

Hiked milk price pinches Guwahati residents

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: Residents of Guwahati are beginning to feel the impact of the latest price hike in Amul milk, with many expressing concern over the growing burden of rising household expenses and food inflation.

The revised prices came into effect on Thursday morning, prompting reactions from consumers and retailers across the city.

According to local retailers, the price of Amul Gold has increased by Rs 3 per litre, while Amul Shakti has become costlier by Rs 2 per litre.

Apart from milk, residents said the prices of eggs and several essential grocery items have also increased in local markets over



the past few days, putting additional pressure on family budgets already strained by inflation.

Speaking to this reporter, several residents voiced frustration over the repeated rise in the prices

of daily necessities.

“Every few days, the prices of essential commodities are increasing, but our income remains the same,” a resident said.

Another resident said milk is

an essential item for children and elderly family members and that continuous price hikes were making it difficult for ordinary households to manage monthly expenses. Retailers, meanwhile, said they had no option but to pass on the increased prices after wholesale rates and supply chain costs went up.

A local grocer said shopkeepers often face public anger despite having no role in fixing prices.

“Customers blame us when prices rise, but we are also struggling with higher purchase costs,” the grocer said.

With no immediate relief in sight, many families said they are now being forced to cut down on daily consumption and rethink household spending priorities amid the rising cost of living.

Narcotics worth over Rs 21 crore seized, 5 arrested



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the Kamrup Police and the Special Task Force intercepted a bus bearing registration number AS 06 AC 7555 at Amingaon and seized a huge consignment of narcotics valued at approximately Rs 21.36 crore.

According to police, information was received that a large consignment of narcotics was being transported from Kwakta in Manipur to a neighbouring state through Amingaon. Investigators suspected that only drug peddlers would be travelling in the bus and that there would be no regular passengers onboard.

Based on the input, the bus was intercepted during a joint operation conducted by Kamrup Police and the STF. During the search, officials recovered 197 soap boxes containing heroin weighing 2.561 kg (excluding the weight of the soap box covers) and 8 kg of opium concealed inside a secret compartment of the bus.

Police also apprehended five persons from the vehicle. The accused have been identified as Abdul Latif (33) from Ward No. 6, Kwakta; Md Taher Ali (38) from Ward No. 5, Kwakta; Md Islamuddin (38) from Ward No. 8, Kwakta; Md Latip (30) from Ward No. 4 under Phuchakhei Police Station in Bishnupur district of Manipur; and Md Ajmer (37) from Nahrupangkong under Iribung Police Station in Imphal East district, Manipur.

HC grants bail to DB Stock Scam accused

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: Deepankar Barman, the prime accused in the multi-crore-rupee DB Stock Consultancy scam, has been granted bail by the Gauhati High Court.

The case is linked to the alleged DB Stock Consultancy Ponzi scam, which is currently under investigation by both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

According to the ED, DB Stock Consultancy allegedly operated an unregulated deposit scheme between 2021 and August 2024, promising investors unusually high returns. Investigators claim that nearly 15,500 investors from across the country were duped, with deposits estimated at more than Rs 400 crore.

The ED had recently attached assets worth Rs 13.41 crore linked to the case, including flats, land parcels, office spaces, bank accounts and investments located across Assam, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.

BJP lauds Cabinet move on poll promises

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: State BJP extended heartfelt gratitude to the government for translating electoral commitments into concrete action in the very first Cabinet meeting.

Addressing the media at the State BJP Headquarters, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan, on Thursday party spokesperson Suranjan Dutta stated that every political organization, on the eve of an election, unveils a Vision Document embodying its solemn commitments for the welfare, prosperity, and holistic advancement of the people. In the

2026 Assam Legislative Assembly Election as well, BJP Assam Pradesh had presented before the people an extensive Sankalp Patra comprising 31 transformative and people-centric commitments dedicated to the larger interests of the citizens of Assam.

Following the resounding electoral mandate, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath for the second consecutive term as the Chief Minister of Assam on May 12. Thereafter, on May 13, the first Cabinet meeting of the NDA alliance government was convened successfully with remarkable decisiveness

and visionary intent. In this Cabinet meeting, a resolute decision was adopted to implement, in letter and spirit, all the commitments enshrined in the BJP's Sankalp Patra over the forthcoming five years.

Dutta further recalled that during his previous tenure, Chief Minister Dr Sarma had unequivocally declared on the floor of the Assam Legislative Assembly that, if entrusted once again with the responsibility of leading the state, he would move towards the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Assam. Besides this vision-

ary initiative, the Cabinet meeting also deliberated upon and adopted several far-reaching decisions pertaining to governance, infrastructure development, employment generation, transportation reforms, and comprehensive administrative restructuring aimed at accelerating Assam's march towards progress and prosperity. Furthermore, with the objective of expediting the recruitment process for an additional two lakh government jobs in the state, the Cabinet resolved to constitute a Special Task Force under the leadership of the Chief Secretary.

Police recover 60 grams of heroin, detain one

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 14: In yet another anti-drug operation, Basistha Police arrested an alleged drug peddler from the Balughat area of the city and seized a consignment of heroin. During the operation, police recovered 60 grams of heroin, 56 empty containers and one mobile phone from the possession of the accused.

The arrested person has been identified as Manoj Chungkrang, a suspected drug trafficker from Dispur Down Town.

According to police, the raid was conducted in the Balughat area as part of Basistha Police's ongoing crackdown against narcotics in Guwahati. Further investigation is underway to trace the supply chain and identify others linked to the network.

PIB Guwahati organizes IMPPC meet on publicity

GUWAHATI, May 14: In view of the importance of strengthening inter-departmental coordination among the publicity wings of various Central Government departments, the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Guwahati, organized an Inter Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPPC) meeting on Thursday at the office of the Additional Director General, AIR & DDK Guwahati. The meeting was chaired by Kripa Shankar Yadav, Additional Director General, North East Zone, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and co-chaired by Satyajit Dash, Additional

Director General, AIR & DDK, Guwahati.

The IMPPC platform brought together representatives from various Central Government departments and organizations to share their key activities, initiatives, and achievements in Assam and across the North Eastern region. The event served as an important convergence point to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and improve outreach through coordinated publicity strategies.

In his welcome address, Kripa Shankar Yadav highlighted the multifaceted roles and activities

undertaken by the units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including the Press Information Bureau, Central Bureau of Communication, Doordarshan and All India Radio. He emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts among all departments for effective public communication and assured complete cooperation from the Ministry's media units in disseminating information about the programmes and initiatives of various departments to the public.

Addressing the gathering, Satyajit Dash said that forums like IMPPC provide an effective

platform to share experiences, exchange ideas, identify challenges and work towards a more integrated communication strategy. He stated that Akashvani and Doordarshan, as public service broadcasters, remain committed to supporting all government departments and organisations in disseminating information that is relevant, authentic and beneficial for the public. He further noted that such meeting offers an opportunity to strengthen mutual co-operation and enhance synergy within the public communication network.

First Mira Kagti Memorial Lecture delivered

GUWAHATI, May 14: The first Mira Kagti Memorial Lecture was held at Shishu Sarothi on May 13, with Sudha Kaul, founder of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy and a recipient of the Padma Shri, delivering a lecture on the theme “Dignity, Agency, Inclusion: Reframing High Support Needs through a Rights-Based Lens.”

The programme was supported by the Kong Kong Lige Loyi Foundation along with members of Mira Kagti's family. It was attended by a large gathering of friends, well-wishers, officials, families, alumni and colleagues

who came together to remember the work of Mira Kagti, founder member and former director of Shishu Sarothi.

Doli Loyi, Managing Trustee of the Kong Kong Lige Loyi Foundation, spoke about his experiences as the parent of Shibom Loyi, an alumnus of both IICP Kolkata and Shishu Sarothi.

Sudha Kaul spoke extensively about dignity, agency and inclusion, highlighting the potential, individuality and contributions of persons with high support needs when society creates enabling and inclusive spaces.

The spirit of the evening echoed the philosophy of Bhu-

pen Hazarika's iconic song “Manuhe Manuhor Babe,” which speaks about humanity, compassion and empathy. The lecture stressed that an inclusive society can only be built when every individual is valued, supported and given equal opportunities to participate fully in community life.

Explaining the central ideas of the lecture, Kaul described dignity as being treated with respect, valued as a person, and having one's identity, feelings and choices acknowledged. She said agency means having choices, a voice, and the ability to make decisions about one's own life, while inclusion

refers to being welcomed, participating alongside others, and having equal opportunities in education, work, family and community life.

The lecture also highlighted the shift in understanding disability from a lens of limitation to one that recognises individuals as people with aspirations, abilities, choices and equal rights. Referring to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, in whose drafting she played a significant role, Kaul said the term “high support needs” reflects the level of support a person may require and not the value of their life or potential.

The lecture emphasised that dignity grows when individuals are respected, heard and encouraged to make choices about their own lives. Agency develops when people are given opportunities to communicate, participate and contribute meaningfully, while inclusion ensures every individual has the chance to belong and thrive within family, school, workplace and society, a press release said.

Kaul concluded the lecture by quoting Zubeen Garg's line, “Bhonganai, kom nohoi, olop beleg, dhunia,” from the song “Unmon Aabeli.”

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