

Tension in Meghalaya’s West Garo Hills; Conrad Sangma Appeals for Peace

Shillong, Mar 11: Fresh tension gripped parts of West Garo Hills district on Wednesday after a large crowd gathered in Tura amid rumours related to the filing of nomination papers for the upcoming Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) elections. At least two persons were reportedly injured during a clash with security forces as the situation turned volatile. According to reports, the unrest began when a large crowd assembled outside the Members’ Hostel in Tura and later marched towards the office of the Deputy Commissioner, raising slogans and delivering speeches. The gathering was reportedly triggered by rumours that Muslim candidates were arriving to file nomination papers for the GHADC polls, which heightened tensions in the area. The situation escalated as the crowd moved through several locations, including a mosque and an office of the National People’s Party (NPP). Authorities alleged that members of the mob set fire to the NPP office building, while nearby establishments were also affected as tensions intensified. As the situation threatened to spi-



ral out of control, security forces intervened and resorted to blank firing and the use of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. During the confrontation, at least two persons were reportedly injured. In response to the unrest, the district administration imposed curfew restrictions, which officials said will remain in force until midnight on March 13 as a precautionary measure to prevent further escalation. Authorities have deployed five

Army columns along with personnel from the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the state police. Security and patrolling have been intensified across sensitive areas in the district. Officials described the situation as “calm but tense”, with security forces maintaining strict vigil. Residents have been urged to maintain peace and refrain from spreading rumours as investigations into the incident continue. Amid the tense situation, Conrad K. Sangma made a public appeal urg-

ing citizens to maintain peace and avoid violence. In a video message, the Chief Minister said he had earlier received information that certain groups and individuals were heading towards his residence with the intention of burning his house and attacking his family. Based on this information, he was advised under security protocol to move to another location for safety. However, Sangma said he refused to leave his residence, stating that he was not afraid. He said his life ultimately rests in the hands of the Lord and reaffirmed that he is an A-chik (Garo), drawing courage from the legacy of his father, late P.A. Sangma. The Chief Minister said he deeply loves his community and remains committed to working for the welfare and progress of the people with integrity and honesty. Expressing concern over the unrest, Sangma noted that incidents of vandalism and destruction had been reported, including damage to government properties and religious places. He also referred to reports of homes being intruded upon and families being disturbed, adding that such acts do not reflect the values of society.

Mylliem Cong Questions Veterinary Land Lease

Shillong, Mar 11: The Mylliem Block Congress Committee (MBCC) expressed strong concern on Tuesday over the alleged leasing of government land belonging to the Veterinary department at Upper Shillong to a private firm for setting up a petrol pump and other commercial facilities.

Raising the issue, MBCC leader Lionel Nongkhaw, questioning the state government’s decision to lease the land to Ashok Auto Service, noted that the property could have been better utilised for initiatives that support livestock development and benefit the local farming community.

According to Nongkhaw, the land falls within the Mylliem constituency, where many residents depend on livestock-related activities such as cattle rearing, piggery, and poultry farming for their livelihood. He said the site could have been used for the establishment of facilities such as a veterinary hospital, veterinary college, livestock research centre or even a livestock feed mill, which would strengthen the rural economy and provide support to farmers in the area. “Instead, the government has opted to lease it out for private commercial use,” Nongkhaw remarked. The Congress leader also raised concerns over the alleged leasing of the land to a non-tribal entity in a Sixth Schedule area, where the protection of tribal land and the interests of indigenous communities remain a sensitive matter.

In Brief

Six injured as protest erupts over NRC demand

Imphal: At least six people were reportedly injured during a protest demanding the implementation of the NRC before the Census process in Manipur. The prorest demonstration organised by the Just & Fair Delimitation (JFD) along with several Ima Lup groups was staged at Ima Keithel. Protesters gathered with placards reading “No NRC, No Census,” “No Free Movement, No Census,” and “Resolve Present Crisis First, Census After,” highlighting concerns over the presence of illegal immigrants and the ongoing crisis in the state. The protest coincided with the opening of the 7th Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Central Nodal Officer reviews progress of PM SHRI Schools in Bishnupur

Imphal: Joint Secretary (IRAS) and Central Nodal Officer for PM SHRI Schools, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Bhaskar Choradia chaired a review meeting on the implementation and progress of PM SHRI Schools in Bishnupur district at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Bishnupur. Delivering the welcome address, Deputy Commissioner Bishnupur, Pooja Elangbam stated that PM SHRI Schools are envisioned to serve as model institutions that showcase best practices in pedagogy, infrastructure and the holistic development of students. She mentioned that the review meeting provides an important platform to assess the progress of PM SHRI Schools in the district, while also discussing their achievements, challenges and identifying strategies to further strengthen implementation.

Assam Cabinet Clears 10-Bigha Land Allotment

Guwahati: The Assam Cabinet has approved allotment of 10 bighas of land for the Zubeen Kshetra to the State cultural affairs department. Notably, the Kshetra, comprising a memorial ground in honour of legendary singer and state’s cultural icon, Zubeen Garg, would be built at Kamarckuchi village in Sonapur near Guwahati. Addressing mediapersons after chairing the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government has allotted 10 bighas of land for the Zubeen Garg Samadhi Kshetra under the Department of Cultural Affairs, as a mark of respect to the iconic Assamese artist whose music and cultural influence have left a lasting imprint on the state.

Manipuri dancer Dr Sohini Ray gets Tagore National Scholarship

Imphal: Dr. Sohini Ray, eminent Manipuri dancer and scholar has received the coveted Tagore National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Dr. Ray became the third person to receive this scholarship in the entire field of Manipuri arts, and the second Manipuri dancer. The Tagore National Fellowship/Scholarship given by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India is among the highest honours in the field of cultural research in the country. The first person to receive the Tagore Fellowship/Scholarship in Manipur is Guru Ranjit Adhikarimayum, retired principal of Govindji Nartanalaya, the second is renowned film maker and critic Bobby Wahngbam. The third are Dr. Ray and also, Dr. A. C. Kharingpam who specializes on Tangkhul poetry. Dr. Ray is the first woman to receive this honour. Dr. Sohini Ray, an internationally renowned master artiste of Manipuri dance was spotted by her guru, the legendary Guru Bipin Singh as a child prodigy at the age of seven.

Paban Kumar to speak on cinematic discontents in international workshop in Delhi

Imphal, Mar 11: Filmmaker Haobam Paban Kumar will speak on Cinematic Discontents in a panel discussion on March 12 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi in the three-day International Workshop on New Imaginaries of Anticolonial Resistance: States, Societies, Media and Markets (March 11-13) funded by Volkswagen Stiftung Pioneering Project on ‘Societal Transformation’. Other speakers are renowned filmmakers Paromita Vohra, Shaunak Sen and Yousuf Saeed. Paromita Vohra is an Indian filmmaker and writer. She is known for her documentaries on subjects such as urban life, desire, pop culture and gender. She has also written the screenplay of the award-winning

feature film Khamosh Pani. Her film production company Parodevi Pictures is based in Mumbai. Shaunak Sen is an Academy award nominated Indian filmmaker, video artist and film scholar. Haobam Paban Kumar is an Indian filmmaker from the state of Manipur. His films and documentaries have been screened in several places across the globe. Hapbam Kumar’s debut feature film Loktak Lairembee (Lady of the Lake) won the National Film Award for Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation at the 64th National Film Awards 2017. He also won the German Star of India at the 14th Indian Film Festival in Stuttgart, Germany for the film in 2017. Paban Kumar’s

documentary AFSPA 1958 in 2006 was one of the highly critical and widely appreciated films across the globe for his daredevil attempt to showcase the harsh reality of the ill effects of Armed Forces Special Power Act in Manipur state. Yousuf Saeed is an independent filmmaker, scholar and archivist based in New Delhi, producing documentary films and writings on shared art and cultural traditions of South Asia since 1990. His films like Basant (1997), Sufi Sama (1998), and Khusrav Darya Prem ka (2015) feature Indo-Persian music and literary heritage. Yousuf’s feature-length documentary Khayal Darpan (2006) on the classical music tradition in Pakistan has been screened worldwide.

HC quashes GHADC order on mandatory ST certificate

Shillong, Mar 11: In a significant judgment, the High Court of Meghalaya on Tuesday quashed the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) notification, dated February 17, 2026, issued by the Chief Executive Member making submission of a Scheduled Tribe certificate compulsory for filing nomination papers for election as a member to the GHADC. The single-judge bench of Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew passed the judgment while hearing a writ petition filed by one Enamul Hoque of Namabilla village under Rajabala Police Station in West Garo Hills, challenging the GHADC notification. The petition contended that the GHADC Executive Committee had no power to de-franchise legitimate non-tribal voters by executive order, as this violated the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951, framed under paragraph 2(6) of the Sixth Schedule. Senior Advocate K. Paul, who represented the petition, argued that qualifications for voting and membership are governed by Rule 128 and Rule 8 of the 1951 Rules.

Polo Ground Mandir Wall Crumbles Amid Shock

Shillong, Mar 11: A large section of the fencing wall at Matri Mandir, Polo Ground, that collapsed on Monday following alleged indiscriminate earth cutting nearby. The collapse has endangered devotees and damaged temple property. The incident occurred adjacent to the Orchid Hotel Polo premises, where M/s Giriraj Construction is constructing a multi-storied hotel. Reports indicate that earlier construction activities had also caused damage to the temple property. (ST) Local authorities rushed to the site to assess the damage and initiate clearance of the debris.



Officials stated that a technical team will conduct a detailed in-

spection to determine the cause of the collapse, whether due to poor construction, lack of upkeep, or recent weather conditions. Residents expressed shock over the incident, pointing out that the Polo Ground is a busy area frequented by visitors and worshippers. They urged the municipal authorities to take immediate steps to repair the wall and ensure safety measures are in place to prevent similar occurrences in the future. The collapse has also sparked discussions about the broader issue of infrastructure upkeep in public and religious spaces across the city.

State govt employees in Mizoram told to wear traditional dress during Chapchar Kut festival

Aizawl, Mar 11: The Mizoram government has asked its employees to wear traditional Mizo attire to office for the Chapchar Kut festival. “Chapchar Kut, 2026 is to be celebrated throughout the State on March 13 (Friday). As this festival promotes cultural values and traditions of the Mizos, all employees under the Government of Mizoram and various Public Sector Undertakings, Boards, Bodies and Agencies under the State Government are request-

ed to wear Mizo traditional dresses to offices till March 12,” a notification issued by the General Administration Department said. “All Administrative Heads and Heads of Departments are requested to bring this to the notice of all officials and employees under their respective departments,” the notification stated. Chapchar Kut, Mizoram’s spring festival, is a celebration of Mizo culture, featuring traditional dances, music, art, and cuisine.

Six injured as protest erupts over NRC demand

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cerns over the presence of illegal immigrants and the ongoing crisis in the state. The protest coincided with the opening of the 7th Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly. Security forces fired tear gas shells and mock bombs to disperse the crowd after tensions escalated. Bishnupur Apunba Ima Lup President Lourembam Pramo stated that until illegal immigrants are properly identified through the NRC or a similar mechanism, conducting the Census would be inappropriate

Golfer Arjun Atwal meets Assam Chief Secretary, discusses potential for ‘tea-tees’ tourism

Guwahati, Mar 11: Noted golfer Arjun Atwal and Gaurav Ghosh of J Thomas & Co today called on Assam Chief Secretary Dr Ravi Kota and discussed the potential of promoting Assam’s unique tea estate golf courses -- popularly known as “tea-tees” -- as a niche tourism experience.

Assam is home to nearly 20 such courses, most of them natural nine-hole layouts located within scenic tea estates. Many of these estates also have heritage bungalows, offering visitors the distinctive experience of staying amidst tea gardens while enjoying golf and exploring the tea country.

During the interaction, it was noted that Assam’s tea-tees represent a rare blend of tea heritage, natural landscapes and sporting tradition. Their historical legacy and unique setting have the potential to attract golf enthusiasts and tourists from across the country and abroad.

Atwal shared his vision of gradually



renovating and upgrading selected tea estate golf courses, beginning with one or two pilot locations and eventually developing them into a wider network across the state. He also expressed interest in establishing a golf academy or centre of excellence in Assam in the

future to nurture talent and promote the sport. As a way forward, the stakeholders will submit a detailed proposal outlining the concept and a possible roadmap for developing these tea estate golf courses as a tourism and sporting initiative. The Government of Assam

will subsequently hold consultations with tea garden managements and other stakeholders to explore the proposal further. The initiative could help showcase Assam’s distinctive tea landscape while opening new avenues for tourism and sports development in the state.

NE/EAST

How a community in Manipur is reconstructing its rainforest commons

Imphal, Mar 11: The Koirer hill range in Phalee village stands in stark contrast to the lush greenery around it. Its landscape is dotted with tree lines at the base and patches of shrubs higher up. From a distance, the mountain range appears almost anomalous: desert vegetation in the midst of a rainforest. Upon closer examination, however, the foreboding hill reveals the long-lasting impacts of human pressure. Like most adjoining mountain ranges, Koirer was once a thriving rainforest. But years of deforestation and exploitative farming practices have reduced the hill to a barren wasteland. “No vegetable grows well on the hill anymore,” remarked Shimreishang, a community member, as we drove towards the foot of the mountain. Alarmed by this rapid loss of forest cover and the absence of baseline biodiversity documentation of the commons, a few like-minded members of the community started a citizen science documentation initiative in 2016. The Phalee Biodiversity Management Committee (Phalee BMC) was set up with a bio-cultural framework that placed community stewardship and indigenous knowledge at its core. The BMC focused on documenting indigenous crops, traditional farming methods, seasonal calendars, and the conservation of medicinal plants and native fruit tree species. In 2019, this initiative was formalised into a community-based organisation called the Rainforest Biodiversity of Phalee.

“Our commons are endowed with rich biodiversity, and we have comprehensive traditional knowledge of this diversity, but lack documentation. It was imperative, thus, that we documented our diversity to know which species have potential, which species hold value and the work we must undertake to regenerate, restore and preserve the biodiversity of our commons,”



says Dr Ngallengshim, one of the founding members of the Rainforest Biodiversity of Phalee. A shift in cultivation Phalee, a small village west of Ukhrul in Manipur, is perched at an elevation of 1,533 metres and covers an area of 17 sq. kilometres, most of which is commons. It lies within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in the world. For ages, the indigenous community of Phalee practised jhum cultivation alongside wet paddy cultivation. Jhum, or shifting cultivation, relied on the slash-and-burn of forest cover for farming but was carried out in a cyclical pattern of slashing, farming, fallowing and regeneration. As such, these practices, rooted in traditional wisdom. Instead of allowing deforested areas to regenerate, commercial agricultural expansion of non-native crops and other illicit farming activities began rising in the early

2000s. As the fertility of the land declined year by year, chemical fertilisers were introduced in the farming areas, leading to land degradation and contamination of water sources.

The Global Forest Watch web tool shows that 159.6 hectares of tree cover were lost in this region in less than two decades, representing a significant 11.6% decline in the overall tree cover of the community commons. m, were largely eco-friendly and sustainable.

A considerable shift came in the 1970s when rapid population growth, coupled with timber extraction and deforestation for firewood, began depleting the forest cover of the commons in Phalee. This shift was marked by an incident in which a leopard entered a homestead, reflecting a case of human-wildlife conflict caused by habitat destruction and signalling early signs of environmental degradation.

Launch projects and distribute land pattas to tea garden workers PM to visit Assam on March

Guwahati, Mar 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on March 13 and 14 to inaugurate several development projects and distribute land rights certificates to members of the tea garden community, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Addressing a press conference in Guwahati, Sarma said the Prime Minister will dedicate projects worth around Rs 10,000 crore to the nation during his visit. Modi will begin his tour in Kokrajhar, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for several development projects. On March 13, the Prime Minister will also attend a programme in Guwahati and release an instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. The highlight of the visit will be the distribution of land pattas to the tea garden community, which has been living in Assam for nearly 200 years but has largely remained without formal land ownership. Sarma said the Prime Minister will hand over the first land rights certificate to a deserving tea garden worker, marking the launch of a state-wide programme to grant land ownership to tea garden families.

On March 14, Modi will visit Silchar, where he will lay the foundation stone of the Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati Express Highway, a project estimated to cost around Rs 22,000 crore.

He will also dedicate the Kopili Hydro Power Project, a 150 MW state government project, to the nation, the chief minister said. The Prime Minister will address public meetings in Kokrajhar, Guwahati and Silchar during the two-day visit, Sarma added. Meanwhile, Amit Shah will visit Assam on March 15. He will inaugurate the Pragjyo-



tishpur Medical College in Guwahati and attend the Yuva Sankalp Samavesh organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to the state BJP unit, around one lakh youth party workers are expected to participate in the event to be held at the Veterinary College Field in Khanapara. The visits come as the BJP-led government in Assam prepares for the 2026 state assembly elections, where the party is aiming for a third consecutive term in office.

New 4.2-km flyover on GNB road opens in Guwahati



Guwahati, Mar 11: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday inaugurated the Maharaj Prithu Flyover, a 4.2-km-long four-lane flyover in Guwahati built at a cost of over Rs 852 crore.

The flyover, constructed along GNB Road, connects Dighalipukhuri with Noonmati and is expected to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity between eastern and central parts of the city. The project was completed in about 28 months.

According to officials, the flyover will help reduce travel time along one of Guwahati's busiest corridors and improve traffic flow in key areas of the city. Authorities have also indicated plans to connect the Ulubari Flyover with the Guwahati Club Flyover to facilitate smoother vehicular movement in central Guwahati. Officials said heavy vehicles will be allowed to use the Maharaj Prithu Flyover once it is fully operational.

The project was initially planned to be 5.05 km long, but its length was reduced following protests by residents against the proposed cutting of century-old trees along the historic Dighalipukhuri tank.

At the inaugural event, CM Sarma also announced that land pattas will be granted to nearly 12,000 families living in the hilly areas of Guwahati, a step aimed at providing legal recognition to long-settled residents.

The inauguration programme was attended by ministers, government officials and local residents.

The demonstrations in October–November 2024 led to the intervention of the Gauhati High Court after a Public Interest Litigation was filed. The state government later revised the design to avoid the area and prevent tree cutting.

To allow residents to access the new structure, certain stretches of the flyover will be opened as temporary walking zones for three days. Two sections — from Chandmari to Guwahati Club — will remain designated for pedestrians during this period.

Starting on March 21, Imphal will hold the third North East India Film Festival

Imphal, Mar 11: The third edition of the North East India Film Festival (NEIFF) 2026 will be held in Imphal on March 21 and 22, offering a platform for filmmakers from across the eight Northeastern states to showcase their works.

The announcement was made at a press conference in Imphal on Monday. Chairman of the organising committee Y. Nilachandra Singh said the festival aims to bring together filmmakers from all eight states of the Northeast, including Sikkim. He noted that the festival has already completed two successful editions in 2024 and 2025, and the upcoming event will mark its third edition. According to the organisers, the festival will be a competitive event for both feature and non-feature films produced in the Northeastern region and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

The festival will be held at Tathapoli Cinema in Lamphel, Imphal. It is being organised by THOUNA, Manipur, in association with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, and the All Manipur Film Producers Association. The event is sponsored by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govern-



ment of India, and the National Film Development Corporation. Filmmakers seeking further information on entry forms and festival guidelines can visit the official website neiff-man.org. Singh said the dates for the festival were finalised only recently after the organisers received the required clearance from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. “This year the process took slightly longer as we needed clarification from sponsors and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The ministry granted approval in the first

week of March, after which the dates were fixed for March 21 and 22,” he said. Eight awards will be presented during the festival, each carrying a citation, statuette and cash prize. The categories include Best Feature Film, Best Non-Feature Film, Best Director (Feature Film), Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Sound, Best Screenplay (Feature Film) and the Hon'ble Jury Award. The jury may also confer a Special Mention on a film or an individual.

Singh said the prize amount would not be lower than that of previous

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editions and there is a possibility that the cash award may be increased with support from the ministry. The organisers said there will be no entry fee for film submissions in order to encourage wider participation. The last date for online application and submission of entries is March 19, 2026, until 5 p.m. Festival convenor Robert Leisgangthem said keeping the registration process free is intended to attract more filmmakers from across the region. DIPR Additional Director T. Ramesh Singh also appealed to film enthusiasts and the public to attend the screenings, noting that many rare films are often showcased only at film festivals and not in regular theatre releases. The festival aims to encourage films with strong aesthetic and technical quality while highlighting socially relevant themes and the diverse cultural narratives of the Northeastern region. It will also provide a platform for filmmakers, directors, writers, editors, producers and cinematographers from the region to present their creative works and contribute to the growth of a vibrant regional film industry.

Assam government is urged by the Kuki apex body to establish a state welfare

Guwahati, Mar 11: The apex body of the Kuki community in Assam has called on the state government to constitute a Kuki Welfare and Development Council to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the community across different districts of the state. Addressing a press conference in Haflong on Tuesday, March 10, leaders of Kuki Inpi Assam said the proposed council would play a crucial role in ensuring focused development for Kukis living in several parts of Assam, particularly in the hill districts of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong, where a sizeable population of the community resides. Kuki Inpi Assam president H. Haolai, along with vice president Darnpu Thanggiu and general secretary L. K. Henglai, urged Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take steps to fulfil what they described as a long-pending demand of



the Kuki people in the state. The organisation stated that the creation of a dedicated welfare and development council would help address issues related to education, employment opportunities, infrastructure, and cultural preservation for the community.

According to the leaders, such an institutional mechanism would ensure that targeted policies and development schemes reach Kuki-populated areas more effectively. The leaders also

emphasised that the Kukis have been residing in different parts of Assam for decades and continue to contribute to the state's social and economic fabric. They argued that the formation of a development council would provide a structured platform to address community-specific needs while strengthening inclusive growth in the hill regions. The press conference was also attended by James Doungal, president of the Kuki Students' As-

sociation, and Nem Chongloi, assistant secretary and spokesperson of the Kuki Women's Association, who reiterated the demand and expressed hope that the state government would respond positively to the appeal.

Community representatives said they are optimistic that the government will consider the proposal in the interest of equitable development and social welfare of minority communities across Assam's hill districts.

Air quality monitoring system installed at Bajali HS School to promote climate awareness

Guwahati, Mar 11: In a step aimed at promoting environmental awareness and climate education among students, an Air Quality Monitoring System has been installed at Bajali Higher Secondary School in lower Assam's Pathsala. The system was installed by the Bajali district administration in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department. The initiative is expected to help students observe and understand local air pollution levels while encouraging greater responsibility toward environmental protection. According to officials, the monitoring device will measure key air quality parameters and provide real-time data on pollution levels in the area. The system typically tracks indicators such as PM2.5, PM10, carbon dioxide, and other gases that are important for assessing environmental health. The installation programme was attended by Bajali District Commissioner Mridul Kumar Das, president of Mahabahu Climate Forum Anjan Sarma, environmental activist and Director of Green Mission Bajali Ananda Khataniyar, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the North Kamrup Division T. C. Ranjith Ram, and Bajali Higher Secondary School Principal Ranjan Chakraborty. The event was conducted by writer Pulu Kumar Sarma, while Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate of Bajali Ashfaque Laskar extended special co-operation in organising the programme. On the occasion, a book titled Everyday Climate Action was also launched in the presence of the guests. Speaking at the event, Anjan Sarma said Bajali was chosen for installing the monitoring system to promote environmental awareness and climate education among students. He noted that direct exposure to the equipment would spark curiosity among students about environmental issues and encourage them to take responsibility for protecting nature. Sarma also said that since the formation of Bajali district, District Commissioner Mridul



Kumar Das has shown a strong commitment to addressing climate change through awareness initiatives and community engagement. Addressing the gathering, Das emphasised the need for greater discussion and awareness about climate change. He noted that although the issue may sometimes appear distant, its impacts are already visible in places like Byrnihat in Meghalaya, where severe air pollution has affected residents' daily lives.

Environmental activist Ananda Khataniyar described the installation of such a system in a government school as an encouraging step, saying it would help monitor pollution levels while also building awareness among students and the wider community. Teachers and students of the school, along with representatives from government and private institutions, welcomed the initiative, noting that the monitoring system would also support environmental education and research activities.

Soren Courts Assam’s Tea Tribes, Raises ‘Abua Raj’ Call



Guwahati, Mar 11: Hemant Soren, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, visited Guwahati on Tuesday to mobilise support among Assam’s tea tribe and Adivasi communities ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. Addressing a large gathering in Biswanath district, he raised the slogan “Abua Dishum, Abua Raj” (Our Land, Our Rule) and called for stronger land rights, greater political representation and empowerment of indigenous communities.

Soren, who also heads the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), addressed a rally at Mekalijaan Tea Estate organised jointly by his party and the Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan. The gathering drew thousands of tea garden workers and community members.

Arriving in Guwahati earlier in the day, Soren travelled by helicopter to the rally venue near Mulkata Tea Estate in Biswanath. The visit is seen as part of JMM’s effort to expand its political footprint in Assam and reach out to tribal-dominated regions of the Northeast.

During the rally, Soren was

accompanied by JMM’s tea tribe leader Sanjay Hansda, Jharkhand minister Chamra Linda and leaders of the Adivasi Students’ Association of Assam. Supporters welcomed him with chants of “Johar Adivasi” and “Abua Dishum, Abua Raj.”

In his 20-minute speech, Soren highlighted the hardships faced by tea garden workers and Adivasi communities in Assam. He noted that despite their immense contribution to the plantation economy, many workers still struggle with low wages, limited access to education and inadequate healthcare.

“For decades you have worked under the sun, yet your rights remain unfulfilled,” Soren said, accusing successive governments of neglecting the concerns of tea tribe communities.

He also criticised the Assam government for failing to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to tea tribe communities, a long-standing demand of several organisations.

Emphasising the idea of “Abua Raj,” Soren described it

as a vision of self-governance where indigenous communities play a decisive role in shaping their future. “In Jharkhand we fought for our rights through democratic struggle. Now people here must unite and claim their rightful place in governance,” he said.

The rally also featured traditional Bihu performances and Adivasi folk songs, highlighting the cultural ties between Assam’s tea tribe communities and Jharkhand’s tribal heritage.

Amid emerging political alignments ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Soren also attended a meeting organised by the newly formed Jai Bharat Party (JBP) at Mijika in Biswanath district, signalling the possibility of JMM entering Assam’s electoral arena.

Speaking briefly to the media, Soren said discussions were ongoing among local leaders and party workers. “Many things are under discussion. In politics, time moves in its own way and decisions are taken accordingly,” he said when asked whether JMM would contest the Assam elections.

JBP central president Teharu Gour announced that the newly formed regional party plans to forge an alliance with JMM for the upcoming polls.

According to Gour, the proposed alliance aims to contest around 40 constituencies in the 126-member Assam Legislative Assembly. Expressing confidence in the alliance, he said a strong performance could make them an important force in government formation. “If Soren’s JMM supports us, we are confident of winning all 40 seats,” Gour said, adding that no government in Assam could be formed without the support of JBP and JMM.

Gour also criticised the state government over its handling of floods, describing them as one of Assam’s most pressing issues. He alleged that the government had failed to take adequate measures to address the problem and said smaller communities in the state had not received sufficient attention.

However, he clarified that apart from the understanding with JMM, no decision had yet been taken regarding alliances with other political parties.

Clashes erupted over non-tribal candidacy bid, says WGH DC

Shillong, Mar 11: Following the violent clashes in Garo Hills which led to the death of two people, West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Vibhor Aggarwal on Tuesday issued a statement stating that the unrest in the district was triggered by protests against a non-tribal candidate attempting to file nomination papers for the GHADC elections.

The violence erupted when the non-tribal aspirant arrived at the Deputy Commissioner’s office in Tura on Monday to submit his nomination. A protesting crowd assaulted him, prompting immediate intervention by police and security personnel. The candidate was secured, given medical attention, and safely escorted away, the statement by the DC said.

Following the incident, a tense standoff continued throughout the night between groups from the hill



areas and the plains belt in Chibinang area. Through the sustained efforts of the police and district administration, the situation was prevented from escalating into a larger conflict, thereby averting further loss of life and property. However, two persons were found dead during the course of the unrest. Their identities are yet to be confirmed and the exact cause of death remains unknown at this stage. Authorities

stated that the cause of death will be determined after post-mortem examinations are conducted. By morning, security forces successfully dispersed the groups involved in the standoff. In Tura, reports were received of vandalism in a few locations and incidents of arson at several places. Fire and Emergency Services responded swiftly and brought the fires under control. No fatalities have been reported

from the Tura area. The unrest is understood to have arisen from protests by certain organisations opposing the candidature of non-tribal individuals in the GHADC elections.

In response to the situation, the district administration convened a peace meeting with religious leaders, senior citizens, and representatives of civil society organisations, including the Mothers’ Union.

Assam Cabinet Clears 10-Bigha Land Allotment for Zubeen Kshetra

Guwahati, Mar 11: The Assam Cabinet has approved allotment of 10 bighas of land for the Zubeen Kshetra to the State cultural affairs department. Notably, the Kshetra, comprising a memorial ground in honour of legendary singer and state’s cultural icon, Zubeen Garg, would be built at Kamarakuchi village in Sonapur near Guwahati. Addressing mediapersons after chairing the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government has allotted 10 bighas of land for the Zubeen Garg Samadhi Kshetra under the Department of Cultural Affairs, as a mark of respect to the iconic Assamese artist whose music and cultural influence have left a lasting imprint on the state. The Cabinet has also taken a series of decisions spanning cultural recognition, infrastructure development and administrative measures, including a major water supply project for Guwahati.

In a key decision, the Cabinet approved Rs 1,367 crore for the South East Guwahati Water Supply Project, aimed at providing safe drinking water to several localities in the city that still face inadequate supply.

The project is expected to significantly improve urban infrastructure and ensure reliable access to potable water for households in the expanding metropolitan areas of Guwahati. The Cabinet further decided to rename Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital in Barpeta as Barpeta Medical College and Hospital. “The decision was taken to honour former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in a different manner by dedicating another institution in his name. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was the President of India and the first President from Assam. The government will dedicate another institution in his name as a mark of respect,” Sarma said.

Central Nodal Officer reviews progress of PM SHRI Schools in Bishnupur



Imphal, Mar 11: Joint Secretary (IRAS) and Central Nodal Officer for PM SHRI Schools, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Bhaskar Choradia chaired a review meeting on the implementation and progress of PM SHRI Schools in Bishnupur district at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Bishnupur. Delivering the welcome address, Deputy Commissioner Bishnupur, Pooja Elangbam stated that PM SHRI Schools are envisioned to serve as model institutions that showcase best

practices in pedagogy, infrastructure and the holistic development of students. She mentioned that the review meeting provides an important platform to assess the progress of PM SHRI Schools in the district, while also discussing their achievements, challenges and identifying strategies to further strengthen implementation. The DC further noted that such interactions help ensure that the objectives of this flagship programme are effectively realised at the grassroots level through collective ef-

forts aimed at enhancing the quality of education and creating a vibrant learning environment for students. During the meeting, Additional State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha (Secondary), Manipur, Khumukcham Renuka presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the status of PM SHRI graded schools in the district. The presentation highlighted that out of the total 121 PM SHRI graded schools in the State, 15 schools are located in Bishnupur district, with a total student

enrolment of 6,202 and 234 teachers serving in these institutions. The presentation also covered the status of various NEP parameters being implemented in the schools. Facilities such as the establishment of ATAL Tinkering Laboratories and the provision of related equipment were highlighted, which aim to promote scientific temper and cultivate a spirit of curiosity and innovation among young minds. It also emphasised the capacity-building programmes conducted for teachers through the nine DIET centres in the State, with the objective of enhancing teaching skills, adapting to current educational trends and effectively implementing modern teaching methodologies. Taking stock of the presentation, Joint Secretary Bhaskar Choradia, who had also conducted field inspections at Oinam Hindu Primary School and Oinam Higher Secondary School, enquired about the facilities available in the schools and the challenges faced in implementing the scheme at the grassroots level. The meeting was also attended by ADM Bishnupur Toijam Opendro, AC to DC Bishnupur Sh. Gunamani Singh, ZEO Bishnupur Atom Gunamani and other officials.

Manipuri dancer Dr Sohini Ray gets Tagore National Scholarship

Imphal, Mar 11: Dr. Sohini Ray, eminent Manipuri dancer and scholar has received the coveted Tagore National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Dr. Ray became the third person to receive this scholarship in the entire field of Manipuri arts, and the second Manipuri dancer. The Tagore National Fellowship/Scholarship given by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India is among the highest honours in the field of cultural research in the country. The first person to receive the Tagore Fellowship/Scholarship in Manipur is Guru Ranjit Adhikarimayum, retired principal of Govindji Nartanalaya, the second is renowned film maker and critic Bobby Wahngbam. The third are Dr. Ray and also, Dr. A. C. Kharingsam who specializes on Tangkhul poetry. Dr. Ray is the first woman to receive this honour. Dr. Sohini Ray, an internationally renowned master artiste of Manipuri dance was spotted by her guru, the legendary Guru Bipin Singh as a child prodigy at the age of seven. She was the first student in her dance school Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata to learn and perform Manipuri drumming at the age of ten, performed with the Jhaveri sisters since the age of thirteen and received the highly competitive National Cultural Talent scholarship, Government of India at the age of fourteen. In her early twenties, she received the ‘Shringar Mani’ award from Sur Shringar Samsad, Mumbai, first prize in Manipuri dance in the State Youth festival of West Bengal Rajya Sangeet Academy, Kolkata. Dr. Ray completed her post graduate diploma in Manipuri dance receiving “Nartan Acharya” from Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata in 1999 while her guru was still living. Today, a versatile performer, director, choreographer, teacher and scholar, Dr. Ray has her own institute Manipuri Dance Visions based in Los Angeles, USA along with its per-

forming unit the Manipuri dance Visions Ensemble. She has received numerous grants and awards including the prestigious Lester Horton Award (dance equivalent to the Grammy award in music) in 2008 for her production “Gita Govinda”. Her multimedia production “Bhaktirasgi Mangal Khonjel: Sounds and Lights of Devotion” combining rare archival footage on dance rituals in Manipur and live concert dancing was short-listed for the prestigious Margaret Mead award given by the Society of Applied Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, USA. She was the first Manipuri dancer to receive the prestigious Devdasi National Award from Odisha Nrutya Kala Mandir, Odisha, India in 2013. Dr. Ray received her Ph.D. in anthropology from University of California, Los Angeles specializing on the cultural history of Meitei Mayek. For her research she lived in Manipur for years and trained as a teacher of Meitei mayek, thus forming a deep and comprehensive understanding of the culture surrounding performing arts. Dr. Ray was the pioneer to incorporate Manipuri dance in the syllabus of dance departments of New York University and University of California, Los Angeles where she taught studio (practical) courses in Manipuri dance for the first time. Despite her international commitments, Dr. Ray has remained close to her roots in Manipur as she has spent many years in Manipur travelling and researching ritual dances in remote locations, and participating in ritual dance functions. Starting March 2004, she was appointed “senior guru” in Radha Madhab Cultural Institution, Imphal, where she has been teaching on-line and also in person in Imphal. Dr. Ray is working to maintain a base for Guru Bipin Singh’s gharana of Manipuri dance in Imphal and propagate her late guru’s work to the next generation of artistes in Manipur.

Governor Presents Degrees to 360 Graduates at Assam Women’s University



Guwahati, Mar 11: Assam Governor and Chancellor of Assam Women’s University, Lakshman Prasad Acharya conferred degrees on 360 graduates during the fifth convocation ceremony of the university held in Jorhat on Tuesday.

Addressing the graduates, Governor Acharya emphasised the transformative power of knowledge and said, “There is no friend like knowledge, no relative like knowledge. There is no wealth like knowledge, no happiness like knowledge,” highlighting that knowledge is the greatest asset that guides individuals and society towards progress.

Describing the occasion as a proud and memorable moment for both the university and its students, the Governor said that the convocation marks the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance and focused learning.

He expressed confidence that the graduating students would make meaningful

contributions to society and wished them success in their future endeavours.

During the ceremony, D.Litt degree was conferred on social worker Rinihi Bhuyan Sharma in recognition of her contributions to social and cultural activities in Assam.

The Governor congratulated her on the honour and described her life as a remarkable example of service and dedication, inspiring countless women across the state.

Highlighting the importance of women’s education, the Governor said that in Indian tradition women have always been revered as embodiments of knowledge, strength and prosperity.

Referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Governor noted that educating women leads to the empowerment of families, communities and the nation as a whole.

Acharya expressed satisfaction that Assam Women’s University is playing a vital role in addressing the higher

education needs of women from tribal, rural and urban areas and providing them with opportunities to pursue quality education.

He also appreciated the university for implementing the principles of the National Education Policy and promoting research, innovation and skill development in tune with the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Encouraging the graduating students to embrace lifelong learning, the Governor urged them to pursue their chosen paths with dedication, integrity and confidence.

He advised them to continue upgrading their knowledge and skills, adopt new technologies and contribute positively towards inclusive and sustainable development of society.

Noted Khasi poet, playwright and scholar Prof. Streamlet Dkhar from the Department of Khasi, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) delivered the convocation address.

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Editorial

The Importance of Respectful Public Dialogue

Public dialogue plays a crucial role in democratic societies. It allows individuals with different perspectives to exchange ideas, discuss policies, and address social challenges collectively. However, the tone of public discussion has increasingly become confrontational and polarised. Respectful dialogue is essential for meaningful communication. When discussions are dominated by hostility or personal attacks, constructive debate becomes impossible. Instead of solving problems, such exchanges deepen divisions and prevent cooperation. Social media has amplified this challenge by enabling instant responses and widespread circulation of opinions. While these platforms provide opportunities for participation, they can also encourage impulsive reactions and emotional arguments. Encouraging respectful dialogue requires effort from both individuals and institutions. Citizens must recognise the importance of listening to differing viewpoints. Disagreement is natural in any society, but it should be expressed with civility and mutual respect. Educational institutions can contribute by teaching debate skills and encouraging open discussion on complex topics. When students learn to express their ideas clearly while respecting others, they develop stronger communication abilities. Media organisations also influence the tone of public discourse. Balanced reporting and thoughtful analysis help create an environment where issues can be discussed calmly and rationally. Healthy democracies depend on dialogue rather than conflict. By fostering respectful conversation, societies can address disagreements productively and strengthen social harmony.

Net FDI outflows soar as local firms eye global markets

According to Bangladesh Bank data, net outflows reached \$15.80 million during the quarter, up from \$1.70 million a year earlier, reflecting a growing outward-looking investment trend. Total outward flows (or gross outward flows) rose to \$31.99 million in the quarter, compared with \$17.11 million a year earlier. Meanwhile, inflows increased slightly to \$16.20 million from \$15.41 million, widening the overall net outflow. Between July and September 2025, Bangladeshi companies sent more money abroad than they received. Equity capital -- ownership stakes in foreign companies -- saw a net outflow of \$2.23 million. Reinvested profits also posted a net outflow of \$4.12 million, while intra-company loans -- funds moved between parent firms and subsidiaries -- accounted for a net outflow of \$9.45 million. By contrast, the same period in 2024 saw only \$1.19 million leave as equity, while \$9.23 million in reinvested profits and \$8.72 million in intra-company loans came into the country. Country-wise, Hong Kong SAR of China received the largest share of net outflows at \$10.63 million. India followed with \$4.62 million, and the United Arab Emirates received \$2.62 million. Smaller amounts went to Singapore, Kenya, South Africa, Ireland, Italy, and the Maldives, while other countries recorded a net outflow of \$3.68 million. By sector, financial intermediaries sent the most money abroad with \$12.47 million in net outflows, followed by trading (\$3.53 million) and metal and machinery products (\$0.21 million). Mining and quarrying, and chemicals and pharmaceuticals each had tiny outflows of \$0.01 million, textiles and clothing \$0.11 million, and other manufacturing \$0.27 million. The trend reflects companies' growing interest in overseas markets through equity stakes and intra-company lending. The push began after 2015, when the government revised the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, allowing firms to invest abroad under certain conditions, especially to promote exports. Since then, Bangladeshi companies have expanded into over 18 countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe. Muhammad Zahangir Alam, chief financial officer of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, said the company invested \$75 million in 2022 to build a manufacturing plant in Kenya. The plant supplies medicines across East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan, where most medicines are still imported. Currently, Square sells about \$8 million worth of medicines each year from its Kenya plant, and it is expected to rise to \$10 million soon, Alam said. He added that investing abroad helps the company earn profits without relying solely on exports from Bangladesh. Square Pharmaceuticals has also been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, opening the door for further global investments. "We are also aiming at the ASEAN market, where about 70 per cent of medicines are imported," Alam said, adding the company is considering investments in Malaysia and the Philippines. Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd (BSRM) has also expanded abroad. The company got approval from the Bangladesh Bank to invest \$500,000 to increase the capital of its existing subsidiary in Hong Kong. Shekhar Ranjan Kar, company secretary of BSRM Steels Ltd, said the subsidiary mainly helps with sourcing raw materials, not manufacturing. Set up two to three years ago, the trading office finds and buys quality scrap from countries like China and Hong Kong and supplies it to Bangladesh. The office runs with a small team of three to four staff members, he added. Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling, said the rise in outward investment may partly be due to a weak domestic investment environment. Indicators like private sector credit growth show that local investment is still low. He added that the total amount of outward FDI is still small and unlikely to affect the overall economy. Many investments are approved individually and are often driven by specific opportunities abroad. Raihan said instead of worrying about money leaving the country, policymakers should focus on improving the local investment climate.

Leela Nag: A lone tigress who waged war against the status quo

In 1917, during the British colonial period at the prize-giving ceremony at Calcutta Bethune College, the wife of the British Viceroy was invited as the chief guest. Kneeling before British officials was a compulsory protocol for British colonial territories as a form of displaying submission towards British Royalty. At that ceremony, while every girl was prepared to kneel before the Viceroy's wife, a 17-year-old girl refused to do so. That 17-year-old girl, later recognised as Leela Nag, not only became an undeniable immortal figure of history but also brought a significant paradigm shift in the socio-cultural and political landscape, paving the path for generations of Bengali women. Leela Nag, the first female student of Dhaka University, was one of the first female leaders who sparked and initiated women's participation during the anti-British movement. To comprehend the revolutionary spirit and defiant nature of Leela Nag, we need to look back to the formative years of her life. Leela Nag was born on October 2, 1900, in Goayalpara in the Assam Province; her ancestral roots were in Moulvibazar District of Sylhet Division. Her father, Girish Chandra Nag was a highly educated government official, a man with unwavering integrity and undeviating sense of justice.

During his lifetime, he navigated a diverse range of professional disciplines. Before joining the civil service as a deputy magistrate, he was a Philosophy professor at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. Afterwards, he concluded his professional journey by settling his career in the judiciary sector. Leela Nag's foundation of patriotism and resistance was initially laid by her parents. Her father, Girish Chandra Nag's indomitable personality and uncompromising spirit often caused them to stay in adversarial terms with the British authority. As a result, encountering confrontation from the British authorities and putting up with hostile conditions was not something unusual for them. During his posting in Manikganj as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, he issued a stern verdict against a British citizen despite immense pressure from the authorities, remaining steadfast in his decision and in his defiant stance against colonial tyranny and injustice. His principled verdict and unsettling attitude caused discontent among the authorities, and as its repercussions, they halted his promotion. Yet, they were unsuccessful to flinch his dedication. During his post-retirement tenure, he was nominated for the MLA position of Delhi Legislative Assembly; however, he resigned immediately, relinquishing such a prestigious position as an act of protest against the salt laws. These actions have left a profound mark on Leela Nag's young soul. While her father, Girish Chandra Nag, was shaping Leela Nag's perspectives towards justice and injustice, mother Kunjalata Nag continued tutoring her from the domestic spheres by introducing her to the world of letters and books. From this backdrop, it is crystal clear that Leela Nag's upbringing had a strong and impactful influence to mould her patriot spirit. Her dedication towards her country was not merely a consequence of the ongoing turmoil in the country but also an inseparable part of her character. Patriotism was not simply a philosophy in her life, but a core characteristic she inherited from her bloodline. Illustrating the ragged journey of a revolutionary leader like Leela Nag through the hostile premises of Bengal politics—largely devoid of female involvement—is a vast context to depict in a single article. Therefore, this article aims to highlight the significant events she encountered throughout her lifelong trajectory. Having completed her elementary education in 1911, from a school of Brahma society located in Calcutta, she moved to Eden High School in Dhaka.

Afterwards, in 1917 she passed the entrance exam securing a scholarship. Patriotism was deeply ingrained in her—whether in times of political turmoil or systemic oppression of the Bengali people—each injustice both agonised her tender heart and ignited her rebellious youthful spirit. On the occasion of her 17th birthday, she wrote to her father about the ongoing political upheaval—a letter that vividly reflected the anguish and spirit of her youth as she watched her motherland in peril. An excerpt from that letter reads: “With my limited ability, if I could be useful to even a single person, I would consider myself blessed. Truly speaking — these are the words of my heart, not a mere speech.” Amidst the chaotic environment of the ongoing Swaraj movement, she joined Bethune College of Calcutta. Initially her peers mocked her by calling “Dhakar meye” (Dhaka’s girl). However, soon she replaced that mockery with the exultant reverberation of her name through her radiant personality and extraordinary leadership skills. Long before entering the landscape of formal politics, her tendency to challenge both the status quo and the British Empire became evident in every aspect of her life. Just after joining college, her refusal to bow down to British authority and abolishment of this long observed absurd tradition expresses much of her unsettling character. To mourn the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the demise of Lokmanya Tilak, she demanded a day of observance from the college authorities. Upon being dismissed, she mobilised students, demonstrated against the British professor and eventually led Professor Mrs. Wright to

yield to their rightful demands. Such an act of resistance from a Bengali female student was an unprecedented incident considering the socio-political circumstances of Bengal at that time. Therefore, this event baffled everyone. Leela earned the title “Senior Student Leader” during her tenure at Bethune College, and the first reunion programme for female students was also initiated by her. She graduated from there, securing first position among female students; she also received the prestigious Padmabati Gold Medal and a scholarship for her extraordinary academic performance. Afterwards, she decided to pursue her Master's in English from Dhaka University.

Before Leela Nag, no other female student in the history of Dhaka University had displayed the audacity to move freely on its premises and study in its male-dominated classrooms. Although no act of Dhaka University explicitly forbade women's participation in higher studies, rigid societal and cultural norms barely supported those who sought to break free from the long-held belief that “women should remain confined within four walls.” During the establishment of Dhaka University, the total number of students was 877; among them only two were women. Imagining female movement in a completely male-dominated sphere was perceived as complete social degradation in contemporary Dhaka. Therefore, it certainly triggered concerns and debates in every household of Dhaka. None of the controversies could sway Leela's indomitable spirit; rather, it profoundly impressed VC P. J. Harts. To make her movement comfortable, he convinced his wife to accompany Leela Nag to the classroom during the initial days. Ironically, the British government that advocated the idea of having equal rights for both genders at home followed distinct rules for their colonial territories; neither did they allow nor promote women's spontaneous participation in political spheres in these regions.

Leela Nag reckoned it was a strategic move by the British government to keep half of the population of their colonies ignorant and stagnant, so that the marginalised faction could never make efforts to come out of their subjugated state. Thus, they never emphasised women's voting rights or intellectual enlightenment. Under the leadership of Kumudini Basu, Leela Nag joined “Shara Bangla Bhotadhikar Samiti” as a sub-editor. By this time, she was convinced that only by ensuring women's active participation in nation-building would their political and social emancipation be plausible. From 1921 to 1922, under the joint leadership of the principal of Eden School Shamalata Debi and aspiring student leader Leela Nag, a seminar was arranged in Dhaka, especially for women, where they discussed comprehensively women's right to vote. Simultaneously, alongside Shubhash Chandra Bose, she led relief work to assist the flood-afflicted people of North Bengal. To boost Bose's relief campaign, she established the “Dhaka Women's Committee” to collect money and donations by moving door to door. Gradually, with efficient engagement in political activities and social reforms, Leela was setting her sail towards two distinct categories of monumental social movements: one was the anti-British movement, and the other was to safeguard the social and political emancipation of women. These two movements were about to determine the fate of Bengal by laying a fresh groundwork for social restructuring, dismantling generations of deeply rooted and rotten prejudices. Officially completing her academic life in 1923 with a second division, she concentrated on improving the state of the trodden and marginalised women of society. She appeared as a beaming lantern for the most devalued faction of our society, fuelling the spark of education in every heart. Her indomitable thrust to enlighten the utterly unacknowledged sector of Bengali society served as the prominent driving factor behind establishing “Deepali Sangha”.

A group begun merely with twelve members was about to create a landmark in the region of Bengal. To accelerate the activities of women's empowerment, she established several organisations in Dhaka, among them notable are New High School, Narishiksha Mandir, Shiksha Bhaban, Dipali School, Shiksha Niketan, and so on. Dipali School was the first school she established; later its name was changed to Qamrunnesa Government Girls' High School. Apart from that, she established twelve free primary schools in Dhaka as well. She arranged several vocational and educational programmes for women and the elderly. Eliminating the pangs of illiteracy and poverty, making women self-sufficient and conscious, was the fundamental agenda of Deepali Sangha. In every neighbourhood, they expanded their sub-groups, arranged exhibitions each year, and encouraged study circles so that women could recognise the curse of subservience.

Living a subservient life both within the family and in the national landscape could never emancipate them from the ceaseless shackles of ignorance. The way Deepali Sangha was thriving and gaining immense popularity among the Bengali populace, it was high time for Leela Nag to expand the horizon of Deepali Sangha's activities into diverse facets of society. From 1924 onwards, each year Deepali Sangha held exhibitions of women's handmade products, along with arranging different types of entertainment for women,

ensuring their participation regardless of their caste and creed. Leela Nag had tremendous respect for Mahatma Gandhi; nonetheless, she could not completely concur with the ideals of his Non-Cooperation Movement, and therefore she fell into a dilemma about joining any political party. At this point, Anil Roy, a batchmate and loyal companion of Leela Nag throughout her prolonged political struggle, brought a solution and introduced her to the Subhasist ideology of fervent nationalism. Eventually, in 1924, she joined Anil Roy's “Social Welfare League.” This organisation later evolved into “Shree Sangha,” a revolutionary group led only by men. Leela Nag was the first woman to officially join such a daunting and socially stigmatised revolutionary group—a group that the British government later labelled as a “miscreants' group.” Distinguished by her irreplaceable charismatic presence, agile leadership qualities and revolutionary consciousness, her name was getting echoed in every corner of the city. In no time, a Bengali woman rising as a prominent figure in the political sphere with her tireless efforts and steadfast resolve—that too by surmounting mountain-like social obstructions—was a phenomenon that attracted public interest rapidly, and soon, to everyone's astonishment, Leela Nag became a familiar name in Bengali households. Thus, the establishment of “Dipali Chatra Sangha” in 1926 was the concrete embodiment of her expanded activities. Amidst turbulent situations, while communal riots between Dhaka and Calcutta were seemingly intractable, women's safety was on the verge due to life-threatening attacks on them; she initiated self-defence training for women and established the “Self-Defence Committee for Women.” Women were trained for combat here. In this initiative of hers, Nobel laureate Tagore's grandniece, Ena Roy, remained a constant companion. Within eight years of Dipali Sangha's establishment, from a women's emancipatory organisation it evolved into one of the country's prominent groups of firebrand revolutionaries. On February 7, 1926, on the occasion of Dhaka University, an unprecedented mass gathering of women cordially welcomed Rabindranath Tagore on his arrival. Encountering such a well-organised crowd of women under the banner of Dipali Sangha, Rabindranath was left in utter awe. In this regard he stated, “In entire Asia, I have never witnessed such large-scale, spontaneous participation of women” (Sen 24). Recognising her potential and promising future, Rabindranath proposed that she take responsibility for Shantiniketan. Leela, rather than accepting the golden opportunity, preferred the prolonged battle of unfettering the motherland. Meanwhile, in 1928, Bengali revolutionary groups were becoming involved with Subhash Chandra Bose, and Leela and Anil found the opportunity to work closely with him. During the meeting of “Nikhil Bharat Mahila Shammelan”, Leela Nag had a comprehensive discussion highlighting the noteworthy contributions of Bengali women in historically significant uprisings. Afterwards, following Leela Nag's joining Shree Sangha in 1929, Anil Roy contemplated that her staunch association with the group and her aptness could be utilised in many ways to bring exemplary transition in society.

He came up with the “Dual Leadership Theory.” Never before had Bengal imagined a female leader guiding the path of a revolutionary group. As a consequence, they introduced a dual-enrolment arrangement where, at first, women would be general members of Dipali Sangha and, after further training, selected female members would get the opportunity to be a part of Shree Sangha. Anil, who wanted to build a society where gender equality would be a norm, not an exception, implemented this idea by sharing his designation of leadership with Leela Nag. Such an unprecedented decision intensified controversies, mistrust and conflict among the group members, which led to the split of Shree Sangha in 1929. At a time when “rebel” was a title suited only to men, and women's participation in such a risky arena was believed to derail them from their sworn pledges for the motherland—this was the notion of the majority. None of the male revolutionaries conceded to the notion of being directed by a female leader. Thus questions arose: “So, now, are we going to be led by a woman?” Instead of acknowledging Leela Nag's competency and skilfulness, they demeaned and mocked her by highlighting her gender. Leela Nag received her peers' disregarding attitude as a challenge and single-handedly managed an entire rebel group by preparing revolutionaries like Pritilata Waddedar, Shanti Ghosh and Shuniti Chowdhury. In crucial moments when Anil Roy was absent, an influx of young women joined the group; she held discussions on bomb-making compositions and trained them in the use of weaponry.

She turned the alleys of Dhaka into secret fortresses, as women living in these lanes and neighbourhoods were the custodians of arms. Azimpur, Tikatuli, Wari, Bangla Bazar, Bakshi Bazar, Gendaria, Laxmibazar, Tati Bazar, Chandighat and Siddheshwari—these were armoury-stock preserving places of East Bengal. Across the country, revolutionaries used to reach Leela Nag to collect equipment such as firearms for both frontal combat and guerrilla warfare. On September 13, 1929, Yatin Das, the prime convict of the Lahore Conspir-

acy Case, died on the 64th day of his hunger strike while in police custody. In reaction to that, Subhash called for a mourning procession involving large-scale mass participation. After taking to the streets to register protest condemning the British authorities' oppressive actions, their peaceful procession was violently attacked by the police. As per the direction, the police violently charged batons against the unarmed civilians participating in the protest. They even dared to charge batons at Subhash Chandra Bose until he fainted under the Calcutta Monument in an attempt to curb the spirit of the masses. As an answer to this, regardless of being a female leader, Leela Nag displayed the courage to mobilise a vast multitude of people at the centre of Dhaka and delivered a thundering speech against British tyranny. Meanwhile, the Chittagong Armoury Raid by the insurgents in 1930, led by prominent figures like Surya Sen and Pritilata Waddedar, instigated terror and safety concerns among the British authorities, which eventually led to the arbitrary arrest of revolutionary group members. Anil Roy was arrested after that incident, and the responsibility of leading the entire revolutionary group and training the novice members fell solely onto the shoulders of Leela Nag. In 1930, during Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, Leela Nag, collaborating with Asha Lata Sen, together established the “Mahila Satyagraha Committee” to express solidarity with Gandhi. After undergoing a long path of political upheaval, in May 1931 Leela Nag finally established “Jayasree,” the very first female-led magazine of Bengal. Rabindranath himself applauded her initiative and blessed her by naming the magazine “Jayasree.”

This magazine was solely dedicated to publishing the works of women, edited and led by women as well. With that, Leela Nag advanced her cultural and political battle to a distinct dimension that one could barely imagine in the darkness-immersed region of Bengal at that time. In April 1931, revolutionary activities were spreading rapidly. Three highly ranked government officials, including Alipore district judge Garlick and Comilla district magistrate Stevens, were assassinated. Two members of Shree Sangha, Shanti Ghosh and Shuniti Chowdhury, were the prime suspects in Comilla's Magistrate Stevens murder case; therefore, the police detained Leela Nag on the night of December 20, 1931. In the entire history of the Indian subcontinent, Leela Nag became the first female state prisoner, detained without any trial. From 1931 to 1938, Leela Nag was constantly moved from one jail to another in Bengal. The British authorities officially declared Shree Sangha a miscreants' group and strictly condemned them, referring to their rebellious acts as atrocious activities. The British government first imposed censorship on Jayasree in 1935. After her release in 1938, she resumed its circulation again. Subhash Chandra Bose appointed Leela Nag as a female representative to his established Congress National Planning Committee and also as a member of its women's wing in 1938. At this point, the nonconformist attitude of Subhash Chandra Bose led to his resignation from the Congress, and he formed the Forward Bloc with the assistance of Leela Nag and other leftists. With time, Leela Nag was becoming an inseparable accomplice in Subhash Chandra Bose's battle against the British, and he nominated her for the editorship of his weekly newspaper. Amidst this national crisis and ceaseless political battle, Leela Nag could barely focus on her personal life. Yet, in 1939, she finally tied the knot with her long-time comrade in her political journey, Anil Roy. One year later, in 1940, Subhas Chandra Bose, along with Leela Nag and Anil Roy, arranged a mass protest for the removal of the Holwell Monument, a monument that symbolised the institutionalisation of the prolonged subjugation of Bengal. Subhas Chandra Bose was detained for mobilising and instigating people against the British government on July 2, 1940. With the same allegation, Leela Nag and Anil Roy were apprehended on July 10 as well. Subhas Chandra Bose left the country in 1941, leaving the complete responsibility of the Forward Bloc on Leela Nag. Demonstrations were organised following the arrest of Sharat Chandra Bose in 1941.

The participation of Leela Nag and Anil Roy in the Quit India Movement, along with Anil Roy's strongly denouncing statements condemning the actions of the British government, led to the arrest of both of them in 1942. Afterwards, following the departure of Subhas Chandra Bose, conflictual relations with Congress leaders led to severe indictments against Subhasist adherents. In an editorial titled “Fascist in India”, published on March 13, 1942 in The Statesman newspaper, they publicly denounced Subhas's supporters, declared them traitors, and demanded their capital punishment. Despite the absence of Subhas, Leela Nag did not allow their party to collapse. With her stinging words and unfaltering pen, she published in Hindustan Times an article titled “We Shall Not Stand It.” Her publication “Jayasree” faced backlash once again in 1942 and was consequently banned. Detained by the British government in Dinajpur Jail, and left with no other option, Leela Nag resumed her revolutionary operations secretly from prison while maintaining connections with the Azad Hind Fauj.

Top summer choice from Axis Securities with 10% potential



Mumbai: AC stocks are in focus as the temperature begins to soar. The big question is, will early summer and rising market share be adequate to spark a rally, especially for stocks with exposure to the Middle East, like Voltas? Axis Securities has a Buy rating and set a target price of Rs 1,628. This implies a 10% upside potential from current levels. All in all, Voltas delivered a strong quarterly performance for Q3FY26, supported by strong primary billing ahead of the BEE norm transition. The company’s channel confidence is strengthening, while price hikes and an early onset of summer are expected to support further growth in the RAC segment. Disclaimer: This article provides factual analysis only and is not, and should not be construed as, an offer, solicitation, or recommendation to buy or sell securities. Investors must conduct their own independent due diligence and seek advice from a SEBI-registered financial advisor.

Axis Securities pointed out that the current heat wave, recovery in pent-up demand in RAC, and increasing market share for Voltas Beko are the key triggers. Here is a detailed analysis of the investment rationale – Summers are setting in early in many parts of the country, with mercury rising significantly despite it being just the second week of March.

“With channel inventory largely normalised and pre-buying confidence visible, we believe Voltas can outperform the industry with a positive trend in the market share,” said Axis Securities. Going ahead, a likelihood of El Niño with indications of a heat wave will propel the recovery in demand for Summer products. The brokerage house believes that this summer, Voltas will have maximised capacity utilisation to almost 85-90%. Voltas’ Room Air Conditioners (RAC) continued to lead Segment A with a 17.9% market share so far this year, supported by stronger channel activity, GST reduction, and preparation for the new BEE star-label transition. Growth was driven by network expansion, improved

channel readiness, and stronger retail and digital activation, which are expected to boost upgrades and demand next quarter. The company expects a price increase in RAC, driven mainly by commodity prices, rupee depreciation, and transition to the new BEE-related norms, with a higher impact on 3-star and 5-star models. However, Axis Securities believes these price increases will support margins in the medium term.

The stock price of Voltas has changed little in the past five trading sessions. The stock has declined 2.7% in the last one month and has gained 2.9% in the past six months. Voltas has gained 2.7% over the last one year. Axis Securities on Voltas: Beko’s rising market share “The breakdown signals deterioration in the broader technical structure and reflects increasing downside pressure. Momentum indicators also remain weak, with the weekly RSI facing rejection near the 50-mark and trending lower, indicating that a clear reversal signal is still absent,” explains Tailor. In the near term, the analyst sees 23,200–22,900 range as a crucial support 6TB drive will cost ₹31,818 and to be fair, this is a serious amount of storage space for that money.

The future-proofing aspect is rather well ticked off, even if you are looking at this as a backup drive for your PC or a cloud drive alternative—though you must pay a premium for the game console support. For context, WD’s own 6TB My Passport Ultra portable drive (with no console compatibility) currently has a market price around ₹20,000.

Voltas’ Beko continued gaining market share, reaching 6.2% so far this year, in refrigerators and 8.2% in washing machines, driven by strong demand for semi-automatic washing machines and growth in its locally manufactured refrigerator portfolio. The company remains focused on expanding market share, with break-even expected as scale increases, while premiumisation and a deeper product portfolio are likely to support operating leverage over the medium term.

Cochin Shipyard stocks in focus- full

Mumbai: Adani Power, Cochin Shipyard, Hyundai Motor India, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, Nippon Life India Asset Management, and Vishal Mega Mart are the six stocks that are likely to remain on investors’ radar today. The reason is that the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has included these six counters in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment. The trading on these six stocks will begin from April 01, 2026, as per a circular. The exchange announced that the contracts will be open for trading once the eligibility requirements are met, according to the quarter sigma computation cycle for March 2026, in line with the stock selection criteria set by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) The share price has fallen a little in the past five trading days. The stock has pulled back 15% of investors’ gains in the last one month and 25% in the past six months. However, Motilal Oswal Financial Services’ share price has moved up 17% in the last one year. IRFC announces Rs 1.05 interim dividend, sets March 13 as record date; board approves Rs 70,000 crore FY27 bor-

rowing plan

“Members are advised to note that, based on the stock selection criteria as prescribed by SEBI vide a circular dated August 30, 2024 and approval received from SEBI, members are hereby notified that the futures and options contracts on the following securities would be available for trading w.e.f. April 01, 2026, subject to the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria of the Quarter sigma computation cycle of March 2026,” read the circular The market lot and scheme of strikes will be informed to members through a separate circular on March 30, 2026. Further, the details of the applicable quantity freeze shall be available in the contract file, which shall be applicable for trading on April 01, 2026. The share price of Adani Power has risen 2.7% in the last five trading sessions. The stock has declined 6.5% in the last one month. However, it has risen 10% in the past six months. Adani Power’s stock price has given a return of 38% in the last 12 months. The stock of the AMC has declined 4.7% in the past five trading days. The stock has dropped 8% in the last one month

and has risen a little in the past six months. It has raised investors’ wealth by more than 60% over the previous one year. Vishal Mega Mart The share price of Vishal Mega Mart has declined 5.5% in the last one week. The stock has slipped 15% in the past one month and 29% in the last six months. The stock has increased more than 5% over the last 12 months. The NSE generally adds new stocks to the Futures & Options (F&O) segment on a monthly basis. The eligibility criteria include average daily market capitalisation, trading value, etc., for selecting new securities. These are computed on the 16th of each month on a rolling basis. Cochin Shipyard The stock of the AMC has declined 4.7% in the past five trading days. The stock has dropped 8% in the last one month and has risen a little in the past six months. It has raised investors’ wealth by more than 60% over the previous one year. Vishal Mega Mart The share price of Vishal Mega Mart has declined 5.5% in the last one week. The stock has slipped 15% in the past one month and 29%

in the last six months. The stock has increased more than 5% over the last 12 months. How often does the NSE F&O inclusion happen?

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In the last five trading days, the share price of Cochin Shipyard has risen 2.5%. However, it declined 4.5% in the past one month. Cochin Shipyard has fallen by over 11% in the past six months.

The stock has given a return of 12% in the last one year. Hyundai Motor India This automobile stock has changed little in the last five trading sessions. However, the share price declined 4.4% in the last one month and 16.6% in the past six months. Nonetheless, the stock price of Hyundai Motor India has given a return of almost 25% in the last one year.

WD Black P10 Game Drive blends storage with legacy reliability

Mumbai: It is easy to get caught up with the ‘Game Drive’ branding, but make no mistake, the WD_Black P10 Game Drive is more than just that. With the past year defining the different paths that WD (formerly Western Digital) and SanDisk will now walk, the former is clearly focusing on the basics: value, lots of storage, and a focused approach. While the product support documentation for the WD_Black P10 Game Drive insists on compatibility with Windows PCs, Sony PlayStation and Microsoft Xbox consoles, it also worked seamlessly on the Apple Mac Studio in our tests. Considering storage prices as they are in 2026, particularly what slower but more reliable hard drives (HDDs) now demand, you may have to part with a lot more than you would have twelve months ago. Right now, this 6TB drive will cost ₹31,818 and to be fair, this is a serious amount of storage space for that money. The future-proofing aspect is rather well ticked off, even if you are looking at this as a backup drive for your PC or a cloud drive alternative—though you must pay a premium for the game console support. For context, WD’s own 6TB My Passport Ultra portable drive (with no console compatibility) currently has a market price around ₹20,000.

For context, WD said last month that it’s already fully allocated its enterprise HDD capacity for the year, underpinned by AI and data center investments. Both demographics like HDDs, and hence the spike in demand. That is also the reason why you must pay a premium on the purchase price now. With that, WD_Black is targeting a demographic that may have run out of space on their console drives, and now needs to transfer a few games to an external source. Consoles will not play games off this drive, but the idea is to shift some lesser played games from the console’s in-



ternal storage to this, or free up space there for a new title download or install updates — game sizes are mammoth these days.

The WD_Black P10 Game Drive keeps things simple with a 4800rpm 2.5-inch hard drive in a casing that has a distinct industrial design. There is a single activity LED light, which illuminates solid when the drive is connected to a device and powered on, and blinks when data transfer is in progress. For some strange reason, WD insists on using a Micro-B connector at one end (this plugs into the drive) and a USB-A connector at the other (this connects to the console or PC). This proprietary cable type can be difficult to replace in case you damage or misplace it. Secondly, WD should have at least bundled a cable with a USB-C con-

necter at one end, for newer PCs and Macs. Since this is an HDD, expecting SSD or solid-state storage-esque read and write speeds would be a fallacious start. In terms of the Blackmagic Disk Speed Test scores, the WD_Black P10 Game Drive peaked at write speeds of 583MB/s for a short duration, but averaged around 123MB/s. WD claims peak speeds of 130MB/s and it is good to see the brand position a realistic claim for potential buyers to consider.

At this point, it is important to note that either console will probably work with slightly slower speeds than the benchmark tests on Mac (or even a Windows PC) will illustrate. Be ready for those variables, and those aren’t dependent on the drive.

The rupee falls below 92 per dollar again, setting a record, due to four causes

Mumbai: Crude spiking above \$115/bbl has sent global markets on a tizzy. Be it equities, currency or the commodity space, all asset classes are seeing a domino impact. The rupee is no exception. It has slumped to a record low of 92.33 against the US dollar. This marks the currency’s second breach past the 92-level mark in less than 7 days. According to Reuters, the Indian central bank (RBI) stepped into the foreign exchange market today to limit the domestic currency’s decline. Here are four major factors weighing on the Indian Rupee: The Sensex crashed over 2,000 points while the Nifty tumbled to 23,700 levels as crude oil spiked past the \$115 per barrel mark on the continued escalation of conflict across West Asia. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments pointed out that, “Brent crude has spiked above \$115 delivering a big oil shock to economies and markets. Big oil importers like India will be hit hard if the West Asian conflict lingers long and crude price remains high. The market will price-in the economic consequences of this oil shock. Inflation will certainly move up whether the oil price hike is passed on to consumers or not. #3 Fall in



Asian equities “Europe’s heavy reliance on Middle Eastern energy has made the euro vulnerable during the recent oil surge. “CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. ” He added that the euro has already fallen more than 2% this month, and since it carries nearly 57% weight in the dollar index, its weakness has automatically pushed the dollar higher. Foreign Institutional Investors were net sellers of domestic equities worth Rs 6,030 crore as of March 6, according to data available on NSE. A stronger US Dollar makes currencies like the Indian rupee less appealing for investors, thereby aiding capital

outflows. Outlook for Rupee Going forward, what’s the outlook for the rupee now? Should it be bracing for a few more tough days ahead? Well experts predict that it may continue to trade near 91-92/ mark against the US dollar “For the coming days, 91.40–91.50 is likely to act as a strong support zone, and if these base holds, the pair could gradually move toward the 92.50-93.00 levels,” Pabari added. These heightened geopolitical tensions have also impacted investor sentiment across Asian equity markets. Asian stock markets tumbled in Monday’s early trade as crude oil prices shot up. Japan’s benchmark index, Nikkei 225,

suffered one of the region’s steepest declines, dropping more than 6% in early trading. The Topix was down 5.27%. South Korea’s Kospi was down 6.5%, triggering a temporary trading halt for the Kospi 200 futures. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index futures were at 25,328, below the index’s last close of 25,757.29. Falling Asian equities generate capital outflows and create strong demand for the US dollar, which extends the decline for emerging market currencies like the Indian rupee. #4 Rise in Dollar Index The dollar index, which measures the strength of the US Dollar against a basket of six major currencies, climbed to a record high nearing the 100 mark as the surge in oil prices drove demand for the greenback. first time since 2022, as the US-Israel conflict with Iran has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world’s most important routes for Middle Eastern oil Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, is currently trading near the \$116 per barrel mark in the market, marking a jump of nearly 25% since Friday’s close of \$93 per barrel. Meanwhile, the US benchmark, West Texas Intermediate, has also rallied, as it is trading near the \$115 per barrel mark.

Settles Rs 645 crore Haryana claim



Mumbai: The troubles for IDFC First Bank don’t seem to end. Close on the heels of the bank paying Rs 645 crore to settle client claims linked to a suspected fraud in Haryana Branch, ANI reported that Chandigarh Police received a complaint regarding fake FDs worth Rs 116.84 crore. Haryana Branch Fraud case

On to the suspected fraud in the Haryana Brand first- The BSE release indicated Rs 645 crore settlement. This amount is Rs 55 crore higher than the earlier estimated payout of Rs 590 crore by the bank. “Against the initial estimate of principal of Rs 590 crore, the Bank has received claims and paid the net principal amount of Rs 645 crore. Thus, we would like to share that the

incremental principal payout against the claims is Rs 55 crores more than the original estimates,” IDFC First Bank said in its regulatory filing. IDFC First Bank’s Haryana Case: Payout higher than initial estimate The Bank in its latest statement to the exchanges clarified that all the claims are related to the same incident at the Chandigarh branch and do not indicate any fresh issue. DFC First Bank also said that it has completed reconciliation of all relevant accounts at the Chandigarh branch and found no further discrepancies. It added that no other claims have been received from any entity across the country since February 25. IDFC First Bank: Rs 583 crore returned to Haryana govt

Zelenskyy claims drone specialists will be in the Middle East in the next few days

Russia: Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine, stated on Sunday that Kyiv’s drone specialists will be in the Middle East “next week” in return for US air defense weapons. The costly US PAC-3 air defense ammunition is in short supply in Ukraine, and Kyiv worries that a protracted conflict in the Middle East might further impair supplies. Zelenskyy stated, “It is too early to say anything else at this stage,” adding, “I think that next week, when the experts are on site, they will look at the situation and help,” in response to a question about how specifically he wanted to assist the US and its Gulf allies in repelling the drones. Zelenskyy stated that during his visit to Kyiv on Sunday, he and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten talked about collaborative armaments manufacturing. He emphasized Ukraine’s special experience in protecting against Russian-made drones manufactured in Iran. Following a discussion with Jetten,

Zelenskyy stated at a news conference, “We would very much like this to be an opportunity for both sides.” Zelenskyy stated, “It is important that we are producing weapons together with the Netherlands – and we will certainly continue and expand this joint work.” He added that they had thoroughly reviewed potential production quantities and investments. The Netherlands has contributed \$870 million to the PURL initiative, which allows Europe to purchase US armaments for Ukraine. Demand for Ukraine’s drone defence technology could lead to new defence partnerships for Kyiv, but equally could mean fewer drones for Ukraine itself in a stretched market, says Shaun Walker, the Guardian’s central and eastern Europe correspondent. Ukraine has significant experience battling the Shahed drones now being used by Iran to attack its Gulf neighbours, something that Volodymyr Zelenskyy has publicly said he is ready to share in re-

turn for help against Russia. “We are ready to help, and expect that our people will also receive the necessary support,” he said over the weekend. However, the attention of the White House is now elsewhere, perhaps drawing momentum away from peace talks with Moscow, and the attack on Iran seems to reinforce Vladimir Putin’s view of the world, in which stronger nations can target their weaker adversaries with impunity. According to a research released on Monday, imports of weapons have increased by over 10% globally over the last five years, with Europe more than doubling purchases following the conflict in Ukraine. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the increase can be partially explained by the fact that European nations are purchasing weapons to supply Ukraine and because they want to strengthen their own military capabilities against a perceived Russian threat.

As unrest erupts throughout occupied Palestine, Israelis murder three people in a community in the West Bank

Israel: Three Palestinians were slain by Israeli settlers and troops in their hamlet close to Ramallah on Saturday night. This was the third fatal incident in a week of escalating Israeli violence throughout the occupied West Bank. In the short time since Israel and the US began a new war on Iran at the end of February, Israeli settlers have shot and killed five people during invasions of Palestinian communities, grazing land, and olive groves. After breathing in military-grade tear gas sprayed by the Israeli army, a sixth victim passed away on Saturday. The Israeli rights organization B’tselem stated this week that “the cooperation between the military and Israeli settler militias is deepening the ethnic cleansing of the West Bank under the cover of war.” “Settlers steal livestock, destroy crops and food storage, vandalize solar panels and water tanks, and purposefully graze livestock in Palestinians’ farmed fields.” Additionally, settlers have taken over privately held Palestinian property by razing it with bulldozers. The most recent killings came on Saturday night after Palestinians from Abu Falah tried to stop a group of masked Israelis vandalising olive trees outside the town. Dozens of armed settlers later descended on the town, relatives and neighbours of the dead told the Guardian, and killed Thaer Faruq Hamayel, 30, and Fara Jawdat Hamayel, 57. Both men had been shot in the head. Israeli security forces who arrived later to the confrontation fired military-grade tear gas into the narrow streets of Abu Falah. Muhammad Hassan, a 54-year-old father of four, died after inhaling



it. “What is happening now is extremely dangerous. The world is preoccupied with the war with Iran, while settlers, protected by the Israeli army, continue to attack innocent civilians,” said Amin Shuman, a member of the local council in Abu Falah. “No one is being held accountable.” Settler attacks had intensified over the last week and on Saturday they arrived armed with sticks, slingshots, pistols, and M16 rifles, said Hamid Hamayel, a cousin of Thaer. “Their goal is to confiscate the land and force us to leave. Such attacks would not happen without the close cooperation between the settlers and the Israeli army.” The Israeli military commander for the occupied West Bank, Maj Gen Avi Bluth, described the shootings in Abu Falah as an “unacceptable incident”. There would

be “zero tolerance for civilians who take the law into their own hand”, he added, and said those responsible would be brought to justice. Bluth has not commented directly on two deadly shootings carried out earlier in the week by Israeli settler reservists wearing army uniforms, in which three Palestinians were killed and a fourth critically injured. On Monday two brothers were killed when they tried to prevent settlers damaging olive trees in Qaryut, a small Palestinian village in the northern West Bank. Muhammad Taha Muammar, 52, was shot in the head, and Fahim Taha Muammar, 48, was shot in his lower body. When the Israeli military arrived they arrested more than 20 Palestinians from the village and road closures prevented ambulances from reaching the wounded for more than an hour, B’tselem said.

The mayor of Istanbul is put on trial alongside 400 other people in an attempt “to remove him from politics”

Turkey: In a massive corruption case, a mass trial of 400 persons, including the imprisoned mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu, has begun in Turkey. Critics claim this is a politically motivated attempt to ruin his chances of running against Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the president. More than 106 individuals who are now incarcerated are among the hundreds of current and former Istanbul municipality workers scheduled to testify. They are all charged with being part of an extensive network of organized crime and corruption that revolves around İmamoğlu’s office. İmamoğlu, the mayor of Turkey’s largest city, was arrested last year during a raid on his home, shortly after announcing his intention to run for president on behalf of the country’s largest opposition party, the Republican People’s party (CHP). As all protests banned within a 1km radius of the courtroom have been banned, supporters gathered at a distance, waving images of İmamoğlu and more than a dozen other CHP detained mayors, according to an Agence France-Presse reporter. After his election in 2019, İmamoğlu quickly rose to become Erdoğan’s nemesis, occupying a position the president once held and rising in political stature to challenge him on the national stage. After declaring his intention to run for president, Istanbul University annulled İmamoğlu’s diploma, a requirement to run for Turkey’s highest office. His arrest sent shockwaves through Turkish society, sparking nightly mass protests around the municipality building that contained his office where hundreds were detained. The CHP vowed



to fight the arrest, holding a symbolic vote to name İmamoğlu as their candidate for president in an election expected to take place next year. Thousands of pages of accusations were prepared by prosecutors, who claimed that İmamoğlu’s corrupt actions began in 2014, years before he upset Erdoğan’s governing party and was elected mayor. Akın Gürlek, a former Istanbul prosecutor, said late last year that İmamoğlu’s corrupt network cost the Turkish government 160 billion lira (£2.85 billion) over ten years. The mayor of Istanbul and presidential contender may spend more than 1,900 years behind bars if found guilty of all accusations. The

use of hidden witnesses and a broad attempt to imprison mayors from opposition parties, especially the CHP, throughout Turkey have led observers and human rights organizations to label the trial as politically motivated. Human Rights Watch said the trial represented “the culmination a 17-month campaign by the Turkish authorities against the main opposition party through criminal investigations, detentions, and other lawsuits targeting İmamoğlu, other elected officials, and the party leadership, pointing to a concerted effort to remove İmamoğlu from politics and discredit his party in ways that undermine democracy”.

As oil soars, STI, Malaysia, and Indonesia equities decline at lunchtime

Singapore: Following a sharp increase in oil prices, broader Asian markets fell on Monday, March 9, with South Korean and Japanese indexes leading losses. As of 10.05 am, the Straits Times Index (STI) has dropped as much as 3.1%, falling below 4,700 points. Later, it recovered some of its losses, and by midday, it was down 2.7%. All of the local banks’ counters fell, with DBS: D05 -1.25% down 2%, OCBC: O39 -1.73% down 2.6%, and UOB: U11 -1.55% down 2.2%. With West Texas Intermediate crude oil up 29% at more than US\$117, oil prices surged beyond US\$100 a barrel, the highest in almost four years. Brent crude had its largest increase in over six years, rising as high as 28% to US\$118.73. Energy companies like RH Petroleum: T13 +28.57% gained 28.6% and Rex International: 5WH +6.63% was up 10.5% at lunchtime. Geo Energy Resources: RE4 -2.17% was down 1.1% by lunchtime after opening 5.4% higher. At lunchtime, Shanghai’s CSI 300 fell 1.7%, while Hong



Kong’s Hang Seng Index fell 2.6%. In Thailand, the SET50 index was 3.8 per cent lower in the afternoon. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index and the Jakarta Stock Exchange Composite Index fell 2.6 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively, as at 12.42 pm. Japan’s Nikkei 225 was down 6.5 per cent at midday, while the Topix dropped 4.8 per cent. South Korea’s Kospi slumped 8 per cent, and Australia’s ASX 200 was 3.2 per cent lower. Research firm BMI on Friday gave Malaysia the fifth-lowest risk score when measuring

the impact of the US-Israel-Iran conflict on 24 emerging markets. Its research examined factors such as each market’s trade disruption due to the effectively shut Strait of Hormuz, terms of trade and external position. Mainland China clocked in at 10th, followed by Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia in 12th, 13th and 14th, respectively. Thailand was flagged as one of the markets with the greatest impact, owing to the country having an energy deficit as large as 4 per cent of its gross domestic product.

According to a research, recreational drugs can more than double the risk of stroke



London: According to a significant assessment, recreational drugs can more than quadruple the risk of stroke, with younger people seeing some of the most alarming effects. Researchers examined medical records from over 100 million individuals and discovered that the risk of stroke was 96% greater for cocaine users and 122% higher for amphetamine users when compared to non-users. Although there was no proof that opioids, a highly addictive drug, increased a person’s risk of stroke, the analysis revealed that cannabis users were also at higher risk, experiencing 37% more strokes than non-users. The rise in strokes observed in connection with some drugs was not confined to older people. When researchers focused

on under-55s, they saw a near tripling in stroke risk among amphetamine users. The additional risk linked to cannabis was a more modest 14% in the age group, while the risk from cocaine was much the same at 97%. Dr Megan Ritson, a research associate at the University of Cambridge and first author on the study, said: “Illicit drug use is a preventable stroke risk, but I don’t know if young people are aware how high the risk is. “This is the first finding that has shown how different substance use disorders really can impact stroke risk.” Strokes occur when blood vessels in the brain become blocked or burst. This disrupts the blood supply to brain cells, causing them to die. Stroke is the third leading cause of death and dis-

ability worldwide, leading to more than 7million deaths annually. Millions more are left with permanent disabilities, ranging from paralysis to speech and cognitive impairment. To determine which substances, if any, were linked to a higher risk, the researchers combined data from 32 studies on recreational drugs and stroke that involved over 100 million participants. This demonstrated a connection between drug use and strokes, but it was unable to establish that the drugs were the cause since drug users could just be more vulnerable to strokes due to other factors, such as worse overall health. In order to learn more, the researchers conducted further studies to determine if medicines were likely to be the source of an increased risk of stroke. They investigated whether those with a genetic predisposition to drug abuse were more likely to have a stroke and discovered that they were. The finding bolstered the suspicion that drugs were to blame, rather than drug users being at greater risk for other reasons. Details are published in the International Journal of Stroke. The drugs appear to raise stroke risk in multiple ways.

As unrest erupts throughout occupied Palestine, Israelis murder three people in a community in the West Bank

Israel: Three Palestinians were slain by Israeli settlers and troops in their hamlet close to Ramallah on Saturday night. This was the third fatal incident in a week of escalating Israeli violence throughout the occupied West Bank. In the short time since Israel and the US began a new war on Iran at the end of February, Israeli settlers have shot and killed five people during invasions of Palestinian communities, grazing land, and olive groves. After breathing in military-grade tear gas sprayed by the Israeli army, a sixth victim passed away on Saturday. The Israeli rights organization B’tselem stated this week that “the cooperation between the military and Israeli settler militias is deepening the ethnic cleansing of the West Bank under the cover of war.” “Settlers steal livestock, destroy crops and food storage, vandalize solar panels and water tanks, and purposefully graze livestock in Palestinians’ farmed fields.” Additionally, settlers have taken over privately held Palestinian property by razing it with bulldozers. The most recent killings came on Saturday night after Palestinians from Abu Falah tried to stop a group of masked Israelis vandalising olive trees outside the town. Dozens of armed settlers later descended on the town, relatives and neighbours of the dead told the Guardian, and killed Thaer Faruq Hamayel, 30, and Fara Jawdat Hamayel, 57. Both men had been shot in the head. Israeli security forces who arrived later to the confrontation fired military-grade tear gas into the narrow streets of Abu Falah. Muhammad Hassan, a 54-year-old father of four, died after inhaling it. “What is happening now is extremely dangerous. The world is preoccupied with the war with Iran, while settlers, protected by the Israeli army, continue to attack innocent civilians,” said Amin Shuman, a member of the local council in Abu Falah. “No one is being held



accountable.” Settler attacks had intensified over the last week and on Saturday they arrived armed with sticks, slingshots, pistols, and M16 rifles, said Hamid Hamayel, a cousin of Thaer. “Their goal is to confiscate the land and force us to leave. Such attacks would not happen without the close cooperation between the settlers and the Israeli army.” The Israeli military commander for the occupied West Bank, Maj Gen Avi Bluth, described the shootings in Abu Falah as an “unacceptable incident”. There would be “zero tolerance for civilians who take the law into their own hand”, he added, and said those responsible would be brought to justice. Bluth has not commented directly on two dead-

ly shootings carried out earlier in the week by Israeli settler reservists wearing army uniforms, in which three Palestinians were killed and a fourth critically injured. On Monday two brothers were killed when they tried to prevent settlers damaging olive trees in Qaryut, a small Palestinian village in the northern West Bank. Muhammad Taha Muammar, 52, was shot in the head, and Fahim Taha Muammar, 48, was shot in his lower body. When the Israeli military arrived they arrested more than 20 Palestinians from the village and road closures prevented ambulances from reaching the wounded for more than an hour, B’tselem said.

Matthieu Blazy’s Chanel show celebrates and plays with brand’s history

A building site, but make it chic: that was the set for Chanel’s Paris fashion week show. Cranes in Meccano-bright colours towered over the catwalk, their reflection shimmering sequin-bright on an opalescent floor that was inspired by Monet, according to the designer Matthieu Blazy. Monet has been a backstage buzzword at Dior and Chanel this week, as the two giants battle for bragging rights over French culture. Fashion week loves a visual metaphor. Blazy, who arrived at Chanel last year, is rebuilding the designer, and having fun with it. The invitation for the show was a tiny stainless steel tape measure on a pendant. He has immersed himself in house history – Cocology? – and after the show, greeted reporters clutching a folded printout of an interview Coco Chanel gave to Le Figaro in 1955. Bruno Pavlovsky, president of fashion and a grandee of the brand since 1990, remarked that he had never come across this interview before Blazy brought it to him. Blazy’s kid-in-a-candy-store enthusiasm is infectious, and the city’s Chanel boutiques have been packed all week. A simple cotton shirt embroidered with the Chanel name is sold out, at a price of €3,900. New season bags are limited to one per customer – a policy designed, the company says, to limit resale at even higher prices.

“Chanel is function, Chanel is fiction,” Blazy said. Like Coco, who scandalised Paris by declaring black, the colour of the serving classes, to be the last word in elegance, he presents Chanel as rarefied and real. Take the

Chanel jacket, which on this catwalk came in the oversized shirt silhouette of the classic French chore jacket, collar flipped and cuffs turned back, or as a blouson to be worn with trousers. Blazy is updating the handwriting of Chanel – a trace of Phoebe Philo, a more recent female change-maker in fashion with whom Blazy worked at Celine, can be detected in the confident colours, the untucked hems, and a loosening up of Chanel’s strict lozenge silhouettes. The show closed with a soft jersey little black dress, perhaps Coco’s greatest contribution to the wardrobe, confidently reworked with an open back and a single silk camellia as decoration. “What has surprised me the most is the depth of his research,” Pavlovsky said of his star hire before the show. “With Karl [Lagerfeld], you didn’t know if the storytelling was true or not. That is not at all a criticism – after 30 years here, he had that freedom – but Matthieu is starting again at the roots.” Chanel has “a lot of requests” for the Oscar red carpet on Sunday, Pavlovsky said, but added that his current focus was on teams in the Middle East. “We have boutiques remaining open at the request of governments. We are following those instructions, but we also have to look after security for our people.”

On the final day of Paris fashion week another luxury giant, Louis Vuitton, held a show in a modernist marquee hidden in an internal courtyard of the Louvre. The designer, Nicolas Ghesquière, was made a knight of the legion of honour, France’s highest



civilian decoration, earlier this year. As the jewel in the crown of the world’s biggest luxury conglomerate, the Louis Vuitton name has enormous reach. Because the bread-and-butter of the brand is safely piled high in evergreen-selling bags and luggage, Ghesquière has a remarkable freedom to pursue his avant garde tastes. A cubist landscape of mossy green hillocks framed the catwalk, a collaboration with the production designer of AppleTV’s Severance, Jeremy Hindle. The first jackets had shoulder pads arched and scaled into angel wings, and models carried their bags hooked over staffs, nomad-style. Back-stage, Ghesquière said he was thinking about nomadic life – travel is always on the Louis Vuitton moodboard – and how folklore is “an attempt to explain the forces of nature”. He said: “Fashion is a kind of anthropology. It expresses different cultures, and collective experiences, all over the world.”

OnePlus announces Nord Buds 4 Pro with flagship specs and affordable price, India launch on March 19

After a bit of a lull period, OnePlus is ready to launch its next product, the Nord Buds 4 Pro, in India. The OnePlus Nord Buds 4 Pro wireless earphones will be officially launched in India on March 19. Given the Nord branding, we can expect affordable pricing, something that OnePlus is making clear in today’s announcement. The Nord Buds 4 Pro will provide “true flagship level performance at an affordable price,” OnePlus said in a statement shared with the media, adding that these wireless earphones are “designed to provide powerful noise cancellation while at the same time providing the super deep bass OnePlus Nord Buds users have come to expect.” As is usually the case with these announcements, OnePlus has unveiled the full design as well as a few key specs to build hype around the upcoming OnePlus Nord Buds 4 Pro. Specifically on the sound bit, OnePlus says the Nord Buds 4 Pro have 12mm titanium coated drivers that are 100 percent more powerful than the drivers inside the OnePlus Nord Buds 3 Pro. The OnePlus Nord Buds 4 Pro are confirmed to support the LHDC 5.0 codec as well as spatial audio. As far as active noise cancellation goes, OnePlus says the Nord Buds 4 Pro can block out



Anthropic has strong case against Pentagon blacklisting, legal experts say

Anthropic’s lawsuit challenging its Pentagon blacklisting is likely to test the reach of an obscure law aimed at guarding military systems against sabotage, and legal experts say the artificial intelligence lab appears to have a strong case that President Donald Trump’s administration overstepped.

Anthropic said in its lawsuit filed on Monday that the Defense Department’s decision to exclude the company from military contracts by designating it as a supply chain risk violated its free speech and due process rights and was aimed at punishing the company for its views on AI safety in warfare. The designation could cut Anthropic’s 2026 revenue by multiple billions of dollars and cause reputational harm, company executives said Tuesday.

In labeling Anthropic as a supply chain risk, the Pentagon invoked a rarely used law that allows it to bar companies from certain contracts if they risk exposing military information systems to enemy infiltration. The law has never been tested in court or used against a U.S. company, according to a Reuters review of legal databases.

Courts often defer to the executive branch’s judgment on national security, and that will likely be the centerpiece of the government’s defense. But five national security law experts told Reuters the Pentagon may have overstepped. “It’s not at all clear that the statute can even apply to an American company where there’s no foreign entanglement,” said University of Minnesota Law School professor Alan Rozenshtein.

The Defense Department said it does not comment on pending litigation. Anthropic, which is incorporated and headquartered in the U.S., said it is not an “adversary,” which the Trump administration has defined in executive orders to mean China, Russia,



Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela, according to Anthropic’s lawsuit.

The company also said Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth gave no explanation for how Anthropic’s Claude AI tool constituted a supply chain risk despite its continued use by the U.S. military and Hegseth’s own praise of Claude as “exquisite” technology that the Defense Department would “love” to work with during a February 24 meeting with Anthropic cited in the lawsuit. The military has used Claude as recently as last month during strikes on Iran, according to Reuters reports.

Hegseth designated Anthropic a national security supply chain risk on March 3 after the company refused to lift restrictions on Claude that prohibit the military from using it for autonomous weapons or domestic surveillance.

In a February 27 social media post announcing the designation, Hegseth accused Anthropic of cloaking itself in the “sanctimonious rhetoric of ‘effective altruism’” to “strong-arm the United States military into submission.”

Anthropic has said AI is not reliable enough for autonomous weapons and that it opposes domestic surveillance as a matter of principle. The Pentagon has said that Anthropic’s restrictions could endanger American lives. Under U.S. law, a supply chain risk is a threat that an adversary could sabotage, infiltrate or disrupt a federal information technology system or network.

The law, known as Section 3252, invoked by the Pentagon, allows the defense secretary to exclude companies from certain contracts to guard against the risk that an “adversary” may “sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted function” or otherwise “subvert” a military information system to “surveil, deny, disrupt, or otherwise degrade” its function.

The Pentagon separately designated Anthropic a supply chain risk under a similar law that could eventually broaden contract exclusions to the civilian government. Anthropic filed a separate legal challenge to that designation on Monday.

The Pentagon can only exclude companies under 3252 as a last resort, and other defense contractors are not required to stop working with them entirely.

Reuters could not identify any other companies that have been publicly designated supply chain risks under 3252, although the obscure government procurement statute does not require public disclosure of designations. Amos Toh, a national security law expert at the left-leaning Brennan Center for Justice, said nothing about Claude’s usage policies appeared to pose foreign sabotage or subversion risks.

“These are basically safety protocols. You can debate whether these protocols are acceptable or not, but they run directly counter to the risk that the law is designed to regulate,” Toh said.

Anthropic also said Hegseth’s supply chain risk order violated its Fifth Amendment right to due process by imposing “draconian punishments” without any “meaningful process,” factual findings or opportunity for Anthropic to challenge them. Courts are generally reluctant to

question federal agency decisions but are especially deferential to the executive branch’s judgment on national security matters.

This would likely be the centerpiece of the government’s defense, according to legal experts, who said Justice Department lawyers could cite a long line of cases where courts have found that it is generally not the place of judges to second-guess how the president and the military he commands defend the country.

The government could similarly argue that the president and his cabinet secretaries have broad authority to choose suppliers and that the military cannot rely on a vendor whose usage policies constrain military action.

The Justice Department could also cite legal precedent stating that contract decisions are not First Amendment violations if they are supported by legitimate policy or operational reasons.

Eric Crusius, an attorney and government contract specialist who is not involved in the case, said the government is trying to impose the “death penalty” on Anthropic and will need to show “there was no alternative and that they meticulously considered other options prior to pulling the trigger.” Anthropic said in its lawsuit that Hegseth’s decision violated the Administrative Procedure Act, a law that allows courts to overturn actions that are found to be “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.”

Legal experts said the apparent contradictions in the government’s position are strong evidence that Hegseth’s decision was arbitrary.

“The government was simultaneously threatening to use the (Defense Production Act) to force Anthropic to sell its services, using its services in active military operations, and saying it’s too dangerous to use them in government contracts,” said University of Minnesota Law School professor Alan Rozenshtein.

“Not all of these things can be true,” he said.

As Mother Gothel in “Tangled,” Kathryn Hahn has been confirmed

Mumbai: Mom really does know best! The casting of Kathryn Hahn as Mother Gothel was a fan favorite. Fans have been wondering who would be a better villain in a live-action version of Disney’s Tangled since the movie’s premiere ten years ago. The “cast Kathryn” rumors intensified after a remake was revealed. Additionally, the performer thrilled fans on Tuesday by revealing that she had been chosen to play the legendary antagonist in the forthcoming fantasy film. Kathryn posted a unique OOTD (outfit of the day) video on Instagram on Tuesday. “Hey, OOTD, I just found out what that stands for,” she added, her face captured on camera. This is what I’m wearing today. The actress then took a step back to show off her Mother Gothel t-shirt. “Just a T-shirt, spectacles, and jeans. This is simple. Kathryn said, “You know, just another day.” “OOTD, Mother Gothel” was the caption for the photo that was released in association with Disney Studios. Fans reacted ecstatically to the announcement. “The only option,” one said. “Can’t believe they actually listened to a fancasting for once,” said another. Another expressed a similar passion, writing in all caps: “WE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR THIS!” Donna Murphy, who originally voiced Gothel in the 2010 animated movie, also wished Kathryn well, writing, “From one Mother to another...” Congrats! And never forget that I adore you above anything else. Disney’s rendition of the Rapunzel legend is called Tangled. Zachary Levi voiced Flynn Rider, Donna Murphy as Mother Gothel, and Mandy Moore as Rapunzel in the 2010 animated movie. Tangled Ever After, a sequel that came out in 2012, was inspired by the film’s critical and financial success, which brought in \$592 million worldwide. In Tangled, Mother Gothel imprisons Rapunzel, a young princess with enchanted long blonde hair, in a hidden tower. She agrees to go out into the world she has never seen with the help of an intruder, the outlaw Flynn Rider. In 2024, the live-action version was revealed.

Arijit Singh’s poignant voice and the new on-screen chemistry between Sai Pallavi and Junaaid Khan

Mumbai: The trailer for Sunil Pandey’s Ek Din is now available. In the movie, Sai Pallavi makes her Bollywood debut alongside Junaaid Khan, the son of Aamir Khan.

A peek of a traditional love narrative can be found in this charming tale. In the teaser, Sai plays Rohan’s coworker and potential love interest, Meera, while Junaaid plays the uncomfortable and bashful office worker. A shot of a wishing bell that fulfills all wishes made while standing beneath it opens the video. When Rohan explains this to his friend, the guy remarks, “I wish Meera were mine even if it is just for a day.” Rohan finds himself spending a day with Meera when his wish is fulfilled. Before Rohan abruptly reveals the truth about his wish and its approaching expiration, the two



are enjoying each other’s company. Their relationship is permanently impacted by the wish’s aftereffects. Meera slaps him across the face at the end of the trailer.

The promo also features Kunal

Kapoor. Aamir Khan Productions is the production company behind Ek Din, which was inspired by the Thai movie One Day.

Aamir Khan, Mansoor Khan, and Aparna Purohit are the film’s pro-

ducers. Most of the romance drama’s filming takes place in Japan. On May 1, Ek Din is scheduled to open in theaters. Raja Shivaji, starring Riteish Deshmukh, is anticipated to pose a serious threat to the movie.

In addition to Genelia Deshmukh, Sanjay Dutt, Abhishek Bachchan, Mahesh Manjrekar, Sachin Khedekar, Bhagyashree, Fardeen Khan, Jitendra Joshi, and Amole Gupte, the cast includes Riteish Deshmukh in the title character. Sai Pallavi recently appeared on screen in the Telugu movie Thandel, while Junaaid Khan last appeared opposite Khushi Kapoor in Loveyapa. The actress will soon be seen as Sita in Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana: Part 1. Yash plays Ravana and Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Rama in the movie.

Mona Singh Explains The Reactions Of Fans To Gaurav Gera’s Dhurandhar Look



New Delhi: Today, actor Mona Singh is a proud friend.

She is pleased for her buddy and co-star of Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin, Gaurav Gera, who is still getting recognition for his performance in Ranveer Singh’s film Dhurandhar. Gaurav Gera played Aalam Bhai in Dhurandhar, the Lyari-based handler of Indian intelligence operative Jaskirat Singh Rangi, also known as Hamza Ali Mazari, who goes deep undercover to dismantle the terrorist network in Karachi, Pakistan. Aalam Bhai also

sells Doodh Soda in the most melodious way for Rs 20 at his well-known juice business in the gang-ridden Lyari. Like many fans, Mona Singh saw Dhurandhar in a movie theater and is thrilled that her friend is getting credit for his work in the film directed by Aditya Dhar. What a proud buddy I am.

At last, he is receiving his just desserts. For a period, he was absent from all media, including TV, movies, and platforms. The film is being celebrated worldwide. Gaurav

is being celebrated worldwide, and I am really proud. In an exclusive interview, Mona Singh stated, “I saw the movie and I loved it.” The actor, who portrayed Jassi in Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin, which starred Gaurav Gera as Nandu, expressed her excitement about seeing Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge in theaters on March 19. Even though it made over Rs 1,000 crore, the fact that it’s still being celebrated on OTT speaks something,” she continued. Viewers were taken aback by Gaurav Gera’s casting as Aalam Bhai, as they were by nearly every significant aspect of Dhurandhar.

The actor who played Aalam Bhai, the juice seller who enjoys drinking noon chai because it reminds him of his village—possibly in India—left people wondering for a very long time. People began connecting the dots as word of Dhurandhar’s success spread. When many recognized Aalam Bhai’s voice, they realized he was actually Gaurav Gera.

According to Mona Singh, his “makeover” also astounded her. “We were all shocked. He had to keep his appearance consistent while filming

the movie for nearly two years. Actors ought to be like chameleons, and he accomplished just that. No one knew who he was. In order for people to recognize Gaurav Gera as Dhurandhar’s Aalam Bhai, she instructed him to begin sharing photos on social media. I was the one who told him, “Go on Instagram and post your pictures because nobody can recognize who you are,” after the movie was released. Do it immediately. “After that, he began posting,” she continued. When viewers realized it was him, they were delighted and in awe of Gaurav Gera, who also has a sizable social media fan base because of his Shopkeeper-Chhutki skit series.” People said, “Oh my god! You can’t be this person, can you? “What happened to our Chhutki?” Ye kya ho gaya hamari Chhutki ko. He was simply being celebrated. Because of these films and other content on OTT and the big screen, actors are now receiving their due, which makes me happy and proud,” Mona Singh remarked. The most recent appearance of Mona Singh was in the highly regarded Netflix series Kohrra 2.

Anshula Kapoor’s go-to packing tip for a stress-free trip

Mumbai: Travel preparation frequently devolves into a last-minute rush; chargers disappear, toiletries are neglected, and luggage are hastily packed. However, businesswoman Anshula Kapoor seems to have discovered a straightforward way to make vacation planning organized and nearly effortless. Keeping a “travel bin” is one of her best practices. She keeps things in this container that she only uses when traveling. She maintains a ready-to-use toiletry kit and a modest assortment of travel necessities inside the bin instead of grabbing items from her regular bathroom shelf. She just puts these things in her bag when it’s time to go on vacation. The likelihood of forgetting crucial goods like adapters, chargers, or basic medications is decreased because everything already has a dedicated spot. And the most crucial

piece of advice? To ensure that the travel bin is always prepared for the next vacation, she keeps a running checklist on her Notes app, adding items that need to be replenished after each trip. She has a combination of comfortable and useful stuff in her travel gear.

During lengthy travels, basic health necessities including medications, masks, nasal sprays, and electrolyte sachets can assist manage weariness or motion sickness. She also has a few things that make staying at hotels easier. On longer travels, a mobile steam iron, portable fan, and little mirror can make a room feel more comfortable. To make downtime in the hotel feel more comfortable, entertainment items like a portable speaker or an additional Fire TV Stick are also included. Another crucial component of the kit is technology. Addition-

al power banks, charging connections, universal adapters, and luggage trackers such as Airtags make it easier to find bags and keep electronics powered. Additionally, cleaning supplies like hand sanitizer and wet wipes are typically supplied, particularly while flying and passing through crowded airports. Keeping duplicate objects is the simplest approach to create a similar system.

To ensure they are always prepared for the next trip, a second set of chargers, cords, and tiny toiletries can be kept in the trash permanently. Another way to prevent last-minute surprises at the airport is to keep a suitcase weighing scale in the same container. Lastly, keeping a basic checklist on your phone is beneficial. Make a note of Aplaced once you get home so the bin is prepared for the next trip.

Govinda’s daughter acknowledges that her parents’ last two years have been “turbulent”



Mumbai: Over the past year, Govinda and Sunita Ahuja’s marriage has been the subject of intense public scrutiny. Rumors of Govinda’s alleged extramarital affair fueled the fire after it was revealed that the pair was on the verge of divorce. Tina Ahuja, Govinda’s daughter, has now revealed that her parents’ recent years have been “turbulent,” with frequent rumors of their separation and impending divorce. In the new vlog, Tina said that she had taken over her mother’s YouTube channel for a day. She continued

by saying that because her mother deserves to be honored, she intends to purchase some unexpected presents for her on Women’s Day. “Hum girls aur women dusro ke liye bohut kuch karte rahte hain par apne baare mein kabhi sochte hi nahi hain,” Tina said. Therefore, maine socha kyu na main kuch apne tarike se kuch aisa special karoon meri mom ke liye (We women do so much for others and seldom think about ourselves). I reasoned, “Why don’t I do something special for my mom?” “Two years have not been

that great,” she went on. It has been a little turbulent, but let’s celebrate life and move on. After purchasing sunflowers and numerous other presents for Sunita, Tina and Sunita conversed at their Mumbai home. “Everything has a limit,” Sunita remarked. “Har cheez ek limit se karna chahiye. Main ye nahi bolti hoon ki tum apne husband ko chhod do, bachchon ko chhod do.” I’m not advising people to abandon their spouses and children. However. In my life, there is a huge “but,” which is what I did. I used to take care of everyone, but at this point I started living for me, and I deserve better. Maine sabka khayal rakha. After more than thirty years of marriage, Govinda and Sunita have two children: a girl named Tina Ahuja and a boy named Yashvardhan Ahuja. There were widespread rumors of their divorce in 2025. But the pair spoke to the media and denied the rumors during Ganesh Chaturthi festivities at their house. In the meantime, Yashvardhan is hard at work getting ready for his first movie, which also features Nitanshi Goel from Laapataa Ladies.

After receiving criticism for his remarks, Harish Shankar apologizes to Mahesh Babu

New Delhi: Ustaad Bhagat Singh, Harish Shankar’s upcoming film, is about to be released. After responding to an X post that appeared to make fun of Mahesh Babu and his movie’s box office numbers, the director found himself in hot water. Fans of Mahesh Babu were not pleased with his reaction. Harish Shankar apologized to the fans in a formal statement on the subject on March 11. Harish wrote, “Yesterday was a very busy day,” in a recent post on his X account. After the censor, I met with board members, went to the Peddamma Temple for blessings, worked on post-production, reviewed the song promo, and finished a round of promos before going to Thaman’s studio for the background score. I was also responding to fans, journalists, and well-wishers who expressed gratitude for the promo and their best wishes during this period. I accidentally quoted a tweet that I had merely skimmed in that hurry. My staff notified me within a minute and requested that I read the tweet in its entirety. I erased it as soon as I realized my error. “I have great respect

for Superstar Mahesh Babu garu,” he went on. Actually, I’ve always thought that a lot of recordings will be made with Varanasi in his name. There was no attempt to harm him or his fans; this was an inadvertent error. You can even see how much I love and respect him by looking at the tweets I wrote on his birthday. However, I truly apologize from the bottom of my heart if that fleeting moment offended anyone.

It all began when a fan on X tweeted that Ustaad Bhagat Singh ought to break box office records set by films starring Mahesh Babu. In response, Harish Shankar used the Telugu term Thadastu, which roughly translates to “so be it.” He removed the tweet as soon as he realized his error.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh, starring Pawan Kalyan, was postponed from its original March 26 release date. The new release date is March 19. The movie, which has been in production since 2023, is an adaptation of Atlee and Vijay’s 2016 film Theri. Important parts are played by Sreeleela, Raashii Khanna, and others. The background score and soundtrack for the movie



were written by Devi Sri Prasad and Thaman S.

The next film starring Mahesh Babu is Varanasi, which is helmed by SS Rajamouli. The big teaser, which shows Mahesh Babu’s Rudhra riding a bull while brandishing a trishul and covered in blood, was just released by the producers. Prithviraj Sukumaran portrays Kumbha, the antagonist, while Priyanka Chopra plays Mandakini. Oscar-winning MM Keeravani wrote the music for the movie, while V. Vijayendra Prasad wrote the narrative. On April 7, 2027, it will be released in theaters.

Fans of Rashmika Mandanna stand up for her as she faces criticism for her pre-wedding attire

New Delhi: Recently, Rashmika Mandanna, an actress, surprised her fans with a series of dreamy photos from her pre-wedding festivities that showed off the colorful mehendi rituals. A portion of social media users voiced disapproval over the representation of Goddess Lakshmi on her attire, despite the fact that many admirers praised her sophisticated appearance and festive glow.

Rashmika’s supporters quickly defended her as the online controversy gained

momentum, praising her poise and pointing out that the criticism was needless. A portion of social media users criticized Rashmika’s mehendi ceremony clothing as soon as she posted photos of it, with many objecting to the ensemble’s use of a goddess’ image. On Tuesday, Rashmika and Vijay Deverakonda posted pictures from the event. “God and goddess are not for your outfit... one of the worst outfits,” one social media user commented, while another shared, “Wrapping that fabric

on your leg & hips is so disrespectful to the diety.” Rashmika’s admirers, however, were quick to support her, praising the actor and claiming that the ensemble was stylish. One commented, “I didn’t even know Rashmika had such nice taste in fashion but she killed it didn’t expect all looks to be stunning tbh,” while another said, “The Mehendi looks were gorgeous.” I like how it felt so new and contemporary while still traditional. “I AM SO IN LOVE WITH THESE OUTFITS!” was another re-

sponse. How did I kill it? The bride and groom’s mehendi clothes are my favorite of all the celebrities I’ve seen so far because of the splashes of color and the delicate hues worn by the pals. Rashmika darling, I had no idea about your sense of style. “Oh my heart, the way their whole theme is based on Vishnu and Lakshmi,” said one.

“Why? Having Gods and Goddesses embossed on wedding silk sarees is very common in South India,” someone retorted. We even wear

the traditional Ammavari (Diety) sarees, in which the draping begins at the legs. These days, it’s fashionable to make everything contentious. Rashmika wore a gorgeous outfit by Torani for the mehendi ceremony, which included an exquisite Lakshmi odhna, a flowing dhoti skirt, and a bejeweled corset. A statement on the official Instagram account explained the idea behind the ensemble, saying, “In Indian imagination, the arrival of a bride is often compared to the arrival of Devi Laksh-

mi - the goddess of prosperity, grace, and new beginnings.” Her presence is thought to infuse a new home with harmony, prosperity, and serenity. With its jewel tones, temple arches, and glowing gold, Tanjore painting is the creative language of the South. Lakshmi is depicted in these artworks sitting in a hallowed shrine surrounded by prosperous symbols. That served as our source of inspiration. A Lakshmi odhna, a garment that is envisioned as a moving shrine that celebrates color,

dedication, and the exuberance that Torani represents, is worn with a bejeweled corset and a draped dhoti skirt. This was more than just an outfit to me. The piece continued, “It was a portrait of a bride—radiant, rooted, and arriving like Lakshmi herself.” On February 26, 2026, Rashmika and Vijay tied the knot at the opulent ITC Mementos in Udaipur. In a private ceremony attended by close relatives and friends, they exchanged vows. The wedding was special because it combined

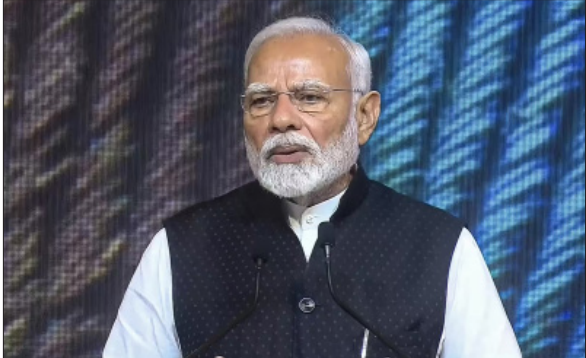
Rashmika’s Kodava (Coorgi) customs with Vijay’s Telugu ceremonies. Vijay and Rashmika’s wedding gowns were designed by Anamika Khanna. On March 4, the Telugu celebrities threw a lavish party for their business associates in Hyderabad. On social media, they are posting pictures from the wedding celebrations. Rashmika and Vijay collaborated on two Telugu movies: the action drama from 2019 and the romantic comedy Geetha Govindam from 2018. Respected Comrade.

Congress is politicizing the Gulf War while the government is protecting trapped Indians: PM

New Delhi, Mar 11: On Wednesday, Narendra Modi accused the Indian National Congress of politicizing a significant international crisis, claiming that the party was making “provocative and irresponsible statements” that would make things worse for Indians living overseas.Speaking at Emakulam, Kerala, the Prime Minister claimed that friendly governments in the region were looking out for Indians and that India’s missions and embassies in Gulf nations were offering citizens round-the-clock help. The Congress’s pursuit of political advantage throughout the crisis, according to Modi, was “a grave misfortune.” In order to keep Indians trapped in the issue and allow political attacks to be launched against him, he claimed that the party was purposefully making statements to increase tensions.”To exacerbate the issue, Congress is purposefully making offensive and careless remarks. In order to keep our people mired in that situation, these individuals can launch a campaign to create videos disparaging Modi,” he stated. In Kerala’s Ernakulam, the PM unveiled a number of development projects that he claimed will increase tourism, foster industrial growth, and make life easier for Keralans.Speaking to the crowd, the Prime Minister stated that growing the petroleum industry is essential to creating an Atmanirbhar Bharat and bolstering the Make in India campaign.

J&K government fires three Jal Shakti employees for to ties to terrorism

Srinagar, Mar 11: Three daily-wage employees in the Jal Shakti department were fired by the Jammu and Kashmir government in the first such instance due to suspected ties to terrorism. The Financial Commissioner of the Jal Shakti Department issued orders to disconnect these laborers, citing a correspondence from the Home Department. In the past, the Lieutenant Governor issued all orders pertaining to the termination of public servants for suspected ties to terrorism.Using Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution, which gives the Lt Governor the authority to fire a government employee if it is required for the state’s security, the Lt Governor has fired over 80 government officials in the past three years. Following that, the National Conference (NC) and the other regional parties denounced such terminations for not adhering to due process. Additionally, the NC had pledged to examine instances in which the Lieutenant Governor had terminated the employment of numerous staff.The three employees have been let go following a comprehensive investigation, according to J&K Minister for Jal Shakti Javid Rana, who also stated that substantial evidence was discovered against the offenders. He claimed that a chargesheet pertaining to terror-related offenses, including the retrieval of weapons, had already been filed against them by the police. ”A home department dossier regarding their involvement has been used to issue orders. A charge sheet has already been filed by the police against the three employees. After conducting thorough diligence, we have issued directives,” Rana.The Jal Shakti department, led by Financial Commissioner Shaleen Kabra, has ordered the immediate disengagement of Liyaqat Ali Bhagwan, a need-based casual laborer in Kishtwar, due to his involvement in anti-national activities. His actions have resulted in a FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), with a chargesheet filed and the case currently under trial. Similarly, Kousar Hussain Bhagwan and Showkat Ahmad Zargar face comparable allegations under the UAPA, including conspiracy and harboring terrorists, and are also undergoing trial.



He mentioned that the same goal was behind the laying of the foundation stone for a polypropylene unit at the Kochi Refinery. Modi went on to say that India is getting recognition from around the world for its significant investments in cutting-edge infrastructure.

He also emphasized the record amount of money set out for infrastructure development in this year’s Union Budget.According to the prime minister, Kerala is one of the states that is greatly benefiting from the Center’s efforts to expand infrastructure.

Amid the Hormuz Blockade, India is sourcing oil from 40 countries using alternate routes

New Delhi, Mar 11: Due to Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz during its conflict with the United States and Israel, India has begun obtaining its crude oil from forty different nations in an effort to increase its energy security. According to the government, almost 60% of India’s crude imports currently come through unconventional routes.

According to reports, the change represents a break from its ten-year reliance on 27 suppliers. At least one-fifth of the world’s natural gas and oil are transported through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping channel that connects the Persian and Gulf of Oman. However, Iranian attacks have essentially prevented ships from passing through there. According to reports, there is currently no chance that supplies will reopen through the Strait of Hormuz anytime soon. However, the percentage of purchase through alternative channels has increased from 55% to 70%.According to sources,

officials regularly communicate with other nations to guarantee a continuous energy supply chain. Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iraq, Israel, South Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela are among the forty countries from which the nation currently imports oil and energy resources. Additionally, Russia, India’s main supplier, is still providing goods to the nation. “Every day last month, 0.04 million barrels were purchased.

It accounted for over 20% of our supply, according to sources. Suresh Gopi, the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, gave the Rajya Sabha an assurance on Monday that the country currently has 74 days of storage capacity

for crude oil and petroleum products. With a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT), the government’s Strategic Petroleum Reserves facilities can serve as a buffer against short-term supply shocks like geopolitical crises. This is intended to cover the need for crude oil for approximately 9.5 days. Additionally, the nation’s Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have capabilities for storing petroleum products and crude oil for 64.5 days,” he had stated in a written response.

US President Donald Trump warned Iran earlier on Tuesday that any attempt to obstruct or interfere with the crucial oil conduit will result in massive American punishment.

In a statement published on Truth Social, Trump declared, “The United States of America will hit Iran TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far if they do anything that stops the flow of oil within the Strait of Hormuz.”

After winning the T20 World Cup, Shivam Dube took the third AC train

New Delhi: After the team’s historic 2026 T20 World Cup victory, Indian all-rounder Shivam Dube took an unusual way home from Ahmedabad. Dube had a problem when every flight from Ahmedabad to Mumbai was completely booked, despite the fact that Indian cricket players usually go by charter aircraft or on specially reserved flights. He made the uncommon decision to purchase seats for the third AC train in order to travel. Dube thought the train was the most practical choice, even if there was a chance that fans may recognize him. In an interview with The Indian Express, he disclosed that he had first attempted to reserve flights for his family and himself, but none were available. Although he had the option of traveling by road, he chose the rails because it was a quicker route.

“I chose to take an early morning train from Ahmedabad to Mumbai as there were no aircraft available. We could have traveled by car, but the rail was faster,” Dube said.Dube was able to obtain third AC tickets with the help of his wife and a friend. But his inner circle was troubled by the choice. “Everyone we talked to, including friends and family, expressed concern. “What if someone recognizes you at the station or on the train?” they asked again. Dube wore a long-sleeved T-shirt, a mask, and a cap

to protect his identity. In the hopes that the platform would be less crowded at that time, he also deliberately decided to depart at 5:10 am. “I told my wife I would wait in the car until five minutes before the train’sa departure, then rush to board,” he said.

In order to handle any possible mayhem in the event that the 32-year-old was discovered, a police officer was also with him. Luckily, the trip was mainly uneventful. “I got out of my bunk to use the restroom during the night, but nobody recognized me. The trip went well, but I was concerned about getting off at Borivli in the middle of the day because I knew I wouldn’t be able to avoid notice there.Dube chose the top seat in the designated coach in an attempt to stay alone.

But when the ticket checker arrived, a little commotion broke out. “Shivam Dube? “Cricketer, woh kaun hai?” Anjum, Dube’s wife, swiftly broke the tension by saying, “No, no.” “Where will he come from, woh kahan se aayega?” The TC proceeded to the subsequent passenger.

Authorities were taken aback by his mode of transportation since they had earlier anticipated that he would arrive at the airport. But his departure from the station went smoothly because he was escorted by police upon arrival.

Gambhir Gambhir explains his support for Sanju Samson in the 2026 T20 World Cup

New Delhi: In the 2026 T20 World Cup, Sanju Samson emerged as a new hero for India. In the three most important games, the wicketkeeper-batter, who wasn’t even in the starting lineup at the beginning of the tournament, put on some of the best performances possible. Samson was voted Player of the Tournament after coming close to scoring hundreds against the West Indies (Super 8), England (semi-final), and New Zealand (final). Gautam Gambhir, the head coach of India, had faith in him, which fueled his growth. Gambhir disclosed that he supported Samson because he thought the batter was capable of far more than he had demonstrated. Gambhir believed his faith had been rewarded when he saw Samson become a game-changer in the last moments of the T20 World Cup.“I supported Sanju Samson throughout because I believed—and continue to believe—that he had a lot to offer the club. As he did in the New Zealand series, players occasionally go through a difficult period, but that’s okay—it’s just a part of the game. After giving him a few games off, I was confident that he would

perform well for us. His talent has long been apparent to me. It is acceptable for a player to go through a lean period after making three T20I hundreds. He has now lived up to my faith in him, and hopefully he can now launch his career once more. That’s what matters to him,” Gambhir stated. Samson blasted 27 fours and 24 sixes while amassing 321 runs in five innings at an average of 80.25 and a strike rate of 199.37. He eclipsed Virat Kohli’s record of 319 runs from the 2014 edition to become the third-highest run scorer in the competition and set a new mark for the most runs scored by an Indian in a single T20 World Cup.As the world’s top T20 batsman Abhishek Sharma, the returning Ishan Kishan, and captain Suryakumar Yadav were considered India’s probable top run-getters and “X-factors,” Samson’s imposing presence and strong strokeplay proved to be crucial. Samson had gone through a difficult period before delivering knockout blows against the West Indies, England, and New Zealand. He lost his position as the main wicketkeeper-batter to Ishan after a dismal series against New Zea-



land in which he scored just 46 runs in five games.Samson made significant cameos against Namibia (group stage) and Zimbabwe (Super 8s) in his first tournament appearances, but he was unable to turn his starts into significant scores.

He did, however, save his best for the very end, creating one of the best T20 World Cup campaigns ever in terms of both statistics and the situations in which his runs were scored. Samson single-handedly revitalized the team just when India was struggling to survive following a 76-run defeat to South Africa.

The ICC speaks out about South Africa and the West Indies’ postponed withdrawals from the 2026 T20 World Cup

New Delhi: In a statement, the International Cricket Council (ICC) acknowledged the frustration of players, coaches, support personnel, and families who are still stuck after the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026. The governing body affirmed that persistent interruptions throughout the Gulf region had negatively affected international air traffic, postponing teams’ safe return to their home nations. The ICC claims that the crisis has resulted in last-minute cancellations of both commercial and charter flights, airspace closures, missile threats, and restrictions on rerouting. The ICC emphasized that these circumstances are completely beyond its control and have made travel plans “significantly more complex and time-consuming” than they typically are. We are aware of how eager players, coaches, support personnel, and their

families are to get back home after their ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026 campaigns. The International Cricket Council (ICC) is really frustrated that they haven’t been able to accomplish this yet. The Gulf region’s ongoing crisis, which has resulted in extensive and ongoing disruptions to international air travel, including airspace closures, missile warnings, rerouting restrictions, and the abrupt cancellation and rescheduling of both commercial and charter flights, is directly responsible for the delay. Due to these circumstances, which are completely beyond the ICC’s control, every travel solution is now far more difficult and time-consuming than it would normally be. In order to ensure safe return travel for all impacted groups as soon as possible, the ICC has been in constant contact with airlines, charter operators, airport authorities,

ground handlers, and government stakeholders across several jurisdictions.

That work is still in progress.According to current plans, the South African contingent will start leaving for South Africa tonight, and it is anticipated that every member will have left within the next 36 hours. Nine members of the West Indies contingent have already left for the Caribbean, and the remaining sixteen are scheduled to depart India within the next twenty-four hours. As soon as verified arrangements are made, we will advise you on any additional departures. The ICC denies that factors other than safety, practicality, and welfare have influenced these judgments. Conversely, suggestions made by uneducated individuals on a range of media channels are not only inaccurate but also ineffective.There is no connection between the arrangements

established for South Africa and the West Indies and those previously made for England or any other country, which resulted from distinct situations, different travel conditions, and different routing alternatives.

The safety and well-being of all those impacted, particularly players traveling with spouses and small children, has been the ICC’s top priority during this time. Until we are certain that the current travel solution is safe, we won’t relocate individuals, and this pledge won’t alter.We express our gratitude to all of the players, management, boards, and partners for their unwavering cooperation and patience throughout this incredibly trying time.

As conditions continue to change, our teams are working nonstop and staying in close communication with team supervisors. As the situation changes, we will keep you informed.

Amid the LPG issue, Arvind Kejriwal attacks PM Modi, calling him a “slave of Trump.”

New Delhi, Mar 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sharply criticized by Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday for the “heavy LPG shortage” that is plaguing the nation. He accused the administration of forsaking India’s long-standing foreign policy of neutrality and questioned the country’s stance on the ongoing hostilities between Iran and Israel.”There is a chance that almost 1 crore people would be unemployed because of the power shortage situation emerging,” the former chief minister of Delhi stated. ”The nation is severely lacking in LPG. This is due to the fact that 90% of India’s LPG imports come from the Strait of Hormuz, which is causing shortages in hotels



and restaurants. According to Delhi NCR and Bihar, 50% of hotels are about to close in the next two days, according to Kejriwal, who was quoted by PTI.Kejriwal asserted that India’s foreign policy has always been based on the Non-Aligned Movement’s tenets, but he argued that by supporting the US and Israel,

argued that because Iran controls important oil channels through the Strait of Hormuz, India has separated itself from its “old friend” Iran and is now incurring economic repercussions.Kejriwal further said that Modi was behaving like a “slave of Donald Trump and the US” and that India was suffering as a result of the government’s foreign policy choices. He went on to say that although he was embarrassed to use such language for the prime minister, the circumstances forced him to speak up. Additionally, he asserted that the government’s position had diminished India’s status internationally and that US officials were “ridiculing” the nation.

The Supreme Court has permitted passive euthanasia of a man in a coma for more than ten years

New Delhi, Mar 11: The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday approved passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man who had been in a chronic vegetative condition for more than ten years in a first-of-its-kind court ruling, establishing protections and procedural rules to govern similar choices going forward.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan found in separate but concurring opinions that withdrawing life-sustaining support in a palliative care environment would be in the patient’s best interest and dignity. The court

granted the parents of Harish Rana’s request to withdraw clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) under close medical supervision and ordered that the procedure take place in the palliative care unit of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. The judges made it clear that CANH cannot be regarded as a type of regular care by reading parts of the ruling aloud in court. “CANH is a technologically induced medical intervention that is prescribed and overseen by qualified healthcare experts, even when administered at home. It cannot be

considered a basic tool for primary care.

Consequently, the court stated that the primary and secondary medical boards are free to make an informed choice on the withdrawal of such medical support.It emphasized that the guiding concept in these situations is whether medical assistance should continue to prolong life in situations where recovery is medically impossible, rather than whether the patient should die.”We have held that, in accordance with the best interest principle, the proper question would be whether

life should be prolonged under the current circumstances and medical interventions, rather than whether he should die.”The court observed that the medical boards appointed to assess the patient’s condition, along with the patient’s parents and next of kin, unanimously determined that withdrawal would be in his best interest and that continuing CANH and medical treatment would be pointless. The bench stated, “Normally, this court would not need to intervene after the medical boards’ opinion, but since this is the first such case, the court has decided to delve further

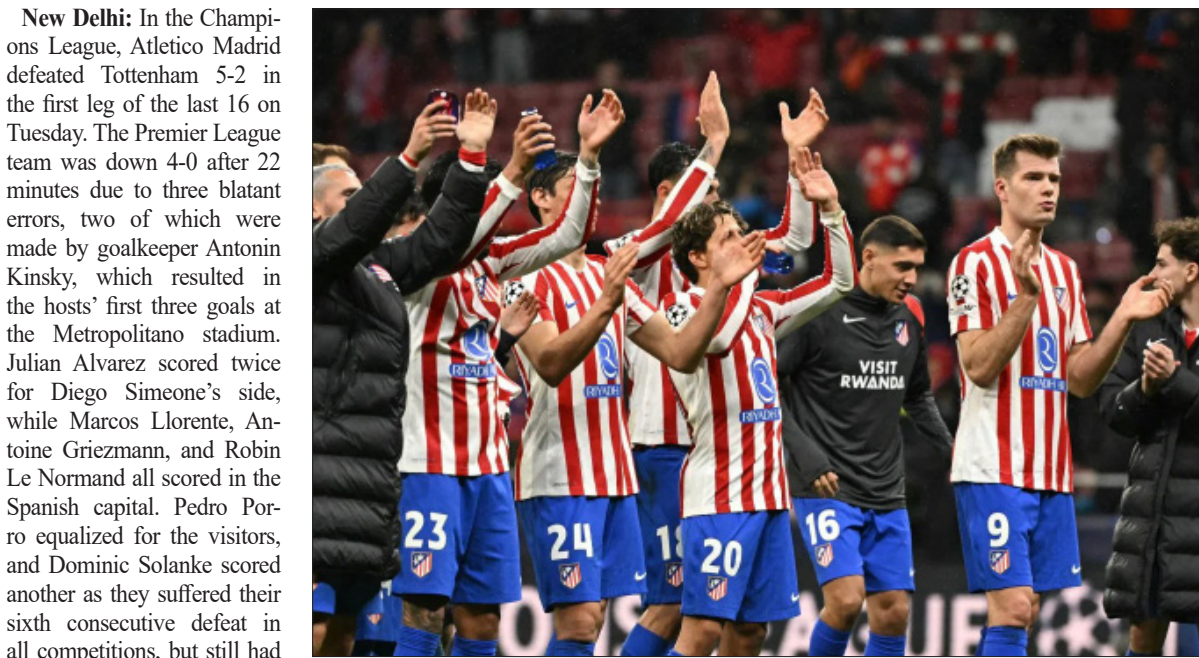
into the issue.”The court emphasized that stopping life-sustaining care should not be interpreted as the patient’s abandonment. “The withdrawal must be executed with compassion and consideration.

A patient cannot be abandoned; instead, it must be carried out in a methodical way that minimizes suffering and guarantees dignity. The court emphasized that end-of-life care can be executed outside hospital settings, including at home. This ruling was prompted by the case of Rana, a Ghaziabad resident who has been unresponsive since a 2013 accident, now

dependent on feeding tubes and receiving round-the-clock care without any neurological improvement for over a decade. His parents sought permission from the Supreme Court to withdraw life-sustaining treatment, arguing it served no therapeutic purpose.

Following medical evaluations, including a report from AIIMS indicating an irreversible condition, the court allowed the withdrawal of care while implementing procedural safeguards for future passive euthanasia cases, instructing medical officers to create expert panels for similar applications.

Atletico Madrid capitalises on Tottenham Hotspur’s Champions League nightmare



New Delhi: In the Champions League, Atletico Madrid defeated Tottenham 5-2 in the first leg of the last 16 on Tuesday. The Premier League team was down 4-0 after 22 minutes due to three blatant errors, two of which were made by goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky, which resulted in the hosts’ first three goals at the Metropolitano stadium. Julian Alvarez scored twice for Diego Simeone’s side, while Marcos Llorente, Antoine Griezmann, and Robin Le Normand all scored in the Spanish capital. Pedro Porro equalized for the visitors, and Dominic Solanke scored another as they suffered their sixth consecutive defeat in all competitions, but still had a glimmer of hope for the second leg. “Unfortunately, it happened in this big game, these mistakes. So we paid for this start of the game, it was too much for us,” said interim Spurs coach Igor Tudor. Tudor had said he was approaching the game as a chance to try and come up with solutions to the team’s many problems, with the club’s main focus on avoiding relegation from

the Premier League. The Croatian selected 22-year-old Czech goalkeeper Kinsky over Guglielmo Vicario, for his first appearance since last October, with the north London side having conceded two goals in each of the nine prior Premier League matches. The decision could not have backfired quicker, with Kinsky slipping as he tried to pass the ball out from the back,

giving it straight to Ademola Lookman. The Nigeria winger found Alvarez who squared for Llorente to stroke home after just six minutes – four minutes longer than it took them to concede against Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final at the same stadium. In what fast became a comedy of errors for those watching on, including former Tottenham coach Mauri-

cio Pochettino, Spurs then conceded two goals in two minutes to fall three behind. Micky van de Ven fell over, allowing Griezmann to run through on goal and net Atletico’s second, before Kinsky committed another grievous mistake. The goalkeeper, making his debut in the competition, miskicked a pass and the ball fell for Alvarez to run it into an empty net.

Aryna Sabalenka Advances Past Naomi Osaka To Indian Wells Quarterfinals

California: World number one Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the quarterfinals of Indian Wells on Tuesday, defeating previous champion Naomi Osaka 6-2, 6-4 in a Grand Slam showdown. Sabalenka cruised to another straight-set victory, with 31 wins and eight aces. “Overall, I’m pleased that I put so much pressure on her and that I provided variety on the court today,” said Sabalenka, who combined her powerful groundstrokes with smart excursions to the net. “I think she was a little confused in the key moments, and I’m happy to see that,” she remarked. “I’m happy that my serve worked well, on the return I played really great tennis.”

Sabalenka wrapped up the first set with two breaks of serve before Osaka began to find her rhythm. But the Japanese star was unable to crack the serve of Sabalenka, who saved both break points she faced in the second set and grabbed a break for 4-3 with a pair of forehand winners. It was just the second meeting between the two, both four-time Grand Slam champions. Osaka won the first back in 2018 on the way to her first major title at the US Open. “That’s actually crazy,” Sabalenka said of the fact they haven’t met more often. But she predicted there were more clashes in their future as Osaka, now ranked 16th, regains her momentum on the WTA Tour after taking off all of 2023 and having daughter, Shai, in July of that year. Sabalenka, who finished second at In-



dian Wells in 2023 and 2025, will face either sixth-seeded American Amanda Anisimova or tenth-seeded Canadian youngster Victoria Mboko in her bid for her maiden championship in the renowned ATP and WTA Masters 1000 tournament. Australian qualifier Talia Gibson’s remarkable run in the California desert continued with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 triumph against seventh-ranked Italian Jasmine Paolini.

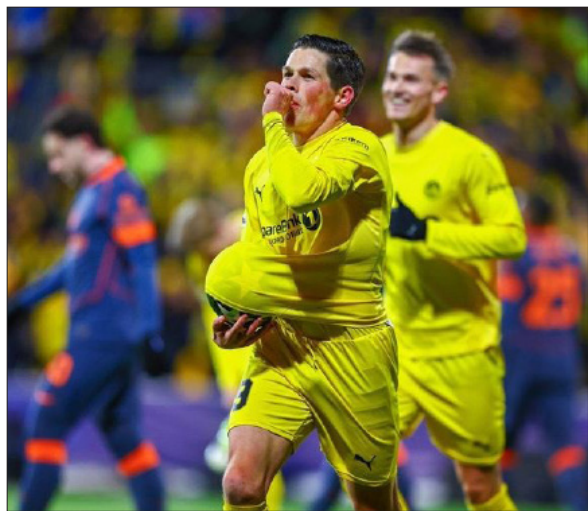
The 21-year-old’s maiden victory over a top-10 player catapulted her into her first WTA quarterfinal,

where she will face either Czech Linda Noskova or Filipino Alexandra Eala. Gibson, ranked 112th, won the first set with a late break, finishing with her 18th win of the first session. Paolini sped to a 3-0 lead in the second as Gibson’s errors mounted and it looked as if the experienced Italian, a two-time Grand Slam finalist, had seized control. But Gibson unleashed another barrage of winners in the third, including a stinging forehand service return on match point. “Honestly, just completely speechless,” said Gibson, who beat top-20 players

Ekaterina Alexandrova and Clara Tauson on the way to the fourth round. Gibson came into 2026 with just two WTA main-draw wins and had to save two match points in a qualifying victory just to give herself a chance to bag a few more at Indian Wells.

“I know that with my aggressive game, often I am able to create a lot of opportunities for myself in points,” she said. “But that being said, I think I have surprised myself a little bit with how well I have been able to play for quite a few matches in a row.”

The Team From A Norwegian Fishing Town Delivers A Champions League Fairytale



Bodo: Many of Europe’s super-rich aristocracy are represented in the Champions League’s round of 16 this week, including Real Madrid, Liverpool, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester

City, and others. And then there is Bodo/Glimt. This modest and unpretentious club from a fishing town of around 55,000 inhabitants in northern Norway should not be mixing with Europe’s strongest clubs. They are —

and not only that, they are outperforming them all. Check out this four-win streak that has gotten Bodo/Glimt to the knockout stage of Europe’s top club competition:

3-1 at home to Man City, 2-1 away to Atletico Madrid, and then home-and-away victories over Inter Milan — last season’s runner-up — in the playoffs that took place during Norwegian soccer’s off-season.

Next up is Portuguese champion Sporting Lisbon in the first leg of the last 16 on Wednesday. Here’s what to know about the tiny club delivering the feelgood story of this or any Champions League campaign: Bodo is located above the Arctic Circle, more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) north of the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

New Delhi: Jasprit Bumrah, India’s pace spearhead, is expected to play more 50-over games rather than T20I bilateral series over the next 18 months to keep his preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup on track. T20Is will be a low priority between October and November 2027, despite a busy program of bilateral series and the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where Suryakumar Yadav is anticipated to captain the team. Bumrah, like many older Indian players, is eager to compete in the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, which will be hosted in the T20 format, but ODIs will be his preferred white ball format until the 2027 World Cup. India’s ODI World Cup preparation will

“No Need To Say Sorry” Gautam Gambhir’s Brutal Take On Arshdeep Singh-Daryl Mitchell Row

New Delhi: Days after winning the T20 World Cup 2026, India bowler Arshdeep Singh was punished by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for violating the Code of Conduct during the final match in Ahmedabad. Despite India’s overwhelming performance versus New Zealand, a dispute erupted after Arshdeep’s throw struck New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell on the body. The clearly agitated hitter exchanged words with Arshdeep before the on-field umpires and captain Suryakumar Yadav stepped in and quickly resolved the matter. After the match, Arshdeep apologised to Mitchell and offered a clarification for his actions. However, the incident had already been noted, and he was found guilty of breaching the ICC Code of Conduct, resulting in a fine of 15 per cent of his match fee. In a recent interaction with ANI, head coach Gautam Gambhir came out in support of Arshdeep, stating that showing aggression is natural when representing one’s country. “You are representing your country and you are bound to show aggression. There’s nothing wrong with it. Even if you throw the ball back, that’s completely alright. No bowler in this world wants to be hit for two sixes, and that is the kind of response I want to see from my players. I would have been fine even if Arshdeep had not apologised to Daryl Mitchell,” Gambhir said on



the ANI Podcast. “There was no need to say sorry. It’s good on him that he apologised, but on a cricket field, there are no friends and no enemies. Your job is simply to win games for your country,” he added. Arshdeep was found guilty of breaching Article 2.9 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. This article concerns “throwing a ball (or any other cricket equipment)

at or near a player in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during an International Match.” Arshdeep had addressed the incident, clarifying that he had immediately apologised to Mitchell. “I went to say sorry to Mitchell. My throw reverse-swung a bit too much and it hit his body, so I told him that I didn’t hit him intentionally,” said Arshdeep during the post-match presentation.

Antonin Kinsky, a substitute goalkeeper for Tottenham Hotspur, after two major mistakes in 17 minutes



Madrid: After just 17 minutes of the Champions League last 16 first leg match against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, Tottenham goalie Antonin Kinsky was replaced after making two mistakes that resulted in goals.

Diego Simeone’s team defeated Spurs 3-0 at the Metropolitano stadium in

just 15 minutes, with all three goals coming from errors. After five straight Premier League losses, Tottenham coach Igor Tudor chose Kinsky, a 22-year-old Czech goalkeeper who hadn’t played since October, over Guglielmo Vicario. But in the sixth minute, Kinsky stumbled and let Marcos Llorente score the

first goal. After Micky van de Ven fell over allowing Antoine Griezmann to score the second, Kinsky erred again. The goalkeeper bungled a pass and Julian Alvarez was able to walk the ball into the net. Tudor sent on Vicario to replace Kinsky, who was applauded off by Atletico’s jubilant fans.

Novak Djokovic edges off Aleksandar Kovacevic to reach Indian Wells’ last 16

Novak Djokovic defeated 72nd-ranked American Aleksandar Kovacevic 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 on Monday, reaching the fourth round in Indian Wells for the first time since 2017. Djokovic, in his first competition since losing to Carlos Alcaraz in the Australian Open final, had his work cut out for him against the 27-year-old New Yorker, who hit 16 aces against the Serb superstar. Djokovic made an early break stand to win the opening set, but Kovacevic regained his flow and cruised through the second against an obviously irritated Djokovic. Djokovic regained his composure in the third game and secured a crucial break in the final. “I knew going into the match that if he serves well and picks his spot in the box, it’s going to be difficult to break him,” Djokovic said. “I wasn’t feeling

my rhythm on the return today, but he was making it difficult by returning the serve.” He easily outperformed me and received several free points. Until the last few points, this game might have gone either way. That last game in the third, where he missed several first serves, provided me with opportunities in the second, which I took advantage of. That’s pretty much it. With five Indian Wells victories, Djokovic is ties with Swiss legend Roger Federer. But the Serbian superstar hasn’t advanced to the quarter-finals in the California desert since his 2016 title run, and he’s had to battle through two three-setters to reach the last 16. He will meet reigning champion Jack Draper in the quarter-finals, after the Brit defeated Argentina’s Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 7-5.

“Can’t Take Chances” Report Reveals Major BCCI View on Jasprit Bumrah’s Future



start in earnest after a gruelling two months of Indian Premier League where Bumrah is set to headline the Mumbai Indi-

ans pace attack. By the end of the IPL, it is expected that the national selection committee, the Centre of Excellence led

by VVS Laxman, and team management represented by Gautam Gambhir and Shubman Gill will have developed

a blueprint for the next phase, with Bumrah’s workload management being the most important aspect. It is known that the World Test Championships (WTC) matches are non-negotiable for the 32-year-old icon, and that his workload management would be similar to the 2023-2026 period, when he did not play a single ODI. Since November 19, 2023, when the last ODI World Cup final was held against Australia, Bumrah played 42 games, which included 21 Test matches and an equal number of T20Is. “Obviously Bumrah’s fitness is as always key to any of India’s global campaign and hence the Indian team management will have to be very careful and prioritise the formats.