

Mizoram launches home voting for Aizawl municipal elections



Aizawl, Apr 13: The Mizoram Election Department on Monday began a home voting exercise for the upcoming Aizawl Municipal Corporation elections, enabling more than 2,700 elderly voters, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and individuals with chronic illnesses to cast their votes from home. The special voting initiative will continue until Thursday and covers all 19 wards under the municipal body. According to officials, a total of 2,769 registered voters are participating in the home voting process.

Among the participants was 102-year-old Nghakliani of Dawrpui Veng, who took part in the home voting facility. Election officials said Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and polling materials were transported securely from the District Election Officer's office. The process is being supervised by Municipal Returning Officers (MROs) along with a General Observer to ensure compliance with election procedures. The AMC elections will see a total of 68 candidates in the fray, including 28 women candidates.

Census 2027 rollout starts in Mizoram; thousands opt for self-enumeration

Over 6,000 sign up for self-counting

Aizawl, Apr 13: The first phase of Census 2027 is currently underway, with 6,030 citizens from Mizoram already having registered through the newly introduced self-enumeration process. Spearheaded by the Central Government's Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, this phase marks a historic milestone. For the first time in India, an online portal has been launched for self-registration during the Houselisting phase. The portal went live on April 1, and as of today, it has recorded over 6,000 entries from Mizoram. A district-wise breakdown reveals that Aizawl leads the state with 2,180 registered households, closely followed by Lawngtlai District with 2,159 households. State government officials in charge of the census operations have urged the public to take full advantage of this online platform. They emphasized that utilizing the portal not only provides an easier way to register but will also significantly reduce the time and workload of enumerators conducting door-to-door visits for house-listing. Citizens can complete their self-enumeration online by visiting [se.census.gov.in](#). The portal will remain open for registration until April 15.

NF Railway unveils Zubeen Garg Bihutoli cultural ground in Guwahati

Guwahati, Apr 13: In a significant cultural initiative, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has developed a new Bihutoli — a dedicated cultural ground for celebrating Bihu and other important events — at Maligaon in Guwahati. The ground has been named “Zubeen Garg Railway Bihutoli” in honour of the legendary Assamese singer, reflecting the deep cultural connect and admiration he enjoys across Assam.

The newly developed venue is equipped with modern facilities, including a permanent stage area, dining hall, toilet complex, community space, boundary wall and an all-weather ground, ensuring that it can host large-scale cultural programs throughout the year. The initiative is aimed at providing a permanent space for traditional festivities, while also serving as a hub for community gatherings and cultural exchange. The Bihutoli is



set to host the annual Rongali Bihu celebrations organized by Pandu Bihu Sammilani, Maligaon, from April 14 to 17. Ahead of the festival, a pre-Bihu opening event was held at the ground, which was graced by NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava. The occasion witnessed vibrant traditional Bihu performances and enthusiastic participation from railway officials, residents and cultural enthusiasts.

Adding emotional resonance to the event, Palmee Borthakur, sister of Zubeen Garg, was present and expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the family for the honour bestowed upon the artist. She noted that the naming of the ground symbolized the enduring legacy of her brother, whose music and cultural contributions have inspired generations across Assam and beyond.

AJP raises issue of police ‘harassment’ of candidate with CEO

Guwahati, Apr 13: Regional party, Assam Jatiya Parishad has strongly condemned the “alleged harassment” of its Central Guwahati constituency candidate Kunki Chowdhury by the Assam Police, and has lodged a formal complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam. In a statement, AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi and general secretary Jagadish Bhuyan alleged that Kunki, along with party workers and supporters in multiple constituencies, had been subjected to harassment by the police over the past few days. They termed the alleged actions as “politically motivated and an act of vendetta.” Kunki had on Sunday appeared before the police here after being summoned in connection with a case related to alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)



in the recently-concluded Assam Legislative Assembly elections. A case was registered on the day of the Assembly election on April 9, based on a FIR filed by a BJP worker alleging violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and disruption of free and fair elections.

Notably, the high-stakes Central Guwahati seat is primarily witnessing a direct contest between AJP and BJP. The AJP leaders stated that such conduct was particularly unfortunate at a time when the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force and the police were under the control of the Election Commission.

“Despite this, the police appear to be acting in favour of the ruling party,” the leaders alleged. Clarifying the allegations against Kunki, the AJP leaders said that as per election rules, a candidate has the right to enter polling stations. “Therefore, accusations of violating the Model Code of Conduct by entering polling booths are baseless,” they said. The party further alleged that similar harassment had taken place in other constituencies, including Khowang, where AJP candidates and workers were targeted through police action at the behest of the government. The AJP leaders said they have informed the chief electoral officer about the incidents and demanded strict action against police personnel who are allegedly acting under political influence.

In Brief

MPSC Circle Officer Exam on April 14 in Lawngtlai

Aizawl: The district administration in Lawngtlai has issued a public notice ahead of the upcoming Circle Officer examination to be conducted by the Mizoram Public Service Commission (MPSC). The exam, which falls under the Social Welfare, Women and Child Development Department, is scheduled to be held on April 14, 2026, at Government Lawngtlai College. According to the notice issued by the District Commissioner and District Level Observer, all candidates must reach the examination centre by 8:30 am on the day of the exam. Authorities have made it clear that candidates will not be allowed to enter without their admit cards, making it mandatory for everyone to carry the document. Officials have also informed that frisking will be carried out for all candidates before entry into the examination hall. In view of this, candidates have been asked to arrive on time so that the checking process can be completed smoothly without delay. The administration has laid down clear instructions regarding dress code as well. Candidates have been advised to wear proper and simple clothing. Items such as slippers or casual footwear are not allowed inside the examination centre.

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NU study highlights cancer-fighting power of Konyak medicine

Kohima, Apr 13: A multi-institute study led by Nagaland University has identified traditional herbal formulation used by the Konyak tribe of Nagaland for its anti-cancer potential, providing valuable scientific insight into indigenous medicinal practices. The research team also had members from Berhampur University and Saveetha Medical College. While traditional medicinal systems are widely practiced across indigenous communities, the researchers found that there has been limited scientific effort to understand the mechanisms through which such remedies exert their therapeutic effects. Traditional herbs are widely used. However, few studies have been attempted to understand their mechanism of action or validate their effectiveness using modern scientific tools. The present study attempts to bridge this gap by combining traditional knowledge with modern analytical and computational approaches. The multi-institute research team investigated a five-plant polyherbal formulation and found that its bioactive compounds can effectively target VEGFR2, a key protein responsible for tumour blood vessel growth. The findings were published in the



Microchemical Journal, a peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes research on analytical methods and techniques for detecting and measuring chemical substances at micro and trace levels. The paper was co-authored by Longnyu M. Konyak, Giridharan Bupesh, Parthasarathy Sudharsan, Nokenketa Jamir, Sidhartha Saikia from Department of Forestry, Nagaland University, along with collaborators from Berhampur University and Saveetha Medical College. Applauding the multi-institute re-

search team for uncovering the cancer-fighting potential of traditional Konyak herbal medicine, Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, said, “By integrating indigenous knowledge with advanced molecular simulations, the study identifies promising compounds that match the efficacy of existing drugs while indicating lower toxicity. This achievement reflects the university's dedication to innovative, impactful research rooted in local wisdom and global scientific advancement.” Empha-

sizing the uniqueness of the study, Dr. G. Bupesh, assistant professor (Natural Products and Tribal Health Research), Department of Forestry, Nagaland University, said, “This is the first time a specific five-plant formulation used by the Konyak tribal healers has been scientifically analysed and validated using advanced computational methods. Using advanced techniques such as GC-MS analysis and molecular simulations, we identified compounds with strong anti-cancer potential, showing performance comparable to existing drugs while indicating lower toxicity.” The study further revealed that these compounds demonstrated stable interactions and favourable safety profiles, indicating their potential as natural anti-angiogenic agents that could inhibit tumour growth. Importantly, the research also showed that these natural compounds selectively target VEGFR2 over similar proteins, which could help reduce side effects in future therapeutic applications. The study also highlighted that most identified compounds showed low toxicity and acceptable pharmacokinetic properties, making them promising candidates for further drug development.

Assam Police challenges anticipatory bail to Cong leader Pawan Khera in SC

Guwahati, Apr 13: The Assam Police have moved the Supreme Court over the grant of transit anticipatory bail to the national spokesperson of Congress party Pawan Khera in connection with an FIR filed by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma over Khera's allegations that she held multiple passports of different countries and offshore properties. On April 10, Justice K Sujana of the Telangana High Court granted anticipatory bail to Khera for one week, subject to conditions, including that he will approach the Gauhati High Court

to seek appropriate relief. The Assam Government has challenged the bail order on the grounds that the anticipatory bail petition was filed in Hyderabad, whereas Khera has not shown any reason as to why he cannot come to Assam and file for anticipatory bail there. The Telangana High Court had rejected the Assam government's argument on maintainability of bail petition and has stated that, considering Article 21 of the Constitution, the High Court can grant a limited transit anticipatory bail, even outside its jurisdiction, to enable the accused to approach the competent court.

Rahul Gandhi throws his weight behind Pawan Khera, calls Himanta most corrupt

Guwahati, Apr 13: Describing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as “the most corrupt in the country”, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today said the party stands with Pawan Khera and will not be intimidated. “He (Himanta Biswa Sarma) will not escape the law. His abuse of state power to harass his political opponents and critics is against the Constitution,” Rahul said. “The questions that are being raised have to be probed. Transparency, accountability of power and rule of law are the basis of our Constitutional values. The Congress Party stands with Pawan Khera. We will not be intimidated,” he added. The remarks came after the Assam Police moved the Supreme Court, challenging a Telangana High Court order that granted Khera one week's transit anticipatory bail from April 10. Assam police had registered a case against Khera after he claimed that Riniki Bhuyan Sharma — the wife of Chief Minister Sarma — holds multiple passports and properties abroad. The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by Riniki Bhuyan Sarma with the Crime Branch of Guwahati police.

Two held for assaulting woman at Fancy Bazar in Guwahati after video goes viral

Guwahati, Apr 13: Police have detained two individuals for allegedly attacking a young woman on the road after a minor road mishap at Fancy Bazar in Guwahati. The accused have been identified as Kriti Gupta and Pratik Kumar Gupta. They were apprehended after a video of the disturbing incident went viral, triggering public outrage. The duo was picked up following a

complaint lodged by the victim, a student of Dispur Law College, who was allegedly assaulted in full public view. Eyewitnesses said that as soon as the driver stepped out of the car, the accused attacked him using a helmet. When the student tried to intervene, she too was allegedly assaulted. Moreover, the attackers reportedly attempted to tear her clothes on the road.

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carried out for all candidates before entry into the examination hall. In view of this, candidates have been asked to arrive on time so that the checking process can be completed smoothly without delay. The administration has laid down clear instructions regarding dress code as well. Candidates have been advised to wear proper and simple clothing. Items such as slippers or casual footwear are not allowed inside the examination centre. Strict restrictions have also been imposed on carrying items into the exam hall. No electronic gadgets of any kind will be permitted. This includes mobile phones, digital watches, smartwatches, lighters, and similar items. Candidates have been advised not to bring any unnecessary or valuable items,

as the authorities will not be responsible for any loss. The notice further stated that candidates should not bring animals or pets to the examination centre under any circumstances. For those arriving by vehicles, arrangements have been made outside the gate. Candidates have been instructed to park their vehicles outside the examination premises and follow the directions given by officials on duty. The district administration has urged all candidates to strictly follow the guidelines to ensure that the examination is conducted in a smooth and fair manner. Officials said that cooperation from candidates will help avoid confusion and delays on the day of the exam.

Search operations are ongoing in Manipur following the death of a BSF jawan

21 illegal bunkers have been destroyed

Imphal, Apr 13:Following the death of a BSF constable in Manipur's Ukhrul district, security forces on Sunday carried out their co-ordinated combing operations for the third day in a row in an effort to apprehend terrorists. According to sources, police also demolished 21 illegally built bunkers in the district during the current operations. The Central and state security forces have stepped up search efforts throughout Ukhrul and surrounding districts to find the suspected terrorists who killed Border Security Force (BSF) constable Mithun Mandal, according to an Imphal police official. Along with other BSF jawans, he was attacked on Friday while on Road Opening Party (ROP) duty in the district hit by the violence. After being paid solemn homage, the mortal remains of the BSF constable were sent to his ancestral home in West Bengal on Saturday. The official further said that security personnel demolished 14 bunkers at Sikiung village and seven more at Mongkot Chepu village under Litan Police Station in the mountainous

Ukhrul district. These bunkers had been illegally set up by militant outfits to launch attacks against both security forces and civilians. In a separate operation, security forces recovered arms and explosives from the tri-junction areas of Maojang, Libung, Gomnom, and T Khonunjang in Tengnoupal district, which borders Myanmar. The recovered items included two 9mm pistols with magazines, 13 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), two combat uniforms, one pair of jungle shoes, and a backpack. All 13 IEDs were safely destroyed on the spot by the security personnel. In the meantime, two people from the Churachandpur district's Vengnam Singnat locality were taken into custody by Manipur Police. A Maruti Gypsy car, two cell phones, two suitcases, and forty-five soap cases with brown sugar were found in their possession. Security forces continue to conduct widespread crackdowns on militant activity, including both Central and state groups. There are ongoing search operations and area dominance drills in some districts' peripher-



al, mixed-population, and other sensitive locations. A total of 109 nakas (checkpoints) have been established throughout the state's hill and valley districts to improve surveillance and stop the movement of illegal elements.

Security forces are also escorting vehicles, including trucks transporting essential commodities, along the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37). Tight security arrangements and convoy protection remain in place along

sensitive stretches to ensure the safe movement of traffic. Manipur Police have urged the public to refrain from believing rumours and to remain cautious about fake videos circulating on social media. "The authenticity of any circulated videos or audio clips should be verified with the Central Control Room. Uploading or sharing unverified or misleading content on social media will invite legal action," the police statement warned. (IANS)

Over 81% of voters participated in important tribal council elections



Agartala, Apr 13: In the politically significant elections for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), which were held in all eight districts of the state to determine the fate of 173 candidates, including eight women, more than 81% of the 9,62,697 eligible voters cast ballots, according to officials. Nearly 70% of Tripura's 10,491 square kilometers are governed by the 30-member TTAADC, which is made up of two members chosen by the state government and 28 elected representatives. As a result, it is the second most significant constitutional body in terms of political importance, behind the state Assembly. By the time polling ended at 4 p.m., more than 81% of voters had cast ballots, according to State Election Commission (SEC) officials.

However, an SEC official added that after all 1,257 voting places in eight districts have submitted their complete records, the turnout number is probably going to increase a little. According to a senior police official, no significant disturbances were recorded from anywhere in the state, with the exception of a few isolated incidences. He reported that about ten party workers were hurt in three districts—Khowai, Sepahijala, and South Tripura—due to small altercations between opposing political parties. According to SEC officials, tribal men and women wearing traditional clothing turned out in significant numbers even before polling started at 7 a.m., creating huge lines at the majority of polling places, just like in prior elections. Due to the high participation, voting in some booths lasted past the appointed closing time. The TTAADC elections are anticipated to be crucial in determining the future political climate of the Northeastern state after a month-long high-voltage campaign characterized by intensive political activity and intermittent confrontations. Across 28 constituencies in eight districts, 9,62,697 voters—mostly from tribal groups, including 4,80,666 women—were able to cast ballots.

Sikkim gets ready for PM Modi's visit to wrap up the celebrations of its 50th sovereignty

Gangtok, Apr 13: Sikkim is preparing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit later this month, which will be the culmination of the state's Golden Jubilee festivities honoring 50 years of independence. On April 13, Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang presided over a high-level coordination meeting at Samman Bhawan to assess plans and guarantee a seamless celebration. As the state commemorates fifty years of its democratic journey inside the Indian Union, he called the Prime Minister's visit a time of "immense pride and joy." During the meeting, Tamang directed all departments to maintain the highest standards of efficiency and hospitality. Officials reviewed key aspects including security arrangements, logistics, and the overall structure of the commemorative



programme. Emphasising the significance of the Golden Jubilee milestone, the Chief Minister called for seamless coordination among departments to ensure the event reflects Sikkim's stature on the national stage. The Prime Minister's visit is also expected to include the inaugu-

ration of several infrastructure projects and the laying of foundation stones for new initiatives aimed at boosting connectivity, healthcare, and economic development in the state. Officials said these projects are expected to further strengthen Sikkim's growth trajectory and reinforce its

reputation as a model for sustainable development. The Chief Minister urged all officials to remain in a state of readiness, stating that the visit is not only a formal occasion but also a celebration of the strong bond between Sikkim and the rest of the country.

In Ukhrul, Manipur, Kuki civil society organizations celebrate the death of a BSF constable with lighting

Imphal, Apr 13: In Mongkot Chepu, Manipur, Kuki civil society organizations and locals honored BSF constable Mithun Mandal, saying that his "supreme sacrifice" should not be misunderstood. On April 10, during a gunfight between suspected Kuki-Zo and Tangkhul Naga village volunteers in Ukhrul district, Mandal, a member of the Border Security Force, was struck by a stray bullet and died, according to officials. Around 4:45 p.m., there was an alleged gunfight between Tangkhul Naga volunteers from Shikibung village and suspected Kuki-Zo volunteers from Mongkot Chepu village, which is within the jurisdiction of Litan police station. A solemn candlelight vigil was later held in the village under the aegis of the Kuki CSO Working Committee (WCKCSOs) and the local village authority to honour the fallen constable. The tribute began with a silent procession from a local church to the site where Mandal fell, followed by a brief programme attended by village leaders, church representatives, and members

of Kuki organisations, including KSO-Ukhrul and Kuki Inpi-Ukhrul. Mourners observed a minute of silence, with several describing the slain jawan as someone who "took the bullets meant for us," reflecting the grief and gratitude felt across the community. Addressing the gathering, KSO-Ukhrul Vice President Mercy Khongsai said no amount of misinformation could dilute the truth of Mandal's bravery. "We know our truth. He stood between us and death," she said, referring to what she termed as "conflicting narratives" in sections of the media. Pastor Thongngam Khongsai led prayers for the bereaved family and security personnel deployed in the region. In a statement, the WCKCSOs condemned any attempt to "distort or undermine" the constable's sacrifice, asserting that his courage and selflessness would be remembered with honour. The village authority, in a separate statement, said the community would remain "forever indebted" to Mandal, describing his death as a loss that transcends uniform and region.

The Assam government petitions the Supreme Court to deny Congressman Pawan Khera anticipatory relief

Guwahati, Apr 13: The Telangana High Court's recent decision to grant Congress lawmaker Pawan Khera one-week transit anticipatory bail has been challenged by the Assam government before the Supreme Court of India. In an Assamese lawsuit, Khera is accused of making disparaging statements about Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Advocate Shuvodeep Roy filed the Assam government's plea on April 12, and it is anticipated to be heard this week. On April 10, the Telangana High Court granted interim relief to Khera,

allowing him one week's transit anticipatory bail with certain conditions. The court directed that in the event of arrest, he be released on bail upon furnishing a personal bond, and cooperate fully with the investigation, including making himself available for interrogation as required. The high court observed that the petitioner had made out a case for limited transit anticipatory bail, considering his apprehension of arrest due to reasonably supported accusations. It further directed that Khera should not leave the country without prior

permission from a competent court. The court also noted that appropriate legal recourse remained available to the petitioner in Assam, where the case is under the jurisdiction of local courts. It added that, given Khera's public stature, certain public statements could potentially prejudice the ongoing investigation. The charge against Khera was filed under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including those pertaining to defamation and offenses causing harm to reputation, at the Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station.

During Parliamentary deliberations, SKM supports the BJP in implementing the Women's Reservation Act

Gangtok, Apr 13: With Sikkim's Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba supporting the proposed revisions, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) has offered its support to the BJP during the parliamentary discussions on the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act. In order to enable the execution of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, the Budget Session of Parliament has been extended, and a special three-day sitting from April 16 to 18 has been called.

Subba, in a social media post, said he had received a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the implementation of the Act. "On behalf of SKM, and under the leadership of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, we extend our full support to this landmark reform," Subba said, expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for what he termed "visionary leadership" in advancing the long-pending legislation. He



added that increased participation of women in lawmaking and policymaking would have a far-reaching impact by strengthening inclusivity, improving governance, and ensuring balanced development.

"This is not just a legislative milestone, but a defining step towards a more equitable, inclusive, and empowered India," he said. Parliament had passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in

September 2023, providing for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. However, its implementation was initially tied to the completion of the delimitation exercise based on the 2027 Census, effectively delaying enforcement until after 2034. The proposed amendments aim to advance the timeline, allowing the reservation to come into effect from the 2029 general elections.

Atul Bora claims that the AGP is optimistic about winning double-digit seats in the Assam elections

Guwahati, Apr 13: Bora informed reporters that the party's performance is anticipated to greatly improve this time following a review meeting with central office-bearers and party candidates. There is no doubt that the number of AGP seats will rise.

We'll get close to double digits. There would be about 90 seats total for the NDA, he continued. As part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seat-sharing plan, which involves the BJP fielding candidates in 90 seats and the BPF in 11, the AGP is running for 26 seats. The BJP and AGP are competing amicably in Sibsagar. Bora said the party has fielded candidates in several minority-dominated constituencies and

claimed that the response from voters, including religious minorities, has been encouraging.

We are pleased that AGP candidates have received support from ethnic populations. Results may be decided by slim margins in some constituencies, but the response has been overwhelmingly favorable. He declared, "We will undoubtedly switch from single-digit to double-digit seats." Bora expressed optimism about his personal chances and stated that he anticipates a resounding win from the Bokakhat constituency. "In Bokakhat, there is no difficulty. We've gotten a great response and people are happy with the work we've done over the past ten years," he continued.

166 people were arrested in Manipur for breaking curfews

Manipur, Apr 13: Security forces have also set up 110 naka/check points across both hill and valley districts and are continuing search operations and area domination in fringe and vulnerable areas. A total of 110 Nakas/Check points were installed in different districts of Manipur, both in the hills and

the valley, and 166 persons were detained in connection with under section 35 BNSS / curfew violations," Manipur Police wrote on X. In Bishnupur district, a coordinated cordon and search operation was carried out on April 12 by Manipur Police along with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and

Army units. The operation began at 7 am and continued till 10 am, covering Tronglaobi Makha Leikai, Tronglaobi Gurukhana, Tronglaobi Moirangpokpa, Gelmol, Uyungmakhong and Upper Canal area. The drives are part of ongoing efforts to strengthen security and maintain law.

Beginning in Kohima, the Nagaland DCs' Conference 2026 will concentrate on development, census, and governance reforms

Kohima, Apr 13: The Deputy Commissioners' Conference 2026 began on April 10 at the Civil Secretariat Conference Hall in Kohima, bringing together senior officials and district administrators for a two-day discussion on important problems related to Nagaland's development and administration. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio spoke during the first session and stated that it is an important moment to consider the traditional and changing duties of Deputy Commissioners (DCs). He emphasized that essential duties including upholding law and order, managing revenue, holding elections, conducting censuses, and overseeing local governance systems are still essential and cannot be compromised. However, he noted that the role of DCs has expanded significantly over time to include effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, disaster management, grievance redressal and coordination among multiple departments. He said the position has evolved from being primarily regulatory to becoming facilitative and development-oriented, with a strong focus on ensuring last-mile delivery of welfare programmes. Highlighting the changing nature of governance, Rio said administration is now more citizen-centric, technology-driven and outcome-oriented, placing DCs at the forefront of service delivery.

He stressed the need to balance law and order with development administration, stating that both are equally important for effective governance. He further said that DCs play a critical role at the district level by leading coordination platforms, ensuring convergence across departments, and acting as a vital link between the government and the people, making governance more responsive and inclusive. Underscoring the State Government's commitment to transparency and meritocracy, Rio cited the establishment of the Nagaland Staff Selection Board to ensure fair recruitment. He also highlighted initiatives such as the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative aimed at improving livelihoods and promoting inclusive growth. On skilling and employment, the Chief Minister said the Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission has evolved into a demand-driven system aligned with key sectors including construction, hospitality, transport and IT-enabled services.

He added that skilling programmes are increasingly linked to employment through job fairs and partnerships, with over 73,000 applicants currently registered. He also highlighted global employment opportunities under the Nagaland Japan Connect 2026, noting that more than 450 youth have registered, with 65

candidates already receiving recruitment intent across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and shipping. On the health sector, Rio said that 83 medical officers and junior specialists appointed during the COVID-19 period are currently serving. However, he expressed concern over low participation in recruitment drives, noting that only 193 out of 1,553 registered doctors under the Nagaland Medical Council had applied, highlighting a gap between available manpower and public service participation. Raising concerns over the State's fiscal position, he pointed to challenges following the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, including a decline in Nagaland's share of central taxes and the absence of Revenue Deficit Grants for the 2026-31 period. He warned of rising deficits and stressed the need for revenue augmentation and austerity measures to ensure long-term fiscal stability. On governance and traditional institutions, Rio highlighted the role of Tribal and Village Councils, particularly in the implementation of the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland. He said fresh notifications issued in September 2024 have laid down clear criteria for issuing Indigenous Inhabitant Certificates (IIC), with Village Verification Committees tasked with verifying applicants' ancestry. He called on DCs to ensure strict scrutiny

before issuing certificates, emphasising accountability and the protection of indigenous rights. Highlighting the importance of data integrity, the Chief Minister said the Census of India 2027 will be India's first fully digital census, to be conducted in two phases beginning with houselisting in July 2026. He stressed that accurate data is essential for governance, planning and representation, warning that discrepancies could adversely affect policy decisions. In his concluding remarks, Rio urged DCs to view their roles not merely as administrators but as drivers of transformation, focusing on outcomes, accountability and tangible impact on people's lives. Earlier, Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen said the extended conference was convened in view of the upcoming Census and the expanding role of DCs beyond traditional functions. He added that the platform would help incorporate field-level insights into policymaking and strengthen coordination between departments. The conference was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, senior officials, DCs and Additional Deputy Commissioners. The sessions covered a range of issues including solid waste management under the Swachh Bharat Mission, land acquisition under the RFCTLARR Act, skilling initiatives and administrative reforms.

Man jumps off Guwahati’s Kumar Bhaskar Varma bridge into Brahmaputra river

Guwahati, Apr 13: A man jumped off the newly inaugurated Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu in Guwahati on Sunday. He is believed to be drowned in the Brahmaputra River. The man has been identified as Rabil Ali, a resident of Keotkuchi village in Barpeta district. Ali had been working as a labourer during the construction of the bridge spanning the Brahmaputra River, which connects the north and south banks of the city. His coworkers present at the site said that Ali jumped

off the bridge suddenly and without any apparent provocation. The incident has left fellow workers and residents in shock.Soon after the incident was reported, personnel from the North Guwahati police outpost rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. Police began questioning individuals present at the scene, including the deceased’s coworkers, identified as Saidul Ali, Rabiul Ali, and Faruq Ali, to piece together the sequence of events. Police suspect it to be a case of suicide attempt.

Police questions AJP candidate Kunki Chowdhury in MCC violation case

Guwahati, Apr 13: Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) candidate from Guwahati Central constituency Kunki Chowdhury appeared before the police at Panbazar Police Station today after being summoned in connection with an election-related case. Chowdhury reached the police station in the morning after receiving a notice

directing her to appear by 11 am, with a warning that non-compliance could lead to her arrest. She was questioned for around two hours before she was allowed to leave. Speaking to the media after the interrogation, Chowdhury denied all allegations against her. She claimed that the charges levelled against her were false and ques-

ED Files Chargesheet in ₹60.3 Crore NPCC Bribery and Money Laundering Case in Guwahati

Guwahati, Apr 13: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint before a special PMLA court in Guwahati against former officials of the National Project Construction Corporation (NPCC) and private contractors in connection with an alleged bribery and money laundering case involving border infrastructure contracts worth approximately ₹60.30 crore. According to an official statement, those named in the complaint include Rakesh Mohan Kotwal, former Zonal Manager (North East Region) of NPCC Ltd., Latiful Pasha, officer-in-charge of the Jalpaiguri Project Office, and Anish Maid and Binod Singhi, directors of M/s Shree Gautam Construction Com-

pany Limited, among others. The case relates to contracts awarded by NPCC on behalf of the Border Security Force (BSF) for the construction of nine Border Out Posts along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The ED initiated its investigation based on an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had earlier filed a chargesheet in November 2021 against nine accused under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act.Investigations revealed that Kotwal and Pasha allegedly demanded a bribe of around ₹33 lakh—later negotiated to ₹30 lakh—from a contractor for clearing pending bills amounting to approximately ₹2.24 crore.

ACA thanks BCCI, Assam govt for Guwahati IPL matches

Guwahati, Apr 13: The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) has expressed sincere gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for allotting three Indian Premier League (IPL) matches to the ACA Stadium, Guwahati. ACA president Taranga Gogoi and secretary Sanatan Das conveyed their appreciation for the continued

support and trust placed in Assam as a venue for premier cricketing events.The association also thanked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, noting that despite his engagement in election-related responsibilities, he extended full support and cooperation towards the successful conduct of the matches. Further, ACA expressed sincere gratitude

to BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia for his continued encouragement and support for the development of cricket in the state.The association placed on record its appreciation for the coordinated efforts of various departments of the Assam government, including Assam Police, health services, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati Metropolitan Devel-

opment Authority, Assam Power Distribution Company Limited, public health engineering, fire and emergency services, and the public works department, among others.Besides, it acknowledged the tireless efforts of its curators and groundsmen, whose dedication ensured that the playing conditions met high standards despite challenges.

Manipur CM promises action against those behind Tronglaobi attack to women activists

Imphal, Apr 13: Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Sunday met representatives of Meira Paibis (women torchbearer groups) from four Assembly constituencies and assured the delegation that his government is committed to ensuring justice, upholding the rule of law, and taking action against those responsible for violence in the state. The Meira Paibis representatives had submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister highlighting concerns regarding recent violence, specifically the April 7 bombing incident in Tronglaobi that resulted in the deaths of two minors. The Chief Minister said the state government has taken note of the issues raised in the memorandum with due seriousness. On the question of justice to the victims, he reiterated that the law would take its own course based on the findings of the investigating agencies.



Any individual found guilty of the alleged crime will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law” said the Chief Minister stated in the post on social media.

“The State Government remains firmly committed to ensuring justice, upholding the rule of law, and maintaining peace and stability in Manipur,” he added.

Arunachal Pradesh CM celebrates state team’s Khelo India Tribal Games achievement

Itanagar, Apr 13: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday felicitated the state contingent that participated in the first Khelo India Tribal Games held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, from March 25 to April 3, 2026.. Arunachal Pradesh secured an impressive fifth position among 30 States and Union Territories, while emerging as the best-performing state from the Northeast, winning a total of 11 medals, including six gold, one silver and 4 bronze. Addressing athletes, coaches, officials and members of sports associations during the felicitation ceremony, the Chief Minister described the achievement as a moment of pride for the state. He credited the success to the dedication, discipline and hard work of the athletes, along with the guidance and supervision of coaches and support staff. Highlighting the medal tally, the Chief Minister informed that weightlifting contributed five gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals, while athletics secured one gold medal in the 500 metres event. In addition, both men’s and women’s football teams clinched bronze medals, taking the total medal tally to eleven. Congratulating the athletes, Khandu said the performance reflects the growing strength of sports in Arunachal Pradesh and the increasing participation of youth in com-



petitive sports. The Chief Minister noted that since the launch of the Khelo India initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017-18, sports development across the country has gained significant momentum. He further said that Arunachal Pradesh has also witnessed considerable growth in sports infrastructure and facilities over the past decade, leading to improved performance at national-level competitions.

Training held in Aizawl for polling staff ahead of AMC Elections 2026

Aizawl, Apr 13: Preparations for the upcoming General Election to the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC), 2026 have picked up pace, with authorities conducting a detailed training programme for polling personnel in Aizawl district on Monday. The training was organised by the office of the District Election Officer (DEO) and District Municipal Election Officer (DMEO), Aizawl, to prepare officials who will be deployed on election duty. The session focused on ensuring that polling staff understand their roles clearly and are ready to handle responsibilities on polling day. Officials said that Presiding Officers and polling teams attended the training in large numbers. The programme covered key aspects of the election process, including polling procedures, use of forms, and operation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). For the Presiding Officers, the training was conducted by a team of Master Trainers, including Lalruatpuii Hnamte, Esther Leihang, Christina Lalmuanzuali, F. Lanisai, Dr. Lalchamliani, Malsaw-

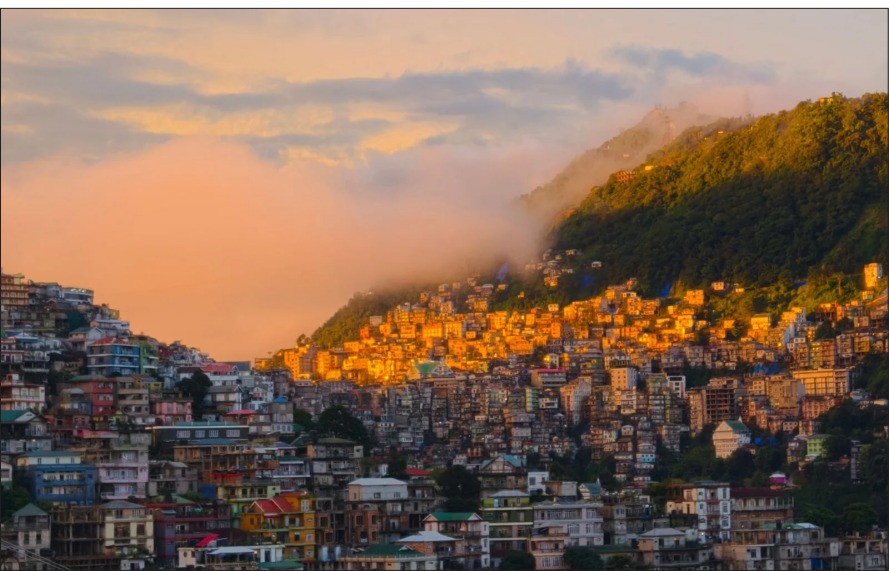
mhriatzuali, and Ngurthansanga. They explained the complete polling process in a simple and step-by-step manner. Special focus was given to handling election forms correctly and managing polling stations during voting hours. The trainers also provided both theoretical and practical demonstrations on the use of EVMs, helping officers understand how to operate the machines properly. At the same time, separate sessions were held for polling parties, including Polling Officers I and II. These sessions were conducted by another group of Master Trainers such as Obed Lalmalsawma, Samuel Malsawmzuala, Hmingmawizuala, Lalawmpuia, Lalhriatpuii Phutin, PC Lalrammuanguia, Lalrindika, Lalthakima Chhange, and VL Chaka Hmar. They guided the polling staff on their specific duties inside polling stations, including voter identification, maintaining records, and assisting in smooth conduct of voting. Officials said the training was attended

by personnel assigned to around 264 polling stations in the district, including reserve staff. The aim was to ensure that every official is well-prepared and confident before the election day. During the sessions, trainers stressed the importance of following rules and maintaining neutrality. Polling staff were reminded that their role is crucial in ensuring free and fair elections. They were also advised to remain calm and handle any situation carefully on polling day. The hands-on training with EVMs was seen as an important part of the programme. Officials said practical experience helps reduce confusion and errors during actual polling. Participants were given the opportunity to practice using the machines and clarify their doubts. The district administration said such training programmes are necessary to maintain transparency and efficiency in the election process. With elections approaching, more such preparations are expected to continue in the coming days.

Mizoram government declares dry days ahead of the 2026 Aizawl Municipal Corporation elections

Aizawl, Apr 13: The Government of Mizoram has declared Dry Days across the entire area of Aizawl Municipal Corporation in connection with the upcoming General Election to the Aizawl Municipal Corporation, 2026.Media platform consultancy In an order issued under Section 4A of the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2025, the Commissioner of Excise & Narcotics announced that the sale and consumption of liquor and wine will be prohibited from 4:00 PM on April 20, 2026, until 4:00 PM on April 21, 2026 – the 24-hour period immediately preceding the conclusion of

polling. The directive further extends to April 23, 2026, in case of a re-poll, and April 27, 2026, the day scheduled for counting of votes. Authorities emphasized that the measure is aimed at ensuring free and fair elections, maintaining law and order, and preventing any untoward incidents during the polling and counting process. The Government of Mizoram has officially declared a period of “Dry Days” across the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) area in preparation for the upcoming local body elections. The directive, issued on April 13, 2026, by the Commissioner of Excise & Narcotics, is



designed to ensure a peaceful, fair, and orderly polling process as the state’s capital prepares to elect its new municipal representatives. The order, exercised under

Section 4A of the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2025, mandates a total ban on the sale and distribution of alcohol throughout the capital city during the critical window surrounding the vote. The State Election Commission (SEC) has scheduled the General Election to the Aizawl Municipal Corporation for Tuesday, April 21, 2026. To maintain public order and prevent any alcohol-related disturbances, the dry days will be strictly enforced during the following period: In addition to the polling window, a second dry day will be observed on Monday, April 27, 2026,

starting from 8:00 AM until the counting of votes is completed and the results are officially announced. This measure is intended to prevent post-result celebrations from escalating into public safety concerns. “The safety of our citizens and the integrity of the democratic process are our highest priorities,” stated a senior official from the Excise & Narcotics Department. “Strict surveillance will be in place at check-posts and throughout the city to ensure compliance.” The AMC General Election 2026 is a significant political event in Mizoram, as the capital city serves as the state’s economic and ad-

ministrative hub. The term for the previous corporation ended on March 1, 2026, leading to this year’s highly anticipated contest. The State Election Commissioner, Dr. H. Lalthlangliana, has overseen the final stages of preparations, including the training of polling personnel. On the same day the dry days were announced, a large-scale training session for Presiding Officers and Polling Parties was conducted at the District Election Officer’s office in Aizawl. To further bolster security, the Aizawl District Administration has also issued restrictions on vehicular movement for the day of the poll.

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Ancient Wisdom for a Modern Age

Ayurveda’s enduring principles are gaining fresh relevance as modern medicine confronts its own limitations. In an era dominated by synthetic pharmaceuticals, invasive treatments, and healthcare systems that often overlook the patient as a whole person, Ayurveda—India’s 5,000-year-old science of life—is steadily re-emerging in global discussions on wellness. From corporate circles in Silicon Valley to wellness retreats across Europe, practices such as panchakarma therapies, adaptogenic herbs, and the concept of tridosha are drawing growing interest far beyond the Indian subcontinent. Enthusiasm, however, must be tempered with responsibility. The incorporation of Ayurveda into contemporary healthcare demands rigorous scientific evaluation. Without such scrutiny, there is a risk that commercial interests will dilute a sophisticated philosophical and medical tradition into little more than a marketplace of loosely regulated herbal products and exaggerated cure-all claims. Reports of heavy metal contamination in certain preparations, as well as aggressive marketing of Ayurvedic remedies for serious diseases like cancer or diabetes, raise legitimate public health concerns. The path forward lies between unquestioning reverence and outright scepticism. India’s AYUSH Ministry, working alongside the international scientific community, should promote systematic research and evidence-based assessment of Ayurvedic therapies. Integrative medicine—where Ayurveda complements rather than replaces modern allopathic treatment—offers the most balanced approach. With standardised training, transparent regulation, and well-designed clinical trials, Ayurveda can realise its true potential: a preventive, personalised, and sustainable approach to health that an increasingly strained modern healthcare system urgently requires.

Who should pay for Islamic Banks’ bad investments

While Islamic banking’s significant market share and systemic importance within the banking system are often highlighted as notable achievements, a troubling reality undermines this success: a substantial portion of investments in several Islamic banks are non-performing. To contain systemic risks and avoid destabilising the banking system, the central bank has merged five of the 10 full-fledged Islamic banks into the state-backed Sammilito Islami Bank. With a large volume of non-performing investments (NPIs), the Islamic banking sector’s urgent priorities include asset recovery, liquidity management, and restoring confidence. The high level of NPIs in Islamic banking is troubling, given the strict Shariah compliance requirements. They are meant to demonstrate stronger governance and more disciplined practices than conventional banks.

Yet, governance frameworks and Shariah requirements have often been treated as mere formalities rather than being meaningfully integrated. This has undermined the inherent strengths of Islamic banking principles in practice. The distress, therefore, lies not in the concept of Islamic banking itself but in its flawed implementation, which has become entrenched over time. Accountability for high NPIs seems elusive, with responsibility diffused among different parties. Some attribute the crisis to networks involving powerful actors, actors with political interests, oligarchs, regulators, and insiders. Boards blame management, while management points to boards, state actors, and regulatory compromise. While such claims may provide context, they do not establish legal, fiduciary, or Shariah accountability, nor do they identify who made decisions, approved transactions, ignored warnings, or facilitated bad investments.

Broad attribution of responsibility risks obscuring real actors and the underlying problems. It fails to

recognise deep-rooted governance weaknesses and deliberate misconduct. It also obscures the reality that various actors were complicit. Without deliberate and transparent efforts to trace responsibility, accountability risks remaining rhetorical rather than real. Equally concerning is the implicit immunity enjoyed by those holding decision-making authority. Investment decisions were not anonymous. They were made, approved, executed, verified, reported, and audited by identifiable individuals. The absence of visible action to identify those responsible weakens confidence in the process. At the same time, the role of the central bank, particularly in its capacity as a regulator and supervisor, warrants scrutiny regarding the timing, conditions, and effectiveness of its interventions. Moreover, statutory audit, internal audit, and Shariah audit do not appear to have operated as effective checks, raising concerns about the robustness of the control environment.

There is also a deeper ethical dimension concerning obedience to wrongful instructions. Acting under such instructions does not absolve responsibility. Islamic teachings do not permit obedience in wrongdoing. By failing to identify the real culprits, the burden ultimately shifts to depositors and the public. This diffusion of accountability is not only unjust; it undermines the moral and legal foundations of Islamic banking. From a Shariah perspective, such a shift is difficult to justify, as justice requires identifying those who have failed in their fiduciary duties. This issue is particularly critical in the context of mudarabah deposits and bonds. Mudarabah is a trust-based arrangement in which Islamic banks serve as the mudarib (investment manager). Returns are shared between the bank and fund providers according to a pre-agreed ratio, while fund providers bear losses unless they arise from the mudarib’s failure in fiduciary duties.



This underscores the need to carefully distinguish between genuine business risk and losses arising from breaches of fiduciary duty. From a Shariah perspective, this distinction is essential. Where losses result from failure in fiduciary duties, the mudarib must bear them. This principle is grounded in the concepts of trust and accountability that underpin Islamic banking and are well-established in classical jurisprudence and contemporary Shariah standards. However, while mudarabah historically involved individuals in institutional contexts such as Islamic banking, identifying the mudarib remains a subject of discussion. If the definition of the mudarib is confined to the institutional identity of Islamic banks, liability would be limited to their assets, which may be liquidated, either actually or constructively, to absorb losses. But given the scale of NPIs and the range of parties involved in their origination, identifying the bank solely as the mudarib may not be appropriate. The bank’s own assets are also not sufficient to absorb all losses. Assets funded by mudarabah funds would not be considered the bank’s assets in this context.

A broader interpretation of the mudarib may therefore be necessary. Those who exercised effective control over the banks, including controlling shareholders and those who made or influenced investment decisions, such as board members, board committees, and senior management, can be regarded as performing the mudarib function in substance. Extending personal liability to such individuals when fiduciary failure is established would more closely align with Shariah principles of accountability and broaden the scope of recovery to meet depositor claims. It would also reduce the burden on the state and strengthen accountability within the financial system. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that the Islamic Financial Services Act 2013 of Malaysia treats failure to comply with Shariah requirements as a serious offence, with significant penalties for those involved, which may include directors, officers, and Shariah committee members, of up to eight years’ imprisonment and a fine of 25 million ringgit (approximately Tk 76 crore), or both.

However, this also highlights the limitations of Bangladesh’s existing legal and regulatory framework.

Without clear mechanisms to attribute personal responsibility beyond the institutional level, enforcement may not be possible. Meaningful reform is therefore required to allow individual responsibilities to be traced and enforced. In this context, the inclusion of personal liability provisions (Section 53-58) in the newly enacted Bank Resolution Act, 2026, for the fraudulent use of a bank’s assets or funds represents a step in the right direction. This, however, should apply to all fraudulent cases, not just to banks under resolution. For Islamic banking to retain credibility, responsibility must be traced to where decisions were actually made. Key decision-makers cannot remain shielded behind the corporate veil. Accountability must be both institutional and personal. Similarly, Shariah supervisory committees, auditors, and rating agencies must be held accountable for any negligence and ensure that, going forward, their work becomes substantive rather than merely procedural.

At the same time, fairness requires recognising that not all actors bear equal responsibility. Some individuals engage in wilful misconduct for personal gain, such as additional benefits, promotions, or desired transfers, while others follow instructions from higher authorities, possibly due to fear of job loss or implicit or explicit threats. Generalised blame is therefore not appropriate for assigning responsibility. Establishing accountability is essential to restoring discipline in a system built on trust. Without it, Islamic banking risks drifting towards a model in which profits are privatised while losses are socialised, similar to conventional banking, which is neither just nor Islamic. Unless the industry clearly identifies the mudarib, traces responsibility, rejects unjustified immunity, and embeds accountability in both law and practice, the proper establishment of Shariah principles will remain incomplete.

What Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli right really mean when they invoke ‘Greater Israel’

Much remains unclear about the significance and durability of the two-week pause in the US and Israel’s war on Iran. But one aspect of the conflict remains as clear today as it was six weeks ago. Donald Trump doesn’t have a plan. Benjamin Netanyahu does.

Israel’s war aims were to maximally degrade the capacity of the Iranian state, achieving not so much regime change as state implosion. Despite the ceasefire, Netanyahu has emphasised that this is “not the end of the campaign” and that Israel’s “finger is on the trigger” to resume combat. A seasoned strategist, he has spent the second Trump administration seizing the opportunity of geopolitical fluidity to reach for his end goal: a Greater Israel.

When it’s invoked on the Israeli right, “Greater Israel” is often seen as a purely territorial concept: an attempt to increase the size of territory that Israel claims as its own. This is certainly integral to its meaning. After all, Israel has been expansionist and entailed the displacement and dispossession of Palestinians since its inception, and this process has now accelerated considerably.

In the past two-and-a-half years, Israel has flattened and reconquered Gaza, killing tens of thousands of people and laying waste to its civilian infrastructure, squeezing its population, according to one estimate from last year, into just 12% of an already tiny strip of land. In the West Bank, Israel continues a campaign of destruction and displacement towards Palestinian people and property that is unparalleled since the six-day war in 1967, expanding its matrix of control and settlement.

After the fall of President Bashar al-Assad in 2024, Israel seized territory in Syria

(beyond the illegally annexed Golan Heights) and is in the process of reconstituting a zone of occupation in southern Lebanon. Government ministers from the Religious Zionism and Jewish Power factions, and Likud parliamentarians, openly agitate for Israeli sovereignty and settlement in that country. The finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, has called for Israel to “expand to Damascus”, and Netanyahu himself claimed to feel “very much connected” to this territorial vision of Greater Israel.

However, Greater Israel should be seen as a geopolitical and strategic concept as much as a territorial one. The acquisition and control of land is, in many respects, the obvious and easy part. Israel’s prime minister is pursuing something both more ambitious and more sophisticated than the simple control of territory – a project of dominion that is made up of new alliances, underwritten by hard power dependency.

To understand this, we need to go back a few years. After the terrible crimes inflicted on Israelis on 7 October, and as the magnitude and cruelty of Israel’s response in Gaza became clear, its attempts at regional integration – normalising relations with Arab neighbours – became increasingly stuck. Netanyahu faced a choice: either resume efforts at regional normalisation via a more accommodationist approach to the Palestinians, or double down on his zero-sum negation of a Palestinian future. In opting for the latter, Netanyahu needed to remove Iran as a regional power balancer – a move that required direct and massive US military engagement alongside Israel.

In the days preceding the Iran war, two influential former Israeli security figures writing for the Jerusalem



Institute for Strategy and Security observed that, from the point of view of key regional Sunni states, overthrowing the Iranian regime or weakening it significantly would establish Israel’s status as the “dominant regional power”.

Achieving this necessitates not only collapsing Iran but simultaneously weakening the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – and making them dependent on Israel for security and energy export routes. In other words, the war’s spill-over impact of GCC states being hit by Iranian drones and missiles can be seen as an intentional design feature for Israel, not a regrettable side-effect.

Predictably, when Israel and the US launched this war, the GCC’s access to global markets via the strait of Hormuz was severely impacted. And when Israel escalated by targeting Iranian energy infrastructure, Iran made good on its threat to respond in kind against the Gulf.

Netanyahu took the opportunity to call for “alternative routes instead of the chokepoints of the Hormuz Strait and the Bab-al-Mandab

Strait”, anticipating “oil pipelines, gas pipelines going west through the Arabian Peninsula right up to Israel, right up to our Mediterranean ports”.

In his public pronouncements, Netanyahu has connected some of the dots of his project for Greater Israel dominion. Just days before the start of this war, during a visit to Israel by the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, Netanyahu shared his vision to “create an entire system, essentially a kind of hexagon of alliances around or within the Middle East”, including “India, Arab nations, African nations, Mediterranean nations (Greece and Cyprus), and nations in Asia”. Israel would be the key nodal point of this alliance. A recently published piece in Hebrew from two high-ranking figures at the official strategy institute of the Israel Defense Forces helpfully filled in some of the blanks. They argued that Israel’s military would not only conquer territory directly, but also achieve “operational control even in areas far from Israel’s borders, without occupying and holding territory”. Israel would be granted “a superior status as a kind of ‘queen’ of the jungle” (it is not uncommon to hear the rest of

the Middle East referred to as “the jungle” in Israeli political discourse), establishing “a regional order that will further Israel’s goals”.

In recent speeches, Netanyahu has started referring to Israel not only as a “regional superpower”, but “in some respects, a global superpower”. Israel is looking to place itself at the centre of a regional alliance that could be sustained even if US power draws down. Netanyahu has promised that the hexagon alliance would be deployed against the “radical Shia axis ... and the emerging radical Sunni axis”. Israel has not been shy in naming the next “threat” to be addressed: Turkey.

Talk of a Greater Israel dominion might be treated as typical wartime hyperbole. Recent Israeli policy tells us it would be a mistake to do so. A permanent war orientation runs deep in Israel’s political class, government and opposition, security establishment, new-right elite and media. This thinking, however, carries tremendous potential for overreach and blowback; it is a danger for Israel itself and something the region will not accept.

In the long list of postwar challenges, deterring and containing this project of Greater Israel dominion might be among the most important. It’s the Guardian’s job to keep a close focus on events in the region for our global audience.

With reporters sharing live updates around the clock, we’re well-placed to provide comprehensive, fact-checked reporting and to help our audience understand every major development. But we can’t do it without your support.

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Defaulters must not be rewarded



It is completely unacceptable that the Bank Resolution Act, 2026, based on the ordinance drafted by the interim government to merge five troubled Shariah-based banks, has been passed in parliament enabling the country’s most notorious defaulters to regain control of the very banks they caused to fail. Under relatively easy terms, Section 18A of the act allows former directors or owners of the merging banks to reclaim ownership by paying upfront 7.5 percent of the amount injected into these banks by the government or the Bangladesh Bank. They then have two years to pay the remaining amount at a 10 percent simple interest. In addition, they will have to make several pledges in their ownership reclamation application, including paying all pre-merger liabilities to depositors, foreign and domestic creditors, and third-party claims, as well as clearing all taxes and other financial liabilities to the government. Given that the infamous S Alam Group is among the former directors/owners of the five ailing Shariah-based banks, insertion of this clause appears to be a gross error of

judgement. Not long ago, the finance minister identified this group as the country’s top loan defaulter. It has defaulted on crores of taka in loans with nearly a dozen banks and has been implicated in serious financial crimes.

According to the former central bank governor, the group’s founder and chairman, Mohammed Saiful Alam, and his associates “syphoned off” more than Tk 1 lakh crore (~\$10 billion) after taking control of several banks with the help of an intelligence agency during Sheikh Hasina’s regime. Now imagine that the S Alam Group applies to reclaim ownership or directorship of one of the ailing banks under Section 18A of the act, making the required pledges and paying 7.5 percent of the Tk 35,000 crore bailout fund. For a group that has syphoned off vast sums, paying Tk 2,625 crore upfront would be easy. But how can they be trusted to fulfil the pledges or pay the remainder of the money when 11 of its subsidiaries alone have at least Tk 22,881 crore in defaulted loans—about 65 percent of the total owed by the top 20 defaulters?If

such a situation arises, what will happen to the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, now awaiting international arbitration, as the S Alam Group has reportedly approached the World Bank’s International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes? With ownership restored, would they not influence the investigation? How would this affect efforts to repatriate laundered money? Most importantly, what message does this send to wilful defaulters and financial criminals? In a country where bad loans reached Tk 5.45 lakh crore in 2025, allowing such entities to own banks sets a dangerous precedent. Many of them are largely responsible for the illicit financial outflows totalling \$68 billion between 2013 and 2022. Thus, this provision may end up rewarding those who caused such great losses in the first place. It is indeed concerning that the government passed this law despite opposition objections. Parliamentary majority should not be abused to pass contentious legislations. The government should promptly amend the act to remove this provision.

The Sensex increasing by 630 points Stock market has commenced trading on a positive note

The Nifty surpassing 23,950

New Delhi: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Friday, driven by a rally in bank stocks and a positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 630.08 points to 77,261.73 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 203.6 points to 23,978.70. From the 30-Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers.

Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the laggards. Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Friday, driven by a rally in bank stocks and a positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 630.08 points to 77,261.73 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 203.6 points to 23,978.70. From the 30-Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Asian



Paints, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers. Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.20 per cent up at USD 96.11 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's

Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. "Strength in US markets, where the Dow extended its rally, along with broadly positive Asian markets, reflects continued optimism around the fragile US-Iran ceasefire. While global senti-

ment has improved, it is still highly event-driven. "Any shift in geopolitical developments can quickly alter risk appetite, especially through its impact on crude oil prices. This keeps the upside constructive but not fully stable," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,711.19 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 955.90 crore. The market is now in a "wait and watch" phase — highly sensitive to news flow, with direction dependent on three key triggers: geopolitical developments, crude oil movement, and FIIs. Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. On Thursday, the Sensex dropped 931.25 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 76,631.65. The Nifty declined 222.25 points or 0.93 per cent to end at 23,775.10.

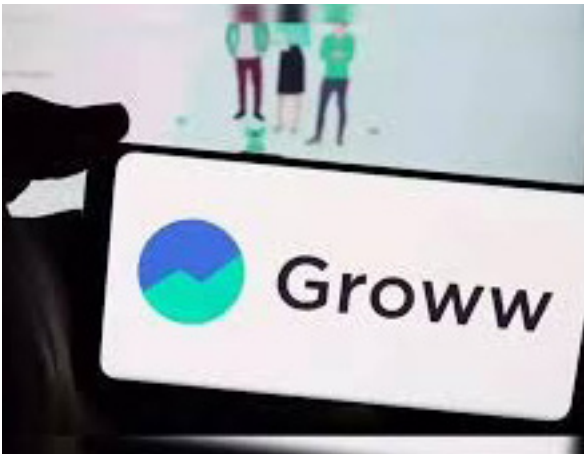
Groww's stock price jumps 5%; analysts recommend a "buy"

New Delhi: Groww share price: Shares of Billionbrains Garage Ventures (Groww), a digital investment platform, surged over 5 per cent to hit an intraday high of ₹196.87 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) amid an overall upbeat market. In the last three sessions, the stock has surged over 18 per cent from April 7, 2026, to a close of ₹166.4.

Groww stock was quoting 3.25 per cent higher at ₹192.71 on the back of heavy trading volumes. A combined 30 million equity shares changed hands on the NSE and BSE. In comparison, the NSE Nifty50 was quoting at 24,000.15 levels, up by 225.05 points or 0.95 per cent.

The stock touched a 52-week high of ₹197.48 on the NSE.

The Nifty Capital Markets index was trading at 4,937.144 levels, up by 1.44 per cent. Rajesh Palviya, SVP - technical at Axis



Securities, said that Groww stock is showing a bullish trend and is currently trading close to its all-time high. The counter has given breakout from the recent consolidation phase. As long as it remains above ₹185, there is potential for an upward move toward ₹220 in the near term.

All the capital market stocks are doing well and participating in the rally, supported by a broader market sentiment reversal. The current positive mo-

mentum could continue to benefit capital market stocks in the short term. On Groww.

The recommendation is to consider buy and accumulate the stock for a target of ₹220 and stop loss at ₹180," the analyst said. Ruchit Jain, head of equity technical research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said Nifty Capital Market Index is witnessing an outperformance led by buying interest in exchange and broking stocks.

MF inflows to HDFC AMC cause AMC stocks to soar by 5%

New Delhi: Shares of asset management companies (AMCs) were in high demand today, rising up to 5 per cent in intra-day trade on healthy net inflows into equity mutual funds.

Among individual stocks, Canara Robeco Asset Management Company shares were the top gainers, up 4.2 per cent at ₹265 around 12:30 PM on BSE. HDFC AMC shares soared 4 per cent to ₹2,611, followed by Nippon Life India Asset Management (up 3.9 per cent at ₹945), Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC (up 3.6 per cent at ₹1,003), and UTI Asset Management Company (up 2.8 per cent at ₹969). Shriram Asset Management Company and ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company shares were, however, largely flat at ₹314 with positive bias and at ₹3,241 with negative bias, respectively. In comparison, the BSE Sensex index was more than 700 points, or 0.9 per cent, at 77,370.

Buying interest in AMC stocks was bolstered after data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed that equity mutual fund inflows jumped 56 per cent M-o-M to ₹40,450 crore in March. Inflows in February stood at ₹25,977 crore. On an annual basis, inflows surged 61 per cent from ₹25,082 crore. Other than HDFC AMC, he said that Nippon Life India Asset Management has not corrected much and has also bounced back strongly. "These are some of the hot favourite bets that investors may consider looking at. If you want to allocate capital within the asset management space, these two stocks can be part of your portfolio."

SIP contributions in March 2026As per Amfi data, monthly contributions through SIPs rose to ₹32,087 crore from ₹29,845 crore in the preceding month.

While most categories recorded positive flows, Dividend Yield and ELSS funds saw marginal outflows due to some profit book-



ing or portfolio rebalancing. Gold ETFs saw inflows of ₹2,266 crore in March, which was much lower than the ₹5,255 crore seen in February. At the end of March, the industry's assets under management stood at ₹73.73 lakh crore, down from ₹82.03 lakh crore in February.

The inflows were largely driven by strong participation in Flexi Cap, Mid Cap and Small Cap funds, which together accounted for a significant share of the total net additions. Gaurav Sharma, associate VP and head of research at Globe Capital, said the recent Amfi data has boosted investor sentiment and reflects investors' confidence in equities despite volatility and foreign outflows. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have remained consistent buyers of domestic equities throughout the period when foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were selling. "It is the DIIs who have held their nerve and kept buying, providing support to the markets," he said. The analyst said that HDFC AMC, after the recent correction, which took the counter to ₹2,200 levels, looks attractive. "Within just 2-3 days, the stock has rebounded to around ₹2,600, which is a gain of more than 15 per cent in a very short span."

MF assets down debt fund outflows

New Delhi: Domestic investors continued to deploy fresh money into flexi-cap, mid-cap and small-cap funds. On a year-on-year basis, the industry's net AUM rose 12.15 per cent from ₹65.74 lakh crore in March 2025. Within equity schemes, flexi-cap funds led inflows with ₹10,054.12 crore, while mid-cap and small-cap funds each attracted over ₹6,000 crore. In contrast, arbitrage funds witnessed outflows of ₹21,113.70 crore, while debt mutual funds saw a sharp redemption of ₹2.94 lakh crore, largely due to quarter-end treasury adjustments and profit booking by institutional investors. Flows into gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) moderated to ₹2,265.68 crore from ₹5,254 crore in February

Steel exports in FY26 surge 43% as India turns net exporter on weaker imports

New Delhi: India became a net exporter of steel in FY26, with exports rising 43 per cent led by strong dollar while imports contracted by 15 per cent due to safeguard duty. According to data sourced from trade intelligence firm BigMint, total exports stood at 8.77 million tonne (mt) in the fiscal ending March 31 compared with 6.1 mt the year before. In contrast, imports slowed to 7.57 mt from a high of 8.9 mt the year before. Industry sources cited two factors driving exports. Rupee depreciated by around 11.4 per cent against the dollar in FY26, making selling abroad remunerative for the steel majors at a time when domestic market prices hit a multi-year low. Moreover, major producers such as Tata Steel, JSW Steel and SAIL expanded capacity, making more volume available for sale in the local market. According to government data, India's crude



steel output jumped by over 10.7 per cent year-on-year to around 168.4 mt. In contrast, domestic demand for finished steel expanded by about 7-8 per cent to 164 MT, reflecting production growth outpacing consumption. India's total steel capacity stood at about 220 mt. A

key feature of steel exports was the jump in finished steel exports, such as hot rolled coil, plates, galvanised steel, pipes and tubes. Imports, in comparison, decelerated as the government imposed an import tariff on some steel products to curb cheaper shipments, primarily from

China. The levy, locally known as a safeguard duty, has been imposed at 12 per cent followed by 11.5 per cent in the second year and 11 per cent in the third year. South Korea and Japan which enjoy duty free access to India, were the top and third-highest exporters respectively.

while China held the second spot. India's diversification of energy sources and enhancing access to critical minerals are crucial for the country's economy, but this shift has introduced new challenges, said Tata Steel CEO and managing director T V Narendran. "The challenge is obvious while we are diversifying our sources of energy and critical minerals, and we must; this diversification is also a layered vulnerability, not just dependence on imports but also dependence on political goodwill that allows these imports to flow," he said.

TCS profit rises 12% in Q4FY26 as revenue grows nearly 10% year-on-year

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday reported a strong set of numbers for Q4FY26 with net profit rising 12.2 per cent year-on-year to ₹13,718 crore, compared with ₹12,224 crore in the corresponding period last year. Sequentially, profit surged nearly 29 per cent from ₹10,657 crore in Q3FY26, beating market expectations, driven by robust deal wins during the quarter. For the full financial year FY26, net profit stood at ₹49,210 crore, registering a modest increase of 1.3 per cent over ₹48,533 crore in FY25. K. Krithivasan, MD and CEO, said the company has delivered three consecutive quarters of sequential growth, supported by strong deal momentum and its artificial intelligence (AI) led positioning across services.

He said that growth was broad-based across key markets and industries, even as macroeconomic headwinds persist.

Revenue in Q4FY26 came in at ₹70,698 crore, marking a 9.64 per cent rise from ₹64,479 crore a year earlier and a 5.38 per cent increase sequentially from ₹67,087 crore in the previous quarter. The company said its total contract value (TCV) for Q4FY26 stood at \$12 billion, including three mega deals, while full-year TCV reached \$40.7 billion.

TCS' total headcount stood at 584,519 at the end of the quarter, compared with 582,163 in Q3FY26, though still lower than 607,979 in



Q4FY25. The sequential increase comes amid a broader operational reset as the company trims roles and optimises costs in response to rapid technological shifts. Restructuring expenses for FY26 rose sharply to ₹1,388 crore compared with ₹253 crore in Q3FY26. Sudeep Kunnumal,

chief HR officer, said the company in Q4FY26 continues to invest in a future-ready workforce, with hiring focused on both experienced professionals and campus recruits. He added that annual salary hikes across grades have been implemented from April 1.

Experts claim that the UK opening new oil and gas fields will jeopardize global climate goals



London: Experts have cautioned that the opening of new oil and gas resources in the North Sea would “send a shock wave around the world,” endangering global climate targets, undermining the UK’s climate leadership, and encouraging emerging nations to take advantage of their own fossil fuel supplies. The oil industry, the Conservatives, Nigel Farage’s Reform UK party, certain trade unions, and portions of the Treasury are putting intense pressure on the UK government to approve new oil and gas fields, even though there is ample evidence that doing so would not lower prices and would have virtually no impact on imports. The licensing system includes two of the largest fields still in the North Sea, which is over 90% depleted and where the remaining pockets are becoming more expensive and energy-intensive to extract. However, studies have indicated that the exploitation of the Rosebank and Jackdaw deposits would only replace 1% and 2% of the UK’s gas imports, respectively. Drilling new fields would be “dangerous” for international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and phase out fossil fuels, according to senior experts in climate diplomacy. “New drilling and slowing down climate action would

be bad for growth and for energy security in the UK, and a damaging signal for the world,” stated Nicolas Stern, a professor at the London School of Economics. “The UK has been a pioneer in climate action, as the first G7 nation to commit to net zero by 2050, through its work in international institutions and interactions, and through its exemplary climate change legislation,” stated Lord Stern. Its model is important. The world pays attention to what the UK does because it has been a leader and pioneer. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a top African negotiator reacted angrily to the idea that the UK would offer more fields. Africa stated that it will “reject any proposal for the UK to expand oil drilling” because doing so would “weaken trust with climate-vulnerable nations” and be “fundamentally inconsistent with both the letter and spirit of the Paris agreement.” “New oil exploration by a historic emitter is as paradoxical as it is retrograde at a time when science is clear about the necessity for a swift shift away from fossil fuels. The negotiator added, “It also runs the risk of creating a risky precedent that other nations could follow.” Christiana Figueres, a former executive secretary of the UN framework convention on climate

change and a co-founder of the Global Optimism thinktank, said economics as well as the risks of climate breakdown argued against the move. “It’s entirely understandable that in today’s geopolitical context, countries must seek greater energy security and independence,” she said. “But reaching for solutions of the past – such as expanding oil and gas drilling – risks locking in infrastructure that is increasingly out of step with where the global energy system is heading. True energy independence today lies in scaling clean, domestic energy, not in extending the life of declining industries.” The UK has been one of the main supporters of a global conference taking place in Colombia later this month on the “transition away from fossil fuels” that countries agreed to make three years ago but have so far failed to implement. However, the Guardian has learned that Ed Miliband, the UK’s secretary of state for energy security and net zero, will not attend the gathering of about 50 countries. Rachel Kyte, the government’s climate envoy, will go instead. Campaigners have been calling for the secretary of state to attend as he was widely credited with helping to bring about a last-minute deal at the Cop30 climate summit in Brazil last November.

Experts said that if the UK were to licence new fields before the conference, it could undermine progress on encouraging developing countries to forego fossil fuel-based economies and opt for cleaner energy. Mohamed Adow, the director of the Power Shift Africa thinktank in Nairobi, said: “The UK approving new oil and gas projects would send a shock wave around the world that short-term interests are being prioritised over long-term responsibility. I dread to think what example that would set to the rest of the world.” Many developing countries are considering exploiting their own oil and gas resources instead of opting for renewables. If they were to do so, the world would go far beyond the carbon limits needed to stave off the worst ravages of climate breakdown. Adow said: “Countries across Africa are being asked to leapfrog to clean energy systems, often with limited financial support. We are told, often by European nations, that the future lies in renewables, and increasingly we are proving that it does. When wealthier nations continue to invest in fossil fuels, they undermine this message and diminish their credibility.” A senior development official in an overseas institution said the question was urgent. “What we are hearing already from developing countries is: why shouldn’t we tap into our own fossil fuel resources if the UK is doing so?” they said. “That is a legitimate point. You have to provide leadership.” An ally of Miliband said: “No new exploration licences is a landmark global leadership position – a major, developed, oil and gas producing country proving it can walk what it talks on climate and act in line with what the science clearly says to avoid global warming spiralling to a catastrophic 3 or 4C.” Miliband has taken political heat to protect the position, and the fact that others like [the Green party leader, Zack] Polanski are calling on him to go further is a sign of how far Ed has shifted the Overton window.”

Following Reform UK’s proposal to stop issuing visas, Commonwealth leaders pledge to continue pursuing restitution



Americas: As UK public figures, including a former Reform insider, warn that the right-wing party’s promise to “punish” nations seeking justice for slavery would hurt and isolate Britain, Commonwealth leaders vow they will not back down from their demands for reparations. Reform UK announced this week that if they came to power, they would stop granting visas to citizens of nations that have publicly demanded reparations from Britain. “It is not funny that they think a British visa for those same people is a privilege after years of invading and colonizing a people,” stated Arley Gill, the head of the Grenada Reparations Commission. Last month a resolution spearheaded by Ghana, which described the historical transatlantic trafficking and enslavement of Africans as “the gravest crime against humanity” and called for reparations, was passed by the UN general assembly. Reform’s spokesperson for home affairs, Zia Yusuf, claimed on Monday that the UK was being “ridiculed on the world stage.” The Westminster elite has rewarded nations like Ghana, Nigeria, and Jamaica for increasing their requests for reparations. “Enough is enough,” he declared. Yusuf’s parents immigrated from Sri Lanka, which is one of the nations suing the UK for colonial wrongs. The opposition leader and former prime minister of St. Vincent and Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, charged Farage on Tuesday with “doing an imitative Trump” and “seeking another cultural wedge issue” that “will certainly isolate Britain further.” He declared, “That kind of talk would not intimidate any of us in the Caribbean who are advocating for reparations.” “For us, the present is the past because of the legacy of underdevelopment, which can be empirically sourced to native genocide and the enslavement of African bodies.” The UK has never formally apologised for slavery. Calling

for “inter-nation dialogue”, Hilary Beckles, the chair of Caricom reparations commission, said “the idea the victims of an enormous crime calling for justice are to be doubly punished is tragic.” He added: “Crimes against humanity have been committed against so many people on this planet and most have now received some form of apology (or) reparations.” The view seems to be that the legacy of toxic racism, the legacy of white supremacy politics is still so intense that Black people are deemed undeserving ... (but) I think the British parliament is filled with people who do not share that view. “I have no doubt in time the British people and the British government will come to realise (dialogue) is what is required.” On Tuesday, the Reform leader, Nigel Farage, said the UK had spent “four decades on the high seas ... driving slavery off the world’s oceans”. Gill said Reform’s position showed a “terrible lack of knowledge” of the issues, highlighting that enslavers were compensated by British taxpayers. Last month, the UK and Nigeria agreed a £746m deal in which the UK would provide loan financing to refurbish two major ports in Lagos.

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

cause consistent slave uprisings made it no longer profitable.” Reparative justice is about correcting not just the wrongs of the past but the ongoing exploitation of African countries – a large majority of which still provide natural resources and goods to Europe for which they are consistently shortchanged.” Bell Ribeiro-Addy, a Labour MP and chair of the all-party parliamentary group on African Reparations said Reform’s policy was a “ridiculous provocation”, adding “reparatory justice was never simply about money. The demand is for acknowledgment, truth-telling and structural repair.” She added: “Reform have either failed to grasp that, or chosen to ignore it. What they are effectively doing is threatening the descendants of the enslaved for insisting the transatlantic slave trade be recognised as a crime against humanity. Some still believe they sit at the head of a table the rest of the world was never invited to. The world is changing.” Clive Lewis, the Labour MP for Norwich South, said: “The total death toll (of slavery) may exceed 20 million. We confront that history honestly not as an act of self-flagellation but because the alternative – the insistence that power never has to account for itself – is exactly the logic that makes atrocities possible in every generation.”

Since Brexit, the UK has turned again to former African, Caribbean and Asian colonies to fill skills shortages in teaching, health, social care and the Prison Service. At a press conference on Tuesday where Farage was asked if the party had done any modelling on cost and the impact on UK employers, he said they would not backdate the visa block. Keir Starmer has previously said the UK would not pay reparations, but No 10 has indicated the country could support some forms of reparatory justice, such as restructuring financial institutions and debt relief.

As the Greens contend that “no one should be above the law,” Pauline Hanson declares she will not “abandon” Ben Roberts-Smith

Australia: Pauline Hanson, the leader of One Nation, declares that she would not “abandon” Ben Roberts-Smith in spite of his war crimes arrest, while the Greens assert that “no one should be above the law.” Hanson reiterated her long-standing support for Australia’s most decorated living soldier as prime minister Anthony Albanese declined to comment on Roberts-Smith’s detention at Sydney airport on Tuesday morning. The Queensland senator, whose party is gaining ground in the polls, wrote on social media, “I remain steadfast in my support of Ben Roberts-Smith despite news of his arrest today.” “I won’t desert Ben like so many other politicians because he and his immediate and larger defense family need the Australian people’s support right now.” In connection with three events, Roberts-Smith was charged late on Tuesday with five charges of war crime, including murder. Life in jail is the maximum punishment for the offense. The recipient of the Victoria Cross was previously charged in a slander lawsuit of killing defenseless people while fighting in Afghanistan with the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SAS).

He has denied any misconduct. Along with media tycoon Kerry Stokes and mining billionaire Gina Rinehart, Hanson has been one of Roberts-Smith’s corporate and political supporters. On Tuesday afternoon, former Liberal prime minister Tony Abbott criticized the procedure that led to Roberts-Smith’s detention in a statement endorsing the special forces. Naturally, there are regulations that must be followed and upheld, even when it comes to soldiers during hostilities. However, he stated that it is incorrect to evaluate men’s acts in mortal conflict using the norms of everyday civilian life. “If Ben Roberts-Smith violated the law, why wasn’t this discovered before he received his gallantry awards, and why wasn’t any culture of brutality towards inmates discovered by his more senior officers and dealt with promptly, instead of being allowed to fester, as has been alleged, for over a decade?” he asked. Ross Barnett, the director of investigations at the Office of the Special Investigator, said the five-year investigation faced “a lot of practical challenges”, given the alleged crimes were committed in Afghanistan. “All of the things that

we would normally get at a crime scene. There’s no post-mortem. Therefore, there’s no official cause of death. So there are a lot of practical challenges that confront the investigators,” Barnett said. The Greens defence spokesperson, David Shoebridge, said the arrest was a “moment of accountability and highlights the appalling cost of war on all sides”. “No one should be above the law,” he said. “These charges relate to killings that happened in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2012, for victims and survivors that is far too long to wait for justice. Deployments of troops in overseas conflicts always come at enormous cost to people on the ground who face the horror and brutality of war.” Shoebridge criticised what he described as a “gaping hole” in the accountability for what happened in Afghanistan, particularly the apparent lack of scrutiny of the role of senior officers who oversaw the deployment of troops to the Middle East. “Gold braid on your shoulder is not meant to be legal protection from complicity in war crimes,” he said, reiterating calls for a dedicated war crimes investigation unit within the Australian federal police. Appearing



at a press conference shortly after the Nine papers broke news of Roberts-Smith’s arrest, Albanese said he would not comment on the development. “I have no intention of commenting on a matter that’s clearly before the courts,” he said. Asked for a second time about the arrest of Roberts-Smith, the prime minister said: “I have no intention of prejudicing a matter that clearly is a legal matter and that’s before the courts and any comment would do so.” The opposition leader, Angus Taylor, would not comment directly on the arrest but said it “should not detract from the respect we show for our special forces in this country”. “It is important that we know that our special forces

are doing the right thing but the one thing I do know is the vast majority of our special forces do do the right thing and they deserve, as do all our veterans, the respect of our nation,” he said. A subsequent statement from Taylor and senior Coalition frontbenchers James Paterson, Michael McCormack and Phil Thompson reiterated their “unwavering commitment” to defence personnel and veterans. “We cannot allow this generation of veterans to be treated like many who returned from Vietnam, left to carry stigma for decades. Today’s charges do not diminish in any way the service of the vast majority of our men and women in uniform,” the joint statement said.

A woman gives birth in midair while flying from Jamaica to New York

New York: After a woman gave birth in midair, a typical passenger flight from Jamaica arrived at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport with one more person than it had taken off with, potentially creating a difficult scenario regarding the newborn’s citizenship. According to a news release from Caribbean Airlines, the “medical event” happened on a flight from Kingston on Saturday. The statement read, “The mother and newborn were attended to by medical personnel upon arrival and are receiving the necessary care.” It didn’t specify whether the kid was a boy or a girl or when it was born during the four-hour flight. An air traffic controller proposed a baby’s name during a discussion between the pilot of flight BW005, also known as Caribbean 5, and the tower of Queens airport. When the pilot said “Is it out yet?” in the positive, the controller added, “All right, tell her she’s got to name it Kennedy.” According to a transcript that CBS News was able to get, the pilot laughed and said, “Ah, Kennedy, will do.” The delivery immediately sparked a discussion concerning the baby’s citizenship, which is still up for debate due to a lack of information regarding the parents’ status and the location of the plane at the precise moment the kid was delivered. If either parent is already a US citizen, the baby will also be one. If not, US citizenship laws published by the federal state department come into play. By law, US airspace is defined as the same as its territorial waters, namely within 12 miles of the coastline.

“The rules applicable to vessels obviously apply equally to airplanes,” the document states. “Thus a child born on a plane in the US or flying over its territory would acquire

US citizenship at birth. “Generally speaking, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would require some documentation of the birth, generally an excerpt of the ship’s/aircraft’s medical log or master/captain’s log, reflecting the time, latitude, and longitude when the birth occurred.” Under the 14th amendment to the US constitution, “all persons born or naturalized in the US and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the US”. The executive order Donald Trump issued at the beginning of his second presidency restricting US citizenship to children born only to citizens and lawful permanent residents was blocked by a federal court and is awaiting a final ruling by the supreme court after oral arguments on 1 April.

The US government does not publish figures of babies born on international flights within its airspace. The most recent research is a study published in 2019 by a professor at Ohio’s Bowling Green State University, recording 74 births on 73 commercial flights between 1929 and 2018 – with two of the babies not surviving. Airlines generally restrict pregnant women from flying beyond 36 weeks’ gestation and allow those beyond 28 weeks to travel only with medical clearance. Caribbean Airlines’ policy is to allow pregnant passengers to travel without medical clearance through the end of their 32nd week of pregnancy. In its statement, Caribbean Airlines said no emergency was declared during the flight – and that the mother and her family had requested privacy. “The airline commends the professionalism and measured response of its crew, who managed the situation in accordance with established procedures, ensuring the safety and comfort of all onboard,” the statement said.

In patients with prostate cancer, metformin mimics the metabolic effects of exercise



A new study has found that metformin, a widely prescribed diabetes drug, may mimic one of exercise’s core biological effects in men with prostate cancer, raising levels of a molecule tied to energy balance and weight control even when patients are inactive. The findings suggest metformin could help counter the metabolic strain of hormone therapy, when fatigue and other side effects often limit physical activity. Led by physician-scientists at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, the study appears in the journal EMBO Molecular Medicine. Exercise is one of the most reliable ways to support health during cancer treatment. It helps regulate weight, blood sugar and cardiovascular health-factors that shape how patients feel during therapy and how well they recover afterward. For many people with cancer, however, regular exercise isn’t always feasible. Fatigue, hormone therapy, pain or advanced disease can limit physical activity precisely when metabolic health becomes most important. That reality has led researchers to ask a practical question: if exercise confers its benefits through specific biological signals, could some of those signals be activated in other ways? According to the research, the

answer may be yes. Sylvester investigators report that metformin raises levels of a naturally occurring molecule involved in how the body manages energy and weight in prostate cancer patients. The finding does not suggest that a pill can replace physical activity. Instead, it offers insight into the internal pathways that underlie exercise’s metabolic benefits-and how those pathways might still be engaged when movement is limited. At the center of the collaborative, team-science study is a molecule called N-lactoyl-phenylalanine, or Lac-Phe. While its name is technical, its role is relatively simple. Lac-Phe is produced when the body is under metabolic demand. It forms when lactate-a substance that accumulates during exertion-combines with phenylalanine, a basic building block of protein. Scientists first took notice of Lac-Phe because its levels spike after intense exercise, coinciding with shifts in energy use and appetite regulation. In preclinical and early human studies, higher Lac-Phe levels have been associated with reduced appetite and improved weight control-two effects commonly linked to regular physical activity. Lac-Phe does not rise only with exercise. Scientists observed elevated -Lac-Phe- levels in people taking metformin, even in the absence of phys-



anticancer efficacy, it appears to reflect how the body manages energy, weight- and metabolic strain during treatment. These results were confirmed to ensure the findings were not limited to one clinical setting. In fact, increases were also observed in patients receiving other metabolic therapies, suggesting Lac-Phe may reflect a broader metabolic response rather than a drug-specific effect. “Cancer therapy often affects the body in ways that go beyond the tumor,” said Sylvester researcher Priyamvada Rai, Ph.D., co-leader, Tumor Biology Program and professor of radiation oncology at the Miller School. “Supporting metabolic health can influence how patients tolerate treatment and how they feel over time, even if it doesn’t directly change tumor growth. This study was an opportunity to investigate molecular pathways that can be therapeutically activated for better outcomes to treatments that induce metabolic stress.” Metformin raises a stress hormone called GDF-15, but this study found that Lac-Phe was more closely tied to weight changes. Because the two didn’t rise together, metformin likely affects weight through multiple pathways, with Lac-Phe playing a bigger role. “Metabolism is involved in everything cells do,” said Sylvester researcher David B. Lombard, M.D., Ph.D., co-leader, Cancer Epigenetics Program and professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the Miller School. “These findings suggest Lac-Phe may be a very informative signal for understanding how metformin affects metabolism in prostate cancer patients.”

Are You Having Hair Loss? This Chaas with Sattu and Curry Leaves Could Be Helpful



Tired of all those fancy oils and supplements that just don’t cut it? Say hello to your new hair hero: a simple curry leaves and sattu chaas that’s about to become your pantry’s best-kept secret! Hair fall is one of those frustrating issues that most people face at some point in life. Stress, pollution, hormonal fluctuations, nutritional deficiencies, and even the change in seasons can all lead to excessive shedding. While it is common to rely on oils and salon treatments, what you consume daily plays an equally important role in maintaining hair health. Foods that are rich in nutrients not only nourish your scalp but also encourage healthy regrowth. One such overlooked combination is curry leaves and chana sattu blended into a refreshing glass of chaas. If you are looking for an everyday solution for hair fall, this fuss-free drink might be worth adding to your routine. According to a 2009 study, hair is primarily made up of keratin—a type of protein. When your body lacks dietary protein, it focuses on other essential functions, often sidelining hair growth. Iron, vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids, and antioxidants are also key players in maintaining scalp health and strengthening hair follicles. So, consistently skipping meals or following restrictive diets can gradually weaken your hair from the inside out. Health Benefits of Curry Leaves for Hair Adding curry leaves to your daily diet can be more beneficial than simply applying them externally. Here is how they work internally to support hair growth: 1. Packed With

Antioxidants Curry leaves are rich in antioxidants like vitamin C, vitamin A, flavonoids, and carotenoids that help fight free radicals and prevent follicle damage. 2. May Delay Premature Greying Used in traditional Indian remedies, curry leaves have long been associated with improving natural hair pigmentation and reducing premature greying. 3. Supports Hair Root Strength The amino acids in curry leaves can help reinforce the hair shaft from within, making strands stronger over time. 4. Encourages Hair Regrowth Beta-carotene and B vitamins present in curry leaves work to activate dormant follicles and promote healthy regrowth. 5. Improves Scalp Health Their antibacterial properties may also help manage dandruff and reduce itchiness, creating a healthier scalp environment. Why Sattu Is A Powerful Ingredient For Hair Health While curry leaves take the spotlight, do not overlook what sattu brings to the table. Made from roasted chana (Bengal gram), sattu is a traditional Indian superfood that has quietly powered

generations in the eastern belt of the country. It is also packed with nutrients that can support hair strength and scalp health from within. 1. Rich In Plant-Based Protein Sattu offers a good amount of natural protein, which supports the body’s keratin production—crucial for hair structure and strength. 2. Contains Iron And Magnesium These minerals play an important role in improving blood circulation to the scalp, which may support healthier follicles. 3. High In Fibre The gut-skin-hair connection is real. Sattu’s fibre content supports digestion and helps the body absorb nutrients better, which in turn benefits hair health. 4. Low Glycaemic Index It helps regulate blood sugar levels, indirectly supporting hormonal balance - often a key factor behind hair fall. Combining sattu with curry leaves in a curd-based chaas creates a cooling, gut-friendly drink that doubles up as a low-effort hair care tonic. How To Make Curry Leaves-Sattu Chaas At Home This simple recipe was shared by nutritionist Shalini Sudhakar. It requires minimal prep and uses pantry staples:



Thirty Crucial Signs That Could Point to a Heart Attack



Heart disease can be a major burden. Most people think they just appear out of nowhere, without any warning signals from the body. However, it is very important to recognize these signals, not only to protect your own health, but also to save the lives of those around you. If you recognize any of the following symptoms, be sure to visit your doctor for more information. The most important thing is not to simply look away from these signs, as this could save several lives. Heart illness may cause a lot of hardship. The majority of individuals believe they merely show up without any prior warning signs from the body. To save the lives of those around you as well as to save your own health, it is crucial to understand these warning signs. Make sure to see your doctor for further information if you identify any of the following symptoms. The most crucial thing is to pay attention to these warning indi-

cators since doing so might save many lives. Physical weakness is the definition of fatigue. It is a condition when the body has a strong desire to sleep but also lacks vitality and strength. It usually occurs after a demanding, long day, but if you feel exhausted for no apparent reason, literally keep your eyes open. Fatigue and unwarranted fatigue might be indicators of cardiac arrest. Therefore, it is likely that your heart’s blood supply has decreased if you are unable to do daily tasks. These are quite typical symptoms that also lead to excessive sleep. You should speak with your doctor to determine what is causing your weariness and what steps should be taken if this issue persists for an extended period of time. Naturally, it’s also possible that this exhaustion is an indication of another severe sickness. Do you faint occasionally? Do you faint a lot? This may very well be a heart disease warning sign. Since heart

disease typically starts with a drop in blood pressure, which leads to a shortage of oxygen in the blood, this might be one of the causes. Most patients who suffer from bradycardia and tachycardia report that they first fainted. Therefore, they highly encourage you to contact a doctor if anyone close to you reports fainting or passing out! Numerous factors, including severe physical exertion, discomfort, and dehydration, can induce unconsciousness. Fainting is caused by a shortage of blood in the brain. Although there are therapies that can help with these symptoms, it’s still crucial to frequently check weight fluctuations and see a physician. A visible, fast weight gain is never healthy and might lead to additional health issues. Perhaps your heart is attempting to communicate with you. The buildup of fluids, which can cause bloating, swelling, and eventually significant weight gain, is one potential

sign of heart disease. Naturally, this is not a cause for concern, as anybody can have these symptoms. However, these symptoms are frequently disregarded since they are thought to be digestive issues. It could possibly indicate pregnancy, but it’s better to see a doctor to be sure. Each of them may also indicate cardiac issues. See a doctor if these symptoms occur out of the blue. For most people, a beating heart is not a serious problem. It might be brought on by excitement or adrenaline. An arrhythmia, which is indicated by an abnormal cardiac rhythm, should be treated to restore healthy heartbeat and blood flow to the body. Additionally, arrhythmias can raise the chance of stroke. However, if the heart skips a few beats on a regular basis, you should see a doctor right once. Have you had a persistent cough that you can’t really explain? This cough can be a sign of heart disease. Therefore, it is crucial to pay attention to the

cough’s color since a pink or white cough may be a sign of potential heart problems. Lying down at night generally makes my cough worse. You should consult a physician right away because this might possibly be an indication of heart problems. A cough may result from the heart’s inability to pump enough blood to the body, which can then infiltrate the lungs. Your heart may be sending you a warning signal if you have cold sweats without exerting yourself or exercising. You should go to the hospital right once if you have these symptoms in addition to others. Furthermore, it’s critical to understand that, among other things, stress, drugs, neurological disorders, infections, and cancer can all contribute to cold sweats. Sweating is how you normally control your body temperature. However, heavy perspiration causes the heart to attempt to pump through constricted arteries, making it difficult to flush the entire body.

During a London performance, Shreya Ghoshal pays a touching homage to Asha Bhosle

Mumbai: On April 12, renowned singer Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 from multiple organ failure. The music and entertainment industries were shocked by her unexpected passing. At her most recent performance, singer Shreya Ghoshal, who is presently occupied with her Unstoppable World Tour, gave Asha an emotional homage. Shreya honored Asha Bhosle at her recent performance at London's O2. Shreya sang several of Asha's well-known songs, such as Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar and Do Lafzon Ki Hai Dil Ki Kahani, as pictures of the late singer were shown in the background. As Shreya played live on stage, the audience could be seen hooting, cheering, and singing along. Shreya was also showered with adoration on the internet. "She is the only elite singer who can resonate with Lata ji and Asha ji," was one of the comments."

The tragedies that altered Asha Bhosle's life and her 3 children

Mumbai: Asha Bhosle's career in music gained her enormous renown, but her life was characterized by both intense love and devastating sorrow.

Asha Bhosle's first marriage to Ganpatrao Bhosle produced three children: Hemant, Varsha, and Anand. Hemant Bhosle, her oldest son, wrote music for movies including Sansani: The Sensation, Dharam Shatru, and Raja Jogi. He was also well-known for Kishore-Asha duets like "Aji Kaho Kya Haal Hai" from Anpadh. Varsha Bhosle, her daughter, took a different route and is now a columnist for prestigious magazines. Anand Bhosle, her youngest son, assumed responsibility for overseeing his mother's work obligations in the interim. Asha Bhosle suffered the loss of two of her children despite her accomplishments.

At the age of 56, Varsha committed suicide in 2012. Hemant battled cancer for a few years before passing away in 2015. Following an already challenging early period in her personal life, several catastrophes occurred. She had married Ganpatrao at the age of sixteen, defying her family's wishes, but things didn't work out. She returned to her mother's house with her kids when expecting her third child after being mistreated by her in-laws. In 1960, the pair finally called it quits. Asha was born into the well-known Mangeshkar family. Shevanti and Deenanath Mangeshkar were her parents. The family relocated from Pune to Kolhapur and then Mumbai after her father passed away when she was nine years old. There, she and her older sister Lata Mangeshkar started acting in movies to help support the family.

Her siblings, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Meena Khadikar, and Usha Mangeshkar, have made significant contributions to the great musical legacy of India. Asha reunited with renowned composer RD Burman years after her first marriage ended, creating one of Bollywood's most famous singer-composer collaborations. Their artistic connection shaped an age even if they were childless. Her grandchildren, Zanai and Chaitanya Bhosle, are part of her current family. Asha Bhosle has passed away. On Sunday, April 12, the singer passed away. Her chest infection led to her admission on Saturday to the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. Last night, she was moved to the intensive care unit.



Asha ji." "Petition to release the unplugged version of this song by her on Spotify" was another comment. One more admirer said, "This is so beautiful." In addition, Shreya sent a heartfelt message on Instagram in remembrance of the renowned singer and lamented her passing. "Today, we lost a voice that defined generations...

a spirit that redefined music itself," she wrote alongside a photo of herself with Asha Bhosle. In addition to being legendary, Asha Bhosle ji was boundless. I grew up admiring her natural variety, listening to her, and learning from her. She has the ability to bring life to every note and personalize every feeling. She performed

everything like only she could, from the lightest melodies to the most profound ghazals to her amazing skill in songs in Marathi, Bangla, and countless other languages." For so many of us, she wasn't just an inspiration... she was a part of our musical soul," the note continued. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have seen her excellence during my lifetime. Through all the artists she inspired and all the hearts she touched, her voice will reverberate throughout time. Asha Tai, rest in music. On Sunday, April 12, the legendary vocalist passed away at the age of 92. According to reports, she had been experiencing health problems for a while. On Saturday, she was brought to Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai due to respiratory and heart problems. Several celebs, including Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, and Kajol, used social media to express their sorrow and offer sincere tributes after learning of her passing.

Awez Darbar and Nagma Mirajkar's split is confirmed by Kunickaa Sadanand

Mumbai: Because social media creator and Bigg Boss 19 star Nagma Mirajkar did not attend Awez Darbar's birthday celebration, many speculated that their relationship was having problems.

Kunickaa Sadanand, an actor and another Bigg Boss competitor, has now reportedly confirmed their split and expressed optimism that they may both find committed partners in the future. When asked about the rumors of Awez and Nagma's breakup in a recent interview with Telly Masala, Kunickaa responded, "It is very emotional because dono ke saath mera bohut accha connection tha." Dono ko main bohut pyaar karti hoon (I loved both of them very much and we had a fantastic relationship). I am aware



that Nagma and Awez have given each other a lot of support. "So, I wish ki ho sakta hai agar kuch sulah ho jaaye ya kuch ho jaaye. Jo bhi ho. Agar nahi bhi ho, dono ko acche partner mile kyunki unhe mile the aur shayad destiny nahi chahti thi," she continued. However, I hope they find compatible partners. In any case, I hope they can make amends or find a solution.

Even if they don't, I hope they both find compatible partners because they had already found each other and maybe fate didn't want it to last.

However, I sincerely hope they both find compatible partners. When fans noticed Nagma and Awez's connection and social media partnerships in 2019, relationship rumors began to circulate. During their

time on Bigg Boss 19, they acknowledged being in a relationship. In a touching scene that went viral on the internet, Awez even proposed to Nagma during the show. Nagma had disclosed that she was getting married to Awez after leaving the show.

However, Nagma was absent from Awez's birthday celebration with friends and family in March, which sparked rumors that they had broken up. "Iske baare mein hum achhe se baith ke ekdum pyaare se baat karenge, kyunki bohut saari baatein hain, batunga aapko (We will sit down and talk about this properly and lovingly, because there is a lot to discuss, I will tell you everything)," Awez told Telly Masala during the celebration, hinting at their impending breakup.

Shoaib Ibrahim acknowledges that Dipika Kakar's cyst recurrence is causing him health anxiety

Mumbai: Since May 2025, television star Dipika Kakar has been receiving therapy for her liver cancer. She had surgery in February after a 1.3 mm cyst was discovered recently. She has been in her recuperation period ever since. Now, her spouse, actor Shoaib Ibrahim, has disclosed seeking second views from several hospitals and expressed feeling anxious about Dipika's condition. Shoaib explained in his most recent video how the previous week's hospital appointments and second opinions prevented him from making a vlog. Shoaib disclosed that he sought a second opinion on Dipika's course of treatment at the Tata Memorial Hospital. Shoaib disclosed that doctors had recommended a few further tests including an MRI in an effort to determine the reason of the recurrent cyst. Shoaib acknowledged that Dipika's condition was causing him anxiety, saying, "I haven't been vlogging much for the past 10-12 days." There are two explanations. First of



all, hospital stays, doctor consultations, and the same routine are essentially the only things to exhibit or convey. I would prefer to share everything with you all after a few days rather than boring you all by saying the same things every day, like "we're going to the hospital again today." "And secondly, ever since her second relapse, I've started experiencing health anxiety, not about myself, but about Dipika," he continued. I'm always worried. I become nervous about even the little things. However, I don't really

show it to her.

For example, if she reports having mild leg pain when she's sleeping at night, I start to worry about whether or not everything is alright. "The recurrence that happened with the 1.3 cm cyst has shaken me," Dipika added earlier in her vlog, discussing how the cyst's recurrence has left her nervous and shaken. Now that it shouldn't happen again, I'm a little afraid. I've started a diet, but I'm nervous. I've come to the conclusion that women are stronger than we realize. Managing our bodies on a daily basis is worth praising because they are so intricate. Deepika first discussed her health scare last year after receiving a stage 2 liver cancer diagnosis. She had surgery to remove the tumor in June 2025. Since then, Dipika has been using her vlogs to chronicle her chemotherapy experiences, emotional highs and lows, and healing progress. She had another surgery in February of this year to remove a 1.3 mm cyst from her stomach.

Rajpal Yadav remembers that a misunderstanding with Shah Rukh Khan cost him the Om Shanti Om role

Mumbai: Rajpal Yadav, a Bollywood actor, is presently preparing for the premiere of his next movie, Bhooth Bangla. In a recent interview with Zoom, the actor discussed if he had ever regretted turning down a movie role and recounted how a miscommunication cost him a part in Shah Rukh Khan's Om Shanti Om. Rajpal initially intended to play the role of Billu Barber in Priyadarshan's film, a part later assigned to Irrfan Khan. He recounted an incident where he learned he had "upset" Shah Rukh Khan by allegedly turning down a role in Om Shanti Om. While on the set of Billu Barber, he was informed by Juhi Chawla's brother, who managed the production, that Shah Rukh Khan had expressed affection for him and had hoped to collaborate on a more significant project following their previous work in Kal Ho Naa Ho. Rajpal was taken aback when



he learned from Juhi's brother that there was confusion surrounding this, as Shah Rukh had requested a role specifically for him which he reportedly declined due to time constraints. Upon calling his manager for clarification, Rajpal discovered that misunderstandings had arisen from negative com-

ments made about him, leading to misrepresentation in front of Shah Rukh Khan regarding his availability for the role. Despite this miscommunication, Rajpal and Shah Rukh Khan resolved any misunderstandings amicably when they met afterwards. Deepika Padukone made her Bollywood debut with the film, which was directed by Farah Khan. With Kirron Kher, Arjun Rampal, Shreyas Talpade, and Shah Rukh Khan in the prominent parts, the film became a global hit, earning ₹148 crore on a ₹38 crore budget. Bhooth Bangla, which is directed by Priyadarshan, also features important roles for Akshay Kumar, Wamiqa Gabbi, Tabu, and Paresh Rawal. After more than ten years apart, Priyadarshan and Akshay reunite in the horror-comedy. The movie will open in theaters on April 17. Paid previews will start on April 16 at 9 p.m.

With a tricolor-draped farewell, India bids Asha Bhosle a tearful farewell



Mumbai: Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle's body was laid in public at her Mumbai home on Monday, covered in the Tricolour, as the country came together to say a somber goodbye to one of its most recognizable musical voices. After a remarkable career spanning more than eight decades, the renowned vocalist passed away on Sunday at the age of 92 at Breach Candy Hospital.

Her enormous contribution to Indian culture was highlighted when she was given state honors and her body was shrouded in the national flag.

Images from her home showed a large number of

individuals paying their respects. Fans, officials, relatives, and representatives of the film industry were among them. As state officials conducted the ceremonial procedures, the mood remained solemn, with prayers and silence. At 4 p.m. today, Shivaji Park in Mumbai will host her farewell ceremonies with full state honors. The impact Asha Bhosle has had on Indian music is still unmatched. She was well-known for her ability to move between several genres with ease, from cabaret pieces and contemporary pop songs to classical compositions and ghazals. She held a Guinness World Record for the most studio

recordings. She became a pillar of Bollywood's musical identity and, along with her sister Lata Mangeshkar, characterized the golden age of Hindi film music.

She became one of the country's favorite musicians due to her ability to adapt to shifting musical trends and work with international performers. Bhosle started her musical career at an early age after the death of her father, Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar, a theater actor and classical vocalist. She created an unparalleled legacy throughout time, both on her own and through her relationship with composer RD Burman, whom she eventually married.

Fans cover Ravie Dubey's Lakshman appearance from the Ramayana in Times Square, overwhelming him



Mumbai: As his fans praised him for his impending part as Lakshman in Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, actor Ravie Dubey was overcome. From the recently released preview of the movie to a massive billboard in Times Square, New York, Ravie's admirers adopted his style. In response to the fan-driven homage, Ravie conveyed appreciation. The actor said, "Wow... did you guys just put me on Times Square?!" on his Instagram account on Saturday. After all these years, I've grown to appreciate how fortunate I am to have family-like admirers. I'm genuinely overwhelmed after seeing this. I am so grateful for this love; it means the world. "Jai Shri Ram," he wrote. Yash plays Ravana, Sai Pallavi plays Sita, and Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Rama in Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana. Fans got their

first sight of Ranbir as Lord Rama when the producers released the Rama glimpse earlier this month. Although Ranbir was the main focus of the glimpse, there were also glimpses of other actors, such as Arun Govil as King Dashrath and Ravie as Lakshman. Ravie's admirers brought an improved version of his appearance from the peek to Times Square. Ravie talked candidly about playing Lakshman earlier in an exchange, saying, "I am excited, with surrender if I can articulate it correctly."

The one emotion that comes to mind whenever I think about the movie or the Ramayana is surrender. Ramayana is a two-part film directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra. The first part will be released this year, ahead of Diwali, and the second part will be released in 2027. The movie is undoubtedly India's most costly and ambitious endeavor to date, with a reported budget of ₹4000 crore.

It highlights VFX work by the producer's eight-time Oscar-winning VFX studio, DNEG. Reactions to the first peek of Ramayana Part One were varied. While many liked the magnitude and Ranbir's appearance, some criticized the asuras' character design and the shoddy VFX.

The film's producers have stated that they are "listening" and working on it. Post-production is presently underway for the movie, which also features Rakul Preet Singh, Sunny Deol, Lara Dutta, Kunal Kapoor, and Vivek Oberoi.

Department of Cybercrime arrests 6 for selling Vijay's unreleased movie illegally

Mumbai: When it was discovered that superstar Vijay's highly anticipated last movie, Jana Nayagan, had been leaked online before to its theatrical premiere, the Tamil cinema industry was rocked. In response, the producers have acknowledged that they have filed a lawsuit against the offending parties and cautioned viewers not to download or distribute the movie via unapproved channels. An update on the lawsuit has now been given by the legal representative for the movie's producers, KVN Productions. Vijayan Subbramaniam is representing the producers' legal team. "The Cyber Crime Department has already arrested six persons in connection with the illegal circulation of leaked content from Jana Nayagan," he posted on his X account. Anyone who uses social media or other digital platforms to download, forward, share, or distribute leaked scenes will be tracked down and prosecuted right away. Without exception, strict action will be taken. After the movie was leaked online a few days ago, they sent out

a legal warning. The movie's producer, KVN Productions, stated in a notice that they are considering taking legal action. "I am the legal counsel for KVN Productions LLP and issue this Public Notice under the instructions of my client," the legal notice stated. My client is the producer of the Vijay-starring movie Jana Nayagan, which was directed by H. Vinoth and included music by Anirudh Ravichander. The movie has immense theatrical, satellite, over-the-top, and financial value. It was developed with several hundred crores. "It has come to my client's attention with the utmost shock and urgency that certain scenes from the movie Jana Nayagan have been illegally accessed, downloaded, copied, and circulated by certain persons and forwarded to several third parties, creating a serious threat of digital leakage through various social media platforms," the statement continued. The production company emphasized in the notice that anyone seen sharing illegal or pirated content on X, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp,

Telegram, websites, torrents, or any other digital platform will face severe consequences. Any downloading, sharing, or circulating of leaked scenes from the film "Jana Nayagan" constitutes a serious criminal offense and copyright violation, with individuals liable for legal action. Appropriate legal measures have been initiated against those unlawfully distributing the film's content. This leak has caused concern within the Tamil film industry, especially with Vijay's upcoming political entry. Numerous industry figures have expressed their support for Vijay and condemned piracy. Jana Nayagan, which is directed by H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, has Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, and Mamitha Baiju in addition to Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj, Narain, and Priyamani. The political thriller, which was supposed to be released on January 9 but had to be rescheduled when the CBFC failed to certify it in time, was billed as Vijay's last movie before he enters politics.

In Thane, Maharashtra, a van collided with a cement mixer, killing eleven persons

New Delhi, Apr 13: The Thane district of Maharashtra was rocked by a horrific accident that happened on Monday on the Kalyan-Ahilyanagar route. According to preliminary accounts, 11 people were killed when a black-and-yellow Eeco taxi and a cement mixer crashed head-on. The Eeco automobile was totally destroyed by the crash's intense impact, making it challenging to even recognize its structure.

The collision happened on Panjar Bridge at approximately 11:15 am, based on the information that is currently available. Residents from Murbad were traveling to Kalyan in the Eeco truck. The car struck a cement mixer traveling in the opposite direction as it was crossing the bridge.



The passengers had no time to react because the impact was so severe. The car was carrying twelve people in all. One guy escaped with severe injuries and is currently receiving treatment at a neighboring hospital, but the locals suspect that eleven of them killed instantly. One of them, an old woman, is said to have survived the collision. People in the vicinity hurried to the scene to assist as soon as they heard the loud collision.

Locals assisted in removing bodies from the severely wrecked car with heavy hearts. Soon after, the Titwala police arrived on the site and started the panchnama procedure. There are concerns that the number of casualties may increase even if the official death toll has not yet been

confirmed. The accident's precise cause is still unknown. It's unclear if the collision was caused by the driver losing control or by speeding.

In addition to conducting additional investigations, the Titwala police are working to remove the damaged cars off the road. For a while, the accident also had an impact on traffic on the roadway.

Nine of the eleven dead have been identified thus far, and postmortem investigations are already in progress.

Prashant, also known as Bablu Rupesh Chandane, Bhushan Ghorpade, Jija Govinda Kembari, Ananta Pawar, Deepak Gavli, Ganpat Jainu Madhe, Sneha Mohpe, Mansi Mohpe, and Prathamesh Mohpe are the nine passengers.

A gang from Hyderabad called men using a gay dating app before robbing them



New Delhi, Apr 13: In Hyderabad, Telangana, six gang members were detained for robbing men via a dating app. After being robbed on April 6, one of the victims reported the event to the police. He claimed to have been instructed to wait on the road at a remote location. Then a man came up to him and asked for directions. After that, he was made to get into a car and driven to a remote location. Then

other gang members joined in and attacked him. Additionally, they stole a 15-gram gold chain. "We swiftly organized specific teams based on the complaint. We apprehended six members in four days. Senior police officer Sridhar stated, "One accused is still at large." Kusuma Karthik, Ram Raja, Bablu Singh, Kandula Sai Teja, Gandla Shruvan, and Macharla Pawan Kalyan are the names of the

detailed suspects. Chennakeshavulu Pawan Kalyan, another accused, is at large. They are all from the Warangal region, according to the police, and several of them have criminal histories. Six cell phones, a Maruti Suzuki Swift Dzire, and a scooter used in the crime were found by police during the operation. The officer described the gang's strategy, stating that they used a homosexual dating app to get in touch with males and win their trust. They would arrange a rendezvous, then transport the victims to remote locations, abuse them, and take films. They trapped people using the contacts on the Grinder app. They coerced victims into giving money and gold by threatening to release images and videos, he claimed. Additionally, police discovered that the group had committed similar crimes in a number of locations. People should exercise extreme caution while utilizing dating apps and social media, especially young people. He cautioned about sharing sensitive information or putting your trust in strangers.

On a Gujarat highway, a speeding truck runs over pilgrims, killing seven



New Delhi, Apr 13: On Sunday night, a speeding truck on a Gujarati highway ran over seven persons, including six pilgrims, who perished.

The pilgrims were walking from Rajkot's Gadhka hamlet to a temple in Dekawala. The pilgrims were trying to pass a stalled dumper parked on the wayside for a tire replacement while traveling on the Lakhtar-Viramgam Highway close to Bhas-karpura in Surendranagar. The truck struck about ten individuals from behind at that same moment. Six pilgrims instantly perished as a result of the catastrophic crash.

The police arrived at the scene shortly after being informed about the collision by onlookers.

The dumper driver, who was also struck by the truck, passed away while receiving medical attention at a Viramgam hospital. The effect of the crash was so great that authorities had to gather some of the corpses' remains with shovels.

Workers protested in Noida, burning cars and blocking roads; passengers described the terror

New Delhi, Apr 13: In Noida's Phase 2 industrial sector on Monday, a workers' protest over requests for wage increases turned into arson, stone-throwing, and vandalism. This led to a significant police presence and caused chaos throughout the city. As the agitation began its third day, groups of workers gathered and blocked important routes in industrial clusters, especially in Sectors 1, 60, and 84. They also allegedly set cars on fire, damaged property, and flung stones during altercations. In several places, police used force to break up gatherings and stop things from getting worse. According to officials, more personnel have been deployed around vulnerable areas and the situation is being continuously monitored. "Enough force has been used. "We're working to get things back to normal," a police officer stated. Demands for better pay and working conditions are the main cause of the protests, which are mostly focused on manufacturing and hosiery facilities. One of the main causes of the agitation, according to workers, was wage differences with neighboring Haryana. Images from the scene showed damaged cars, smoke billowing from burned cars, and dozens of workers blocking roadways, nearly stopping traffic in many places. Rahul Mehta, a commuter from Sector 62 in Noida, claimed that while he was traveling to work, people abruptly began screaming and yelling. Mehta stated, "We had to make a U-turn after spotting a car burning ahead." Police were attempting to keep the throng under control while stones were being thrown. Everyone was attempting to leave the area. Alok Kumar, another commuter, reported that he was stranded close to an industrial



area for more than an hour. It seemed unsafe rather than like a protest. People were attempting to flee the area because it was unclear what was going on. Due to the violence, there were severe traffic jams on important highways during rush hour in Noida and neighboring Delhi. As roads were closed and traffic was rerouted, movement at crucial intersections considerably slowed. According to officials, attempts are being made to maintain law and order while reducing tensions through communication with worker groups. In order to allay worker fears and stop additional unrest, the district administration reaffirmed promises on labor welfare measures, such as double overtime pay, prompt paycheck disbursement, and grievance redressal procedures. Workers have been urged by authorities to keep the calm and refrain from spreading rumors.

BCCI Notifies Rajasthan Royals Official About Violation of Anti-Corruption Protocol

New Delhi: Romi Bhinder, the team manager of the Rajasthan Royals, is the subject of an investigation by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about a breach of anti-corruption protocol. During last Friday's game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Bhinder was observed using his phone while seated next to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in the team dugout. Even former IPL chairman Lalit Modi demanded punishment when the video showed Bhinder using his phone from the dugout went viral on social media. The Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of the BCCI handed Bhinder a notice, according to an article published in The New Indian Express. Bhinder has been given 48 hours to provide an explanation for his phone use as part of the probe. Arun Dhimal, head of the IPL Governing Council, told the newspaper, "We have asked the ACSU to investigate and file a report on the incident." Additionally, Bhinder's phone use may be connected to a health issue, according to reports. According to reports, the RR team manager has experienced severe health problems in the past. He was even hospi-

talized for an extended amount of time in Nagpur due to a collapsed lung.

Bhinder does not have the exemption needed to use his phone while sitting in the dugout, even if he is permitted to bring it there for medical reasons. "Romi's health problems have caused her to lose over 10 kg. He is also recommended not to go long distances or climb stairs regularly due to his asthma. He is a member of the team and has played a number of positions for the team. He is therefore aware of the guidelines; yet, he had that phone for medical purposes. Additionally, according to rules, having a laptop and a cell phone in the dugout is permitted.

The utilization was the only issue, but once more, he was neither making nor receiving any calls. All he was doing was looking through his phone. Another insider told the newspaper, "He has time, and he will try to explain his point of view to the ACSU officials." When Bhinder was discovered using his phone while sitting close to RR's teenage batting star, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, in the dugout, it caused some people to take notice.

Delhi is on high alert as a violent protest by Noida workers takes place

New Delhi, Apr 13: Following a violent protest by manufacturing workers in nearby Noida, authorities tightened security along important entry points into the nation's capital, putting Delhi Police on high alert, officials said on Monday.

They claimed that during the demonstration, a sizable number of workers from different industrial units came together to demand their long-standing demand for a salary revision and to shout slogans. However, the demonstration turned violent, and reports of burning, vandalism, and stone-throwing came from Noida's Phase-2 and Sector 60 neighborhoods. Police

sources claim that in order to stop any unrest from spreading, multiple teams have been stationed at all motorable routes that connect Noida to various areas of Delhi, especially at significant border points with Uttar Pradesh. Senior officers stated that in order to make sure that no anti-social elements enter the city under the pretense of the protest, a strict vigil is being maintained and comprehensive vehicle inspections are being conducted. Delhi Police are watchful and on high alert. Every strategic area has an adequate force in place. A senior police officer declared, "No one will be permitted to violate law and order."

In an unrelenting tirade, R Ashwin questions Hardik Pandya over the strange captaincy call against RCB

New Delhi: The Indian Premier League games between the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Mumbai Indians (MI) are typically very competitive. Even though MI has a sizable trophy advantage over RCB, their rivalry is still among the fiercest in the T20 league. But in Sunday's IPL 2026 season match between the two teams, Bengaluru decisively defeated Mumbai. Experts like Ravichandran Ashwin believe that Hardik Pandya's leadership, especially the bowling choices he made against Rajat Patidar, was a major factor in RCB's resounding triumph. R Ashwin, a former spinner for India, didn't hold back while pointing out the mistakes Hardik made when choosing his bowling choices. In a video posted to his YouTube channel, Ashwin displayed the scorecard from a 2024 Sunrisers Hyderabad vs. Royal Challengers Bengaluru match in which Patidar smacked Markande for four sixes in a single over. Despite



being aware of Patidar's reputation as a formidable hitter against spin, Ashwin questioned MI's choice to give the ball to Markande. Ultimately, in the eleventh over of the innings, the RCB hitter blasted three straight sixes off Markande. "Rajat Patidar revealed that he is a spin hitter during this SRH

vs. RCB 2024 match. In the video, Ashwin stated, "He was hitting Markande into every corner." These two major overs have certain characteristics in common. Virat Kohli took the opening ball, scoring a single, and the rest of the game was the same. "He hit three sixes here and four there," Ash-

win emphasized. Ashwin was direct in his assessment, saying that Hardik's decision to play into Patidar's advantages wasn't the best one. At an economy rate of 20.00, Markande ultimately let up 40 runs in just two overs. "When it comes to hitting spinners, Rajat Patidar is a monster. You immediately handed the ball to Markande when he came to bat? Not the best course of action. Very, very mediocre." Knowing what Markande believes is crucial.

In Hyderabad, Patidar struck him and washed him; here, he struck him from the first ball once again." Despite bowling his allotted four overs, Mitchell Santner, MI's second spinner for the match, let up 43 runs. In just six overs, Mumbai lost 83 runs against spinners alone. "In this case, the difference is between 210 and 240. Mayank Markande: 40 runs in two overs. The spinners scored a total of 83 runs today. I believe Santner also went for 43.

Following MI's victory, RCB captain Rajat Patidar provides a significant update on Virat Kohli's injury

New Delhi: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Rajat Patidar provided some fitness updates on star batsman Virat Kohli after his team defeated the Mumbai Indians (MI), stating that the 37-year-old veteran is doing alright. At Wankhede Stadium, RCB defeated the bitter rivals Mumbai Indians (MI) by 18 runs after making a mistake against the Rajasthan Royals (RR). RCB reached 240/4 thanks to outstanding fifties from Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, and Rajat Patidar. Despite Sherfane Rutherford's incredible 71* in 31 balls, which included nine sixes and a four, MI finished at 222/5, 18 runs short. Notably, Virat was spotted sitting outside the pitch with a jacket on and did not visit the field. In response to reports of a potential injury to Virat following the game, Patidar stated, "I do not know yet, but I think he, I feel that he is okay right now." Regarding the victory, Patidar discussed the atmosphere and excitement at Mumbai's famous Wankhede Stadium and stated that all of the players in the batting lineup were given clarity. "Every time we visit Mumbai, particularly at this stadium, the atmosphere, the supporters, and playing alongside them in a packed stadium—that is a different ex-

perience. It was, in my opinion, a clearer understanding of each individual (on the excellent batting). Additionally, I believe that the manner Salt and Virat Bhai began the innings kept us in control. Then Tim (David) and I made a nice cameo; I believe that was a true team effort." Patidar stated, "To be honest, people used to say that I love playing spin, but if someone asks me, I would say I love playing pace," when asked if he preferred spin or pace, two bowling styles that he has completely destroyed this season.

Additionally, I believe that a fast bowler would benefit greatly from this track's playing tempo. I believe that I enjoy playing fast bowling.

This season, Patidar has faced 59 balls against spin, scored 129 runs at a strike rate of 218.94, hit nine fours and eleven sixes, and was removed twice. He has made 66 runs in 32 balls at a strike rate of 206.25 against pace, including two fours and seven sixes, before being removed once. With 195 runs in four innings at an average of 65.00 and a strike rate of 214.28, including two fifties, Patidar is the second-highest run scorer this season and the joint-highest six-hitter with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (18).

Prior to the Women's Quota Bill, PM Modi will speak at a special conference in Delhi

New Delhi, Apr 13: In order to raise awareness of the women's quota bill that will be presented at a special session of parliament later this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a national level conference tomorrow.

It is anticipated that the "Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan" in Delhi will send a message about the need to include women in the legislative process. Under the theme "From Panchayat to Parliament-Women in Decision-Making: Preparing for a New India," the Ministry of Women and Child Development is hosting the conference, which PM Modi will speak at. Prominent figures and accomplished women from a variety of industries, including business, academia, science, media, social work, sports, and the cultural world, will attend the program. The National Commission for Women's chairperson, Vijaya K. Rahatkar, and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will be in attendance. The program will also feature participation from State Minister Savitri Thakur and Minister of Women

and Child Development Annapurna Devi Yadav. PM Modi, who has stated that a "women-led development" plan is necessary to achieve a "developed India" by 2047, would also have a conversation with the ladies who are taking part. PM Modi urged leaders of all political parties in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha to endorse the Constitutional Amendment Bills in a letter sent yesterday. The purpose of the special three-day parliamentary session, which starts on April 16, is to present and approve a bill amending the constitution to give women a 33% reservation in parliament.

The Congress is fiercely opposed to a second bill that would expand the number of seats in the Lok Sabha. The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' was passed by parliament in September 2023, which was a significant step in increasing the representation of women in legislative bodies. One-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies were set aside for women under the Act. However, the administration now hopes to



complete the procedure in time for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, as the implementation has been delayed. Now, starting on April 16, a Parliament session will be held with an emphasis on implementing women's reservations nationwide.

Sachin Tendulkar breaks down in tears during Asha Bhosle’s Mumbai last rites

Emotional Sachin Tendulkar at Asha Bhosle’s funeral

Mumbai: Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was seen breaking down in tears while attending the last rites of legendary Bollywood playback singer, Asha Bhosle at her Mumbai residence. In a viral clip, Tendulkar appeared visibly emotional during a conversation with Bhosle’s family alongside his wife. Over the years, Tendulkar and Bhosle developed a strong personal bond, often described as one of mother and son, with the singer openly expressing her affection for him. Asha Bhosle remained closely connected with the Sachin Tendulkar family and was a regular presence during important occasions, with her final public appearance coming at the wedding reception of Arjun Tendulkar just over a month before her passing. That bond also reflected the shared stature both Bhosle and Tendulkar enjoyed in



Indian public life, having been conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 for their contributions to their respective fields. The news of Bhosle’s death drew responses from across the cricketing world, with several players acknowledging her influence and legacy.

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh was among those who paid tribute, while others highlighted how her music had been a constant presence over the years. Brett Lee, who had worked with Bhosle on You’re the One

for Me, also shared a note remembering her warmth and humility, in addition to her musical brilliance. Sachin Tendulkar was seen breaking down in tears while attending the last rites of legendary singer Asha Bhosle at her Mumbai residence. A viral video captured the emotional moment as he conversed with Bhosle’s family alongside his wife, Anjali Tendulkar. The deep emotional reaction reflected a long-standing personal bond often described as a mother-son relationship. Both icons shared a signif-

icant connection in Indian public life, having both been conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 2008. The cricketing world mourned the death of legendary singer Asha Bhosle through emotional personal tributes, social media messages, and a formal display of respect during the Indian Premier League. During the match between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Wankhede Stadium on April 12, 2026, players from both teams wore black armbands and observed a two-minute silence to honor her eight-decade career. Sachin Tendulkar, who shared a deep personal bond with the singer often described as a mother-son relationship, was seen in tears while attending her last rites in Mumbai. In an emotional message, he stated that “Asha Tai was family” and that her music would remain timeless.

Neymar receives World Cup boost as Carlo Ancelotti keeps the door open for Brazil role

New Delhi: Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti expressed confidence that Neymar still has time to regain full fitness ahead of the FIFA World Cup this summer. Despite being sidelined since October 2023 due to injuries, Neymar remains under assessment by the Brazil Football Confederation (CBF) and the coaching staff. “He is capable of getting back to 100%,” Ancelotti told L’Equipe. “He still has two months to show that he has what it takes to play in the next World Cup.” Neymar, 34, is aiming to participate in his fourth World Cup. He is Brazil’s all-time top scorer with 79 goals but has been excluded from all squads since Ancelotti took charge in June. The coach emphasised that only players who are physically ready will be called up.

“I’ve said this several times, and it’s very clear: I’ll call up the players who are physically ready,” Ancelotti stated. Despite his absence, Neymar retains significant support from fans, who chanted his name during Brazil’s 2-1 defeat to France in a recent World Cup warm-up match. “Neymar has made, and continues to make, history in Brazilian football,” Ancelotti added. “He is a great talent, and it’s only natural that people think he can help us win the next World Cup.” Neymar underwent minor surgery on his left knee on 22 December and



had another procedure during the international break earlier this month as part of his preparation for the tournament. Ancelotti noted that Neymar has made good progress since his injury. “After his knee injury [in December], Neymar has made a good recovery,” the coach said. “He’s scoring goals. He needs to keep going down this path and improve his fitness. He’s on the right track.”

The forward missed Santos’ previous two matches but played the full 90 minutes in their 1-0 league win over Atletico Mineiro on Saturday. Santos coach Cuca highlighted Neymar’s ongoing improvement and commitment in training. “Neymar is improving with every

game,” Cuca said. “He’s been staying behind to train. His movement on the ball is much better, and he’s likely to get even better. It’s risky to play him for the full 90 minutes; we’ll see if he can handle it, and we’ll work towards him playing on Tuesday. We’re delighted to see him enjoying the game as he did.” Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti stated that the door remains open for Neymar to join the squad for the FIFA World Cup 2026, provided he can prove his physical readiness. Ancelotti expressed confidence that the 34-year-old forward is capable of returning to “100%” fitness before the tournament begins this summer.

Union Berlin appoint Marie-Louise Eta as the first female Bundesliga head coach



Chandigarh: Marie-Louise Eta has made history after being appointed interim head coach of Union Berlin, becoming the first woman to take charge of a men’s team in one of Europe’s top five leagues.

The 34-year-old will lead the side until the end of the season following the dismissal of Steffen Baumgart, after a 3-1 defeat to bottom-placed 1. FC Heidenheim. Union are currently 11th in the Bundesliga and, while they sit clear

Of the relegation places, their form has been poor, with only two wins in 14 league matches in 2026.

Eta is no stranger to breaking new ground. In 2023, she became the first female assistant coach in the Bundesliga. She also stepped in on the touchline during a match in 2024 when then head coach Nenad Bjelica was suspended. A former Germany youth international, Eta was part of the squad at 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam that won the

UEFA Women’s Champions League in 2010. She has since worked within Union Berlin’s youth system and was managing the club’s under-19 side. Her appointment is a significant step in European football.

While women such as Carolina Morace and Corinne Diacre have coached men’s teams before, this is the first time it has happened in the top division of one of Europe’s five major leagues. With five games remaining,

Forty-eight years later, Sawan Barwal makes history by outrunning the long-standing legend of Shivnath Singh

New Delhi: You don’t have to fit into a genetic glove to be a marathoner, or even a long-distance runner grinding out lap after lap on a stadium’s synthetic track. Running is for everyone. And early enough, if your lungs love it and your body is willing to take punishment kilometre after kilometre, across 42.195 km, it becomes your calling - an obsession. Marathons are for the unstoppable. You suck in air until your lungs flame up, a fire raging inside, knees rising and falling in choreographed rhythm, heels zipping past your glutes. Coconed in your own world, in a state bordering on the selfish, you slice off seconds - just to get close enough to touch greatness or wear it. Just yesterday, at a kabaddi tournament in the village of Nikki Kalan, off the highway to Gurdaspur, a scene unfolded that captured the spirit of the sport perfectly. There, amongst acres of wheat fields just a few days before harvesting, a young boy - less than 15 years of age - kept running around the kabaddi stadium.



um. He ran with such singular focus that someone eventually had to drag him away, lest he forget that in any athletic pursuit, one must eventually stop.

For 48 years, every Indian marathoner lived in the looming shadow of Shivnath Singh. Decade after decade, they wilted in the final kilometres, unable to last out or summon those last few bursts of energy; the ‘end kicks’ that make the marathon so punishing and competitive. Shivnath seemed to slip into training

sessions, running beside modern marathoners, urging them to break his mark. A virtual legend in long-distance running, Shivnath left a mark that seemed permanent. Two years after his fantastic run in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, where he finished 11th with a time of 2:16:22, he clocked 2:11:59 at the 1978 National Championship in Jalandhar (later amended to 2:12:00). That record stood for 48 years - just two years short of a half-century. Until April 12th,

2026. At the Rotterdam Marathon things took a dramatic turn for India. 28-year-old marathoner Sawan Barwal, already on pace, blacked out and collapsed just metres from the line. He got back up, only to fall again as the seconds slipped away. A race volunteer stepped in to help him, and from there, Barwal staggered forward, pushing through the final stretch to cross the finish line in 2:11:58. It was enough to break the oldest record in Indian by two seconds.

Sandeep wins Asian wrestling silver

New Delhi: Italy national football team’s hopes of returning to the FIFA World Cup have taken an unexpected twist, with reports suggesting a potential backdoor route could open up ahead of the 2026 tournament. According to multiple reports, FIFA is internally assessing contingency plans amid uncertainty over Iran national football team’s participation, with geopolitical tensions casting a shadow over their involvement in the tournament co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Italy had earlier seen their qualification dreams collapse after a painful play-off defeat to Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team, extending their absence from the World Cup to a third straight edition. The setback also led to the resignation of head coach Gennaro Gattuso, further underlining the scale of the crisis. However, with uncertainty surrounding Iran’s place, out on qualification.

Vijay Mallya reacts as RCB lions roar after a thumping MI victory



New Delhi: Former RCB owner Vijay Mallya reacted to Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s emphatic win over Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium, praising the team’s dominant showing in Mumbai. Taking to social media, Mallya hailed “RCB namma Simhagalu,” calling them the lions of Bengaluru who “roared loud with bat and ball” to secure victory at MI’s home. The reaction quickly gained traction among fans, many of whom still associate him with the franchise’s early years and identity. Mallya, who left India in March 2016, is currently based in

England and is barred from leaving England and Wales.

He faces allegations of defaulting on multiple loan repayments amounting to several thousand crores and was declared a Fugitive Economic Offender in January 2019 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, with extradition proceedings initiated thereafter. Despite the distance, he continues to follow RCB’s journey and respond to key moments. On the field, RCB delivered a performance built on authority from the outset. Phil Salt provided early momentum with an aggressive start, setting the tone in the pow-

erplay.

Virat Kohli complemented that with a measured half-century, ensuring the innings had stability alongside intent. The acceleration continued through Rajat Patidar, whose quickfire knock shifted the game decisively, while late contributions ensured RCB pushed well beyond the 200 mark to finish on 240. That total placed Mumbai under immediate pressure in the chase. With the ball, RCB stayed in control through key phases. Suyash Sharma delivered crucial breakthroughs in the middle overs, removing set batters and preventing

Mumbai from building sustained momentum. His spell ensured the required rate continued to climb. Support came from Krunal Pandya, who kept things tight and controlled the tempo, while the rest of the attack maintained discipline. A late surge from Sherfane Rutherford reduced the margin, but the result was never in serious doubt. RCB’s all-round display ensured they remained ahead throughout, sealing a statement win at Wankhede.

Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) owner Vijay Mallya praised the team for their dominant all-round performance , specifically highlighting loud with cory At Mumbai. Some of these grounds aren’t the most bowler-friendly, so you’ve got to keep the mentality that you’re going to keep going at the opposition. And then not forget your assets as a player. It’s about being a match-winner, isn’t it?” he added. “I know I can’t get runs every game, nobody can. But if I can be as impactful as possible, then I’m on the right path,” Salt said. Salt’s innings was built on pure intent.

Brett Lee pays tribute to Asha Bhosle, stating her legacy will live on forever

New Delhi: Brett Lee paid an emotional tribute to Asha Bhosle after her passing, remembering her as much for her kindness as for her legendary voice. The former Australia pacer recalled his experience of collaborating with the iconic singer and emphasised how her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. Bhosle, who passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai, leaves behind a legacy that spans over 12,000 songs across genres and languages, making her one of the most influential voices in Indian music history.

In a heartfelt post on his Instagram account, Brett Lee reflected on his memories with the iconic singer. “I had the pleasure of writing and recording ‘You’re the One for Me’ with Asha Bhosle back in 2006. It’s something I’ll always be incredibly grateful for,” Lee wrote. “What stayed with me most wasn’t just her extraordinary talent, but how kind and humble she was. For someone who had achieved so much in her life, she carried herself with such warmth and generosity,” he added. “My thoughts are with her family and friends at this time. I feel very fortunate to have shared even a small moment with someone so special...There’s no doubt her legacy will live on for generations to come,” he added. Bhosle was widely regarded as one of the defining voices of Hindi cinema’s golden era, alongside legends like Mohammad Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar. Her collaborations with composers such as R. D. Burman and O. P. Nayyar produced timeless classics that continue to reso-



nate across generations. Lee and Bhosle shared a unique connection that went beyond admiration. The two had collaborated on the track You’re the One for Me in 2007, a rare crossover between cricket and music. The collaboration came together during the ICC Champions Trophy, when Lee was invited to be part of a global music project. The song went on to become a chart success, showcasing Bhosle’s effortless versatility. Their association left a lasting impression on Lee. Months after the recording, when they met again at the Sydney Opera House, Bhosle gifted him a signed album, a gesture that reflected the grace and humility he spoke about in his tribute. In 2007, former Australian pacer Brett Lee and legendary Indian singer Asha Bhosle collaborated on the song titled “You’re the One for Me”. This unique crossover between cricket and music was recorded during the ICC Champions Trophy as part of a global

music project and became a chart success. The track showcased the versatile talent of Asha Bhosle, who passed away at the age of 92 with a legacy of over 12,000 songs.

Brett Lee recalled the experience of writing and recording the song with her, noting that he was deeply impressed by her kindness and humility despite her global fame. Following her passing, Lee shared a heartfelt tribute, stating that her influence would continue to inspire generations of artists worldwide. Following the passing of legendary singer Asha Bhosle at the age of 92, a wide array of prominent figures across politics, sports, and entertainment paid tribute to her unmatched musical legacy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in mourning, stating that her songs would forever echo in people’s lives, while other political leaders like Rajnath Singh and Mamata Banerjee described her as India’s “melody queen.”