

In Brief

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KCP (PWG) cadre nabbed

Imphal: Security forces arrested an extortionist active cadre of KCP (PWG), identified as Maibam Pingku Singh (42) of Chingamathak Pishum Leirak from Sangaiprou Mamang Leikai area under Singjam Police Station in Imphal West district. A mobile phone, an Elector Photo Identity card and a sum of Rs. 100 were seized from him. On the other hand, security forces recovered arms including IEDs and communication equipment from Yangoubung Village near Indo-Myanmar Border BP-73 under Moreh- PS, Tengenoupal district. The recovered weapons include six 9 mm pistols, six 9 mm magazines, one single barrel rifle, 15 IEDs, and two Tactical Radio Sets. The recovered IEDs were destroyed in situ.

Mizoram Teen Lifter Strikes Gold at Khelo India

Aizawl, Mar 30: Showing remarkable grit and determination, 18-year-old Mizoram weightlifter Isak Malsawmtluanga won gold at the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, overcoming deep personal loss and injury setbacks.

Competing in the men's 60 kg category in Raipur, Isak registered a total lift of 235 kg. After falling behind in the snatch event, he made a strong comeback in the clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

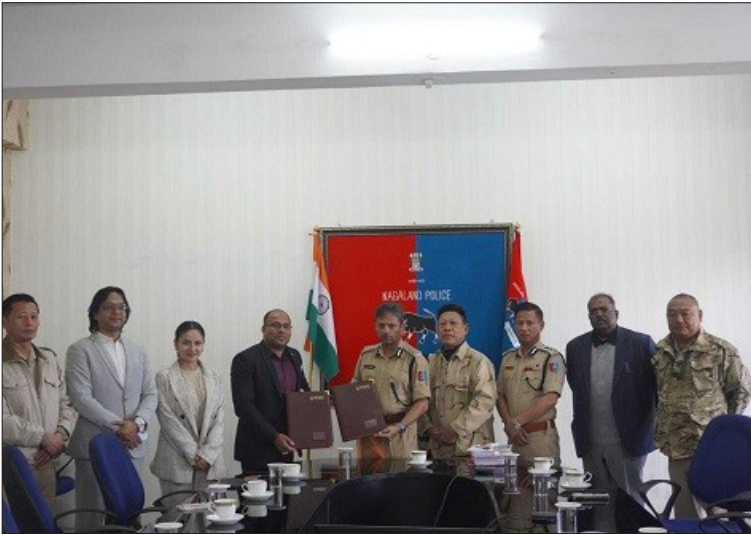
Isak's journey has been far from easy. He lost his father, Hming Malsawmtluanga, in a road accident in 2018, around the time he began training in weightlifting. Years later, he faced another major blow when his mother was diagnosed with cancer and eventually passed away, leaving him shattered.

At one point, Isak considered quitting the sport. However, encouragement from his aunt and uncle, along with the guidance of his childhood coach, helped him stay on track and continue pursuing his dream. His gold medal win is not just a sporting achievement but a powerful story of perseverance, resilience, and rising above adversity.

MSU partners with Nagaland police to bring higher education closer to police families

Dimapur, Mar 30: In a landmark development towards inclusive nation-building, Medhavi Skills University (MSU) has entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagaland Police, marking a transformative commitment to the families behind the force. This significant collaboration aims to unlock access to quality, industry-aligned higher education for the wards and spouses of police personnel—serving, retired, disabled, and those who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The MoU was formalised in the presence of Shri. Rupin Sharma, Director General of Police (DGP), Nagaland; Shri. Videlaillie Zashumo, Inspector General of Police (Administration); Shri. Sandeep M. Tamgadge, IPS, ADGP (L&O) and Shri. Kul-



ip Sharma, Hon'ble Co-Founder & Pro-Chancellor, MSU. Speaking on the occasion, Rupin Sharma said,

“This collaboration is a meaningful step towards securing the future of our personnel's families. By enabling

access to quality higher education, we are investing in their aspirations and long-term empowerment in a pursuit to unlock opportunities that matter.”

Kuldeep Sarma added, “At MSU, we believe education must reach those who have contributed selflessly to society. This partnership with Nagaland Police is a commitment to creating opportunities, building capabilities, and supporting families in shaping a more empowered future. More than a partnership, it stands as a powerful tribute to service, ensuring that the aspirations of these families are not just supported, but meaningfully empowered for a better tomorrow.” As part of this initiative, MSU will offer a range of scholarships to eligible beneficiaries. This includes 50% tuition fee scholarships for wards and spouses of serving and retired personnel, and 100%

scholarships for families of personnel who have died in harness, gallantry medal recipients, and those excelling in state or national-level sports. In addition, merit-based scholarships will be extended based on performance in recognised national-level entrance examinations for undergraduate, post-graduate, and professional programs. This collaboration further strengthens MSU's commitment to give back to the armed and the defense forces of the country. Through its collaborations with the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, CRPF, Assam Rifles, Sikkim Police and Sashastra Seema Bal, MSU has been enabling upward mobility, enhancing employability, and creating structured pathways for aspirational learners from defense backgrounds for long-term socio-economic impact

Kakching Educational Trust scholarship 2026 presented

Imphal, Mar 30: The KET (Kakching Educational Trust) Scholarship 2026 distribution ceremony, organised by KET Kakching, was held at JRD Pathseeker's Academy, located on Irengband Road in Kakching. The 19th KET's Scholarship distribution Function, titled “Let's Help Each Other”, was presided over by Kshetrimayum Ibo-bi, President of the District Sports Association (DSA) Kakching, with Kshetrimayum Ranjan, Principal of MMS Genius Academy Kakching, as the Chief Guest. A total of 232 students from Kakching, Thoubal, and Chandel Districts, who passed Class VIII and are now in Class IX, studying in Government and Private Schools, participated. Following the KET Test 2026 held on March 22 and the interview on March 28, this year's overall category KET Scholar 2026, receiving Rs. 10,000 from KET, is Tevin Heigrujam, a student from Assam Rifles Public School Kakching. The 2nd KET Scholar, also receiving Rs. 10,000 from KET, is Louis Athokpam, a student from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Umathel. Vicky Moirangthem from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Umathel received the “Mayanglambam Birchandra Singh Memorial KET Scholar” award of Rs. 9,000, given by Mayanglambam Raghumani, Principal of JNV Bishnupur. Alex Mayanglambam from Padma Ratna English School Kakching received the “Late Yengkhom Nabakeshor Singh Memorial KET Scholar” award of Rs. 9,000, given by Rajiv Yengkhom from Kakching Paji Leikai. Laitonjam Jetley Meitei from Eureka Academy Thounaojam received the Late Ningthoujam Nimai Singh Appreciation Award of

Rs. 2,000, given by Ningthoujam Budhachandra, Retired Chief Associate of SBI. Khwaihenba Kshetrimayum from Padma Ratna English School Kakching received the “Late Yengkhom Nelson Singh Capability Award” of Rs. 2,000, given by Yengkhom Sarat from Kakching Mayai Leikai. Yengkhom Lanchenbi Devina from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Umathel received the “Late Yengkhom Budhachandra Singh Meritorious Award” of Rs. 2,000, given by Yengkhom Jiten from Kakching Mayai Leikai. Sanathoi Mayanglambam from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Umathel received the “Late Kshetrimayum Iboton and Ibetombi Meritorious Award” of Rs. 2,000, given by Kshetrimayum Ranjan, Principal of MMS Genius Academy Kakching. Elangbam Sindamnganba from JNV Umathel received the Late Kshetrimayum Tikendrajit Singh Memorial Award of Rs. 2,000, given by Kshetrimayum Ibobi from Kakching Makha Leikai. Shougaijam Gunachandra from Kakching Khunyai Leikai Labungo Pareng. Furthermore, Soibam Devison Singh, Mutum Prakash Singh, Moirangthem Memmi Devi from JNV Umathel, Moirangthem Lemba from G-4 School Heirok, Bherickson Yendrembam from Victory High School Kakching, Phurishabam Nanda Devi from G-4 School Heirok, Puyam Jaljit Meitei from JNV Umathel, Naobi Yendrembam, Naorem Punshiba Singh, and Harsha Naorem from Padma Ratna English School Kakching were awarded Consolation Prizes of Rs. 1,000 each.

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Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The programme was attended by Dr. Meitram Uttam Luwang, Lead District Manager Thoubal as Chief Guest; Soibam Nabakunja Singh, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Thoubal & Kakching as President and H. Priyokumar as Guest of Honour. Oinam Deben Singh, Development Officer, District Industries Centre (DIC), Thoubal & Kakching was the resource person. Around 200 entrepreneurs took part in the



awareness-cum-Udyam registration drive. The dignitaries spoke about the benefits of online Udyam Registration and the schemes extended to the entrepreneurs who are working in the categories of MSME and the credit

facilities available from the financial institutions and government support scheme to the MSME. Uttam Luwang, Lead District Manager, Thoubal spoke on the financial support extended to MSME sector and social security schemes.

VSK Manipur conducts workshop on news writing and photography

Imphal, Mar 30: Vishwa Samvad Kendra (VSK) Manipur conducted a one-day workshop on news writing and photography at Bhaskar Prabha, Konjong Leikai, Imphal West. With the growing influence of mobile journalism (MoJo) and citizen journalism in the digital era, the workshop aimed to enhance the reporting skills of participants using mobile devices. Resource person Mohen Naorem, journalist with India Today NE, encouraged participants to take up responsible reporting, stating, “Everyone can be a reporter today, but

the mobile phone we carry should be used responsibly and purposefully for genuine journalism.” He highlighted that while smartphones empower citizens to share real-time information, maintaining media ethics, accuracy, and credibility is essential for effective journalism. Participants from various parts of Manipur also took part in hands-on sessions under the guidance of the resource person, practicing news reporting on local issues through interactive exercises. During the inaugural session, RSS Assam Kshetra Karyawah

Khwairakpam Rajen Singh explained that the Prachar Vibhag (Public Relations Department) of the RSS was established in 1982—about 60 years after the organization's founding in 1925—to strengthen communication and outreach among diverse communities. Senior RSS Pracharak Laishram Jatra Singh also addressed the participants, noting that as RSS marks 100 years of its existence, the organization remains dedicated to its social responsibility initiatives and community-building efforts.

Trans bodies slam Transgender Amendment Bill

Imphal, Mar 30: Leading transgender community organisations in the State have strongly condemned the recently passed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, calling it “regressive, exclusionary, and a direct attack on identity and dignity.” A joint statement conveying strong condemnation against the bill was issued by the All Manipur Nupi Maanbi Association (AMANA), Empowering Trans Ability (ETA), and the All Transmen Association, Manipur—key community-based organisations representing the indigenous Nupi Maanbi (transwomen) and Nupa Maanba (transmen). The groups expressed deep concern over the amendment introduced by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, on March 13, 2026, and subsequently passed in the Parliament. According to them, the legislation undermines the fundamental right to self-identify one's gender, a principle upheld by the Supreme Court in the landmark NALSA vs Union of India (2014) judgment. Describing the bill as a “major setback,” the organisations stated that it creates a discriminatory framework by imposing conditions on who can be officially recognised as transgender. “This law divides the community by granting recognition to some while excluding many others, effectively denying access to healthcare, legal identity, and basic protections,” the statement said. The groups also criticised provisions



that require medical certification or legal validation for gender recognition.

“Such measures wrongly treat transgender identity as a medical condition or disorder,

subjecting individuals to humiliating and unnecessary scrutiny,” they added. Highlighting concerns over autonomy, the statement stressed that the bill transfers the power of identity from individuals to the state. “It violates the basic human right to self-determination by allowing authorities to decide a person's gender,” it noted. Another major point of contention is the exclusion of indigenous transgender identities from the Northeast. The organisations pointed out that while the bill recognises identities such as Kinner, Hijra, Aravani, and Jogta—primarily from mainland India—it fails to acknowledge the rich and diverse gender identities of Northeast communities, including those in Manipur. “This is not mere omission; it is erasure,” the statement asserted, adding that indigenous communities in states like Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram have long-standing cultural understandings of gender diversity that deserve equal recognition. The organisations further alleged that the amendment reflects a broader political agenda aimed at controlling and marginalising transgender communities. “Our identities are not subject to political approval. They belong to us, and we will continue to defend them,” the statement concluded. Reaffirming their stance, the groups vowed to continue their struggle for dignity, recognition, and rights, with or without state intervention.

KCP (PWG) cadre nabbed; 15 IEDs recovered in Tengenoupal



Imphal, Mar 30: Security forces arrested an extortionist active cadre of KCP (PWG), identified as Maibam Pingku Singh (42) of Chingamathak Pishum Leirak from Sangaiprou Mamang Leikai area under Singjam Police Station in Imphal West district. A mobile phone, an Elector Photo Identity card and a sum of Rs. 100 were seized from him. On the other hand, security forces recovered arms including IEDs and communication equipment from Yangoubung Village near Indo-Myanmar Border BP-73 under Moreh- PS, Tengenoupal district. The recovered weapons include six 9 mm pistols, six 9 mm magazines, one single barrel rifle, 15 IEDs, and two Tactical Radio Sets. The recovered IEDs were destroyed in situ.

NE/EAST

173 candidates in fray for multi-cornered TTAADC polls

Agartala, Mar 30: The upcoming elections to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) are poised for a multi-cornered contest, with all major political parties fielding candidates in what is being viewed as a politically crucial exercise ahead of the next state assembly polls. Political observers note that the TTAADC elections, held every five years, often serve as a barometer of the political mood in the state, especially with the assembly elections due within the next two years. The outcome is expected to influence future political alignments and strategies of the contesting parties. According to officials of the State Election Commission, a total of 173 candidates remain in the fray after the completion of the nomination and withdrawal process. Polling is scheduled for April 12, while counting of votes will take place on April 17. Secretary of the State Election Commission, Anurag Sen, outlined the party-wise distribution of candidates. The BJP and Tipra Motha Party are contesting all 28 seats each in the council. The Congress has fielded 27 candidates, while the CPI(M) is in the fray in 25 seats.

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) is contesting 24 seats, while the CPI has fielded a candidate in one seat. Apart from these, other registered parties and independent candidates together account for a significant number of contestants, adding to the multi-cornered nature of the electoral battle. On the administrative front, the Election Commission has initiated

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comprehensive poll preparedness measures. Returning Officers have been briefed on the election schedule and procedures, while deployment of polling personnel and security forces is underway.

Training and logistical arrangements are being carried out to ensure the smooth conduct of the elections. Postal ballot voting for eligible categories, including service voters, is scheduled for April 7 and 8. Officials said District Election Officers have been directed to carry out first-level checking. The Commission has maintained that the election process so far has remained peaceful, with no reports of law and order disturbances during the nomination phase. Authorities are, however, keeping a close watch on the situation to ensure that polling is conducted in a free and fair manner. On the issue of security deployment, Sen stated that a request has been sent to the Union Home Ministry seeking the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for the elections.

A senior election official stated that the nomination process initially saw 186 candidates filing papers by March 25. Following scrutiny, the number came down to 181, and after the last date for withdrawal on March 28, the final tally stood at 173 candidates.

Assam environmentalist Anand Agarwala wins Jadav Payeng International Award

Jorhat, Mar 30: Assam's Jorhat-based environmentalist Anand Agarwala received the second Jadav Payeng International Award. He was conferred the honour at a programme organised at Kaliapani in Jorhat's Teok area on Sunday. Environmentalist Payeng and the heads of various institutes of higher education in Jorhat district were among dignitaries who were present. The award, instituted by the Jyoti-Protap Education Trust, carries Rs 2 lakh besides a citation.

Agarwala (67) was overwhelmed. He called upon people to work for the protection of nature and environment.

"The 'Forest Man of India' Jadav Payeng is an inspiration for all green soldiers. He has shown not through speeches but through work that if people have the resolve, they can achieve the impossible," said the green activist.

He lamented, "We call ourselves the greatest creature of God but we harm nature and the environment." The award is the brainchild of businessman and philanthropist Protap Saikia. He said Agarwala had contributed immensely to the



Assamese society, particularly for the protection of nature and environment. "He has dedicated his life to planting trees. He has also so far funded the education of 5,000 children and built public toilets across Jorhat," Saikia said. The Jyoti-Protap Education Trust runs the Jyoti-Pratap Gyanmarg Vidyalaya. Founded by Saikia, the school provides completely free education. Currently, it has 301 students, pre-

dominantly from marginalised families, and classes upto 6. Boasting digital classrooms, a computer lab and a robotics lab, the school emphasises holistic education, incorporating Assamese culture, music, yoga, self-defence and physical fitness into its curriculum. Saikia, who also built a crematorium, an old age home and an orphanage, had bare beginnings but he rose in life through hard work and determination. He said he has al-

ways wished to contribute to society. He believes that God guided him to serve society in this way. "My own experiences taught me the challenges faced by families in our village and adjoining areas in educating their children. I wanted to ensure that no child endures the same fate as mine. Thus, the school was born, and the overwhelming community response affirmed its necessity," he explained

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren pledges ST status for tea tribe communities Assam election 2026

Dibrugarh, Mar 30: Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM chief Hemant Soren took his party's electoral battle to upper Assam on Sunday, addressing a massive rally of tea garden workers at the Rajgarh Tea Estate playground in Dibrugarh in support of Tingkhong Assembly JMM candidate Mahavir Baske. The JMM has announced 21 candidates for the 126-member Assam assembly elections scheduled for April 9, after seat-sharing talks with the Congress failed. The party is leveraging its experience in Jharkhand's tribal politics to build a credible presence in Assam's teabelt constituencies.

Urging voters to back Baske, the Chief Minister added: "Mahavir Baske is one of your own. He has lived your struggles. Send him to the assembly, and together we will write a new chapter for Assam's



tea tribes." The Tingkhong rally is part of a broader JMM campaign sweep across upper Assam's tea belt ahead of polling day. The rally marked the JMM's most ambitious political expansion beyond its Jharkhand stronghold, targeting an estimated 60 to 70 lakh tea tribe population, including Santhal,

Munda, Oraon, and Kurukh communities whose ancestors migrated from Chhotanagpur during colonial rule. Arriving by helicopter, Soren received a thunderous welcome from Adivasi community members and tea garden workers. "The tea tribe community of Assam has waited far too long for justice. Your

ancestors built these gardens with their sweat and made Assam prosperous, yet you still fight for your rights and dignity," Soren said. He pointed to low wages and the lack of proper hospitals and facilities in tea estates as pressing concerns, asserting that his party had come not as an outsider but as a voice for their pain.

A central promise of his address was the long-pending demand for Scheduled Tribe status for tea tribe communities, who are recognized as STs in Jharkhand but remain classified as Other Backward Classes in Assam. "It is a grave injustice that the tea community is denied ST status here. This is a question of constitutional rights and human dignity. A JMM presence in the Assam assembly will take this fight to its logical conclusion," Soren said.

Solar power lights up remote Tripura villages

Guwahati, Mar 30: The transformative impact of solar energy in remote and tribal inhabited areas of Tripura has gained national recognition, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday, highlighting the state's achievements in his popular monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. Speaking about the success of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), the Prime Minister in his 132nd episode of the monthly radio programme noted that solar mini-grids are bringing reliable electricity to previously underserved tribal communities in the Northeast. In Tripura, particularly among villages of the Reang tribal community, solar power has transformed daily life, enabling children to study after sunset, improving access to mobile connectivity, and strengthening social and economic activity. Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath shared these developments after listening to the programme alongside local residents of his Assembly constituency in Mohanpur in West Tripura. Minister Nath, who also holds the Agriculture portfolio, emphasised that solar microgrids are ushering in a new era of hope in remote 'Janajati' (tribal) areas, with Karnam Para in Mungiakami Rural Development Block of Khowai district emerging as a model of this change. According to the Minister, solar mini-grids have already

provided free electricity to 12,103 families across 347 remote localities in Tripura's mountainous regions. Additionally, 2,753 households have installed rooftop solar panels under the PMSGMBY scheme.

The benefits extend beyond households. Around 7,991 farming families have received solar-powered irrigation pumps, helping irrigate nearly 40,000 kani (one kani is generally equal to nearly 0.33 acres) land.

Under the PM DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region), electricity has reached 9,725 homes across 247 localities, while the PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) initiative has supported 1,703 families in 30 localities.

Describing the broader impact, Minister Nath said that solar energy is not just lighting homes but also reshaping aspirations and livelihoods.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for recognising Tripura's progress, calling it a milestone in the state's journey toward self-reliance and sustainable development. "From darkness to light, this transformation is more than electrification — it is a new beginning," he said, adding that Tripura is steadily advancing toward a brighter, solar-powered future.

Amit Shah seeks five years to drive out 'existing infiltrators' from Assam

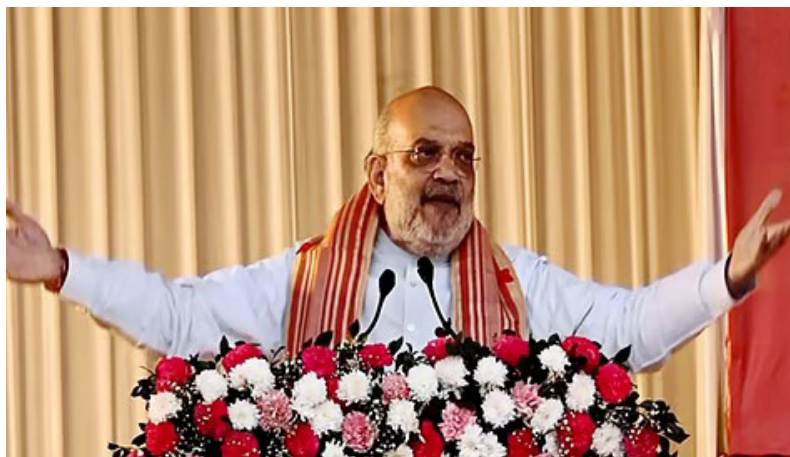
Guwahati, Mar 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday claimed that the BJP had put an end to infiltration in Assam and sought five more years to remove the existing infiltrators from the state. Addressing an election rally at Dhekiajuli in northern Assam's Sonitpur district, Shah said infiltrators were taking away jobs meant for Assamese youth.

"Ten years have elapsed but we could not complete our drive against infiltrators. We have stopped infiltration and no infiltrator can enter Assam now. However, that is not enough. Those who infiltrated have to be driven out," Shah said. He appealed to people to re-elect the BJP, promising that it would drive infiltrators out of Assam in the next five years.

Training his guns on the Congress, the Home Minister said it had introduced the controversial Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act to encourage infiltration in Assam. The Act, viewed as pro-immigrant, was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2005.

Shah said the Congress had, for years, opened doors for infiltrators in Assam, but Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma closed the state's borders to them.

"The Congress had changed Assam's demography. Nine districts, including Dhubri, are now filled with infiltrators. Muslims have become the majority community in these districts. No matter how much (Congress leaders) Rahul Gandhi and Gaurav Gogoi try, we will drive out the infiltrators," Shah stated at another rally in Tihu. He said infiltrators who entered Assam and West Bengal



had spread across the country. The Election Commission is conducting a Special Intensive Revision nationwide to remove the names of infiltrators, but the Congress is opposing it, he alleged. "But don't be afraid, there is the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. We will detect all infiltrators, one by one, delete their names from electoral rolls, and deport them to where they came from so that they cannot return," the Home Minister said. He asked Gogoi, who is the Assam Congress president, to clarify to voters whether he is with infiltrators or against them, stating that the two cannot go hand in hand. He further said the BJP government had reclaimed 1.25 lakh acres of government land from infiltrators. Shah sought votes for Sarma to make Assam infiltrator-free, peaceful and developed. He said people should also vote for the BJP to ensure that the youth of Assam get employment within the state. He outlined Assam's march towards peace under the BJP. "The BJP made Assam terrorism-free. This is the

same Assam where bomb blasts and firing of bullets were common when the Congress was in power. In 10 years, we established peace by signing various peace accords with insurgent groups, which saw 10,000 youth laying down weapons," Shah said. He asked why the Congress could not sign peace accords with Bodo and Adivasi youth if the BJP could. "It was because of their policy of divide and rule. The Congress is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of youth in the past. The youth of Assam have not forgotten the Assam Agitation," he said. Hundreds of lives were lost during the six-year-long (1979-85) Assam Agitation, also known as the anti-immigrants' agitation, which culminated in the signing of the historic Assam Accord. Shah also criticised the Congress for allegedly not honouring former Chief Minister Gopinath Bordoloi and legendary singer-musician Bhupen Hazarika. He said the BJP had given them due recognition by conferring the Bharat Ratna.

Security forces seize extortionist and drug smugglers 15 IEDs near border, arrest

Guwahati, Mar 30: In a series of operations, the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and civil police averted potential tragedies by detecting Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) along the Indo-Myanmar border and arresting an extortionist and drug smugglers on Sunday, officials reported on Monday. Based on intelligence inputs indicating the presence of anti-social elements, the joint team, along with a sniffer dog, conducted an operation at a vulnerable location near Border Pillar 73 under Moreh police station in Tengenpoual district. The joint forces recovered six 9 mm pistols, six 9 mm magazines, one single-barrel rifle, 15 IEDs, and two tactical radio sets. The recovered IEDs were destroyed in situ, the reports stated. In a second operation, an extortionist cadre of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party - People's War Group (KCP-PWG), Maibam Pingku Singh (42) of Chingmathak Pishum Leirak, was captured in the Sangaiaprou Mamang Leikai area under Singjamei police station, Imphal West district. A mobile phone, an Elector Photo Identity card, and a sum of Rs. 100 were seized from him, the report stated. In a third operation, Sekholien (52) of Saikulphai village, Jiribam, was apprehended from a stretch between Chhotobekra and Latingkhal under Jiribam police station, Jiribam district.



From his possession, five plastic bags containing around 5.2 kg of ganja and a TVS NTORQ two-wheeler (Regd. No. AS 11X-9252) were recovered. Additionally, the team arrested two drug smugglers, Paumuanlian Tungnung (23) of Vaal Veng, Churachandpur, and Lianminthang Neihial (26) of Nazareth village, Saikot, Churachandpur — along with 207 soap cases of heroin. Finally, in the past week, Manipur Police issued 112 challans to motor vehicle offenders, amounting to a total of Rs. 179,500, and removed tinted films from six vehicles, the reports added.

Assam conservationist Devajit Moran flags forest loss in Kerala's Wayanad project

Guwahati, Mar 30: Amid growing national concerns over rapid deforestation in the name of infrastructure development, Devajit Moran, a prominent conservationist from Assam, has strongly criticised the Wayanad Tunnel Project in Kerala for destroying vital forest ecosystems in the Western Ghats. In a social media statement posted on Sunday, Moran highlighted what he views as the project's severe environmental cost and questioned the approval process

under the current central government. "No one ever publishes news about the destruction of nature happening across the country. To connect Kozhikode district with Kalladi/Meppadi in Wayanad district, 8.275 kilometres of forest hills have been cut down and destroyed for the Wayanad Tunnel Project in Kerala. Knowing fully well that 8.275 kilometres of forest hills and trees are being completely destroyed, how was this Wayanad Tunnel Project approved? It is

extremely sad news that the maximum forest destruction has occurred during the tenure of the BJP government. If our forests continue to be destroyed like this in the name of development, nothing will be left for future generations!!" Moran stated. The Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin-tunnel road project is a flagship initiative of the Kerala government aimed at providing a direct four-lane connection between Kozhikode and Wayanad districts.

Poll Duty Official Killed, Three Critically Injured in Road Accident in Dhubri

Dhibri, Mar 30: An election duty official was killed and three others, including a senior administrative officer, were critically injured in a road accident at Matiabagh in Dhubri early Monday while on their way to the District Commissioner’s office.

Officials said the team was travelling in a vehicle deployed for an Election Flying Squad when it collided head-on with a truck. The squad was heading to report for duty ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Romiya Ghosh, an assistant officer from Tulsibil, died on the spot. Three others — Shashi Bhushan Rajkhowa, Circle Officer of Chapar; Dipankar Adhikari, Field Officer in the Disaster Management Department; and the driver — sustained critical injuries. The identity of the driver has not been disclosed.

All three injured were admitted to

Dhubri Medical College and Hospital, where they are undergoing intensive treatment. Hospital principal Dr. Ankumoni Saikia said, “The injured are currently receiving intensive medical care. We are taking all necessary steps to stabilise their condition.”

The Election Flying Squad plays a crucial role in enforcing the Model Code of Conduct and monitoring illegal activities during the election period.

Police and district officials reached the accident site soon after the incident and carried out rescue operations.

The cause of the accident is under investigation, with preliminary indications pointing to poor visibility, possible mechanical failure, or driver fatigue.

The district administration is in contact with the families of the victims and is closely monitoring the condition of the injured.

Orphaned at 16, Mizoram Teen Lifter Strikes Gold at Khelo India

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Competing in the men’s 60 kg category in Raipur, Isak registered a total lift of 235 kg. After falling behind in the snatch event, he made a strong comeback in the clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

Isak’s journey has been far from easy. He lost his father, Hming Malsawmtluanga, in a road accident in 2018, around the time he began training in weightlifting. Years later, he faced another major blow when his mother was diagnosed with cancer and eventually passed away, leaving him shattered.

At one point, Isak considered quitting the sport. However, encouragement from his aunt and uncle, along with the guidance of his childhood coach, helped him stay on track and continue pursuing his dream.

“Losing both my parents broke me completely. I almost gave up weightlifting,” he said. “But my family stood by me and pushed me to carry on.”

His gold medal win is not just a sporting achievement but a powerful story of perseverance, resilience, and rising above adversity.

Earth Hour celebrated by WWF-India Assam & Payal Chadha Foundation in Guwahati



Guwahati, Mar 30: To mark the Biggest Hour for Earth to celebrate the 20th year Earth Hour celebration, WWF-India Assam State Office, in collaboration with Payal Chadha Foundation, organised an evening programme at Sati Radhika Shanti Udyan, Uzanbazar, Guwahati, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m on March 28.

The event was supported by partners viz. Genesis Event Organiser, Nandinee Energy while Radio Gup-Shup, All India Radio Guwahati, Radio Mirchi and Dy365 were outreach partners. The event commenced with a candle march led by participants, WWF officials and Payal Chadha Foundation Team and Assam Ambassadors. The cultural performance started with a beautiful traditional Bihu dance performed by the students

of Pragjyotish College symbolising joy, unity, and a deep connection with nature.

This was followed by an address on Earth Hour 2026 by Archita Baruah Bhattacharyya State Director Assam & Arunachal Pradesh State Office and also an address by Payal Chadha. She further said A series of brilliant performances by WWF Volunteers representing various institutes, including Gauhati University, PIMC, SB Deorah College, Gauhati Commerce College, and Nirbaak showcased their talents through singing, dancing, and mime acts. At 8:30 p.m., participants joined together for the symbolic switch-off, marked by a candle-lighting ceremony along with the illumination of solar lights sponsored by Nandinee Energy, creating

a truly memorable moment for the planet. Joi Barua, Earth Hour Goodwill Ambassador, and Arghadeep Baruah, Earth Hour Legacy Ambassador for Assam, joined the Candle March and observed the biggest hour. Payal Chadha said Joi Baruah addressed the audience and sang his beautiful renowned song ‘Freebird’ mesmerising the audience.

The event concluded with a Musical Maestro with sitar, guitar and drums under the glow of solar lights, adding a special touch to the evening during the biggest hour. RJ Mandy from Radio Gup-Shup and Prof. Madhushree Das, Geography Dept. Gauhati University graced the event. Payal Chadha Foundation thanked all the people whose presence made this initiative a grand success.

Trial Begins in Zubeen Garg Case; Himanta Biswa Sarma Counters Congress on Justice Claims

Guwahati, Mar 30: The trial in the case involving Assam’s music icon Zubeen Garg began on Monday, March 30, at a fast-track court, marking the start of legal proceedings to examine the circumstances surrounding the incident that has drawn widespread public attention.

An earlier investigation conducted in Singapore had described the incident as an “unfortunate accident.” However, the finding did not satisfy many in Assam, where doubts persisted and demands for a more thorough probe continued.

Responding to these concerns, Garg’s family and supporters pushed for an expedited legal process in recent months, urging that the case be transferred to a fast-track court. The Assam government subsequently set up a dedicated fast-track court to handle the matter. The hearings are being held in Court No. 3 of the Sessions Court in Kamrup Metropolitan, with Judge Sharmil Bhuyan presiding. Appointed under a special supernumerary post equivalent to a District and Sessions Judge, she is overseeing proceedings aimed at ensuring a timely resolution.

Authorities said the trial will follow due legal procedures, with regular updates expected as the hearings progress.

Meanwhile, reacting to the Indian National Congress’s claims of delivering quick justice in the case, Assam Chief Minister Hi-

manta Biswa Sarma said justice cannot be delivered by political leaders but only by the courts.

He stated that once a matter is under judicial consideration, it is not possible to promise justice within fixed timelines such as 10 days, one month, or even 100 days, as claimed by the Congress. “Do they want me to put a gun to a judge’s head to deliver justice?” he remarked, stressing that governments cannot interfere in judicial proceedings. Taking a swipe at the Congress, Sarma questioned why, if the party could ensure quick justice, it took several years in cases like the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. He asserted that justice is a legal process and cannot be rushed

for political gain.

He also alleged that Congress leaders visit places like Zubeen Kshetra only during elections and questioned their emotional connection with Assam. He added that if they were genuinely concerned, they would also visit places such as Bhupen Hazarika Samadhi Kshetra and Shaheed Smarak. Defending his government’s role, Sarma said the administration has already filed the chargesheet and ensured that none of the accused are out on bail. He further claimed that while Singapore termed the case as not a murder, Assam Police reached a different conclusion, adding that the people of Assam are supporting the state police’s findings.

Second Randomisation of EVMs, VVPATs Completed in Assam District

Guwahati, Mar 30: As part of the preparations for the forthcoming Assam Legislative Assembly Election, the second randomisation of EVMs and VVPATs was conducted in Tamulpur district at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner’s Office on Sunday.

The programme was attended by the Returning Officers of 43–Tamulpur (ST) and 44–Goreswar Legislative Assembly Constituencies, District Election Officer, contesting candidates or their election agents, and the General Observer.

Using the EVM Management System 2.0, EVMs and VVPATs were allocated polling station-wise. Reserve EVMs and VVPATs were also earmarked to ensure their availability for use on Poll Day, if required.

It may be noted that the district has a total of 482 polling stations. Accordingly, arrangements of EVMs and VVPATs were made for 250 polling stations under 43–Tamulpur (ST) constituency and 232 polling stations under 44–Goreswar constituency.

In addition, the required number of EVMs and VVPATs were kept in reserve. After successful completion of the



second randomisation process, the polling station-wise list of EVMs and VVPATs was prepared and shared with all the contesting candidates.

The district administration stated that this process is an important step towards ensuring transparency and credibility in election management.

Shah announces end of maoist movement in India

New Delhi, Mar 30: Declaring victory in the government’s campaign to eliminate the menace of Naxalism/Maoism from the entire country ahead of the March 31, 2026 deadline set by his ministry, Union home minister Amit Shah in the Lok Sabha accused Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Chhattisgarh’s earlier Congress government of collaborating with the Naxals.

Speaking at the end of a long discussion in the Lok Sabha on Monday evening under Rule 193 on “efforts to free the country from left-wing extremism”, Shah made it clear the Centre was willing to talk to those who laid down their arms but said the government had responded to those Maoists firing bullets by firing bullets back at them. “The government’s policy is very clear... It is not scared of threats but believes in delivering justice,” he said, adding that Maoism that was once touted as stretching from “Tirupati (in Andhra Pradesh) to Pashupati (the site of the famous temple in Nepal)” has almost been eradicated now even from its former den Bastar in Chhattisgarh. Attacking the LoP, Shah said that Naxalites had actively participated in Gandhi’s “Bharat Jodo Yatra”. He said when top Naxalite Hidma (who was responsible for the killing of 172 paramilitary soldiers) was killed, there was a pro-Naxalite demonstration at New Delhi’s India Gate, in which slogans in support of Hidma were chanted. He said Gandhi had tweeted the video of that protest. Shah also alleged in the House that several pro-Naxal sympathisers had been given prominent positions in various capacities by the previous Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. He also lashed out at senior Con-



gress leader and former home minister P. Chidambaram, whom he alleged had made conciliatory pleas to the Naxals even after scores of paramilitary soldiers had been killed by them.

The home minister also criticised former Supreme Court judge B. Sudershan Reddy for his 2011 ruling that declared the (State-supported anti-Naxal militia) Salwa Judum as unconstitutional and ordered its disbanding. He said that after that judgment, when weapons were taken back from tribal youth, they were slaughtered subsequently by the well-armed Naxals. “I condemn such a judgment in which the judge peddles his personal opinion in the form of a judgment,” Shah said, as the treasury benches applauded. He said the former judge was later promptly declared the joint Opposition candidate for vice-president last year. “The Congress denied any understanding (with pro-Naxal elements). I say this was your understanding,” Shah said. He also attacked former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of surrendering

to the Naxal ideology in order to remain in power in the 1960s and 1970s. There were loud protests from the Congress benches as Shah continued slamming the main Opposition party. “I want to tell (the House) that the root cause of Naxalism is not the demand of development, but an ideology, to win the presidential election, from 1970 Indira ji accepted that (Leftist ideology). Due to the Leftist ideology, Naxalism spread,” he said. The home minister further said that “innocent tribals were misled” by the Communists and given guns to rebel. He said the Leftists had selected remote regions in the country, where the reach of the State was limited, to peddle their Naxal ideology. Responding to arguments that Naxalism began due to neglect of tribals, the home minister questioned the Congress, which was in power for a vast majority of the years since Independence till the time Naxalism became rampant. “Why did your development not include the tribals,” he asked the Congress.

Tripura CM Campaigns for BJP Candidate in Assam’s Silchar

Silchar, Mar 30: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday campaigned for BJP candidate Rajdeep Roy in Silchar, claiming that the electorate is aware of the transformation brought by the BJP and predicted a “huge margin” victory for the party in the upcoming Assam Assembly elections.

Addressing an election rally at Kirtania Ground in Silchar, Saha said that the people have immense trust in Prime Minister Modi and that under his leadership, the country has been progressing steadily. “The BJP’s development agenda has resonated with voters,” he asserted.

Recalling political developments in Tripura, Saha highlighted the end of the Left’s 35-year rule as a turning point driven by Modi’s leadership, adding that a similar wave of change is now visible in Assam.

He also pointed to the cultural and emotional ties between Silchar and Tripura, saying the region shares deep-rooted connections.

Saha further noted that senior leaders, including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, are expected to campaign in the region.

Underscoring the importance of the Northeast, he said the Centre has given renewed focus to the region under the Act East Policy, describing it as crucial to India’s growth.

The Tripura Chief Minister also had an insightful interaction with prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs in Silchar today, in the presence of the BJP candidate from Silchar.



“Silchar’s business community is confident that only BJP’s development-oriented leadership can ensure rapid growth and a brighter future. Their enthusiasm and commitment towards development-driven governance is truly inspiring,” Saha said.

Career guidance session conducted in Chandel

Imphal, Mar 30: Assam Rifles, in partnership with Anal Catholic Sologdong Ruwl (ACSR), organised an insightful career guidance session on “Joining the Indian Army” for students of the Anal community at Panchai Village, Chandel district. The initiative focused on guiding local youth toward a professional life defined by discipline and service to the nation. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 Class XII students, reflecting a significant interest in the armed forces among the younger generation. Senior Officers from Assam Rifles provided a comprehensive briefing that detailed various entry schemes, eligibility criteria, and recruitment procedures. The discussion extended to physical fitness standards and academic requirements, ensuring students received a clear roadmap for their aspirations. Beyond technicalities, the session highlighted core military values such as integrity, resilience, and leadership. The interaction was designed to be highly engaging, allowing students to directly seek clarifications on career prospects and the recruitment process. This dialogue played a crucial role in building confidence and enhancing awareness among the participants, said a press release of IGAR(S).



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One Nation, One Vision: Integration Over Identity

India is not merely a nation — it is a civilisation, woven from the threads of thousands of languages, faiths, and cultures. Yet this very diversity, celebrated so passionately, carries within it the seeds of fragmentation. Today, as linguistic chauvinism hardens, state-based entitlements sharpen, and separatist undertones resurface, the question of what binds us together demands an honest answer. Regional pride is not the enemy of nationhood. Marathi literature, Tamil classical heritage, Kashmiri handicraft, and Bihari folk traditions are India’s cultural wealth. To erase them would be to impoverish the republic. The concern, however, arises when regional sentiment curdles into exclusion — when ‘sons of the soil’ politics denies opportunity to fellow Indians, or when state boundaries become psychological borders. India’s constitutional vision is clear: one sovereign republic, indivisible. Our strength in global diplomacy, economic bargaining, and strategic defence rests on presenting a united front. A fragmented India is a weakened India. From the freedom struggle to Pokhran, from the Green Revolution to Chandrayaan, it is collective national endeavour — not regional assertion — that has moved history. The challenge for Indian democracy is to nurture its pluralism without permitting it to fracture its unity. Regional identities must enrich the national tapestry, not unravel it. Integration is not uniformity — it is the larger loyalty that holds all smaller ones together. In the end, no region prospers alone in a troubled nation. India rises together, or not at all.

How Trump is destroying the international order

In the moments when the maps of the world shake, the danger of war is not only in the missiles, but in the minds that run them, in the language that justifies them, and in the level of political and moral consciousness among those who sit in the rooms where the decisions are made. Donald J Trump — who is supposed to be driving the most powerful military machine in the world — was allegedly “shocked,” at Iran’s retaliation, and is now dramatically weighing on escalating the war in Iran, while also pushing for diplomacy. Trump’s unpredictability indicates an aversion to analyse facts that will minimise the heavy casualties and costs of warfare on his own people and the international community.

Trump treats war as if it is a show of force to determine which countries’ futures can be controlled from a fortified operations’ room. But history teaches us that wars, especially in areas saturated with complexity, enmities and fragile balances, do not go according to the wishes of those who ignite them. When Trump reportedly admits that he did not anticipate the targeting of other Gulf nations, the question is not only about the efficiency of the administration, but about the ability of this leadership to understand the nature of the world it deals with.

In the midst of talking about a wider war, casualties, mutual targeting and a global energy crisis, the US President suddenly moves on to talk about another country, Cuba, its weather, and then utters “friendly takeover,” and states, “I can do whatever I want with it.” Trump’s repeated utterances of words like “takeover,” is not an expression of

a momentary emotion nor is it an indicator of one man’s instability. It is a clear pattern of thinking expanded from the historical, imperialist mindset ingrained in US governance. But the logic of naked force is no longer just a mental background of politics. It has become direct discourse, based on which the fate of the world is intertwined.

Trump’s arrogant language reflects contempt for the idea of international law, a disregard for the sovereignty of other nations, and a disregard for the consequences of any new forms of reckless leadership. When powerful nations begin to believe the myth of their absolute power, they enter the phase of regression. Every force that imagines that it can open additional fronts while it is unable to manage the existing front, reveals a growing separation between discourse and reality. At the same time, the US administration is trying to calm markets and public opinion by promoting secret diplomatic contacts aimed at stopping the escalation. When the statements of the authority become externally and internally questioned, and when the official discourse appears as a tool to calm investors, not to describe reality as it is — we become faced with a management that does not have a clear strategy. The Trump administration’s “management” of its country and foreign policy, is of impressions, manufacturing temporary narratives to sustain itself.

However, the real price of all this confusion is not paid in press conferences or in screens, but on the ground, in the bodies of soldiers, in cities at risk, in diplomatic missions that turn into targets, and in human lives that pay the cost of reckless



wars. Reports about the perils of US soldiers, and the targeting of embassies, hotels and allied countries, confirm that the issue is no longer just a containable crisis, but has become an explosive reality that expands the field — both politically and psychologically. The US President seems more preoccupied with mocking and bullying his opponents in degrading personal attacks, than facing questions about the explosive situation in the Middle East and its mechanisms, including its impact on the US.

We are witnessing one of the harshest aspects of contemporary political leadership: the transformation of the highest position in the state into an escape from accountability. Donald Trump has depicted the death of US military personnel as, “part of war.” We are not only witnessing a lack of sympathy, but a breakdown in the moral sense of

responsibility. A democratic leader does not run away from difficult questions. A democratic leader does not underestimate death. A democratic leader faces results, recognises the cost, and respects people’s right to know the truth.

The landscape drawn by Trump’s recent actions is that of a troubled capital, a confused leadership, and a foreign policy that moves reactively. From there arises a fundamental question: is there really a real strategy governing the US’ behaviour, or has war become a series of improvisations and attempts to take attention away from internal governance failure that unfolds day after day? Many indications suggest that we are seeing an authority that is trying to cover up its inability to perform, and hide its absence of vision with more shocking statements, using the verbal chaos as a veil over the actual chaos.

The world is not managed by the logic of improvised comments, as major crises cannot withstand this level of lightness. The Middle East is not the scene for electoral messaging. Cuba is not a geopolitical joke. Oil markets are not just a screen that can be deceived forever, and the lives of soldiers and civilians are not a minor detail in the bigger picture. When the tendency to produce verbal shock value results in military decisions, the danger becomes doubled, because war is not only the result of a conflict of interests, but also the result of personal ego and a desire to impose muscle power at any cost.

The most dangerous thing in the shifting landscape of US governance is not just the expansion of its war-mongering tendencies, but the exposure of the fragility of the global leadership it claims to have absolute power over. Wars can sometimes be contained, and crises may find their exits after a high cost, but the real disaster begins when the decision-making itself becomes a source of chaos, and when the leader of a superpower experiments with the boundaries of his authority. At that point, the world witnesses a defect that makes all its entities — allies, opponents, markets and people — prisoners of the mood of one individual who does not seem to be fully aware of the war he launched, nor where it can end. If we continue to see more of the current pattern, the danger threatens not only one region, but the entire international order, because in this case the world becomes hostage to volatile decisions and political whims that may at every moment, open a new door to a greater disaster.

To grow its digital economy, Bangladesh needs better legal remedies for online shoppers

Just as e-commerce has made it easier for people to shop, there are also newer challenges facing consumers. Often, customers receive items that are defective or which they purchased but never received. They may see advertisements which are misleading and rarely receive refunds. Such instances are further complicated by the fact that legal remedies available for consumers vary across regions in Bangladesh due to insufficient or unclear consumer protection laws.

The main channel for ensuring consumer protection is the Consumers’ Right Protection Act, 2009. This law provides consumers with protection against unfair business practices, but relies primarily on the Directorate of National Consumers’ Right Protection (DNCRP) for law enforcement rather than consumers’ own right to take action based on the law. Usually, consumers cannot file independent lawsuits seeking compensation from a business, because complaints

filled with regulators only lead to an investigation and administrative fine, not an individual consumer’s compensation.

As more and more consumers shop online, recent examples demonstrate how difficult it is for those who do not receive the products they paid for to get a refund because the system for resolving disputes with businesses over online sales is deficient. This is a universal problem, but many nations have adopted separate laws for regulating e-commerce platforms and ensuring consumer redress.

In India, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 recognises e-commerce transactions and enables the Indian government to enforce the act through the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2019. According to these rules, online marketplaces are required to appoint grievance officers to manage consumer complaints, acknowledge consumer complaints within 48 hours, and resolve consumer complaints

within 30 days from the date they were received. The e-commerce platform in question will also be required to provide consumers with specific seller information, refund and return policy details, and delivery conditions prior to the completion of the purchase.

As a result of these provisions, consumers have access to a defined process for liabilities, which allows them to pursue a resolution when an issue arises during an online transaction. Furthermore, there are many legal protections available to consumers online in the European Union thanks to the Consumer Rights Directive 2011/83/EU.

Under this directive, online shoppers in the EU have 14 days from the time of a completed purchase to withdraw from said purchase without needing to provide a reason and in turn receive a full refund. Sellers are also required to provide clear and accurate information about product characteristics, prices, delivery methods, and frequency of deliv-

ery, as well as how to withdraw from an online purchase. These legal protections help provide increased levels of transparency to consumers, which in turn increases consumers’ level of confidence when making online purchases. In the US, consumer protection laws are enforced by both the federal government and also each of the 50 states.

The Restore Online Shoppers’ Confidence Act (ROSCA) prohibits deceptive marketing of merchandise over the internet, including but not limited to hiding subscription charges and publishing misleading advertisements. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission has regulations in place to protect consumers from fraud and other unethical business practices. Consumers who believe they have been victimised may seek relief through chargebacks on their credit cards, or through lawsuits against sellers. E-commerce laws across much of the world have developed clear, specific ways of dealing with con-

sumer rights issues to provide an avenue of direct relief for consumers. Bangladesh could create a stronger legal environment for consumer protection by adding specific e-commerce regulations to the existing Consumers’ Right Protection Act, 2009, such as requiring e-commerce platforms to provide complainants with channels for filing grievances and information related to all e-commerce vendors selling through said platform. Last year, the interim government had moved to amend the Consumers’ Right Protection Act in response to incidents of large-scale e-commerce fraud.

The current government carrying this forward would help create an ideal environment by adopting global best practices in terms of ensuring consumer protection. Without additional regulations, the growth of the digital economy in Bangladesh may decrease due to a loss of consumer confidence in e-commerce channels.

Laughter as Medicine



A smile, laughter, or just a giggle changes the whole environment around you. When one stays happy, one’s immunity increases, and one has more chances of remaining healthy. For the same reason, laughter can be said to be the best medicine a doctor can ever prescribe. One would have seen that doctors always carry beautiful smiles on their faces so that the patients also learn to be happy all the time. A wholehearted smile can bring a positive vibe and lighten up the entire surrounding. Sometimes, a child’s innocent smile is all that is required to enliven one’s mind. One would have noticed that a doctor asks the family to always keep the patient cheerful so that they will recover quickly. The mind and body are wired; a healthy mind promotes a healthy body. Laughter is, therefore, considered the best medicine to get people better, as it increases immunity in the human body. It sets a positive atmosphere and helps patients think optimistically, which would, in turn, better their ailments. There are many ups and downs in life. We have all had challenges and sorrows in our lives, but we have all conquered them as well. A smile is the most effective approach to overcoming any discomfort. Laughter has long been recognised as the best solution to pain, stress, and conflict. Nothing can restore someone’s mental

and physical health more quickly than a good laugh. It also aids concentration by allowing one to connect with others. Laughter has the ability to heal the mind and body of a person. If one is happy, then one’s brain works accordingly, and your facial expression changes accordingly. A smile is a perfect weapon to overcome all pain. If one remains happy, one can suppress all problems and overcome them with ease. Laughter has the ability to strengthen a relationship. Whenever one has a fight, one just has to carry a beautiful smile, and it changes everything around. Laughter has the ability to change the atmosphere around you. It affects the mind as well as helps in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. When one laughs heartily, the immune system strengthens its ability to fight diseases and improves the resistance power of the body. It aids in the reduction of stress hormones, the activation of muscles, and the enhancement of blood flow inside the body. The normal functioning of the arteries also protects one from any unseen health complications. It can, thus, be said that laughter is both a necessary aspect of human bodily function and a lovely experience. After all, laughter enhances intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates the heart, lungs and muscles, and increases the endorphins that are released by the brain.

Compensation for victims is a right, not a privilege

It is unacceptable that the victims of the country’s most devastating launch capsizes are still awaiting fair compensation even after 23 years. Reportedly, a compensation case was filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) on behalf of the victims in 2004 and finally won in 2017. But the execution case is still awaiting a decree, with a petition against the 2017 verdict remaining pending before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to this day. The lethargy and disregard for ordinary lives as shown through this protracted development have been evident throughout the MV Nasrin-1 saga. A report published in The Daily Star noted that the triple-deck launch, licensed to carry 300 passengers, sank with more than 700 people on board in the Meghna River near Chandpur on July 8, 2003. A government probe later blamed faulty design, overloading, and the skip-



per’s inadequate skills. While media reports at the time suggested around 600 people were missing, no official death toll was published. The then Chandpur deputy commissioner listed 400 affected individuals, and the shipping and disas-

ter trustee boards initially disbursed Tk 15,000-20,000 to families of the injured and deceased. The 2004 BLAST case sought over Tk 28.93 crore in compensation for 171 deceased, which was the total number of bodies recovered from

the Meghna River after four days. A verdict came 12 years later, in February 2016, when a Dhaka court ordered the government to pay Tk 17.11 crore to the families of 170 deceased and one injured within 60 days. However, the victims

did not receive compensation within that timeframe. Instead, eight months later, in October 2016, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and the launch owners’ association filed a revision petition in the High Court,

which in 2017 upheld the lower court’s verdict. They then filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the Appellate Division in 2019, seeking a stay. In 2020, the matter was sent to a full bench, where it remains pending. The MV Nasrin-1 case shows how Bangladesh’s protracted legal process continues to deny people not only justice but even the basic right to fair compensation. Although laws change on paper, victims rarely receive justice in practice. Too often, individuals and institutions responsible evade accountability—both financial and punitive—through prolonged legal battles. This is not unique to the MV Nasrin-1 case; the same pattern has been visible in many other transport-related fatalities. We, therefore, urge the authorities to resolve the MV Nasrin-1 case without delay and to ensure that such cases are expedited so that victims can at least receive compensation in time.

Examine prices in eleven cities, including Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata Petrol-Diesel Prices on March 30:

Mumbai: Petrol-Diesel Price Today in India: Fuel prices in major Indian cities stayed mostly unchanged on Monday, even though global crude oil prices have risen sharply in recent weeks due to growing geopolitical tensions. In Delhi, petrol is still priced at Rs 94.77 per litre and diesel at Rs 87.67 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol costs Rs 103.49 per litre, while diesel is around Rs 90.03 per litre.Today’s price of Brent crude oil

On Monday morning, Brent crude rose 2.4 per cent to \$115.33 per barrel, taking its monthly gain to 59 per cent – higher than the surge seen during Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990. US crude also increased by 3 per cent to \$102.52, with a monthly rise of 53 per cent, according to Reuters. Taxes charged by the central and state governments make up a large part of fuel prices, which is



why rates differ from state to state. Transport costs and demand-supply conditions also play a role in deciding final prices.

Due to rising energy prices, traders now believe the US Federal Re-

serve is unlikely to cut interest rates this year, as higher oil prices could push inflation up. This is a shift from earlier expectations of two rate cuts before the conflict began, Reuters reported.After the US-Isra-

el strikes on Iran in late February, Brent crude prices have jumped by more than 50 per cent, raising concerns about supply and market stability. Despite this surge, petrol and diesel prices in India have not been increased yet. Rates have remained steady across major cities.Fuel prices in India are revised daily by the three state-run oil companies – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) – based on global crude prices and currency movements. However, they have not made any changes to retail prices so far. Several factors affect fuel prices in India. The biggest factor is global crude oil prices, as crude is the main raw material for petrol and diesel. The rupee’s value against the US dollar also matters, since India imports most of its crude oil. If the rupee weakens, fuel prices can go up.

Up 47% in six months, 2nd-largest retail NBFC gets 31% upside target Nifty stock to buy:

Mumbai: Stock to buy: Up 47 per cent in six months, India’s second-largest retail NBFC, Shriram Finance Ltd, has received ‘Buy’ rating from Antique Stock Broking, with a target price suggesting a potential 31 per cent upside over Monday’s intraday trading price. The domestic brokerage, while initiating coverage on the stock, expects Shriram Finance to deliver a steady improvement in profitability, with return on asset (RoA) expanding from 3.1 per cent in FY25 to 3.5-3.8 per cent over FY26-FY28. This, Antique said will be driven by asset under management (AUM) growth of 18 per cent compounded annually over FY26-FY28, led by MSME and gold loan. The brokerage sees uptick, led by AAA rating upgrade; and lower credit costs of less than 2 per cent.

“We initiate coverage on SHFL with BUY rating valuing it at 2.2x FY28E P/B resulting in 12-month target price of Rs 1,150, baking in MUFG infusion in FY27E. Key risks to our thesis include a broad-based economic slowdown, sustained increase in crude oil prices, and intensifying competition in the used vehicle financing segment,”



it said. ”In addition, SHFL maintains highest ECL cover on its overall book at 5.9 per cent of total AUM with stage-3 PCR of 49 per cent as of 3QFY26. This further adds comfort on the asset quality of the company. Though we do not expect material deterioration in asset quality of the company as its MSME loans ticket sizes also range Rs 8-10 lakh vs ticket range of Rs less than 5 lakh where major industry stress is residing,” it said. Antique, however, believes geopolitical uncertainties, particularly the ongoing US-Israel-Iran tensions can weigh on the growth in VF and MSME segments over the

near term. On Monday, the stock was trading 2.7 per cent lower at Rs 879.40. Antique’s target on the stock at Rs 1,150 suggests 31 per cent potential upside on the counterAntique Stock Broking said Shriram Finance has continued to operate with superior margins, with net interest margin (NIM) stabilising at 9–9.5 per cent post-merger against 7–7.5 per cent pre-merger, supported by healthy yields of 16.5 per cent against 15.5 per cent earlier. SHFL’s yield profile remains among the strongest in the sector, driven by its higher exposure to the used vehicle segment, which commands a premium of ~200–300 bps

over new vehicle financing. The recent capital infusion from MUFG, coupled with an upgrade in credit rating to AAA/ Stable, is expected to lower the CoF by ~100 bps over the medium term which will enable the company to offer new products at relatively better yields and thus also compete against banks,” it said.Antique said Shriram Finance has demonstrated notable improvement in asset quality post-merger despite a relatively higher risk portfolio mix. It noted that the bank’s credit costs have moderated meaningfully from a peak of 3.2 per cent in FY22 to 1.8 per cent in 9MFY26.

Rupee rebounds 128 paise from all-time low to 93.57 against US dollar in trade

Mumbai: The rupee recovered 128 paise from its all-time low to 93.57 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, after the Reserve Bank brought down the net open position that banks can keep overnight at USD 100 million.

Forex traders said the rupee opened stronger as banks who generally have long positions, may have to cut their positions taken in onshore currency markets as per the RBI Director. Through its circular dated March 27, 2026, RBI capped the Net Open Position (NOP-IRB) for banks at USD 100 million, with compliance required by April 10.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 93.62 and then gained further ground to 93.57 against the US dollar, registering a gain of 128 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee slumped by a massive 89 paise to close at a historic low of 94.85 against the US dollar.

“As banks begin adjusting their positions, they are likely to sell dollars in the market, which can temporarily support the rupee. This creates a phase of relief, driven by position unwinding, not by a major shift in fundamentals, but still meaningful in the near term,” CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said.However, the USD/INR pair is facing pressure from the elevated dollar index and crude oil prices. Safe-haven demand is keeping the dollar index firm above the 100 mark, limiting any meaningful recovery in the rupee, forex traders said.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which



gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent lower at 100.09.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading at USD 115 per barrel, up 2.16 per cent, in futures trade.Geopolitical tensions quickly reflected in oil prices. Crude surged as fears of supply disruptions increased. “For India, this is critical. Being a major oil importer, higher oil prices increase dollar demand, which directly puts pressure on the rupee,” Pabari said.The overall picture for the rupee remains delicate, with rising oil prices, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and a strong dollar environment continuing to keep pressure on the currency, he added. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tumbled 1,191.24 points to 72,391.98 in early trade, while the Nifty slumped 349.45 points to 22,470.15.Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 4,367.30 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

Why was the banking industry alarmed by the RBI’s move on vacant positions Bank stocks crack over 4%:

Mumbai: The banking stocks have seen a sharp cut in trade today. Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance, and State Bank of India were among the key Nifty losers. The Nifty Bank Index is down over 2.5% intra-day today. The AU Small Finance Bank has plunged over 4%.

Stocks making the biggest moves midday: HDFC Bank, Coal India, IRB Infrastructure and moreThe lender of the last resort announced these rules on Friday, March 27, to stop speculative bets against the currency.Expert take on RBI action on open positions

Key market veteran and founder of Asksandipsabharwal.com, Sandip Sabharwal, pointed out that, “The entire hypothesis that banks are going to make huge losses in unwinding speculative INR positions as per the recent RBI guidelines is deeply flawed. USDINR today is lower than it was on Thursday. Any unwinding as of now will still be profitable. Overanalysis leads to paralysis is the best that can be said for many armchair economists/strategists.”The other key banking losers include Axis Bank, down 3.9%, IndusInd Bank, which declined 3.7%, Union Bank of India dropped 3.85%, and other stocks. All the constituents of Nifty Bank were trading in the red. Nifty Bank has dropped 15% in the last one month and 7% in the past six months. Over the last three sessions, the banking stocks have been pulling down the markets since the heaviest constituent’s interim chairman resigned, citing governance issues. These new rules hammered down the banking sector stocks. The new rules will be effective



on April 10 onwards. The new regulations are likely to compel banks to unwind their large positions and curb one-sided bets against the rupee. IIFL, meanwhile have cut the estimates for FY27 bank earnings. According to their report dated March 29, “We cut FY27-28 est. by 2-5% and are 4% below consensus now. This is led by (1) Lower NIMs due to weak COF transmission – our framework shows only 10-40bps of TD re-pricing remaining, (2) Lower treasury inc. and a potential 40-60bps of networth impact led by spike in bond yields, and (3) Increase in loan growth thanks to rising working capital demand, corporate borrowings moving from capital

market to banks and relaxed LDR focus.” Gravita India: Why Nuvama sees 62% upside as copper recycling ignites a growth surge

The report added that with “higher sensitivity to deceleration in treasury inc. (21% of PSUs’ PBT) and receding contribution of recoveries from written off loans (13% of PBT), we see earnings momentum for PSUs to moderate (9% Cagr), and trail Pvt banks’ recovery (15% Cagr). We are still constructive on the sector, and find risk-reward very attractive for large Pvt banks, which have de-rated vs. rerating in mid-size Pvt banks and PSUs. Our top picks are ICICI, Axis and RBL.

IRB Infrastructure shares turn ex-bonus, zoom 11% bonus issues work



New Delhi: IRB Infrastructure bonus issue: Shares of IRB Infrastructure Developers zoomed 11% on Monday after the stock traded ex-bonus. IRB Infra stock opened with the 1:1 bonus issue adjustment at Rs 20.56 and rose to a high of Rs 22.70, up 11.15 per cent. The bonus issue was announced last month. Ex-date is one day ahead of the record date. Shareholders are required to purchase the shares before the ex-date to be eligible for this corporate action. A record date is when the firm checks the eligible shareholders for the corporate action. If one buys shares on or after the ex-date, the investor will not be eligible for the proposed corporate action.

In case of IRB Infra, if these shares were in demat account on Friday, this would

have made investors eligible to avail the bonus shares. If one buys shares today or on Wednesday, they would be ineligible for any bonus shares.For example, a shareholder owns 100 shares of IRB Infra as of the record date. In case of 1:1 bonus issue, this means that the shareholder would receive an 100 more shares in lieu of the 100 already owned. This would add 100 more shares to the investor’s portfolio and take his total number of shares to 200 shares. The stock price will also adjust according to the ratio of the bonus issue announced. IRB Infrastructure Developers Limited operates in the road infrastructure space, building and managing highway assets across India.

Stocks making the biggest midday HDFC Bank, Coal India

New Delhi: It’s been a volatile session for the markets. It opened under pressure and attempted a slight bit of recovery before falling again. The Nifty is holding above 22,500, down roughly 1.38%, while the Sensex was moving around 72,500, lower by about 1.47% by midday. Banking stocks crack after RBI move

Banking stocks took the first hit and then kept sliding. There was no pause worth noting. Shares of HDFC Bank declined around 2.3%, ICICI Bank fell about 2.2%, State Bank of India dropped 2.7%, while Axis Bank slipped nearly 4.2%. Kotak Mahindra Bank was down 3.9%, IndusInd Bank lost 4.0%, Union Bank of India declined 4.0%, Canara Bank dropped 3.6%, Bank of Baroda slipped 3.6%, and Punjab National Bank fell 3.2% by midday.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) capped open positions that banks can hold in the onshore currency market at \$100 million at the end of each trading day. It was not just about limits, it was about what those limits imply for treasury operations and flexibility. The Nifty Bank index was down about 2.6%, and that number alone tells the story without any attempt to soften it. Coal India managed to move in the opposite direction, which stands out more on a day when most stocks are struggling. The stock rose about 3.1% to Rs 458.85 after receiving a Letter of Award from Telangana Power

Generation Corporation.The order involves setting up a 750 MWh battery energy storage system at Choutuppal, with a project value estimated at Rs 1,057.09 crore. The execution timeline is around 18 months from the signing of the agreement.There is also a separate development that cannot be ignored. The company’s board has given an in-principle approval to divest up to 25% stake in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd, along with a possible fresh issuance of up to 10% equity. While the broader indices remained under pressure, select public sector stocks showed resilience. The Nifty CPSE index moved higher by about 1.4% before easing slightly, but it still stayed in the green when much of the market was not.Stocks like Oil And Natural Gas Corporation, Coal India, Bharat Electronics and Oil India were among the gainers. Out of 11 stocks in the index, 6 were trading higher while 5 remained in the red. It was not a broad rally, but it was enough to stand apart. The West Asia conflict has entered its fifth week, and the absence of clarity is starting to weigh on sentiment. Supply disruptions in crude oil and aluminium have added to concerns about costs and availability.IRB Infrastructure delivered one of the sharper moves on the day, rising over 10% before settling slightly lower but still holding gains of around 9.28% by midday.

Saudi Arabia wants the US to expand its battle against Iran, its regional adversary



Washington : Saudi Arabia has encouraged the United States to escalate assaults on Iran, according to a Saudi intelligence source, as it considers whether to enter the war directly.The Saudi source verified allegations in the New York Times that the kingdom’s de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, had pushed Donald Trump not to end his war against Iran, claiming that the US-Israeli campaign offered a “historic opportunity” to transform the region.According to the intelligence source, Riyadh is not only asking for the continuation of the military assault, but also for its intensification. Trump appeared to acknowledge the crown prince’s position, telling media on Tuesday: “Yeah, he’s a warrior.” “He is fighting with us.” Saudi Arabia and Iran, which claim leadership roles

in the Sunni and Shia Islamic worlds, have long been regional enemies. According to a leaked US State Department cable, the crown prince’s paternal uncle, King Abdullah, encouraged the US military to “cut off the head of the snake” in 2008, referring to Tehran’s theocratic system. According to an intelligence source, Saudi Arabia is pressing the United States to increase its attacks against Iran.There have been no indications of direct Saudi military engagement in the almost four-week-old battle, but a Saudi political expert said the kingdom would certainly take that step if Pakistan’s mediation attempts failed. House Republicans reject the DHS spending plan previously passed by the Senate. House Republicans have rejected legislation passed by the Senate that would fund the

majority of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) while withholding cash from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and a portion of Customs and Border Protection.The action jeopardizes efforts to resolve the 42-day partial government shutdown, which has resulted in thousands of DHS employees missing paychecks and frustrated travelers missing flights due to lengthy airport security lineups. Iran-linked hackers exposed FBI director’s personal email, photographs, and papers.Iran-linked hackers stole into Kash Patel’s personal email inbox and published images of him and other data on the internet, according to the hackers and the FBI on Friday.US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expects the operation against Iran to end in “weeks, not months,” despite ongoing violence in the region

and Israel’s threat to “escalate and expand” its attacks on the Islamic republic.Documents reveal that the Trump EPA relied on corporate science to loosen formaldehyde cancer standards. A new cache of chemical company and US Environmental Protection Agency records reveals an intricate industry operation that undermined stringent limits on formaldehyde, a highly hazardous carcinogen widely used in everyday products such as cosmetics, furniture, and craft materials.How an electoral conspiracy theorist has Trump’s ear about voting laws and midterm elections-Peter Ticktin, an 80-year-old Florida lawyer with links to Donald Trump and who represents certain 2020 election doubters, has become a vocal supporter of an emergency executive order on US elections that would reform voting regulations and rights by eliminating machine and mail-in voting.United airliner barely avoids a US military chopper in California. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Friday that it was investigating the incident that happened at about 8.40pm Tuesday when a military Black Hawk helicopter returning from a training mission crossed into the plane’s path. The pilots of the passenger plane carrying 162 passengers and six crew members stopped their descent and leveled off to avoid a collision.

Scientists videotape a whale giving birth while other whales cooperate to aid her



Americas: Scientists were able to videotape a sperm whale giving birth as other female whales worked together to help the mother and her youngster.On July 8, 2023, a crew from Project Ceti, a worldwide attempt to investigate how whales communicate, was aboard a boat near an 11-whale pod off the coast of the Caribbean island of Dominica.Rounder, a 19-year-old female, was surrounded by family members and strangers as she prepared to give birth to her second calf. The scientists studied the group’s activities for about five and a half hours, monitoring them from the boat, filming them with drones, and documenting the noises beneath the waters. The data they collected, which was published on Thursday in the journals Scientific Reports and Science, represents an exceptional rarity in the history of science.Out of 93 species of cetaceans – a group that includes whales, dolphins and porpoises – only nine have ever been observed giving birth in the wild. Rarer still was that whales not related to the mother were helping out. Shane Gero, a member of the Project Ceti team, told the New Scientist, “This is the first proof

of non-prison birth aid. It is amazing to watch the grandmother’s intergenerational support for her laboring daughter, as well as the support of other unrelated ladies.”The delivery lasted 34 minutes, beginning with their tails rising from the water and ending with the calf being delivered. During labor, other adult females plunged beneath Rounder’s dorsal fin, frequently on their backs, heads facing her genital slit. Immediately after the birth, the pod’s behaviour “rapidly changed” as every member became active, according to the study in Scientific Reports. All the adults were “squeezing the newborn’s body between theirs, touching it with their heads”, the researchers wrote. The whales pointed their noses towards the newborn, “pushing it around, under the water, and on to and across their bodies above the surface”. The remarkable behaviour dates back more than 36m years and is believed to be due to the unique history of cetaceans. After their distant ancestors left the water and adapted to life on land, cetaceans are the only mammals that returned to the ocean. This dive back

into the water required some evolutionary tricks to prevent newborns from drowning.For example, whale calves are born tail-first, rather than head-first like other mammals. However, while newborn sperm whales become talented swimmers within a few hours, they still sink right after birth.So other whales have to lift the calf up “to prevent the newborn from sinking while also facilitating its first breaths”, the researchers suggested.Primates – including humans – are the only other mammals known to help assist each other out during birth. The scientists also recorded the whales making many sounds, including significant changes in “vocal style” during significant events, the study said. This included when a group of pilot whales approached the pod after the birth.The changes in vocalisation suggested that the group was coordinating to support the birth – or protect the newborn, the researchers said. Sperm whales have one of the longest pregnancies in the animal kingdom, with a gestation period that lasts up to 16 months. When calves are born they are already 4 metres (13 feet) long. They will rely on their mother’s milk for at least two years.As they grow, the young become the centre of their pod’s social unit, with others helping out with babysitting while the mother searches for food.After the birth was filmed in 2023, the pod was not spotted again for more than a year. Then the newborn was spotted with Accra and Aurora – the other young members of the pod – on 25 July last year.Surviving its first year was a good sign that the sperm whale would reach adulthood, the Project Ceti team said.

Missing assistance vessels have safely reached Cuba, US confirms

Cuba: The US Coast Guard said on Friday that two sailing boats that went missing while bringing humanitarian assistance to Cuba have safely arrived on the Caribbean island. Earlier in the day, Cuba’s president, Miguel Diaz-Canel, stated that his government will do everything possible to save the persons on the two boats that went missing while traveling to Cuba from Mexico.The boats, which set sail from the Mexican state of Quintana Roo last Friday as part of an international assistance operation, were anticipated to arrive in Havana by Tuesday or Wednesday, according to a statement from the Mexican Navy Secretariat. However, the

alarm was raised when the vessels, which were part of the Our America convoy, failed to reach their objective. According to the Mexican daily El Universal, the authorities were in communication with representatives from Poland, France, Cuba, and the United States, “the home countries of the people onboard”. On Friday, Diaz-Canel expressed “deep concern” for the fate of the nine persons believed to remain on the boats. “We are doing everything possible to search for and save these brothers in arms,” he stated on the website.A representative for the convoy told AFP that “Mexican authorities have activated their search-and-

rescue protocol for two sailboats en route to Havana as part of the convoy, which have not yet arrived.” “The captains and crews are experienced sailors, and both vessels are equipped with appropriate safety systems and signalling equipment,” they added. Later on Friday the US Coast Guard, which was not involved in search efforts, announced it had received a report at 10.36am (2.36pm GMT) that “the two vessels safely transited to Cuba”. Cuba has been plunged into one of its worst crises since the 1959 revolution in recent months, thanks to a US oil blockade ordered by Donald Trump that has left millions of citizens in the dark.

Russia restricts gasoline shipments starting April 1 amid US-Iran conflict

Russian: The Russian government stated on Friday that it will implement a restriction on gasoline exports beginning April 1, with the goal of prioritizing domestic supply and stabilizing fuel prices at a time when the global energy market is under threat from the ongoing US-Iran confrontation in the Middle East.According to a statement released by the Russian Federation’s government, the ongoing Middle East conflict is producing major swings in global oil and petroleum product prices. However, he stated that international demand for Russian energy remained high. The declaration came during a meeting hosted by Novak to assess the domestic petroleum product market.During the discussion, Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized the goal of keeping domestic gasoline costs from going over predicted levels.The Russian Ministry of Energy announced that oil refining rates have remained consistent with March 2025 levels, maintaining a stable domestic supply, and that industry businesses have sufficient gasoline and diesel stockpiles, as well as strong refinery capacity utilization, to fulfill internal demand.”Particular attention was paid to the objective set by the Russian President of preventing domestic fuel prices from rising above forecasts. The Ministry of Energy reported on the current situation in the domestic fuel market: oil refining rates remain at the March 2025 level, ensuring stable supplies of petroleum products. Industry companies confirmed the availability



of sufficient gasoline and diesel fuel reserves, as well as high refinery capacity utilisation to meet domestic demand,” the statement read.Following these discussions, Novak instructed the Ministry of Energy to draft a resolution banning gasoline exports from April 1, 2026, to stabilise domestic prices and guarantee priority supply to the local market.”Following the meeting, Alexander Novak instructed the Ministry of Energy to prepare a draft resolution banning gasoline exports from April 1, 2026, in order to stabilise prices and ensure priority supplies to the domestic market,” the statement added. Earlier in the day, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas underlined that India has sufficient crude oil, petrol,

and diesel stocks, as well as an uninterrupted supply of LNG and LPG despite disruptions caused by the ongoing West Asian war. Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary (Marketing & Oil Refinery), stated at a joint inter-ministerial briefing that the country currently has adequate crude inventories, with fuel supplies secured for the next two months, and that refineries are operating at full or above capacity, with domestic LPG production increasing by around 20%. Highlighting the impact of global tensions, she noted that crude oil, LPG and LNG supplies were affected and international prices have risen. However, the government has taken multiple calibrated measures to manage the situation effectively and ensure stability

in domestic supply. ”As you are all aware, we are now in a war-like scenario, and our supplies have been disrupted as a result of the continuing Middle Eastern crisis. Crude oil, LPG, and LNG have all been affected. Crude prices have soared, as have the prices of other items on foreign markets. However, the Indian government has made some crucial decisions at various levels to properly manage this problem. We now have sufficient crude stockpiles and have secured supply for the next two months. The situation is also comfortable in terms of LPG and PNG. Our refineries are functioning at full or even higher capacity, and domestic LPG output has grown by 20%,” Sharma added.

The African Union’s battle for reparations is reenergized by the United Nations’ historic verdict on slavery



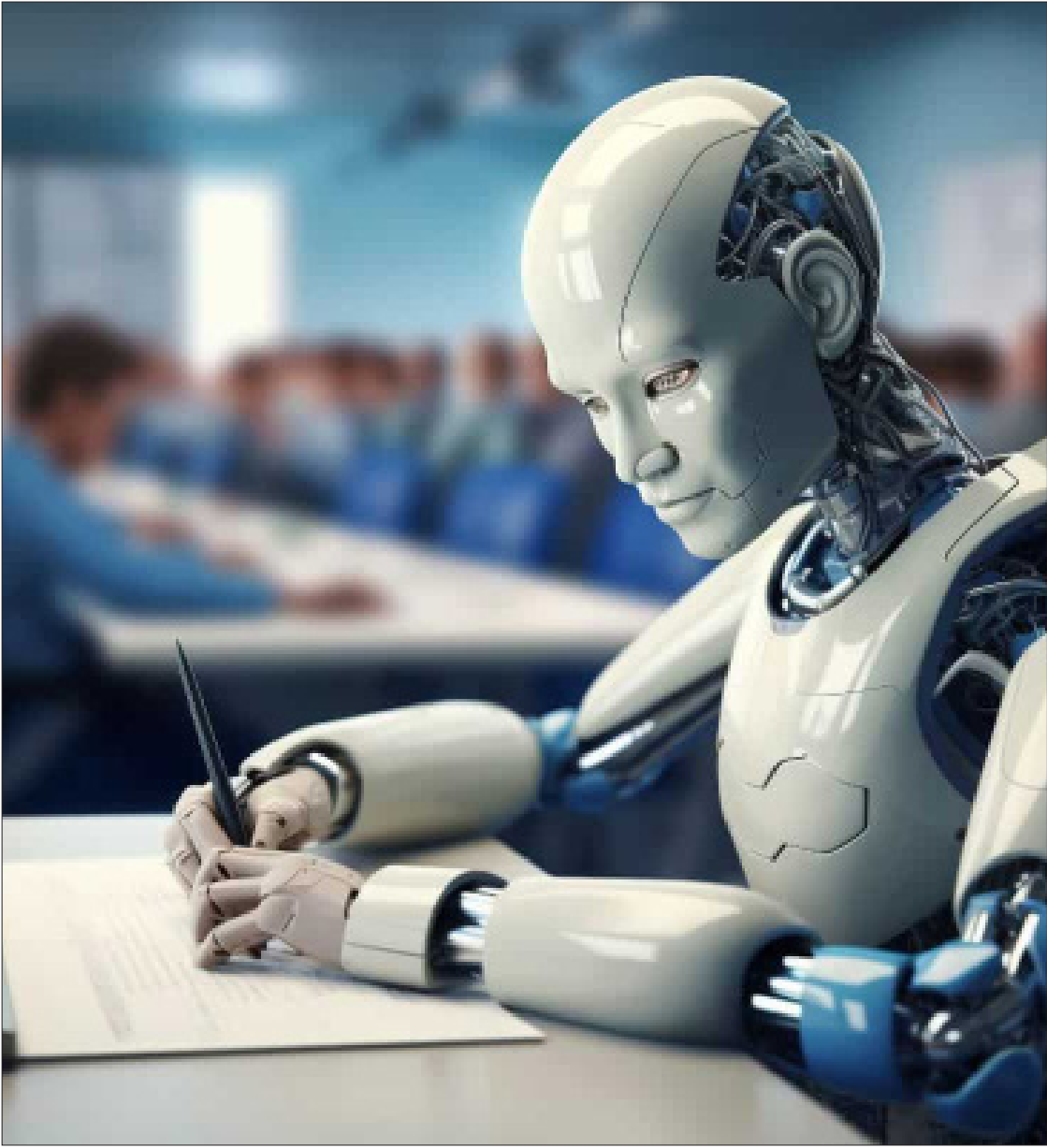
Africa: John Mahama knows a thing or two about defeating the establishment. On Wednesday, less than two years after completing a remarkable comeback as Ghana’s president with a landslide defeat of the ruling party candidate, he rallied the world to ratify a landmark vote against transatlantic chattel slavery, despite strong opposition from the same western entities that drove it for centuries.The resolution describing the practice as “the gravest crime against humanity” passed with a landslide at the UN General Assembly and has been widely praised throughout Africa. However, the tally’s contents reveal a society that is still sharply split on the seriousness of owning more than 15 million people as chattel over 400 years. Thus, the 123 states that voted for it were equally as important as those that did not. The majority of the assembly was in favor, including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and

most of Latin America, all of which were prior victims, as well as the Arab world, which has a long history of trans-Saharan slavery. Russia described it as “long overdue recognition”.The western bloc of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union abstained in the vote, choosing to postpone their day of atonement, possibly due to their history of oppression of Indigenous peoples and the continuance of chattel slavery. Argentina, where two-thirds of all imports arriving at the port of Buenos Aires between 1580 and 1640 were enslaved Africans; Israel; and the United States, where 11 states seceded rather than obey the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed enslaved Africans.The US ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council, Dan Negrea, took pains to point out the unrelated claim that Donald Trump “has done more for Black Americans than any other president” and stressed

that Washington “does not recognise a legal right to reparations for historical wrongs that were not illegal under international law at the time.” Human rights advocates believe the collective objection to a resolution that is not legally binding is because its opponents know it opens the door to reparation payments and acknowledgments. Before the vote, there was palpable fear in the room. Representatives of EU states spoke against what they considered retroactive application of international law, but there was also an unspoken desire to censor the past. The Vatican’s permanent observer to the UN, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, mentioned examples of papal condemnations of slavery in a speech before the vote and called the resolution a “partial narrative”. Ironically, he skipped the mention of a more impactful papal action: it was Pope Nicholas V’s edicts in 1452 and 1455 approving enslavement of

non-Christians in Africa by the Portuguese that facilitated transatlantic slavery. Inevitably, questions are being asked about what happens next. But after securing such a historic win in the face of heavyweight opposition, Ghana and the African Union will feel energised to continue this long fight. On Wednesday, the UN secretary general, António Guterres, called for “far bolder action”. All eyes will now be on the African Union, which has called 2026-36 its “decade of reparations” and named Mahama as its reparations’ champion, to find creative ways to extract reparatory justice even in the face of stonewalling from the west.The resolution itself was the product of collective action. It took months of consultations with a host of bodies across the continent and diaspora to produce the resolution. Some of those who worked on it say that same communality is being used to determine the next steps and nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.Already, an African Union committee of experts is working on a framework for reparatory justice and engaging descendants of enslaved people all over the world. It is an uphill battle but Mahama, who is in line to be the union chair in 2027, is confident he can be victorious a third time.“We travel this long road, each step guided by a desire to be better and to do better, each step bringing us closer to the kind of world we would want to leave for our children,” said Mahama in his speech at the UN general assembly.

‘Soon publishers won’t stand a chance’: literary world in struggle to detect AI-written book



Recently, the literary agent Kate Nash started noticing that the submission letters she was receiving from authors were becoming more thorough – albeit also more formulaic.“I took it as a rise in diligence,” she said. “I thought it was a good thing.”But then she had what she described as her eureka moment: the letter with the AI prompt right at the top. “It read: ‘Rewrite my query letter for Kate Nash including a comp to a writer she represents,’” she said. Once Nash had seen the prompt, she “couldn’t unsee AI-assisted or AI-written queries again”.

The news last week that Mia Ballard’s “femgore” horror novel Shy Girl could be up to 78% AI-generated, however, has forced literary agents and publishers alike to consider whether sharp eyes alone can detect AI-generated work.“The question of how Shy Girl slipped through Hachette’s net is something the publisher has to answer

themselves, but in reality, it was only a matter of time before this happened,” said Anna Ganley, the chief executive of the Society of Authors.

Wildfire, a UK imprint of Hachette, had published Shy Girl in November 2025. It was due for US publication in April, but the controversy led to its UK discontinuation and US cancellation earlier this month. Ballard has denied using AI to write Shy Girl, telling the New York Times, which first reported the story, that an acquaintance she hired to edit a self-published version of the novel had used it.An editor at one of the “big five” publishing houses said a “cold shiver went down my spine” when the Shy Girl story broke. “It really is a case of ‘there but for the grace of God go I,’” they said.“It’s an issue publishers are keenly aware of. We make it very clear to authors what we expect, we get them to sign contracts and we run their work through multiple AI de-

tection tools, but we know all this is fallible.

“Hence the cold shiver: if an author is determined to use AI, then cover their tracks, there’s very little we can do.”Prof Patrick Juola, a US computer scientist known for his work on authorship attribution, agreed. “I don’t want to call AI detection tools a scam, but it’s a technology that simply doesn’t work.”He likened the failure to antibiotic resistance: “AI is a learning system continually upgraded by its manufacturers.

If there was a detection technology that worked, then people would simply build better AI tools to fool it.”Mor Naaman, a professor of information science at Cornell Tech and head of its social technologies research group, agreed. “AI learns very quickly how to avoid AI detection. We’re not quite there yet, but soon publishers won’t stand a chance,” he said.

Already, the sophistication of the technology threw up an interesting

point, said Nikhil Garg, an assistant professor at Cornell Tech’s Jacobs Institute. “Sophisticated authors who want to evade the detection tools know how to edit their text, test it against these tools and revise again,” he said. “At some point, you have to ask: has it become their own work anyway, despite the AI?”Naaman agreed that while Shy Girl appeared to be an “egregious” example, there were increasingly grey areas. “We all work in an AI-hybrid world now. When does something become an AI-generated book, rather than just using AI like I use a spellchecker, to fix my grammar or maybe spark ideas?” he asked. If all this is true, the obvious question is: why does it matter if AI writes our books? After all, at one end of the spectrum, generic, formulaic books have always represented a sizeable proportion of any bookshop shelf. Why would it matter whether they were generated by humans or AI?

And if AI did become sophisticated enough to write genuinely engaging books, does that matter, as long the literature is good?For Naamen, the reason it matters is cultural: AI may flood the page, but it cannot replace the messy, difficult work of being human – the very work that literature exists to reflect back at its readers.

“AI nudges users into a bland monoculture. It could never generate the truly diverse creativity of the human mind,” he said. The debate wasn’t about originality alone, he added, it was also about who gets to write, who gets to be read, and who ultimately shapes our culture.“AI subtly inserts specific viewpoints into its work that are driven by algorithms of all-too-powerful corporations,” Naamen said. “And if AI sucks up all the minor writing jobs and opportunities, then emerging authors are deskilled before they get the chance to create their really significant works.”

Earlier this month, Ganley launched the Human Authored scheme to identify works written by humans. It is, however, a system based on trust – that singularly human and inherently vulnerable value.But, as Nash says, in this era of deception, trust is more valuable than ever. “Readers trust writers. Writers need to continue to trust themselves over machines,” she said. “The bond between reader and writer is likewise based on trust; the engagement can operate on many levels, but most of all, it must be meaningful.”

‘Satellites help join up the dots’: the man on a mission to connect Siemens Energy staff across North America



It’s been 26 years since Hassan Khan first joined Siemens Energy and today he’s responsible for helping thousands of field engineers stay in touch across remote parts of the US and Canada. Beyond his day job, he leads a charity that rescues decommissioned laptops for communities in need, and he’s a champion of inclusion within the company.As head of technical end-user support across North America, he and his Orlando-based team provide technology support for some 13,000 employees. He’s responsible for helping field staff complete their jobs, from upgrading to modernising the grid, sometimes well out of range of any mobile networks.For this, his team have been recognised externally, clinching an award in 2024 for imaginative use of a communications network – in this case to help technicians and engineers working in isolated sites to communicate securely and ask vital questions in real time.Remote communications don’t always run smoothly but engineers nonetheless need seamless connectivity when new units are being commissioned or existing ones are being maintained, Khan says.“Servicing our energy-generating products is a big part of our business,” he adds. “But field service isn’t an eight-to-five job. Engineers work at sites with no connectivity and they need to complete the job within a certain timeframe – a few weeks, say – to allow the energy company to switch the power back on.”There’ve been instances where connectivity challenges could have significantly delayed our delivery timelines. However we rose to the occasion, providing satellite support that enabled our engineers to establish the necessary connections with relevant systems and proceed with the planned outage without any interruptions ... satellites help join up the dots.”With his team of approximately 28 colleagues, his role is challenging and evolving. “We’re a big country and we have tight deadlines,” he says. Khan’s team oversees some 17,000 PCs, managing upgrades and devices across different time zones and keeping to a strict schedule. He explains that what truly drives him is the opportunity to support and empower his team, taking pride in their achievements and success. “Witnessing [my team’s] professional growth and watching them thrive as they acquire new skills ... is incredibly rewarding. This dedication not only strengthens our collective capabilities but inspires me to foster an environment of growth and excellence.” This matters more than ever, he says – over the past two decades, the IT industry has evolved dra-

matically.“Previously everything was managed in-house and you needed technical experts for every aspect.” Today innovations in time-saving tools, AI assistants, and the impact of cloud computing, make for a different landscape.In spite of holding several roles over his time with the company, he says there’s always room for growth. “I recall always having the support of my management for giving me opportunities to expand my skillset in areas that were outside of my day-to-day responsibilities. That is what allows Siemens Energy to stand out as a global employer. Even to this day, all I have to do is talk to my leadership and say: ‘Is it OK if I work on this project? It interests me, it’s exciting and I want to grow as well.’ The support is always there. That’s what keeps things interesting – the freedom to learn.”He’ll often have conversations with colleagues concerned that the march of technology will make the next generation redundant, but he remains optimistic. Challenges are always there but they keep changing, says Khan. “Over two decades I’ve seen that there is always something new on the horizon. Today there’s the fear that AI will jeopardise careers – it as an opportunity. Both as an opening for new skills, and a way to save time and work more efficiently. AI has made things more manageable and approachable, particularly within technical support.” At work and in his free time, Khan is on a mission to keep adults and children connected through technology. This is the driving force behind the efforts of a charity he helped found with like-minded colleagues. For example, they have recently donated a batch of reconditioned laptops to an orphanage in Nigeria, the first overseas recipient, having already donated tech to local schools and charities.“We don’t just hand over any computer; we invite staff and their families to get together and help clean up and check that everything works as it should. Over time we’ve refurbished hundreds of PCs, which are ready to donate.”For almost six years, Khan has championed inclusion within Siemens Energy and more widely in the community and serves as chair for the company’s Inclusion and Belonging Council within North America. What this means in practice is a busy schedule of company-supported and community events. Khan is proud that more people are aware of the meaning of inclusion and belonging. “For me, it’s really about raising awareness, contributing positively to our society, and doing our part to uphold an environment that is built on inclusivity and not exclusivity.”

Austria becomes latest to propose social media ban for children

Austria has announced plans to ban social media for children aged under 14, becoming the latest country to consider introducing restrictions for children online.It follows lengthy negotiations within the conservative-led three-party coalition government, but it is not yet clear how or when the ban will be implemented.Announcing the plans, Vice-Chancellor Andreas Babler of the Social Democrats said the government could not stand by and watch as social media made children “addicted and also often ill”.

He said it was the responsibility of politicians to protect children and argued that the issue should be treated no different to alcohol or tobacco: “There must be clear rules in the digital world too.” In future, said Babler, children under 14 would be protected from algorithms that were addictive.“Other information providers have clear rules to protect young people from harmful content.” These, he said, should now be implemented in the digital space. Austria is the latest among a growing number of coun-



tries to consider restricting social media access for children, citing concerns about potentially harmful content made available to them on the platforms.

In a landmark case in the US on Wednesday, a jury found two social media giants had intentionally built addictive algorithms that harmed young people’s mental health.Social media companies point to under-13s being disallowed from joining their platforms - though questions remain about how strictly this is enforced - and versions of their sites with

parental controls when challenged on questions of harm.Australia introduced a ban for under-16s in December, becoming the first nation to do so.

France’s lower house approved a ban for under-15s in January. In a post on X French President Emmanuel Macron thanked Austria for “joining the movement”.The UK government has launched a consultation on banning social media for under-16s, while Denmark, Greece, Spain and Ireland are also considering similar moves: Spain and Ireland for under-16s,

and Denmark and Greece for under-15s.Austrian Education Minister Christoph Wiederkehr, from the liberal Neos party, stressed the “harmful” nature of social media, adding: “People need to learn how to use it responsibly.”The state secretary for digitalisation, Alexander Pröll, from the conservative ÖVP, said that a draft bill codifying the ban would be presented by the end of June.

The bill is expected to contain technical details of an agreed mechanism to verify people’s ages when accessing social me-

dia platforms. Babler said Austria could use an EU system if it was ready, but that it would pursue a national plan if not.The general secretary of the far-right opposition Freedom Party, Christian Hafenecker, condemned the plans as “a direct attack on young people’s freedom of expression and freedom of information”. However, Austrian political analyst Thomas Hofer said the proposed ban seemed to be proving popular.

“The government is trying to evoke the feeling that, in turbulent times, they have at least something under control,” he told the BBC.“Such a ban is very popular, also among parents. So, it’s one of the easy points that they can make across party lines.”In most other fields, the governmental parties are on the defence, though, be it the economy, the budget deficit or rising prices.”The coalition government’s proposed social media ban has been agreed alongside controversial reforms to secondary schools, which include more lessons on democracy and artificial intelligence, and a cut in the number of Latin lessons.

SpaceX’s listing stirs up social media frenzy, ticker bets

From rocket launches drawing millions of YouTube views to social media frenzy over its potential listing, SpaceX’s debut is shaping up to be a landmark moment for Wall Street.

Traders are betting thousands of dollars on the company’s ticker and speculating over its entry into the most elite club of U.S. companies, giving the world’s most valuable startup a level of social media buzz that only a few companies enjoy, especially when they are yet to file their IPO paperwork. On Polymarket, users were betting on topics including the company’s targeted valuation, the exchange it will list on and the ticker its shares would trade under. The combined trading volume of such bets exceeded more than \$15.2 million, as of Friday.Odds on the prediction markets platform put a 25% chance on SpaceX choosing the letter “X” as its ticker, a sharp drop from 60% a month ago.

The single-letter ticker is up for grabs after U.S. Steel, which reportedly held it for over a century, delisted from the New York Stock Exchange after being bought by Japan’s Nippon Steel (5401.T), opens new tab last year. Musk’s social media platform is also called X after a rebrand from Twitter in 2023.

Tuttle Capital Management

CEO Matthew Tuttle said a better alternative would be “SPCX” - also the ticker of an exchange traded fund his company manages.

Tuttle has indicated openness to selling the SPCX symbol to SpaceX.“I’ve not heard from Elon, but my phone line is still open and I’m holding out hope that I get a call,” he said.

Apart from X, other potential options floated on Polymarket include “SPAX” and the risqué, “SEX”. However, users see a roughly 70% probability that the company chooses a different ticker altogether. SpaceX is targeting a valuation of \$1.75 trillion in its listing, which would make it the sixth biggest U.S. company by market capitalization.

Tesla (TSLA.O), opens new tab and Meta Platforms (META.O), opens new tab could fall behind, with market valuations of \$1.4 trillion and \$1.39 trillion, respectively.

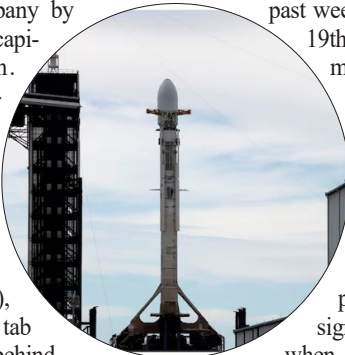
That has fueled speculation over whether the company’s market debut will force a rethink of the so-called “Magnificent Seven”, a group of

some of the most valuable U.S. companies.

“When the company does finally go public, the Magnificent Seven will clearly expand. They’ll probably call it the Magnificent Eight, the Super Eight or some new acronym,” said Todd Schoenberg, chief investment officer at CrossCheck Management.

To capitalize on his popularity among retail investors, CEO Elon Musk is also discussing allocating as much as 30% of the IPO to individual investors, at least three times the usual retail slice, Reuters reported.

On social media platform Reddit’s r/WallStreetBets thread, SpaceX was mentioned 130 times over the past week and was the 19th most popular mention, according to data from Germany-based data group Breakout Point. “The retail investor plays a very significant role when you have a company like SpaceX that’s coming public. Most people would say yes to the opportunity of investing in Elon Musk’s space company,” said Jonathan Corpina, senior managing partner for Meridian Equity Partners.



Amidst the controversy surrounding his silence over Dhurandhar’s success, Shah Rukh Khan poses with Ranveer Singh



New Delhi: Since the release of Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar 2, actor Ranveer Singh has dominated social media conversation and is currently the talk of the town. Some fans

have been busy wondering about Shah Rukh Khan’s silence regarding the movie’s performance while it continues its incredible run at the box office. A photo of Ranveer and Shah Rukh

posing together has suddenly appeared online amid the continuous buzz, swiftly attracting attention on several platforms. A number of celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan, Ranveer Singh,

and Sanjay Dutt, were recently spotted in Mumbai at the extravagant birthday celebration of Mishka Kamboj, the daughter of tycoon Mohit Kamboj. A number of photos and videos from the celebration have since appeared on social media. Shah Rukh is seen posing with Ranveer in one photo that is taking center stage. The image, which is currently trending on social media, shows the couple grinning together at the festivities with friends like Shilpa Shetty. The sighting coincides with an increasing amount of discussion on social media about why none of the three Khans—Salman, Aamir, and Shah Rukh—have publicly acknowledged Dhurand-

har: The Revenge’s enormous box office success. Their supporters have now stepped out to defend them, claiming that the photo puts a stop to all rumors. “Baa-zigar duo with dhurandhar & others,” wrote one. Another said, “King of Hearts Shah Rukh Khan stole the show.” “He let Ranveer take the limelight...everyone needs their minutes,” a social media user commented. One person said, “Why will there be an issue with them? Just because he doesn’t make ask posts about him doesn’t mean they have a problem.”The spy action film Dhurandhar, which debuted in theaters in December 2025 and made over ₹1300 crore globally, has a sequel called Dhurandhar 2.

In order to dismantle a terror network that targets India, Ranveer, an undercover Indian intelligence operative, infiltrates Karachi’s crime syndicates and Pakistani political power structures. Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, R Madhavan, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi are present in the film. Dhurandhar 2 has earned over ₹840 crore net in India and over ₹1250 crore globally. King is Shah Rukh Khan’s upcoming film. In addition to Suhana Khan, Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Raghav Juyal, Arshad Warsi, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Saurabh Shukla, the film is directed by Siddharth Anand. Anil Kapoor and Rani Mukerji are reportedly included in the ensemble cast.

On December 24, the action movie will be released in theaters. In Nelson Dilipkumar’s Jailer 2, Shah Rukh will also appear on film alongside Tamil icon Rajinikanth for the first time. Jishad Shamsudeen, Mohanlal’s stylist, posted an AI-generated image of a grey-haired Shah Rukh driving as Mohanlal sat beside him and Rajinikanth and Shiva Rajkumar took the back seat on his Instagram stories earlier this month. Jishad re-shared the post and remarked, “Kandippa irukkum (for sure),” which seemed to corroborate both Shah Rukh’s cameo and the fact that all of them would appear in a sequence in Jailer 2.

Zayed Khan responds to criticism over Zarine Khan’s Hindu funeral rituals

Mumbai: Following the death of former actor Zarine Khan at her Mumbai home last year, images of her son Zayed Khan carrying out her final rites in accordance with Hindu customs surfaced and sparked online discussion. In response to the criticism, Zayed has now disclosed that his mother’s last request was for her ashes to be submerged in a river. Recalling his mother Zarine Khan’s last wish, Zayed became upset in a recent interview. Even though she was married into a Muslim family and had Parsi ancestry, he also addressed the concerns expressed regarding her Hindu funeral customs. According to Zayed, the primary religion in his household is “insaaniyat,” or humanity. The actor mentioned that his employees come from a variety of backgrounds, and in addition to providing for their housing, food, and other needs, his family also makes sure their kids have access to the chances they require. As a family, we believe that religion is not something that is better or worse, but rather something that is extremely personal to you and how you want to approach it. It is not appropriate to say these things. We don’t need to explain why we consider ourselves as a very secular family, according to Zayed. He continued by sharing his mother’s final request, recalling the day she was sitting by a “lovely river” and “the thought just passed her head, saying that if I ever go, I want my ashes to flow in this river.” I’d like to be free. “We’ll follow your mother’s final wishes,” Zayed continued. What other people think is irrelevant. No matter how vicious they are, it makes no difference. Unfortunately, halat aise hai (the situation is such), thus I don’t blame them. Unn halaton ko badalne mein waqt lagega (Changing those situations would take time).Zarine Khan, the mother of Zayed and Sussanne Khan, passed away in Mumbai on November 7 of last year. Age-related illnesses claimed Zarine’s life at the age of 81. Despite her Parsi ancestry, her son Zayed carried out the last rituals in accordance with Hindu customs. Zarine co-starred with Dev Anand in the 1963 Hindi film Tere Ghar Ke Samne. She married actor Sanjay Khan in 1966 after meeting him in the 1960s.

Actor Bimal Oberoi of Dhurandhar 2 claims that he spent months trying out for Aditya Dhar’s movie

New Delhi: Dhurandhar: The Revenge, directed by Aditya Dhar, is already creating waves at the box office, and a number of its sequences have become popular memes on social media.

Actor-producer Bimal Oberoi’s role Shirani is one that is now getting a lot of praise. Bimal recently talked about how he got the part in Dhurandhar. Bimal revealed that the team had already shot a significant amount of the movie by the time he joined the cast, and they were just looking to cast this specific character. “I auditioned multiple times over a few months,” Bimal remarked, discussing how he landed the part.

They would call me again after sending it for comments, and so on. Then I met Aditya Dhar, who asked me to shave my head and grow a real beard. Because it’s such a fantastic job, I said yes right away. It required a great deal of planning. This became a really significant chance for me since I re-



sumed performing in 2018. Additionally, he discussed his collaboration with Ranveer Singh on Dhurandhar: The Revenge and commended the actor’s participation on the set. “Ranveer was so into the movie; he owned it,” he remarked. In addition to being Hamza, he served as the production’s first AD and producer during the shoot, ensuring that any newcomers—like me, who entered somewhat late—were taken care of. Before a pivotal scene on my first day, we had a really emotional talk. He ensured that my surroundings were flawless. It’s crucial to break the ice. Despite his younger age, he had the demeanor of an experienced professional. There was no

hesitation after that, making the scene seem effortless.” Bimal primarily appeared in sequences with Akshaye Khanna in Dhurandhar, where he was introduced as Sher-E-Baloch.

Following Rehman Dakaith’s passing in Dhurandhar: The Revenge, Shirani gives that title to Hamza Ali Mazari, played by Ranveer Singh. Additionally, he is crucial to Hamza’s retaliation against ISI Major Iqbal. Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi play key parts in the spy action thriller, which is directed by Aditya Dhar.

Dhurandhar, the movie’s predecessor, did remarkably well at the box office, earning over ₹1,300 crore globally.Now that Dhurandhar: The Revenge has already made over ₹1,200 crore worldwide, it is getting closer to the first part’s lifetime collection. The movie is becoming one of the highest-grossing Indian movies ever, and it keeps breaking box office records.

“True brother” Ranveer Singh never displayed arrogance on set, according to Udaybir Sandhu

Mumbai: Udaybir Sandhu, who played a role in “Dhurandhar: The Revenge,” expressed deep gratitude towards filmmaker Aditya Dhar and co-star Ranveer Singh in a recent Instagram post. He praised Dhar for his mentorship and support, describing him as a guiding figure who made him feel a sense of belonging on set. Udaybir also commended Ranveer for his generosity and humility, highlighting the actor’s supportive nature during filming. He referred to both as brothers and emphasized the importance of their encouragement in his growth as an actor. Since its premiere, the movie has broken box office records. On

its first day of release, the spy action thriller brought in ₹145 crore. The movie has already eclipsed the lifetime collection of its predecessor in just 11 days, surpassing a number of significant movies, including RRR, Kalki 2898 AD, Jawan, Pathaan, and the Hindi version of Pushpa 2.The movie has made ₹1,361.95 crore internationally and ₹846.87 crore domestically.Ranveer Singh, Arjun Rampal, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Rakesh Bedi, and Sara Arjun play major parts in the film, which is directed by Aditya Dhar. Other notable actors include Udaybir Sandhu, Danish Pandor, and Mustafa Ahmed.

After an IPL match, Dhurandhar 2-star Sara Arjun was mobbed outside Wankhede Stadium

Mumbai: Rakesh Bedi, Akshaye Khanna, and Ranveer Singh are not the only actors who enjoy Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar 2. Each performer involved in the successful film is having their moment in the spotlight. Actor Sara Arjun, who portrays Yalina Jamali in the Dhurandhar films, was surrounded by fans on Sunday night as she was leaving Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium following the Mumbai Indians (MI) vs. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) IPL match. Sara Arjun went to the game with her mother Sanya Arjun and father Raj Arjun, donning the jersey of Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya to show support for the team. In the IPL 2026 season opening, the Mumbai Indians defeated the Ajinkya Rahane-led team by 6 wickets. Following the huge success of Dhurandhar 2, which debuted in theaters on March 19, a number of fans approached 20-year-old Sara Arjun as



she was leaving the stadium and demanded photographs. Before things could get out of hand, the actor’s parents rushed to her aid, protecting her from the fans and getting her into the car. Following the game, a thrilled Sara Arjun celebrated the Mumbai Indians’ victory on her Instagram Stories. “What a match!!!” she wrote. The actor was also seen with actor Ishaan Khatter at the MI vs. KKR game at Wankhede Stadium. Recently, the two worked together on a commercial.Sara Arjun’s first starring lady role was in Dhu-

randhar. With roles in films like Deiva Thirumagal, Ek Thi Daayan, Saivam, Jai Ho, Jazbaa, and Ponniyin Selvan I and II, the actor was formerly India’s highest paid actor. Yalina Jamali was the most difficult role to cast, according to casting director Mukesh Chhabra of Dhurandhar 2. “With so many well-known performers, we wanted a completely new face with a fresh energy. That was difficult,” he remembered.Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Gaurav Gera, and Danish Pandor are also featured in Dhurandhar 2.

Salman Khan collaborates with producer Dil Raju to direct Vamshi Paidipally, his upcoming movie



Mumbai: Vamshi Paidipally is the director of Salman Khan’s upcoming action drama. Producer Dil Raju will support it. Salman announced the exciting new partnership, which will be his next endeavor after Maatrubhumi, on his X account on Monday. Munna, starring Prabhas, marked Vamshi Paidipal-

ly’s directing debut. He quickly became known for his star-driven productions. He later directed the action film Yevadu, which starred Ram Charan and Allu Arjun in cameos, Brindavanam with Jr. NTR, and Maharshi, which earned him a National Film Award. In the popular film Varisu, Vamshi also di-

rected Tamil actor Vijay. Dil Raju will produce the next movie under the Sri Venkateswara Creations brand. In addition to producing more than 60 films, Dil Raju was the recipient of two National Film Awards for his work on the Telugu films Maharshi and Shatamanam Bhavati.For the first time, the filmmaker-producer team collaborates with Salman Khan. In the past, Vamshi Paidipally and Dil Raju worked together on five successful movies, all of which went on to become huge hits. More information regarding the movie will soon be revealed, as production is scheduled to start next month. Salman is preparing for the premiere of the war

drama Maatrubhumi in the meantime. In one of the well-known last-stand stories from the Indian military, Salman plays an Indian Army Colonel leading his soldiers against a larger Chinese army in this film, which is produced by Salma Khan under the name Salman Khan Films and directed by Apoorva Lakhia. According to the film’s creators, it seeks to balance the intensity of combat with the closeness of love and family while presenting an unwavering image of bravery, sacrifice, and resiliency. The movie’s April 17 theatrical release date was rescheduled. There is yet no formal confirmation of a new date.

Malaika Arora and her alleged boyfriend, Harsh Mehta, visit a Jain temple in Rajasthan

New Delhi: Malaika Arora and her alleged boyfriend, Harsh Mehta, went to the Adinath Jain Temple in Rajasthan on Sunday. Harsh wore a blue shirt, and Malaika chose a basic white kurta for the temple visit. She most likely intended to keep her visit to the shrine a secret, but word quickly got out, attracting a sizable audience anxious to see the celebrity.According to accounts, the rumored couple took pictures with locals before local authorities intervened to control the atmosphere and keep the temple grounds in order. Prior to this, Harsh Mehta created more news by dodging the photographers at

Kritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur’s reception party.A report claims that Harsh Mehta is a diamond dealer.When Malaika and 33-year-old Harsh Mehta went to Enrique Iglesias’ concert in Mumbai in October, there were rumors that they were dating.She was spotted having a good time with a male and appeared to be in high spirits. Online dating rumors started as soon as the two were seen speaking throughout the performance and then left the venue one after the other. The excitement increased when they made their second joint appearance on November 26.

Harsh and Malaika Arora



were spotted at the airport in Mumbai. Paparazzi cameras captured the routine even though they avoided strolling together: Malaika emerged first, followed by the man. His mask partially concealed his face, which further piqued

people’s interest.Things became much more intriguing as soon as they arrived at the parking lot. Malaika was the first to get into her automobile. According to DNA India, the man entered the same vehicle a short while later. The mystery man and Malaika Arora have not yet addressed the persistent dating rumors. Malaika was dating Arjun Kapoor prior to this. They broke up in 2024 after first dating in 2018.She was previously wed to Arbaaz Khan, an actor and filmmaker. After getting married in 1998, the couple separated in 2017. Arhaan Khan is their shared son.

The love story of Rahul and Priyanka: from divorce to reconciliation for their 13-year-old son Shahaj

Mumbai: After a sad drowning event at Talsari Beach in Odisha, Bengali actor Rahul Arunoday Banerjee died at the age of 43. Both his followers and the Bengali cinema industry were shocked by his unexpected passing. Actor Priyanka Sarkar, his wife, and their 13-year-old son Shahaj survive him. Rahul fell in love with Priyanka while she was just a teenager. Rahul initially offered to cast Priyanka as his movie heroine, but she turned him down. But destiny had other ideas. Their paths were altered by the 2008 movie Chirodin Tumi Je Amar, where their chemistry on screen quickly developed into a romantic relationship in real life. The two actors got married in a private ceremony after dating for a few years. Later, Priyanka took a leave of absence from her job to concentrate on becoming a mother. But their marriage quickly went through a difficult period. Disagreements reportedly started to emerge within a year of their son’s birth, ultimately resulting in their divorce. For a number of years, Priyanka raised Sahaj mostly by herself. The pair also filed for divorce in 2018,



which appeared to be the end of their romance.Both Rahul and Priyanka were allegedly connected to other members of the industry throughout their separation. Rahul’s name was linked to several of his co-stars, but there were also rumors that Priyanka was seeing a photographer. The two eventually made their way back to one another despite the distance and conjecture. In the end, Rahul and Priyanka made the decision to get

back together, particularly for their son. Since 2022, they have frequently been seen together at festivals and public gatherings, enjoying holidays like Holi and Durga Puja as a family. Rahul had acknowledged their reconciliation and started action to end their divorce proceedings. They had supported one another through good times and bad ever since. Priyanka was devastated to learn about Rahul’s sudden death.

“This is a time of immense grief and deep despair for us,” she wrote in a message posted on social media on Sunday night. We humbly ask for privacy and space during this trying time. A woman, a child, a family, and loved ones are all attempting to cope with this loss. We respectfully request that our friends and colleagues in the media respect our boundaries, abstain from interference, and grant us the right to grieve in peace.” Finally, she said, “Your understanding and support mean more than ever at this time.” The event happened in Odisha while Rahul was filming his show, Bhole Baba Paar Karega. According to Diganta Bagchi, one of his co-stars, Rahul went into the river by himself after the shot and became tangled in something underneath. Crew members hurried to rescue him from the sea when they saw he was drowning. After being brought to the hospital, the actor was pronounced dead.The actor was taken from a sea beach in nearby Odisha to the Digha hospital, where he was pronounced dead, a West Bengal Police officer informed.

India had 431 snakebite deaths last year, the government informs Parliament



New Delhi, Mar 30 : According to a written statement from the Union Environment Ministry to the Lok Sabha, there were 431 snakebite deaths in India last year, up from 370 in 2024 and 183 in 2023. In 2025 and 2024, Karnataka had the largest number of these deaths (157 and 101, respectively).The Union government has recommended states and Union territories (UTs) to report snakebite as a notifiable disease under the relevant public health laws and other applicable legislation, according to Kirti Vardhan Singh, minister of state for

the environment. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha have so far made snakebite deaths and cases reportable, he continued.

According to Singh, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme uses the Integrated Health Information Portal to report snakebite-related illnesses and fatalities.

He was answering questions from Congressman Prabha Mallikarjun regarding the number of states and UTs that, in accordance with the guidance, have designated snakebite

instances and deaths as a disease that must be reported under their public health laws, as well as the number of such deaths during the previous five years. Mallikarjun inquired as to whether the government has conducted any analysis or research on the rising frequency of human-snake conflict in rural and forest periphery areas and its connection to habitat degradation, climate variability, and ecological imbalance. She asked about policies or initiatives put in place under wildlife conservation frameworks, such as the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to strike a balance between public safety and snake species protection. According to Singh, state governments and UT administrations are principally in charge of managing and protecting wildlife. “This ministry has issued guidelines for management

planning of protected areas and other landscape elements in accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,” Singh stated.

According to Singh, an advisory on handling human-wildlife conflict was released in February 2021. It suggested coordinated interdepartmental action, the identification of conflict hotspots, adherence to SOPs, the creation of rapid response teams, and the creation of committees at the state and district levels to review and expedite the distribution of ex gratia relief.In keeping with the global goal of halving snakebite-related deaths by 2030, he continued, the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming was created in conjunction with pertinent ministries and stakeholders.

Telangana will reduce the pay of individuals who do not take care of their parents



New Delhi, Mar 30: The “Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill, 2026,” which aims to protect older residents’ dignity, was passed by the Telangana Assembly on Sunday.According to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Bill aims to surpass current central regulations.He pointed out that the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, is already a national law in the nation.However, private employees and public representatives will also be covered by the State’s new bill. The Bill requires public servants, government workers, and private employees to take care of their aging

parents. If this isn’t done, the parents will receive a reduction of 15% of their pay or ₹10,000, whichever is less. Speaking during the conversation, Reddy brought up the example of businessman Vijaypat Singhania, who had given his son all of his possessions, only to be discovered later.”This bill was introduced by the state government as a social duty. It is unlike any other piece of legislation. If someone disregards their parents, they should be taken under the legal system to make sure they take care of them while instilling moral values in people,” he stated.Reddy went on to say that it is society’s duty to correct youngsters who disregard their parents and that it is regrettable that the state must pass such laws.The CM asserts that people who disregard their parents have no right to be a part of society. The law lays out exactly what employees must do to take care of and support their parents.According to a press release, it requires accountability for guaranteeing crucial elements of senior welfare, including housing, healthcare, and financial sta-

bility.By creating procedures that allow authorities to step in and enforce compliance as needed, the laws also address cases of neglect.The Bill establishes a legal grievance redressal procedure and gives parents the authority to demand support from their children.According to the release, it is anticipated to strengthen the moral and social foundation of the family structure while addressing growing concerns about the abandonment and neglect of the elderly.”Life wouldn’t exist without parents. During the Bill’s discussion, Minister Konda Surekha stated, “It is everyone’s responsibility to look after them.”Fixing obligations is necessary. The way society views the elderly needs to alter. She expressed her deep gratitude to the chief minister for taking this action.Payal Shankar, a BJP MLA, called the bill the “first of its kind in the country” and stated that his party is in favor of it. He also recommended that the designated amount be increased.K Sambasiva Rao, a member of the CPI, stated that his group backs the bill as well.

After the Mumbai Indians’ victory over KKR, Rohit Sharma finally breathes out

New Delhi: When the Mumbai Indians last won their first game of the Indian Premier League season, Rohit Sharma had not yet been named captain. Yes, MI, the five-time champions, had failed to make an impression in 2012; their greatest performance was finishing second. After more than ten years of losing the opening game of every season, MI finally broke the curse after 14 arduous years. At Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium, they defeated the three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders by six wick-

ets to start the IPL 2026. Leading MI to victories in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2020, Rohit was instrumental in the team’s ascent to prominence in the IPL. Even though they crossed the finish line and are aiming for a record-breaking sixth championship, the heartache of consistently losing the season’s opening game persisted until yesterday night, when MI played a dominant style of cricket and put the burden to rest.

After the game, winning MI’s IPL 2026 opener was a tremendous relief for Rohit, the star of the show who

finished as the highest scorer with a score of 78 off 38. Rohit thought about what it meant to finally break the curse as Mumbai Indians owner Nita Ambani spoke to the victorious dressing room and gave the Hitman a badge. “Well done, boys. For the past 13 years, we had desired this. We have been discussing it. We now have the advantage. It is up to each of us to determine what to do with it. So, keep your feet on the ground and your head straight. “Let’s keep going,” an enthusiastic Rohit said to his teammates.Rohit had an

amazing innings. The fact that he began with a fifty is encouraging for MI, who are favored to win the IPL by a number of legendary players.

During his time in the middle, Rohit struck six fours and six sixes. He and Ryan Rickelton also contributed 148 for the first wicket, giving the pursuit of 221 an incredible start.

The Mumbai Indians now have a 25-11 record against the Kolkata Knight Riders, including an 11th victory at this location, after chasing down 200 or more for the sixth time in the IPL.

Numerous phones were taken during Bengaluru’s first IPL match



Bengaluru, Mar 30: Fans of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), who had traveled to the M Chinnaswamy stadium to see the first IPL match, were disappointed when their phones were stolen among large crowds.The crimes mostly took place inside the stadium stands during peak crowd activity, especially in the second innings, according to police and several victim testimonials. While maneuvering through crowded areas or temporarily going outside for refreshments, a number of fans reported misplacing their phones. Others reported that their gadgets vanished close to public spaces and transit hubs, such as the metro station and the area around Cubbon Park. The Cubbon Park Police Station has received nu-

merous complaints, and a number of victims have also submitted e-lost reports via the Karnataka Police app.At least thirty phones have been reported stolen thus far, according to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Division) Akshay Hakay, who confirmed the instances.We are investigating this. Many people, including those kids we suspect may be involved, are being questioned. A few have been taken into custody. In crowded areas, people should be cautious,” he told.The scope of the thefts may be much larger, according to eyewitness reports and social media posts.

In a video, content producer Ritu Tiwari said that between fifty and sixty phones, including her husband’s, might have been taken from the P3 stand

alone.”It’s my request, please be careful with your phones if you’re attending an IPL match, because, at least 50 to 60 phones were stolen alone from the p3 stand, including my husband’s” she stated. “My husband realised his phone was missing after first innings, where he went to bring us some drinking water, and at the same time, there were lots of people complaining about the same,” she continued.Tiwari claimed that when they asked for assistance from the stadium police, their request was ignored. They met more victims at the local police station after that. Ten to twelve youngsters who were wearing jerseys and had free tickets were allegedly brought into custody, according to the couple’s first information report (FIR). “I believe this is an organized crime because, according to Google, the identical incident also occurred at Wankhede Stadium and Chennai. Every IPL match is experiencing this.

The majority of this occurred during the second inning, when many people stepped outside to obtain refreshments or drinking water,” she continued.

To find the offenders, police are currently examining CCTV footage from both inside and outside the stadium. Officials have not ruled out the possibility that a coordinated gang was involved in the thefts, and the investigation is still underway.

The Mumbai Indians Speak Out About Suryakumar Yadav’s Impact Player Position

New Delhi: Vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav was benched against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Mumbai Indians’ inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match, which was a huge surprise. One of the team’s mainstays, Suryakumar, entered the game on Sunday during the second innings. Despite his brief tenure, supporters were left wondering if things were going well in the camp due to his odd use by the team. Speaking to reporters during the post-match news conference, Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene defused the escalating tension by stating that the team intended to give Surya a little more time following a demanding T20 World Cup 2026 campaign. “I hope you don’t make up stories that aren’t wanted. The camp is overjoyed. Everyone is content. Sky

arrived and joined us. He also wanted a few more days. He joined, his groin a little tight. He was fielding, among other things. I was aware that the next game would be in five days. All I wanted to do was give him a little more time. In the end, he was even eager to go for three or four overs, according to Jayawardene. Just before the first game against his old team, Jayawardene put an end to rumors by confirming that Suryakumar had a slight nigggle. “No, it’s okay,” I said. It’s alright. It was different. Don’t make any stories, please. I simply need to be cautious. Having these players throughout the season is incredibly beneficial to me. Both the management and I make these deliberate choices. Beyond that, nothing exists,” he continued.Former MI captain Rohit Sharma was utilized as an Impact

Player off the bench several times during the previous season. Suryakumar took on the same job this time. Suryakumar amassed 16 runs from just eight balls during the game. Fortunately, though, the opening duo of Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton had already completed the chase of 221 runs, thus the Mumbai Indians did not need him at his best during the match.



Nitish Kumar’s resignation from the Bihar Legislative Council

New Delhi, Mar 30: On Monday, Nitish Kumar, the chief minister, and Nitin Nabin, the national president of the BJP, submitted their resignations from the Bihar Legislative Council and Bihar Legislative Assembly, respectively.Through ambassadors, both leaders submitted their resignation letters. Nitish Kumar’s letter was delivered to the Legislative Council Chairman by MLC Sanjay Gandhi and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, while Nabin’s letter was delivered to the Legislative Assembly Speaker by BJP state president Sanjay Saraogi. Nitish Kumar’s resignation was accepted, according to Bihar Legislative Council Chairman Avadhesh Narayan Singh, who also paid the Chief Minister a courtesy call in the morning.

He continued, “He has been an invaluable leader of the House and devoted himself to Bihar’s cause.”On March 16, both leaders were elected to the Rajya Sabha, and they had until March 30 to step down from the state assembly.A member elected to both Parliament and a state legislature is required to resign from one within 14 days, as per the Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950 (under Articles 101 and 190 of the Constitution). In addition to other responsibilities, the BJP president had prearranged appointments in Delhi and Assam on Sunday.

He gave me his resignation before he left Patna, and I will present it to the Speaker today (Monday),” Saraogi stated. On Monday morning, Nabin also issued a heartfelt letter to the residents of Patna’s Bankipore seat, which he has represented five times in a row since 2006. “My relationship with my people will continue, but the party has given me a new responsibility,” he declared.However, Choudhary claimed that Nitish Kumar had given Sanjay Gandhi his resignation so that it could be submitted to the Chairman.

He continued, “We have also reached the Council and are waiting to submit the resignation letter.” Choudhary added that Nitish Kumar has a reputation for maintaining constitutional principles and that it is a fundamental duty to resign from one House within 14 days of being elected to another.In response to a question concerning Nitish Kumar’s resignation as chief minister, Choudhary stated that it would take place in compliance with constitutional procedures and at the proper time.It is anticipated that Nitish Kumar will step down as Chief Minister prior to taking the Rajya Sabha oath.

But now that he has resigned as MLC, the focus is on his replacement since, after more than 20 years under his leadership, this might signal a dramatic change in Bihar’s political environment.

When Ajinkya Rahane gestures to board on Cameron Green Row, Cricket Australia reacts

New Delhi: Ajinkya Rahane, the captain of the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), accused the board of keeping all-rounder Cameron Green from bowling. Cricket Australia has finally addressed his accusations. In their IPL 2026 opening match on Sunday, KKR lost to Mumbai Indians by six wickets. MI chased down the target with five balls remaining, and KKR lost even though they had a commanding score of 220/4. Rahane was clearly dissatisfied after the game because he had not been able to employ Green as a bowling option. Rahane acknowledged in the post-match conversation that, despite his recuperation from a prior back issue, Cricket Australia has not given Green the all-clear to bowl.Hopefully, the combination will be a little different when Green begins bowling. We did a great job batting, but it’s crucial to establish balance with the ball. [On Green’s inability to bowl] You should ask Cricket Australia that question. [On the plus side] I thought Kartik

Tyagi bowled well, and we batted effectively. It was a long time since he played, but he was quite talented. There are many advantages, but there is still more work to be done,” Rahane stated. Cricket Australia has now explained that the all-rounder has not entirely healed from the lower-back injury he sustained during the T20 World Cup, following Rahane’s statement that raised questions over Green’s availability.According to a CA representative, Cameron’s lower back issue is being treated, but it will prevent him from bowling for a little while.In order to return in ten to twelve days, Cameron is now rebuilding his bowling workload in India. The statement continued, “KKR has been informed and is fully aware of this information. Returning to the game, the Mumbai Indians won by six wickets thanks to brilliant half-centuries from Ryan Rickelton and Rohit Sharma, ending their embarrassing run of losing their first game in 13 seasons.The Mumbai Indians reached 224/4

in 19.1 overs to win their first season-opening match since 2012 after pacer Shardul Thakur claimed 3-39 to stop a rampaging KKR, with captain Ajinkya Rahane (67) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (51) scoring half-centuries. Rohit Sharma then struck a magnificent 78 off 38 balls, and Rickelton blasted 81 off 43 balls.



A Delhi man kills his wife by striking her with a mini gas cylinder

New Delhi, Mar 30: New Delhi, March 30 (IANS)After a domestic argument in the Pul Prahladpur neighborhood of South Delhi, a woman was allegedly killed by her husband. According to reports, the accused killed his wife instantly by hitting her on the head with a small LPG cylinder. The woman has been named as Poonam, according to the Delhi Police. Suresh, her husband, was taken into custody right away. The couple had two kids and moved into a DDA housing complex only a month ago. The 18-month-old baby was in the house when the murder occurred, and one youngster lives with their grandmother. The incident happened on March 29 at approximately 9.30 p.m. “The man killed his wife, who has an 18-month-old child,” a neighbor reported. After a month of residing in DDA housing, the husband is said to have killed the victim out of suspicion. According to neighbors, they heard the woman screaming and came to the scene. The landlord assisted in forcing the door open even though it was locked from the inside. The scene inside was horrifying: a cylinder was close by, and Poonam’s body lay on the ground. Sitting close by with the infant in his lap was the accused husband. According to preliminary investigations, the motivation might have been based on intense mistrust. To ascertain whether the act was premeditated, police have opened a thorough investigation.The National Capital Region has been rocked by a string of domestic killings, the most recent of which is this heinous murder. Munchun Kewat, a vegetable trader, was taken into custody by Delhi Police on March 1 for the quadruple murder of his wife Anita and their three children in Samaypur Badli.When Kewat was first arrested in Rajasthan, he said he killed people because of growing debt and threats from a Bihar moneylender. However, because the named person is still unidentified, detectives are still confirming those allegations. While forensic teams continue to process the evidence in the Pul Prahladpur case, a top police officer stated that a team has been sent to Bihar to cross-reference Kewat’s testimonies.

Hockey India Names Thirty-One Players For Senior Women’s National Coaching Camp

New Delhi: Hockey India (HI) announced the Senior Women’s National Coaching Camp from April 1 to 9 as the Indian Women’s Hockey Team begins preparations for an important international season ahead. The team heads into the camp on the back of a strong showing at the recently concluded FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers in Hyderabad, Telangana, where they secured a Silver Medal and successfully qualified for the upcoming FIH Hockey Women’s World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands 2026. The camp will focus on building combinations, improving fitness levels, and sharpening tactical aspects of the game as the team begins to take shape under new coach Sjoerd Marijne. The camp comes at a crucial juncture, with India set to compete in the FIH Hockey Women’s Nations Cup 2026 in June, followed by the FIH Hockey Women’s World Cup 2026 in Belgium and the Netherlands in August, and the 2026 Asian Games scheduled from 19th September to 4th October 2026 in Japan.

The goalkeeping unit features Savita, Madhuri Kindo, Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam, who was given the Hockey India Baljit Singh

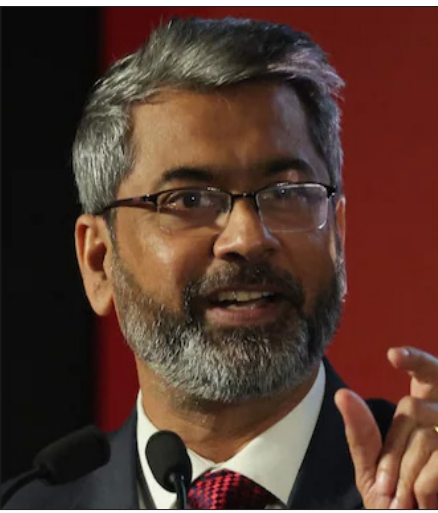


Award for Goalkeeper of the Year at the recent Hockey India 8th Annual Awards 2025, while the defensive lineup includes seasoned players like Nikki Pradhan and Udit, alongside Ishika Chaudhary, Jyoti Singh, Lalthantluangi, Jyoti, and Shilpi Dabas offering depth at the back. The midfield included Captain Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Manisha Chauhan, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, and Neha, complemented by promising players such as Sakshi Rana, who was awarded the Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award

for Upcoming Player of the Year, Sunelita Toppo, and Ishika. The forward line boasts strong attacking options, including Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women) winner Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Lalremisiami, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika Soreng, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Baljeet Kaur, Annu, Beauty Dungdung, Hina Bano, Sonam and Sangita Kumari (Rehab). Speaking about the camp, Coach Sjoerd Marijne said, “This camp is the next step in our preparations for a very competitive season ahead.

Our focus will be on improving consistency, refining our structures, and ensuring that we are physically and mentally ready for the challenges ahead. We want to build a squad that can perform under pressure and deliver in key moments during major tournaments like the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup and Asian Games.” Indian Women’s Hockey Team’s 31-member Senior National Coaching Camp. The squad, which will be led by Salima Tete, features a balanced mix of youth and experience, with goalkeepers Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam providing depth under the post. The defence unit will be marshalled by experienced players like Nikki Pradhan and Udit, supported by youngsters Manisha Chauhan, Jyoti, Suman Devi Thoudam, and Ishika Chaudhary. In the midfield, the team boasts strong names such as Neha, Captain Salima Tete, Lalremisiami, Sharmila Devi, Sunelita Toppo, and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, ensuring both creativity and stability. The forward line includes a blend of seasoned campaigners and rising stars -- Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika, Beauty Dungdung.

Women’s Panel Head Accuses Football Chief Kalyan Chaubey Of Harassment Valanka Alemao Accuses Kalyan Chaubey



New Delhi: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has come under fresh scrutiny after Valanka Alemao, head of the AIFF Women’s Committee, accused him of harassment during an Executive Committee meeting in New Delhi. The allegations, made in a formal letter, have once again brought the spotlight on governance and conduct within Indian football. The incident is said to have taken

Place during the AIFF Executive Committee meeting at the Football House on March 29, where Alemao alleged she was “heckled and harassed” by senior officials. The controversy comes just days after she had raised strong concerns over administrative lapses during India’s Women’s Asian Cup campaign. In a letter addressed to Exco members, Alemao detailed her allegations against Chaubey and other officials: “I wish to place on

Record the entirely disgusting behaviour of the AIFF President Mr Kalyan Chaubey, Vice President Mr N. A. Haris and Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan. I feel deeply prejudiced and I found that several attempts were made by the President to suppress my voice.” “The President made remarks against me which were unnecessary and disrespectful. He along with the DSG raised his tone time and again beyond football.

No IPL Broadcast In Bangladesh As JioStar Terminates Local Rights Deal

New Delhi: India’s JioStar has ended its IPL broadcast agreement in Bangladesh, effectively ruling out telecast of the 2026 season in the country despite recent indications of a softer government stance. The development deals a significant blow to cricket fans in Bangladesh, where the league commands a massive following. The news of the decision comes shortly after Bangladesh authorities signalled a rethink on their earlier ban on IPL broadcasts, imposed amid rising diplomatic and cricketing tensions with India. However, JioStar’s withdrawal now leaves no pathway for the tournament’s return to local screens this season.



key reason behind the move. The decision also covers the Women’s Premier League, with JioStar understood to have pulled out of broadcast arrangements for both competitions in Bangladesh over similar concerns. Despite the recent tensions between India and Bangladesh, particularly around cricketing ties, the collapse of the IPL broadcast deal appears to have stemmed primarily from commercial issues rather than political ones. At the centre of the matter lies a dispute between JioStar and its Bangladeshi partner TSports, with the

Indian broadcaster citing repeated payment defaults as the key reason behind terminating the agreement. According to the termination letter, the deal was scrapped due to “continued failure and default in adhering to the payment timelines stipulated under the agreement,” indicating that financial disagreements played a decisive role in the breakdown. This also means that even though Bangladesh’s Information and Broadcasting Ministry had recently signalled a willingness to review the earlier ban on IPL

broadcasts, there is currently no official partner in place to air the tournament. The timing adds another layer to the situation. Bangladesh had only just hinted at a possible policy shift, with officials stating that any further decision would depend on consultations with the sports ministry. However, JioStar’s exit effectively renders that reconsideration irrelevant for the ongoing season. The IPL, valued at \$18.5 billion and widely regarded as the world’s richest cricket league, enjoys immense popularity in Bangladesh.

Mihika Yadav And Arjun Singh Headline Indian Pickleball Squad For Upcoming US Open Championships In Florida

Mumbai: Mihika Yadav and Arjun Singh are among those selected to represent India in the US Open pickleball tournament to be held in Naples, Florida, from April 9-18. The other members of the squad include Purvansh Patel (open), Aditya Singh (open), Naga Moksha (girls U-18), Jeet Sood (U-16) and Yuvraj Singh (U-16). It also features Panth Thakkar and Atharva Sheth in the sub-junior category, and Suryaveer Singh Bhullar (men’s 50-plus doubles and mixed doubles), the Indian Pickleball Association said in a release on Monday. The team will be coached by Dhiren Patel, who will be competing in the 40-plus men’s pro singles. The Indian players will get a direct entry into the tournament due to partnership between IPA and US Open. “Following the conclusion of the event in Florida, the Indian Pickleball Association will look forward to and support teams participating in the Epic Amateur World Championship in Singapore and the Pickleball World Cup in Vietnam later this year,” IPA said.



NAPLES, FLORIDA — The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) has officially pulled back the curtain on the national squad set to represent the tricolor at the 2026 Minto US Open Pickleball Championships. Headlined by the formidable duo of Mihika Yadav and Arjun Singh, the contingent represents India’s most ambitious push yet into the global elite of what is currently the world’s fastest-growing sport. The championships, scheduled to take place at the East

Naples Community Park from April 9 to April 18, 2026, will see over 3,000 players from around the world competing across 64 courts. For the Indian squad, this isn’t just another tournament; it is a litmus test for the country’s rapidly evolving pickleball infrastructure. At the heart of the Indian campaign are two athletes who have become the faces of the sport in the subcontinent. Mihika Yadav, a former competitive tennis player who successfully transitioned to the pickleball court, brings a level of baseline aggression and tactical depth that has made her nearly peerless in the domestic circuit. Her ability to navigate the “kitchen” (the non-volley zone) while maintaining high-velocity groundstrokes makes her a top contender in the Women’s Pro Singles and Doubles categories. Joining her is Arjun Singh, whose lightning-fast hands and “dinking” proficiency have earned

him accolades across Asia. Singh, often cited as the most technically sound male player in India, will be competing in the Men’s Pro Singles and will pair up for the Mixed Doubles—a category where India is expected to cause significant upsets against seasoned American and European pairs. A critical factor in this year’s participation is the landmark agreement between the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) and the US Open organizers. For the first time, Indian players have been granted direct entry into the main draws of the championships. Traditionally, international players often had to navigate complex lottery systems or rigorous qualifying rounds to earn a spot in the Florida-based event. This direct entry status is a testament to India’s rising stature in the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) and the sheer volume of growth the sport has seen in cities like Mumbai.

AIFF Discusses ISL Bid Details; Clubs To Be Presented New Commercial Bid Structure



Raipur: Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh clinched two gold medals each on the opening day of wrestling competition in Ambikapur, while Mizoram bagged a couple of gold medals to wrap up the weightlifting competition on the fifth day of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 here in Raipur on Sunday. Jharkhand opened their gold medal account with Poonam Oraon winning the women’s 50kg final against Geetha K of Telangana 6-3, while Anjit Kumar Munda won the

Men’s 67kg Greco-Roman final beating Gujarat’s Mukesh Vasva by technical superiority, according to a release. Himachal Pradesh’s two gold medals came through Navish Kumar (97kg GR) and Priyanka Chaudhary (women’s 62kg), while Mizoram took their gold medals tally to four with Zosangzuali (women’s +86kg) and David Zohmingmawia (men’s +110 kg) finishing on top of the podium. These golds catapulted Mizoram to fifth place in the overall medal standings.

Karnataka continue to top the overall standings with 15 gold, six silvers and four bronze while Odisha are second with nine gold, four silver and 10 bronze medals. Hosts Chhattisgarh, which won a silver (Rishika Kashyap) and bronze (Lucky Babu Markam) from weightlifting, slipped to ninth in the medal standings. Weightlifter Sambu Lapung helped Arunachal Pradesh leapfrog Assam to third place when he clinched the men’s 100kg gold with a total of 299kg.

Bumrah Reprises World Cup Magic As Mumbai Indians Halt KKR At Wankhede

Mumbai: So, Mumbai Indians ended their 13-year IPL opening match jinx with a sensational win over Kolkata Knight Riders in front of a buoyant Wankhede crowd. The match was all about runs, runs and more runs at the end of the day, as only eight wickets fell and 444 runs were scored across both innings. At times like these, you tend to feel for the bowlers. It is never easy playing on tracks that have now become the norm in the IPL. Often, you just hope and pray that it is your day and that you return home with the least amount of damage. That is where Jasprit Bumrah simply stands apart from the rest.



Bumrah arrived late to join the MI squad but, as the famous Rajinikanth dialogue goes: “Naan late-aah vanthallum, latest aa varuvuven (Even if I come late, I arrive in style).” So, what was the latest trick from the master who just seems to get better and better? To begin with, it would be criminal not to doff your hat to Shardul Thakur, who picked up three wickets and dismissed KKR’s top three of Ajinkya Rahane, Finn Allen and Cameron Green. Mind you, KKR were steamrolling the MI

bowling at one point, and even Bumrah went for 11 runs in his first over. This is when Shardul did what he does best—pick up wickets. But this wasn’t the turning point of the game. It all comes down to the 12th over of the KKR innings, where Bumrah’s magic was in full flow. Before heading into this 12th over, let’s look at what happened in the game until that point. KKR got off to a dream start with the bat. Rahane and Allen added 69 runs off 32 balls, and Green came in and tried to continue the onslaught. Rahane was batting beautifully and 250-260 appeared to be on the cards at that point. There were

very few overs that went for single digits, and it seemed KKR were well on the ascendancy. By the 10th over, KKR were 120 for two and sizing up a big total. They had Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi going at a steady rate at this point, with Rinku Singh and Ramandeep Singh waiting in the wings. That is when Bumrah came in for his second over. It followed the familiar template for the star pacer in the IPL—one in the powerplay, another in the middle, and two at the death. The first delivery to Rahane was short and angled into the body, forcing him to guide it to third man for a single.

The next ball to Raghuvanshi was a brilliant yorker, yielding just another run. Rahane then received a yorker he could only push for a single. Another delivery, another yorker—this time Raghuvanshi couldn’t even get a run. The next ball was accurate in length, resulting in just another single. Bumrah did stray onto the pads once, but no damage was done. The stadium erupted in applause, and so did fans watching back home. Now, there is a reason why this makes the Play of the Day. It wasn’t long ago that Bumrah produced something similar at the very same ground. He bowled a sensational 18th over against a marauding England in the T20 World Cup semi-final, conceding just six runs when it seemed like the game was slipping away. On that day, Hardik Pandya followed up on the good work and got the job done. Similarly, MI’s bowlers took a cue from Bumrah’s over and began to put the brakes on KKR’s run flow. Trent Boult’s next over saw just eight runs come off it, while Shardul conceded six and picked up the wicket of Rahane after that. Ghazanfar and Shardul conceded 31 off the next two overs.