

In Brief

Man found dead under mysterious circumstances

Guwahati: A man named Siddhanta Das from Sonapur was found dead under suspicious circumstances at Rudraksh Mall in Guwahati, just a month after his marriage. He was discovered critically injured after falling from the seventh to the fourth floor and later died at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital on April 11. Family and residents are in shock, and while there are suspicions of foul play, the police investigation is ongoing, exploring possibilities of an accident, suicide, or homicide.

Tronglaobi bomb attack probe underway

Imphal: The investigation into the bomb attack at Tronglaobi, Manipur, is ongoing, with State Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam confirming search operations and active leads being pursued. The attack, which occurred on April 7, resulted in the deaths of two children and left their mother injured. In response to public outcry, the government is considering a phased shift from central to state forces in peripheral areas, acknowledging the challenges due to manpower constraints. Protests have erupted demanding the removal of central forces, highlighting concerns about local security and accountability as the situation remains tense.

Meghalaya to fund UPSC aspirants

Shillong: Nagaland concluded its participation in the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 with three medals: one gold, one silver, and one bronze, showcasing strong athletic performance. Wede T Mero won gold in the men's 10,000 metres, demonstrating endurance and strategy. Rüduolhounuo Rachel Belho secured silver in the women's 100 metres with a fast and consistent run, while Tsuchoi T earned bronze in the women's 5,000 metres after a competitive race.

Rise in tourist footfall

Aizawl: Mizoram's tourism minister, Lalnghinglova Hmar, met with Central Young Mizo Association leaders on April 10 to address tourism management as visitor numbers rise. Hmar highlighted the economic benefits of increased tourism, attributing it to enhanced railway connectivity, while stressing the importance of protecting local culture and community integrity. The government is consulting with religious and civil society groups to ensure responsible tourism practices. CYMA president R Lalngheta supported the need for clear visitor guidelines and increased awareness initiatives. Discussions included awareness campaigns, tourist information dissemination, tour guide training, and regulation of accommodations and permits to improve the overall visitor experience.

Under IEVP 2026, an international delegation travels to the Kamrup district



Rangia, Apr 12: An international delegation from five countries visited Kamrup district on Thursday as part of the International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2026, which is being conducted in parallel with the Assam Assembly general election. Erick Jean-Marie Zinsou and Freud Ulrich Klissou of Benin, MMSK Bandaramapa and GRA Kumara Gamlath of Sri Lanka, Mohsen Dardir Ali Omar of Egypt, Arturo Castillo Loza, Unc-kib Espadas Ancona, and Branimir Farkas of Mexico, international representatives representing Croatia and Election Commission of India officials were part of the team. The delegation observed various aspects of the election process and visited various polling stations in Hajo-Shualkuchi and Kamalpur assembly constituencies in Kamrup district. The main purpose of the delegation's visit to the district was to observe the preparations and efforts made to hold free, fair, and inclusive elections in the district.

Manipur CM meets the family of a killed youngster while visiting the Imphal East relief camp

Imphal, Apr 12: Yumnam Khemchand, the chief minister of Manipur, visited a relief camp in the Imphal East district and spoke with the relatives of a seven-year-old internally displaced girl who had recently been raped and killed in a horrific crime that has caused great indignation throughout the state. The Chief Minister spoke with the grieving family and other internally displaced people (IDPs) residing in the camp during his visit. He offered his sympathies and promised to do everything in his power to bring the victim justice. Additionally, the state government has given the deceased's family an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh. The Chief Minister stated that the welfare of the internally displaced people (IDPs) continues to be a key priority in a Facebook post after the visit. He said that after personally hearing their complaints and worries, he has instructed concerned officials to take the appropriate action right now to resolve their problems. The government's efforts, he continued, will be concentrated on easing burdens, lowering stress levels, and guaranteeing prompt and significant rehabilitation and resettlement. The CM wrote in the post, "We remain committed to standing by every affected family and working tirelessly towards restoring dignity, stability, and hope in their lives." The minor



girl, originally from Moreh, had been missing since April 4 and was found dead the following day under the Singjamei Bridge in Imphal West. The incident has intensified concerns over the safety of displaced communities living in relief camps. District Commissioner of Imphal

East, L. Nivedita, said that the government is making every possible effort to ensure justice for the victim's family. She added that the accused has already been remanded in custody. During the interaction at the relief camp, several displaced residents urged the Chief Minister for early resettlement in their native

villages and demanded deployment of an IRB battalion in Moreh for improved security. Responding to their concerns, the Chief Minister assured efforts to facilitate their return while urging communities to rebuild mutual trust and restore harmony among groups that had previously coexisted peacefully. Meanwhile, the Court

of Special Judge under the POCSO Act in Imphal East remanded the accused, Laishram Langamba (28), son of Bira from Ward No. 9, Moreh, currently residing at Akampat relief camp, to judicial custody. He was produced before the court on April 10 under tight security by Imphal East police.

Voters in Assam are urged by Arunachal CM to cast their ballots with confidence

Itanagar, Apr 12: Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, urged Assamese citizens to actively participate in the current Assembly elections, stressing that each vote has the ability to influence the state's destiny and bolster democracy. Khandu urged people to enthusiastically utilize their right to vote, especially women and young people, and urged them to confidently participate in the political process. "As voting begins across Assam, I warmly call upon every citizen to step forward and take part in this important democratic exercise," the Chief Minister wrote in a post on X. Every vote



has the ability to influence the state's future. His appeal comes as polling is underway across Assam's 126 Assembly constituencies, with voters turning out to elect their representatives. Authorities have put extensive arrangements in place to ensure

free, fair, and peaceful elections. Khandu's message underscores the importance of civic participation and reflects the broader commitment of leaders from the Northeast to uphold democratic values and encourage voter engagement.

24 CAPF companies are deployed as the TTAADC electoral campaign draws to a close

Agartala, Apr 12: The campaigning for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections is set to conclude today, with significant security measures in place, including the deployment of 24 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for polling on April 12. The elections will have a four-cornered contest featuring major parties such as BJP, CPI(M), Congress, and Tipra Motha. The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) is also participating. Authorities have ensured detailed security arrangements, with personnel categorically assigned to polling stations



according to vulnerability. The Director General of Police announced that, despite initial personnel shortages, the timely arrival of CAPF personnel will help maintain order during the elections, aiming for free and fair polling across the region.

GNRC will host Spring CME 2026 in Guwahati, with a focus on clinical neurophysiology advancements



Guwahati, Apr 12: Leading neurologists, neurosurgeons, and medical professionals from over the Northeast came together for an intense intellectual exchange at GNRC Hospitals' Spring CME 2026 — Clinical Neurophysiology Update, which was successfully organized at the NEDFi Convention Centre on Friday evening. Under the auspices of GNRC Hospitals, the Department of Neuroscience at GNRC Medical, North Guwahati, organized the event, which took place from 6 to 9 p.m. The incident demonstrated the increasing significance of clinical neurophysiology in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions. As the Chief Patron, GNRC's founder, Nomal Chandra Borah, emphasized the organization's longstanding dedication to neurological care in the area. Recalling the opening of GNRC's first EEG facility more than 40 years ago, he described it as a fundamental step in increasing Northeast India's access to cutting-edge neurological diagnostics. Manoj Kumar Choudhury, who served as the event's chief guest, emphasized the need of ongoing medical education in raising the state's standards for healthcare service. The program's two main academic sessions were its highlights. Jayantee Kalita from Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences delivered a detailed session on the clinical application of neurophysiological tests such as EEG, NCV, EMG and evoked potential studies, providing a framework for evidence-based diagnosis.

This was followed by a session from Manjari Tripathi of All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi, who spoke on the role of EEG in epilepsy management, including advanced techniques like Stereo EEG and MEG. Her address offered insights into evolving diagnostic approaches in epilepsy care. The organising committee was led by Navanil Barua as President, with Mausumi Barthakur and Amit Ranjan Barua serving as Organising Secretaries. They were credited with conceptualising and executing the programme, bringing national-level expertise to Guwahati. Addressing the media, Dr Borah said the initiative reflects GNRC's continued commitment to advancing neurological sciences in the region by facilitating interaction between local clinicians and top experts from across the country. Organising Secretary Dr Barthakur noted that the CME aimed to bridge knowledge gaps in the use of neurophysiological investigations, ensuring that clinicians in the Northeast have access to the same level of academic updates as those in metropolitan centres. The announcement has been welcomed by the medical community, with many expressing enthusiasm about the focus on neurophysiology. As neurological disorders such as epilepsy, stroke, and neuropathies continue to pose major health challenges, advancements in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques are seen as critical. The CME is expected to provide valuable insights into how these innovations can be applied in everyday patient care.

Forty deserving SSLC students are congratulated by the chief minister of Meghalaya

Shillong, Apr 12: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma recognized 40 deserving kids from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts who performed exceptionally well on the SSLC (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) exam as part of a major effort to encourage academic performance. Under the Chief Minister's Special Grant, the pupils received monetary awards. The Chief Minister highlighted the government's dedication to identifying talent and fostering the ambitions of young students, characterizing the program as a first-of-its-kind endeavor.

In order to continuously promote academic success throughout the state, he declared that the felicitation would become an annual custom. During the ceremony,



the Chief Minister interacted with the students and listened to their heartfelt testimonials, which he said were deeply inspiring. He expressed confidence that the youth of Meghalaya hold immense potential and are well-equipped to shape the state's future.

"Celebrating excellence and supporting the dreams of our stu-

dents remains a priority for the government. Meghalaya's future is in capable hands," the Chief Minister said, encouraging the students to continue working hard, dream big, and excel in their chosen paths. Reaffirming the state government's commitment to education, he assured continued support for students in their academic journeys and overall development.

The Tripura Congress refers to the district council election as a "mockery"

Agartala, Apr 12: The Tripura Pradesh Congress protested on April 9 against what they termed a "disgraceful conspiracy" regarding the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council Election. Led by spokesperson Prabir Chakraborty, they accused the state government of being out of touch with the populace and expressed concerns over internal strife among ruling leaders. Chakraborty criticized the Election Commission for allegedly being manipulated by the central government, particularly concerning the electronic voting machines (EVMs) imported from Mad-

hya Pradesh. He raised suspicions about the number of EVMs provided for the elections and alleged a minister's warning that votes for other parties might benefit the BJP. The Congress delegation met with the Election Commission secretary, demanding VVPAT-enabled EVMs and CCTV installation at polling stations, while the secretary assured that EVMs were tested under party supervision. The Election Commission has yet to issue a detailed response to the Congress's claims. Sources indicate that reports from polling officials are being reviewed, and further action may be



considered if evidence of malpractice is substantiated.

Tezpur University’s Silver Jubilee celebrations include a one-day photography workshop

Tezpur, Apr 12: As part of the department’s continuing Silver Jubilee celebrations, Tezpur University’s Photography Club held a photography workshop called “Within the Frame” in partnership with the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism. Students, instructors, and photography aficionados from all throughout the institution enthusiastically participated in the session. Dr. Amarendra Kumar Das, a pro-vice chancellor, highlighted the increasing importance of photography as an effective communication tool in academic and professional settings. He pointed out that these kinds of workshops enhance students’ applied learning and creative



engagement. In his welcome speech, Dr. Manoj Deori, head of the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, emphasized the value of creative thinking and visual storytelling in media education. He emphasized that these kinds of cooperative projects give students invaluable real-world experience. Travel documentary and landscape

photographer Arpan Kalita led the technical workshop, which involved participants in a participatory conversation about the principles and changing techniques of photography. He emphasized that photography is much more than just following the rules; it’s about knowing their purpose and using them in a creative way. “Style is not something you plan; it is something you discover through repetition,” he said. The programme was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Amarendra Kumar Das as Chief Guest, along with Registrar-in-Charge Prof Chandan Goswami, Dean of Students’ Welfare Prof Manvendra Mandal, and other university officials.

1,500 households will be powered by the revived Sessa project: Chowna Mein

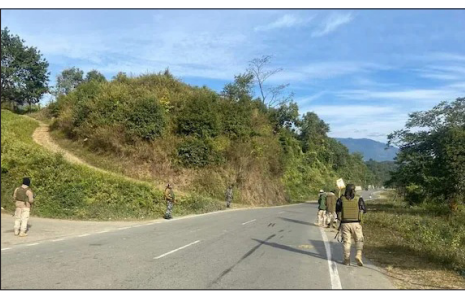
Itanagar, Apr 12: The refurbished and updated Sessa small hydel plant in West Kameng district would supply dependable electricity to over 1,500 homes and greatly improve energy security in the area, according to Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Wednesday. The deputy chief minister and Thrizino-Buragaon MLA Tenzing Nyima Glow made the statements following the opening of the 3x500 kW hydel station’s restoration and modernization at Sessa.”Together with HMLA Thrizino-Buragaon, Shri Tenzing Nyima Glow, I inaugurated the renovation and modernization of the Sessa Mini Hydel Station (3x500 kW) at Sessa in West Kameng district today,” Mein



wrote in a post on X following the event. Highlighting the significance of the project, Mein, who also holds the power portfolio, said that the hydel station, which was originally commissioned in 1992, had remained non-operational for several years due to ageing infrastructure but has now been successfully revived with modern technology.”Originally commissioned in 1992 and non-operational for several years due to ageing infrastructure, the project has now been successfully revived with modern electromechanical systems and upgraded civil works,” he said.

Kuki CSOs call for moderation and explain the Manipur Hills highway scenario

Imphal, Apr 12 : Ahead of a significant gathering of Tangkhul civil society organizations, the Security Department of the Kuki CSO Working Committee (WCKCSOs) has released a public advisory advocating moderation and collaboration from all sectors. The committee announced that owing to urgency, the meeting that was originally planned for April 11 has been moved to April 9. Because of this, Kuki community members—especially village volunteers—have been urged to refrain from doing any acts that would impede the mobility of representatives attending the conference. As a start toward reestablishing normalcy in the area, the advisory emphasized the significance of upholding peace and facilitating the gathering’s seamless operation. Concerns about reports of a protracted roadblock along National Highway-202 were also discussed by the committee. Although it acknowledged a minor inconvenience between March 12 and 19 due to incidents that increased tensions, it declared that there has been no organized or prolonged blockage. The CSOs highlighted the current state of af-



fairs in several of the hill areas, pointing out that movement has been hampered by safety concerns along specific sections, highlighting the necessity of guaranteeing civilian protection. It emphasized that in order to stop further escalation, collaboration on the ground and the ongoing presence of security personnel are crucial. The WCKCSOs called for a balanced and inclusive approach to the situation, stating that dialogue and mutual understanding among communities are essential for lasting peace. It reiterated its commitment to constructive engagement and urged all stakeholders to work towards restoring stability in the region.

Examining unlawful coal mining hotspots in Meghalaya’s mining belt is retired High Court Judge BR Katakya

Shillong, Apr 12: On Wednesday, April 8, retired High Court judge B.R. Katakya carried out a thorough investigation throughout the coal-mining areas of West Khasi Hills and Garo Hills, examining enforcement strategies intended to reduce illicit coal mining and transportation in Meghalaya. The visit’s main objective was to evaluate the coal loading systems, transport checkpoints, and Smart Coal Gates’ operational effectiveness, with a focus on making sure that regulatory procedures were strictly followed. The examination was a component of continuous initiatives to improve oversight and break up the state’s illicit mining networks. Katakya visited several important sites, such as Hatiabari in the West Khasi Hills, where he conducted an on-site evaluation of mining-related operations. In order to improve monitoring systems and close enforcement gaps, he also made specific recommendations to Directorate of Mineral Resources (DMR) authorities.



Katakya examined the operation of transport checkpoints and Smart Coal Gates at Sarangma in the North Garo Hills to assess how well they tracked the transit of coal. He also went to Mendipathar Railway Station, a significant coal loading location, where he looked at operational protocols and adherence to transportation standards. Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commis-

sioners from coal-mining districts around the Garo Hills region attended a thorough assessment meeting at the North Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner’s office. The meeting focused on coordinated strategies to curb illegal mining and transportation activities, with officials deliberating on strengthening surveillance and enforcement mechanisms. The visit concluded with a high-level coordination meeting involving district administrations from Baghmara, Williamnagar, and North Garo Hills. The discussions underscored the need for inter-district coordination and stricter enforcement measures to address persistent violations. Katakya stated that firm action would be taken to prevent unlawful coal-related activities and emphasized the importance of sustained monitoring to ensure compliance. The directives issued during the visit signal a renewed push by authorities to tighten regulatory control over coal mining and transportation in Meghalaya.

Pradyot Manikya believes that Tipra Motha’s win in the district council elections will lead to an indigenous chief minister in 2028



Agartala, Apr 12: Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, founder of the Royal Scion and Tipra Motha Party, stated on Wednesday, April 8, that the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) election this year is crucial. In the 2028 Assembly election, he said, Tipra Motha’s victory might open the door for an indigenous chief minister. at the Khowai District, Pradyot spoke at two sizable electoral rallies at Champahour and Ramchandraghat. He said that the indigenous people have to choose between voting for their own community or Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha. “We have our own poor indigenous people and the strength of community on one side, while the BJP has party structure and financial power on the other. Tiprasa will vote for the community rather than the BJP for financial gain. The age of royalty has come to an end, and democracy now rules. So why haven’t elections been held for the Village Council? Does democracy imply this? Pradyot stated, “They have published their poll manifesto in Roman, but they said they will not grant the Roman script for Kokborok.” On April 12, the youth and community will unite to provide the correct

response, according to Pradyot, who highlighted that he depends on the strength of impoverished indigenous people. “If I had the power to control, we could have shown Bangladesh that we are the rightful owners. If we have power, we could assure our people that this is your land and there is nothing to fear. On April 17, you should raise your voice for the next generation. In every election, one party wins and one loses. But this election, I am not fighting for a party; I am contesting to protect the TTAADC. In 2028, I aim to occupy Agartala and make a Chief Minister from the tribal community. This is possible if we have ‘thansa’. Tiprasa should not fight among themselves. There are people trying to break the party,” he added. He also warned some of his party workers who joined BJP or are in contact with BJP, saying that after the election, BJP will throw them out and will not give them any money. “BJP will betray you. So stay with the community. I do not want BJP’s money or positions; I want land rights, education, direct funding, and other benefits for my Tiprasa people. If we win, we will have a good chance to make the Chief Minister from the Tiprasa community in 2028,” he concluded.

Mizoram Governor leads joint celebration of four states’ foundation days in Aizawl

Aizawl, Apr 12: Mizoram Governor Vijay Kumar Singh led a combined celebration of the foundation days of Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan in Aizawl. The programme was organised under the Centre’s Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said it was a matter of pride to celebrate the foundation days of four different states together. He highlighted that each state has its own identity, culture and strengths, and has made steady progress over the years. “Each state is unique and excels in its own way. They possess immense potential,” he said. He added that such programmes help people understand each other’s traditions and bring citizens closer. Stressing on national unity, he said India’s diversity is its biggest strength and will play a key role in building a developed nation by 2047. The event was presided over by Pi Lalhrualtuangi, Additional Private Secretary to the Governor, who explained the aim of the programme. Video messages from the Governors of the four states were screened, along with short films showing their history and development. Representatives from the four states shared brief presentations. Among them were Dr Saurav Suman from Bihar and Dr Nidhi Yadav from Rajasthan, both Assistant Professors at NIT Mizoram, Prof Pravakar Rath from Odisha, Pro Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University, and Ms Sonali from Himachal Pradesh, a student of the College of Veterinary Sciences in Mizoram. Students from Mizoram University, NIT Mizoram and Government Mizoram Law College presented cultural dances and folk songs, adding colour to the event. After the programme, the Governor interacted with participants and guests

In Itanagar, thousands attend a candlelight rally in remembrance of teacher Yapi Potom

Itanagar, Apr 12: , Apr 12 : On Friday night, April 10, thousands of people flocked to the capital of Arunachal Pradesh to take part in a candlelight rally honoring Yapi Potom, a teacher who was brutally murdered earlier this week in front of her two children. As an homage and a plea for justice, the Arunachal Teachers Association (ATA), Itanagar Capital Region, organized the rally in co-operation with its Central Executive Committee and a number of civil society organizations. On April 8, Daksen Riram is accused of killing Potom, a junior teacher at Government Secondary School in Chimpu, with a machete close to her home. Although the accused has been taken into custody, the investigation is still ongoing to determine the motivation behind the crime. The candlelight parade began from Akashdeep Complex and ended at the Tennis Court in Indira Gandhi Park between 4 and 6 p.m. Teachers, students, and concerned people marched silently while holding candles in remembrance of her and to call for prompt justice. The killing was denounced as a horrible and inhumane act by a number of organizations, including community welfare organizations and women’s organizations. Stronger safety precautions for teachers were



demand by the state’s teaching community, which described the incident as a significant loss to the academic community. Authorities were urged by the ATA to expedite judicial proceedings and provide transparency in the probe. It also called for the responsible parties to receive exemplary punishment. Meanwhile, the Galo Welfare Society (GWS) strongly condemned the attack, calling it a premeditated act of violence and a grave blot on

society. Social activist Jarjum Ete termed the incident a heinous crime and demanded the highest punishment for the accused, noting that the victim’s two children have been left orphaned. Potom was a widow, her husband having passed away last year due to health issues. As outrage grows across the state, citizens and organisations continue to demand justice and accountability, with calls for ensuring the safety and dignity of educators.

Prior to the Assam elections, Himanta Biswa Sarma prays at the Baidyanath Temple

Guwahati, Apr 12 : A day before the crucial Assembly elections in Assam, on April 8, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma offered prayers at the sacred Baidyanath Temple in Deogarh. Sarma visited the temple under strict security and carried out ceremonies at the jyotirlinga with BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. During the ceremony, priests helped him by offering bel leaves, sacred water, and Vedic mantras. The temple committee gave the Chief Minister a symbolic Baba Baidyanath insignia after the ceremonies. The visit takes place on the eve of Assam’s April 9 election.

Assam’s Dhubri organizes extensive logistics and hospitality for 14,500 poll workers

Guwahati, Apr 12 : In order to prepare for the Assam Assembly elections, the district administration in Dhubri has finished a number of tasks, including substantial logistics and an exceptional hospitality arrangement for poll workers. Electronic voting machines (EVMs) and other election materials were distributed at P.C. Institution Higher Secondary School and Pramatresh Barua College on April 8. In order to oversee booths in five constituencies—Dhubri, Gauripur, Golakganj, Birsing Jarua, and Bilasipara—polling crews left these locations. The government set up a sizable makeshift kitchen and dining area on the P.C. Institution campus to assist the 14,500 officials assigned to election duty. The catering operation involves around 1,000 workers, including 110 professional cooks, with a dining hall capable of accommodating 4,000 people at a time. Officials said a full meal was provided



during the distribution phase, and dinner arrangements have also been made for polling personnel returning after voting, ensuring continuous support throughout the process. The initiative aims to ease the burden on polling staff and allow them to focus on conducting free and fair elections. With security tightened and logistics streamlined, the district is fully prepared for polling day.

Meghalaya wagers on sailing competitions to increase sports tourism

Shillong, Apr 12: A recent series of sailing competitions at Umiam Lake, Meghalaya, has highlighted the state's strategy to enhance tourism and infrastructure through sports. Over ten days, the events, including the inaugural Indian Sailing League (ISL) and the 4th North East Regatta, attracted more than 280 sailors, including international participants. The ISL featured 182 sailors in a franchise-based competition with a prize pool exceeding Rs 1.5 crore, making it one of India's largest sailing events. The subsequent North East Regatta, a ranking event, further positioned Umiam as a significant sailing venue. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma emphasized the events as part of a broader initiative to establish Umiam as a year-round tourism hub, aiming to attract high-value visitors. Investments in facilities like the Orchid Water Sports Complex and partnerships with organizations such as the Umiam Sailing Club and the Yachting Association of India have been crucial for these events. The state's administrative support was noted as exceptional by Admiral



Karambir Singh, highlighting Umiam's rapid development. Results from the competitions included Bhopal Tritons winning the ISL, with competitive performances from various international sailors. Cultural elements were integrated into the events, showcasing Meghalaya's local identity.

Manipur extends mobile internet suspension in five districts

Imphal, Apr 12: Given the current unstable state of law and order, the Manipur government has prolonged the temporary suspension of mobile internet and data services, including VPN services, in five districts of the state for an extra two days. The Home Department has issued a formal notice stating that the suspension will continue to apply in the districts of Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching, and Bishnupur starting at 2:00 PM on April 10, 2026. According to the state government, the decision was made after examining the existing circumstances and determining if ongoing preventive measures are necessary to preserve public order. Authorities expressed concern over the potential spread of disinformation and false rumours through social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), which could lead to the mobilisation of mobs and result in violence, arson, or damage to public and private property. The order was issued under Rule 3 of the Temporary Suspension of Telecommunication Services Rules, 2024, with the approval of the Governor of Manipur. Officials noted that effective regulatory mechanisms for monitoring mobile data services remain technically challenging, necessitating



the continuation of the suspension. The order has been issued ex-parte due to the emergent nature of the situation and will be disseminated to the public through print and electronic media. The government has also warned that any violation of the directive will invite legal action under the relevant provisions of law.

Assam sees record voter turnout, crosses 85% mark in assembly polls

Guwahati, Apr 12: Assam has recorded its highest-ever voter turnout in an assembly election, with 85.38 per cent of eligible voters casting their votes. The figure has crossed the previous record of 84.67 per cent set during the 2016 assembly elections, according to data released by the Election Commission of India. The new turnout marks a clear rise in public participation across the state. Poll officials said voters turned out in large numbers in both rural and urban areas. From early morning, long queues were seen outside polling stations, showing steady interest among people to take part in the election process. One of the most notable trends this time has been the strong participation of women voters. Female turnout stood at 85.96 per cent, slightly higher than the 84.80 per cent recorded among male voters.

This continues a pattern seen in recent elections where women are coming out in greater numbers to vote. Officials said this reflects growing awareness and confidence among women in exercising their voting rights. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar described the turnout as a "historic testimony" to the strength of democracy. He thanked the people of Assam for taking part in the electoral process in such large numbers and said the participation shows faith in democratic institutions. Election authorities also pointed out that improved arrangements at polling



stations, better voter awareness campaigns, and smooth management of polling helped increase turnout. Security arrangements were tightened across sensitive areas to ensure peaceful voting. Compared to earlier elections, this year's turnout places Assam among the states with the highest voter participation in recent times. Officials believe the rising numbers indicate that more people are willing to engage in the democratic process and make their voices heard.

81% of voters in Nagaland's Mokokchung District participated in the Koridang Bye-Election

Kohima, Apr 12 : About 81% of voters cast ballots in the bye-election for the Koridang Assembly constituency in Nagaland's Mokokchung district on Thursday, according to officials, and there were no unfavorable incidents. A sizable majority of the 22,390 eligible voters in the constituency cast ballots at 30 polling places dispersed throughout the hilly area. \

Voting started at 7 AM and was uninterrupted at most stations until 4 PM. However, some polling places allowed voters who were already in line to cast their ballots after the planned closing time. Election officials confirmed that no incidents were reported from any part of the Koridang Assembly segment throughout the day. Officials noted that the 81 percent figure is likely to increase marginally once com-



plete reports are received from all 30 polling stations, suggesting the final turnout number could be slightly higher.

The Supreme Court directs the CBI to look into claims of a Rs 1,270 crore contract against Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu

Itanagar, Apr 12: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was directed by the Supreme Court on Monday to begin a preliminary investigation into claims that businesses with alleged ties to Chief Minister Pema Khandu's family were routinely given government contracts in Arunachal Pradesh. The CBI was instructed by a court headed by Justice Vikram Nath to register the preliminary investigation within two weeks and provide a progress report within sixteen weeks. Over a ten-year period, from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2025, the investigation will address the distribution and implementation of public works projects and government contracts in the state.

The court further instructed the CBI to submit a status report on the progress of the enquiry within 16 weeks. Pronouncing the order, Justice Nath said that the agency must register a preliminary enquiry within two weeks and proceed in accordance with the law.



The detailed judgment is yet to be made public. The apex court had reserved its verdict on the matter on February 17 after hearing arguments from both sides. During the proceedings, the court was informed that government

contracts and work orders worth approximately Rs 1,270 crore had been awarded over the past decade to four firms allegedly associated with members of the chief minister's family. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the peti-

tioner organisations - Save Mon Region Federation and Voluntary Arunachal Sena - referred to an affidavit submitted by the Arunachal Pradesh government and argued that several contracts had been granted to companies owned

by relatives of the chief minister. However, the counsel representing the state government had earlier contended that the petition was "sponsored litigation". Earlier, on December 2 last year, the Supreme Court had directed the Arunachal Pradesh government to submit a comprehensive affidavit detailing all contracts awarded between 2015 and 2025, including those granted to firms linked to the chief minister's family members. Khandu has been named as a respondent in the public interest litigation. Also listed as parties in the case are Rinchin Drema, the second wife of Khandu's father, Dorjee Khandu, and his nephew, Tsering Tashi. Dorjee Khandu served as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh from 2007 until his death in a helicopter crash in April 2011. The petition further alleged that Drema's company, Brand Eagles, secured a significant number of government contracts despite what the petitioners described as a clear conflict of interest.

Police invade the Dibrugarh home of Lurinjyoti Gogoi



Dibrugarh, Apr 12 : A controversy has arisen in the Gadapani area of Assam's Dibrugarh district concerning an alleged unauthorized police operation at the residence of Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) president Lurinjyoti Gogoi. The incident, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Amrit Ranjan Barman, has attracted criticism and raised procedural violation concerns. Eyewitness accounts state that the police entered the premises without a search warrant while searching for a young man and allegedly removed items from the house. The situation reportedly escalated when the police entered without proper legal authorization, prompting confrontations with residents. Eyewitnesses noted that the confrontation grew tense, ultimately forcing the police to leave the scene. In response to this incident, AJP leaders, including Chitraranjan Basumatary and Jyoti Gogoi, held a press conference expressing serious concerns over the violation of due process, stating that DSP Barman's actions reflected a "hidden agenda." The AJP has issued a 24-hour ultimatum demanding the removal of DSP Barman from the investigation, asserting that actions taken were not isolated and alleging that Barman had previously entered Gogoi's residence without following proper procedures. This incident reflects escalating tensions and dissatisfaction with police conduct in the region.

Devid Debbarma of the BJP refers to the Ramchandra Ghat contest as "one-sided"

Agartala, Apr 12: A large-scale bike rally was held in support of BJP state secretary Devid Debbarma, who is running from the strategically important Ramchandra Ghat constituency in Khowai district, in an impressive display of political mobilization ahead of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADCC) elections. The polls are set to take place on April 12. Party employees, young fans, and locals enthusiastically attended the gathering, indicating strong grassroots support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in the run-up to the elections. This election season, the Ramchandra Ghat seat has been one of the most monitored constituencies. The Tipra Motha has nominated James Debbarma, a young contender, while the BJP has chosen Devid Debbarma, a significant organizational figure, creating the conditions for a fierce competition. During the protest, Devid Debbarma told India Today NE that the impending election would be a turning point for the Autonomous District Council (ADC) territories' identity and growth. "This election is very important for the people of Ramchandra Ghat as well as

for the development and advancement of the ADC areas." The public's reaction to a national party candidate running from this location for the first time has been overwhelming, he said. He further noted that the enthusiasm among party workers and youth supporters reflects growing aspirations for change. "People are celebrating what they believe will be a victory-not just for me, but for the party and for leadership that stands for progress," he added, hinting at continued campaign efforts, including more large-scale rallies in the coming days. Taking a swipe at his opponent, Devid Debbarma dismissed the challenge posed by Tipra Motha's candidate, stating that his rival lacks local roots. "This is not a big concern for us. He is not even from this constituency and is seen as an outsider," he remarked. As campaigning intensifies, the Ramchandra Ghat constituency is shaping up to be a key battleground, reflecting broader political currents within the ADC regions. With issues of development, representation, and identity at the forefront, all eyes are now on April 12, when voters will cast their ballots in what promises to be a decisive contest.

The redesigned Sessa hydel station is inaugurated by the Arunachal Deputy Chief Minister

Itanagar, Apr 12: The renovated Sessa small hydel station in West Kameng, which will supply energy to around 1,500 families, was officially opened on April 8 by Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein. Due to aging infrastructure, the 3x500 kW hydel plant, which was first put into service in 1992, had been inoperable for a number of years. In order to assure effective operation, it has now been revived utilizing contemporary technologies.

According to Mein, the improved plant, which has 33 kV grid connectivity, will provide a steady and dependable power supply to a number of the district's communities. Improved transmission systems, increased voltage stability, and decreased transmission losses are all part of the modernization. He added that the station is expected to generate



around 6.1 million units of energy annually, significantly contributing to the region's power needs. He added that the station is expected

to generate around 6.1 million units of energy annually, significantly contributing to the region's power needs.

CCI cracks down on bid-rigging in Assam Police tenders, 17 firms told to stop unfair practices

Guwahati, Apr 12: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has directed 17 firms to immediately stop anti-competitive activities linked to electrification tenders issued for police stations across Assam. The order relates to works carried out under a government scheme aimed at improving infrastructure in police stations. According to the regulator, the firms were involved in bid-rigging in tenders floated for internal and external electrification work in police buildings. The tenders were issued as part of the Mission of Overall Improvement of Thana for Responsive Image Scheme of the Assam government. The

case began after a complaint was filed in August 2020 by the Office of the Accountant General (Audit), which raised concerns about possible collusion in the bidding process. The tenders were handled by the Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd. Following an investigation, the CCI found that all 17 firms had coordinated among themselves to influence the outcome of the tenders. This included fixing bids and reducing fair competition. One of the firms named in the order is MS Purbanchal Enterprize, along with several others. The findings were based on multiple pieces of evidence. These included identical errors in doc-

uments submitted by different firms, use of the same IP addresses, call records showing contact between bidders, and demand drafts with consecutive serial numbers. All these pointed towards a planned effort to manipulate the tender process. In its order, the CCI asked all firms and their proprietors to cease such practices with immediate effect. It said the actions violated provisions of the Competition Act. The entities have also been held liable under relevant sections of the law, including Section 48, which deals with responsibility of individuals in charge of companies.

EDITORIAL

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How pursuing democracy in Pakistan is like chasing a dream

The 27th amendment to the Pakistan constitution, which received President Asif Ali Zardari’s assent on November 13, has enacted significant changes in the nation’s judicial framework and military command structure. It establishes a Constitutional Court while limiting the Supreme Court’s jurisdiction to civil and criminal matters. Furthermore, the amendment alters the leadership of the country’s defense services, amending Article 243, making the army chief concurrently the chief of the Defence Forces, thereby abolishing the office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

This has notably enhanced the constitutional authority of the army chief. The amendment has faced substantial criticism from various sectors, including the liberal elite, legal scholars, and political commentators in Pakistan. Critics argue that it undermines the separation of powers and the basic structure established by the 1973 constitution, which aimed to ensure an independent judiciary and an armed forces answerable to civilian rule. Prominent journalists such as Maleeha Lodi have expressed concerns that this development signals a further retreat into authoritarianism, leading to significant implications for governance and democratic processes. The critique of the amendment is perceived by some as hypocritical, suggesting that the elite and academia in Pakistan have historically compromised democratic principles for personal gain and have not adequately challenged military interventions. A pervasive fear of India has contributed to the populace’s acquiescence to military authority, allowing the army to solidify its control over both political and industrial sectors in the country. Despite recent military setbacks, the amendment effectively formalizes the existing dominance of the Pakistani army leadership, which has long disregarded the roles of air and naval forces, viewing them as subordinate. The unprecedented award of the title of field marshal to Army Chief Asim Munir—despite the absence of significant military engagement—reflects this dominance and the political motivations behind it. Observations indicate an uncomfortable acceptance among the air force and navy concerning their subordinate roles. Historically, the judiciary in Pakistan has often aligned itself with military interests, a trend that dates back to the first coup by General Ayub Khan in 1958, which involved the controversial ‘doctrine of necessity’ that has been manipulated to justify military actions. The judiciary has occasionally acted independently but typically only when secure from military repercussions. Instances of judicial overreach and submissions to military authority have tainted its reputation, making the recent establishment of a Constitutional Court unlikely to alter the long-standing subservient relationship of the judiciary to military power. The challenges ahead for an independent judiciary in Pakistan remain significant, given this entrenched historical context.

Indian Islam: A Spiritual and Syncretistic Tradition



Today’s identity crisis among Indian Muslims encompasses an ongoing struggle against external political influences as well as an internal conflict regarding the erosion of a local syncretic tradition by rigid ideologies. Historically, Indian Islam has thrived by adapting to the subcontinent’s complex cultural fabric, bolstering its identity through the infusion of local traditions and ideas. However, contemporary movements advocating for a purified, literal interpretation of Islam challenge this rich heritage, promoting a dichotomy between a so-called “contaminated” Indian Islam and a puritanical stance that rejects local customs such as veneration of dargahs and participation in shared cultural festivals. This ideological shift has necessitated a re-evaluation of cultural values among Indian Muslims, fostering suspicion toward their heritage and diminishing their ability to coexist within India’s diverse society. The loss of this syncretic identity carries profound implications, as it alienates Indian Muslims from the broader civilizational narrative that has historically allowed them to flourish. This rigid approach presents a narrow vision of Islamic jurisprudence, which traditionally accommodates context and local nuances as recognized by influential scholars like Abul Kalam Azad. His concept of Muttahida Qaumiyat (composite nationalism) emphasized a synthesis of Islam’s universal message with India’s historical realities, countering the current trend of isolating religious identity from societal engagement. In reclaiming Indian Islam’s syncretic roots, it is crucial for the community to reaffirm its right to define its faith within a cultural context that includes key practices and spaces like dargahs and mosques. Sufi-Bhakti interactions, rather than diluting Islam, have enriched spiritual practices in India. Protecting this heritage is critical for preserving the social fabric of the nation and challenging the puritanical narratives that threaten to reduce Muslim identity to a mere external perception. The future of Indian Islam hinges on its capacity to uphold both its Muslim identity and its Indian essence, illustrating that it is a resilient tradition capable of thriving in pluralism. By honoring the legacy of spirituality and syncretism, Indian Muslims can provide a compelling counter-narrative to the divisive ideologies of today, showcasing that their faith is a living tradition that has always coexisted within India’s pluralistic society.

The West no longer has the power to stop India’s ascent

Western powers led by the United States have held a vice-like grip on world affairs since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The US was the unchallenged global hegemon. Post-Soviet Russia was run by Boris Yeltsin and corrupt oligarchs. China was a dot in America’s rearview mirror. Its GDP in 1991 was \$0.83 trillion, a fraction of US GDP of \$6.16 trillion that year. Europe, Japan, South Korea and the Middle East were under America’s protective military umbrella. India’s foreign policy was stubbornly autonomous but its bankrupt economy in 1991 lay at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), controlled by Washington. The world order in 2025 has been transformed in less than a generation. The US remains a global hegemon but it is no longer the only hegemon. China has caught up economically and in several industries surpassed the US technologically. Europe has meanwhile slipped into sclerosis. Russia is resurgent. President Donald Trump is on the verge of handing Moscow, by diplomatic sleight of hand, the victory over Ukraine that Russia has failed to achieve militarily. If Trump succeeds in forcing Ukraine to accept the terms of his peace proposal that gives Russia over 20 per cent of Ukraine’s territory (including several regions it has failed to conquer), Western Europe will be distraught. The umbilical cord between Europe and America could snap. Amid this global churn there is India. Since Independence in 1947, the West’s attitude towards India has been ambivalent.

Bankrupted and exhausted by the Second World War, Britain was forced to grant India freedom. It has never quite forgiven its most resource-rich and heavily taxed colony for setting off a domino effect of decolonisation. Within 15 years of Indian independence, the British Empire across Asia and Africa unravelled. Washington had backed India’s freedom movement. British hypocrisy in

denying India freedom while fighting Hitler’s fascism. But America’s post-war interests were tied to Britain’s. The two countries collaborated in regime change and invasive wars. In 1953, Washington and London overthrew the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mossadegh in Iran in an operation codenamed Operation Ajax. American and British petroleum companies took control of Iran’s oil assets and installed the Shah of Iran as a Western puppet. In 2003, again, the US and Britain collaborated in the illegal invasion of Iraq on the false pretext of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The rise of China has unsettled the Anglo-Saxon world order. In 1991, Britain’s GDP at \$1.14 trillion was higher than China’s GDP of \$0.83 trillion. In 2025, China’s \$19 trillion economy dwarfs Britain’s \$3.8 trillion economy.

While the West has been forced to accept China’s rise as a fait accompli, India is another matter altogether. Britain’s resentment has not ebbed though it hides it expertly. The rise of Nigel Farage’s Reform Party is Britain’s version of America’s MAGA movement: anti-immigrant and racist. Washington and London, fattened on the profits of colonialism and slavery over two centuries, have long controlled the levers of geopolitical power. China is an unwelcome intruder but is now too powerful to parry. India, however, can and must be kept firmly in its place. There is no room for a G3. A US-China G2 is barely tolerable for the West. A G3 with India is intolerable. Farsighted US and British thinkers have in recent years predicted that as ageing China’s economy slows and the West’s multi-racial demography changes colour, India’s tortoise-like economy could actually win the race against a hobbled Chinese hare and a lumbering American bear. All of this has been at the back of Western minds for decades but now occupies their full attention. How can India’s rise be slowed? Its demographics will be unbeatable

Zelenskyy claims the US is disregarding proof that Russia is aiding Iran because it believes Putin

According to Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine, the US has disregarded strong evidence that Russia has been assisting Iran in attacking US outposts in the Middle East because it “trusts” Vladimir Putin. Zelenskyy said he had attempted to alert the White House to the tight cooperation between Moscow and Tehran in an interview with Alastair Campbell on the podcast The Rest is Politics. He claimed that important energy infrastructure items in Israel and the Gulf states, as well as the locations of US army outposts throughout the region, had been captured on camera by Russian military satellites. He claimed that the Iranian regime received information and pictures from the Kremlin to aid in its attacks. “I made this public statement. Has the US responded to Russia by saying that they must cease? Zelenskyy posed a rhetorical question. “The issue is that they trust Putin,” he continued. And it’s unfortunate. Zelenskyy claimed that the Trump administration has not “really understood the details of what Russia wants.” When asked why, he said that Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, Trump’s two negotiators, had “spent too much time” with Putin and his top officials. The two haven’t been to Kyiv yet, but they visited Moscow five times last year. The Trump administration has increased pressure on Ukraine to give up its fiercely contested eastern Donbas region. Putin has



indicated that if Ukraine ceded the area, he would consent to a truce. Zelenskyy said he had a greater understanding of the Russian leader’s psychology and actual war aims than the White House. Ukraine’s president said Putin would not stop if he got the Donbas, and would next try to seize the regional capitals of Dnipro and Kharkiv. “We have to recognise that partially Americans are feeling that [Donbas is] nothing for us,” Zelenskyy said. “They don’t want to recognise that Putin will lie to

them and that he can continue the occupation even after such steps.

The Americans are sure that they can trust Putin.” Zelenskyy described the trip by the US vice-president, JD Vance, to Budapest on Tuesday and Wednesday to campaign for Hungary’s president, Viktor Orbán, as “not helpful”. But he said he did not intend to interfere in Sunday’s elections, saying it was up to the Hungarian people to decide which party to back. Zelenskyy also suggested that

Europe needed to maximise its power at a time when the US was threatening to withdraw from Nato. The EU needed to join forces with Ukraine, the UK, Turkey and Norway, he said, to create a military bloc big enough to deter Russia. “Without Ukraine and Turkey, Europe will not have a similar army that Russia has. With Ukraine, Turkey, Norway and the UK, you will control security on the seas, not one sea,” he said, adding that he was sure Kyiv would one day join the EU.

Commonwealth leaders vow to keep seeking reparations after Reform UK plan to halt visas

As UK public figures, including a former Reform insider, warn that the right-wing party’s promise to “punish” nations seeking justice for slavery would hurt and isolate Britain, Commonwealth leaders vow they will not back down from their demands for reparations. Reform UK announced this week that if they came to power, they would stop granting visas to citizens of nations that have publicly demanded reparations from Britain. “It is not funny that they think a British visa for those same people is a privilege after years of invading and colonizing a people,” stated Arley Gill, the head of the Grenada Reparations Commission. The UN general assembly last month passed a resolution backed by Ghana that asked for restitution and referred to the historical transatlantic trafficking and enslavement of Africans as “the gravest crime against humanity.” Reform’s spokesperson for home affairs, Zia Yusuf, claimed on Monday that the UK was being “ridiculed on the world stage.” The Westminster elite has rewarded nations like Ghana, Nigeria, and Jamaica for increasing their requests for reparations. “Enough is enough,” he declared. Yusuf’s parents immigrated from Sri Lanka, which is one of the nations suing the UK for colonial wrongs. Former St. Vincent and Grenadines prime minister and opposition leader Ralph Gonsalves charged Farage for “doing an imitative Trump” and “seeking another cultural wedge issue” that “will certainly isolate Britain further.” “None of us in the Caribbean who are advocating reparations would be cowed by that sort of talk,” he said. “For us, the present is the past because of the legacy of underdevelop-



ment, which can be empirically sourced to native genocide and the enslavement of African bodies.” The UK has never formally apologised for slavery. Calling for “inter-nation dialogue”, Hilary Beckles, the chair of Caricom reparations commission, said “the idea the victims of an enormous crime calling for justice are to be doubly punished is tragic.” He added: “Crimes against humanity have been committed against so many people on this planet and most have now received some form of apology (or) reparations.” The view seems to be that the legacy of toxic racism, the legacy of white supremacy politics is still so intense that Black people are

deemed undeserving ... (but) I think the British parliament is filled with people who do not share that view.” I have no doubt in time the British people and the British government will come to realise (dialogue) is what is required.” On Tuesday, the Reform leader, Nigel Farage, said the UK had spent “four decades on the high seas ... driving slavery off the world’s oceans”. Gill said Reform’s position showed a “terrible lack of knowledge” of the issues, highlighting that enslavers were compensated by British taxpayers. Last month, the UK and Nigeria agreed a £746m deal in which the UK would provide loan financing to refurbish two major ports in

Lagos. The deal includes a £70m contract for loss-making British Steel in Lincolnshire, which has a Reform UK mayor. Neville Watson, was Reform UK’s only Black branch chair until he left last year, having called for reparations. Watson, the Christian People’s Alliance candidate for 2028’s London mayoral elections, said Reform’s stance would “punish nations for raising legitimate historical claims” and compound UK skills shortages. He described the UK-Nigeria trade deal as a reminder our “prosperity is seated in partnership”, adding that the Reform visa policy would “tear down the very fabric of trade and diplomacy”.

Park Medi World launches a specialist hospital and climbs 6%

Mumbai: Park Medi World shares had a 5.7% increase in trading on the BSE, reaching an intraday high of ₹4,024.9 per share. Park Medi World’s stock price was 5.6% higher at ₹215.8 per share at 10:01 AM. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was up 0.83 percent at 77,265.73. In an effort to improve access to tertiary and quaternary care throughout Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh, the business opened a sophisticated multi-specialty hospital in Panchkula and is currently expanding its Mohali facility.

This led to the buying on the counter. By delivering upscale medical care closer to the Tricity region, the facility aims to lessen patients’ reliance on metropolitan areas like Delhi for cutting-edge treatments. The hospital will provide services in oncology, neurosciences, orthopaedics, cardiology, and critical care, including robotic-assisted surgeries. It is furnished



with sophisticated diagnostics, modular operating rooms, and critical care equipment. Critical care services occupy a substantial percentage of beds. The group will have a total capacity of about 850 beds in the Tricity region with the debut in Panchkula and the impending expansion in Mohali. A major step toward creating a scaled, integrated healthcare ecosystem through-

out North India has been taken with the opening of our Panchkula facility and the impending expansion in Mohali. Dr. Ankit Gupta, managing director of Park Group of Hospitals, stated, “Our focus is on building centers of excellence across key specialties while leveraging technology and operational efficiencies to deliver high-quality care at scale.”

KEC International gains 8% on new orders at Rs. 2,518 crore



New Delhi: On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), shares of KEC International, an infrastructure EPC company, rose more than 8% to reach a high of ₹616.95 after the company said that it has received numerous fresh orders totaling ₹2,518 crore across various industries. The KEC International shares began at ₹593.05 on Thursday, April 9, up 4.5% from the close of ₹567.6 the day before. The stock was up 3.95 percent at 09:35 AM, trading at ₹590. By contrast, the benchmark NSE Nifty50 was down 72.90 points, or 0.30 percent, at 23,924.45 levels. The company’s overall market capitalization increased from ₹15,109.51 crore on Wednesday to ₹15,766 crore, an increase of ₹656.18 crore. Its 52-week high was ₹947, while its 52-week low was ₹501. The RPG Group company has received fresh orders totaling Rs. 2,518 crores from a variety of enterprises, according to an exchange filing. One of Western India’s top real estate developers has awarded the company’s civil division its biggest-ever commercial real estate order. In the transportation industry, it has obtained an order for a joint venture (JV) under “Kavach” in India for the Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) segment. According to the company’s exchange filing, it has obtained numerous Transmission & Distribution (T&D) orders, including 400/132/66 kV transmission lines in Africa, additional transmission lines and substation projects in international markets, supply of towers in Europe and the Americas, and provision of hardware and poles in the Americas.

Orders for the delivery of different kinds of cables and conductors, both in India and in foreign markets, have also been received by its cables and conductors company. Axis Securities anticipates that KEC International’s revenue would stay unchanged in the March 2026 quarter (Q4FY26), mostly as a result of reduced T&D sales brought on by the prolonged conflict. Delays in completing high-margin T&D projects are expected to have an impact on earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda), resulting in a drop in margins year over year. As a result, lower profit after tax (PAT) and earnings per share (EPS) are anticipated. On a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis, KEC International’s Q4FY26 revenue is expected to grow just 1 per cent to ₹6,941 crore from ₹6,872 crore in Q4FY25. Ebitda is estimated to decline sharply by 32 per cent to ₹368 crore, bringing Ebitda margins down 254 bps to 5.3 per cent. PAT is likely to drop 51 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹131 crore, resulting in an EPS of ₹4.9, compared with ₹10.1 in Q4FY25. Kranthi Bathini, director for equity strategy at WealthMills Securities, said KEC International is well-positioned to benefit from the current boom in the power and EPC sectors, especially as capital expenditure is expected to rise in the coming quarters. “While the broader market conditions remain a factor to watch, the stock is a strong candidate for accumulation. For investors with a long-term horizon, this is a favorable entry point to build a position in the company,” he added.

Meesho shares zoom 13% on huge volumes

New Delhi: Shares of Meesho surged by nearly 13% in intraday trading, reaching a high of ₹172.28 and trading at ₹165.85 with an 8.5% gain by 1:20 PM. Trading volumes significantly increased, with 50 million shares exchanged compared to 4.5 million the previous day. Despite reporting a widening loss of ₹490 crore in Q3FY26, Meesho’s shares have risen 55% since its IPO at ₹111. Equirus Securities has initiated coverage with a ‘Buy’ rating and a target price of ₹190, citing strong growth potential due to its unique business model focused on affordability and targeting price-sensitive consumers. The brokerage forecasts a 26% CAGR in net merchandise value (NMV) and improved adjusted Ebitda margins over the coming years.

Bosch shares jump 4% on news of a strategic acquisition

New Delhi: After announcing the purchase of Bosch Chassis Systems India Private Limited through a cash agreement and the issue of equity shares on a preferential basis, automotive supplier Bosch was outperforming in an otherwise dismal market on Thursday. Bosch’s stock price increased 3.77 percent after the news, reaching an intraday high of ₹37,290 per share on the NSE on Thursday, April 9. On the other hand, the counter saw consistent purchasing demand despite somewhat reducing gains. Bosch shares were quoted at ₹37,105 per at 11:30 AM, up 3.26 percent from the previous closing of ₹35,935 on the NSE. On the other hand, the benchmark NSE Nifty50 was down 165 points, or 0.69 percent, at 23,832. Bosch’s board has approved the acquisition of Bosch Chassis Systems India Private Limited from Robert Bosch Investment Nederland B.V. and Robert Bosch LLC for up to ₹9,068.68 crore, making it a wholly owned subsidiary. This acquisition enhances Bosch Limited’s mobility portfolio and strengthens its capabilities in safety and braking, addressing the



demands of India’s automotive sector. Bosch Group’s president, Guruprasad Mudlapur, emphasized the strategic importance of this move for growth through diversification. Additionally, Bosch proposes to issue preferential equity shares for non-cash consideration to RBNI and Robert Bosch LLC, pending regulatory approvals. Analysts at Motilal Oswal Financial Services maintain a ‘Neutral’ rating, noting the acquisition’s favorable pricing for minority shareholders and forecasting a 5% EPS increase for FY25, alongside updates to earnings estimates for FY27E and FY28E. Despite a recent stock rally, they believe the stock appears fairly valued at current metrics, adjusting the target price to ₹35,323 per share.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson steps down due to losses

Mumbai: As the airline struggles with ongoing losses and increased regulatory scrutiny after an accident last year that claimed 260 lives, Air India said on Tuesday that Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson has left after nearly four years in the position. Wilson resigned a few days after Willie Walsh, a veteran of the aviation industry, was appointed CEO of IndiGo, the company’s larger domestic rival. The two biggest carriers in the nation are facing pressure from an industry crisis brought on by the conflict in West Asia, which is exacerbated by operational difficulties at home. After years of deterioration under government ownership, Wilson, a former executive at Singapore Airlines, was appointed to lead the airline’s turnaround in 2022. According to a statement from the airline, Wilson

informed Air India chairman N. Chandrasekaran in 2024 that he intended to step down this year. The New Zealander will continue to hold the position until a replacement is appointed. A committee appointed by the Air India board will identify Wilson’s replacement in the upcoming months. In the face of supply chain problems, Wilson has led an overhaul of the engineering department and the renovation of aircraft since taking charge at India’s second-largest airline. “Over the last four years, Campbell did a good job in very tough circumstances,” Brendan Sobie, a Singapore-based independent aviation analyst, told Reuters. “Finding the right candidate to complete (Air India’s) transformation will not be easy and Tata will particularly feel the pressure to get this right following IndiGo’s recent appointment



of Willie Walsh,” he said. In an internal mail to employees, Wilson said, “I am incredibly proud of what you have achieved, especially in the face of unprecedented headwinds in the form of aircraft delivery and supply chain challenges, two wars, crippling airspace closures and fuel prices and, most acutely, tragedy.” “...The time

is right for me to hand over the reins for the next phase of Air India’s rise,” Wilson added. “Campbell and his team have demonstrated tenacity and resolve and have aligned an organisation drawn from many backgrounds behind the shared goal of building the new Air India that is now emerging.” Chandrasekaran said.

The debut of ZOYA Pink Gin causes Allied Blenders & Distillers’ stock to rise 10%

New Delhi: Investors showed strong interest in Allied Blenders and Distillers following the announcement of its new product in the ZOYA portfolio, specifically the ZOYA Pink Mix Berries Gin. On April 10, the stock price surged up to 10%, peaking at ₹513.20 on the NSE before settling at ₹509.90, a 9.29% increase from ₹466.55.

The broader market, represented by the Nifty50, also saw gains, rising 0.85%. The company highlighted the launch’s timeliness in India’s burgeoning premium spirits market, driven by younger consumers seeking craft offerings and innovative cocktails. ZOYA Pink aims to position itself as a refined gin brand appealing to modern tastes. Priced at ₹2,500, the gin

is currently available in Maharashtra, with plans for wider distribution.

The brand has reportedly grown over 300% since its 2024 launch, fueled by the rising popularity of flavor-driven cocktails, which account for 30% of its revenue. ABD Maestro, which offers a diverse portfolio of spirits including nine brands, anticipates further revenue growth, with a projected revenue run rate of around ₹40 crore as of December 2025. Analysts at ICICI Securities expect revenue and profit growth of 14% and 36% respectively from FY25 to FY28, emphasizing the significant financial impact of the super-premium segment on the company’s overall performance.

A rise in subsidies causes fertilizer stocks to rise by 8%

Mumbai: Fertiliser stocks saw significant increases today following the government’s approval of a ₹41,534 crore subsidy aimed at supporting Kharif 2026 crops. Fertilisers & Chemicals Travancore led the surge, rising over 8% to reach a high of ₹888.40, with trading reported at ₹872.50 by 10 AM and 1.9 million equities changing hands on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). Other notable gains included Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) at ₹129.55, National Fertilizers at ₹768, and Madras Fertilizers at ₹67.85, all increasing between 3% and 4%. Coromandel International and Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals reported a 1.5% rise.

Gaurav Sharma, associate VP & head of research at Globe Capital, noted that the performance of fertiliser stocks is attributed to the government’s subsidy announcement and the recent ceasefire in West Asia, which he termed a “big relief package” for the sector. This overall industry-wide subsidy package is expected to positively influence several



companies, including FACT and Deepak Fertilizers, as well as RCF and National Fertilizers.

The recently approved subsidy for 2025-26 kharif season represents a 12% increase compared to the previous year. Effective from April 1 until September 30, 2026, the government set subsidy rates at ₹47.32 per kg for nitrogen, ₹52.76 per kg for phosphate, ₹2.38 per kg for potash, and ₹3.16 per kg for sulphur. The increase in fertiliser stocks is further supported by the West Asia ceasefire, positively affecting market sentiment and investor confidence.

Office leasing reaches a quarterly high as residential real estate sales fall 4% in Q1

Mumbai: According to Knight Frank India, the first quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026) saw a 4% year-over-year (Yo-Y) decline in sales of residential real estate in India, while office leasing reached a quarterly high. Residential sales decreased from 88,361 units in Q1 2025 to 84,827 units during the quarter. Office leasing, on the other hand, increased 6% year over year to 29.9 million square feet (msf). Knight Frank claims that while core demand drivers remained same, large-volume areas like Mumbai (down 7%), the National Capital Region (down 11%), and Pune (down 11%) had Y-o-Y drops in sales.

The current softening in sales momentum may indicate an early phase of recalibration following a prolonged period of strong growth. Shishir Bajjal, international partner, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India, said the moderation partly reflects natural consolidation after strong growth.

However, he added that rising prices alongside softening volumes signal mounting pressure on affordability and absorption. He also noted that a volatile geopolitical environment and sustained correction in equity markets have contributed to subdued residential demand. Market activity remained skewed toward higher-priced homes, while volumes declined in segments below Rs 1 crore. Units priced above Rs 1 crore grew 11 per cent Y-o-Y in Q1 2026, whereas the sub-Rs 50 lakh and Rs 50 lakh–1 crore segments fell 23 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. Growth



was led by the Rs 1–2 crore segment, which rose 10 per cent Y-o-Y and accounted for 29 per cent of total sales. Prices continued to rise despite a moderation in sales and supply in Q1 2026, with all markets recording Y-o-Y increases. The highest appreciation was seen in NCR, led by Ghaziabad (up 13 per cent) and Greater Noida (up 11 per cent).

Across the top eight cities, quarters-to-sell (QTS) edged up from 5.9 quarters in Q1 2025 to 6 quarters in Q1 2026. Unsold inventory also rose 3 per cent Y-o-Y to 519,844 units. While launches declined 2 per cent Y-o-Y in Q1 2026, they continued to outpace sales for the 14th

consecutive quarter. In Q1 2026, office space demand outpaced completions, with 14 million square feet delivered, a 154% year-over-year increase but less than half of the space absorbed. The ongoing supply-demand gap has reduced vacancy rates from 17.2% in 2021 to 13.9%. Rental growth remained strong, ranging from 2% to 15%, led by NCR and Kolkata at 15%. Bengaluru topped leasing activity with 9.2 million square feet, with Global Capability Centres comprising 48% of total leasing. Despite near-term uncertainties, India’s stability is expected to sustain leasing momentum in the medium term.

The \$3.4 billion private credit provides relief to the Shapoorji Pallonji group

New Delhi: According to persons familiar with the situation, a division of India’s Shapoorji Pallonji Group has obtained permission from its major lenders to relax a crucial debt requirement after declining collateral val-



ues forced it closer to its borrowing limits. The persons, who wished to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the material, stated that Porteast Investment, its financing division, will temporarily increase its loan-to-value cap from 34% to 40% for a period of four months ending on July 15. Ares Management Corp., Cerberus Capital Management, Davidson Kempner Capital Management, Farallon Capital Management, and Deutsche Bank AG are among the major creditors of the \$3.4 billion loan, which was raised in May of last year at a steep rate of 19.75%.

According to the persons, the pressure comes after the derived value of the Tata Sons Pvt. shares that were pledged as collateral decreased.

A significant portion of the value of Tata Sons, the Tata Group’s unlisted holding company, comes from its ownership of Tata Consultancy Services. Concerns about AI disruption and geopolitical unpredictability have caused a wider selloff in software companies, which has caused TCS shares to fall more than 22% so far this year and lowered

olating the debt covenant if it doesn’t take a break. The unit plans to raise up to \$1 billion through its first dollar-bond sale, with the rest to be refinanced through local debt issued simultaneously. The episode highlights how sensitive the construction conglomerate’s financing is to movements in Tata Sons-linked equity valuations, and more broadly, how jittery credit markets have become in the wake of the Middle East conflict.

A spokesperson for the Shapoorji Pallonji group did not respond to a request for comment, while representatives for Deutsche Bank, Ares Management and Davidson Kempner declined to comment. Spokespersons for Cerberus Capital and Farallon Capital did not respond.

Founded more than 160 years ago, the SP Group operates across engineering and construction, real estate, infrastructure, energy and industrial projects. The group is controlled by the Mistry family and is best known for building landmarks such as India’s central bank and the Al Alam Palace for the Sultan of Oman.

Tata Sons’ valuation. Just as the SP group needs to refinance roughly \$2.5 billion in rupee-denominated debt at its affiliate Goswami Infratech Pvt., which is due on April 30, it runs the risk of vi-

Fearing an energy crisis, the PM of Thailand encourages working from home

Bangkok: Thailand’s Prime Minister, Anutin Charnvirakul, has urged the public to conserve energy in light of potential impacts from the Middle Eastern conflict, emphasizing the country’s dependency on imported oil and gas. In a social media statement, he called for citizen cooperation in reducing energy consumption through measures such as working from home, carpooling, and using public transportation. Anutin highlighted Thailand’s vulnerability despite having significant oil reserves, cautioning against complacency in managing oil resources. He indicated that additional measures might be implemented as the government seeks to mitigate the crisis. Across Asia, various governments are adopting energy conservation strategies; Sri Lanka and the Philippines are implementing four-day workweeks for public-sector staff, while Vietnam has encouraged remote work. Consequently, the Thai government has already suspended most overseas travel for its employees and has allowed officials to dress more casually to limit air conditioning use. Furthermore, the Thai Commerce Ministry plans to regulate crude palm oil



exports and control the prices of bottled palm oil starting Tuesday to safeguard domestic supplies amidst increasing demand for biodiesel fuels. The rise in diesel prices, which recently surpassed 50 baht per litre—up from 30 baht in February—has adversely affected farmers and the transport sector as the country prepares for Songkran, the traditional New Year holiday. During this festive period, many people travel home, and it usually attracts tourists; however, increased flight costs and aviation disruptions have raised concerns among tourism businesses about quieter celebrations this year. In related news, Indonesia announced a significant rise in the jet fuel surcharge, allowing airlines to increase domestic ticket prices accordingly.

Bangladesh begins a measles vaccination campaign as the number of child fatalities surpasses 100

Dhaka: Over 100 children have died in Bangladesh’s worst measles outbreak in years, and the number of unvaccinated infants has increased. Following the confirmation of over 900 cases since March, the government, in collaboration with the UN, has started an emergency measles-rubella vaccination campaign for children nationwide. Measles is a highly contagious airborne illness that causes fever, respiratory symptoms, and a distinctive rash. It can occasionally cause serious or deadly complications, particularly in young children. Even though mass immunization against measles has made significant progress, there has recently been a comeback, which is linked to declining vaccination rates; in 2024, over 11 million cases were reported worldwide. This year, there was a severe outbreak in the UK that claimed two lives. States in the US have also been dealing with a deadly spread, with over 2,000 cases reported in 2025—the highest number in thirty years. The increase in cases that started in March is the worst the south Asian nation has seen in years in Bangladesh. Although

Bangladesh maintains a measles vaccination program for children, the recently elected government said that poor management by the previous regimes had resulted in program gaps in susceptible areas and a lack of vaccine stockpiles. The UN states that in order to prevent the disease from spreading, 95% of the population must be immunized. Children in high-risk areas between the ages of six months and five will be the target of this month’s emergency effort, which will subsequently be extended nationwide. One-third of those affected are below the age of nine months, which is when they would usually be eligible for a measles vaccine, which experts said showed a concerning gap in the programme. “This resurgence highlights critical immunity gaps, particularly among zero-dose and under-vaccinated children, while infections among infants under nine months, who are not yet eligible for routine vaccination, are especially alarming,” said Rana Flowers, the representative for Unicef in Bangladesh. Bangladesh’s newly appointed health minister, Sardar Mohammed Sakhawat Husain, told

parliament on Monday that the political turmoil of Bangladesh over the past two years, after the toppling of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in an uprising in 2024, had led to disrupted vaccine procurement and a failure to conduct the usual measles vaccinations campaigns. The current government only came to power in elections in February. Authorities are advising parents to go to hospitals whenever someone is suspected to have measles or even just has a high temperature, rather than relying on local pharmacies. Since the launch of a massive immunisation campaign in 1979, Bangladesh has raised the coverage of fully immunised children from just 2% to 81.6%. However, experts have continued to warn that there are still stark discrepancies in measles vaccine coverage in the country of 170 million people. In a statement, Unicef said the current measles surge was caused by multiple factors. “Bangladesh has a strong history of high immunisation coverage, but even small disruptions can lead to the gradual accumulation of immunity gaps over time,” said the organisation.

The PM of Hungary is accused of raising a “false flag” when Serbia claims explosives were discovered close to a pipeline

Budapest: The top opposition candidate in Hungary has accused Serbia of conducting a “false flag” operation to sway the country’s elections after Serbia claimed to have discovered “explosives of devastating power” close to a pipeline that transports Russian natural gas to Hungary and other countries. The discovery near an extension of the Turk-Stream pipeline, which carries Russian gas through the Balkans to central and eastern Europe, was reported by Serbia’s president, Aleksandar Vučić, according to Hungary’s prime minister, Viktor Orbán, on Sunday.

Orbán said on social media that “an investigation is underway” and that he had called an emergency meeting of the nation’s defense council. The event occurs one week before Hungarian elections are scheduled to vote in a crucial parliamentary election, where Páv Magyar, a former senior member of the ruling Fidesz party, is posing an unprecedented challenge to Orbán’s 16-year rule. Orbán and Fidesz are trying to persuade voters that the war in Ukraine is a serious threat to Hungary and that Orbán is best suited to manage this risk. Meanwhile, Magyar and his Tisza party are urging voters to concentrate on economic stagnation, deteriorating social services, and corruption. Vučić said on Sunday that the Serbian army and police had found two backpacks containing “two large packages of explosives with detonators” in the northern Serbian municipality of Kanjiža, “a few hundred metres from the gas pipeline”. He said



he had informed Orbán of the initial results of the investigation into what he described as a “threat to the critical gas infrastructure”. The explosives could have “endangered many lives” and caused significant damage to the pipeline, Vučić added. He did not detail the origins of the explosives, saying instead that there were “certain traces” he could not disclose. “Our intelligence services did a good job,” he said. The incident, coming as Orbán trails in the polls, prompted political scrutiny across Hungary. On Sunday, Magyar said on social media that he and the Tisza party had been warned by multiple sources that something might happen in Serbia around Easter, “possibly involving a gas pipeline”, and allegedly carried out with Serbian and Russian assistance. “And now it has,” he said. He called on Orbán’s government to stop spreading panic and causing disruption.

“Hungarians have every reason to fear that the outgoing prime minister, following the advice of Russian agents, is attempting to instill fear in his own people through false-flag operations,” he said. “I also want to make it clear that he will not be able to prevent next Sunday’s election.” The scepticism was echoed by Mujtaba Rahman, the managing director for Europe at Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy.

“Looks like a seemingly convenient threat of terrorist action,” he said on social media. “Designed to whip up further fear of military action against Hungary, for which Ukraine will no doubt be blamed.” The campaign heated up in February after Orbán claimed, without providing evidence, that Ukraine was plotting to disrupt Hungary’s energy system and said he had dispatched troops to safeguard the country’s energy infrastructure. Orbán

has also repeatedly accused Ukraine of intentionally delaying repairs to the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline, which brings Russian oil to Hungary and Slovakia via Ukraine, and blocked EU approval of a €90bn loan to Ukraine over the feud. Rahman said Brussels and EU capitals “have been expecting a false-flag operation by Orbán – citing a national security risk – as grounds to postpone next Sunday’s elections that he looks set to lose. Could this be it?” On Sunday, Hungary’s foreign minister, Péter Szijjártó, singled out Ukraine but stopped short of blaming them outright for the latest incident.

“In the past few days and weeks, the Ukrainians organised an oil blockade against us, and then tried to put us under a total energy blockade ... And now we have today’s incident,” he said in a post on Facebook. Orbán suggested that a recent incident was a “prepared act of sabotage,” implicating Ukraine’s long-standing efforts to disrupt European access to Russian energy. Ukraine denied any involvement, attributing the incident to a potential Russian false-flag operation aimed at interfering in Hungarian elections. Critics, including Hungarian MP Ákos Hadházy and investigative journalist Szabolcs Panyi, advised skepticism regarding these claims, with Panyi recalling past intelligence on a Russia-backed false flag attack. The incident could affect the ongoing campaign as the U.S. shows support for Orbán, amid concerns about Russia’s influence in swaying election outcomes in his favor.

Trump issues dire warnings about Iran following the Easter bunny stunt

Washington: Donald Trump started his day by talking to a group of kids about the Iran War while standing next to someone dressed as a huge bunny. For a US president who has vanished down what many would refer to as a rabbit hole, the yearly Easter egg roll on the White House South Lawn evoked an appropriate Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland image. A few hours later, Trump strolled into the packed briefing room, accompanied by Pete Hegseth, the defense secretary, rather than an enormous rabbit. Growing concerns that the commander-in-chief has lost touch with reality were not allayed by his news conference. He began by commemorating the successful weekend recovery of a US airman whose jet was shot down on Friday from Iran. Trump showered the operation’s participants with praise. “It’s genius, not even talent,” he declared. “The entire ball game is involved.”

The more he spoke, the more obvious it became that Trump, in his second term, has a soft spot for guys in uniform. In contrast to the Top Gun thrill ride, which features amazing soldiers, weaponry, and massive explosions, the men in suits on Capitol Hill, with their routine worries about bills and budgets, are dull.

Trump, who slashed domestic programs and requested a \$1.5 trillion budget for the Pentagon last week, enjoyed the minutiae of the rescue



effort more than he does policy legislation. He described the location reminiscent of Hollywood, suggesting the CIA director is “central casting.” This detachment raises concerns about Trump’s awareness of civilian casualties in Iran, as he threatens to destroy vital infrastructure. He asserts that the Iranian people would accept suffering for freedom, contradicting human rights principles and international law. When challenged about potential war crimes, he dismissed the concern. Trump’s remarks reveal an American imperialist mindset and a businessman approach to conflict, likening the situation to a holy war. His mental health has emerged as a topic of concern as critics label him unstable and dangerous. Recent contradictory statements about military strategies and international relations only deepen these anxieties, reinforcing fears about his control over nuclear codes.

The first deportation flight from the US to Uganda under a third-country arrangement

Washington: As Donald Trump’s government continues its policy of sending migrants to nations they have no connection to, a plane carrying individuals being deported from the United States has touched down in Uganda. According to an unidentified senior Ugandan government official who spoke to Reuters, the deported individuals will remain in the east African nation as “a transition phase for potential onward transmission to other countries.” Twelve passengers were aboard the flight, which was the first under a deal Uganda reached with the US in August, according to the Uganda Law Society, which denounced the arrivals. The deportees’ nationalities and other details have not been disclosed to the public. Numerous individuals have already been deported by the US to other nations.

Eswatini, Ghana, Rwanda, and South Sudan are among the other African nations that have either accepted or agreed to accept deportees. They have taken in individuals from as far away as Cuba, Jamaica, Yemen, Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. The deportations will be challenged in Ugandan and regional courts, according to the Uganda Law Society. It denounced “an undignified, harrowing, and dehumanizing process that has reduced [the deported people] to little more than chattel, for the benefit of private interests on both sides of the Atlantic.” Yasmeen Hibrawi, a public relations counselor at the US embassy in Kampala, stated that all deportations “are in full cooperation with the government



of Uganda.” Hibrawi stated: “We do not, however, discuss the specifics of their cases for privacy reasons, nor do we discuss the details of our private diplomatic communications.”

Uganda announced in August that it had secured an agreement with the US to accept third-country nationals who might not be granted asylum in the US but were “reluctant” to return home. It did not say whether the US was paying and stated that it would not take unaccompanied youngsters or anyone with criminal backgrounds. Nearly 2 million refugees and asylum seekers currently reside in Uganda, the majority of whom are from other east African nations like Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Orders for deportation to Uganda have been issued to hundreds of asylum seekers, according to the Associated Press. Oryem Okello, the Ugandan minister of state for foreign affairs, said before the deportation flight arrived that no asylum seekers

had been sent by the US yet. The US may be “doing a cost analysis” and trying to avoid dispatching flights with only a few people onboard, he said. Okello added: “You can’t be doing one, two people at a time. Planeloads – that is the most effective way.” The US agreed to pay Eswatini \$5.1m (£3.8m) to take up to 160 third-country nationals, according to Reuters. Five men were deported by the US to the southern African nation in July, with another 10 sent in October. Two have since been repatriated to Jamaica and Cambodia respectively, while the rest remain in a maximum security prison. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had detained more than 63,000 people in the US, as of 12 March, according to government data. Toddlers and newborn babies were among the 5,600 people imprisoned at an ICE detention centre in Dilley, Texas, between April 2025 and February 2026, according to a report by the non-profit organisations Human Rights First and Raices.

OPEC Plus warns of a shock to the oil supply as the war in Iran affects shipping across the Strait of Hormuz

London: On Sunday, eight members of OPEC Plus, a group of powerful oil-producing countries, voiced alarm about the impact the war with Iran was having on the region’s energy infrastructure and worldwide oil supply. The coalition, which includes Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait, recently announced that it would increase its oil production limits by 206,000 barrels per day starting next month. This action is primarily symbolic because Iran’s virtual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has made it difficult for them to transfer their oil to international markets. According to the group’s announcement, “the committee stressed that any actions undermining energy supply security, whether through attacks on infrastructure or disruption of international maritime routes, increase market volatility.”

“Restoring damaged energy assets to full capacity is both costly and takes a long time,” the statement continued. Due to the significant shipping restrictions, several of OPEC Plus’s largest oil-producing members have drastically reduced oil production.

According to the International En-



ergy Agency, by mid-March, Persian Gulf nations had cut off an estimated 10 million barrels of daily oil output, or roughly 10% of the world’s supply. It predicted that as the fighting continued, the cuts would get deeper. Since the US and Israel began the war on February 28, global oil pricing have increased by about 50% to \$109 per barrel as of Thursday. Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman were the eight OPEC

Plus members that participated in the decision on Sunday. Aid organizations cautioned that the conflict in West Asia disrupted their ability to provide food and medicine to millions of people in need worldwide, and that if the violence persisted, the suffering would worsen. Not only has the conflict cut off vital shipping routes, creating a global energy crisis, it’s has also been disrupting supply chains for aid groups, forcing them to use costlier, more time-con-

suming routes. Key pathways such as the Strait of Hormuz have been effectively shuttered and routes from strategic hubs such as Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi have also been impacted. Transport costs have spiked with higher fuel and insurance rates, meaning less supplies can be delivered with the same amount of money. Steep US cuts to foreign aid already had hobbled many aid groups, who said the war was exacerbating the problem.

Costa Rica agrees to take in US deportees from foreign countries

Costa Rica: The Costa Rican government has agreed to accept up to 25 deported migrants per week from the US, as part of a cooperation deal with the Trump administration to manage deportations to “third countries.” Costa Rica’s Public Security Minister Mario Zamora stated that

the agreement is voluntary, with conditions including that deportees will not come from Latin America or have criminal records. Deported individuals will receive temporary legal status and assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) upon arrival. This

decision has attracted criticism from Costa Rican lawmakers amid concerns about human rights and government accountability, particularly with transitions in leadership. Previous deportation efforts into Costa Rica have faced scrutiny for mistreatment and inadequate support

for migrants. The new agreement between Costa Rica and the US alarmed lawmakers in the Central American country, especially during the transitional period in which Laura Fernández is scheduled to succeed Rodrigo Chaves as Costa Rica’s next president in May.

A local expert’s guide to seeing the most beautiful tulips in the Netherlands

The sight of candy-colored tulips breaking through the gloomy winter ground is one of the most memorable images. However, honoring tulips is a way of life in the Netherlands, which is the world’s biggest exporter of the enchanted flower. The Bollenstreek “Bulb Region,” which stretches between the towns of Haarlem and Leiden and arches towards the North Sea, is the most well-known location where rows of blooms adorn the country’s landscape in technicolor streaks during the weeks leading up to spring. Along with the tulips come tourists who want to see the blossoms for themselves. We spoke to Nienke Panis-Ringersma, the lens behind the popular Dutch-based tulip photography blog, Tulips in Holland, to find the best tulip bloom experiences in the Netherlands. “People in the Netherlands are very down to earth,” says Panis-Ringersma, whose images and tulip facts receive thousands of likes per month on Facebook. “They are quite used to the flower fields. You know when it’s tourist season, because the roads are clogged with people on a bike who are not used to riding bikes.”Nonetheless, Panis-Ringersma adores her nation’s iconic bulb flower – enough to have made it her career. “I think it’s the excitement,” she says. “It starts around December when we can buy tulips in the florist shops. And around the third weekend of January, we celebrate National Tulip Day. Around 300,000 tulips are placed on the museum square in Amsterdam with a beautiful backdrop of the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum. It’s the start of many tulip festivals leading up to the start of spring. It’s a magical place and I love the flower, the fragrance. Every tulip is unique. There is a great story to tell.” Here are Nienke Panis-Ringersma’s favourite ways to experience tulip season in the Netherlands.

1. Best overall: Keukenhof
“So, you ask for absolutely number one place? Visit Keukenhof,” says Panis-Ringersma. Established in 1949, Keukenhof Gardens is undoubtedly the most popular tulip experience in the Netherlands; its lushly landscaped “inspirational” tulip gardens and windmills drawing over a million visitors each year during its eight-week season. “Around 7 million bulbs are planted by hands, not by ma-

chine, every year,” says Panis-Ringersma, whose budding love for tulips was ignited by childhood visits to Keukenhof, where her grandfather volunteered as a ticket taker. “It’s the most beautiful spring garden in the world.” Visitors enjoy a wide variety of experiences at Keukenhof including picnics, flower exhibitions and didactic “whisper boat” cruises through the gardens, where contemporary art sculptures dot the grounds. But plan ahead; Keukenhof is open for just two months, usually from the first day of Spring to the first week of May, depending on the weather.

2. Best cultural experience: Catching the Bloemencorso Flower Parade
To truly get swept up in the excitement of tulip season, be sure to catch the Bloemencorso Flower Parade. A flower parade, described as a festive flower festival by Panis-Ringersma, features around 20 floats, marching bands, and lavishly decorated cars. The Bloemencorso

takes place on the third Saturday of April, traveling from Noordwijk to Haarlem, drawing large crowds who arrive early to secure good viewing spots. Panis-Ringersma recommends watching from Noordwijk to avoid the busy areas around Keukenhof. Visitors can enjoy Dutch Stroopwafel cookies or dine at Hudson Restaurant while experiencing the festive atmosphere and local markets throughout the towns.

3. Best interactive experience: Visiting a tulip farm
For those eager to experience tulips up close, Panis-Ringersma recommends visiting tulip farms in the Bollenstreek region. Her top choice is the family-operated Tulip Experience in Noordwijkerhout, featuring nearly 1 million tulips and the opportunity to see 700 different types, pick tulips, and purchase tulip-themed products like beer and soap.

Another option is Tulip Barn in Hillegom, known for its Instagram-friendly gardens with 750,000 tulips, appealing to younger visitors. Lastly, De Tulperij in Voorhout

offers a hands-on experience with a bulb grower, showcasing tulip cultivation techniques. These farms provide engaging, educational experiences beyond mere admiration of the blooms.

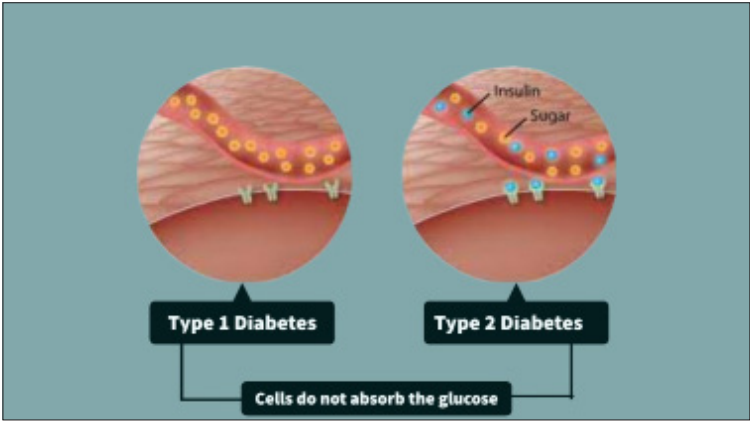
4. Best for kids: Tulip picking
For visitors with antsy kids (and a car), Panis-Ringersma loves tulip picking in the Bollenstreek. “Not in the regular fields where you can say as you’re walking, ‘Oh, I like this one!’” she says. “No, just go to a to a picking farm and pick your own tulips.” There are several picking farms in the Bollenstreek area, but Panis-Ringersma recommends heading to Annemieke’s Pluktuin, a tulip nursery in Hillegom run by husband-and-wife team, Annemieke and Pieter. “Pluktuin is literally ‘picking garden’,” explains Panis-Ringersma. “Tulip picking is an absolutely brilliant experience, especially when you go with children to walk into the field and get the tulip with the bulb and you can take the bulb and the tulip with you back home or to the hotel.”

5. Best for tulip aficionados: Hortus Bulborum
For Panis-Ringersma, whose passion for tulip photography led her to become an expert in tulip horticulture, the Hortus Bulborum historical bulb garden in Limmen is a sacred institute of learning. Hortus Bulborum in the Netherlands is a living museum preserving over 4,500 varieties of historical spring bulbs, including rare species like the 1557 Fritillaria Persica and the 16th-century tulip Duc van Tol Red and Yellow. Visitors can enjoy a small garden, along with apple pie and coffee, while exploring these ancient flowers.

How to recognize the symptoms of diabetes

The two main types of diabetes are type 1 and type 2. Type 2 is more common. Both keep the body from creating and using the hormone insulin effectively. Insulin enables the body to process sugar in the blood and make sure that it stays at a healthy level. If levels of blood sugar, or glucose, get too high, it can damage cells and cause complications throughout the body. According to the American Diabetes Association, 26.8 million people in the United States had a diagnosis of diabetes in 2018. Among them, nearly 1.6 million had type 1 diabetes. Meanwhile, they estimate that another 7.3 million people had undiagnosed diabetes that same year. And in 2015, they report, about 88 million people had prediabetes — high blood sugar levels indicating that a person is at risk of diabetes. Being able to identify early symptoms of diabetes can help a person know when to seek care. Receiving a diagnosis and treatment early can prevent long-term damage.

Signs and symptoms
Some signs and symptoms of diabetes



that common to both types include: fatigue hunger during or shortly after a meal weight loss, despite eating more extreme thirst frequent urination blurred vision slow healing of cuts and bruises tingling, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet acanthosis nigricans, an issue that causes skin on the neck, armpits, groin, and other areas to change color and texture, possibly becoming velvety

It is worth noting that factors such as age and overall health can affect how a person experiences these symptoms. **Type 1 diabetes in infants and young children** Young children are more likely to develop type 1 than type 2. A caregiver may notice. fatigue intense hunger unexplained weight loss vision changes yeast infections, which may present as a diaper rash

a fruity smell on the breath unusual behavior, such as irritability, restlessness, or mood changes **Type 1 diabetes in adults** This condition usually arises during childhood, but it can appear at any age. A person should see a doctor if they develop: unexplained weight loss extreme thirst frequent urination blurry vision repeated yeast infections slow healing of cuts and bruises **Type 2 diabetes** Many people only learn that they have type 2 diabetes during a routine check-up. Others see doctors about symptoms of the condition or its complications. **Symptoms of diabetes-related complications include:** skin infections or itching eye and vision changes tingling, pain, numbness, and weakness in the feet and hands poor circulation and ulcers on the feet thirst or dry mouth a fruity odor on the breath kidney problems

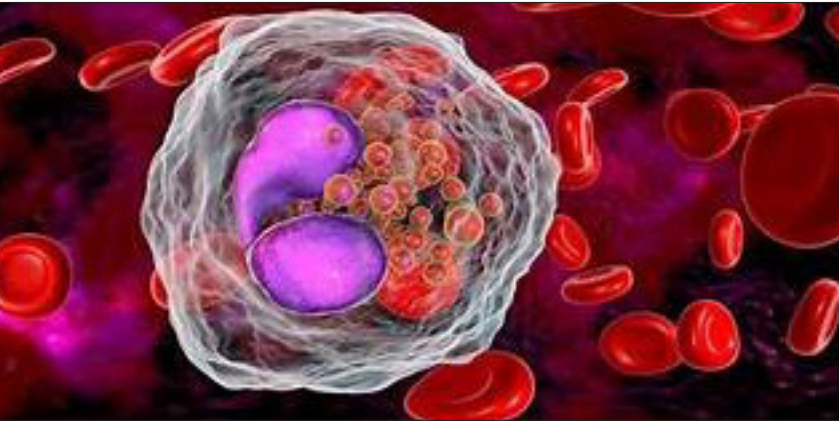
The top nations for women traveling alone in 2026

All signs indicate that solo women are driving travel trends, particularly women over 50 who increasingly seek independent travel experiences. Searches for “solo travel for women” surged 30% globally in the past five years. However, safety concerns remain significant, with 59% of women citing nighttime walking as a primary worry. There is no universal safety index for solo women travelers, but insights were gathered from the Georgetown University Women, Peace and Security Index and personal accounts from female travelers about their safest experiences. The document highlights five notable countries for solo women travelers and offers navigational tips. This Central American country, recently ranked among the happiest in the world, has significantly improved its position in the WPS Index, moving from 60th to 34th due to enhanced women’s inclusion and security. The digital nomad visa has attracted many remote workers. Travel agent Molly Gagnon highlights the sociability for solo women travelers in areas like Santa Teresa and Nosara, where connections can easily form through activities such as surf lessons and yoga. She advises newcomers to engage in structured activities and choose social accommodations. Meanwhile, the Caribbean side of the peninsula offers a tranquil experience, as noted by Ashley Hunter, who appreciated the serene coastal beauty and found inspiration during her travels south of Puerto Viejo. Estonia ranks 11th on the WPS Index, noting improvements in women’s health, financial inclusion, and community safety, while being 24th on the Global Peace Index. Travelers appreciate Tallinn’s Old Town for its rich history and artistry. Vietnam, at 38th on the Global Peace Index, offers social warmth and safe solo travel experiences, highlighted by engaging with locals and local tours. Uruguay climbed to 35th in the WPS Index, with low violence against women and a welcoming atmosphere; highlights include Colonia del Sacramento and Punta del Diablo. Norway, tied



for 3rd on the WPS Index, is known for its safety, welfare protections, and stunning nature, making it an attractive destination for solo female travelers.

Chronic eosinophilic leukemia: what is it?



Chronic eosinophilic leukemia (CEL) is a blood cancer that causes an excess of eosinophils in the body. Eosinophils are a type of white blood cell that help ward off infection, but having too many can be harmful. CEL is a rare type of myeloproliferative neoplasm — a blood cancer that develops when stem cells in bone marrow, called myeloid stem cells, produce too many red and white blood cells and platelets. CEL causes the body to overproduce a type of white blood cell called eosinophils. Eosinophils release chemicals to protect the body against certain infections or during an allergic reaction. People with CEL have high levels of eosinophils in their bone marrow, blood, and other tissues. **Symptoms** In the early stages of the disease, people may not have symptoms. And in some people without symptoms, a routine blood test indicates CEL. Other people may have severe symptoms, due to the effects of high eosinophil levels. Some symptoms of CEL may include: fatigue fever cough swelling under the skin around the eyes, lips, throat, hands, or feet muscle aches or pains itchiness diarrhea night sweats unexplained weight loss shortness of breath swollen lymph nodes anemia People who receive a CEL diagnosis are usually around 20–50 years old. Trusted Source, but it can also occur in children and older

adults. CEL is more common in males than females. **Causes** There is no known cause of CEL. Researchers have found no link, for example, between CEL and a mutation in genes or chromosomes. In some rare cases, CEL may be due to environmental factors, such as smoking or exposure to radiation or certain chemicals. **Diagnosis** In most cases, doctors aim to rule out all other possible causes of the person’s symptoms. If they then diagnose CEL, this is known as a diagnosis of exclusion. A doctor assesses any symptoms, does a physical examination, and may then perform a range of tests, such as: a complete blood count, which gives the amount and quality of white and red blood cells and platelet blood chemistry tests, which show how well organs are functioning a bone marrow biopsy and aspiration, which involves removing a small sample of bone marrow for testing. **Treatment** The best approach may vary from person to person with CEL. Corticosteroids, for example, and interferon alfa (Intron A, Wellferon) may help. Trusted Source treat the disease. Doctors may also use chemotherapy drugs, such as: hydroxyurea (Hydrea), possibly in combination with steroids cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan, Procytox) vincristine (Oncovin) A doctor may recommend targeted chemotherapy drugs, which work on specific genes or parts of leukemia cells. And treatment with the drug imatinib (Gleevec) may lead to long-lasting remission in some people with CEL. This drug prevents the production of abnormal eosinophil levels.

ENTERTAINMENT

Janhvi Kapoor remembers her mother Sridevi being referred to as a “homewrecker” after marrying Boney Kapoor

Mumbai: Actor Janhvi Kapoor recently discussed the emotional toll of losing her mother, Sridevi, during an appearance on Raj Shamani’s podcast. She recalled the harsh criticisms her mother faced, such as being labeled a “homewrecker,” and how such scrutiny affected Sridevi’s mental state. Janhvi expressed ongoing pain from her mother’s sudden loss in front of the public, stating that it also marked a significant change in her father’s demeanor.

Reflecting on her mother’s struggles, Janhvi acknowledged her lack of understanding in the past and recognized that Sridevi dealt with various pressures that she appreciated more now as an adult. Sridevi, who passed away in 2018, was an iconic actress in Indian cinema, known for her diverse roles across multiple film industries. Following her death, Janhvi made her acting debut in Dhadak and recently starred in the romantic comedy Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, which achieved moderate box-office success. Sridevi’s untimely death was ruled an accidental drowning,



occurring while she was in Dubai for a family wedding. Next up, Janhvi is slated to appear in the upcoming Telugu film Peddi opposite Ram Charan, set for release later this year.

Diljit Dosanjh teams up with AR Rahman



Mumbai: When Diljit Dosanjh, AR Rahman, and Imtiaz Ali collaborate for the first time on the song “Kya Kamaal Hai” from the film “Main Vaapas Aaunga,” expectations rise. Photos of the group, including songwriter Irshad Kamil, ignited excitement online. The song is part of the film’s soundtrack, set to release on June 12, with lyrics by Kamil. Directed by Ali, the romantic drama features Dosanjh with Sharvari Wagh, Vedang Raina, and Naseeruddin Shah. The recently released teaser hints at a narrative exploring deeper emotional themes, departing from conventional romance. This project also signifies a fresh collaboration dynamic for Dosanjh with the renowned musical team, known for past hits like “Rockstar” and “Highway.”

Vignesh Shivan responds to accusations that Nayanthara has eclipsed him

New Delhi: Director-lyricist Vignesh Shivan, anticipating the release of his film “Love Insurance Kompany” (LIK), recently discussed his relationship with his wife Nayanthara in an interview with YouTuber Gopinath Chandran. He addressed concerns that Nayanthara may be overshadowing him in his career, refuting such claims and emphasizing that in intimate relationships—be it between family members or spouses—there is no room for notions of overshadowing. He stated, “When we think like that, we can’t move forward in life,” highlighting the importance of mutual support. Vignesh shared a humorous incident that illustrates his perspective on public recognition. One day, while he was at a roadside stall and unable to pay for his juice without digital payment options, the shopkeeper recognized him and



addressed him as Nayanthara’s husband, allowing him to leave without payment. Vignesh recalled calling Nayanthara afterward, thanking her for her indirect support, showcasing the love and bond they share. He expressed joy in being recognized through Nayanthara, referencing his happiness when called “Uyir and Ulag’s father,” implying that such labels signify love rather than jealousy or ego.

Vijay Varma portrays an aspirational gambler in the 1960s Bombay film Matka King

Mumbai: On May 7, 2026, the trailer for actor Vijay Varma’s new crime-thriller series, Matka King, was made public. A compelling story set in the quickly changing Bombay (now Mumbai) of the 1960s is hinted at in the teaser. It centers on an aspirational cotton dealer who overcomes all obstacles to create the audacious new gaming enterprise known as “Matka,” which becomes a national phenomenon. Matka King delves into the lives of Brij Bhatti (Vijay Varma), a cunning and enterprising cotton dealer who longs for a better life in 1960s Bombay following independence. His audacious concept transforms gambling from a luxury hobby into something enormous, giving rise to “Matka.” However, the darker the repercussions, the higher the stakes; what begins as a dream has the power to destroy everything.

The Matka King’s dream pay off, or come crashing down? Vijay Varma, who portrayed Brij Bhatti, said, “Working in Matka King has been an exhilarating journey. Bringing this world and this character to life was both challenging and deeply fulfilling, especially in the backdrop of a different era altogether that I had never explored before. Also, returning to a Prime Original after Dhaad and Mirzapur is splendid.” Varma also praised the creators, Nagraj Manjule and Abhay Koranne, for allowing “creative freedom”. He also expressed gratitude over his working experience with co-stars Kritika Kamra, Sai Tamhankar, Gulshan Grover and others. “At its heart, Matka King is a story of ambition, power, and the price one pays for success, which I feel is universal, and will therefore be an engaging watch for audiences in India and around the world. I can’t wait for viewers to experience it when the series premieres on Prime Video on April 17,”

the actor added. Kritika Kamra also mentioned how the series allowed her to explore her “motivations and inner strength.” “My character in Matka King is quite different from anything I have done until now. It challenged me to delve into her world of choices, ambitions, and resilience. Every scene offered an opportunity to explore her motivations and inner strength, which was both exciting and demanding as an actor,” the actor said. Actor Sai Tamhankar, who plays Barkha, Brij Bhatti’s wife, in the show said, “On the surface, one may think that Barkha is a typical middle-class housewife. However, she is actually nuanced and layered, a forward-thinking, independent woman who is not walking in the shadows of her husband but carving her own path on her own terms.” She said that the series gave her an opportunity to explore a character that is completely different from the work she had done before.

Sara Arjun commends “Dhurandhar” and Aditya Dhar

Mumbai: Actor Sara Arjun thanked director Aditya Dhar and the entire “Dhurandhar” crew, saying, “History has been made.” Dhar’s 2025 film “Dhurandhar” and its follow-up “Dhurandhar: The Revenge” both featured Arjun as Yalina Jamali. It was released on March 19 and has already made over ₹1,500 crore at the box office worldwide. On Sunday, the actor posted a collection of photos of herself and the team on her Instagram account. The actor claimed that after meeting Dhar, she realized he would accomplish “something special for cinema.” “There was a look in Aditya’s eyes when I first saw him, sir. I came to the realization that he would do something unique for the movie theater. The enormity of that realization became apparent at every stage of the journey. However, it wasn’t until I looked back, after everything was finished, and saw the army of people standing outside the frame that I realized the peak detailing we all overlook along the way,” she wrote. According to her, the post is devoted to the “unsung heroes” of the two “Dhurandhar” movies. “To the captain of the ship, @adityadharfilms and his direction team: the architects of our focus, who tirelessly worked to take this dream to the screen. To the producers and the production team, @dhar_lokesh Jyoti ma’am, @officialjiostudios @b62studios weathering the storms so we could stand in the light. “To our DOP, @vik_now and camera team, who captured scale and soul in every frame. To our casting director, @castingchhabra and casting team, who set out looking for the right faces but ended up nailing the cast down to the very heartbeat,” she said.

Ananya Panday-Lakshya’s new posters talk first love, second chances

Mumbai: New posters for Ananya Panday and Lakshya’s upcoming love film Chand Mera Dil were released by producer Karan Johar. The strong chemistry between their characters, Aarav and Chandni, is highlighted in the posters.

“A love story where life happens faster than love” was what Karan Johar wrote on Instagram. Chand Mera Dil will be released in theaters on May 22, 2026. “Not every first love gets a second chance (sic)” and “When love grows faster than life (sic)” are two of the captions on the posters. Ananya and Lakshya’s romance, which is based on a blend of gentle closeness and youthful intensity, is depicted in the posters. There is



a natural ease to their coupling, whether they are sharing a vulnerable embrace in more intimate situations or caught in a private

moment in the middle of a packed classroom. The ads depict a shift from the sunny, “easy” stage of early love to the more stressful, emotionally taxing stage of “growing up.” The “faster than life” energy that the movie’s tagline promises is captured by their physical connection. Together, they give this contemporary romance tale a new, poignant spark. On May 5, Johar posted a poster featuring the main actors that said, “Pyaar ka koi set route nahi hota (There is no fixed way to romance) has thoda paagal hona padta hai (you just have to be a bit crazy) (sic)! Vivek Soni is the director of the movie, which Johar and Adar Poonawalla co-produced. On May 7, 2026, the teaser will be released. Chand Mera Dil is set for a theatrical release on May 22, 2026. This is the first time Lakshya has been paired opposite Ananya in a romantic film.

This April, Anurag Kashyap’s Dev.D will be back in theaters

New Delhi: Dev.D is returning to theaters, so get ready for a surreal throwback. Anurag Kashyap’s cult masterpiece will be re-released on April 24, allowing viewers to see its unvarnished, genre-defying narrative on a wide screen. Dev.D, a contemporary adaptation of Devdas, was first published in 2009. The re-release, which is supported by Star Studio18, intends to revive the film’s distinctive cinematic experience in theaters. The movie stars Abhay Deol, Mahie Gill, and Kalki Koechlin and is set in modern-day Delhi and Punjab. It centers on Devendra Singh “Dev” Dhillon, a wealthy young man whose life descends into drug misuse

following the breakup of his romance with Paro, his childhood sweetheart. When Dev develops an odd bond with Chanda, an escort dealing with her own personal struggles, his trip takes a different path. Together, their tales present a gritty, modern perspective on self-destruction, love, and heartbreak. Dev.D was a commercial and critical success when it was first released, and it has since gained cult status. Amit Trivedi’s music became a cultural phenomenon, with songs like Pardesi and Eemansal Attyachar still having an impact on listeners. Reflecting on the film, Anurag Kashyap said Dev.D was his attempt to break away from the romanti-



cised portrayals of Devdas seen in earlier adaptations featuring KL Saigal, Dilip Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan. He described his version as flawed, impulsive and rooted in a more realistic form of self-destruction. Abhay Deol, who conceived the project, called it a deeply personal success.

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan and Supriya Ganesh denounce colorist remarks

New Delhi: Recently, actors Maitreyi Ramakrishnan and Supriya Ganesh responded to a troll on social media who attacked them and other Indian actors Shabana Azeez and Charithra Chandran. They were “the most common faces used for Indian representation,” according to the troll, and their appearance fit the “kamwali bai (maid) phenotype.” The performers responded strongly to this remark. Supriya Ganesh, who plays Dr. Samira Mohan in The Pitt, criticized the post for being casteist, colorist, and classist. She emphasized the need of opposing such hostility and standing by those from similar backgrounds. Supriya Ganesh wrote, “Hey, so this is supremely ***** up, and I truly hope you deal with your self-hate. Colourist, classist, garbage take (sic), adding, “And casteist, but are we ready to talk about that (sic)?” She concluded firmly, “And I’m always going to talk back about this s*** because



I’m never going to let women and folks who look like me feel bad about themselves, never going to shut up.” Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, who stars as Devi Vishwakumar in Netflix’s Never Have I Ever, also replied with, “Womp Womp cry harder. It must be hard to look at four baddies constantly (sic).” Many social media users defended the actors. One commenter stated, “Leave everything else aside; these girls are far more successful than you. Twitter may be your only source of income, and this hate

the food of your ego while these girls are actually thriving (sic).” Another wrote, “Just say you’re jealous (sic).” A third added, “Congrats on going viral for being a racist and colourist. The only achievement in your life, I suppose (sic).” Charithra Chandran is known for her role as Edwina Sharma in Bridgerton Season 2. Shabana Azeez has gained international recognition for her role as medical student Victoria Javadi on The Pitt, appearing in several Australian films and TV series.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai might open in theaters earlier than anticipated

Mumbai: According to speculations, the makers of actor Varun Dhawan’s next movie, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, may decide to postpone its release. The movie is officially scheduled for June 12, but if team discussions continue, it might appear as early as May 22. Industry reports state that the change is being investigated as the movie is almost finished and the new date might provide a tactical edge at the box office. A final decision is anticipated in the upcoming days, even if there hasn’t been an official confirmation yet. The crew is considering a May 22 release to take advantage of the summer holiday window and comparatively less competition during that time, sources told Bollywood Hungama. The timing is thought to be ideal for bringing families and young people to the movies. Promotional preparations should be modified in accordance with the announcement, which is anticipated to happen soon if the date is set in stone. Varun Dhawan and his father, director David Dhawan, who is



well-known for their previous hits Main Tera Hero and Judwaa 2, are working together again on this movie. Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur play important parts in the project as well. Strong buzz has already been created by early peeks,

establishing the movie as a mainstream entertainment with a wide audience. The film’s release date has already seen changes. It was initially set for June 5 before being pushed to June 12 to avoid a clash with Toxic. A further shift to May

22 could help it sidestep another potential box office face-off with Imtiaz Ali’s Main Vaapas Aaunga. However, the earlier date may still see competition from multiple releases, making the final decision a crucial one for its theatrical run.

Nitish Kumar to take Rajya Sabha oath on April 10

New Delhi, Apr 12: On April 10, former chief minister Nitish Kumar will take the oath of office as a member of the Rajya Sabha, initiating the process of forming Bihar’s new government. Nitish Kumar’s swearing-in would take place before the oath of other newly elected state MPs, according to Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, who confirmed the schedule.

“This is a crucial first step before to the new government’s induction. On April 10, Nitish Kumar will take the Rajya Sabha oath, according to Chaudhary. On April 16, during a special session of Parliament, Bihar’s freshly elected Rajya Sabha MPs, including BJP national president Nitin Naveen and Sivesh Kumar, will be sworn in. The head of the RLM, Upendra Kushwaha, will take the oath of office on the same day as BJP leaders. The Rajya Sabha chamber will host all ceremonies. Before forming a government, the BJP has an important conference in Delhi.

According to BJP sources, Nitin Naveen will head a crucial gathering of Bihar BJP leaders on April 10 in Delhi. State BJP leaders and senior central leaders will attend the meeting. Present will be Bihar BJP president Sanjay Sarawagi, deputy leader Samrat Chaudhary, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Nityanand Rai, Sanjay Jaiswal, regional organisation secretary Nagendra Ji, and state organisation secretary Bhiku Bhai Dalsania. Ministers Dilip Jaiswal and Mangal Pandey are also expected to attend.

The agenda includes seeking the name of the new Chief Minister from the state core committee, attempting to reach consensus, and deciding the next steps following Nitish Kumar’s resignation as Chief Minister. While Nitish Kumar takes his oath on April 10, the BJP and RLM leaders’ Rajya Sabha swearing-in on April 16 will coincide with a special session of Parliament. The timing is seen as critical in setting the stage for Bihar’s new government formation and coordination between central and state leadership.



Billie Jean King Cup: India trails Thailand 0-1 due to Vaishnavi’s unintentional mistakes

New Delhi: In their inaugural Asia/Oceania Group I match of the Billie Jean King Cup on Tuesday, India’s Vaishnavi Adkar had a disappointing performance as a series of careless mistakes resulted in a straight-sets loss over Aunchisa Chanta, giving Thailand a 1-0 lead. Vaishnavi struggled to settle and lost 1-6 and 3-6 in one hour and thirteen minutes at the DLTA Centre Court, despite being ranked 73 spots higher at 383.

After a delay of over three hours due to heavy drizzle, the match finally got underway, with the chilly weather posing an additional hurdle. Vaishnavi got off to a shaky start, dropping service in the first game amid a string of mistakes. Aunchisa maintained her composure to take a 3-0 lead with a clean down-the-line backhand winner, but she briefly resisted in a drawn-



out third game, saving three break points and extending the match over seven deuces. Using a unique double-handed forehand, the Thai left-hander dominated the game from the baseline and quickly took a 4-0 lead. Even though Vaishnavi scored in the fifth game, Aunchisa maintained the lead and finished the first set in just 23 minutes while the Indian continued to

make mistakes. The second set offered a flicker of hope when Vaishnavi secured an early break, but she was unable to consolidate and immediately dropped serve.

The inconsistency persisted, with double faults creeping in and groundstrokes repeatedly sailing long. A love hold conceded in the fourth game further dented her chances. Vaishnavi attempted a late fightback, breaking Aunchisa in the seventh game to stay within reach at 3-4. However, Aunchisa stayed composed under pressure, saving two break points while serving for the match before sealing victory when Vaishnavi netted a backhand. India now look to Sahaja Yamlapalli, who faces Patcharin Cheapchandej in the second singles, with the hosts needing a win to remain alive in the tie.

India makes a second significant advancement in energy security



New Delhi, Apr 12: A nuclear reactor at Kalpakkam, near Chennai, achieved a self-sustaining chain reaction, marking India’s progress into the second stage of its three-stage nuclear energy strategy. The 500MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) attained “first criticality” on Monday, as confirmed by India’s Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and built by Bharatiya Nabhiikiya Vidyut Nigam, the PFBR uses a mix of plutonium and uranium to generate power while producing more nuclear fuel. This technology serves as a bridge to India’s future thorium-based reactors.

Ashok Kharat, a Nashik godman, is the subject of an ED money laundering investigation

New Delhi, Apr 12: Taking into consideration the numerous First Information Reports (FIRs) filed against Nashik-based self-styled godman Ashok Kharat and others in Nashik and other cities, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report, the ED equivalent of a police FIR. The astrologer, who was detained last month after a married woman accused him of repeatedly raping her over a three-year peri-

od, is charged with a number of other serious offenses, including engaging in sexual activity through deception and violating the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013. Besides the aforementioned allegations, Kharat has also been accused of financial misconduct, land grabbing, and illegal property deals in various localities. The ECIR against him and

his alleged associates was registered by the ED on April 4. The money-laundering investigation is likely to focus on allegations that several properties amassed by Kharat were acquired through fraudulent means and schemes.

The investigators are expected to prioritise identifying the proceeds of crime. According to sources, the probe agency also plans to take Kharat into custody to get further details of the alleged fraud perpetrated

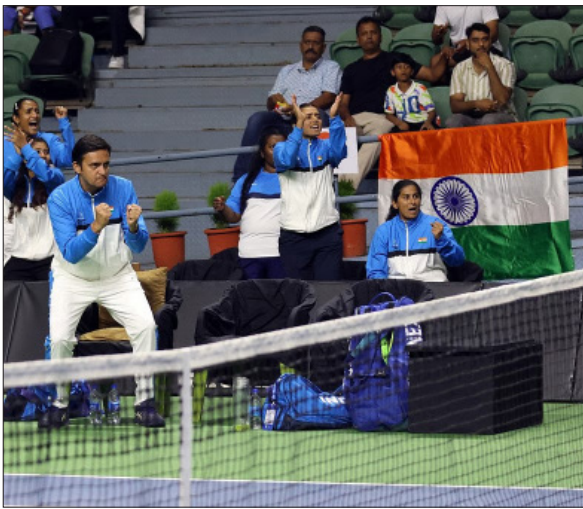
by him and information about his purported associates.ED will soon initiate the probe with raids, sources said. Meanwhile, documents related to the primary charges against Kharat, which are being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Maharashtra Police, have already been shared with the ED. Ashok Kharat, also known as ‘Captain’ Kharat’, is a former merchant navy officer who has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman

and exploiting others under the guise of religious practices. The police have said that he allegedly manipulated a 35-year-old married woman through rituals and claims of divine powers, drugged her with intoxicants, hypnotised her, and repeatedly assaulted her between November 2022 and December 2025. So far, three women have come forward with complaints of sexual abuse. However, the list is said to be steadily growing.

India loses 1-2 to Thailand despite winning the doubles consolation match in the BJK Cup opening round

New Delhi: India lost to Thailand 1-2 in the rain-soaked opening Asia/Oceania Group I match of the Billie Jean King Cup here on Wednesday, but Rutuja Bhosale and Ankita Raina salvaged some pride with a consolation win in the doubles following Sahaja Yamalapalli’s close loss in the second singles. When world No. 384 Sahaja resumed the match on Tuesday night after it was stopped due to weather, a lot was riding on her. But in a match that lasted two hours and twenty-five minutes, the 25-year-old lost 4-6, 6-1, and 4-6 to Patcharin, ranked 449, unable to keep India in the chase. In one hour and eleven minutes, Bhosale and Raina’s doubles team defeated Thasaporn Naklo and Peangtarn Plipuech 6-3 6-4. “We were aware that Thailand has an ex-

cellent team before the game. It’s imperative that we play some quality tennis. Unfortunately, we lost 2-0 because we failed to take the necessary action. We still have a long tournament ahead of us, so it’s fortunate that we won the doubles. And every victory counts,” skipper Vishal Uppal told reporters. Earlier, when the decisive resumed at 3-4, Patcharin maintained serve and Sahaja blasted a forehand wide to take a 5-3 lead. Sahaja dominated baseline exchanges with some outstanding groundstrokes while the match was on the verge of collapse. When the Thai hit long, she even earned a break point. However, she faltered at the crucial juncture, sending a forehand and a backhand long to hand the advantage back. A miscued return on the next point ended her



resistance. On Tuesday, debutant Vaishnavi Adkar had cracked under pressure, committing a flurry of unforced errors in a 1-6, 3-6 loss to Aunchisa Chanta. In the inconsequential doubles match, Bhosale and Raina produced a superlative show, breaking early to race to a 5-0 lead against Thasaporn Naklo

and Peangtarn Plipuech. The Thai pair fought back, holding serve twice and breaking once to reduce the deficit to 3-5. Serving for the set, the Indians raced to 40-0 and closed it out comfortably with Raina finishing with an overhead smash. In the second set, both pairs held serve to be level at 3-3 before Bhosale

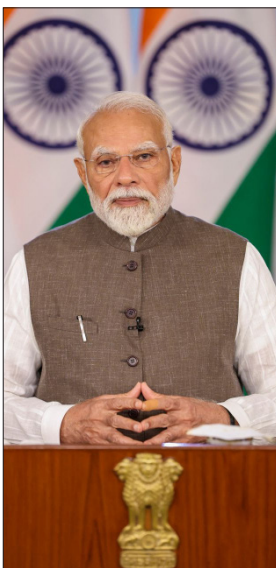
and Raina secured the decisive break in the seventh game and went on to seal the set 6-4. India will face New Zealand in their next tie later in the day. On the performance of the singles players, Uppal said: “In all fairness, I think Chanta played a really good match. I think she might have made 2 or 3 unforced errors in the match. She had a great day. Vaishnavi didn’t have as good a day as she possibly could have. Having said that, we knew our backs were against the wall.” And we really needed to get back in the second singles, which we didn’t. Again, last night we finished up pretty late. And there’s not really much conversation you can have because you need the players to recover and rest. And yeah, now we’ve got to train our energies in New Zealand and focus on that.”

PM Modi gets briefed by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai Bastar development push

New Delhi, Apr 12: Vishnu Deo Sai, the chief minister of Chhattisgarh, met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and gave him a comprehensive plan for infrastructure development in Bastar, a former Maoist stronghold, according to reports.

The conference took place at a time when security establishment sources have warned that the administration may have an enormous challenge in rehabilitating and reintegrating surrendered Maoists who have accepted the government’s rehabilitation package. According to officials, ensuring their safety and preventing social stigma from impeding their assimilation into society present a new problem.

The meeting’s main topic was Bastar’s comprehen-



sive development roadmap in light of the region’s diminishing Maoist influence. Through significant infrastructural investments, the roadmap seeks to bring formerly isolated tribal villages into the mainstream,

according to a security official affiliated with the Union home ministry. “Chief Minister Sai said during the gathering that Maoism has been virtually eradicated throughout Chhattisgarh, including its previous bastion of Bastar, and that an optimistic atmosphere has replaced the fearful one.

The official added, “He also emphasized his government’s major infrastructure plan, which includes roads and bridges, connectivity, and energy.”

During the meeting, Sai extended an official invitation to Modi to visit Bastar and sought central assistance for 61 newly proposed projects, citing that the end of Maoism has cleared the path for Bastar to become a model of development.

Aaron Ramsey, a former midfield player for Juventus and Arsenal, has announced his retirement

New Delhi, Apr 12: After a stellar 20-year career, former Arsenal star Aaron Ramsey has announced his retirement from professional football with immediate effect. Following a last season with Pumas UNAM in Liga MX last year, the 35-year-old midfielder announced his decision. Ramsey’s retirement signifies the end of a career that featured a golden age for the Wales national team and top teams throughout Europe. Making this choice has not been simple. I’ve made the decision to retire from football after giving it a lot of thought,” Ramsey stated in a statement. “I want to start with Wales first.

Wearing the Welsh shirt and experiencing so many amazing events in it has been an honor. Ramsey’s decision stems from his intention



to retire after making one last try to represent Wales at another significant international event, as well as persistent injury issues in the latter stages of his career.

Although his relocation to Mexico was perceived as an attempt to keep up his form and fitness, he finally decided to end his playing career. “You have supported the Red Wall through good times and bad. You have been a

crucial and important component of our success, supporting us through the highs and lows. I am really grateful. It has been an honor to represent you because we have experienced everything together. “Diolch,” he continued. Ramsey, a prominent Welsh footballer, earned 86 caps and scored 23 goals for Wales, significantly contributing to their UEFA Euro 2016 semi-final run and their World Cup qualification. He started his career at Cardiff City and gained fame at Arsenal, where he won three FA Cups, including the decisive goals in the finals of 2014 and 2017. After 11 successful seasons, he moved to Juventus in 2019, winning the Serie A title that season, and also played for Rangers and OGC Nice. He expressed gratitude to the clubs and staff that supported his career.

Universities are required by UGC to perform the National Song’s six stanzas

New Delhi, Apr 12: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has mandated that all universities and colleges comply with a notification from the Union government regarding the singing of the national song, Vande Mataram, in its entire-

ty on designated occasions. This directive is based on an order from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) dated January 28, 2026, which includes all six stanzas of the song, though traditionally only the first two were sung at public events. The UGC’s

letter, issued on April 6, 2026, instructs educational institutions to ensure adherence to these orders and to provide appropriate guidance to relevant parties. According to the MHA directive, the full version of Vande Mataram should be performed along-

side mass singing during significant events, such as the unfurling of the national flag and cultural functions, except for formal state functions. Schools are encouraged to begin their day’s work with a community rendition of Vande Mataram.

Congress attacks PM Modi after Pakistan mediates a cease-fire between the US and Iran

New Delhi, Apr 12: Hours after Pakistan declared it will host talks between the United States and Iran following a two-week truce agreement between the two nations, the opposition, including the Congress party, took a jab at the BJP-led central government on Wednesday. The Congress declared that “the self-styled Vishwaguru stands thoroughly exposed” and called Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “highly personalised diplomacy” a “severe setback” due to Pakistan’s involvement.

The grand old party said PM Modi’s “cowardice is demonstrated by his silence not only on Israel’s belligerence but also on the completely unacceptable and disgraceful language being used by his good friend in the White House”. People all around the world would react cautiously to the two-week ceasefire in the West Asian confrontation between the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other, according to Congress General Secretary



in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh. The targeted killings of Iran’s highest ranking officials on February 28th marked the start of the conflict. These had begun barely two days after Prime Minister Modi’s highly publicized trip to Israel, which lowered India’s status and standing internationally, according to Ramesh. Ramesh said the Prime Minister had not spoken about Israel’s “genocide” in Gaza or its expansionist actions in the occupied West Bank. “The role played by Pakistan in bringing about the ceasefire is a severe setback to both the substance and style of Mr Modi’s highly personalised diplomacy,” he said. He said that efforts to isolate Pakistan over its continued support for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and to present it globally as a failed state,

had not worked. He compared this to what former prime minister Manmohan Singh “accomplished after the Mumbai terror attacks”. Ramesh said a country facing economic distress and relying on external support had still managed to take on such a role.

“He (Modi) or his team has also never explained why Op Sindoor was suddenly and abruptly halted on May 10th 2025 - the first announcement of which came from the US Secretary of State and for which the US President has claimed credit almost a hundred times since then,” the Congress leader said. “There is a palpable sigh of relief everywhere.

The External Affairs Minister (S Jaishankar) dismissed Pakistan as a dalal. But now the self-styled Vishwaguru stands thoroughly exposed, his self-declared 56-inch chest shrunk and shrivelled,” Ramesh said. “His cowardice is demonstrated by his silence not only on Israel’s belligerence, but on the completely unacceptable and disgrace-

ful language being used by his good friend in the White House,” he added. The BJP has not yet responded to the Congress’ charges. Iran, the United States and Israel said they had agreed on a two-week ceasefire in the war. Tehran also said it would begin talks with the United States in Islamabad from Friday. Trump said he had agreed “to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks” as long as Iran agrees to “the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz.”

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said in a statement that “for a period of two weeks, safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible via coordination with Iran’s Armed Forces” and that if attacks against Iran are halted, “our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations.” The agreement gives both sides time to try for a longer deal to end the six-week-old conflict, which has killed thousands and triggered a global energy crisis.

Jannik Sinner acknowledges that he misses the rivalry with Carlos Alcaraz

New Delhi: According to Jannik Sinner, he has been missing his intense competition with Carlos Alcaraz. Since 2021, the two have met off 16 times, and Alcaraz has a 10-6 head-to-head record. But Sinner and Alcaraz haven't seen one other in almost five months; last November, they faced off in the ATP Finals title match. Many of the top players in the sport begin their clay-court season at the Monte Carlo Masters, where both players are presently competing. However, they can



only play each other in the final because they are the two best players in the world. Alcaraz was also praised by Sinner, who claimed that the Spaniard encourages him to put in a lot of effort for each point. He's a player who challenges me, so yes, I do miss it. However, Sinner stated in Monte Carlo, "We both know that if we want

to play each other, we both have to reach the final, and the road to get there is really tough." During the competition, Sinner also has the opportunity to regain the top spot in the world. Regardless of Alcaraz's performance, the Italian will be assured a return to the top rank if he wins the Monte Carlo title. If Alcaraz is eliminated before the quarterfinals, a semi-final result would also be sufficient for Sinner. If Sinner reaches the final and Alcaraz fails to do the same, he will move back to

No. 1 as well. In all other scenarios, Alcaraz will retain the top ranking after the tournament. After completing the Sunshine Double with titles at Indian Wells and Miami, Sinner has closed the gap to just 190 points behind the Spaniard in the rankings. The Italian has no points to defend at the Monte Carlo Masters, having missed the tournament last season. Alcaraz, however, will be under pressure as the defending champion, with 1,000 ranking points to protect in Monte Carlo.

Tamil Nadu's Ranji Trophy preparation would undergo structural adjustments, according to the TNCA secretary

New Delhi: U. Bhagwandas Rao, secretary of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA), praised the State's Under-23 team on Wednesday for winning both the BCCI men's U-23 State-A Trophy and their first Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy this season. "We are ecstatic. It's a really uncommon double.



At the NPR College Cricket Ground, he declared, "I think this team

has done exceptionally well." To put it succinctly, Tamil Nadu has a lot of ac-

complishments. He continued, "This is undoubtedly one of them, and I'm sure we'll see a lot of it in the upcoming years." Praising the team's campaign in the four-day competition, he said: "The way they have gone about conducting themselves all through the league phase and then taking it a couple of notches up for the knockouts is a really good learning. Kudos to the coaching staff, who set the team culture," he said. According to Bhagwandas, structural adjustments are

In defeat, Sheetal Devi gracefully helps limbless archer Payal Nag on the podium

New Delhi: Payal Nag 139 and Sheetal Devi 136 on the scoreboard depicted a sporting upset as the opening notes of the national anthem reverberated through the Bangkok Archery Centre on Saturday. However, the image of two young ladies standing side by side on the podium at the World Archery Para Series will live on in Indian sports history rather than the score. Payal Nag, an 18-year-old Odisha prodigy, was there with the gold medal around her neck. Beside her stood the world's most celebrated para-archer, Sheetal Devi. Payal, a quadruple amputee who uses a wheelchair to get about, was unable to face the tricolor during the playing of the national song. Before officials could interfere, Sheetal – who had just witnessed



her international title slip away — bent down. She carefully hooked Payal's wheelchair footrest and turned it so the adolescent could face the flag, using her

legs with the same grace as when she pulls a bow. It was a touching example of good sportsmanship when the winner made sure her successor looked well.

Praggnanandhaa loses, virtually eliminating her chances of winning

New Delhi: Anish Giri defeated Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa in the eighth round of the Candidates Tournament, severely undermining his chances of winning. After suffering his second defeat of the competition, Praggnanandhaa is virtually eliminated from the fight for the championship, which is becoming increasingly one-sided. Praggnanandhaa failed to take advantage of a stable position and paid the price for late mistakes on a day when Javokhir Sindarov strengthened his hold at the top with a calm draw against Andrey Esipenko. With six rounds left, Sindarov has a commanding two-point lead and is presently 6.5 points out of a possible eight, placing him well-positioned to challenge D Gukesh, the current world champion, later this year.

After defeating Giri in the first round, Praggnanandhaa started the Vienna variant carefully while wearing black. Giri was able to gain a little advantage after the early exchanges, but the Indian did a good job of countering the pressure and leveling the playing field. A error on the 35th move proved to be pivotal just when the position ap-

peared to be balanced. With a deft tactical play, Giri swiftly took the lead, and a few moves later, Praggnanandhaa made another mistake that effectively finished the match. After the loss, Praggnanandhaa is now tied for fourth position with Wei Yi, Matthias Bluebaum, and Hikaru Nakamura with 3.5 points. With the leader already two points ahead, the Indian now faces an uphill task in the remaining rounds if he is to re-enter the title race. Giri's victory took him to 4.5 points, where he is joined by Fabiano Caruana, though both remain well behind Sindarov and will need a near-perfect finish to stay in contention. Nakamura, meanwhile, boosted his chances with a key win over Caruana, while Wei Yi and Bluebaum settled for a draw in their encounter. In the women's section, R Vaishali stayed within touching distance of the leaders after drawing with Bibisara Assaubayeva. Anna Muzychuk looked set to maintain her narrow lead, while Kateryna Lagno defeated Aleksandra Goryachkina to move level with Vaishali on 4.5 points, keeping the contest wide open heading into the final stretch



Arsenal has a narrow lead in the quarterfinals thanks to Havertz's stoppage-time goal

New Delhi: In the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Tuesday, Arsenal defeated Sporting 1-0 thanks to a goal from substitute Kai Havertz in stoppage time. After Gabriel Martinelli found the Germany attacker unmarked inside the area, he calmly slotted the ball past goalkeeper Rui Silva to end a tactical match.



Following a first half in which Arsenal's Noni Madueke and Sporting's Maxi Araujo both struck the woodwork, the visiting team's Martin Zubimendi effort was disallowed before David Raya made multiple late saves to deny the home team. After replacing the injured Martin Odegaard in the 70th minute, Havertz broke the impasse in extra time and secured the lead ahead of next week's return leg. "Beautiful and that's the impact you need when you get to this stage of the season. Everybody has to make an impact and they certainly did

that tonight," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta told Amazon Prime regarding the winner. "We had a goal disallowed, and there were two or three occasions where we were close, but we lacked that final pass. In the end, a magic moment from the finishers wins us the game." The winner of the tie will face Barcelona or Atlético Madrid, which play at the Nou Camp on Wednesday, in the semi-finals. Arsenal arrived in Lisbon seeking to bounce back from Sat-

urday's FA Cup quarterfinal exit at second-tier Southampton, and will be delighted with the win, but the sight of captain Odegaard limping off will concern Arteta. The Norway midfielder appeared to struggle throughout the match, having recently returned from a long-term injury layoff. The first half was a cagey affair, with the woodwork denying both sides an opening goal. Araujo came close for the hosts, seeing his powerful left-foot strike rebound off

the post following a break into the box in the opening minutes. However, Arsenal grew into the contest and nearly led through Madueke.

The winger rose to meet an out-swinging corner, but his header clipped the bar with Silva beaten. Despite the near misses, both teams struggled to find a consistent rhythm, with the tie remaining finely balanced heading into the second half. Arsenal thought it had the breakthrough shortly after the hour when Zubimendi curled the ball into the net at the near post, but it was ruled out after a VAR review found former Sporting striker Viktor Gyokeres to be offside in the build-up. With the host dominating the latter stages, Raya was forced into several crucial interventions, including a diving save to divert Geny Catamo's low header behind for a corner, with the Spaniard's performance earning the Player of the Match award. "It's something

that I'm there for. I'm trying to help the team as much as possible in any single action, not just defending but commanding and on the ball," Raya said.

The match seemed headed for a draw until a late lapse from the Sporting defence gave Havertz the space to control the ball and find a clinical finish to put Arsenal in the driving seat. The result marks a return to winning ways for Arsenal following consecutive defeats, including its FA Cup exit and defeat by Manchester City in the League Cup final. "We've come from two losses, learn from those moments, that pain when you lose a game" Raya added. "Use that pain in the belly to go out there and express yourself, be yourself and try to be better every single day. That's the main message we have to send out there." Premier League leader Arsenal will try to keep up the momentum when it hosts Bournemouth on Saturday.

Lakshya is eliminated, as Sindhu wins a thrilling opening round

Badminton Asia Championships 2026

New Delhi: P.V. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, overcame a scare on Wednesday in the opening round of the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 in Ningbo, China. In an hour and seven minutes, Sindhu overcame a deficit to overcome Malaysian World No. 38 Wong Ling Ching 15-21, 21-11, and 21-19 in a match played after more than two months. To advance to the quarterfinals, the Indian will take against Wang Zhi Yi, a two-time champion and second-seeded Chinese. Earlier, Ayush put on a spectacular display, defeating World No. 7 and China's bronze medallist Li Shi Feng in straight games (21-13, 21-16 in 51 minutes). In the round of 16, Ayush will face Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen. However, Lakshya Sen suffered a 12-21, 19-21 defeat against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu. Kidambi Srikanth also exited in the first round after a 21-18, 9-21, 11-21 loss to former World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. In women's singles, Malvika Bansod and Tanvi Sharma both lost their respective matches in straight games. Later in the day, H.S. Prannoy and Unnati Hooda will also be in action in singles.



Gill will be back when the Gujarat Titans play the Delhi Capitals

New Delhi: For Gujarat Titans (GT) in the 19th Indian Premier League (IPL), minor pain could quickly escalate into serious anxiety.

The Titans must get off to a fast start against the Delhi Capitals (DC) at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday in order to prevent it from occurring.

GT cannot afford to lose for the third time in a row after dropping its first two games. Shubman Gill, the captain and outstanding opener, trained on Tuesday, which will reassure GT. Due to a muscular spasm, the 26-year-old was unable to play in his team's previous match against the Rajasthan Royals in Ahmedabad.

The 2022 champion came dangerously near to surpassing RR's score of 210 for six in spite of his absence, scoring 204 for eight to lose by just six runs. Gill is excellent. He's all right. At the pre-game press con-



ference, Titans opener B. Sai Sudharsan declared, "He will be playing." In the nation's capital, GT's bowlers will need to improve.

In the first two games, Ashok Sharma, 23, stood out among the attack's well-known players. A 154 kmph thunderbolt during the last match demonstrat-

ed his unadulterated speed in his locker. DC, meanwhile, must be brimming with confidence after two wins out of two.

The uncapped Sameer Rizvi has made his opportunities count at No. 4, retaining his sangfroid in two potentially tricky chases to get the job done for the franchise. The cave-

at in Capitals' case is that they began last season with similar ebullience, only to fizzle out in the second half of the competition. There is light rain forecast on Wednesday. But DC won't want the weather to play spoilsport given its red-hot form. Neither will GT, for it needs the two points to get going.