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Gold prices dip as safe-haven demand declines



Mumbai: Spot gold prices slipped below the \$4,000 per ounce after a significant increase this year, dipping 2.7 per cent from last week to \$3,984.43 an ounce, data showed on Monday. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was Rs 1,21,113 during the day trade, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Analysts said the moderation in demand came as trade tensions between the US and China cooled and the dollar index jumped to its highest in three months. After a sharp rally, gold and silver lost some shine last week. Further Beijing's decision to end a long-standing tax rebate for certain retailers is expected to weaken demand in one of the world's largest bullion markets, according to multiple media reports. In spite of the pullback, gold remains over 50 per cent higher year-to-date, driven by central-bank

purchases and safe-haven demand. Silver prices have also corrected sharply after hitting festive-season highs of around Rs 2 lakh per kilo during the Dhanteras period.

The price of one kilogram of silver was Rs 1,49,660, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). However, many experts view this as a temporary phase, with another rally likely in the near future. "Rising US bond yields above 4 per cent further weakened investor appetite for safe-haven assets. Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments that rate cuts in December aren't guaranteed also dampened sentiment. However, consistent central bank purchases and lingering global economic uncertainties continue to offer underlying support to bullion prices," according to Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd.

Royal Enfield sales rise 13 pc in Oct, records best-ever festive season

Mumbai: Bullet maker Royal Enfield on Sunday reported a 13 per cent rise in total sales to 1,24,951 units in October, compared to 1,10,574 units sold in the same month last year, supported by strong festive demand and improving market sentiment. Domestic sales grew 15 per cent to 1,16,844 units, up from 1,01,886 units in October 2024, the company said in a statement. However, exports declined 7 per cent to 8,107 units, against 8,688 units in the corresponding period last year. B Govindarajan, Managing Director of Eicher Motors Limited and CEO of Royal Enfield, said the festive mood boosted sales across the country.



"With over 2.49 lakh motorcycles sold during the festive months of September and October, our best-ever festive performance, we have achieved a milestone that speaks volumes about our momentum and the unwavering love riders have for the brand," he said. The company, a part of the Eicher Motors Group, continues to strengthen its position in the mid-size motorcycle segment with popular models like Classic 350, Bullet, Hunter 350, and Himalayan.

GST revenue growth reflects economic resilience, strong festive consumption: Govt data

New Delhi: The yearly Goods and Services Tax (GST) growth -- from October 2024 to October 2025 -- has been captured at 7.8 per cent, rising from Rs 9,65,138 crore in October 2024 to Rs 10,40,055 crore in October 2025, official data showed on Monday. The monthly gross domestic revenue is 2 per cent higher -- from Rs 1,42,251 crore in October 2024 to Rs 1,45,052 crore in October 2025, while gross GST revenue from imports registered a yearly growth of 12.9 per cent, reflecting strong trade activity.

The October 2025 GST revenue collections reflect continued economic resilience, strong festive consumption, and effective compliance, government data showed, as the healthy rise in import-related GST indicates buoyant trade sentiments, while domestic collections show steady improvements. Overall, the upward trend points towards sustained consumption recovery, a broadening tax base, and robust fiscal health placing India on a stable trajectory for the remainder of FY 2025-26.

The gross GST revenue



collected for October 2025 is Rs 1,95,936 crore, registering a 4.6 per cent increase compared to Rs 1,87,346 crores for the same month last year. The sharp rise in

GST collections in the onset of the recent GST rate rationalisation in late September 2025 indicates sustained consumer demand during the festive season.

Indian stock markets end higher after two days of losses

Mumbai: Indian equity markets ended a volatile session on a positive note on Monday, snapping a two-day losing streak. Gains in real estate and state-owned bank stocks helped lift the indices despite early weakness. After opening lower, the Sensex recovered to touch an intra-day high of 84,127 before closing 39.78 points, or 0.05 per cent, higher at 83,978.49. The Nifty also gained 41.25 points, or 0.16 per cent, to end at 25,763.35.

"The Nifty oscillated between 25,700 and 25,800 through the day, showing resilience after briefly dipping below the October 24 low of 25,718," analysts said. "The zone between 25,660-25,700 once again acted as a strong demand pocket, helping the index recover intraday losses and maintain a constructive tone ahead of key global



data releases," they added.

Among the Sensex stocks, Maruti Suzuki fell over 3 per cent and was among the top losers along with Titan Company, BEL, TCS, ITC, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel and tech Mahindra. On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, and HCL Tech were the major gainers. In the broader markets, the Nifty

MidCap index rose 0.77 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index advanced 0.72 per cent, showing strength beyond the frontline stocks.

Among sectoral indices, PSU bank shares led the rally, with the Nifty PSU Bank index climbing 1.92 per cent. Bank of Baroda surged 5 per cent, while Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, and Indian Bank also gained.

Aluminium industry urges govt to slap 15 pc customs duty to check surge in imports

New Delhi: The Aluminium Association of India (AAI), in a detailed representation to the Ministry of Mines, has called for a flat 15 per cent basic customs duty on aluminium products as the industry is facing a challenge from the surge in imports from surplus nations driven by global tariff and non-tariff protectionist measures. AAI, in their submission, has highlighted that there has been a jump of over 50 per cent in aluminium imports in the



country in the last five years. To safeguard the industry from rising imports and encourage investments, the submission calls for a uniform import duty of 15 per cent on all aluminium

products under the relevant categories, along with the enforcement of stringent quality norms for non-standard scrap imports. Its representation calls for "urgent action to future-proof India's aluminium industry so that Indian industries can bring in investments worth around Rs 20 lakh crore."

"These measures are critical to protect domestic manufacturing, prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for poor quality scrap.

Bharti Airtel's Q2 profit surges 89 pc to Rs 6,792 crore



Mumbai: Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Monday reported an 89 per cent year-on-year (YoY) jump in consolidated net profit for the July-September quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26). The company's profit rose to Rs 6,791.7 crore, compared to Rs 3,593.2 crore in the same quarter last financial year, according to its stock exchange filing. Airtel's consolidated revenue from operations grew 25.7 per cent YoY to Rs 52,145.4 crore, up from Rs 41,473.3 crore in Q2 FY25, driven by strong performance across its mobile and data segments.

"We delivered another quarter of solid performance, achieving a consolidated revenue of Rs 52,145 crore growing 5.4 per cent sequentially and underscoring the strength of our portfolio," Gopal Vittal, Vice-Chairman and MD, said. "We saw multiple deal wins across Connectivity, IOT and security business," he added. "Our solid balance sheet is a reflection of disciplined capital allocation, continued deleveraging and sustained operational excellence," Vittal mentioned.

Škoda Auto India hits record 61,607 sales in 10 months, posts best-ever October performance

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has achieved its highest-ever annual sales within the first 10 months of 2025, marking a milestone year as the brand celebrates 25 years in the country. The company sold 61,607 vehicles between January and October 2025, surpassing its previous full-year record of 53,721 units in 2022. October also proved historic with 8,252 units sold — Škoda's best-ever monthly performance.

The surge has been driven by the strong response to the Kylaq, the company's first sub-4m SUV, which has already clocked nearly 40,000 units. Other contributors include sustained demand for



the Kushaq and Slavia, rising interest in the luxury 4x4 Kodiaq, and the Octavia RS, which sold out within 20 minutes of launch. Škoda has now sold over 200,000 locally produced vehicles in India and

expanded its network to 318 touchpoints across 180 cities.

In Guwahati, dealers report rising interest in premium and performance-oriented vehicles, with customers shifting towards SUVs and fea-

ture-rich sedans in the ₹15–40 lakh bracket. Škoda's growing presence and brand recall in Assam's capital is expected to fuel further growth amid increasing aspirational demand in the Northeast.

Brand Director Ashish Gupta said the milestone reflects the company's "strength of purpose, clarity of vision and agility of execution," backed by new product launches, dealership expansion and customer-focused initiatives. The carmaker also plans to increase dealership workforce by 50% and invest in 25,000 training days to enhance service quality, as part of its long-term strategy for India.

IREDA boosts renewable push in Northeast, targets major investments to build green power hub

Guwahati: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has strengthened its focus on accelerating renewable energy growth in the North-East, reaffirming its long-term commitment to clean power investments in the region. Addressing a session on "Financing Renewable Energy in the North Eastern Region" in Guwahati, CMD Pradip Kumar Das underlined the North-East's strategic role in India's clean energy transition, identifying hydropower and solar as the primary drivers.

Das said India's renewable energy capacity has tripled since FY14 and is expected to double again by FY2030, demanding nearly ₹28 lakh crore in fresh investments. The North-East already generates about 5 GW of renewable power, accounting for almost 60% of its total power capacity. IREDA has sanctioned more than ₹3,500 crore in the region, offering concessional interest rates including a 50-basis-point rebate for North-East projects and an additional 50-basis-point rebate for women-led projects. The agency has also supported over 3,800 solar pumps in Tripura and multiple rooftop solar installations across Assam



under PM-KUSUM and Rooftop Solar schemes.

In Guwahati, industry players see rising investor interest in solar rooftops, decentralized systems, and EV-linked energy projects. Local businesses expect improved grid connectivity and financial incentives to bring more green MSMEs and innovation hubs to the city, boosting Assam's clean-tech ecosystem.

Das added that with targeted reforms and strong regional leadership — including several IREDA business heads from the Northeast — the region is poised to become a major green energy hub for India and neighbouring economies.

ICICI Pru Life Insurance passes GST benefit to customers, making insurance cheaper

Imphal: Term insurance is an essential part of any individual's financial plan. It provides a strong foundation by acting as an income replacement tool for the family if the earning member passes away, ensuring that financial goals are still achievable. Recently, the Indian Government introduced reforms that exempted all insurance policies from GST. Customers earlier paid 18% of the premium amount as GST, for instance, if an individual had to pay a premium Rs. 100, over and above this Rs. 18 was charged as GST. With the GST exemption the individual now has to pay only Rs. 100. This has made life insurance products cheaper, including term insurance products. Specifically, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has passed on the entire GST exemption benefit to its customers, in line with its commitment towards delivering the best value to its customers. Thus, making insurance plans more affordable and accessible for every Indian family. Earlier, a 30-year-old male, non-smoker paid a monthly premium of Rs. 825, inclusive of GST.

Now the same individual will have to pay just Rs. 699 for a life cover of Rs. 1 crore for a 30-year period. Furthermore, a 30-year-old female, non-smoker for the same cover and tenure will now have to pay a monthly premium of only Rs. 594, instead of Rs. 697 including GST. Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd., said, "At ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, we believe that true value lies in doing what's right for our customers. Every saving we return to our customers strengthens trust, enhances affordability and moves us closer to a future where quality insurance is within everyone's reach. It also complements the Company's ongoing efforts to reduce the protection gap by encouraging more individuals to take the first step towards securing their future." Importantly, term insurance is a financial safety cushion which ensures that an individual's loved ones are protected even when one is not around. Therefore, it is important to ensure that protection products are made affordable for all.

Govt, ABCF & BITS Pilani launch startup challenge to boost innovation in NSTIs



Guwahati: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), along with Aditya Birla Capital Foundation (ABCF) and Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Society (PIEDS) of BITS Pilani, on Thursday launched the Navonmesh Protsahan Spardha: Kaushalta se Udyamita, an innovation and start-up challenge aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among students of National Skills Training Institutes (NSTIs).

The initiative, managed by PIEDS and supported under ABCF's CSR programme, will target over 10,000 NSTI students pursuing skill training across 33 NSTIs in India, including NSTI(W) centres dedicated to women. The challenge will focus on innovation in IT/ITeS, automotive, apparel, electronics & hardware, power, and capital goods sectors, offering mentoring, resources, prizes and incubation to help students turn ideas into market-ready ventures.

Highlighting the significance, MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee said, "Every skilled individual carries the potential to become a job creator... this challenge will empower young innovators to transform ideas into sustainable ventures, strengthening India's Aatmanirbhar vision."

The initiative could strengthen the Northeast's skill ecosystem, particularly as the region sees rising demand for trained talent in manufacturing, IT services, and electronics repair in Guwahati. Local skill centres and emerging start-up hubs in Guwahati are expected to benefit as NSTI-trained innovators explore entrepreneurship, potentially boosting employment and MSME growth in Assam.

The programme also seeks to address the limited innovation support available to the technical and vocational education segment, which includes over 13 lakh students across ITIs and NSTIs nationwide.

Renault India races ahead with 21% Y-O-Y growth in October 2025

Guwahati: Renault India has continued its strong upward trajectory, registering wholesale sales of 4,672 units in October 2025 — a solid 21% growth over the 3,861 units sold in the same month last year.

The performance surpasses the auto industry's overall growth rate of 17.3% for the month, signalling robust consumer demand and successful product strategy by the automaker.

The growth was driven largely by the newly introduced



Triber and Kiger models, which have received enthusiastic customer response nationwide. The favourable implementation of GST 2.0 also contributed to improved market sentiment. Month-on-month, Renault posted a 9.54% rise from September 2025, when the company recorded 4,265 unit sales.

In Guwahati, Renault dealers reported heightened enquiries during the festive period, reflecting rising consumer confidence in the Northeast auto market. Strong footfall and demand for compact SUVs and family-oriented models like the Kiger and Triber boosted showroom activity, aligning with the city's growing preference for feature-rich and value-driven vehicles.

Retail performance remained strong as well, with VAHAN data showing registrations of 5,041 units in October, marking a 12.7% increase year-on-year. "We are confident this encouraging momentum will continue," said Francisco Hidalgo, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Renault India.

Amway to invest Rs 100 crore in India, reinforces commitment to 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision

Imphal: Amway President and CEO Michael Nelson has announced a ₹100-crore (USD 12 million) investment for Amway India over the next three to five years, signaling the company's next phase of innovation and expansion in alignment with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The announcement marks 10 years of Amway's manufacturing journey in India, now one of its three global manufacturing hubs alongside the US and China.

Nelson, on his maiden visit to India as CEO, said, "India stands at the very core of Amway's global vision. It is a powerhouse of potential driven by its digitally empowered population and entrepreneurial spirit." The investment will focus on upgrading distributor capabilities, enhancing customer experiences, and transforming retail stores into engagement hubs.

Amway India Managing Director Rajneesh Chopra said the move reflects Amway's long-term commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, science-backed product innovation, and holistic wellbeing.

In Imphal, the investment is expected to catalyze local entrepreneurship and retail activity. With growing consumer demand for health and nutrition products and a rising youth-led distributor base, Imphal is emerging as a promising regional market for Amway's wellness and direct-selling business expansion.

French delegation to explore investment potential in North-East at first Indo-French Conference in Assam

Guwahati: The Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IFCCI) is set to host the first Indo-French Investment Conference in North-East India, with a special focus on Assam, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties and expand trade and investment opportunities in the region. Organised in partnership with the Embassy of France in India and the Assam Government, the conference will witness participation from key policymakers, diplomats, business leaders and senior bureaucrats.

Union Minister for Communications and DoNERJ yotiraditya M. Scindia and French Ambassador Thierry Mathou will attend the event. More than 20 French CEOs will take part in a high-level Business-to-Government (B2G) session, exploring opportunities in energy, infrastructure, defence, communications,

ITeS, agriculture, food processing, and higher education.

Two panel discussions titled “Assam at the Crossroads of Trade & Innovation” and “The Next Frontier: Unlocking Investment Potential Across Sectors” will also be held.

In Guwahati, the conference could significantly boost investor confidence in Assam, especially in emerging sectors like IT-enabled services and food processing. Local business leaders believe French involvement will support infrastructure expansion and open global market access opportunities for regional industries.

IFCCI Director General Payal S. Kanwar said the North-East holds “tremendous potential for Indo-French collaboration,” adding that the initiative aims to attract sustainable investments and spur inclusive development in the region.

American Tourister rolls out ‘Made in Nashik. For the World’ campaign, spotlight India’s manufacturing strength



Guwahati: American Tourister has launched its new campaign, “Made in Nashik. For the World,” celebrating Nashik’s pivotal role in powering the brand’s global journey. The film showcases the brand’s largest factory in the world located in Nashik, where craftsmanship, tradition, and modern manufacturing converge. Set against the city’s lively backdrop—from riverbanks and bazaars to the beat of the dhol and the elegance of Paithani—the campaign honours the precision and passion of thousands of workers who bring the brand’s products to life.

With over 60 lakh units produced annually and nearly 25,000 families connected to the brand, the campaign underlines Nashik’s growing stature as a hub for world-class travel goods manufacturing. The initiative also

highlights Samsonite’s other iconic brands being crafted at the same facility, positioning Nashik as a symbol of India’s manufacturing ambition.

In Guwahati, the campaign is expected to strike a chord with consumers who increasingly prioritise quality and durability. Retailers in the city note rising demand for premium travel gear as domestic and international travel from the Northeast expands, and products with strong Make-in-India credentials continue to gain traction among aspirational buyers.

“Our aim is to make every Indian swell with pride upon seeing an American Tourister,” said Anushree Tainwala, Executive Director – Marketing, Samsonite South Asia, adding that the film reflects gratitude to Nashik’s skilled workforce. “Behind every journey stands the spirit of Nashik,” she said.

Smile Train, CIHSR join hands to boost free cleft care access in Nagaland

Kohima: In a major healthcare development for Nagaland, global cleft-focused NGO Smile Train has collaborated with the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research (CIHSR), Dimapur, to expand access to free and comprehensive cleft treatment in the state. The partnership aims to improve medical access for children from remote regions, where lack of awareness and affordability often delay crucial treatment. Through this alliance, Smile Train will support CIHSR’s Happy Smiles programme by offering training, funding and technical resources, ensuring long-term cleft care solutions within the state.

Under the initiative, medical professionals will be equipped to deliver safe and sustainable surgery and treatment facilities locally, reducing dependency on out-of-state healthcare systems. “Our goal is to ensure that every child born with a cleft has access to safe and timely treatment close to home,” said Mamta Carroll, Senior Vice President & Regional Director, Asia, Smile Train. CIHSR Director Dr. Se devi Angami said the partnership marks a meaningful step in “transforming lives, one smile at a time.”

In Kohima, healthcare service providers and local parents welcomed the move, noting that improved local treatment infrastructure will lower out-of-pocket medical and travel expenses. Traders and community groups in Kohima’s key commercial areas believe this partnership could encourage families to seek treatment earlier, while also raising healthcare awareness in urban and rural pockets.

India records nearly 35,000 cleft births annually. Families seeking free cleft services can contact Smile Train’s helpline: 1800 103 8301.

NMIPL clocks 45% month-on-month domestic sales growth, with consolidated sales of 9675 units in October 2025

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has reported consolidated sales of 9675 units in October 2025, marking a 45% month-on-month growth. This performance uplift reflects a strong festive demand for the New Nissan Magnite during Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali, complemented by the positive impact of the GST rate reduction announced by the Government of India. Domestic wholesale stood at 2402 units, supported by robust demand for the New Nissan Magnite, while exports reached 7273 units, reinforcing Nissan India’s position as a global export hub. The company recently celebrated the export of its 1.2 millionth vehicle strengthening its “Make in India, Make for the World” philosophy. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said: October has been a good month for Automotive Industry as well as Nissan Motor India, driven by festive



cheer supported by the GST rationalization announced by the Govt. of India.

The NMIPL Network is now expanding to welcome the exciting upcoming product launches, which includes the much-awaited Nissan Tekton, a 7-seater B-MPV, and a 7-seater C-SUV with Dealer partners who are well-prepared and optimistic, anticipating a strong boost in customer engagement. By extending the full GST benefit to customers, Nissan reduced prices on the New Nissan Magnite by up

to ₹1 lakh. The introduction of the New Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition and the new Metallic Grey color added to the excitement, drawing a strong response from customers nationwide. With its bold presence and expanding global footprint across 65+ countries, the Made-in-India New Nissan Magnite continues to embody Nissan’s “One Car, One World” philosophy — symbolizing quality, innovation, and excellence from India to the world. Please visit www.nissan.in for more information.

Godrej Industries Group announces its continued partnership with Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest

Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group has announced its continued partnership with Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest. Now in its 16th edition, the LitFest will be held at NCPA, Nariman Point, from November 7 to 9, 2025. The three-day festival will showcase over 120 distinguished writers, speakers, thinkers, and performers from more than 10 countries, offering a dynamic blend of voices, stories, and perspectives aimed at inspiring reflection, dialogue, and discovery including special sessions by Godrej DEI Lab that explore the vital themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Staying true to the city’s vibrant spirit, the festival will feature its signature events along with the Great Debate, Book in Focus, indoor and outdoor performances, the Little Festival for Children, and a variety of engaging workshops. This year, the LitFest will be expanding accessibility with over 15 sessions featuring Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpretation by Access for All, who will also lead a zine-making workshop for

children to encourage empathy.

A sensory-friendly tent in the Open-Air Plaza offers a calming zone for neurodivergent children and others, equipped with tactile materials, soft seating, and noise-cancelling tools, supported by trained facilitators. Commenting on the association, Nadir Godrej, Chairperson, Godrej Industries Group, said, “At Godrej Industries Group, we firmly believe in and cherish the power of storytelling and are proud to partner with LitFest once again.” The festival will also bestow its highest honours: the Poet Laureate Award to acclaimed Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra and the Lifetime Achievement Award to celebrated Hindi novelist and poet Vinod Kumar Shukla. Amy Fernandes, Festival Co-Director, said, “Our partnership with Godrej Industries has helped evolve this journey to become a true celebration of Mumbai’s literary spirit and a source of inspiration for future generations.”

India’s retirement preparedness improves: Axis Max Life IRIS 5.0 shows rising awareness and early planning trends

Guwahati: India’s retirement readiness has seen steady improvement, with the India Retirement Index Study (IRIS) 5.0 by Axis Max Life Insurance revealing a rise in the national index score from 44 to 48 over four years. Conducted in partnership with Kantar, the study highlights increasing awareness and early financial planning among urban Indians, with half believing that retirement

planning should begin as soon as one starts earning.

The report shows growing health awareness and fitness habits, as 81% of respondents engage in regular physical activity and 50% now own health insurance. However, financial sufficiency remains low, with 63% saying their savings would last less than 10 years post-retirement. Women and gig workers demonstrat-

ed higher preparedness, while the East Zone led the nation in overall readiness.

In Guwahati, financial advisors noted that young professionals are showing a shift toward disciplined saving and insurance-based investment. Yet, experts believe more awareness is needed in Assam’s urban centers to bridge the gap between knowledge and actual retirement corpus creation.



Axis Max Life MD & CEO Sumit Madan said IRIS 5.0 signals a “clear shift toward smarter and more holistic retirement planning,” urging inclusive advisory support for diverse workforce segments.

TCI reports 8% revenue growth in Q2 FY26, driven by Auto & FMCG demand

Guwahati: Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), one of India's largest integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain companies, has reported strong financial results for the second quarter of FY2026, supported by robust demand across the auto, FMCG and consumer durables sectors.

The company posted a consolidated revenue of ₹12,174 million in Q2 FY26, an increase of 8% from ₹11,314 million in the same period last year. EBITDA rose 7% to ₹1,624 million from ₹1,519 million, while profit after tax (PAT) increased 6% to ₹1,135 million. For the first six months of FY26, TCI recorded 8.3% growth in revenue and 11% rise in PAT.

On a standalone basis, the company's revenue stood at ₹10,652 million, up 5.3% year-on-year. Standalone PAT grew 6.4% to ₹878 million.

TCI Managing Director Vineet Agarwal said the performance reflects strong demand trends and operational efficiency, further boosted by GST 2.0 implementation and festive season demand. "We expanded



warehousing, invested in automation, and scaled our rail and coastal logistics offerings," he stated. Agarwal also highlighted TCI's sustainability efforts, including alternative fuel pilots and a carbon emissions tool now adopted by DPIIT.

In Guwahati, logistics operators and traders expect demand to strengthen further as FMCG and consumer durables movement rises ahead of the festive and winter season. With Assam emerging as a logistics hub for the Northeast, TCI's expansion in multimodal and warehousing solutions is seen by market stakeholders as a catalyst for faster goods movement to key regional markets.

TCI Group, with over ₹7,000 crore in revenues, continues to expand its multimodal network, coastal shipping fleet, cold chain operations and supply chain solutions across India.

Medanta Super Speciality Hospital opens a state-of-the-art 400+ bed hospital in Guwahati

Guwahati: Global Health Limited "Medanta", one of India's largest private multi-specialty tertiary care providers with a strong presence in the North and East, is set to expand its footprint further with a state-of-the-art, 400+ bed hospital in Guwahati, Assam. The upcoming facility, located at Industrial Estate, Sarusajai, along National Highway 27, will mark a major milestone in Medanta's mission to bring world-class healthcare to underserved regions of India. With an investment of approximately Rs. 500 crores, the hospital will deliver tertiary and quaternary care across a comprehensive range of super-specialties. Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, and Dr. B.C. Roy Awardee Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, envisioned the institution of Medanta with a goal of creating a centre of excellence modelled on world-renowned institutions such as Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins, Harvard Medical School, and Imperial College.



Medanta operates six hospitals across five states — in Gurgaon, Indore, Ranchi, Lucknow, Patna, and Noida — spanning 5.5 million sq. ft. and offering 3,300+ installed beds. In addition to Guwahati Hospital, Medanta is also expanding its footprint in Mumbai (Oshiwara) and Delhi (Pitampura and Greater Kailash) with planned bed capacity of over 2,000 beds. Guided by its core philosophy — "Har Ek Jaan Anmol" (Every Life is Invaluable) — the institution aims to make high-quality healthcare accessible to all.

Medanta's upcoming Guwa-

hati hospital will offer a wide spectrum of super-specialties, including: Comprehensive Transplant Programs (Kidney, Liver, Lung, Heart, Bone Marrow, and Robotic Transplants), Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (including Paediatric Cardiology), Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Interventional Neurology, Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Medical, Surgical, and Radiation Oncology, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Nephrology and Urology, Respiratory Medicine and Interventional Pulmonology, ENT and Head & Neck Cancer, Plastic, Aesthetic, and Recon-

structive Surgery, Endocrinology, Critical Care, Trauma, Ophthalmology, and Maxillofacial Surgery. Speaking about the upcoming super-specialty hospital, Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, shared, "At Medanta, we believe that quality healthcare should be a right, not a privilege, and this new facility is being developed to meet the rising demand for advanced, accessible care, thus reaffirming our mission to make cutting-edge healthcare accessible to all, no matter where they live." Medanta's foray into the region will be transformative, setting new benchmarks in quality healthcare delivery, and ensuring access to cutting-edge medical services such as advanced robotic procedures not only for Guwahati but also for the entire Northeastern region. It is expected to create 5,000–7,000 direct and indirect jobs across healthcare, administration, and support services, contributing to the region's overall socio-economic development.

PNB MetLife expands footprint in Assam, opens new branch in Lakhimpur



Lakhimpur: PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has strengthened its presence in Assam with the opening of a new branch in Lakhimpur. The announcement was made on Wednesday in Guwahati. With the new branch, the company now operates four branches across Assam, reflecting its focus on expanding insurance access in the state.

According to the company, the expansion aims to bring insurance services closer to people and support customers with easier policy services and trusted financial guidance.

"Trust has always been the foundation of PNB MetLife's relationship with its customers. With 177 branches now across India, we are not only expanding our reach but also strengthening the assurance that customers can

depend on us," said Sameer Bansal, MD & CEO of PNB MetLife. He added that the company is committed to making financial protection simple and accessible.

The new branch is expected to boost financial service availability in Lakhimpur, which has seen growing interest in savings and protection products. Local business owners and salaried individuals in the district have increasingly been seeking organised financial and insurance solutions. With the new office, residents are likely to benefit from quicker service, better access to insurance products, and improved financial planning support.

PNB MetLife currently serves customers through 177 branches and over 20,000 bancassurance partner locations across India, ensuring wide access to its protection and savings offerings.

TVS Motor makes power-packed global debut at EICMA 2025, unveils six new models and AR helmets

Guwahati: TVS Motor Company marked a milestone at EICMA 2025 with a commanding debut, unveiling six new models across petrol and electric platforms, next-gen AR-enabled Heads-Up Display helmets, and connected vehicle technologies. The company also showcased its global growth strategy and reaffirmed its commitment to European expansion.

The lineup featured revolutionary concepts such as the TVS Tangent RR supersport, TVS eFX three o electric motorcycle, TVS M1-S electric maxi-scooter, TVS RTR HyprStunt urban sports concept, the adventure-focused TVS Apache RTX 300, and the futuristic TVS X. In a major highlight, the revitalised Norton brand returned with modern engineering rooted in over a century of racing legacy, backed by TVS's £200-million investment.

TVS Chairman Sudarshan Venu said the debut underscores the brand's global ambition. "We underline our vision to serve customers in Europe with passion, precision and pride," he said.

In Guwahati, TVS's EICMA showcase reinforces rising aspirations in Northeast India's two-wheeler market, where demand for performance bikes and electric mobility is growing. Dealers expect heightened interest in premium models and advanced EV offerings once launched in India.

With AR helmets built with Swiss startup Aegis Rider and expanded SmartXconnect features, TVS aims to redefine tech-led mobility as it prepares European rollout between 2026 and 2027.



Nissan crosses 1.2 million 'Made in India' exports, driven by Magnite success



Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has achieved a major export milestone with the shipment of its 1.2 millionth vehicle from India, reinforcing the company's "Make in India, Make for the World" vision. The landmark vehicle, a New Nissan Magnite B-SUV, was flagged off from Kamarajar Port in Ennore, Tamil Nadu, to the GCC region, in the presence of Nissan Motor India Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa.

Nissan's export journey from India has been built on the success of models such as the Sunny, Kicks, and Micra, with the Magnite now driving its global momentum. The New Magnite, sold in over 65 countries in right- and left-hand-drive formats, has strengthened India's role as a manufacturing and export hub for the company across Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. "This milestone reflects our collective dedication and the trust of customers worldwide in Made-in-India cars," Vatsa said.

Nissan's export boost reflects rising confidence in India-built vehicles and could spur stronger demand in Northeast markets especially in Guwahati. With compact SUVs gaining traction among urban and aspirational buyers, the Magnite's global reputation and safety credentials are expected to support Nissan's market presence in Assam's capital.

The New Magnite recently secured a 5-star Global NCAP adult safety rating and boasts over 55 safety features and 20 segment-leading offerings. Nissan is now preparing to introduce its new global C-SUV, the Nissan Tekton, in India next year, which will also serve export markets.

'Big Boss 19': Ashnoor Kaur says 'shame on you, Tanya Mittal' over body-shaming comments



Mumbai: Housemate Ashnoor Kaur will be left gobsmacked in the upcoming episode of Big Boss 19, after a shocking revelation by host Salman Khan exposed contestant Tanya Mittal and Neelam Giri's alleged body-shaming remarks. A promo was shared by the channel on Instagram and was captioned: "Ashnoor ke baare mein discuss karna pada Tanya aur Neelam ko mehenga!

Salman ne li Weekend Ka Vaar par unki class." During the weekend episode, Salman confronted housemates Tanya and Neelam about their comments on Ashnoor's appearance.

When asked for her opinion on how Ashnoor is looking, Neelam said, "She is looking good," while Tanya added, "She looks like a princess." However, Salman quickly interjected, revealing the real story. "Really? Neelam, you're proud of your gossip. Why don't you say it now? Tanya, you said she looks like an elephant, a dinosaur, fat and ugly," Salman said, leaving Ashnoor stunned. He added: "Who gave you the right to say all this?"

Visibly taken aback, Ashnoor responded firmly, "Wow, Tanya... shame on you." In the upcoming episode, Salman will also school Abhishek Bajaj and Ashnoor. In a promo video, which begins with Salman talking to Abhishek and Ashnoor over breaking house rules despite repeated warnings. Salman said: "Abhishek, Ashnoor. The rule break was a mess. Continuing even after three warnings and then saying we completed our conversation and now the entire country is curious to know what did you both talk about?"

Alia Bhatt, Sharvati-starrer 'Alpha' to now release on April 17 owing to pending VFX work



Mumbai: The upcoming Alia Bhatt and Sharvati-starrer action film 'Alpha' has a new release date. The film, which was earlier slated to release on December 25 (as confirmed by Alia on the sidelines of the Milan Fashion Week), will now bow in cinemas on April 17, 2026. The reason behind the release getting pushed is the VFX work remaining on the film. The makers are leaving no stone unturned to serve a delectable actioner, and the first female-led film from the famed spy-universe, and for that to happen, December 25 deadline seems too tight of a ropewalk. Yash Raj Films confirmed as they shared that the VFX team of 'Alpha' needs more time to present Alpha in its visually best shape. A YRF spokesperson said in a statement shared with the media, "'Alpha' is an extremely special film for us and we want to present the film in its most cinematic self. We have realised that the VFX will take a little longer than what we had initially assumed.

Kareena Kapoor calls World Cup win 'A proud moment for every GIRL who dared to dream'



Mumbai: In a historic moment, the Indian women's cricket team bagged the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 after beating South Africa on Sunday. Actress Kareena Kapoor termed the win as a proud and inspiring moment for every girl who has ever dared to dream. Uploading a few precious photos from the iconic match, Bebo penned on her official Instagram handle, "A proud moment for INDIA, for SPORT, for each and every GIRL who dared to dream... 2-11-2025, A date to be remembered... A date etched in history... (sic)." Calling the Women In Blue 'the real heroes', the 'Jab We Met' actress added, "Salute to the Indian women's cricket team ????... You are the real heroes and have shown the world how it's done..." Congratulating the team, Kareena went on to

write, "A heartfelt congratulations to each and every player (red heart emoji) After all who said GIRLS can't have it all? (Smiling face with halo, red heart and rainbow emoji) CHARDI KALA (rainbow emoji)." Bebo also gave a special shout-out to captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

"PS. One with the skipper, our great captain (Saluting emoji) @imharmanpreet_kaur," she said. In the meantime, UNICEF India National Ambassador Kareena also led the Trophy Walkout before the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 semi-final match between India and Australia. Shedding light on her engagement with UNICEF, Kareena said in a statement, "As UNICEF India National Ambassador, I am honoured to be part of this partnership with the ICC.

Anees Bazmee says 'Shukriya for all the love & duas' as Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3 turns 1

Mumbai: Anees Bazmee's horror comedy "Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3" reached the cinema halls a year ago today. Celebrating the milestone moment, Bazmee dropped a clip with some iconic scenes from the much-appreciated sequel on social media. Thanking the movie buffs for embracing the movie wholeheartedly, the filmmaker wrote on his Insta handle, "Last year, Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3 hit the theatres and the way audiences embraced it made it all worth it. The response, the warmth, and the journey since then have been truly special (sic)."



Sharing his experience of working on "Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3", Bazmee added, "It was a great, fun journey and thank you so much to all my lovely actors, producers, technicians, and everyone who was part of the set for making this journey so beautiful." "Shukriya for all the love and duas (Dizzy and red heart emoji)," he concluded. Penned by Aakash Kaushik, and backed by T-Series Films and Cine1 Studios, the drama is the third installment of the popular franchise after "Bhoor Bhulaiyaa", which released in 2007, and "Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 2", which came out in 2022.

Out in the cinema halls on November 1, 2024, "Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3" emerged as the second-highest-grossing Hindi film and sixth-highest-grossing Indian film of 2024. Shot in Mumbai, Kolkata, Orchha, and Leh, the project enjoys camera work by Manu Anand. With music scored by Sandeep Shirodkar, Sanjay Sankla has looked after the editing for the horror drama.

"Bhoor Bhulaiyaa 3" shares the journey of Ruhaan Randhawa, also known as Rooh Baba (Played by Kartik Aaryan), who is a con artist pretending to be an exorcist.

This is how Rashmika Mandanna reacts when a fan asks her to be his Valentine

Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna conducted an Ask Me Anything session on Instagram on Monday, and during this, an admirer asked the 'Pushpa' actress to be her Valentine for the coming 500 years. An Insta user asked Rashmika, "Thoda jaldi puch leta hu - Will you be my valentine for the next 400-500 years..." Reacting to this, the 'Animal' actress gave a hilarious reply saying, "If after these 100 years if we are alive in the same lifetime then why not (red heart emoji) (sic)."

Another netizen shared the question, "How was the shooting experience for the Girlfriend from the other films?" Revealing that working on the movie was mentally exhausting for her, Rashmika shared, "I remember it was very mentally exhausting because we had to tap into really really deep and raw emotions that generally you want



to forget or you just do everything and anything to move on from...I had to tap into them and re live them...which was very hard for me..(crying emoji) #TheGirlfriend Ask @rahulr_23 he'll tell you. (crying emoji)."

Prior to this, Rashmika expressed unwavering faith in director Rahul Ravindran and "The Girlfriend". She shared a heartfelt post on the director's birthday, and said, "You

Sonali Bendre returns with season 2 of 'The Happy Pawdcast' with stellar line-up

Mumbai: Actress Sonali Bendre is returning with her podcast 'The Happy Pawdcast' for its 2nd season. The new season promises a stellar line-up of guests. The show, hosted by Sonali Bendre and Icy Behl, continues to celebrate the joy, warmth, and lessons that come from sharing our lives with pets. This season expands the format with a dynamic mix of guests featuring celebrity pet parents and pet experts. The line-up includes Amala Akkineni, Rohan Joshi, Remo D'Souza, Diana Penty, Kubbra Sait, Karan Wahi, Tusshar Kapoor, among others, each bringing their personal stories of love, laughter, and learning with their pets.

Talking about the new season of the series, Sonali Bendre said in a statement, "The response to Season 1 was heartwarming and I'm thrilled to return with another season of 'The Happy Pawdcast'. Every episode is a reminder that our pets don't just share our homes they teach us compassion, patience and unconditional love. This journey has been as much about learning from them as it has been about celebrating them".

are too precious my friend.. I still can't believe you've made a film like 'The Girlfriend'... The emotional depth you have, the niceness that you have in your heart flows through every frame."

Rashmika further revealed that she had met Rahul for "The Girlfriend" and ended up finding "a director, a friend, a mentor a partner in crime for a lifetime who I trust wholly and immensely."

'Trophy was won in the final, but the hearts in semifinal'

New Delhi: The night India conquered the world, the celebrations in Navi Mumbai were deafening - but the echoes of that semifinal against Australia still refuse to fade. In a watershed moment for Indian cricket, the national women's team etched their name in history by winning their first-ever ICC Women's World Cup title, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in a pulsating final at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday night. Yet, ask any fan, and they'll tell you: the real turning point came a match earlier, when India

chased down an unbelievable 338 to stun Australia in the semifinal.

That chase, led by Jemimah Rodrigues' unbeaten century, was pure magic - a blend of poise, power, and defiance. Alongside skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah scripted one of Indian cricket's most iconic nights, taking on a mighty Australian attack with fearless stroke-play and ice-cool composure.

"The final gave us the trophy, but the semifinal gave us goosebumps," wrote one fan on social media. Another



called it "the match that changed everything." It was a night that blurred the line between sport and emotion

- a collective roar of belief that carried India all the way to glory. By the time the final arrived, India were a team

transformed - sharper, calmer, unstoppable.

With disciplined bowling and inspired leadership, they sealed the title and the moment women's cricket in India had long awaited. For fans, though, this triumph will forever live in two frames - the final that crowned them champions, and the semifinal that made them unforgettable. As the tricolour soared high and the players embraced in tears of joy, the moment marked not just a World Cup triumph - but the dawn of a new era for Indian women's cricket.

Getting last-minute chance to play in WC was all God's plan: Shafali



New Delhi: India batter Shafali Verma reflected on her dramatic return to the national set-up and playing a key role in the side winning 2025 Women's ODI World Cup, saying that the last-minute chance to play in the mega event was all a part of God's plan for her. At the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday, Shafali finished as India's highest scorer in the final by making 87 and also picked up two wickets to pick Player of the Match award in India's epochal 52-run win over South Africa. It completed a stunning turnaround for Shafali, who was drafted in the squad only last week as a replacement for injured Pratika Rawal.

"When I got the call before the semi-final, I was honestly just shocked and super happy. Getting a last-minute chance like that doesn't happen often. I told myself to keep things simple and enjoy the moment. Scoring runs and taking wickets in the final felt like a dream come true. I really believe this was all God's plan," said Shafali on JioStar.

She credited the team's inclusive environment and leadership for helping her settle in quickly. "From the day I rejoined the squad, everyone made me feel like I belonged here. Head Coach Amol Muzumdar and Captain Harmanpreet Kaur told me to play fearlessly, stick to my natural game, and not worry about mistakes. "That freedom gave me a lot of confidence. The girls supported each other through everything. If someone is down, others would cheer them up. That's what made this team so special."

Messi in India? Kerala Sports Minister's renewed claim sparks fresh wave of skepticism



Malappuram: The Kerala government has once again stirred public excitement and controversy with Sports Minister V. Abdurahaman asserting that Argentine football legend Lionel Messi will play in India next year. According to the minister, the state has received a new email from the Argentine Football Association (AFA) confirming that the G.O.A.T player Messi and his team will visit India in March.

"Two days ago, we received an email from the AFA team confirming their visit to Kerala in March," Abdurahaman said. He added

that the match was initially planned for November but had to be deferred due to infrastructural issues at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi.

However, this fresh claim has drawn widespread skepticism, with critics recalling the earlier unfulfilled promise of Messi's visit. The absence of any official agreement or confirmation from the AFA has led to questions about the government's credibility and the procedures followed in organising what is billed as a major international sporting event.

Babar Azam's Half-Century Powers Pakistan to Series-Clinching Win Over South Africa

Lahore: Babar Azam marked his return to T20 international cricket in style, crafting a fluent 68 off 46 balls to steer Pakistan to a four-wicket victory over South Africa and seal a 2-1 series triumph at the Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday. Chasing a modest 140, Pakistan reached the target in 19 overs after a composed innings from their former captain anchored the chase. South Africa, fielding an inexperienced side, could muster only 139 for 9 in their 20 overs despite flashes of promise early in the innings.

It was a fitting comeback for Babar, who had been sidelined from T20 internationals for almost a year as selectors experimented with new combinations ahead of next year's World Cup. His innings not only helped Pakistan recover from a shaky start but also reminded fans why he remains one of the most technically gifted batters in the format. "This innings was long due," Babar said after receiving the Player of the Match award. "I backed myself, the team believed in me. It's all about absorbing pressure and playing according to the situation." Babar's innings, decorated



with eight boundaries, came after Pakistan lost opener Saim Ayub for his fifth duck in 10 T20 outings. Initially cautious against left-arm spinner George Linde, Babar grew in confidence as he found his rhythm against pace, making the most of the dew-soaked conditions that troubled South Africa's bowlers. He stitched a vital 76-run partnership with captain Salman Ali Agha (33), who complemented him with smart rotation of strike and occasional boundaries. The duo effectively neutralized the Proteas' attack before a late stutter saw Pakistan lose four wickets for 14 runs. Babar fell just before the finish line, top-edging

a short ball from Bosch to deep square leg with only 15 runs needed. By then, the damage had been done. Late wickets from Lizaad Williams (2/26) and Andile Simelane (1/23) came too late to change the outcome, with Pakistan coasting to victory and sealing the series after dropping the opener in Rawalpindi. Earlier, South Africa's innings never really took off after a fiery newball burst from Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/26), who struck twice in his first over to remove Quinton de Kock and Lhuan-dre Pretorius before a run was scored. Returning from rest, Afridi's early strikes rattled the visitors, who never fully recovered.

Jamieson and Sodhi Return as New Zealand Announce Squad for West Indies T20 Series

Auckland: Fast bowler Kyle Jamieson and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi have been recalled to New Zealand's squad for the upcoming five-match T20 International series against the touring West Indies, starting Wednesday. The 14-member squad, announced on Sunday, also includes uncapped allrounder Nathan Smith,

who could make his T20I debut after previously featuring in the Test and ODI formats. Jamieson, who has battled recurring back and hamstring injuries over the past year, returns after missing the ODI series against England. Sodhi, New Zealand's most-capped T20I player, is back in the fold following his participa-

tion in the series against Australia in October. The series will serve as a key selection platform ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year, with head coach Rob Walter expected to name his preliminary squad soon after its conclusion.

Pace spearhead Matt Henry will

sit out the T20 leg to recover fully from a calf strain sustained during the ODI series against England. He is expected to return for the upcoming ODI and Test series against the West Indies later this month. Charismatic former captain Kane Williamson was not considered for selection after announcing his

retirement from T20 Internationals earlier in the day, bringing an end to a stellar 13-year career in the format. Announcing the squad, Walter expressed confidence in his returning players. "Kyle's been back bowling this week and is tracking nicely for this series," he said.