to them. I will make them sit in my house one day and watch it in mini theatre, definitely.”

She also shared that initially she was unhappy with her role in Sholay as she thought it was a small role compared to her earlier hit films like 'Sita and Geeta'.

“When 'Sholay' was offered to me, after making 'Seeta Aur Geeta', the same director, Ramesh Sippy told me, 'So many other characters are there and you are also one of them.' So I was feeling a little disappointed, thinking, 'Why only small role for me? Why not a bigger role?'” she revealed.

However, later the filmmaker informed that her role would have a huge impact, insisting her to accept the role.

'End of the world ain't over yet': Prime Video drops trailer for 'Fallout' Season 2

Prime Video on Tuesday dropped the first trailer for the upcoming second season of Fallout, the hit adaptation of the cult video game franchise. The new episodes drop on December 17, the streamer added.

The second season “will pick up in the aftermath of the first season finale in taking audiences on a journey through the wasteland of the Mojave to the post-apocalyptic city of New Vegas,” the streamer said in a statement.

Ella Purnell, Aaron Moten, Walton Goggins, and Kyle MacLachlan return as survivors navigating the retro-futuristic wasteland. Fallout Season 1 was among Prime Video's top three

most-watched originals, cementing the show as one of the streamer's breakout hits of 2024.

The debut season wrapped with Hank MacLean (MacLachlan) making his escape during the Brotherhood of Steel's battle with Mol-daver's New California Republic raiders. Lucy (Purnell) and The Ghoul (Goggins) were last seen forging an uneasy partnership as they headed towards New Vegas.

Created by showrunners Geneva Robertson-Dworet and Graham Wagner, Fallout features Jonathan Nolan, Lisa Joy, Athena Wickham, Todd Howard, and James Altman as executive producers.

Twinkle Khanna reads excerpt from her collection of short stories

Mumbai: Author Twinkle Khanna, who is also the wife of Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, is reading an excerpt from her book 'Welcome to Paradise'. On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a video of herself reading the excerpt, and shared that while she wishes she could rewrite parts from her stories, 'Welcome to Paradise' is an exception, and she won't change a thing about the book.

She wrote in the caption, “On a rainy day, here's a little extract from Welcome to Paradise. I often find myself wishing I could go back and rewrite parts of my earlier books, but never with this one. It captured everything I wanted to say with a lightness of tone that I worked hard to achieve. Which story from Welcome to Paradise resonated with you the most?”

'Welcome to Paradise' is a collection of short stories by Twinkle Khanna. The book explores themes of loneliness, heartbreak, and deception through the lives of various female characters. It's known for its rich narratives, humor, and keen observations of human nature. Twinkle Khanna is known for her humour and sarcastic style of writing. She is also set to host the streaming chat show, titled 'Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle' with Kajol. The show promises a fresh take on the Indian talk show scene. It is produced by Banijay Asia, and will feature candid discussions and humorous commentary with renowned personalities.



Jasprit Bumrah confirms availability for India's Asia Cup squad

Mumbai: India have received a significant boost ahead of the Asia Cup with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah reportedly making himself available for selection for the continental tournament. According to a report in The Indian Express, the 31-year-old fast bowler has informed the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel that he is fully fit and eager to feature in the T20 tournament, scheduled to be held in the UAE next month. The selectors are expected to meet in Mumbai on Tuesday, 19 August, to name the squad. "Bumrah has informed the selectors that he will be available for Asia Cup selection. The selection committee will meet and discuss it when they meet next

week," a source was quoted as saying.

Bumrah has not featured for India in white-ball cricket since last year's T20 World Cup, where he played a pivotal role in guiding Rohit Sharma's side to glory. In the final at Bridgetown, Barbados, he returned figures of 2 for 18 against South Africa to help India clinch a dramatic victory. More recently, Bumrah was released from the Test squad for the decisive fifth match of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at The Oval, with the team management choosing to manage his workload. The senior pacer played three of the first four Tests, claiming two five-wicket hauls and bowling a total of 119.4 overs



across the series. His absence from the final Test, however, reignited debate about his fitness, especially after a back injury had kept him out of action for four months earlier this year.

With the Asia Cup being played in the T20 format, such concerns are expected to be less pressing. Bumrah will only

need to bowl a maximum of four overs per match, and with three to four days' rest between fixtures in the group stage, his workload is unlikely to be an issue. Importantly, he will also have had nearly 40-days' break between his last Test appearance in England and India's opening match of the tourna-

ment. India, who could face archrivals Pakistan up to three times during the competition, are expected to travel early to the UAE. While the BCCI had floated the idea of a preparatory camp in Bengaluru, the management preferred instead to arrive in the Emirates a few days beforehand to acclimatise to conditions.

"Instead of having a camp here, the team will fly three to four days early so that they can get decent practice before the tournament starts," a source told The Indian Express. Bumrah's return is likely to be viewed as a crucial lift for India as they aim to defend their Asia Cup crown and build momentum ahead of the T20 World Cup later this year.

Karun Nair Reflects on England Series and Sets Sights on Improvement



Bengaluru: The recent Test series against England may not have gone as expected for Karun Nair, but the Indian batter has reflected on his performances and set clear goals for future opportunities. Despite his underwhelming return of 205 runs from eight innings, including a top score of 57 at The Oval, Nair's main takeaway from the series has been the importance of converting starts into big scores. Having played several solid innings where he got to 30s and 40s, Nair admits his inability to capitalize on those starts was frustrating. Reflecting on his performance, he said, "I was batting really well throughout the series and was getting starts in most games, but I just wasn't able to convert them. That was frustrating for me more than anyone else."

The 31-year-old, who came into the England tour with a strong domestic record, has taken this challenge as a learning experience. "The one lesson I've reflected upon is making sure I convert the start I get. I've spoken to a lot of people and they've given me some suggestions. I'm going to work on it and hopefully, next time, when I get a start, I'll be able to convert it," he added. Despite the personal frustration, Nair is proud to have been part of the team that drew the five-match series 2-2, especially considering the circumstances.

Kapil wins gold in Asian Shooting Championship at Shymkent

New Delhi: Kapil Bainsla from Palwal, Haryana, won India their first gold of the 16th Asian Shooting Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, firing 243.0 in the 10m air pistol men junior final, leaving Uzbekistan's Ilkhombek Obidjonov 0.6 behind in second. Kapil's compatriot Jonathan Gavin Antony won bronze shooting 220.7, bowing out after the 22nd shot of the 24-shot final.



Earlier Kapil had shot 579 to finish fourth in qualification and made the top eight alongside Jonathan who was second with 582. Mukesh Nelavali was just two inner 10s less than Jonathan, to finish third and make it three Indians in the final. Korean Kim Dooyeon topped the board, also shooting 582, but with at least six shots in the inner 10-ring more than Jonathan. Ilkhombek it was, who then was the fastest off the blocks in the final with Kapil chasing him all through, before going past him after the 15th shot for the first time. The Uzbek regained the advantage after the 20th shot and going into the final two, was a full point ahead of Kapil.

The young Indian then finished with a 10.8 and 10.6, while Ilkhombek, after shooting a 10.4 for his 23rd, buckled to finish with a 9.4, handing Kapil the title.

Suryakumar Yadav Passes Fitness Test Ahead of Asia Cup Selection

New Delhi: T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav has successfully passed his fitness test at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, ahead of the meeting of the selection panel to pick India's squad for the Asia Cup. Yadav, who underwent surgery for a sports hernia in June in Munich, Germany, is now fully recovered and ready to make his way back into the national fold. The 34-year-old batter, who was adjudged Player of the Series in IPL 2025, had been sidelined due to the surgery. However, after completing his recovery, he cleared the mandatory Return to Play (RTP) fitness test, which is part of the rehabilitation process post-surgery. A source from the BCCI confirmed to PTI, "Fitness tests are mandatory before Return to Play post-surgery. Surya has cleared the fitness test."

Yadav had shared an update on Instagram after his surgery, stating, "Life Update: Underwent surgery for a sports hernia in the lower-right abdomen. Grateful to share that after a smooth surgery, I'm already on the road to recovery. Can't wait to be back." Now that his fitness has been cleared, Suryakumar Yadav is expected to attend the selection committee meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday, where the Asia Cup squad will be finalized. The Asia Cup will take place in the UAE from September 9-28,



with India opening their campaign against the hosts on September 10. A highly anticipated match against arch-rivals Pakistan is scheduled for September 14 in Dubai.

Suryakumar enjoyed an outstanding IPL season with Mumbai Indians, amassing 717 runs. He was instrumental in guiding Mumbai to the playoffs, where they won their Eliminator match against Gujarat Titans. He was second only to Gujarat's Sai Sudharsan in the run-scorer list. Yadav also played for Tri-umph Knights Mumbai North East in the T20 Mumbai League, scoring 122 runs in five innings. His return to full fitness will be a significant boost for India's middle order in the Asia Cup and beyond.

Babar, Rizwan Left Out as Pakistan Announce Asia Cup and UAE Tri-Series Squad

Lahore: In a bold selection call, Pakistan have omitted star batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan from their 17-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup in the UAE and the preceding triseries against Afghanistan and the hosts. The two stalwarts, who famously guided Pakistan to their historic first

World Cup win over India in 2021, have been absent from T20 internationals since December 2024. Their continued exclusion underlines a clear shift in the team's approach as they prepare for the Asia Cup, to be held in T20 format from September 9-28.

A New-Look Pakistan Side Led

by Salman Ali Agha, Pakistan will first feature in a tri-series in Sharjah from August 29 to September 7 before turning their attention to the Asia Cup. The squad includes senior pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, experienced campaigners Fakhar Zaman and Haris Rauf, alongside promising youngsters like Sahibza-



da Farhan and Hasan Nawaz. Chief selector Aaqib Javed expressed confidence in the squad's ability to challenge arch-rivals India. "This team has the ability to beat India in the Asia Cup. Whether you like it or not, the match between India and Pakistan is the biggest in world cricket. Every player knows this," Javed said.