

# NORTH EAST BUSINESS MIRROR

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## Maha Cabinet approves Gems and Jewellery Policy-2025 to attract investment of Rs 1 lakh cr, generate 5 lakh jobs

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Tuesday, approved the State Gems and Jewellery Policy-2025, intending to boost the growth of industries and businesses related to gold, silver jewellery, diamonds and gems. The government further expects an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore and the creation of five lakh jobs in this sector.

The Cabinet also cleared the policy for wastewater treatment in urban areas of the state. The circular economy will be promoted through wastewater treatment and its recycling. The concept of



sustainable management of wastewater, environmental protection, and a healthy environment will be strengthened. The policy will be implemented in 424 urban local bodies

of the state. The Cabinet approved to amend the Maharashtra Prohibition of Partition of Holding Lands and their Consolidation Act, 1947. The provision in section 8 (b)

of the Act will be omitted, and a new provision will be inserted after subsection (3) in section 9.

In a bid to further give much-needed push to slum rehabilitation schemes for making Mumbai slum free, the Cabinet approved the implementation of a Slum Cluster Redevelopment Scheme for slum redevelopment. Further, the Cabinet also approved to provide 2 hectares 38 acres of land in Mouja Badnera for 30 years to Amravati Municipal Corporation for an e-bus depot and charging system under the Central government-sponsored PME Bus Scheme.

## Mercedes-Benz India achieves record sales in September, rising 36 pc YoY



**New Delhi:** MercedesBenz India, a subsidiary of German automaker Mercedes-Benz, reported its highest monthly sales in September, marking a 36 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Overwhelming customer response to the GST 2.0 reforms and festive demand drove this surge, with over 2,500 cars sold in just nine days. The company also recorded its best-ever results for the quarter, reporting second-quarter sales of

5,119 units and total volumes of 9,357 units from April to September, reflecting a year-on-year increase of approximately 4 per cent.

Mercedes-Benz India said that the Long Wheelbase E-Class sedan and SUVs - GLC, GLE, GLS, and G63 AMG - achieved their highest monthly sales ever. "Mercedes-Benz clocked its best-ever September sales owing to an overwhelming customer response following the GST 2.0 reforms, culminating in the pent-up demand. Our attractive new portfolio and innovative financial programmes resulted in overwhelming demand for Mercedes-Benz cars," said Santosh Iyer, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India. "The reduction in the GST rates has certainly improved customer sentiment with its appropriate timing, as car prices are increasing owing to macro-economic challenges like adverse forex movement, rising operational costs, etc," he added.

## TN to install rooftop solar panels on state govt buildings, reduce power bills

**Chennai:** In a major push to cut power costs and promote clean energy, the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) has invited bids to install 40 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar systems on government buildings across the state. The move is expected to help state departments lower their electricity bills, many of which have been overdue for months, burdening the state's power utility. "This is the first time we are taking up such a large-scale solar project for government office buildings across Tamil Nadu," a senior TNGECL official said.

Previously, the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) -- now functioning under TNGECL -- installed solar panels in 250 schools with a combined capacity of 1.5 MW. "Though some government offices already have solar systems, we do not have proper data on them," the official added. TNGECL had ini-



tially planned a 200 MW rollout, but is starting with 40 MW in the first phase. The projects will be implemented under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model through tariff-based competitive bidding.

Developers will set up and maintain the systems at no upfront cost to the government and sell the power at a pre-fixed tariff. The installations will work under a net feed-in mechanism, feeding surplus power back into the grid.

## 2-wheeler sales rise 9 pc in September on GST cut, festive demand

**New Delhi:** India's two-wheeler manufacturers registered a 9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in September dispatches, crossing the twomillion mark, buoyed by festive season demand following a cut in Goods and Services Tax (GST). The government reduced the tax on motorcycles up to 350 cc to 18 per cent. Earlier, the tax rate was 28 per cent.

Hero MotoCorp, the country's largest two-wheeler maker, reported a 5 per cent rise in wholesale volumes to 647,582 units, while its registrations surged 19 per cent to 323,230 units. Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI), the second-biggest player, posted the weakest performance among peers, with volumes inching up 3 per cent to 505,000 units. The company did not cite reasons for the muted growth.

Chennai-headquartered TVS Motor Company registered a 12 per cent increase in volumes to 413,000 units, supported by strong scooter demand. Pune-based Bajaj Auto saw dispatches climb 5 per cent to 273,000 units. Royal Enfield, owned by Eicher Motors, recorded the sharpest jump with volumes surging 43 per cent to 113,000 units in September.

## Markets continue winning run in early trade; Sensex rises 254 points, Nifty tops 25,150



Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Wednesday, taking their winning momentum to the fifth day running, driven by buying in IT stocks and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 254.02 points to 82,180.77 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 70.25 points to 25,178.55.

From the Sensex firms, Titan, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Maruti were among the biggest gainers.

However, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, UltraTech Cement and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Tuesday, as they bought equities worth Rs 1,440.66 crore, according to exchange data.

"The ongoing mild rally in the market has support from institutional investment. FIIs turning buyers yesterday is a positive development. But it is too early to say that this trend will sustain," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index traded higher while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower. Markets in China and South Korea were closed for holidays. US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.78 per cent to USD 65.96 a barrel.

On Tuesday, the Sensex went up by 136.63 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 81,926.75. The Nifty edged higher by 30.65 points or 0.12 per cent to 25,108.30.(PTI)

## India to get 2 new airports



**New Delhi:** India's aviation sector is set for a major transformation as the country's two busiest cities, Delhi and Mumbai, are about to get brand new airports likely this month. As part of the government's big infrastructure push, Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) expected to open on October 8, followed by Noida International Airport (NIA) on October 30.

With these two additions, both megacities will no longer depend on a single major airport to handle the massive flow of passengers. The new facilities promise to ease congestion, offer better flight schedules, and open more direct international connections. This development is expected to bring India's aviation infrastructure closer to that of global hubs such as New York, London, Tokyo, and Paris, where multiple airports serve the same city.

The launch of NMIA and NIA marks a significant shift for India's aviation landscape, which has long relied on one main airport in each major city despite rapidly increasing air traffic.

## Soha Ali Khan shares festive wellness tips: Almonds, fruits and staying active

**Guwahati:** As India gears up for the festive season, actor, author, and mother Soha Ali Khan has shared her wellness guide to enjoy celebrations without compromising health. Emphasizing mindful eating, Soha advises never attending parties on an empty stomach to avoid bingeing on unhealthy foods. Her tip: carry a handful of California Almonds, a nutrient-rich snack that keeps hunger at bay while providing dietary fiber, vitamin E, and vitamin B12.

Soha also recommends including a bowl of fresh fruits like apples, oranges, chikoo, muskmelon, and grapes in daily routines. "They're low in fat and calories, rich in fiber, and help regulate digestion amid indulgent festive meals," she explains. She suggests juices or smoothies garnished with almonds as simple alternatives to calorie-heavy snacks.

Maintaining physical activity is key, she says. Short walks, light stretches, or a quick run can help burn extra calories and boost energy levels. Hydration is equally important, with water intake helping control acidity from fried and oily foods.

In Guwahati, consumers are increasingly showing interest in health-conscious festive



products. Local stores report a surge in sales of nuts, fresh fruits, and low-calorie snacks, indicating that wellness-focused choices are becoming an integral part of festive preparations in the region.

## Vi launches Vi Protect AI-powered safety for customers and enterprises at IMC 2025

**Guwahati:** Vi, India's leading telecom operator, has announced Vi Protect, a comprehensive AI-powered initiative that unifies all of Vi's consumer, network, and enterprise safety and security measures against the rapidly evolving landscape of spam, scams, and cyber-attacks under one umbrella. As part of this initiative, Vi introduced two powerful measures at India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025. An AI-based Voice Spam Detection system and AI-driven network defence and incident response system for its core network. Vi's voice spam detection detects and flags fraudulent and spam calls in real time. Using advanced AI models, web crawlers, and user feedback, it identifies suspicious callers before they reach the customer. When a poten-

tially fraudulent number calls a Vi customer, the phone screen will display 'Suspected Spam', thereby helping customers decide whether to answer the call. Unlike third-party caller ID apps, this feature works natively within Vi's network, ensuring better accuracy and enhanced privacy.

This new feature builds on Vi's existing robust consumer protection measures that now fall under the Vi Protect umbrella, including: Spam Filtering of Text Messages, International Calling Display, and AI-powered Threat Analysis. Vi will soon be launching URL Protection in real time: scanning and blocking suspicious links to prevent phishing and malware attacks. Under Vi Protect, Vi has also introduced an upgraded AI-powered Cyber



Defense and Incident Response System to protect its core network and enterprise operations. The solution follows a five-step defense mechanism including: Anomaly Detection, Contextualization and Categorization, Interface Engine Agent, Suggestive Intelligence, and Human Validation. Speaking on Vi Protect, Jagbir Singh, Chief Technology Officer, Vi, said, "Vi Protect uses advanced AI and proactive measures to protect our customers and strengthen our networks."

## LG Electronics India IPO to open on October 7, price band fixed at Rs1,080-Rs1,140 per share

**Shillong:** LG Electronics India Limited (LGEIL), the wholly owned subsidiary of LG Electronics Inc., will launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) on October 7, 2025, with a price band set between ₹1,080 and ₹1,140 per equity share. The issue will close on October 9, 2025, while the anchor investor bidding will take place on October 6, 2025.

The IPO is an offer for sale of up to 101.81 million equity shares of face value ₹10 each by its promoter LG Electronics Inc. Investors can bid for a minimum of 13 shares and in

multiples thereafter, with eligible employees receiving a ₹108 per share discount. The equity shares will be listed on the NSE and BSE.

Shillong has expressed keen interest in the offering, citing the growing consumer demand for premium electronics in the Northeast. Local traders noted that LG's strong presence in household appliances and mobile devices could encourage retail investors from the region to participate, reflecting broader enthusiasm among middle-class buyers seeking long-term value in established



consumer brands.

The issue is being managed by Axis Capital, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, J.P. Morgan, and BofA Securities, with KFin Technologies serving as registrar. Allocations will be made in compliance with SEBI's Book Building process, with defined portions for QIBs, non-institutional investors, retail investor-sand employees.

## Mahindra Logistics expands Eastern India footprint with 4 lakh sq. ft. warehousing in Guwahati and Agartala

**Guwahati:** Mahindra Logistics Limited, one of India's leading integrated logistics providers, on Thursday unveiled over 4 lakh sq. ft. of state-of-the-art warehousing capacity in Eastern India, including North-East India's largest multi-client facility in Guwahati and a modern facility in Agartala. The expansion forms part of the company's 'Go-East' strategy aimed at strengthening regional connectivity and supporting the surging demand for integrated logistics solutions.

The 3-lakh sq. ft. Guwahati facility, located near NH 17 and just 11.7 km from the airport, houses the region's first Community Center of Excellence in partnership with the Logistics Skill Council. It is strategically positioned to serve industrial clusters and transport hubs efficiently, supporting industries such as e-commerce, FMCG, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles. In Guwahati, the new facility is expected to bolster supply chain efficiency, re-



duce transit times, and enhance fulfilment capabilities, reinforcing the city's role as a logistics hub in the North-East.

Meanwhile, the 1.3-lakh sq. ft. Agartala facility strengthens connectivity across Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Manipur, while enabling cross-border trade with Bangladesh. HemantSikka, MD & CEO, Mahindra Logistics, said the move "redefines logistics in Eastern India, expanding nationwide distribution to tier-II and tier-III cities and enhancing connectivity in remote regions."

With these launches, Mahindra Logistics aims to create over 2,000 jobs and deliver future-ready, integrated supply chain solutions across Eastern India.

## JSW MG Motor launches Limited Windsor Inspire Edition, celebrates 1-year EV milestone

**Guwahati:** JSW MG Motor India on Thursday launched the Windsor Inspire Edition, a limited edition of India's best-selling electric vehicle (EV), marking one year of the Windsor's success with over 40,000 units sold nationwide. Unveiled by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways ShriNitinGadkari at his residence in Delhi, the edition commemorates both the Windsor's journey and India's accelerating EV adoption.

The Inspire Edition features a striking Pearl White with Starry Black dual-tone exterior, black alloy wheels, bespoke Inspire badging, and premium dual-tone interiors in Sangria Red and Black leather with embroidered insignia. Optional accessories include illuminated glass roof animation and wireless sill plates, enabling personalized expression. The 300-unit limited edition is available at a Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) price of ₹9.99 lakh plus ₹3.9/km, with deliveries starting October 15.

Speaking at the launch, ShriGadkari emphasized India's leadership potential in sustainable innovation, while JSW MG Motor India's Managing Director, AnuragMehrotra, highlighted the model as a symbol of aspiration, luxury, and sustainability.

In Guwahati, the Windsor Inspire Edition has already generated strong interest, with dealers reporting over 200 inquiries within the first 24 hours of bookings. Auto enthusiasts in the city view the limited edition as a status symbol and a step toward greener mobility, reflecting the growing EV awareness in Assam's northeastern market.

## From Struggles to Stability: The Journey of Pabitra Saikia

**Guwahati:** In the small town of Gohpur, Assam, lived 32-year-old Pabitra Saikia, a 12th pass hardworking man striving to provide a better life for his family. Three years ago, he worked as an advisor with a large insurance company, earning just ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 per month. Despite his efforts, meeting his family's needs was becoming increasingly difficult.

One day, during a routine visit to a nearby village, fate introduced Pabitra to Mr. Pritam Dutta, a Spice Money employee. Curious about the possibilities, Pabitra asked Pritam about Spice Money. That conversation changed his life.

Pritam explained the range of services Spice Money offered, from AePS and MATM to Bhaat Connect, CMS, and showed him how becoming an Adhikari could create a sustainable source of income with minimal investment.

Encouraged by the opportunity, Pabitra set up a small temporary shop and started offering essential financial services to his villagers. Slowly but steadily, the people in his area began to rely on him for their everyday banking needs. His dedication and willingness to help others build trust in the community, and his business began to grow.

Today, Pabitra is a proud owner of a



well built shop and has even bought his first four wheeler, a Hyundai Exter. His monthly income has grown to ₹50,000-₹60,000, bringing financial stability and

happiness to his family.

For the people of Gohpur, Pabitra is more than just an Adhikari; he is someone who brought convenient banking and financial services closer to their homes. By bridging the gap between rural communities and the digital economy, Pabitra has not only transformed his own life but has also uplifted his community.

Pabitra credits his success to Spice Money for providing him with the right platform and guidance. His journey stands as a shining example of how digital entrepreneurship can change lives in rural India, one transaction at a time.

## PM Modi launches PM-SETU, felicitates ITI toppers



**Guwahati:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today presided over the KaushalDeekshantSamaroh at VigyanBhawan, felicitating 46 All India ITI toppers and unveiling PM-SETU (PradhanMantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a ₹60,000 crore scheme aimed at transforming 1,000 government ITIs into modern, industry-aligned institutions. The event also marked the virtual inauguration of 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs across 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in 34 states and UTs.

PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs, equipped with advanced infrastructure, innovation centres, production units, and placement services. Fifteen clusters, including Guwahati, have been identified nationwide

as centres of excellence for skill development, offering industry-relevant training in sectors such as IT, automotive, electronics, agriculture, logistics, BFSI, and tourism.

Guwahati is poised to benefit significantly from this initiative. Local businesses, especially in manufacturing, IT, and logistics, are expected to gain access to a skilled talent pool, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting regional industrial growth. Early exposure to vocational skills will also enable students to align education with market demands, strengthening Guwahati's workforce readiness.

Addressing the audience, PM Modi emphasized that ITIs are "workshops of an Atmanirbhar Bharat," while Skill Development Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary highlighted the government's commitment to making India's youth self-reliant and globally competitive.

## Deepika Padukone joins Nykaa as brand ambassador, urges women: "Tum Hi Ho Nykaa"

**Guwahati:** Nykaa has roped in Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador, launching its first campaign with her titled "SirfBaharJaaneKeLiyeKaun-TayaarHotaHai? Tum Hi Ho Nykaa!". The campaign positions beauty as an everyday ritual rather than an occasional indulgence, with Deepika encouraging women to prioritize self-expression and self-care.

Nykaa, India's leading beauty and lifestyle platform, has transformed from a retail brand to a movement, empowering over 45 million consumers with global and homegrown

products, expert guidance, and immersive experiences. Anchit Nayar, Executive Director & CEO of Nykaa Beauty, said, "Deepika's authenticity and versatility align with our vision to make beauty borderless, inclusive, and accessible, strengthening our mission to engage consumers across generations."

In Guwahati, the partnership is expected to drive significant market traction. Retailers in key shopping hubs reported heightened consumer interest in Nykaa's products following the campaign launch, particularly in skincare and makeup



segments. Shoppers noted that Deepika's message of choosing oneself resonated strongly, prompting more frequent purchases and experimentation with new beauty routines.

Deepika's collaboration will

extend to Nykaa's major initiatives, including the Pink Friday Sale, Nykaaland, and the Best in Beauty Awards, reinforcing the brand's focus on everyday empowerment and redefining beauty on personal terms.

## 3 minutes, 3 steps, once a month: Medanta empowers women to detect breast cancer early

**Guwahati:** Medanta – The Medicity, named India's Best Private Hospital by Newsweek for six consecutive years, has launched an educational video highlighting a simple self-breast examination procedure aimed at early detection of breast cancer. The initiative is part of its "JaantaHaiMedanta" movement to raise awareness and drive action against the disease.

The video, featuring Dr. Kanchan Kaur, Senior Director, Breast Cancer at Medanta, demonstrates a three-step self-exam that takes just

three minutes and should be conducted monthly, ideally 2–3 days after a woman's periods. The method involves checking the breast and armpit using light pressure in an up-and-down and circular motion while observing any lumps, changes in skin texture, or nipple deformities. Dr. Kaur emphasized, "Regular screening and self-checks are vital because early detection greatly improves treatment outcomes and survival rates."

In Guwahati, health awareness campaigns have seen a rise in interest following the

video's release on platforms like Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. Local clinics report increasing footfall for routine check-ups, and women in the city are adopting self-exam practices, highlighting the growing emphasis on preventive healthcare in the region.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among Indian women. With early detection, treatment options improve significantly, and simple steps like monthly self-exams can be life-saving.

## The Government of India issues an advisory against job scams in Iran

**Guwahati:** The Government of India has issued an advisory for Indian nationals seeking employment in Iran, following several incidents where citizens were lured under false pretenses and later trapped. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "There have been a number of recent cases involving Indian citizens who have been lured to travel to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances that they would be sent further to third-countries for employment." The ministry further noted that upon arrival in Iran, many of these individuals were kidnapped by criminal groups, with ransom demands made for their release.

The advisory urged Indian nationals to exercise utmost caution, especially with offers claiming visa-free entry for jobs in Iran. It stated, "In this context, all Indian citizens are strongly cautioned to exercise the strictest vigilance regarding such employment promises or offers. In particular, it may be noted that the Government of Iran allows visa-free entry to Indians only for tourism purposes. Any agents promising visa-free entry into Iran for employment or other purposes may well be in connivance with criminal gangs. Indian citizens are therefore advised not to fall prey to such offers." The Government of India emphasized that it continues to place the highest priority on the safety of Indian citizens abroad and is closely monitoring the situation to safeguard their interests.

## Nissan posts 9.3% sales growth in September, Magnite drives record momentum

**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) reported consolidated sales of 10,500 units in September 2025, marking a 9.3% year-on-year growth compared to 9,629 units in September 2024. The growth was powered by strong demand for the New Nissan Magnite and festive season momentum boosted by GST revisions.

The company sold 1,652 units in the domestic market, while exports stood at 8,872 units. Notably, sales to South Asia hit a record 1,120 units, Nissan's highest-ever monthly performance in the region. The company credited its success to the launch of a segment-first 10-year extended warranty on the GNCAP 5-Star rated Magnite and GST-driven price cuts of up to ₹1 lakh.

In Guwahati, dealers report-



ed robust inquiries and booking surges for the Magnite, particularly the Kuro Special Edition and new Metallic Grey variant. Industry experts noted that Northeast markets like Guwahati are fast emerging as key demand centers for compact SUVs, with customers responding positively to affordability, safety, and style.

Looking ahead, Nissan

plans to expand its dealership network to 180 outlets by FY 2025-26 and 250 by FY 2026-27, while preparing for launches of a 7-seater B-MPV, a 5-seater C-SUV, and a 7-seater C-SUV. The Made-in-India Magnite, now exported to over 65 countries, remains central to Nissan's global "One Car One World" strategy.

## MoS Pabitra Margherita inaugurates 'Best of India' textile fair in Moscow, boosts export vision

**Guwahati:** India is strengthening its global textile footprint with the inauguration of the "Best of India – Indian Apparels and Textile Fair" in Moscow by Minister of State Pabitra Margherita on October 1. Organised by the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), the three-day fair from October 1–3 is designed to boost Indian textile exports to Russia, enhance bilateral cooperation, and unlock opportunities in the wider CIS region.

Calling the initiative "a showcase of India's strength in handlooms and textiles," Margherita said the event reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh's vision of expanding exports while highlighting Indian craftsmanship. On social media, he added, "This fair will deepen cooperation and open new gateways to CIS markets."

Guwahati, known for Assam's globally acclaimed muga and eri silks, views the Moscow fair as a major opportunity. Local traders believe the platform could help regional weavers secure greater access to Russia's growing demand for natural and sustainable fabrics, potentially boosting Assam's role in India's textile export story.

During his Moscow visit, Margherita also engaged with the Indian diaspora and marked Mahatma Gandhi's 156th birth anniversary, linking Gandhian ideals with government initiatives like Swachh Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

## IIM Shillong secures finalist spot at SBI Life's IdeationX 2.0

**Shillong:** Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong has secured a coveted finalist spot at SBI Life Insurance's IdeationX 2.0, a national-level innovation contest for India's top B-schools. The semi-final, held at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, saw IIM Shillong's team—Namita Gupta, Nitika Bansal, and Sakshi Agarwal—emerge victorious against 40 teams selected from over 3,500 entries nationwide.

The top eight teams, including participants from XLRI Jamshedpur, IIFT Kolkata, IIM Calcutta, XIMB Bhubaneswar, and KIIT Bhubaneswar, will now compete for the grand finale. SBI Life officials, including Ravindra Sharma, Chief of Brand, CSR and Corporate Communications, and Santosh Chacko, Zonal Director – East, praised the students' innovative ideas and highlighted the importance of youth-driven solutions to increase India's insurance penetration, currently under 4%.

In Shillong, IIM Shillong's success reinforces the city's growing reputation as a hub for management talent and innovation. Local businesses and recruitment networks are increasingly looking to the city for fresh ideas, boosting opportunities for collaboration, talent acquisition, and investor interest in Shillong's knowledge-driven economy.

With participation from over 30,000 students across India, IdeationX 2.0 emphasizes SBI Life's commitment to fostering innovation, nurturing young talent, and driving a digitally-forward and financially secure future for India.

## Abhinav Mishra unveils 'The Shrine' collection with star-studded sibling runway debut in Delhi

**Guwahati:** Acclaimed designer Abhinav Mishra launched his highly anticipated couture collection, The Shrine, in a spectacular open-air runway showcase at Chhatarpur Gardens, Delhi. The event marked a historic first as siblings Sara and Ibrahim Ali Khan walked together on the runway, with Sara reprising her role as showstopper.

The immersive show, conceptualized by Mishra and brought to life by Rani Pink's set design, recreated an architectural stepwell illuminated with thousands of candles and mirrored light, blending tradition with modern spectacle. Inspired by India's shrines, palaces, and frescoed walls, the collection highlighted Mishra's signature mirror work and gota embroidery, alongside contemporary silhouettes in organza, chiffon, silk, and georgette. Three central themes—Enchanting Blooms, Watercolour Artistry, and Delicate Har-

mony—drove the color palette of warm pastels and muted tones, while intricate embellishments added depth and luminosity to bridal lehengas, anarkalis, and menswear.

Guwahati's luxury fashion segment welcomed the launch with optimism, with boutique owners noting a growing appetite for high-end couture inspired by Indian craftsmanship. Retailers reported early inquiries for mirror-work ensembles, signaling expanding interest beyond metropolitan hubs.

Speaking on the event, Mishra described the collection as "a quiet celebration of history, retold in a language of softness, sparkle, and soul." The showcase was elevated by partners including Johnnie Walker Luxe, Emerald Jewels, and BDesir cosmetics, further amplifying its aura of elegance and grandeur.

## Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. launches the New Bolero range

**Guwahati:** Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, has introduced the New Bolero range. The price for the new Bolero starts at ₹7.99 Lakh (ex-showroom), and the newly introduced top-end B8 variant is priced at ₹9.69 Lakh (ex-showroom). The new Bolero Neo starts at ₹8.49 Lakh (ex-showroom), with the new top-end variant N11 at ₹9.99 Lakh (ex-showroom). With this launch, the Bolero range continues to uphold its iconic appeal with refined aesthetics, enhanced comfort, and modern features. With a legacy of 25 years and over 16 lakh satisfied customers, the Bolero remains a versatile SUV. It excels at navigating diverse terrains, from bustling city streets to rugged rural landscapes, offering exceptional adaptability and value. Nalinikanth Gollagunta, Chief Executive Officer – Automotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "The Bo-



lero has stood the test of time, earning its place as one of India's most versatile and tough SUVs for over 25 years."

The New Bolero blends bold design, modern features, and enhanced comfort while staying true to its authentic toughness. With a new bold grille, fog lamps, and diamond-cut alloy wheels, the Bolero stands as India's tough and reliable SUV. New colour option includes Stealth Black, along with existing Diamond White, DSAT Silver, and Rocky Beige.

The New Bolero Neo combines iconic toughness with urban sophistication and is suitable for customers who seek a bold and practical vehicle that offers modern comfort and capability. The sleek new grille with striking horizontal accents and dark metallic grey R16 alloy wheels set the Bolero Neo apart. New colours include Jeans Blue and Concrete Grey and three dual-tone options, along with existing Diamond White, Stealth Black, Pearl White, and Rocky Beige.

## TVS Motor launches advanced Raider 125cc with boost mode, dual disc brakes and GTT



**Guwahati:** TVS Motor Company on Monday unveiled the most advanced variant of its popular TVS Raider, introducing several segment-first features that aim to redefine performance and safety in the 125cc motorcycle category.

The new TVS Raider comes equipped with "Boost Mode" powered by iGO Assist technology, delivering best-in-class torque of 11.75 Nm @ 6,000 RPM. Riders can also enjoy enhanced braking confidence with First-in-Segment Dual Disc Brakes with ABS and effortless low-speed manoeuvrability thanks to Glide Through Technology (GTT). The bike's updated tyre configuration—90/90-17 front and 110/80-17 rear—ensures superior grip and handling across varied terrains. Additional safety features include a Follow Me

Headlamp and two connected display options, blending modern tech with style.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Aniruddha Haldar, Senior VP, TVS Motor Company, said, "The New TVS Raider raises the bar yet again, offering thrilling performance, top-notch safety, and unmatched ease, making it a motorcycle our customers are proud to own."

In Guwahati, dealers report strong anticipation for the new Raider, with early bookings reflecting a growing demand among young riders who prefer a blend of performance, connectivity, and city-friendly manoeuvrability.

Priced at ₹95,600 (TFT DD) and ₹93,800 (SXC DD, Ex-showroom Delhi), the motorcycle will be available at TVS dealerships nationwide from this month.

## UdhyanVyapaar's Istri Project boosts street vendors' income by Rs 100 crore nationwide

**Agartala:** UdhyanVyapaar announced a major milestone today as its flagship initiative, The IstriProject, helped street ironing vendors across India achieve a cumulative income uplift of ₹100 crore as of September 2025. The project supports vendors in switching from traditional coal-based iron boxes to LPG-powered ones at subsidised rates, reducing fuel costs by nearly half and increasing daily productivity by up to two hours.

Over the past four years, the initiative has expanded from one city to five, enabling more than 8,000 vendors to adopt cleaner fuel alternatives. Participating vendors have reported an average income increase of 25%, while the program has eliminated over 6,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. "Crossing the ₹100 crore milestone demonstrates how localized livelihood solutions can generate nationwide impact, benefiting incomes, health, and the environment simultaneously," said Krishnan Ranganathan, Co-Founder, Udhyan Learning Foundation.

In Agartala, the project has positively influenced the local street vendor ecosystem, with ironing service providers reporting higher customer footfall and faster turnaround times. The shift to LPG has not only reduced operational costs but also improved working conditions in busy market areas.

Cyril Joseph, Program Head of The Istri Project, emphasised that this achievement belongs to the thousands of vendors who embraced change. UdhyanVyapaar now aims to eliminate coal iron boxes across India within the next decade and is inviting partners from government, CSR, and social impact organisations to join the initiative.



## Coming soon Nissan's newest C-SUV: First Look at the All-New Tekton in India

**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India has revealed the name and offered a tantalizing preview of the design for the newest edition to the global SUV lineup: the All-New Nissan Tekton. The name "Tekton" is of Greek origin, meaning "craftsman" or "architect". It aligns with Nissan's ethos of precision engineering and innovation that enriches lives. The name signifies a powerful, premium C-SUV that embodies engineering excellence, performance, and a distinctive design identity. The Tekton will be a choice for those who are "shaping their world" through their careers, passions, or lifestyles. Ahead of its full unveiling and start of sales in 2026, the Tekton is designed and engineered to disrupt the C-SUV segment. Nissan's newest SUV, the Tekton, draws design inspiration from the company's



longest-running and most iconic SUV, the terrain conquering Patrol. When it arrives next year, it will combine bold aesthetics with robust reliability, premium craftsmanship, and a suite of advanced tech features.

At the front, a powerfully sculpted bonnet and distinctive C-shaped head lamp signature—reminiscent of the Patrol—

pair with robust lower bumper to create a commanding and imposing presence that belies the vehicle's size. Alfonso Albaisa, Corporate Executive, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., says, "The All-New Nissan Tekton draws its design inspiration from our legendary Nissan Patrol. It is designed to disrupt, dominate, and deliver everything today's modern Indian consumer desires." Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor in India, comments, "The All-New Nissan Tekton is going to be at the centre of the Nissan's resurgence story and offers a glimpse into the future of our product portfolio in the country." The Tekton will be key to Nissan Motor India's plans to strengthen its presence and expand its product portfolio in the country. Please visit [www.nissan.in](http://www.nissan.in) for more information.

## Anita Hassanandani says son Aaravv proudly flaunts her 'Chhoriyan Chali Gaon' trophy

**Mumbai:** Television actress Anita Hassanandani has opened up about her son Aaravv's heart-melting reaction to her recent win on "Chhoriyan Chali Gaon." In an inclusive interview with IANS, the actress shared that Aaravv proudly holds her trophy and shows it off to everyone, calling her "so cool" after watching her performance. When asked how Aarav reacted to her win, Anita revealed that her son was overjoyed, constantly holding her



trophy and showing it off to everyone.

The 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein' actress shared, "Both of them are very proud of me. Aarav especially keeps holding the trophy and showing it to everyone. For me, as a mother, that's the most special moment. When I signed this show, my only wish was for Aarav to be proud of me. When he saw me perform, he was like, "Wow, Mama, you were so cool!" That's exactly what I wanted to achieve, and I did."

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu on being a student: Learnt empathy, how to be a better human



**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared some advice to students dealing with pressure and also talked about what she learnt when she was in school. The actress on Sunday treated her fans with a question and answer session, where a social media user asked Samantha how to focus on health. The user asked: "How to focus on health? Being a student it's really hard to find time!! Can u plz give suggestions? (sic)." Answering the question, Samantha said in a video: "Honestly, it has been a long time since I was a student but I have been hearing a lot about how difficult it is right now

for students. The stress is ...." The actress said that she doesn't recall it "being so bad"

"But I empathise with you and I really want you to understand that good grades are not everything. I think what I learnt most from being a student and the most important part of being a student was the friendships that I made, respect I had for people around me, and the kindness that I learned from my friends." Talking about the lessons she learnt in school, Samantha said: "I learnt empathy, kindness, I learnt how to be a better human and I think these are the qualities honestly that worked out for me."

"I don't remember any of the things that I studied in school but these are the qualities that stayed with me and that are really important in life." The actress then shared a news article about the student suicides in India in 2023 with Maharashtra reporting the highest cases as per NCRB reports. Samantha dropped a heart break emoji on the article. The actress was also asked about her next Telugu project. To which, Samantha said that she finally has an answer to the question as she is starting to shoot this month for a film.

## Sharvari confirmed to star opposite Ahaan Panday in Ali Abbas Zafar's next

**Mumbai:** Actress Sharvari has signed the dotted lines to star opposite Ahaan Panday in filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar's upcoming yet-untitled action romance. A source close to IANS confirmed the news: "With Saiyaara creating history at the box office, Ahaan Panday is today, the biggest Gen Z male actor of our country. Sharvari was also a part of a Rs. 100 crore blockbuster Munjya." The source added: "You have two fantastic actors who have proved that sheer acting talent can pull people to theatres." As per the source: "This excites big film-makers like Ali Abbas Zafar to make a young film that has romance at its core



but is also an action entertainer. After decades, you have debutants and young actors with box office credibility."

The source said that it is fresh, it is new and it is really exciting to see youngsters on screen today. "Ali has two of the best actors with him

now for his vision to create a young action romance that is rooted in its emotions." The yet untitled film will be the fifth collaboration of Aditya Chopra and Ali Abbas Zafar after Mere Brother Ki Dulhan, Gunday, Sultan, and Tiger Zinda Hai.

## Bobby Deol completes three decades in Hindi cinema: I'm just getting started



**Mumbai:** It was in 1995 with "Barsaat" when Bobby Deol stepped into Hindi cinema. The actor is now celebrating his three decade long journey and said that he is just getting started. After Barsaat, Bobby was seen in films such as "Gupt: The Hidden Truth", "Kareeb", "Soldier", "Badal", "Hum To Mohabbat Karega", "Bichhoo", "Ajnabee", "Humraaz" and "Jhoom Barabar Jhoom" to name a few. This was followed by a career downturn.

However, he did taste a bit of success with his work in Apne, Yamla Pagla Deewana and Housefull 4. But it was recently, when he made a roaring comeback with Class of '83, Aashram, Animal, Love Hostel and The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood. The actor, who is the son of veteran actor Dharmendra and brother of Sunny Deol, took to Instagram, where he shared a video montage featuring all the posters of the film he featured in and added an interview where he spoke about how "Animal" changed his life.

"30 years of many emotions on and off screen ... all made worthwhile by your love. That fire still burns and I'm just getting started!" Bobby wrote as the caption. Bobby's success doesn't end there.

## Twinkle Khanna reveals her voice in "Mela" was dubbed by 'someone with asthma'



**Mumbai:** Bollywood actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna recently revealed a surprising detail about her performance in the 2000 film "Mela" during a candid conversation with Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt on her chat show co-hosted by Kajol and Twinkle". The actress disclosed that the voice heard in the film for her character Roopa was not her own but was dubbed by someone else. In the conversation, Varun Dhawan shared his fond-

ness for the film, calling it a guilty pleasure.

He added, "I love Roopa." Responding to this, Twinkle Khanna revealed, "It's not my voice. Oh my god, yes, of course, it's not my voice, because the makers thought that I was not being dramatic enough, so they got it dubbed by some person who has asthma, and that was it," she quipped. Her humorous quip about the dubbed voice being overly dramatic drew laughter from the panel.

## Rashmika Mandanna's 'The Girlfriend' to hit screens on November 7



**Chennai:** The makers of director Rahul Ravindran's eagerly awaited entertainer, 'The Girlfriend', featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna in the lead along with actor Dheekshith Shetty, on Saturday announced that the film would hit screens on November 7 this year. Taking to its X timeline, Geetha Arts, the production house that is presenting the film, wrote, "WHO IS YOUR TYPE? Let's have this conversation with #TheGirlfriend in theaters from NOVEMBER 7th, 2025. In Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam #TheGirlfriendOnNov7th. #WhoIsYourType."

The makers also released a promo video to make the announcement. In the promo that has been released, Rashmika is seen having an intense conversation with her boyfriend over a meal. After he places the order for food, she asks him, "Vikram, everyone has a type, right? Am I your type? What I mean is how does one find out if two people are right for each other? More importantly, when do they find out?" Vikram responds to her by asking, "Are you wondering if I am right for you?" To this, Rashmika replies, "I am also wondering if I am right for you. People get into relationships for a variety of reasons. But how many have this clarity?" The release date announcement is sure to bring a smile to the faces of the actress' fans, who have been eagerly awaiting the film's release. The fans, who have been constantly demanding updates from the unit about the film, went to the extent of making the hashtag #ReleaseTheGirlfriend trend on the platform X some months ago.

# Women's World Cup: Pakistan's Sidra Amin reprimanded for code of conduct breach vs India

**Colombo:** Pakistan batter Sidra Amin has been reprimanded for a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct for her actions during the team's recent ICC Women's Cricket World Cup match against India. The two teams faced off on Sunday at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Sri Lanka. Sidra breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel,

which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an international match." In addition, one demerit point has been added to her disciplinary record, as it was her first offence within a 24-month period.

The incident occurred when Sidra forcefully hit her bat onto the pitch after being dismissed in the 40th over. Sidra admitted to the



offence and acknowledged the sanction proposed by Shandr  Fritz of the Emirates ICC International Panel

of Match Referees. Hence, there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Lauren Agenbag and Nimali Perera, along with third umpire Kerrin Klaaste and fourth umpire Kim Cotton, issued the charge. Level 1 breaches result in penalties ranging from at least an official reprimand to a maximum of 50% of a player's match fee, along with one or two demerit points.

## Gambhir to host Indian team for dinner ahead of Delhi Test vs West Indies



**New Delhi:** As India gears up for the 2nd Test against West Indies in New Delhi, head coach Gautam Gambhir has extended a special gesture to the team. India Today has learnt that Gambhir has invited the entire squad, along with all members of the support staff, for dinner at his New Delhi residence on October 8. With the second Test taking place in his hometown, Gambhir has decided to host the players for an evening of relaxation and bonding before they dive back into preparations for what promises to be a busy stretch of cricket ahead. According to sources, the Indian Test team will attend an afternoon training session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on October 8. Following practice, the players and support staff will head directly to Gambhir's residence for the dinner hosted by the coach.

## Dinesh Karthik Pays Tribute to Rohit Sharma: "You Taught This Team What It Takes to Win Big Matches"

**New Delhi:** Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik penned a heartfelt message to Rohit Sharma on Saturday, hailing the veteran opener's inspiration and leadership and his legacy as one of India's most successful captains. Karthik's tribute came hours after the Indian selectors handed over the ODI captaincy to Shubman Gill, marking the end of Rohit's reign in the 50-over format. "Rohit Sharma, thank you so much. You were a phenomenal captain — tactically brilliant, yet always approachable and friendly," Karthik wrote in an emotional post on Instagram. "You made everyone around you feel comfortable, and that's a rare quality in a leader. But most importantly, you taught this current team what it takes to win the big moments and the big matches that truly matter."

Under Rohit's captaincy, India experienced a golden period across formats, winning two ICC trophies — the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy — and reaching the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup at home after an extraordinary run of 10 consecutive wins. Karthik reflected on the fearless mindset Rohit instilled in his players. "There were times when we took a backward step, but you insisted we go forward — put more pressure on the opposition, take more risks. And you didn't leave it to anyone else to show the way," he said. "You led from the front, with the bat, attacking in the biggest games. That takes immense skill and belief, and you did it again and again."

India's record under Rohit speaks volumes of his leadership. In 56 ODIs as captain, he won 42, boasting an impressive winning percentage of 76. In ICC tournaments, India lost only once in their last three multi-nation campaigns — a testament to the consistency he brought to the side.

Karthik lauded Rohit's ability to build a winning culture while nurturing young talent. "The 2024 T20 World Cup — unbeaten. Champions Trophy — unbeaten. The 2023 World Cup — just that final. Even the Asia Cup, with a young team, you went unbeaten again," he noted. "You've left Indian cricket in a better place than when you started. That's the true mark of a great leader." Rohit's calm composure, strategic acumen, and ability to inspire confidence within the dressing room earned him immense respect from teammates and fans alike. As he steps aside to allow a new generation, led by Shubman Gill, to take charge, tributes like Karthik's reflect the lasting impact of his leadership. For Karthik, Rohit's legacy extends beyond the silverware. "You've changed how this team thinks in crunch situations," he wrote. "You've taught them to fight harder, take control, and believe that India can win on any stage. That's your legacy, Rohit." With the baton now passed to Gill ahead of the upcoming series in Australia, Rohit's captaincy chapter closes with a legacy of consistency, unity, and a fearless approach that has redefined Indian cricket in the modern era.

## Sinner Defeats Altmaier in Straight Sets to Begin Shanghai Masters Title Defense

**Shanghai:** Defending champion Jannik Sinner opened his Shanghai Masters campaign with a composed 6-3, 6-3 victory over Germany's Daniel Altmaier on Saturday, gaining sweet revenge for his painful five-set loss at the 2023 French Open. The world No. 2 extended his winning streak to six matches following his recent China Open triumph in Beijing. "I knew it was going to be a tough match today," Sinner said after the win. "I didn't have much time to adjust here, so that makes this victory even more special." Saturday's meeting was the first between the pair since Altmaier stunned Sinner at Roland Garros last year, saving two match points in a marathon second-round clash.



This time, however, Sinner showed no signs of vulnerability, breaking early in both sets and controlling the tempo throughout. The Italian will next face Tallon Griekspoor in the third round — a player he has beaten in all six of their previous encounters.

Sinner admitted the quick turnaround from Beijing to Shanghai posed a challenge.

"It's very different here — much more humid and physically demanding," he said. "After winning a title, you try to balance rest and practice. Right now, my focus is on recovering and feeling good for the next match." Top seed Carlos Alcaraz withdrew from the tournament earlier in the week due to a left ankle injury.

## Messi-led Argentina team set to play in Kochi



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the preparations for the upcoming football match featuring the Argentina national team, scheduled to be held in November at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium,

Kochi. The Chief Minister directed that all arrangements be completed on a war footing and that the stadium be upgraded to world-class standards ahead of the event.

Maintenance and repair works at the venue will be expedited to ensure it meets international specifications.

The meeting also decided to put in place stringent security measures in and around the stadium to manage the expected large turnout of spectators. Possibilities for conducting a fan meet with the visiting team were also discussed. The Chief Minister instructed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for parking, medical and emergency facilities, drinking-water supply, power distribution, and waste management, ensuring a smooth experience for both players and fans.

Highlighting the scale of the event, the CM emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination. An IAS officer will be appointed to oversee all activities related to the match

and act as the nodal officer. A state-level committee under the Chief Secretary will monitor overall preparations, while District Collectors will lead coordination efforts at the district level.

The Chief Minister said Kerala was proud to host a global football powerhouse like Argentina and that the event would showcase the state's passion for football as well as its capacity to organize major international sporting events. The meeting, held at the Chief Minister's Conference Hall, was attended by Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman, Industries Minister P. Rajeev, Local Self-Government Minister M.B. Rajesh, Chief Secretary Dr A. Jayathilak, State Police Chief R. Chandrasekhar.