

In Brief

Four Dead in Guwahati Amid Flood Chaos

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Tripura Student's Death

Agartala, Apr 22: The father of a 24-year-old student from Tripura, who died after an alleged racial assault in Dehradun, has accused the Uttarakhand Police of negligence, claiming that the main accused is still absconding even four months after the incident. Tarun Prasad Chakma, a head constable with the Border Security Force, said his son Anjel Chakma was attacked on December 9, 2025, in the Selaqui area after objecting to racial slurs directed at him and his younger brother. Anjel later succumbed to his injuries on December 26.

High Court halts tree felling in vacated Assam Rifles land in Aizawl

Aizawl: The Aizawl bench of the Gauhati High Court has ordered an immediate halt to further felling of trees in the vacated Assam Rifles land in Aizawl. The court passed the directive after taking cognisance of a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging large-scale cutting of century-old trees on a plot of land in Aizawl's Lammual area, which the Assam Rifles vacated. The trees were being chopped for a road widening project. Hearing the PIL, a division bench comprising Justice Michael Zothankhuma and Justice Kaushik Goswami took note of recent media reports that indicated 174 of 400 trees on the site are being felled to make way for development projects and asked the Mizoram government to stop the felling of trees. Many of these trees are believed to be over a century old, the court said on Monday.

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2 arrested for indulging in violence in Manipur

Imphal, Apr 21: Manipur police on Tuesday arrested two individuals for pelting stones at security personnel in Imphal East district. The situation across the state remains tense with Meitei organisations enforcing "complete shutdown" in the valley for the third day on Tuesday, neglecting appeals by the government and deployment of security forces.

Gauhati High Court Orders Mizoram To Stop Tree Felling On Vacated Land



Aizawl, Apr 22: The Gauhati High Court's Aizawl bench has directed the Mizoram government to temporarily halt tree felling in the Lammual area of Aizawl, a site recently vacated by the Assam Rifles. The interim order was issued on Monday by a division bench comprising Justice Michael Zothankhuma and Justice Kaushik Goswami while hearing a public interest litigation filed by environmental activist Siazampui Sailo on behalf of the Centre for Environment and Social Justice. The court noted

Media reports indicating that 174 of the 400 trees on the site were being cut to make way for development projects, many of which are believed to be more than a century old. It further observed that structures in the barrack area, constructed in 1897, have been designated as heritage and questioned the state government's decision to remove century-old trees in the heart of the city. After hearing submissions from Additional Advocate General P. Bhattacharyya for the state and advocate T.J.

Assam CM condoles death of BSF jawan from Assam in Ladakh

Guwahati, Apr 22: Assam bade a tearful adieu to a BSF jawan from the state who died in Ladakh while on duty. Ramen Baruah of Sivasagar district had a fatal fall during intense snowfall on April 18 and his body got buried deep under snow. It took two days to retrieve his mortal remains, which finally reached his home on Tuesday.



"Deeply saddened by the untimely demise of BSF Jawan Shri Ramen Baruah of Chintamani Gaon, Sivasagar, who laid down his life while serving the nation in Ladakh," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on his X handle today. "The nation salutes his courage and supreme sacrifice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," Sarma added. His last rites were performed at his native village on Tuesday with full honours.

During his cremation, Sivasagar Police also paid heartfelt tribute to Baruah, who was a constable of 139 Bn of BSF.

Security forces destroy six bunkers, arms seized in Manipur

Imphal, Apr 22: Security forces today destroyed as many as six illegal bunkers in the Saikul Police Station area in Kangpokpi district of Manipur. Giving the area-wise breakup, Manipur police said that two illegal bunkers were destroyed at Tingpibung village, three at Lungter Hill and one at Leplen village. Twelve empty cases of 7.62 mm ammunition were recovered from the site. In another incident, security forces today recovered one AK-47 rifle along with a magazine, one Carbine along with a magazine, four IEDs, and two Motorola radio sets near Indo-Myanmar border under Moreh Police Station in Tengnoupal district. Political observers point out that the timing of these operations is crucial, as Manipur continues to grapple with unrest and sporadic clashes. The government has reiterated its commitment to restoring peace and stability,



stressing that coordinated efforts between police, paramilitary, and intelligence agencies will continue until armed threats are neutralized.

Murder convict rearrested after jailbreak

Itanagar, Apr 22: Police rearrested a murder convict, Birju Bhumij, on Wednesday after he escaped from Koloriang sub-jail in Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday. According to officials, the breakthrough came following swift action by the police team, combined with strategic planning and continuous monitoring. A tip-off provided by some residents of Nikja village played a key role in tracking down the convict, leading to his arrest. Police stated that the operation reflects the force's readiness and efficiency in handling such situations. Authorities also emphasized the importance of public cooperation in maintaining law and order.

Four Dead in Guwahati Amid Flood Chaos; Magisterial Probe Ordered into Maligaon Incident

Guwahati, Apr 22: At least four deaths have been reported in Guwahati following heavy rainfall and severe waterlogging, prompting authorities to launch multiple investigations, including a magisterial inquiry.

Three bodies were recovered from different parts of the city on Tuesday. While officials have not conclusively linked the deaths to flooding, preliminary findings suggest they may be connected to recent artificial flood conditions.

According to police, all three individuals had been missing since Sunday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Balin Deuri said the bodies were recovered from the Basistha River, Mora Bharalu River, and a pond near Lachitgarh.

Two of the deceased have been identified. Akhtar Ali (28), a specially-abled person suffering from epilepsy, was found in the Basistha River. He had gone missing from Hatigaon Notboma on April 19. Another victim, Asim Kalita from Datalpara, was recovered from the Mora Bharalu River in Jyotikuchi.

The third body, recovered from a pond near Lachitgarh, remains unidentified. The

individual was reportedly wearing a shirt marked "Mittal."

In a separate but related incident, Payel Nath Das (32), a resident of Dharapur, died after being swept away by an overflowing drain at Maligaon Chariali during intense rainfall on Sunday night—bringing the total death toll to four.

Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner Swapnaneel Paul confirmed that the bodies were recovered from Bharalu River and a pond in Pamohi, adding that investigations are ongoing to determine the exact causes.

Meanwhile, the Assam government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the Maligaon death. The decision was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Ravi Kota, directing the District Commissioner to fix responsibility.

Officials stated that "incidents resulting in loss of life due to preventable causes are unacceptable and will be dealt with firmly." Authorities have also issued directions to key agencies including the India Meteorological Department, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, and District Disaster Management Authority to provide

timely weather forecasts and advisories.

The National Highways Authority of India has been tasked with ensuring round-the-clock deployment for clearing drainage systems and operating pumps in critical stretches such as Tetelia-Jalukbari, Excel Care-Gorchuk, and Jorabat-Khanapara.

Urban bodies like the Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, and the Water Resources Department have been directed to remain on 24x7 alert to tackle waterlogging in vulnerable areas including Anil Nagar, Lachit Nagar, and Rukmini Nagar.

The Public Works Department (Roads) has also been instructed to carry out extensive desiltation, especially along GS Road near Bhangagarh.

The review followed cloudburst-like rainfall, with some areas recording around 120 mm of rain within a few hours, leading to widespread flooding, disruption of daily life, and public hardship. With more rainfall expected, residents—particularly in landslide-prone areas—have been advised to remain cautious. Authorities stated that all departments are working in coordination to restore normalcy.

Manipur Shutdown Enters Second Day, Calm Prevails Under Curfew-Like Restrictions

Imphal, Apr 22: The second day of the ongoing shutdown passed off largely peacefully in T. Khullen and adjoining areas, with normalcy reported on the ground despite heightened security concerns a day earlier. The three-day total shutdown in all Naga-inhabited areas, was called by the United Naga Council (UNC) in response to the killing of two Naga individuals in TM Kasom, Ukhrul.

According to an order issued by the District Magistrate of Kangpokpi, prohibitory restric-

tions were imposed across the Kangpokpi sub-division from 6 PM on April 21 under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023, following reports of a potential threat to lives and property in S. Changoubung, T. Khullen, and nearby areas along the National Highway-02.

The order prohibits the movement of individuals outside their residences and bans the assembly of five or more persons, particularly those carrying sticks, stones, firearms, or other potentially dangerous materials.

However, exemptions have been made for essential services, law enforcement agencies, and judicial functioning.

While commotion and tension were reported in T. Khullen earlier, the situation on Wednesday appeared under control.

Ground observations indicated strict adherence to the order, with no gathering of more than three individuals seen in public spaces.

Security forces, including police and army personnel, have been deployed extensively



across sensitive areas to maintain law and order and prevent any escalation.

Officials continue to monitor the situation closely, even as the

shutdown remains in effect.

No untoward incident was reported from any part of the ongoing UNC total shutdown till filing of this report.

Tripura Student's Death Father Alleges Police Negligence as Main Accused Remains Absconding

Agartala, Apr 22: The father of a 24-year-old student from Tripura, who died after an alleged racial assault in Dehradun, has accused the Uttarakhand Police of negligence, claiming that the main accused is still absconding even four months after the incident.

Tarun Prasad Chakma, a head constable with the Border Security Force, said his son Anjel Chakma was attacked on December 9, 2025, in the Selaqui area after objecting to racial slurs directed at him and his younger brother. Anjel later succumbed to his injuries on December 26.

Chakma alleged that there has been no active effort to trace the main accused. "It has been months, but there is no active police operation. The main accused is believed to be in Nepal, and there is no clarity on his

whereabouts," he said, pointing to administrative lapses in handling the case.

He further claimed that the police delayed registering a First Information Report (FIR), which was filed only after the intervention of a Member of Parliament. He also alleged possible collusion between local authorities and the accused.

The prime suspect, Yagyaraj Awasthi, a resident of Kanchanpur in Nepal, allegedly fled across the border after the incident. So far, police have arrested five out of six accused, including two minors.

Officials said a lookout circular (LOC) was issued in January, and a Blue Corner notice has been initiated to trace the absconding accused internationally. The process of issuing a Red Corner notice is also underway.

Police Prevent Vandalism at CM-Opened BDO in Manipur

Imphal, Apr 22: Manipur Police resorted to controlled firing to prevent a mob armed with stones and catapults from vandalising a newly-constructed Block Development Office (BDO) inaugurated by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh in Thoubal on Tuesday. "During the Chief Minister's visit, a large group of individuals armed with stones and catapults advanced toward the function site with apparent intent to vandalize the newly constructed BDO office. Despite repeated warnings and appeals by police personnel to disperse, the crowd continued to move aggressively, posing a serious threat to public property, dignitaries present, and overall law and order," the state police force stated on social media. "In view of the escalating situation, minimum necessary force was applied. As a last resort, controlled firing was undertaken in strict adherence to established protocols to disperse the mob and neutralize the threat," the police force stated. "During the course of this action, one individual, who was part of the violent mob, Elangbam Nandbir Singh (40),



a resident of Heirok Part 2 Elangbam Leirak, and currently serving as VDF SPO A-Coy, sustained an injury," it informed. Police said the situation was subsequently brought under control, preventing further damage and ensuring the safety of all concerned. Notably, the Chief Minister had visited Thoubal to inaugurate the Block Development Office, Wangjing Tentha CD Block, marking a significant step towards strengthening administration and advancing people-centric governance in this rapidly developing region. "The new Block Development Office will enhance administrative efficiency, streamline service delivery, and ensure timely, transparent, and hassle-free access to public services," the Chief Minister said.

Sikkim homemaker Sushmita Rai tops 113 km Devbhoomi Challenge in Uttarakhand

Sikkim, Apr 22: A 43-year-old homemaker from Sikkim, Sushmita Rai, secured first place in the women's category of the 113-km Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0, a high-altitude endurance race organised in Uttarakhand from April 16 to 20, 2026.

Organised by the Indian Army with support from Uttarakhand Tourism, the multi-stage event covered 113 km over three days, traversing challenging Himalayan terrain across Chamoli district and Rudrapur district. The route included steep ascents, rocky trails, and high-altitude stretches, testing participants' endurance and adaptability. Rai, a mother of two and wife of Basant Rai, competed against trained runners from

across the country while managing her household responsibilities. She recorded a cumulative time of 20 hours, 31 minutes, and 59 seconds, maintaining consistent performance across all stages to emerge as the top female finisher. The race commenced on April 17 from Helang to Kalgot in the Urgam Valley near Kalpeshwar Temple. On the second day, participants ran from Kalgot to Mandal, passing through Rudranath Temple and Panar Bugyal. The final stage on April 19 covered the stretch from Mandal to Ukhimath via Tungnath and Chandrashila, known for their high altitude and demanding terrain. The Surya Devbhoomi Challenge is aligned with the Centre's Vibrant Vil-



lages Programme, aimed at promoting tourism in remote Himalayan regions and showcasing local culture and traditional routes. The event also seeks to encourage high-altitude sports while supporting local communities. Winners were felicitated during the

closing ceremony on April 20, where Rai was awarded for her performance by officials of the Indian Army. Her achievement has been noted as a significant milestone for her home state and highlights growing participation in endurance sports from the Northeast.

Results of the Aizawl civic votes on April 27 show a turnout of above 62%

Aizawl, Apr 22: Polling for the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections concluded peacefully on Tuesday, with a voter turnout of 62.77 per cent recorded among the 2.39 lakh eligible electors.

Officials said voting was conducted smoothly across 19 wards from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with no reports of law and order disturbances.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma expressed confidence of a decisive victory for his party, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM). Speaking to reporters after casting his vote at Chawlhmun polling station, he said the ZPM was poised to secure at least 16 seats, if not all 19.

He promised transparency



and faster development in Aizawl if the party is voted to power, adding that recent political criticism would only strengthen the party's position. "The various challenges and attacks directed at the ZPM recently will only serve to benefit the par-

ty in the end. We will win a landslide victory securing at least 16 or the entire seats," he said. Meanwhile, the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) is aiming for a third consecutive term after winning the 2015 and 2021 civic polls. Party president

Zoramthanga, after casting his vote at Ramhlun Venglai, cited the MNF's governance record as a key factor in the contest.

He also criticised the ruling ZPM, alleging that the public, including government employees and economically weaker sections, had begun losing faith in the current administration. He further claimed that the MNF had fielded stronger candidates compared to its rivals.

A total of 68 candidates, including 28 women, are contesting the elections. The ZPM, MNF and the Congress have fielded candidates in all 19 wards, while the Bharatiya Janata Party is contesting 11 seats.

Nagaland MLA calls for scaling up pork production to bridge supply gap

Dimapur, Apr 22: Achumbemo Kikon, Secretary General of the Naga People's Front (NPF), on Tuesday called for a significant expansion of local pork production in Nagaland to address a growing supply deficit.

Speaking at the inauguration of a pork retail outlet in Kohima, Kikon pointed to the high demand for pork in the state, noting that Nagaland requires around 60,000 tonnes annually, while current local production stands at about

30,000 tonnes — leaving a shortfall of nearly 50 per cent. Highlighting the economic potential of the sector, he said the existing gap presents a major opportunity for farmers and entrepreneurs to scale up production and strengthen local

supply chains.

Kikon also urged educated unemployed youth to explore pig farming as a viable livelihood option, describing it as a promising avenue for income generation and economic growth in the state.

Manipur Police, NCB launch community-led 'HinChi' project to curb poppy cultivation

Imphal, Apr 22: A community-based initiative aimed at curbing illicit poppy cultivation and promoting sustainable livelihoods has been launched in Manipur's Churachandpur district, with support from a Chennai-based firm under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.

The project, titled 'HinChi' (Seeds of Life), has been initiated by the Narcotics Control Bureau in partnership with the Manipur Police. It seeks to encourage farmers to shift from poppy cultivation to alternative cash crops such as ginger, peas and banana. Under the initiative, Rs 28 lakh has been provided by Segula Technologies to support the transition in vulnerable areas identified for poppy cultivation. Officials said three sensitive regions in Churachandpur district were selected for the intervention, and village leaders along with 127 beneficiary households were engaged and encouraged



to adopt lawful and sustainable agricultural practices. As part of the programme, approximately 55,000 kg of ginger seeds, 450 kg of pea seeds and 6,500 banana saplings have been distributed among the beneficiaries. Authorities said the initiative is expected to help reduce deforestation and soil degradation associated with

poppy cultivation, while also contributing to improved water management and climate resilience in the region. Joint teams comprising the Manipur Police, the NCB and local non-governmental organisation NARPS will undertake regular monitoring of the project to ensure effective implementation. The teams will

also provide guidance on post-harvest practices and facilitate market linkages for farmers. Officials noted that the initiative could unlock the potential of Churachandpur district as a hub for organic agricultural produce, offering a sustainable alternative to illicit cultivation while supporting rural livelihoods.

Punjab Police to arrest MP Amritpal Singh in Dibrugarh as NSA detention ends

Dibrugarh, Apr 22: The detention of Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh under the National Security Act (NSA) is set to expire on Wednesday, with a Punjab Police team already in Dibrugarh to take him into custody in a separate case. Sources said the arrest is likely to be carried out immediately after the expiry of the detention period, following due legal procedures. The case relates to the February 2023 attack on the Ajnala police station in Punjab. Amritpal Singh, leader of Waris Punjab De, has



been lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail since April 23, 2023, after his arrest in Punjab. Nine of his close

aides — including Papalpreet Singh, Daljeet Singh Kalsi, Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal, Varinder Singh Johal, Gurmeet Singh Bhukhanwala, Harjit Singh, Basant Singh, Gurinder Singh Aujla and Bhagwant Singh, also known as Pradhan Mantri Bajke, were initially detained under the NSA and other charges but have since been taken to Punjab. Arrangements are in place for Amritpal Singh's transfer or arrest by Punjab Police following the completion of legal formalities.

Attempts being made to divide people on religious, linguistic lines: Bhagwat

Guwahati, Apr 22: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday alleged that attempts were being made to create divisions among people on religious and linguistic lines, asserting that India's strength lay in its unity amid diversity.

Addressing a gathering after the consecration ceremony of Maa Chinmayi Soundarya Temple at Fakrimura, around 23 km from Agartala, Bhagwat said certain "evil forces" were worried that their "shops" would shut down if India progressed by drawing on its centuries-old civilisational strength.

"They are trying to engineer a quarrel among people along the lines of religions and languages. I don't need to give examples," he said.

Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Chief Minister Manik Saha were among those present at the event.

Emphasising that diversity has long been India's defining feature, Bhagwat said the country had advanced through centuries despite having multiple languages, faiths, traditions and cultures.

"Nations that do not have a history of more than 4,000 or 5,000 years can have one religion and one language, but India



is completely different, possessing a long history, tradition and culture," he said. He urged people to remain united and defeat attempts to sow discord. "There should be no reason for fear, whatever situation may arise," he said.

The RSS chief also said that in the present world order, power often overshad-

ows what is right. "If you have power, your might will be proven, and no one will pay heed if you are on the right path. Therefore, acquire knowledge and power," he said. Bhagwat said temples were not merely places of worship but had historically served as centres of social life and enlightenment.

Counsel informs Gauhati High Court that Pawan Khera is not a flight risk



Guwahati, Apr 22: Pawan Khera is not a flight risk and there is no need for

his arrest, his counsel argued in the Gauhati High Court, which on Tuesday heard the

Congress leader's anticipatory bail plea over an FIR lodged by the Assam CM's wife for alleging she held multiple passports. A single bench of Justice Parthiv Jyoti Saikia reserved the final order after hearing both sides for over three hours. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who appeared for a political vendetta, especially in the context of the assembly elections in the state. Assam Advocate General Devajit Lon Saikia opposed granting any relief to Khera, submitting that this is not a simple defamation case, as

the matter involves the forgery of documents and title deeds. Saikia pointed out that the dominant offences are cheating and forgery. He argued that Khera is not entitled to interim protection as he is a "flight risk". The Congress spokesperson had moved the Gauhati High Court on Monday. On April 21, 2026, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Congress leader Pawan Khera, argued before the Gauhati High Court that Khera is not a flight risk and that custodial interrogation is unnecessary.

MBSE to declare HSLC results on April 23; no merit list



Aizawl, Apr 22: The Mizoram Board of School Education will declare the results of the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination on April 23, an official said on Tuesday.

Students will be able to access their results through multiple official channels to ensure smooth dissemination. The results will be available on the board's websites — www.mbse.edu.in and www.mbseonline.com, while printed result sheets will also be displayed at the MBSE office in Chaltlang, Aizawl, and its regional office in Lunglei. Earlier, School Education Minister Vanlalhlana had announced that the

board would discontinue the practice of publishing merit lists, including Top-10 rankings, distinctions and divisions, from this year.

Candidates and guardians seeking assistance can contact the MBSE help desk through designated office numbers during working hours, the official added. The move, he said, is aimed at reducing unhealthy competition among students and shifting focus towards quality and competency-based learning. Last year, the overall pass percentage in the HSLC examination stood at 76.68 per cent, with a majority of students passing in the second division.

Assam govt to file reply in 'hate speech' PILs against Himanta Biswa Sarma by next hearing

Guwahati, Apr 22: The Assam government has told the Gauhati High Court that it will submit its response in a batch of public interest litigations accusing Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of making "hate speech" remarks. A division bench led by Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury has scheduled the next hearing for May 28. The court recorded the state's assurance, noting: "the response affidavit shall positively be filed by the next date, with a copy served in advance to the counsel for the petitioners". The PILs were first taken up on February 26, when the bench observed a "fissiparous tendency" in the matter and issued notices to Sarma, the Centre, the state government and the Director General of Police.

The proceedings came against the backdrop of the recent Assembly elections, with polling held on April 9 and counting slated for May 4. One of the petitions was filed by Sahitya Akademi awardee Hiren Gohain, former DGP Harekrishna Deka and senior journalist Paresh Malakar. Separate petitions were also moved by the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The CPI(M) had named the Bharatiya Janata Party as a respondent, but the High Court declined to issue notice to the party at this stage. Earlier, on February 16, the Supreme Court of India refused to entertain similar pleas over a now-deleted video allegedly showing the chief minister firing a rifle at members of a community. A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, directed petitioners to approach the Gauhati High Court and asked for an expedited hearing.

AIIMS Guwahati inaugurates blood centre to strengthen transfusion services

Guwahati, Apr 22: All India Institute of Medical Sciences Guwahati inaugurated a fully functional blood centre today, marking a step towards strengthening transfusion medicine services in the region.

The facility was inaugurated by Prof. (Col) Ashok Puranik, Executive Director, in the presence of the Medical Superintendent, Deans, faculty members and staff. Prof. (Dr.) Dipan- kar Baruah and other guests were also present on the occasion.

A voluntary blood donation camp was organised to mark the inaugura- tion, during which around 60 units of blood were collected. The blood centre has facilities for collection of whole blood, separation of blood components and testing for trans- fusion-transmitted infections. It is equipped with automated systems for immunohematology testing, chemilu- minescence-based testing and blood component processing to ensure safe



and reliable services. The centre also provides apheresis services, includ- ing single donor platelet collection and is open to the public for voluntary blood and platelet donation.

The establishment of this compre- hensive blood centre marks a ma- jor step forward in addressing the

growing demand for safe and quality blood and blood components in the region. AIIMS Guwahati reiterates its commitment to promoting volun- tary blood donation and delivering advanced, patient-centric healthcare services to the community and people of North East region.

Mizoram Governor And DU VC Emphasize The Vital And Enduring Role Of Public Libraries

Aizawl, Apr 22: Mizoram Governor General V. K. Singh underscored the need to strengthen public libraries, noting that their signifi- cance has diminished over time. Speaking at the 80th foundation day of Delhi University’s Department of Library and Information Science, held at the Vice Regal Lodge Convention Hall, he urged a revival of India’s once-strong library tradition.India history books Singh remarked that in earlier times, the qual- ity of an institution was often judged by its library. While acknowledging that libraries have evolved, he stressed that their impor- tance remains intact. He highlighted the growing relevance of information



science and reiterated that education forms the foun- dation of national prog- ress, adding that the coun- try’s most distinguished individuals emerge from its universities. Presiding over the programme, DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh emphasized that despite technological ad-

vances reshaping libraries, books will remain indis- pensable. He noted that while formats and medi- ums may change, the act of reading cannot lose its importance. Citing India’s academic heritage, he re- ferred to Nalanda Uni- versity as a symbol of the power of knowledge and

recalled Maharaja Sayaji- rao of Baroda’s pioneering role in establishing public libraries in India during the early 20th century. The Vice-Chancellor explained that Sayajirao introduced the practice of collecting a library cess to fund book acquisitions, and his contri- butions are commemorated through the Sayajirao Gae- kwad Library at Banaras Hindu University. Earlier, Department Head K. P. Singh delivered the wel- come address and outlined the department’s achieve- ments. His book Library Information Science Edu- cation and Research in In- dia was released during the event, which was attended by senior officials, acade- micians, and students.

Mizoram School Board To Declare Class Ten HSLC Results On April Twenty-Third With No Merit List Published This Year

Aizawl, Apr 22: The Mizoram Board of School Education will de- clare the results of the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) exa- mination on April 23, an official said on Tuesday. Students will be able to access their results through multiple official channels to ensure smooth dissemination. The results will be available on the board’s websites — www.mbse.edu.in and www.mb- seonline.com, while printed result sheets will also be displayed at the MBSE office in Chaltlang, Aizawl, and its regional office in Lunglei. Earlier, School Education Minister Vanlalhlana had announced that the board would discontinue the practice of publishing merit lists, including Top-10 rankings, distinc- tions and divisions, from this year. Candidates and guardians seeking assistance can contact the MBSE help desk through designated office numbers during working hours, the official added.

The move, he said, is aimed at reducing unhealthy competition among students and shifting fo- cus towards quality and compe- tency-based learning. Last year, the overall pass percentage in the

HSLC examination stood at 76.68 per cent, with a majority of students passing in the second division. The Mizoram Board of School Educa- tion (MBSE) will declare the results of the Class 10 and 12 board exam- inations this month, an official said. MBSE Chairman JH Zoremthanga said that the board examination re- sults will be published at the earliest convenience within April, and the exact dates are yet to be finalised. He said the examination committee will soon meet to decide the dates for the publication of the Class 10 and 12 results. “We are planning to declare the Class 10 and 12 board examination results within April. We will soon convene a meeting of the examination committee to fi- nalise the dates,” he told reporters. Earlier, School Education Minister Vanlalhlana had announced that the MBSE will cease following the tra- ditional method of declaring Class 10 and 12 results with merit lists (Top 10), ranks, distinctions, and divisions in the result books from the current year. The move is aimed at preventing high-stakes compe- tition among students driven by rote memorisation and ensuring quality,

competency-based education, he had said. Last year, 76.68 per cent of students who appeared for the Class 10 board examination successfully cleared it, with the majority pass- ing in the second division, while the Class 12 board examination re- corded an 81.10 per cent pass rate. The MBSE in a notification issued recently said the results of Class 12 examinations would be declared at 12 pm.

The notification said due to Covid19 situation in the state, the results would not be displayed in the premises of the board’s office. The results are now available on the board’s official website – www. mbse.edu.in. The students also can get their results by contacting the respective officials either over the phone or sending message on WhatsApp. The students also can obtain the results by sending SMS – MBSE12<space><Roll No> to 5676750. The MBSE conducted the Class 12 examinations offline for various streams in April this year following strict COVID19 proto- cols. In 2020, the pass percentage in Class 12 examination in Mizoram was 78.52. The MBSE declared the

results of Class 10 examination in on May 3. The state set a new record of the highest ever pass percentage of 82.43 since the Class 10 examina- tions were conducted by the board in 1978.

A statement issued by the NSUI said that at least 23 students of the Government Mizo Higher Second- ary School in Aizawl were declared failed in the class-XII board exam- inations because the school has un- scrupulously failed to submit their internal assessment marks to the MBSE prior to the declaration of their results. However, officials of the board put the students’ number at 25. The NSUI said that the stu- dents belonged to Arts stream with a subjection combination of Econom- ics, Computer Science, Mathemat- ics, English and a vernacular subject (Mizo). The laxity on the party of the school has mentally harassed the students, the student wing alleged. It asked the authority concerned to find out the persons responsible for the incident and take disciplinary action against them.The school management has tendered an apol- ogy to all the parents and students concerned for ntiments a mistake.

Assam Movie Makes Cut for Guadalajara International Film Festival in Mexico

Guwahati, Apr 22: As- sam-born filmmaker, writer and actor Rajdeep Choud- hury’s film, A Teacher’s Gift, has been selected for the 41st Guadalajara Interna- tional Film Festival in Mexi- co, where it will be screened on April 24 as part of the Premio Maguey section, one of the festival’s prominent competitive strands.

Regarded as one of the leading film festivals in Lat- in America, the Guadalajara International Film Festival has, over the years, show- cased a diverse range of global cinema and emerging voices, making it a signif- icant platform for interna- tional filmmakers.

Each year, it draws a wide international audience and showcases films across multiple competitive and non-competitive sections.

Directed by Artur Ribeiro of Portugal and produced by Eric Ollerenshaw of the UK, A Teacher’s Gift features an ensemble cast including An-jali Patil, Dhruv Sehgal and

Varun Buddhadev, alongside Choudhury, who also serves as the film’s writer and lead actor.

Originally from Silchar in Assam, Rajdeep Choudhury has previously appeared in Hindi films such as Jack & Dil, alongside Amit Sadh, Arbaaz Khan and Son- al Chauhan, and Mister Mummy, featuring Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia Deshmukh.

His journey – from North- east India to the UK and now onto an international platform – adds a personal dimension to the film’s growing global presence, reflecting the increasing vis- ibility of regional voices in contemporary cinema.

Before its selection in Gua- dalajara, A Teacher’s Gift had already built a steady presence across the interna- tional festival circuit, with official selections at Tribeca Film Festival Lisboa, Inter- national Film Festival of In- dia, and the IRIS Prize Film Festival, where it screened

in competition. It also won Best British Asian Feature Film of Bridging Cultures at UK Asian Film Festival in London 2025.

At its core, A Teacher’s Gift explores relationships, identity, and emotional connection through a char- acter-driven narrative set within everyday life, with a focus on subtle storytelling and lived experiences.

Speaking about the se- lection, Choudhury said: “Bringing A Teacher’s Gift to an international audience at Guadalajara is a deeply meaningful moment for me. The story is rooted in per- sonal experiences, and to see it travel across cultures and connect with diverse audi- ences is both humbling and encouraging.”

The film’s selection adds to the growing presence of voices from Northeast India finding space within global cinema platforms, marking another moment of interna- tional recognition for talent emerging from the region.

Anita Deka Mahanta Defends Husband, Calls for Justice as Bail Hearing Continues

Guwahati, Apr 22: Amid ongo- ing legal proceedings related to the death of Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg, Anita Deka Mahanta on April 22 strongly defended her husband, Shyamkanu Mahanta, as- serting that he has no involvement in the case and that the family is also seeking justice.

Speaking to the media, Anita said Mahanta’s bail plea was being heard in a fast-track sessions court in Gu- wahati and expressed hope that he would receive relief.

She alleged that her husband has been “wrongly incarcerated” for the past seven months.

“Innocent people have been put be-

hind bars. He has been in jail for no fault of his,” she said.

She further added that Mahanta had been actively working to promote Assam and the cultural heritage of the Northeast at global platforms.

Referring to Zubeen Garg, she re- marked that the singer would have been “deeply hurt” by the current de- velopments. “A person who shared his vision and worked closely with him is now behind bars. I pray that we also get justice,” she said.

Rejecting allegations of negli- gence, Anita questioned the basis of the accusations. “How can this be termed negligence? Is taking someone to perform on a global

stage negligence?” she asked.She also denied claims that Garg had expressed distress or coercion re- garding his travel before his death. “When did he say that? Who heard it, and is there any proof?” she said. Emphasising Garg’s independence, she added, “No one could force him to act against his will. He always did what he believed in.”

Clarifying details about the Singa- pore visit, Anita stated that Garg had travelled to represent the Northeast and not for any individual. She said he was staying at a reputed hotel with medical facilities nearby and that there was no confirmed plan for him to attend any private event.She

also noted that Mahanta was about 50 kilometres away attending a meeting at the time and had no prior knowledge of any such engagement.

Meanwhile, the fast-track sessions court in Guwahati, presided over by Judge Sharmila Bhuyan, continued hearing Mahanta’s bail plea. Senior advocate Pran Bora is expected to represent him.

The bail application of co-accused Siddharth Sharma was not taken up due to discrepancies in the petition. The court granted 24 hours to file a revised application.Mahanta had earlier withdrawn his previous bail plea, indicating a change in legal strate

More Than 61% Voting Recorded in Aizawl Municipal Elections

Aizawl, Apr 22: Elections to the 19-member Aizawl Municipal Corpora- tion (AMC) registered an over 61 per cent voter turnout on Tuesday with the polling conducted peacefully across the 274 vot- ing centres, the Mizoram State Election Commission reported.

According to an election official, 61.14 per cent of the 2.39 lakh registered voters exercised their franchise across all the 19 wards, reflecting the city’s commitment to urban self-governance.

The final turnout figure may however vary slightly as the official tally is yet to be confirmed.

Voting began at 7 am and concluded at 5 pm without any reports of law-and-order disturbances.

Notably, the battle for the 19 seats of the municipal corporation promises to be a

high-stakes four-cornered contest involv- ing major regional and national parties.

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who cast his vote along with his family at the Chawihhmun polling station in Aiza- wl on Tuesday morning, had earlier urged all eligible citizens cast their votes in order to strengthen democracy.

Lalduhoma expressed confidence that the Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) would secure a clear mandate by winning 16 or more seats. He further promised transparency and faster development if the party comes to power in the civic body.

“Recent political criticism directed at ZPM would ultimately strengthen the party. We will win a landslide victory, secur- ing at least 16 or all the seats,” he said, adding that better governance of the AMC is a key promise of his party.

Emergency Readiness in Focus: Dimapur to Conduct NEPEx 2026 on April 30

Dimapur, Apr 22: The 8th edition of the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEx) 2026 will be conducted in Dimapur on April 30, informed a circular issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dima- pur.

The exercise is being organized in pursuance of directives from the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA), it stated.

In preparation for the event, a virtual capaci- ty building programme was held on April 22 2026 at the Dimapur Deputy Commissioner’s office.

Concerned officers from the line depart- ments, and heads of



departments (HoDs) participated in the pro- gramme.

NSDMA in association with DDMA and the concerned government- al departments, civil societies and the com- munities is organizing Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEx) to generate awareness among the communities and dif-

Supreme Court Upholds Acquittal in 2017 Hojai Rape-Murder Case, Cites Serious Lapses in Investigation

Hojai, Apr 22: The Supreme Court of India has acquitted Moinul Haque, the prime accused in the 2017 rape and murder of a primary school head- mistress in Hojai district, citing major lapses in the police investigation and prosecution.A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta upheld the 2022 verdict of the Gauhati High Court, which had acquitted Haque of charges of rape and murder. The apex court dismissed the appeal filed by the Assam govern- ment challenging the acquittal.

In its judgment, the court observed that the arrest of the accused was “shrouded in a cloud of doubt” and pointed out serious deficiencies in the prosecution’s case. It stated that there was no reliable evidence link- ing Haque to the crime and that the chain of circumstantial evidence was incomplete and unconvincing.

The court also set aside Haque’s conviction under Section 201 of the Indian Penal Code (destruction of ev-



idence), even though he had not chal- lenged that part of the verdict. The bench clarified that it has the author- ity to ensure complete justice under its appellate jurisdiction.

“The absence of an appeal by the ac- cused does not take away this Court’s jurisdiction,” the bench noted, adding that the conviction under Section 201 was not sustainable in law or fact.

Haque has been directed to be re- leased immediately.

The case dates back to May 31, 2017,

when a 58-year-old headmistress was allegedly raped and murdered in Ho- jai. Her body was recovered the next day near the Kopili River at Jamu- namukh. Police had arrested Haque and co-accused Salim Uddin, who al- legedly confessed to the crime.

A trial court had earlier sentenced Haque to death and awarded five years’ rigorous imprisonment to Ud- din. However, in 2022, the Gauhati High Court acquitted both of rape and murder, citing lack of substantive ev-

idence, and reduced Haque’s sentence to three years for destruction of ev- idence.

The Supreme Court endorsed the High Court’s findings, highlight- ing inconsistencies in the investigation and absence of credible proof, includ- ing lack of concrete evidence of rape.

During the hearing, senior addition- al advocate general Chinmoy Pradip Sharma appeared for the Assam gov- ernment, while senior advocate PV Dinesh assisted the court as amicus curiae.The ruling has once again brought attention to investigative lapses. Former Assam Director Gen- eral of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta had earlier acknowledged shortcom- ings in the probe, noting that key charges under Sections 120(B) and 34 of the IPC were not invoked.

The verdict reinforces the princi- ple that criminal convictions must be based on clear, credible, and reliable evidence, and cannot rest solely on suspicion, no matter how strong.

North East Chronicle

APRIL 23 2026 VOL 02 NO. 60

*Editorial*

Uniform Power Tariffs: Uniting India's Energy Future

India's fragmented electricity tariffs sow seeds of division. Urban Delhi pays ₹3-5 per unit, while Assam's remote districts endure ₹7-10 amid high losses and ad-hoc subsidies. This chaos stifles interstate commerce, repels investors from high-cost areas, and exacerbates urban-rural divides. Envision a national uniform charge: ₹6-7 per unit baseline, overseen by a robust National Power Pricing Commission. States retain 10% flexibility for local realities, paired with direct-benefit subsidies for BPL households.

This harnesses the national grid's scale, accelerates renewables under SDG 7, and upholds constitutional equity (Article 14).

Our planet, our power Together, we are creating a sustainable future

As part of a nationwide effort to increase public awareness of environmental issues, Earth Day was established in 1970 and is observed on April 22 each year. During a 1969 UNESCO session in San Francisco, peace campaigner John McConnell came up with the idea for Earth Day. He proposed a worldwide day to honor the earth and advance harmony. Senator Gaylord Nelson subsequently turned this idea into a national environmental teach-in. Under the guidance of Senator Gaylord Nelson, youthful activist Denis Hayes, a PhD student at Harvard University, spearheaded the project. On the first Earth Day in 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans—roughly 10% of the country's population at the time—participated in protests, marches, and teach-ins. The event was organized by Senator Gaylord Nelson and his students Denis Hayes in an effort to raise awareness of environmental issues and demand action. By 1990, more than 200 million people had observed Earth Day in more than 140 nations, making it a global holiday. Since its establishment on April 22, 1970, Earth Day has expanded to include a range of international celebrations with 1 billion participants across more than 193 nations. The date was selected to fall between spring break and final exams at educational institutions in order to increase student participation. Earth Day is celebrated with a specific theme each year. Today, Earth Day is observed globally, with celebrations and activities occurring in many nations and places. On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, Earth Day 2026 will be observed to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the largest environmental movement in the world. “Our Power, Our Planet” is the theme for Earth Day in 2026. Although April 22 is the main day, significant activities and community events start on Saturday, April 18 and go through April 24 to make participation accessible to working people. Our power lies in our ability to think, choose, and act responsibly towards the environment. It is reflected in the small decisions we make every day- how we use energy, conserve water, maintain cleanliness, promote greenery, and treat the natural world around us. The adoption of sustainable behaviours, the transition to renewable energy, the decrease in waste, and the avoidance of plastic all show the power of human action. At the same time, our planet is the Earth- our only home- rich with forests, oceans, biodiversity, and life-supporting resources. In addition, the Earth, our one and only home, is abundant in forests, seas, wildlife, and resources that sustain life. It gives us food to support life, water to drink, and air to breathe. However, human-caused issues like pollution, deforestation, and climate change are putting this planet in more danger. The concept of “Our Power, Our Planet” serves as a reminder that how prudently we use our power will determine the future of the planet. We can save the earth for next generations if we behave properly and cooperatively.

Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, and biomass are plentiful and limitless, and they should be preferred for the sustainable growth of our world. The Earth's geothermal heat is practically always accessible, the sun shines daily, and the wind blows continuously. There are very few or no hazardous emissions from renewable energy. From modest, dispersed installations (like rooftop solar panels) to massive solar farms or offshore wind turbines, renewable energy technologies can be implemented at a variety of scales. Because of its flexibility, renewable energy can be used in a variety of settings. Global environmental issues necessitate concerted efforts at the local, national, and international levels. The power to protect our planet lies not only with governments and non-governmental organizations but also within each one of us. The Earth's future is largely determined by the decisions humans make on a daily basis about energy usage, waste management.

The belief that all politicians have an obligation to maintain a civil tone in the face of violent internet discourse



Judging what is suitable to share on social media is frequently overshadowed by the want to post. In the internet age, politicians need to be able to resist the temptation and do their research before disseminating content that is blatantly offensive or incorrect. Or it ought to be. Simon Evans, a Reform UK council member and deputy leader on the Lancashire council, failed the test. Mr. Evans posted a picture of Labour MP Natalie Fleet on Facebook with the fictitious statement, “I voted against the grooming gang enquiry.” In actuality, the Bolsover MP has run a campaign to shield girls from sexual predators. Ms. Fleet should be shot, according to an accompanying comment. Mr Evans says he did not see the offending remark.

“This sort of rhetoric has no place in our politics,” he said after removing the post and apologizing. After conducting an investigation, Reform UK determined that it was “an honest mistake” and that no further action was necessary. It is the kind of mistake that is easily avoided by preferring facts to polemical point-scoring and conducting online debate ever mindful that aggressive

language has consequences. To be a politician in the public eye is now to run the risk of routine digital pillory. Women, in particular, are subjected to a relentless, venomous barrage. This is frightening for the targets and distressing for their families. It is a disincentive to anyone considering running for office. Being prepared to withstand abuse and death threats should not be the qualifying threshold for a career in politics. It is not safe to assume any threat is idle. Two MPs – one Labour, one Conservative – have been murdered with political motive in the past decade. In June 2016, Labour's Jo Cox was shot and stabbed by a far-right fanatic who, when asked to identify himself in court, said his name was “death to traitors, freedom for Britain”. In 2021, David Amess was stabbed by a British Somali who identified with the Islamic State jihadi group. There have been near misses too. In 2010, Labour's Stephen Timms was stabbed by a woman claiming sympathy with al-Qaida. In 2017, police thwarted a plot by National Action, a neo-Nazi group, to murder Rosie Cooper, a Labour MP. The man imprisoned for planning that attack had, the previ-

ous year, posted his approval of Ms Cox's assassination on social media. Ms Cox's murder occurred just weeks before polling day in the Brexit referendum. The police officer leading the investigation later said that he believed the febrile atmosphere of the campaign was a contributing factor. The killer's mental state may have been tipped from enraged introspection to active violence in a climate of heightened, polarised political animus.

The political atmosphere hasn't changed in a decade. If anything, the hysteria around Britain's exit from the EU has persisted as the new standard for discussion, particularly on the internet. The engines of constant wrath and carelessly violent speech work nonstop to dehumanize people based on their beliefs, portraying the other side of a discussion as inherently evil and, thus, a justifiable target for attack. It could be impossible to expect all social media users to consistently express their political opinions in a responsible and polite manner. However, that criterion ought to be the minimal prerequisite for any candidate to be elected in local or national politics.

The sentiment around Donald Trump's tariffs is one of nostalgia that misinterprets a reality that has changed

Donald Trump was ecstatic when the US Supreme Court ruled last Friday, 6-3, to overturn his tariffs. Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett, two judges he had elevated, were abruptly painted as betrayers of the cause. He implied that both were influenced by foreign interests. According to the court, the tariffs exceeded the authority assigned to the US Congress by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977. In response, Mr. Trump used a 1974 trade legislation to impose a 10% duty for 150 days, citing “international payments problems.” Mr Trump was moulded by the 1970s. His political DNA was formed in that era's crises and he governs as if America were still in the Nixon era of shock politics. In some ways there are parallels. The political mobilisation around economic insecurity echoes that period, as does distrust in elite authority. This explains why many populist politicians on the right reach for the 1970s, which fits the mood of decline and rivalry and offers a narrative of “restoring strength”. Internationally, Mr Trump also sees the world through the 1970s lens of industrial rivalry and trade grievance. But the world today is in a far more financialised and interdependent state. That is why Mr Trump cannot treat today's US trade deficits as 1970s-style balance-of-payments crises.



The old Bretton Woods system ended in 1971. Today, America is not running out of gold to pay its creditors. It is losing ground in highly complex manufacturing to emerging rivals, especially China. It's not just Mr Trump. The question isn't whether western governments need industrial policies. It's whether they can afford not to have them. Many G7 powers fear slipping down the economic ladder. That is understandable. The lower rungs are filled with unhappy nations suffering hard external constraints such as Sri Lanka. It borrows in dollars, imports essentials priced in dollars and must earn or attract dollars to survive. If exports falter or capital flees, the currency drops, making it harder to import goods. Once a

country cannot find enough dollars to pay its debts, the International Monetary Fund comes knocking. Sri Lanka's current debt crisis has forced the country to agree to the 17th IMF intervention since 1965 with one of the most aggressive austerity programmes in the country's history. To be clear, the US faces no hard financing constraint. It does not need exports to pay its debts. It issues the currency in which those debts are written. But if it surrenders command of advanced manufacturing and crucial tech supply chains, it risks something else: slower productivity, weaker global leverage and domestic decay. That is not a payments crisis. It is a crisis of power. The threats appear to be genuine based on history. Sterling persist-

ed throughout the 1930s despite Britain's loss of industrial predominance by 1918.

War debts, declining economic weight, imperial overstretch, and self-inflicted deflation were among the many shocks that caused it to collapse. In the end, faith in Britain's ability to surpass its rivals in the future was eroding. Pricing and settlement followed as capital moved more and more toward the expanding American economy. The United States has supplanted Britain as the world's leading power. The dollar depends on trust in American innovation and institutions. Both are corroded by Mr. Trump. Western leadership will follow, followed by US leadership, if technological leadership shifts.

The opinion that ministers and regional leaders ought to act in response to the rising rate of youth unemployment

Former health secretary Alan Milburn called the situation a “national outrage” and proposed that a “coalition of the concerned” would be required to improve conditions for the 16-24-year-olds known as Neets (not in education, employment, or training) when he launched a review into unemployment and economic inactivity among young people in December. The size of the issue is highlighted by the most recent data, which shows another increase to 957,000 in the last quarter of last year. The review is evidence that the ministers are paying attention. The “youth guarantee” in the autumn budget means that £820m will be spent on paid work placements for 18- to 21-year-olds. But further bold reforms are

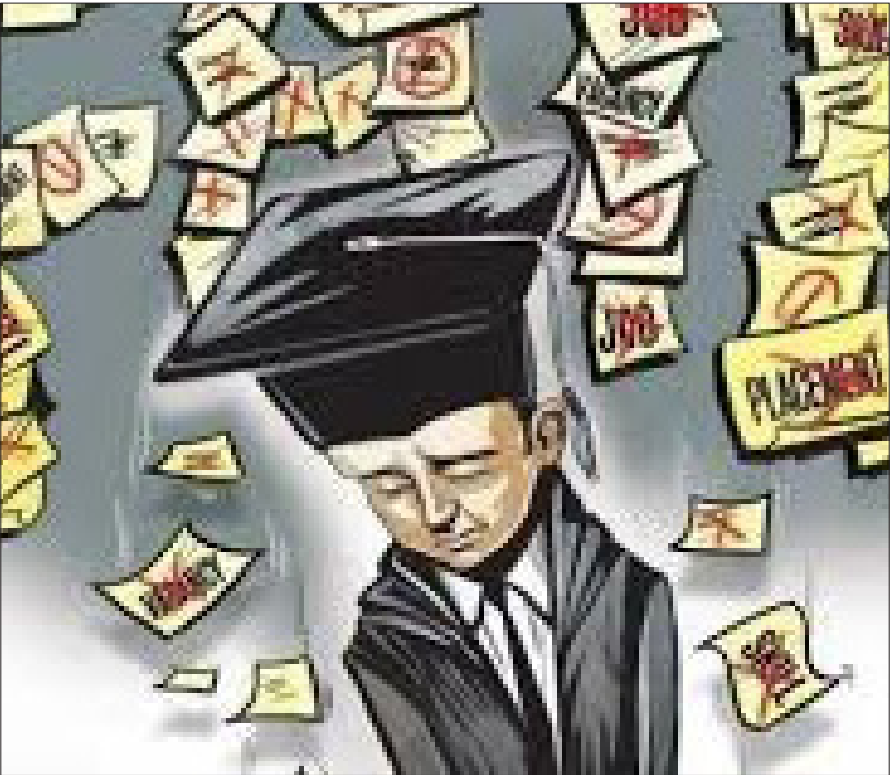
needed if young adults are to be enabled to flourish. Several themes are clear. One is the rising prevalence of illness and disability, and the lack of a reliable system of work-based help. Positive results from a programme known as Individual Placement and Support should lead to a wider rollout of a resource shared by employers and workers that is somewhat similar to occupational health. But the role of illness and disability should not be overstated – as it often is by those with an axe to grind about working-age benefits. The roughly a quarter of Neets who are inactive for health reasons need support because the consequences of inactivity are harmful. But they must not be blamed. While illness-linked benefit

claims from young people are concerning – between 2019 and 2024, they grew by 24% to 530,000 – the bigger challenge is how to engage non-claimants. One sensible step would be to widen eligibility for the youth guarantee, which is currently restricted to 18- to 21-year-olds on benefits. Work capability assessments should also be improved, and linked up with workplace support. Another issue is pay, with economists divided as to whether recent rises to the minimum wage rates for younger workers, combined with higher employer national insurance contributions, have incentivised businesses to hire older people instead. Higher pay for young adults is obviously desirable, given cost of

living pressures and a growing sense of generational unfairness around house prices and student debt. But the dismaying trend of rising youth unemployment means that ministers should tread carefully. New educational opportunities as well as jobs are needed.

The Resolution Foundation has stressed the need for enforcement of the school leaving age of 18. Currently, too many 16- and 17-year-olds drop out with nothing else to do. A lack of GCSE grades of 4 or above is a key risk factor for becoming Neet, and the proportion of disadvantaged pupils failing to achieve any GCSE passes rose from 5.1% in 2021 to 7.5% in 2024. Meanwhile T-levels have not delivered the hoped-for upgrade

of vocational learning. The Social Mobility Commission argues that “left behind” young people are overlooked by approaches to mobility that emphasise pathways to elite careers. It advocates regionally differentiated, place-based schemes in preference to a uniform national approach. It is surely right that while the government has a crucial role in providing funding and oversight, councils and mayoral authorities are better placed to work with local employers. There is yet hope. Neet numbers have fluctuated in the past. But a plan is desperately needed by ministers. For young people who don't work or study, the chances of being marginalized for the rest of their lives are just too great.



Instax Mini 13 review: Playful captures, prints real moment

New Delhi: On the practical side, the Instax Mini 13 doesn't bring any major changes in terms of design compared to its predecessor. It looks very similar to the Mini 12, with a similar rounded body and slightly bulky form. I also had the Mini 11 on hand, and that too follows a similar design language, with only minor differences in things like button placement and lens details. Compared to the Mini 11, the Mini 13 feels a bit bulkier.

Despite the slightly bulky build, the camera is comfortable to hold and doesn't feel too heavy in everyday use. The grip is basic but effective, helped by the textured finish on the body that prevents it from slipping out of your hand. In the box, you also get a strap that can be attached to either side of the camera. It's useful in preventing accidental drops, especially while carrying it around. At the same time, it adds a small aesthetic touch, almost like an accessory for the camera. To turn the camera on, you have to twist the lens, which feels intuitive and adds a bit of tactile satisfaction to the process. Once it's on, a small red light indicates that the camera is ready to shoot.

The process of taking pictures is as simple as it can be. There are no menus, no digital screen and no complicated settings. You just turn it on, frame your shot and press the shutter. That simplicity is clearly the main appeal here.

The Instax Mini 13 is simply a point-and-shoot camera with no fuss. There are no manual options for exposure, focus or other settings, as the camera handles everything on its own. This makes it easy to use, even if you are picking it up for the first time, since there's very little to figure out.

It should be noted that the camera is main-

ly designed for vertical shots. While you can still take horizontal photos by adjusting your grip, it's not the most natural way to hold it. At times, you might even end up accidentally covering the sensor or lens while trying to reposition your hand. In the box, you also get a strap that can be attached to either side of the camera. It's useful in preventing accidental drops, especially while carrying it around. At the same time, it adds a small aesthetic touch, almost like an accessory for the camera.

It should be noted that the camera is mainly designed for vertical shots. While you can still take horizontal photos by adjusting your grip, it's not the most natural way to hold it. At times, you might even end up accidentally covering the sensor or lens while trying to reposition your hand. Getting started with the Mini 13 is straightforward. It runs on AA batteries, so there's no need to worry about charging cables or power adapters. Once you load the batteries and insert a pack of Instax Mini film, the camera is ready to shoot. The only real control you get here is the focus setting, and even that is quite limited. There are two modes to choose from: close-up and standard. If your subject is about one to two feet away, you need to switch to close-up mode. For anything beyond that, the standard setting works fine. There's also a small counter on the back that shows how many shots you have left, which is useful. It's a simple feature and helps you keep track before taking a photo.

That said, I did find it a bit confusing at times. The number dial doesn't always align perfectly and can sit between two numbers, which makes it slightly unclear how many shots are actually remaining.

Banks report an 11–13% increase in loans and caution about growing cyber danger

The FICCI-IBA Bankers' Survey

New Delhi: India's banks expect loan growth to remain strong in the first half of 2026, helped by steady economic conditions and healthy balance sheets, according to the latest FICCI-IBA Bankers' Survey. The survey, which gathered responses from 24 banks across public, private, foreign, small finance and cooperative segments, covers the outlook from January to June and was conducted at a time when the macro economic outlook was different. With inflation under control and economic growth holding firm, most bankers believe the environment remains supportive. The survey was conducted when India's economy was on a strong footing, with inflation at around 2.75% in January and GDP growth of about 7.8% in the third quarter of FY26.

On interest rates, the majority expect no change in the coming months. Most banks feel the current policy setting is appropriate. A few private banks see a small chance of a rate cut, while cooperative banks expect a hike. Industrial lending is likely to grow at a steady pace, mostly in the 9-13% range. Banks expect demand for long-term loans to be led by infrastructure, real estate, metals, automobiles and pharmaceuticals. Sectors such as data centres and defence are also ex-



pected to see higher borrowing. Demand for working capital loans is likely to follow business cycles. In manufacturing, textiles, auto components and engineering goods are expected to see higher short-term borrowing. In services, wholesale and retail trade, transport and hospitality are expected to drive demand. Technology is expected to reshape banking operations. Many bankers say artificial intelligence will have the biggest impact, especially in loan approvals and collections. Renewable energy financing is seen as the biggest opportunity

in sustainable lending. However, cybersecurity remains the top concern. As banking becomes more digital, protecting systems and customer data is seen as the biggest challenge ahead. As per the survey, 71% respondents consider cybersecurity risk as the most challenging risk category currently facing banks. In comparison, operational risk (13%) ranks a distant second, followed by liquidity risk (8%), while both market risk (4%) and credit risk (4%) are perceived as relatively less challenging at present.

The services sector overall is seen as a key growth area, with strong demand from commercial real estate, non-banking finance companies, tourism and aviation. Agriculture lending is also expected to grow at a steady pace. Beyond loan growth, banks are sharpening their focus on climate risk and financial inclusion. These have emerged as top priorities for 2026. At the same time, banks continue to focus on maintaining asset quality and supporting growth. Loan growth is expected to stay in double digits. Nearly half of the banks see non-food credit growing between 11-13%, while many expect it to grow even faster. Public sector banks (PSBs) are among the most confident, pointing to better asset quality and stronger capital levels. Private banks expect steady growth, led by retail and small business loans. Foreign banks see moderate but stable expansion. Retail lending is expected to remain the biggest driver of loan growth. More than half of the banks surveyed expect retail loans to grow above 13%. None see growth falling below 9%. Loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also expected to remain strong, supported by improving business activity.

Nipha Group intends to grow its agricultural machinery business in ten countries

New Delhi: Kolkata-based Nipha Group has launched a brand One-Horn, as part of a push to expand its agriculture machinery business in at least 20 states and 10 countries, including the US and European markets, company officials said on Sunday.

Its chairman Mahesh Chandra Shah said the Indian agricultural ecosystem was at an inflection point where mechanisation and entrepreneurship must come together. "With our brand, we are building a structured, partner-first platform that enables our channel associates to grow as agripreneurs — stroger, more profitable, and future-ready," he said. The company, which began its agri-business journey in 1988 with spare part supplies before graduating to components and then full machines, claimed that One-Horn is the first brand in eastern India to offer a diversified range of agri equipment with a make-in-India focus. Executive Director Aakash Shah said the brand is designed to give partners "the right products, systems, and support to scale their business with confidence". Managing Director Rakesh



Shah said. "We started with spare part supplies, added components, went to machines, and now this is a launch of our own brand," he said. He said agricultural equipment is a form of forward integration and accounts for about 10 per cent of the company's overall business, with the agri segment currently clocking around Rs 60 crore in annual sales against the group's overall turnover of around Rs 500 crore. "We'll go to Rs 100 crore very soon," he said, adding that the B2C (business-to-consumer) push through

the brand could add another Rs 50 crore from this segment in a year.

Shah said the company has invested around Rs 60 crore in its agri equipment business over eight to nine years and continues to invest Rs 50-60 crore annually across all operations. "At the moment we are a zero-debt company, but if need be, banks are more than willing," he said.

In West Bengal, he said, mechanisation levels remain among the lowest in the country due to fragmented landholdings, and

OneHorn's range includes smaller equipment suited to such plots.

The agricultural equipment range covers harvesting machines and land preparation tools. Around 352 channel partners attended the launch, including representatives from Bangladesh and Nepal. Rakesh Shah said the company is targeting 20,000 channel partners across 20 states and 10 countries by the end of FY'27, with the US, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and select European markets in focus for exports.

Oil prices fall 2% amid West Asia negotiations

New Delhi: Global crude oil prices witnessed decline on Tuesday, reversing the previous session's gains, amid expectations that upcoming talks between the United States and Iran could ease tensions.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined as much as 1.31 per cent to \$94.22 per barrel, hitting an intraday low.

Meanwhile, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded at \$85.5, down 2.19 per cent from the previous close.

However, both crude benchmarks had rallied strongly on Monday, with Brent rising 5.6 per cent and WTI surging 6.9 per cent after Iran again shut the Strait of Hormuz.

On the domestic front, crude oil on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was trading 1.75 per cent lower at Rs 8,040, an intraday low. Meanwhile, the United States had seized an Iranian cargo vessel as part of its blockade of Iranian ports. However, Iran's top negotiator and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf reportedly reiterated that Tehran would not engage in talks under pressure. On Monday, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz — which handles about one-fifth of global oil supply — remained constrained. In addition, US President Donald Trump said he believed a nuclear deal currently being negotiated with Iran would be better than the 2015 interna-



tional agreement aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear programme.

"The deal that we are making with Iran will be far better than the JCPOA, commonly referred to as 'the Iran nuclear deal'," Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social. On the equities front, domestic benchmarks Sensex and Nifty traded higher, with the indices rising nearly 1 per cent and the 30-share Sensex reclaiming the 79,000 level in early trad. In global markets, Wall Street ended marginally lower, while Asian shares traded on mixed note.

RBI partially rolls back curbs on rupee NDF restrictions lifted for banks



New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday partially rolled back restrictions it had placed on certain rupee derivative trades, as per Reuters. These restrictions were originally introduced earlier this month to stop the rupee from falling to successive record lows. Not everything has been eased, however. According to the Reuters report, the RBI's fresh notification makes clear that authorised dealers still cannot enter into rupee-related foreign exchange derivative contracts with

their related parties. The only exceptions are cancelling or rolling over contracts that already exist, and transactions done with unrelated non-resident users on a back-to-back basis. What has been lifted The rupee pared early gains to settle 19 paise lower at 93.10 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar on Monday, pressured by heightened West Asia tensions that boosted demand for the greenback and kept crude prices firm, according to PTI. The local unit opened at 92.73, touched an in-

tra-day high of 92.70 and a low of 93.24 before closing weaker, as traders flagged concerns over a renewed U.S.-Iran stand-off and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, as per PTI. The RBI has withdrawn two key restrictions. First, it has offer a type of currency contract called non-deliverable (NDFs) to both Indian residents and overseas users, as per Reuters. Second, it has removed the ban on users rebooking foreign exchange derivative contracts that were cancelled after April 1.

Supply bottlenecks widen as Iran war disrupts packaging chain

New Delhi: The humble bottle and plastic wrapper—often overlooked—are turning into the weakest supply-chain link for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), beverage and pharma companies, as the West Asia conflict intensifies. What moves quietly behind the scenes is now front and centre: glass bottles are getting harder to source;

plastic resins and polymers are becoming dearer, affecting production of daily-use items such as shampoos, hair oils, toothpastes, food products, soft drinks and life-saving drugs. Since the start of the war, the price of crude-linked derivatives such as polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP), which go into plastic packaging, have risen by over 50-60%, while glass costs are up by over 20% amid a shortage of commercial gas, according to industry executives. For companies in FMCG, beverages and pharmaceuticals, this is more than a procurement headache. Packaging typically accounts for 15–25% of product costs, meaning even modest increases can quickly eat into margins, forcing companies to reassess pricing, sourcing, and inventory strategies. "The volatility in crude oil prices, coupled with prevailing geo-



political uncertainties, is beginning to have a visible impact on the packaging ecosystem, particularly in flexible and rigid plastic packaging," Sanjay Gupta, senior vice-president, packaging development, DS Group, best-

known for brands such as Catch spices, Pulse candy and Pass Pass mouth freshner, said. "The market is also witnessing premium being charged over list prices in some cases amid tightening availability," he said.

The United States withdrew from the Iranan precipice However, what comes next

Iran: Donald Trump presents himself as an unbeatable tough person who never gives up. However, he doesn't always follow through on his threats. Think of his threats to raise tariffs on trading partners or his demand that Denmark give up Greenland. He has even managed to prolong his deadlines for Tehran to reopen the Hormuz Strait by asserting—without proof—that Iran was “begging” for an agreement. Trump went above and beyond on Monday. He threatened to “kill a whole civilization to-night” if Tehran did not reopen the strait by Tuesday at 8 p.m. ET. The United States was rocked by the president's open threat to carry out genocide. “Trump has lost his mind,” according to several Democratic leaders. His removal from office was demanded by more than 70 Democratic members of Congress. Some politicians and media figures who supported Maga either followed suit or severely chastised him. Commentators reminded soldiers that they had to defy instructions that were blatantly unlawful. There has never been a spectacle like this in American presidential politics. Iranians were taken aback, even those who opposed the administration. Around bridges and power plants that Trump might target, thousands of people built defiant human chains. Trump, according to one military general, is “delusional,” and Iran will retaliate even more forcefully.

The senior leadership of the nation said that direct diplomatic relations with the United States will cease. In public, Tehran declared that it would never compromise. Trump was left with two poor options. The first was to raze Iran. However, that would have exacerbated the domestic political frenzy—some Republican lawmakers may have even called for his removal—and set off a wave of international criticism, including from friends. The price of energy and other commodities (fertilizers, aluminum, helium, and petrochemicals) would have increased further as a result of Iran's strikes on Persian Gulf oil and gas infrastructure, perhaps creating the conditions for a global recession. Additionally, the midterm elections are scheduled for November, and Trump's poll numbers have already plummeted. He might lose power over legislation and Supreme Court confirmations if the



Democrats win, and probes into the Epstein scandal and accusations of official corruption would get more intense. Trump could have ordered the US navy to open the strait – which he has sometimes declared unimportant to an oil-rich United States – but keeping it open would have been far more difficult. That would have required a permanent military presence that went beyond warships alone. And the mission would have been hazardous and open-ended. Iran overlooks the strait. It has many mines, short-range missiles, and Ghadir- and Nahang-class mini submarines. Tehran would not have to fight US warships. It could instead choose to strike a tanker every now and then, causing red lights to flash, and limit traffic to ships from countries willing to pay the transit fee. For other vessels, sailing through the strait would be perilous. Moreover, the largest supertankers cost north of \$100m and insurers would balk. The other option was to back away. That would have prompted renewed cries of “Taco” – Trump always chickens out. Trump would also have been diminished in the eyes of world leaders, especially China's president Xi Jinping, whom he is scheduled to meet in Beijing this month. The Taco taunts would subside, and diehard Maga devotees will forgive him for anything. But a GOP defeat in the midterms would have ended the overweening power he has wielded, thanks to a supine GOP-controlled Congress. As the deadline neared, Trump faced a decision between escalation or capitulation. He chose the latter but has tried to dignify his retreat by claiming that he granted Pakistan's request for a two-week ceasefire, providing Iran opens the strait. Iran's foreign minister tweeted that, thanks to Pakistan's good offices, Trump had agreed to accept Tehran's 10-point

plan, presented on Monday, as “a general framework” for negotiations and that the US had requested talks based on Trump's 15-point plan, which dates back to May last year. (It came to naught after the US and Israel attacked Iran the following month, and another version sent in late March was also rejected.) Iran had steadfastly said no to a ceasefire. It insists on a permanent end to the war, reimbursement for war damages, a non-aggression pledge from Israel and the US, and an Israeli commitment to cease attacks on Tehran's Lebanese ally, Hezbollah. It seeks the full lifting of primary and secondary economic sanctions and the right to levy a \$2m per ship fee, split with Oman, to finance postwar reconstruction. It demands that US troops depart the Middle East. Iran has now agreed to permit safe passage through the strait for two weeks but will likely keep collecting tolls. Major differences remain, however, between the US and Iranian plans, particularly on the extent of sanctions relief. Moreover, since the Geneva talks that Trump abandoned to launch the war, Iran has not offered any major concessions on nuclear enrichment – it insists on the right to enrichment for peaceful purposes – or agreed to slash its missile stocks, both key Israeli demands. Perhaps there will be a real ceasefire that lasts a fortnight. But if there's no firm deal, then what? Iran still controls the strait, remains defiant, and retains has the military muscle to spark a worldwide recession. Its demands remain unacceptable to Trump and vice versa. If there's a ceasefire but no comprehensive deal, he and Benjamin Netanyahu could resume their war. But to what end? They can't achieve “regime change” from the skies alone, and a ground war would be bloody and protracted. Though Iran cannot match

US military power, it has 1 million active, reserve, and paramilitary troops, who would be fighting on home ground. Its territory, more than half of it mountainous, exceeds that of Spain, France and Germany combined. Many Iranians – even those who dislike their rulers – might be hostile toward American ground troops, given that the United States and Israel have targeted, among other structures, bridges, 30 universities, and the famed Pasteur Institute, founded more than 100 years ago. A mega-deal remains the only path to averting a return to full-scale war. Under the 2015 Joint and Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which Trump was quick to ditch, Iran made substantial and verifiable concessions on uranium and plutonium enrichment and went much further during the Geneva talks that Trump's war scuttled. Despite the scare-mongering, Tehran was neither hell-bent on building nuclear weapons nor on the verge of acquiring them when Israel and the US attacked on 28 February. Getting Tehran to cut its ballistic missile stocks will be harder now – the US-Israeli attack has made them seem all the more essential – but full sanctions relief and a non-aggression commitment might still change the calculus.

None of this, however, will be achievable unless Trump stops making maximalist demands and civilization-ending threats and also reins in Israel. Iran said on Wednesday that Israel must end its Lebanon war before the strait can be fully reopened. That same morning, airstrikes hit Iran's Lavan Island refinery.

(By whom remains unclear as of now.) Now there is an uneasy pause. The chasm between the two sides remains vast. Absent compromises and adept diplomacy the conflict will almost certainly reignite.

If the ceasefire with Iran continues, who can declare victory China is an early winner

China: China is one significant power that stands to gain whatever as the world tries to understand what, if anything, was accomplished by the ceasefire agreement announced by the US and Iran on Tuesday. Beijing's influence is said to have persuaded Iran to accept the truce, enhancing Beijing's standing as a regional mediator. Articles praising China for being the adult in the room during a global crisis were permitted to circulate in China's strictly regulated internal media. On Wednesday, the nationalist online publication Guancha released a story discussing stories from the New York Times and Associated Press that claimed China was crucial to the cease-fire agreement between the US and Iran. “The conclusion of this ceasefire could not be achieved without active mediation of China, Pakistan, and other countries,” the Guancha article stated. Donald Trump, the president of the United States, told the AFP news agency that he thought China had persuaded Iran to accept a truce. This supported claims made by Pakistani and Iranian officials that Beijing was instrumental in the last-minute talks in Islamabad. However, other observers doubt China's potential influence in the late-night talks. The deal, as initially advertised by Tehran, is so advantageous to Iran that encouraging the regime to agree to it was like “pushing an open door”, according to one analyst. Nicholas Lyall, a senior researcher at Trends, a research and advisory firm in Abu Dhabi, said: “In terms of whether China had to do much pushing of Iran for it to agree to the temporary ceasefire, and whether Iran was swayed by this reported Chinese effort, it's important to clarify what Iran has actually agreed to.” The 10 points on Iran's ceasefire plan, which were initially touted by Trump as a “workable” basis for negotiation, were “maximalist and represent all of Iran's pre-existing stated demands from previous weeks”, Lyall said. “This all means Iran has made no real concessions in agreeing to begin talks, and is very legitimately able to present it as a genuine political win to any audience.” Therefore, any Chinese involvement in the process of Iran agreeing to talks is highly likely not as influential as some might assume, as it was largely pushing on an open door given apparent US acquiescence to those Iranian demands. “Officially, China has not confirmed or denied reports that it played an active role in the Islamabad negotiations. At a press conference on Wednesday, the foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said only that China “had been actively working to promote de-escalation and an end to all hostilities”. Still, Beijing



will be happy to be credited with brokering a fragile peace agreement that appeared to pull the conflict in Iran back from the brink of a major escalation. Before Trump's second term in the White House upended global stability and fractured regional alliances, China was building up a reputation as a mediator in the Middle East, most notably by brokering the surprise rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran in 2023. In 2024, leaders from rival Palestinian factions signed a “Beijing declaration” after talks in China, in which they agreed to form a national unity government for Palestine at an unspecified point in the future. More recently, officials from China and Pakistan – the country that has emerged as the more pivotal mediator in this conflict – published a five-point plan aimed at bringing about a ceasefire and re-opening the strait of Hormuz. All of these plans “are geared to build a global image of Chinese responsibility and moderation as opposed to being geared to actually solve the conflicts they pertain to,” said Lyall. William Yang, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group, said: “There have been previous attempts where China claimed victory in some very easy cases. This time around, it's quite different because I think China does sense the continuous disruption will have a more direct impact on its core interests.” He added: “Ultimately, if China is able to ensure that it uses its influence and leverage over Iran to really help to facilitate any form of ceasefire, it would see that being in its interest to do so,” but he said Beijing would be “cautious” about making public what kind of pressure was or was not exerted. China's actual diplomatic sway in the region is limited, although it is growing. As the biggest buyer of Iranian oil, China is economically important to Tehran. But the two countries do not have a

particularly deep diplomatic relationship. Song Bo, a fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University, said Iran was “outside of the top 10” of countries that were important to Beijing. Analysts are even more sceptical of the idea that China might act as the guarantor of any ceasefire agreement in the Middle East. On Wednesday, the Iranian envoy Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said in Beijing that he hoped that “big countries like China and Russia” would work together to help guarantee peace in the region. China and Russia did support Tehran by vetoing a UN security council resolution, proposed before the ceasefire, that aimed to force the re-opening of the strait of Hormuz. But actually committing resources to the conflict is a much bigger ask. Song said: “China doesn't have a direct stake with any of the parties in the Middle East. Acting as a guarantor for a ceasefire would be an extremely high-cost diplomatic undertaking, and I don't think China would commit to that easily.” “It's just not realistic. Even if China were to act as a guarantor, it lacks the diplomatic or military leverage to actually influence or control the parties involved in the conflict.” Lyall said China did not have the capacity to verify whether the ceasefire terms were being adhered to, and was unlikely to be able to impose any meaningful penalty on a party that broke those terms. The ceasefire deal is not just a public relations win for China. Although the country has large stockpiles of oil, the risk of a global recession and soaring fossil fuel prices nevertheless poses a threat for the Chinese economy, which is heavily dependent on exports. “If it is possible to manage this conflict, and through managing the conflict be able to push down some oil prices, then that is certainly still very important for China,” said Song.

As investors doubt the sustainability of the Middle East ceasefire, oil prices soar



Washington: As the two-week ceasefire in Iran appeared more precarious, with Israel continuing its attacks on Lebanon and the US and Iran threatening to resume military action, oil and gas prices increased on Thursday and Asian financial markets declined. There are still a lot of unanswered concerns and indications that the 11th-hour ceasefire between the US and Iran, which included a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, has caused anxiety in the markets. New York light crude increased by 3.7% to \$98 per barrel on Thursday, while Brent crude, the global benchmark, increased by 3.5% but stayed below \$100 per barrel at \$98.10. Brent fell 13.29% on Wednesday, hitting a four-week low of \$94.75 per barrel. After falling 15% on Wednesday following the announcement of the truce, the month-ahead UK gas contract increased 2.8% to 117.50p per therm. European natural gas futures recovered from a five-week low on Thursday, rising to €46 per megawatt hour. On Wednesday, they had fallen nearly 15% to €45.30 per megawatt hour. The speaker of Tehran's parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said that Israel and the US had broken multiple clauses in the agreement, while the UAE and Kuwait claimed that their air defenses had stopped Iranian drones. The Revolutionary Guards warned of a “regret-inducing response” if Israel did not stop its strikes against Lebanon. The Fars news agency reported that the passage of oil tankers through the strait was halted because of Israel's barrage of strikes on Lebanon on Wednesday,

the worst since the war started, killing at least 254 people and wounding at least 837. Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that US forces would “remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with”. He threatened that if it were not complied with, the military action would be “stronger than anyone has ever seen before”. In Asian stock markets, Japan's Nikkei fell 0.7% after Wednesday's bounce of 5.4%, while South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7% after rising 7.5% the day before, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.4% lower. European stocks also opened lower, as the optimism from Wednesday's rally faded. The UK's FTSE 100 index slipped 0.3%, while the German Dax fell 1.2%, France's Cac dropped 0.75% and Italy's FTSE MIB was down 0.3%. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index dropped by 0.7% after Wednesday's near 4% rise, its best day since 2022. US stock futures are pointing to a lower open on Wall Street later. Jim Reid, a strategist at Deutsche Bank, said: “Nevertheless, compared to 24 hours ago, the market stress has eased considerably, as the ceasefire news and hopes for a de-escalation pathway have created a lot more optimism.” He said fears had eased considerably about a stagflationary shock. There are still signs of progress, with the White House press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, saying that the vice-president, JD Vance, would lead a delegation to Islamabad, with a first round of talks scheduled for Saturday morning.

A small boat in the Channel sinks, killing four persons



Europe: According to French local officials, a small boat sank in the Channel between France and Britain, killing two men and two women. Today, a taxi-boat sank. The situation is currently being evaluated and could change, according to Calais local officials. Early on Thursday morning, emergency services were called to Equihen-Plage, according to the

French media outlet La Voix du Nord. People smugglers have been transporting migrants along the coast of northern France and Belgium using driving dinghies for the past year. They are called “taxi-boats” by the authorities.

The event on Wednesday occurred the day after 102 individuals had to be rescued after encountering diffi-

culties while attempting to cross the Channel. Two persons lost their lives while attempting to cross the Channel at the start of April in another recent incident. Individuals smugglers employ taxi-boats, which are contentious since they go along the coast and pick up individuals at various locations instead of having a single, set launching point into the sea. Some of these taxi-boats are reportedly departing from Belgium and traveling around the French coast. After failing to extend an accord that ended on March 31, the UK and France are discussing a new agreement to prevent small boats from crossing the Channel. About 2,200 refugees and migrants crossed the Channel, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, to the UK in the first two months of 2026, according to data from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory. About 41,500 people made the crossing last year.

Sip Your Way To Healthy Hair With These Amla, Curry Leaf Shots To Reduce Hairfall

If you have been facing hairfall, especially during the wintertime, you are not alone. This season can bring about a lot of hair loss, and it is heartbreaking. But if you want to stay away from chemicals and other beauty procedures, this simple make-ahead shot of amla and curry leaves can offer a natural remedy to hairfall. Have this shot in the morning, as it is packed with nutrients that can help you strengthen roots and even encourage growth. However, it doesn't happen overnight. Add it to your routine, and consistency is the key to finding your hair growing back.

Health Benefits of the ingredients used in the shot Amla, or Indian gooseberry, is rich in vitamin C, almost 20 times more than oranges. It boosts collagen and gives you stronger hair follicles, reduces oxidative stress that causes hair fall, and balances scalp pH to prevent dandruff. Amla has antioxidants like polyphenols that fight premature greying and stimulate new growth.

Curry leaves are loaded with beta-carotene and proteins. They minimise breakage of hair and can prevent greying by improving pigmentation. Curry leaves are rich in iron and antioxidants, which enhance blood circulation to the scalp, fostering thicker strands and natural shine.

Turmeric has curcumin, which has anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. It can soothe itchy scalps and curb fungal infections. Turmeric acts as a natural detoxifier, promoting healthier follicles for robust regrowth.

Ginger contains gingerol, which improves scalp circulation. It helps to deliver nutrients directly to the follicles for faster hair growth. It has an anti-inflammatory effect that can tame dandruff, while antioxidants protect against environmental damage.

Methi, aka fenugreek seeds, are high in lecithin and proteins. They lubricate the scalp, condition each hair strand and can curb thinning of the hair. It has soluble



fibres that strengthen the roots, reduces fallout, and adds volume to your hair, along with natural shine. **Recipe by chef and content creator Neha Deepak Shah**
Amla Pro Max cubes for hair care

Ingredients:
6 to 7 – Amlas
8 to 10 – Curry leaves
2 slices – Fresh turmeric (1/2 tsp – turmeric powder)
1 slice – Ginger
1 tsp – Methi Seeds, soaked
A pinch of black pepper helps the curcumin to be absorbed

Method:
Blend all the above-listed ingredients with a splash of water into a smooth paste.
Pour this mixture into ice cube trays and freeze overnight.
Do not strain this, as it will get rid of the fibre and nutrients.
Pop out the cubes and store in an airtight container or bag in the freezer (lasts 2-3 months).
How to Use: Drop 1-2 cubes into a cup of hot water, let it steep for 5-10 mins, strain, and sip daily. Sweeten with honey if desired. Enjoy warm for the best absorption

The Aftermath Of Winter Smog: Why Your Lungs May Still Be Suffering



As winter fades and air quality numbers begin to improve, many assume the health risks of smog disappear along with the haze. But doctors warn that the human body, particularly the lungs, does not reset as quickly as pollution levels do. Winter smog, dominated by fine particulate matter and toxic gases, can leave behind inflammation, impaired lung function, and heightened vulnerability that persist long after the season ends. For millions living in high-pollution regions, the real damage unfolds quietly, weeks or even months later.

What Winter Smog Does Inside The Lungs

“Prolonged exposure to winter smog, especially fine particulate matter PM2.5, penetrates deep into the lungs, causing persistent airway inflammation, oxidative stress, and reduced lung function,” explains Dr. Vikas Mittal, Director – Pulmonologist at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi. He adds that these microscopic particles bypass the body’s natural defence mechanisms and settle deep in the airways and alveoli, triggering immune responses that don’t simply shut off once exposure ends. According to Dr. Mittal, large population studies such as the Harvard Six Cities Study and American Cancer Society cohorts have consistently linked long-term PM2.5 exposure to chronic lung disease, lung cancer, and increased cardiopulmonary mortality. “Importantly, the damage does not fully reverse once the smog season ends,” he notes, pointing to evidence from the World Health Organisation that repeated seasonal exposure leads to cumulative lung impairment over time.

Why Children Are At Higher Risk

Children bear a disproportionate burden of winter smog exposure. “Children breathe faster than adults and spend more time outdoors, which increases their exposure to PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide, and other pollutants,” says Dr. Chandra Sekhar Singha, Paediatrician at Madhukar Rainbow Children’s Hospital, Delhi. As a result, many children continue to



experience chronic cough, wheezing, breathlessness, or frequent chest infections weeks after winter ends. Dr. Singha highlights a more concerning long-term impact: “In younger children, whose lungs are still developing, repeated exposure to smog can harm normal lung growth and reduce lung capacity over time.” This can increase the risk of developing asthma, worsen existing respiratory conditions, and weaken lung defences against future infections and allergens. Infants and toddlers, he adds, are especially vulnerable due to immature immune and detoxification systems.

The Hidden, Long-Term Inflammatory Burden

Even adults without prior lung disease are not immune. “Winter smog does not disappear from our bodies the moment the air clears,” says Dr. Ankit

Bhatia, Senior Consultant at Yashoda Institute of Respiratory Medicine & Interventional Pulmonology, Ghaziabad. He explains that pollutants inhaled during winter can reach the smallest airways and even enter the bloodstream, leading to persistent airway inflammation. Dr. Bhatia notes that many people continue to experience cough, chest tightness, wheezing, and shortness of breath long after pollution levels drop. “In patients with asthma or COPD, winter smog can accelerate lung function decline and increase the frequency of flare-ups even after the season ends,” he says. Emerging evidence also suggests weakened local lung immunity, increasing susceptibility to respiratory infections well beyond winter.

Why Repeated Exposure Matters

What makes winter smog particularly dangerous is its cumulative effect. Each polluted season adds to an invisible inflammatory load on the lungs, slowly reducing lung reserve and exercise capacity while increasing the risk of chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Vulnerable groups such as children, older adults, and those with pre-existing lung conditions face accelerated decline if preventive steps are not taken year-round. The end of winter should not signal the end of vigilance. Lingering lung inflammation, reduced immunity, and long-term structural damage mean that recovery takes time, and in some cases, may never be complete. Protecting lung health requires sustained awareness, regular medical follow-ups for high-risk individuals, and proactive prevention beyond peak pollution months.

Sharvari Nails The Bridesmaid’s Style For Her Sister’s Wedding

Sharvari made it clear who’s the prettiest bridesmaid at her sister, Kasturi Wagh’s, dreamy wedding. The heartfelt celebration took place near Lonavala on the last Christmas Eve, at their bungalow, The House by the Lake, featuring earthy tones, floral prints, and typical shunning decor. But it was the actress’ elegant outfits that made some noise. Days after the ceremony, costume designer and stylist Tanya Ghavri shared a series of pictures on Instagram, featuring Sharvari’s looks for her sister’s wedding. The Munhya fame can be seen wearing a pearl gold silk zari tissue lehenga set from the shelves of ace designer Aditi Gupta, and looked every bit enchanting.

Decoding Sharvari’s Regal Look For Her Sister’s Wedding

The diva’s Kalidar lehenga set features a surreal blend of pearl, gold silk, zari tissue and Jacquard silk Banarasi. According to the designer’s label, the piece was adorned with Jharokha-inspired panels, elongated paisley embroidery and intricate embellishments, giving it a distinctly royal touch. Sharvari teamed it with a sleeveless, embroidered blouse adorned with paisley motifs and a plunging neckline. The precisely designed choli complemented the voluminous skirt and elevated her overall look. She finally styled her look with a pearl gold



tissue dupatta detailed with paisley cutwork and pearl details all over it, alongside the scalloped border enhanced by the tassel detailing. For accessories, the 28-year-old fashionista went for Razwada Jewels. It included an emerald-embedded Kundan necklace teamed with matching earrings, a combination of a stack of kadas and a statement ring. She complemented the beige tones of her ensemble with a dewy, flawless foundation base. Nude peachy tints on her lips, subtle smokey eyeshadow and thin strokes of her eyeliner added an oomph factor to her beauty. She



wrapped off her look with a tiny bindi and a back-brushed, blow-dried ponytail hairdo. Altogether, she looked every bit gorgeous on her sister’s D-Day.

Sharvari’s Undeniable Beauty In A Satin Dress

This is not the first time when the actress has worn a head-turning outfit in nude shades. Previously, she draped a champagne gold draped satin skirt with a cape from the same Aditi Gupta’s label. It included an Armani satin skirt featuring intricate detailing near the waist, embodying refined elegance. The skirt was gracefully paired with an embroidered blouse and cape, adorned with blooming monochromatic florals, delicate threadwork, shimmering dori, subtle sequins, and dainty pearl detailing—creating a harmonious blend of sophistication and charm. The actress completed her look with diamond jewellery, glam makeup and half-done, middle-parted, open tresses. Sharvari’s graceful looks in nude-toned ensembles exuded pure charm.



Shreya Ghoshal

Biography of Shreya Ghoshal, A Legendary Voice in Indian Music. Some voices simply strike our hearts, and Shreya Ghoshal is one of them. This young artist has won the hearts of people all around the world with her lovely voice and attractive demeanor.From Bollywood to Hollywood, this music superstar has captivated audiences everywhere she goes.In this biography, we'll look at Shreya Ghoshal's incredible path to become one of the world's most successful singers!

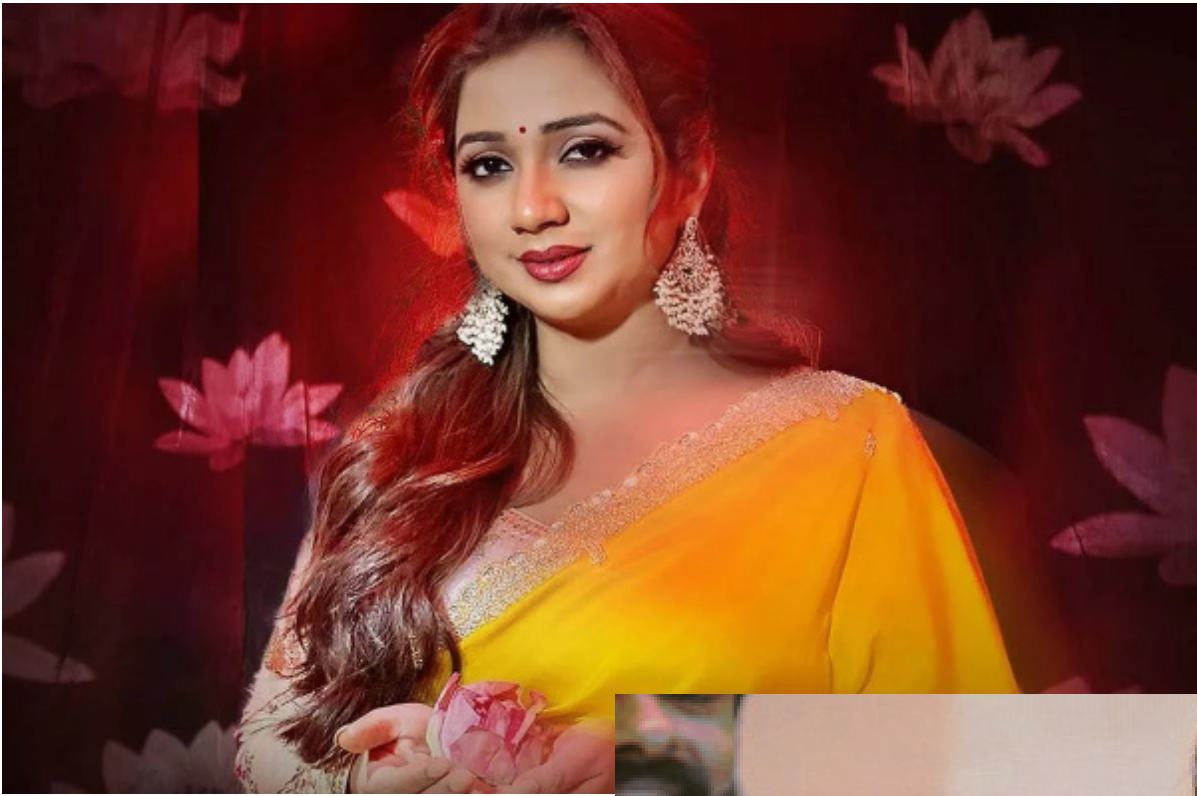
The Remarkable Life of Shreya Ghoshal: A Singing Sensation: Shreya Ghoshal was born on March 12, 1984, in Murshidabad, West Bengal, India. She comes from a musical family and began singing at an early age. Shreya Ghoshal began her music career at a young age.She started learning classical music when she was four years old and quickly developed a passion for singing.Her first big break came when she won the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa competition as a youngster.After then, there was no stopping her, and she went on to have enormous success as a playback singer. When she was sixteen, Shreya auditioned for the reality show Indian Idol and quickly became one of the finalists. After winning the competition, she released her first album in 2004.Since then, Shreya Ghoshal has become one of the most successful singers in Bollywood and Hollywood.

What makes Shreya Ghoshal so special is her amazing voice: She can sing in a variety of styles, including classical, pop, and Her voice has the ability to touch people's hearts and make them feel



tions they thought She has voice to Indian movies and songs. Ghoshal started her singing career at a very young age and has since achieved great success.

Shreya Ghoshal Songs: Some of Ghoshal's most famous songs include "Tum Hi Ho" from the movie Aashiqui. "Tum Se Hi" from Jab We Met, and "Deewani Mastani" from the movie Bajirao Mastani are also some of her most popular numbers. Ghoshal has performed playback in over 400 Bollywood films, including Aashiqui (1990), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Taal (1999), Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), Kal Ho



Naa Ho (2003), Veer-Zaara (2004), and Silsila Ye Chahat Ka (2013). Ghoshal has also provided her voice to various Indian regional language films, including Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, and Kannada.Aside from commercial Hindi cinema, Shreya has done playback for few independent films, including I Am (2012), Margarita with a Straw (2014), and Dangal (2016).Aside from her career in Indian movies, Ghoshal has appeared in concerts across the world.

Shreya Ghoshal life story: From a very young age, she showed a passion for music and was determined to make it her career. She started learning classical music at the age of four and won her first singing competition when she was just six years old.Shreya's talent was quickly recognized, and she soon began working with some of the biggest names in the music industry.In 2002, she made her debut as a playback singer for the film Devdas. Her voice was an instant hit, and she soon became one of the most sought-after singers in Bollywood. Over the years, Shreya has sung for hundreds of films and won numerous awards, including four National Film Awards and five Filmfare Awards. She is also one of the most popular singers in South Asia, with a huge fan base both in India and abroad.Shreya's voice is truly unique, and her ability to sing in multiple languages makes her a true international artist.In 2002, she made her debut as playback singer for the film Devdas, for which she received her first National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer.Ghoshal has received numerous awards and accolades in her career, including four National Film Awards, five Filmfare Awards,



five Star Screen Awards, three Zee Cine Awards, two BIG Star Entertainment Awards and two Lions Gold International Award. She is the only Indian artist to have won all the six major music awards in India. In 2012, she was awarded with the Padma Shri by the Government of India.Ghoshal is also one of the few Indian singers to have a wax statue at Madame Tussauds Museum in London.Ghoshal's music is

influenced by Indian classical music, ghazals, folk and Sufi music. She has also sung in various languages including Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam and Kannada.Ghoshal's repertoire of songs include "Tum Hi Ho" (2013), "Tera Ban Jaunga" (2019), "Pee Loon" (2011), "Tere Bina" (2007) among others.Ghoshal is listed amongst the most popular playback singers in India. The Economic Times placed her third on their list of the top playback singers of the decade 2010-2020.In 2017, she was one of the recipients of Padma Bhushan award – India's third highest civilian award. In 2019, she was honoured with the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, India's Highest Sports Award.She has won numerous awards including four National Film Awards, five Filmfare Awards South, three IIFA Awards, and two Grammy Awards.In addition to her work in Bollywood and Hollywood, Shreya has also performed in numerous concerts all over the world.Shreya Ghoshal is one of the most successful and popular playback singers in Bollywood and South Asia. She is truly a one-of-a-kind singer and we are so lucky to have her! Shreya Ghoshal is one of the most successful playback singers in India.She has a mesmerizing voice that has won her millions of fans all over the world. Thank you for following Shreya Ghoshal biography! We hope you've enjoyed learn-

Kumar Sanu's ex-wife, Rita Bhattacharya, took custody of three children and claims she made him a singer. Who is she



Rita Bhattacharya is widely known as the estranged and former wife of legendary Bollywood playback singer Kumar Sanu. He is one of the most recognizable and well-known names in the Bollywood business. Kumar dominated the Hindi music business during the 1990s and early 2000s. He has provided the voice for numerous hit songs that have been reproduced today, as well as music in a variety of languages. Kumar Sanu achieved fame and received prizes in his musical career, but his relationship



with Rita has grown poisonous and beyond repair. She has three children: Zicco, Jessy, and Jaan Kumar Sanu. Rita Bhattacharya has made strong allegations about her estranged husband, Kumar Sanu. The mother of three has recently made headlines for speaking out about her unhappy marriage to Kumar Sanu. Rita has said that she was Kumar Sanu's backbone during his battle, although she was cruelly abused while expecting. A lot has been stated about Kumar Sanu initiating a defamation action

against Rita and demanding Rs. 50 crore in damages, Rita's allegations of not being able to afford it, and his barring her. But who precisely is Rita Bhattacharya?

Rita Bhattacharya only has 2 posts on her Instagram: Rita Bhattacharya's Instagram handle, which is not verified, has only two posts. Rita had previously stated that her husband, Kumar Sanu, had blocked her. On Instagram, she only has 448 followers and follows her son, Jaan Kumar Sanu. Her two sites are dedicated to her son Jaan and include his music videos. BollywoodShaadis could not determine whether Rita is using this Instagram handle.

Rita Bhattacharya takes credit for making Kumar Sanu a singer: Rita Bhattacharya and Kumar Sanu's lives have been turbulent. Earlier, in an interview with the Indulge Express, Rita went down memory lane and recounted some of her unpleasant recollections with Kumar Saanu. She described her difficult relationship with Kumar Sanu. Rita said that her main goal in life was to make him a singer, and he became one because of her. In her words: "He is an excellent vocalist, but as a human person, it is best to avoid discussing him. He was never ambitious. It was my desire to make him a singer, so I pushed him. "I helped Kumar Sanu become Kumar Sanu."

Rita Bhattacharya shares pushing Kumar Sanu to find work in Mumbai: Rita further shared that when she came to Mumbai, her life was filled with a lot of struggle. Rita shared that they did not have any money or transportation when they came to Mumbai. It was completely zero. Rita shared that Kumar Sanu used to wear a lungi back then and lied about sending his family to Mumbai. Rita shared: "

He should skip the question if he doesn't want to answer. Why lie? He keeps lying the whole day. Hence, all three of my kids said that it is high time you talk. I

used to push him out to go and struggle in Bombay. We used to sleep on the floor without a fan. After Aashiqui's success, he started earning a lot of money, and that's when he started changing. He became ill-mannered; he was never like that."

Rita Bhattacharya and Kumar Sanu married without the consent of their parents: Rita and Kumar Sanu had met in Calcutta, and the City of Joy started their love story. Back in the 1980s, the pair got married without the consent of their parents. However, their families later had accepted their marriage. The ex-couple became parents to three kids before they separated in 1994. Sanu was rising in his career, living happily with Rita, but was also earning name and fame.

Kumar Sanu's secretary told Rita Bhattacharya about his affairs: Kumar Sanu allegedly had a fling with Kunika Lal. Kumar Sanu developed feelings for Meenakshi Ses-hadri after having the shortest fling of his life. Both met on the set of Jurm, which included the iconic song Jab Koi Baat Bigad Jaaye, sung by Kumar Sanu. According to Newsgram, Kumar Sanu's assistant notified Rita about his romance with her after he denied it for three years. Rita was informed by the secretary that "Kumar has many girlfriends". Kumar divorced Rita, and she got custody of their three children. Kumar Sanu had to pay monthly alimony to support his wife and children.

Rita Bhattacharya claims Kumar Sanu was insecure about their relationship: Rita Bhattacharya has been vocal of the emotional abuse, legal struggles that she faced due to Kumar Sanu. Apart from alleging being taken to court when she was pregnant, Rita felt the personal betrayal by her ex-husband made her feel like her whole world had been crushed. Rita claimed that Kumar Sanu was very insecure and did not even allow her to step out of the home.

Nora Fatehi

Nora Fatehi is a Canadian actress, model, singer, dancer, and producer. She is well-known for her work in Bollywood.She has acted in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam films. She made her Bollywood debut with Roar (The Tigers of the Sundarbans).She was known in Telugu cinema for her item numbers in films such as Temper, Baahubali: The Beginning, and Kick 2. She appeared in two Malayalam films: Double Barrel and Kayamkulam Kochun-

ni. In 2015, she appeared in the reality television show Bigg Boss 9. Unfortunately, she was evicted on the 84th day. She took part in another reality TV dance show, Jhalak Dikhlia Jaa.In the Bollywood film Satyameva Jayate, she reproduced the song 'Dilbar'. That song received 20 million views on YouTube within the first 24 hours of its release.That was the first Hindi song to reach such high numbers in India. She worked with Moroccan hip-

hop duo Fnaïre to release an Arabic rendition of the song 'Dilbar'. She collaborated with Tanzanian musician & song writer Rayvanny in 2019. That collaboration was done for first international debut of her English song Pepeta. **Early and Personal life of Nora Fatehi:** Nora was born on 6th February 1992 in an Islamic Arabic Moroccan family with roots in India. She was born and brought up in Canada. As per an interview



of her, she considers herself 'an Indian at heart'. She has a sibling Omar Fatehi. **Entrepreneurial Journey and Career of Nora Fatehi:**

Nora started her career by appearing in Hindi Film Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans. After that she was signed for Puri Jagannadh's

Telugu film Temper as an item number.That was her debut for Telugu. She did a special appearance with Emraan Hashmi & Gurmeet

Choudhri in the film Mr. X.It was directed by Vikram Bhatt & produced by Mahesh Bhatt. Again she acted as item numbers for the movies named Baahubali: The Beginning & Kick 2.She was signed for a Telugu movie Sher in late June 2015. Again she signed Telugu movie Loafer in late August 2015. It was directed by Puri Jagannadh. She acted against Varun Tej in that film. She signed film Oopiri in late November 2015.She entered Bigg Boss house during season 9 in December 2015. She entered as a wild card entrant. She spent 3 weeks inside the house. Unfortunately,

she evicted in the 12th week (day 83). In 2016, she was one of the contestants in Jhalak Dikhlia Jaa. She was a lead actress in My Birthday song. In the song she acted opposite Sanjay Suri. She signed a contract with the T-Series a record label in February 2019. She signed as an exclusive artist. She will feature on their upcoming films, music videos, web series, and web movies. In 2020, she appeared in a dance film street dancer 3D. Nora became the first African-Arab female artiste whose song "Dilbar" crossed one billion views on YouTube on 6th March 2021.

Leicester, the former Premier League champions, was demoted to the third division

England: After a 2-2 draw with Hull on Tuesday, former Premier League champions Leicester were demoted to the third division for just the second time in their existence. In order to maintain their slim chances of avoiding relegation, Gary Rowett's team needed to win at the King Power Stadium. However, Oli McBurnie's equalizer in the second half relegated the Foxes to League Ten years ago they were proclaimed English champions in a victory straight out of a fairy tale. In the 18th minute, Liam Millar gave Hull the lead, but James Justin's penalty in the 52nd minute tied the score for Leicester. Two minutes later, Luke Thomas gave Leicester the lead, but McBurnie's equalizer in the 63rd minute put an end to their hopes of a spectacular comeback. With two games remaining, second-bottom Leicester is seven points outside of safety.After an incredible five-year fall, Leicester will play in the third division for the first time since 2008–09.We must educate ourselves. Rowett stated, "I think the club has to accept this is the terrible part of a football club's journey."Not very long ago, this team won the Premier League. For the supporters and everyone connected to the team at the moment, that was an amazing high. "I think everyone saw that as an amazing achievement. I think we can be equally as disappointed with how poor this moment is."It is a third relegation in four seasons for Leicester, who dropped out of the Premier League in 2023 and 2025.After Jamie Vardy, Riyad Mahrez, N'Golo Kante and company defied 5,000-1 odds by winning the Premier League in 2016, Leicester reached the Champions League quarter-finals the next season and won the FA Cup in 2021.But Leicester's golden era is a distant memory as they face the unpalatable prospect of playing the likes of Bromley, Mansfield and Wycombe next season."The bigger picture is you don't get relegated over three or four games, you get relegated over a season," Rowett said."The club has to rise again but it has to learn its lessons because it's certainly been a season of an awful lot of regret."Crashing out of



the Premier League in limp fashion three years ago should have been a wake-up call for Leicester's Thai owner Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha and much-maligned sporting director Jon Rudkin. But Leicester's hierarchy were painfully slow to address numerous flaws on the pitch, while the club's ruinous finances have cost them with a six-point deduction this season for breaching spending rules.Vardy's departure at the end of last season severed the last tie with the title-winning squad.Marti Cifuentes, hired to lead a promotion push, struggled to rebuild an unbalanced and inexperienced squad before his sacking in January.Interim boss Andy King was unable to turn the tide and relegation fears began to mount after Leicester blew a 3-0 half-time lead in a dismal 4-3 defeat against Southampton.By the time Rowett was hired in February, the Foxes were two points from safety and the former Leicester defender has

mustered only one win from his 12 matches since. Boardroom blunders have been the defining influence on Leicester's plummet towards League One. Claudio Ranieri, architect of their title-winning campaign, was sacked just months after lifting the trophy, with Craig Shakespeare and then Claude Puel proving inadequate replacements.Brendan Rodgers, who masterminded the club's FA Cup triumph and two fifth-placed finishes in the Premier League, was dismissed as relegation beckoned in 2023.Elsewhere on Tuesday, Coventry clinched the Championship title with a 5-1 rout of Portsmouth.Frank Lampard's side had sealed promotion back to the top flight after a 25-year absence with a draw at Blackburn on Friday.Millwall climbed to second place with a 3-1 win at Stoke, while fourth-placed Southampton's bid for automatic promotion was dented by a 2-2 draw against Bristol City.

Soon, work on the Modi Mill and Savitri flyovers will start

New Delhi, Apr 23: The Public Works Department (PWD) has awarded the projects to expand the Modi Mill flyover and convert the single-way Savitri Cinema flyover into a two-way flyover in order to alleviate the growing traffic problems along important roads in south Delhi. The work is anticipated to significantly disrupt traffic along arterial ORR, which links south, south-west, and south-east Delhi and falls on popular routes to the airport.However, traffic around the Outer Ring Road may be seriously disrupted until the construction project is finished, which is expected to take two to three years. "We have awarded the works for these key projects in south Delhi, which have been long pending due to procedural and planning delays," said PWD minister Parvesh Verma, adding, "The foundation stone for these projects will be laid next month, and we have set a clear timeline of 24 to 30 months for completion. Our focus is on ensuring timely execution with minimal disruption to commuters."The work is expected to severely disrupt traffic along the arterial ORR that links south, south-west and south-east Delhi and falls on popular routes to the airport.Officials



said measures will be put in place to manage traffic during the construction phase, including diversions and phased execution to reduce inconvenience. Detailed traffic management plans are expected to be rolled out closer to the start of construction, they added. Once completed, the project is expected to ease traffic flow around Chittaranjan Park, Greater Kailash, Chirag Delhi, Kalkaji, and Nehru Place, where traffic from the Chirag Delhi flyover currently splits into three directions, often causing jams. The existing 1.5km-long one-way Savitri flyover, built in 2001, will be expanded to two lanes in

each direction.The total construction cost of the projects is ₹412 crore, of which ₹150 crore is earmarked for the current financial year. The preparatory work, including surveys and feasibility assessments, has been completed. The Savitri Cinema intersection, located near Chirag Delhi Flyover and Greater Kailash, is considered a major bottleneck due to high traffic volumes from areas such as Greater Kailash, Chirag Delhi, Nehru Place and Kalkaji. The proposed flyover is expected to streamline traffic by allowing uninterrupted passage along the Outer Ring Road, reducing delays at signalised crossings.

Courts on Rouse Avenue would receive a Rs.550-cr boost

New Delhi, Apr 23: The plan calls for the court to acquire 94 more court-rooms as well as related facilities including waiting halls and lawyer's chambers.According to senior Delhi government officials, the government has revised a plan to enlarge the Rouse Avenue Court complex, a special court in the city that mostly handles high-profile cases involving politicians, under a ₹550-crore project in order to address the enormous backlog and amount of cases. The According to the officials, the proposal calls for the court to acquire an extra 94 courtrooms as well as related facilities including waiting halls and lawyer's chambers. On 3.6 acres next to the current court building on DDU Marg, the additional blocks are anticipated to be constructed. However, in order to begin the project, 450 trees must be taken down and replanted.Both the court's enormous backlog of cases and the volume of cases it receives are intended to be addressed by the enlargement. It is a component of a larger strategy to increase district-level judicial infrastructure.

To combat the heat, India orders water bells for schools



New Delhi, Apr 23: As the megacity prepares for hot conditions, schools in India's capital are required by a new city edict to ring bells on a daily basis to urge students to drink water. According to government data, between 2012 and 2021, about 11,000 people died from heat stroke in the world's most populated country, where the intense summer heat puts millions of people at risk.During a heatwave in May 2024, temperatures in New Delhi reached 49.2C, the previous record high set in the capital in 2022. That year was India's hottest year since thorough records began in 1901, with sizzling temperatures following a global pattern of extreme weather driven by climate change.The

temperature on Wednesday morning in New Delhi and the wider sprawling metropolitan region of 30 million residents was a relatively balmy 29.4C.But weather forecasters predict temperatures will hit 41-43C later on Wednesday, and rise to 42-44C later in the week. The India Meteorological Department has issued a "yellow alert" for Delhi, indicating the likelihood of a heatwave later in the week.On Tuesday, guidelines issued by the Delhi education directorate asked schools in the city to adopt a plethora of steps to shield students.They included avoiding "outdoor physical activities" and conducting "awareness sessions" to remind them of the importance of hydra-

tion."Outdoor assemblies to be curtailed or conducted in shaded/indoor areas with minimal duration," the note read. "No open air classes to be conducted."Quirkier directions are also on offer: schools have been asked to start a "water bell" initiative to prevent dehydration and also implement a "buddy system" for students to look out for each other. "Schools shall implement a 'Water Bell' system, whereby a bell is rung at regular intervals reminding students to drink water to prevent dehydration," the circular notes. "Each student may be paired up with another student during school hours to monitor and take care of the each other's physical wellbeing," it added.

Chelsea is crushed by Brighton to increase pressure on Liam Rosenior, who is under fire

Brighton: As pressure rises on troubled manager Liam Rosenior, Chelsea's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League are in ruins after a crushing 3-0 loss to Brighton on Tuesday. Ferdi Kadioglu gave Brighton the lead in the first half, and Jack Hinshelwood and Danny Welbeck scored goals after the break to give Rosenior's team one of their worst performances of an awful season. For the first time since 1912—appropriately the year the Titanic sank—Chelsea has lost five straight league games without scoring. The Blues have only won one of their previous nine league games and have lost seven of their last eight games across all competitions.In the battle for the top-five finish that ensures a Champions League spot, Chelsea is mired in seventh position, seven points behind fifth-place Liverpool.If Rosenior's team can't stop their miserable run, they risk missing out on playing in Europe entirely.They will play Leeds in the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday, and they are aware that a loss at Wembley may put Rosenior in danger of being fired just months after he moved from Strasbourg to take Enzo Maresca's place in January. Rosenior this week claimed Chelsea's owners have been "magnificent" in their backing of him despite their alarming slump.Chelsea co-owner Behdad Eghbali has said the club remain optimistic about long-term success under Rosenior.But the atmosphere around Chelsea is turning increasingly toxic.Boos greeted the full-time whistle following Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester United at Stamford Bridge after supporters staged a protest against owners BlueCo ahead of kick-off.There were more jeers for Rosenior and his players from Chel-



sea's fuming fans at Brighton, who climbed above the Blues into sixth place. Rosenior switched to a back five in a bid to make Chelsea harder to break down, but it took just seconds for it to become apparent that his plan would backfire.Kaoru Mitoma met Pascal Gross' cross with a stinging strike that forced a good save from Robert Sanchez in the opening moments.It was a warning that Chelsea failed to heed as Brighton took the lead in the third minute. Gross' corner was flicked on to Kadioglu as Chelsea failed to clear, their slow response allowing the defender to lash past Sanchez for his first goal in 17 months.That was the signal for chants against Chelsea's owners from the Blues supporters packed into one end of the Amex Stadium. Gross was tormenting Chelsea with his accurate deliveries and Jan Paul van Hecke went close from another of the German's crosses, leaping for a header that Sanchez tipped over.Chelsea were in disarray and Sanchez almost gifted Brighton a goal when he mis-cued a pass straight to Carlos Baleba, who teed up Hinshelwood for a

shot that was cleared off the line by Trevoh Chalobah.For the first time in a league game this season, Chelsea failed to muster a single shot in the opening 30 minutes.They finally managed a shot five minutes before half-time, but Chalobah's unsuccessful effort only earned derision as furious fans chanted "we want our Chelsea back". When Romeo Lavia drilled wide after the interval, Rosenior was targeted for abuse from the travelling supporters.The opprobrium got even louder in the 56th minute.Chelsea claimed they should have had a free-kick when the ball appeared to bounce off Yankuba Minteh's arm. But play was allowed to continue and Brighton launched a blistering counter as Georginio Rutter sprinted away before picking out Hinshelwood for a composed finish. Chelsea had no response and Rosenior was bereft of ideas on the touchline as Brighton delivered one final blow in stoppage time.Maxim De Cuyper cut the ball back for Welbeck inside the area and he fired into the roof of the net as Rosenior shook his head in disbelief.

In Delhi, 25% of authorized positions remain unfilled due to IAS officer transfers

New Delhi, Apr 23: As part of regular cadre management exercises, at least 14 IAS officers have been relocated out of Delhi in the last two months.According to at least three officials, a gap in important administrative positions in the nation's capital has grown as a result of several recent transfers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers from Delhi and the promotion of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) officers to the IAS cadre. As part of regular cadre management exercises, at least 14 IAS officers have been relocated out of

Delhi in the last two months. However, one of the individuals mentioned above stated that the administrative gap has grown as no rapid substitutes have been posted.Delhi has a sanctioned strength of 130 IAS officials, according to data obtained by HT. However, after taking into consideration recent transfers, there are currently just about 98 cops on duty. This indicates that approximately 25%, or one in four, of Delhi's authorized IAS positions are unfilled. The outgoing officers handled key portfolios such as ministerial secretariats, home department responsibilities, and



municipal administration. Orders issued by the Union home ministry indicate officers have been transferred to AGMUT cadre regions including Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, and Chandigarh. They will be relieved between April 18 and June 1. An April 17 order lists seven IAS officers,

including PWD and water secretary Rajeeva Shukla, home and education secretary Anoop Thakur, and additional secretary (home) Saumyaketu Mishra, who have been relieved from their Delhi positions with immediate effect. This followed a February 24 order where seven IAS officers

were reassigned to other Union territories. "These transfers are routine cadre management exercises under the AGMUT framework. However, the timing has coincided with a phase where several positions in Delhi are already under strain. Delhi being the national capital and with a new government requires additional experienced hands. Routine transfers send officials to UTs where fewer IAS officers are needed, and some even await posting for months," a senior government official, who asked not to be identified, said. The timing of the shortage assumes sig-

nificance as the current government is in the early phase of its tenure and relies on experienced bureaucrats for policy implementation and continuity. With multiple departments operating under additional charge arrangements, administrative coordination and execution timelines are under pressure. Officials said the absence of backfilling has created a temporary but significant administrative vacuum, particularly at middle and senior levels, adding that there is a need to review routine transfer policies to match the needs of states and UTs.

Carlos Alcaraz may forego the French Open rather than rushing back from injury

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz, the winner of the French Open, stated on Monday that he would rather not to expedite treatment for a "serious" wrist injury than to miss defending the Roland Garros championship in May. After feeling his wrist "give out on a return," the 22-year-old withdrew from the Barcelona clay-court competition last week. He later disclosed that the ailment was "a more serious injury than any of us expected." Then, on Friday, he withdrew from the Madrid Open, raising questions about his ability to compete in Paris on May 18. When he informed the media at an award ceremony on Monday that he was adopting a long-term perspective, that uncertainty grew.Instead of returning early, hurrying around, and feeling ill, I'd rather to return a little later but in excellent health."He stated on Monday, "God willing, I have a long career ahead of me, many years, and pushing myself too hard at this Roland Garros could seriously harm me in future tournaments."In the workplace, things do happen.

Left Handed Batters Dominate Orange Cap Race As IPL Teams Struggle Against Them

Left-Handed Batters Thrive Amid Tactical Struggles

New Delhi: Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 is beginning to tell a clear story. Teams are still struggling to handle left-handers, and the numbers at the top of the run charts are starting to reflect that. It is not just about the quality of batting. It is also about how bowling sides are reacting. Captains are increasingly hesitant to use their main spinners against left-handers, often turning to part-time options or safer angles instead of backing their best bowlers. That hesitation was visible in the game between Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

DC had Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav available, but both bowled just two overs each. Instead, Nitish Rana was used as a primary option against left-handers like Abhishek Sharma, and the plan did not hold. Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin believes this is be-



coming a wider issue across teams. “By not bowling your main options, you are not showing trust in your bowling unit,” Ashwin said, questioning the thinking behind avoiding certain matchups. He added that the fear of left-handers is pushing teams away from their strengths. “You have to back your bowlers. If they go for runs, that’s part of the game.

But not giving them the ball at all is a bigger problem.” This approach is also showing in how bowlers are operating. Against left-handers,

many right-arm bowlers are going wide of off stump and trying to stay away from the hitting arc. Without bringing the ball back in, the threat of lbw or bowled reduces, making it easier for batters to settle. Among the top 10 run-scorers this season, six are left-handers. Abhishek Sharma leads the chart with 323 runs, striking at 215.33 and averaging 53.83. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has scored 246 runs at a strike rate of 236.53 and averages 41.00, while Priyansh Arya has 211 runs at a striking rate of 248.23 with

an average of 42.20. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Cooper Connolly both have 223 runs each and average 55.75, with strike rates of 152.73 and 163.97 respectively. Ishan Kishan has added 238 runs, striking at 188.88 with an average of 34.00. Another detail stands out. Four of the top 10 are openers. They face more balls, use the powerplay, and naturally accumulate more runs over the course of a tournament.

The left-hander factor adds another layer. Most attacks are still built around right-arm bowlers, which allows left-handers to change angles and force constant adjustments in line and field. The gap becomes clearer when looking at teams near the bottom. Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders have relied on right-handed opening pairs like Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad, or Ajinkya Rahane and Finn Allen.

Indian Football Tem Placed In Group B Of SAFF Women’s Championship In Goa



Dhaka: The Indian women’s national team were drawn with Bangladesh and Maldives in Group B of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women’s Championship 2026, after the draw held at the SAFF Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The tournament will be held in Margao, Goa, from May 25 to June 6, 2026. Group A contains Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The top two teams from each group will make it to the semi-finals. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium will be the venue for all matches of the SAFF Women’s Championship 2026, as per a press release

From the All India Football Federation (AIFF). This will mark the second time India will host the SAFF Women’s Championship, after the 2016 edition in Siliguri, West Bengal, where the Blue Tigresses won their fourth title. It will also be the second time that Goa will stage a SAFF tournament. The men’s championship of 1999 was also held at the P.J.N. Stadium, where India won the title, defeating Bangladesh in the final. The seeding for the SAFF Women’s Championship 2026 draw was done in accordance with the latest FIFA Women’s World Rankings issued on April

21. India (69th) and Nepal (87th) were placed in Pot 1. Bangladesh (112th) and Sri Lanka (162nd) were placed in Pot 2. Bhutan (164th) and the Maldives (167th) were placed in Pot 3. India is the record five-time champions of the SAFF Women’s Championship, having won titles in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2019. Bangladesh have won the last two editions in 2022 and 2024. The Young Tigresses, who are preparing for the AFC U17 Women’s Asian Cup China 2026, reached Sochi late on Monday night, April 6. Last month, they travelled to Yangon to play two friendly matches against the hosts, winning both (2-0 and 3-2).

Following their return, Conti’s side continued their training camp in Bengaluru. Kenya dominated the contest, both physically and tactically, against the Blue Tigresses. The Harambee Starlets seized control from the outset, using the width of the pitch effectively and imposing themselves physically across the park. India found it difficult to cope with the pace and intensity and failed to create clear attacking moves in the match. Kenya struck early in the second minute. Fasila Omondi surged down the left flank and delivered a dangerous cross into the box.

Former Premier League Champions Leicester City Relegated To League One Following Tough Season



Leicester: Former Premier League champions Leicester City have suffered a dramatic fall from grace after being relegated to League One, ten years after their historic English Premier League title-winning campaign. The development comes after a 2-2 home draw against Hull City on Tuesday that confirmed Leicester City’s relegation to the League.

Relegated from the Premier League to the EFL Championship last season, the Foxes have now become only the fifth club to suffer consecutive relegations down to the third tier. Gary Rowett’s side briefly had dreams of a great escape as quick-fire goals from Jordan James and Luke Thomas overturned Liam Millar’s opener, but Oli McBurnie’s strike

midway through the second half left Leicester City seven points from safety with just two games to go. The bigger picture is you don’t get relegated over three or four games, you get relegated over a season,” Rowett said after the game as quoted by ESPN. “We have to learn. I think the club have to accept this is the horrible part of the journey of a football club.”

”This club won the Premier League not too many moons ago,” Rowett added. “That was an incredible high at the time for the fans, for everyone associated with the club. ”I think everyone saw that as an amazing achievement. I think we can be equally as disappointed with how poor this moment is.” That fairytale Premier League title win, along with their FA Cup 2021 Final triumph,

transformed Leicester City into a worldwide symbol of underdog success and belief. However, the club now finds itself confronting a starkly different reality, as it looks to rebuild from one of the lowest points in its recent history.

Following their defeat to Chelsea, the side slipped to seventh place in the ongoing Premier League standings, with 48 points from 34 matches, having registered 13 wins, nine draws, and 12 losses so far this season. Meanwhile, Brighton and Hove Albion F.C. climbed to sixth position with 50 points from 34 games, recording 13 victories, 11 draws, and 10 defeats in their campaign. In the other fixture, Crystal Palace and West Ham United failed to break the deadlock in a tightly encounter.

KL Rahul’s Batting And Keeping Under Fire After Delhi’s Defeat To Hyderabad

New Delhi: KL Rahul’s batting intent and wicketkeeping skills were questioned by former India batter Aakash Chopra after Delhi Capitals’ heavy loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday, April 21. Rahul scored 37 off 23 balls at a strike-rate of 160.87 as Delhi had to chase down a target of 243 runs at the Uppal. The DC opener started off with some big shots but his innings quickly fizzled away and he was second fiddle during the 86-run stand with Nitish Rana on Tuesday.

DC struggled to find momentum in the final two overs of the powerplay, scoring 59 in the first six, with Rahul getting 22 off 13 balls. With his knock, Rahul’s poor run while chasing 200-plus scores in the IPL continued, as his side has lost 16 out of the 20 games with the DC batter scoring 622 runs during this time frame, at a strike-rate just above 143 and an average of 31.1. Speaking to JioStar after the match, Chopra asked how many attacking shots were played by Rahul in his innings. The former batter said that if you’re unable to make the powerplay count, then the team is going to lose the game. “I think the question should be asked. He played 23 balls for those 37 runs he scored. How many attacking shots he actually played in those 23 balls, because, in my humble opinion, if you’re chasing down 240-plus, and if you’re unable to make the power play count, then 99.5 percent you’re going to lose the match.” “In any case, it’s a mountain



To climb, but the intent I felt was missing. Just the whole process of chasing down a total as big as they were chasing. I didn’t feel that they actually gave it all,” said Chopra. The former India batter wondered if Rahul was carrying an injury and slammed DC for not sending their big-hitters early. “He may have had an injury. It felt that he was carrying a niggle maybe. But once again, this is the mistake that LSG did the other day, because once you’re chasing that total, you don’t send your infantry and go nuclear, you’re anyway going to lose the game. So did you give your best? Not enough in my opinion,” said Chopra. Another question that was raised was Rahul’s

work with the gloves as he allowed Abhishek Sharma an extra life when he was at 48 and looking to complete his fifty. The DC wicketkeeper failed to collect the ball properly and that allowed Abhishek to reach the landmark. The SRH opener ended up scoring 135 runs and allowed the home side to reach the mammoth total.

Chopra said that Rahul, despite his India white-ball exploits, is a batter who keeps wickets and not the other way around. The former cricketer said that Rahul’s contribution with the bat sort of gets nullified when he continues to make mistakes as a keeper. KL Rahul, yes, he keeps a lot for India in the ODI set-up as

well. But, let’s be very honest. He’s a batter who keeps and not the other way around. Most keepers are, are generally keeper first, and then they are the ones who then contribute with the bat. It can actually happen to anyone, but when it is KL Rahul, you definitely ask that question that how much was it worth because as a keeper if you’re going to miss a few then sometimes it nullifies the contribution you make with the bat,” said Chopra. Former India batter Manoj Tiwary suggested returning the Mumbai Indians captaincy to Rohit Sharma because he believes the current leadership under Hardik Pandya lacks the necessary stability and effectiveness to deliver a trophy.

Delhi Capitals Captain Axar Patel Slammed For Tactical Blunders During Heavy Sunrisers Loss

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel found himself under heavy criticism after his tactical calls backfired in the loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad. The decision-making around his bowling choices became the biggest talking point from the game. SRH piled up 242/2, with Abhishek Sharma smashing an unbeaten 135, putting DC on the back foot early. The target itself was massive, but how Delhi used their bowlers raised serious questions. The biggest surprise was the use of Nitish Rana.

The part-time off-spinner bowled all four overs and conceded 55 runs without a wicket, while Axar and Kuldeep Yadav bowled just two overs each despite being the side’s main spin options. Former India captain Kris Srikanth questioned the thinking behind Axar’s decisions, especially the use of Rana at key moments in the game. “Axar Patel is the captain here and the vice-captain of the T20 World Cup team. Yet, he has bowled only two overs. And he’s giving the 16th over to Nitish Rana with Abhishek Sharma well-set. I am not sure where you get the brain for such moves. Axar Patel



is an inTernational bowler. He and Kuldeep Yadav are in the Current Indian T20 World Cup-winning team. And they’ve both combined to bowl four overs. Then you suddenly bring a Nitish Rana out of nowhere and give him four overs. How’s this justified? This is pure absurdity.”

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin focused on the overall bowling plan and how roles were reversed despite having a full-strength attack. It didn’t happen just once; it happened multiple times. Nitish Rana was essentially used as the primary option

in the Delhi Capitals Attack, despite specialists like Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Lungi Ngidi, Mukesh Kumar, and T. Natarajan being available. “In DC’s bowling attack, they have Axar, Kuldeep, Lungi, Mukesh, and Natarajan. But the first player to complete his four-over quota was Nitish Rana, and that’s where they lost the match. It has to be the biggest blunder so far. “Conceding 50 runs in four overs is not a big deal, but if you have five regular bowlers, why did you go for a part-timer?” Former Australia captain Aaron Finch also pointed out the im-

balance in DC’s bowling usage. We’ve been sitting there scratching Our heads, haven’t we? Your two Indian premier spin bowlers, Axar Patel, the skipper, Kuldeep Yadav, they bowled four overs between them. A part-time offspinner in Nitish Rana has bowled four overs. To me, that makes no sense.” DC’s problems were not limited to the bowling. They were cruising at 107/1 in the chase before losing wickets in a cluster, with Eshan Malinga breaking the middle order. The plan was to use Rana’s off-spin against SRH’s left-handers like Travis Head and Abhishek. But it didn’t work. Rana was introduced early and even opened the bowling, but instead of slowing things down, he was taken apart and finished with 0/55.

DC continued to rely on him even as runs flowed, while Axar and Kuldeep were underused. Axar, despite having a good record against Abhishek, bowled only two overs. What looked like a smart plan before the game ended up backfiring badly, costing DC control and eventually the match. Nitish Rana was overused as a primary bowling option for Delhi Capitals to exploit a perceived tactical Top order.

World Body Revokes India Volleyball Federation Recognition Post Protests



New Delhi: World volleyball body FIVB on Tuesday revoked Volleyball Federation of India’s recognition with immediate effect for breach of “legal and administrative requirements”, days after two senior players quit the national camp over “poor and unscientific facilities” and “politics” in selection.

The FIVB constituted a steering committee made up of representatives from the world body and the Indian

Olympic Association to safeguard the sport in the country and look after athlete welfare. ”In accordance with Articles 1.5.3 and 1.9.1 of the FIVB General Regulations, the FIVB Board of Administration has determined that the legal and administrative requirements established by the FIVB have not been respected by the interim leadership of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI),” the world body said in a statement. ”As such, the VFI’s provisional recognition has been revoked with immediate effect, granting period.

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